

JOHANNESBURG SUMMIT 2002

SLOVAK REPUBLIC



COUNTRY PROFILE



UNITED NATIONS

INTRODUCTION - 2002 COUNTRY PROFILES SERIES

Agenda 21, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, underscored the important role that States play in the implementation of the Agenda at the national level. It recommended that States consider preparing national reports and communicating the information therein to the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) including, activities they undertake to implement Agenda 21, the obstacles and challenges they confront, and other environment and development issues they find relevant.

As a result, in 1993 governments began preparing national reports for submission to the CSD. After two years of following this practice, the CSD decided that a summarized version of national reports submitted thus far would be useful. Subsequently, the CSD Secretariat published the first Country Profiles series in 1997 on the occasion of the five-year review of the Earth Summit (Rio + 5). The series summarized, on a country-by-country basis, all the national reports submitted between 1994 and 1996. Each Profile covered the status of all Agenda 21 chapters.

The purpose of Country Profiles is to:

- Help countries monitor their own progress;
- Share experiences and information with others; and,
- Serve as institutional memory to track and record national actions undertaken to implement Agenda 21.

A second series of Country Profiles is being published on the occasion of the World Summit on Sustainable Development being held in Johannesburg from August 26 to September 4, 2002. Each profile covers all 40 chapters of Agenda 21, as well as those issues that have been separately addressed by the CSD since 1997, including trade, energy, transport, sustainable tourism and industry.

The 2002 Country Profiles series provides the most comprehensive overview to date of the status of implementation of Agenda 21 at the national level. Each Country Profile is based on information updated from that contained in the national reports submitted annually by governments.

Preparing national reports is often a challenging exercise. It can also be a productive and rewarding one in terms of taking stock of what has been achieved and by increasing communication, coordination and cooperation among a range of national agencies, institutions and groups. Hopefully, the information contained in this series of Country Profiles will serve as a useful tool for learning from the experience and knowledge gained by each country in its pursuit of sustainable development.

NOTE TO READERS

The 2002 Country Profiles Series provides information on the implementation of Agenda 21 on a country-by-country and chapter-by-chapter basis (with the exception of chapters 1 and 23, which are preambles). Since Rio 1992, the Commission on Sustainable Development has specifically addressed other topics not included as separate chapters in Agenda 21. These issues of trade, industry, energy, transport and sustainable tourism are, therefore, treated as distinct sections in the Country Profiles. In instances where several Agenda 21 chapters are closely related, for example, chapters 20 to 22 which cover environmentally sound management of hazardous, solid and radioactive wastes, and chapters 24 to 32 which refer to strengthening of major groups, the information appears under a single heading in the Country Profile Series. Lastly, chapters 16 and 34, which deal with environmentally sound management of biotechnology, and transfer of environmentally sound technology, cooperation, capacity-building respectively, are presented together under one heading in those Country Profiles where information is relatively scarce.

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LIST OF COMMONLY USED ACRONYMS

ACS	Association of Caribbean States
AMCEN	Africa Ministerial Conference on the Environment
AMU	Arab Maghreb Union
APEC	Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
CARICOM	The Caribbean Community and Common Market
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
CGIAR	Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research
CILSS	Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
CSD	Commission on Sustainable Development of the United Nations
DESA	Department for Economic and Social Affairs
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
ECCAS	Economic Community for Central African States
ECE	Economic Commission for Europe
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
ESCWA	Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FIDA	Foundation for International Development Assistance
GATT	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
GAW	Global Atmosphere Watch (WMO)
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GEMS	Global Environmental Monitoring System (UNEP)
GESAMP	Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GIS	Geographical Information Systems
GLOBE	Global Legislators Organisation for a Balanced Environment
GOS	Global Observing System (WMO/WWW)
GRID	Global Resource Information Database
HIV/AIDS	Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
ICSC	International Civil Service Commission
ICSU	International Council of Scientific Unions
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
ICTSD	International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development

IEEA	Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounting
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IFCS	Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety
IGADD	Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IMO	International Maritime Organization
IOC	Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IPCS	International Programme on Chemical Safety
IPM	Integrated Pest Management
IRPTC	International Register of Potentially Toxic Chemicals
ISDR	International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
ITTO	International Tropical Timber Organization
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources
LA21	Local Agenda 21
LDCs	Least Developed Countries
MARPOL	International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships
MEAs	Multilateral Environmental Agreements
NEAP	National Environmental Action Plan
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
NSDS	National Sustainable Development Strategies
OAS	Organization of American States
OAU	Organization for African Unity
ODA	Official Development Assistance/Overseas Development Assistance
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PPP	Public-Private Partnership
PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers
SACEP	South Asian Cooperative Environment Programme
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SARD	Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SPREP	South Pacific Regional Environment Programme
UN	United Nations
UNAIDS	United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNCED	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNCHS	United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)
UNCLOS	United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDRO	Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme

UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNFF	United Nations Forum on Forests
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNIFEM	United Nations Development Fund for Women
UNU	United Nations University
WFC	World Food Council
WHO	World Health Organization
WMO	World Meteorological Organization
WSSD	World Summit on Sustainable Development
WTO	World Trade Organization
WWF	World Wildlife Fund
WWW	World Weather Watch (WMO)

LIST OF COUNTRY-USED ACRONYMS

ASPEK	Association of Industrial Ecology in Slovakia
ADR	International Agreement on Road Transport
CPZ	Centre for Pollution Prevention
EK	European Commission
HDP	Gross domestic product
KEAP	Regional Environmental Action Programme
KÚ	Regional Office
MAAE	International Agency for Atomic Energy
MDPT SR	Ministry of Transport, Post and Telecommunication of the Slovak Republic
MF SR	Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic
MH SR	Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic
MK SR	Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic
MO SR	Ministry of Defense of the Slovak Republic
MP SR	Ministry of Soil Management of the Slovak Republic
MPSVR SR	Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic
MS SR	Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic
MŠ SR	Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic
MVO	non-governmental organisations
MV SR	Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic
MVRR SR	Ministry of Construction and Regional Development of the Slovak Republic
MZ SR	Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic
MZV SR	Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic
MŽP SR	Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic
NEAP	National Environmental Action Programme
NPPZ	National Programme for Health Support
NR SR	National Council of the Slovak Republic
NSTUR	National Strategy for Sustainable Development
NÚP	National Labour Office
OEAP	District Environmental Action Programme
OÚ	District Office
OSN	United Nations
RaO	Radioactive Waste
RŠS	Regional Training Centre
SAV	Slovak Academy of Science
SAŽP	Slovak Agency of the Environment
SČEP	Slovak Centre of Cleaner Production
SEI	Central European Initiative
SIŽP	Slovak Environmental Inspection
SŠEP	Strategy of State Environmental Policy
SŠHP	Strategy of State Economic Policy
SŠSP	Strategy of State Social Policy
SZO	Strategy of Health for All
ŠÚ SR	Office for Statistics of the Slovak Republic
TU	Technical University
TUR	Sustainable Development
ÚBP SR	Office for Labour Safety of the Slovak Republic

ÚJD SR	Office for Nuclear Control of the Slovak Republic
UK	Comenius University
USRSVT SR	Office for Strategy of Development of Society, Science and Technology of the Slovak Republic

CHAPTER 2: INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION TO ACCELERATE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND RELATED DOMESTIC POLICIES

Decision-Making: Ministries of the Environment, Foreign Affairs, and Economy are responsible in the area of international cooperation. Co-ordination is ensured mainly by Ministry of the Environment and the Council of the Government of Sustainable Development that involves all the relevant ministries and governmental bodies. New legislation has been passed, as for example the act No. 76/1998 on protection of the ozone layer of the Earth, which confines the trade with ozone depleting layer of the Earth. Environmental standards are being harmonised in order to achieve compatibility with legislation of the European Union. Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic has submitted for discussion within the Government the material "Information on methodological guidelines for dealing with old ecological burdens", which supposed elaboration of draft act on contaminated territories till 2002. This act should bring a comprehensive solution of the issue of old ecological burdens. Until elaboration of the act on contaminated territories, individual evaluation of old ecological burdens with determination of responsibility and process of financing the remedial measures will be ensured in individual cases of enter of foreign capital. The social policy of the European Union covers a number of issues: living and working conditions of employees, their health and safety, equal opportunities for men and women, dialogue between social partners, human resources, employment, social protection and social exclusion. Social policy was developed via various tools, including legal instruments and the European Social Fund as well as activities oriented to specific issues, e.g. health of inhabitants, poverty and role of the handicapped. Role of social partners and social dialogue in the Slovak Republic. The social partnership has been institutionalized on macro (tripartite, Council of Economic and Social Agreement of the Slovak Republic), medium (sectoral and regional sphere), and micro-levels (enterprises) of the social system. Political changes in 1989, preparation and launching of the fundamental economic and social changes in 1989 constituted a considerable pressure on economy and inhabitants that caused a danger of social tension. Social and economic changes after 1989 led to transformation of economy, proprietary relations and production conditions. The roles of the Government as an organizer and managing component of production process were to large extent transferred on enterprises that have become sovereign economic units. Besides managing the production process the enterprises have become responsible for setting conditions for employees in accordance with production relations.

Programmes and Projects: In the period of 1997-1998 the UNDP Programme Capacity 21 for the Slovak Republic was carried out that was oriented on establishment of a participatory network for environmental assessment and sustainable development in the Slovak Republic. The principal objective of this network was to establish a basis of a network of experts dealing with environment and sustainable development working in various areas of social and economic life of the society. In 1999 the second UNDP-funded programme started which is oriented first of all on preparation of the National Strategy for Sustainable Development. Ministry of the Environment received a special grant from Global Environmental Facility (GEF) for preparation of biodiversity strategy, action plan and the first national report on implementation of the Convention. The National Strategy of Protection of Biodiversity in Slovakia and the Action Plan for Realization of the National Strategy of Protection of Biodiversity in the Slovak Republic were elaborated in 1997. Conditions of habitat are respected in forest management. In order to more fully implement ecological aspects in forest management models of forest management according to forest areas of Slovakia have been elaborated in the light of the system of legislative regulations currently in force, which will be introduced into practice of forest management arrangements. Through the programmes PHARE CBC and Interreg II the issue of sustainable development is being dealt with in a form of transboundary cooperation with Hungary and Austria. In this way institutional cooperation of local and regional bodies is being created and preparedness of human resources in solution of issues of sustainable development is being increased. In the framework of regional development in collaboration with the Ministry of Construction and Regional Development the Phare 2000 programme has been oriented human resources development (education, re-qualification).

Status: Growth of production in several areas initiated by increased export of the Slovak Republic has not caused recently any changes of the environment, which would present problems. In the sector of machinery after 1989 a significant decrease of production and export can be observed which caused also decrease of impacts on the environment. Investment into new productions and technologies were practically none. During last two years more significant revival of production can be observed in car production, mainly due to company Volkswagen Bratislava. New investments comply with environmental requirements. At present support of the Government for entrance of foreign (strategic) investors into the sector of machinery is becoming still more and more important. Minimisation or elimination of adverse impacts of previous industrial activities is connected to that, and that means need of financing the recovery of territories adversely affected by industries. In the sector of chemical industry investments in 1980s and 1990s were aimed at protection of the environment and at adjustment of production processes, which were also leading to more effective use of resources and energy. The total decline of industrial production after 1990 led to decrease of productions with high level of pollution. In the textile industry, lather and boot production no modernisation of production-technological basis has been realised recently. Development in the sectors of glass-making, polygraphic and cloth production in the Slovak Republic is stabilised. Impacts of this development on the environment are not adverse, which is determined by decline and abandonment of the most adverse productions (textile factories and tanneries). As far as wood-processing industry is concerned there has been no increase of environmental problems caused by export or production. The sector of pulp and paper production together with growth of production and investments and, in particular in accordance with financial possibilities pays appropriate attention to problems of the environment as there is no extreme burden on the environment.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: The International Conference “Towards Sustainable Development – Challenge of the New Millennium” was held in Bratislava on 27-29 November 2000 in the framework of the UNDP-supported project “Capacity Building for Sustainable Development in the Slovak Republic”. The Conference was co-organized by the Regional Environmental Centre Slovakia, the Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic and the United Nations Development Programme.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: Ministry of Economy has worked out a draft “Conceptional Orientation of Technological Policy of Industrial Sectors of the Slovak Republic till 2003”. In accordance with an action programme for strengthening the competitive power of the industry the content of the Conceptional Orientation of Technological Policy of Industrial Sectors of the Slovak Republic till 2003 was oriented to the following programme orientations of research and development. The Conceptional Orientation of Technological Policy of Industrial Sectors is oriented so that the results contribute to positive growth of competitiveness of the country and sustainable development of the society.

Financing: A comprehensive institutional system of financial support of small and medium enterprises has been established in the Slovak Republic that is comparable to systems in countries with developed market economy, with exclusion of amount of available funds that is in the Slovak Republic considerably lower.

Cooperation:

- Basel convention on the control of transboundary movements of hazardous waste and their disposal – signature 1989/ratification 1989
- Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (E/EC/1250)-Espoo Convention – 1993/1999
- Convention on Biological Diversity – 1993/1994
- Convention on long-range transboundary air pollution (CLRTAP) with protocols – ratification by succession after 1993
- Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat – 1990/1990
- Convention on Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes – accession 1999 convention on cooperation for the protection and sustainable use of the Danube river (Danube River Protection Convention) – accession 1998

- Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitants (Bern Convention) – 1994/1997
- Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) – accession 1995
- Agreement on the Conservation of Bats in Europe (EUROBAT) – accession 1998
- Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (WHC) – 1975/1991
- The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Changes (UNFCCC) – 1993/1994
- Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer (Vienna Convention) - 1988

The Slovak Government believes that the integration of the country into European political and economic structures is a prerequisite for ensuring the democratic development of society and the country's economic prosperity. The signing of the Europe Agreement concluded between the European Communities and their member countries on the one hand, and the Slovak Republic on the other, played a significant role in promoting this goal. This Agreement became effective in February 1995, and it assumes the establishment of a free-trade zone between the Slovak Republic and European Union (EU) countries.

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CHAPTER 2: INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION TO ACCELERATE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND RELATED DOMESTIC POLICIES - TRADE

Decision-Making: The NR SR and the Slovak Government are the resulting decisive bodies. MH SR is the responsible body for the area. MP SR and MZV SR are cooperating bodies. In the area of foreign trade policy there are resolutions of the Government of the Slovak Republic 499/1999 on comprehensive programme of support for export and 356/2000 to the report on foreign trade of the Slovak Republic. In the framework of Agreement on General System of Preferences the Slovak Republic applies preferential system of tariffs on imports from 102 developing countries and the 48 least developed countries. Preferential rate measures are related to goods coming and imported directly from developing countries up to 2,000,000 USD or equivalent in another currency in the structure of applied preferential tariff. After exceeding this limit a contracted tariff rate will be applied. The goods imported and coming directly from the least developed countries is free of tariff. Provision of General System of Preferences is regulated by a regulation of the Government of the Slovak Republic 360/1996. The social policy of the European Union covers a number of issues: living and working conditions of employees, their health and safety, equal opportunities for men and women, dialogue between social partners, human resources, employment, social protection and social exclusion. Social policy was developed via various tools, including legal instruments and the European Social Fund as well as activities oriented to specific issues, e.g. health of inhabitants, poverty and role of the handicapped. The social partnership has been institutionalised. Political changes in 1989, preparation and launching of the fundamental economic and social changes in 1989 constituted a considerable pressure on economy and inhabitants that caused a danger of social tension. Social and economic changes after 1989 led to transformation of economy, proprietary relations and production conditions. The roles of the Government as an organizer and managing component of production process were to large extent transferred on enterprises that have become sovereign economic units. Besides managing the production process the enterprises have become responsible for setting conditions for employees in accordance with production relations.

Programmes and Projects: In the framework of regional programmes and projects (Capacity 21, Democracy 6) this agreement contributes to sustainable development in developing countries. The Slovak Republic actively participates in activities of the World Trade Organization (WTO) that supports liberalization of trade relations among their members. Within the comprehensive programme of support for export the efforts of the Slovak Republic are concentrated on complying with commitments in relation to WTO, commitments resulted from the Agreement on Customs Union between the Slovak Republic and the Czech Republic, multilateral agreements on free trade to support liberalization processes in international business. Resolution of the Government of the Slovak Republic 356/2000 has approved contribution programmes for export and investment support oriented to assisting the small and medium enterprises from the point of view of competitiveness on the developed world markets. One of the contribution programmes of investment and export support approved by the Government of the Slovak Republic is the Programme of support of industrial zone development, which should increase the volume of foreign direct investments as one of the conditions for stabilization of economy and sustainable economic growth.

Status: The Slovak Republic as a member of UNCTAD in the framework of international cooperation supports economic development in developing countries and actively takes part in activities of other international organisations in liberalisation of trade and support of export of developing countries. In the framework of agreement on general system of preferences (GSP) the Slovak Republic applies preferential tariff system for imports from 102 developing countries and from the 48 least developed countries. Preferential rates are applied to the goods from the developing countries up to the limit of 2,000,000 USD or equivalent in another currency in structure of applied preferential tariff system. After exceeding the mentioned limit the contract tariff rate is applied. Imports from the least developed countries are duty free. Provision of GSP is regulated by the Regulation of the Government of the Slovak Republic No. 360/1996. In the framework of regional programmes and projects (Capacity 21, Democracy 6) this agreement contributes to sustainable development in developing countries.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic - foreign trade, creation and implementation of economic indicators of sustainable development. The International Conference “Towards Sustainable Development – Challenge of the New Millennium” was held in Bratislava on 27-29 November 2000 in the framework of the UNDP-supported project “Capacity Building for Sustainable Development in the Slovak Republic”. The Conference was co-organized by the Regional Environmental Centre Slovakia, the Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic and the United Nations Development Programme.

Information: Information related to trade, investment and economic growth is made available to potential users in aggregated form for individual sectors of national economy through bulletins of the Office for Statistics of the Slovak Republic. Index of industrial production is calculated in accordance with international standards since January 1999. As far as our knowledge is concerned, this information is not made available on the Internet.

Research and Technologies: Ministry of Economy has worked out a draft “Conceptual Orientation of Technological Policy of Industrial Sectors of the Slovak Republic till 2003”. In accordance with an action programme for strengthening the competitive power of the industry the content of the Conceptual Orientation of Technological Policy of Industrial Sectors of the Slovak Republic till 2003 was oriented to several programme orientations of research and development. The Conceptual Orientation of Technological Policy of Industrial Sectors is oriented so that the results contribute to positive growth of competitiveness of the country and sustainable development of the society.

Financing: State budget of the Slovak Republic and structural funds- A comprehensive institutional system of financial support of small and medium enterprises has been established in the Slovak Republic that is comparable to systems in countries with developed market economy, with exclusion of amount of available funds that is in the Slovak Republic considerably lower.

Cooperation: WTO, UNCTAD, ICCO, UNDP, UN, EU, OECD, CEFTA, FAO- The Slovak Republic as a UNCTAD member in the framework of international co-operation supports economic growth in developing countries with the aim of sustainable development and actively participates in activities of other international organizations in the issues of trade liberalization, fair economic competition and trade and investment support. The Slovak Republic has been an importing member of the International Organisation for Cocoa (ICCO) since 1993. The Slovak Republic actively takes part in activities of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) which supports liberalisation of trade relations between members. In September 1997 the Government of the Slovak Republic approved the accession to the Ministerial Declaration on Trade with Products of Information Technologies (ITA), which facilitates the access to products of information technologies through gradual reduction of duty tariffs, and to the Fourth Protocol to General Agreement on Trade with Services, which liberalises services in sector of basic telecommunication. In 1998 it actively participated in negotiations on further liberalisation of trade with products of information technologies (ITA II). In December 1998 the Slovak Republic accessed to the Fifth Protocol to GATS which means further liberalisation in sector of financial services. The Slovak Republic is also an active member (observer) of regional groups, activities and agreements - CEFTA, CEI, BSEC, CMHS. In connection of the third ministerial conference in Seattle in 1999 a subject of monitoring and evaluation within WTO in Geneva will be further discussion about liberalisation of trade with industrial and agricultural products and services, as well as efforts to include other areas into the agenda of WTO (environment, labour standards, governmental procurement, foreign investments, and others). The Slovak Republic will actively participate in sessions of the General Council, Council for Trade with Goods and Services, negotiation of individual WTO committees, in particular committees dealing with foreign trade policy of the Slovak Republic (Committee for regional trade agreements, Committee for agriculture, Committee for sanitary and phytosanitary measures, Committee for trade with products of information technologies, etc.). The Slovak Republic will actively participate in bilateral negotiations with individual countries in process of accession to WTO, which have considerable proportion in foreign trade of Slovakia (Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Croatia, etc.) and Slovakia will also prepare for the process of negotiating the trade regime of the Slovak Republic in the WTO body for surveys of trade policies of the individual member states. The Slovak Republic has up till now made 13 preferential agreements in accordance with GATT provisions, which are a great contribution for liberalisation and gradual integration

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CHAPTER 3: COMBATING POVERTY

Decision-Making: The National Council of the Slovak Republic (NR SR), the Slovak Government and the ministries are the resulting decisive bodies. Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic (MPSVR SR) is a responsible body for this area. Ministry of Finance (MF SR), MVVP SR, Ministry of Interior (MV SR), Ministry of Economy (MH SR), National Labour Office (NÚP), and Office for Statistics (ŠÚ SR) are cooperating bodies. The NR SR, the Slovak Government, sectors, municipalities, Research Institute of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, International Centre for Research of Family, Sociological Institute, Prognostic Institute, foundations and civic associations, charity organizations. Living minimum as accepted minimal level of income of physical person, under which a state of social need is occurring, is determined by the act 125/1998 on living minimum and on determination of sums of state social aid. The legal living minimum of a physical person (persons) is a sum of money (total sum of money) necessary for provision of goods and services which are required by a separately run household of a certain size and composition to satisfy their basic living conditions. The living minimum is legislatively determined minimal level of income which is guaranteed by the state if the income of a citizen is lower than the living minimum. Each citizen of the Slovak Republic, whose income is lower than the living minimum, has a legal right to social payment ensuring the minimal living standard. To alleviate social consequences of growth of regulated prices of goods and services connected to housing and gradual transfer to total de-regulation the act 300/1999 on contribution for housing was passed in October 1999. For purposes of determination of level of state social payments and limit of income for right to claim for these payments the sums for unprovided children have been modified separately according to age. Solving the tasks of lowering the unemployment according to the act No. 387/1996 on Employment, the right of citizens for proper employment is solved in forms which are in accordance with international standards (e.g. International Labour Office) and the higher level of attention is being devoted to groups of citizens most seriously attacked by the poverty (young people who do not continue in study, graduates from secondary schools and universities, people over 50 years of age, people unemployed longer than one year, handicapped people). One of the tools to combat poverty is minimal salary. Minimal salary that must be provided by an employer for an employee ensures a certain level of protection of an employee against poverty and fall of his salary under the level of his reproduction expenses. The act 346/1999 on minimal salary (valid since 1 January 2000) established a valorization mechanism, according to which the level of minimal salary will be modified depending on level of average salary and sum of living minimum for an individual (i.e. on growth of living expenses of low income households).

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: The existence of poor population in the Slovak Republic was neither admitted for a long time, nor it was a subject of broad discussion. Changes of socio-economic situation of citizens due to price liberalization, inflation, growth of living costs and unemployment caused an increase of number of people who were not able to tackle the negative changes of their living conditions immediately without assistance. This required enhanced attention and care from side of the state devoted to these groups of citizens. The most attacked groups were households with four and more children, incomplete households with children and households with unemployed members of family. As far as perceiving the troubles is concerned, housing is the most problematic area for households. It is estimated that Slovakia has a deficit of 180,000 flat units and current support programmes are insufficient and if concrete effective measures are not adopted this deficit will be growing. It will be necessary to support special forms of housing dedicated to low income households and to groups with specific needs (e.g. people in social need and seriously handicapped people), taking into account their material and financial conditions.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: MPSVR SR - state social support, social aid, employment; MVVP SR - social housing, asylum housing; MV SR - realization of local state administration in the area of social care; MH SR - support of creation of job opportunities; NÚP - active policy of employment; ŠÚ SR - statistical investigation and analysis.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: State budget; NÚP - Incomes are created mainly from contributions to unemployment insurance, expenditures are determined by the law for: support in unemployment, active policy of labour market, health insurance, sickness benefit and pension scheme of the registered unemployed who receive the support according to conditions set by the act on state budget of the Slovak Republic, report and activity of NÚP; Social Insurance Company - Fund of pension scheme, Fund of health insurance; State fund for support of housing; budgets of self-governing bodies, budgets of subjects of private law.

Cooperation: Local offices, non-governmental organizations, church organizations, European Union, PHARE, World Bank.

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CHAPTER 4: CHANGING CONSUMPTION PATTERNS

Decision-Making: The NR SR is the resulting decisive body. MH SR is the body responsible for this area to the Government of the Slovak Republic. Bodies of state administration (MP SR, MVVP SR) are cooperating bodies. Major groups involved are the NR SR, the Government of the Slovak Republic, bodies of state administration, and production enterprises.

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: Frameworks of new model of economic and social development of the Slovak Republic affecting the change of consumption models of the Slovak economy are comprehensively defined within the strategy of mid-term programme of transformation of the Slovak economy in the area of economic and social development. The fundamental priority in this field is to accelerate the process of restructuring of the Slovak industry and to implement the adopted measures aimed at increasing its competitiveness in accordance with limitations worked out adopted on international level. Particularly these processes are conditional for changing the models of consumption or for elimination of current consumption models in individual sectors of the Slovak industry. During its development up these days the Slovak industry has not been a subject of radical restructuring which is a prerequisite of any change of consumption model, in particular in the area of inputs of resources, materials and energy. Starting points and conceptional elaboration of procedures leading to this objective are formulated in several basic documents, which are perceived by the Government as economic tools promoting also the changes of consumption models and transfer of new technologies. Measures affecting the existing consumption models in various areas of the Slovak economy were during 1999 formulated in the following strategies and conceptions:

- Strategy of support of foreign investments in the Slovak Republic,
- Elaboration of principles of Industrial policy of the European Union in conditions of the Slovak Republic,
- Conceptional orientation of technical policy of industries of the Slovak Republic up to 2003,
- Proposal of support of innovative development and programme of quality in enterprises,
- Proposal of changes in the system of support of small and medium enterprising which would strengthen principles of transparency and effectiveness of support forms,
- Draft Energy policy, Conception of nuclear energy in the Slovak Republic,
- Wood - resource of the 21st century,
- Comprehensive programme of support of export,
- Concretisation of strategy of the mid-term economic and social development of the Slovak Republic (mid-term priorities of the economic policy in the Slovak Republic) and the others.

In spite of diversity of issues being solved, the common objective of these conceptions is mainly the implementation of broad and deep restructuring of the industry. From the point of view of expected changes of consumption models, the conditions are innovative, upgrading, renovating and mainly developmental investments, including foreign direct investments, accepting compliance with environmental conditions of sustainable development. The effort of the Government in this relation is to improve business conditions through creating appropriate legal, regulatory and fiscal frameworks for support of investments in the Slovak Republic. It is expected that these frameworks create positive response accompanied by increased investment activity. The following processes are expected in this relation:

- change of internal structure of industry;
- stabilisation and increase of performance of those industries which increase the total effectiveness of productive capital;
- more effective use, revaluation and decrease of inputs of resources, materials and energy;
- increase of competitiveness and export onto the world markets.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising:

MH SR - national energetic conception, industrial policy, resource policy

Regional and district offices - regional energetic conceptions

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing:

State budget, State fund for liquidation of nuclear facilities with radioactive waste, internal sources, PHARE

Cooperation:

Research institutes, SAV, TU, UN, OECD, IAEA, Council of Europe, World Bank and others.

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CHAPTER 4: CHANGING CONSUMPTION PATTERNS - ENERGY

Decision-Making: The main body responsible for decision-making concerning energy issues in general is the Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic. As far as energy-related aspects of atmosphere and transportation are concerned, the specific competence is given to Ministry of the Environment and the Office of Nuclear Control of the Slovak Republic. The Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic controls the State Energy Inspection (SEI), which has been established under the Article 39 of the Act 70/1998. The SEI carries out supervision over compliance with this Act, with generally binding legal regulations issued in accordance with this Act and with measures applied in accordance with this Act. It is divided to a central inspectorate which controls regional inspectorates. The SEI is a budgetary organization seated in the city of Trenčín and led by central director who is also responsible for its activity. The central director is appointed by the Minister of Economy. The Ministry of Economy has also established the Slovak Energy Agency to ensure realization of some activities determined by implementation of the Act on energy and its implementing regulations. The Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic is a central state administration mining authority. In accordance with the Act 51/1988 the bodies of state mining administration are: the Central Mining Office seated in Banská Štiavnica and the District Mining Offices seated in Bratislava, Banská Bystrica, Košice, Prievidza and Spišská Nová Ves. The Central Mining Office is a budgetary organisation lead by a Chairman who is appointed by the Minister of Economy. The Central Mining Office controls the District Mining Offices. As far as energy acts are concerned, there are in particular the Act 70/1998 on energy and the Act 130/1998 on peaceful utilization of nuclear energy and subsequent implementing regulations of the Ministry of Economy as amended by the further regulations. The energy sector is incorporated in a broad legislation of air protection covered by Ministry of the Environment. The strategic objectives are determined by the Energy Policy of the Slovak Republic (January 2000). Representatives of non-governmental organizations, scientific groups and Association of employers are members of working groups which prepare important documents. Share of the private sector in production of electricity was 3.35 percent in 1999, which was 1,104 GWh. Distribution is provided by four companies. In heat production the private sector occupies much larger area (81 percent including distribution, which makes 213 PJ. They very actively criticize the governmental decisions, of which they do not agree, and point out at saving measures.

Programmes and Projects: The Programme of support of energy savings and utilization of alternative energy resources which is subsidized by the state budget up to the sum of 30 million SKK yearly. Energy labelling of domestic electric devices in accordance with EEC/880/92. Developing CO₂ Cap and Trade Programme, which is carried out by the Ministry of the Environment together with the Centre for Clean Air Policy, USA. For 2000 the SEA was allocated the SAVE 2000 programme called Support of KGJ as a basis for Eastern-Western energy partnership. It deals with introduction and support of co-generation units. Implementation of the Decree of Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic 144/2000 on requirements for fuel quality, keeping operational records on the kind, extent and way of providing data to air protection authority. The Programme of support of savings of energy and utilization of alternative energy resources, which is subsidized by the state budget up to the sum of 30 million SKK yearly. As early as 1992 Slovenské elektrárne (the Slovak Power Plants Company) established a division of energy efficiency and elaborated a DSM programme (promotion of energy efficiency and management on the side of consumption) in collaboration with the company Power Smart Inc. from Canada. The objectives of the programme are a) reduction of consumption in peak hours, b) transfer of burden and c) improvement of efficiency of utilization of electric energy in households and industry. In the framework of this programme pilot projects are being run that are oriented to installation of heat pumps for heating the premises and water in the sector of housing and efficient lighting of houses and streets. In the year 2000 the SEA was allocated the SAVE 2000 programme called Support of KGJ as a basis for Eastern-Western energy partnership PROCHP. It deals with introduction and support of co-generation units. The further SAVE 2000 programme for Slovakia is the programme called Extension of EXCOs TPF involvement in Public Sector CHP and in DH schemes in the Czech and Slovak Republics. It deals with support of funding projects of co-generation units by a third party (TPF: third party financing). In 1999 Slovakia was involved in programmes: Analysis of obstacles in implementation of combined production of heat and electricity in the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic, the National

programme of monitoring and identification of objectives in the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic, the Manual for self-governments in the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic.

Status: Slovakia suffers from lack of its own primary energy resources (these resources constitute only 11 percent of total consumption). The rest is covered by import, in particular from the Russian Federation. Import of coal is diversified. Slovakia is electrified to 100 percent.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: Implemented through Exhibitions RACIO ENERGIA, ELOSYS, AQUATERM, ENEF and further, various conferences, workshops, seminars, competitions in mass media, advisory centres. There are courses, in particular physics, biology and ecology, which include issues of environmental protection. Energy auditors and so called competent representatives who run businesses in energy sectors are trained via the Slovak Energy Agency (established by the Ministry of Economy). They acquire a certificate of professional ability. Advisory and trade centres of energy enterprises, exhibitions EKOTOPFILM, ENVIROFILM, etc.

Information: Information is gathered and processed by the Statistic Office of the Slovak Republic. Business companies, which belong under the responsibility of the Ministry of Economy, submit data also to the Ministry of Economy. The area of heating management is monitored by the Slovak Energy Agency. Official statistics is available. Other data and information are presented at conferences, seminars and workshops.

Research and Technologies: Number of small hydro-power plant has been increased and this trend still continues. Construction of one hydro-power plant with 64 MW output is finishing. Share in energy production and number of introduced units have been increased. Gasification of biomass is developing in the area of wastewater treatment plants. Number of campaigns and undertakings oriented to energy utilization of mainly biomass is extending. Solar energy is utilized in particular for heat production. Wind power plants are used only experimentally. Two blocks in the nuclear power plant Mochovce have been completed and put into operation, which contributes to fulfilment of Kyoto commitments. In the framework of research and development in industrial sectors and energy the following scientific and technical projects were realized in 1999: Development of mass remote control of important technical components for DSM SR, which was solved by VUPEX Bratislava in the period 1996-1999; Improvement of complex system for support of RODOS decision-making developed within the European Union and its adaptation for the Eastern Europe. It was solved by VUJE Institute Trnava in the period 1996-1999 (project solved in the framework of international scientific and technical co-operation EU – COPERNICUS); and Development of facility for production of absorption containers for burnt fuel cells from nuclear installations, which was solved by ZTS VVU Košice in the period 1998-1999. In the area of hydro-energy it depends on achievement of consensus with ecologists in building further small hydropower plants. Environmental evaluation of hydro-energy potential of the Slovak Republic is under preparation, which will determine a list and proper localization of small hydropower plants. In Slovakia there is an important producer of solar collectors that are, however, exported. Experiments are being carried out. Concerning major heating plants, fluid combustion of coal has been introduced at ENO Nováky and further facility of this kind of combustion is under preparation.

Financing: The state budget contributes to the Programme of support of savings and utilization of alternative energy resources with a sum of 30 million SKK yearly (for private sector). There is a contribution also to the Programme SAVE II – 3.6 million SKK (private sector).

Cooperation: Investments of foreign investors in the Slovak Republic are protected. The Slovak Republic has ratified the Convention on Energy Charter), besides that the Government has adopted several measures providing potential investors with advantageous conditions. The Slovak Republic is connected to the international energy network UCPITE and CENTREL. Programmes INTERREG, Phare, SAVE II, SYNERGY. The third National Report on Climate Change is under preparation. Emission trading is also under preparation and Joint Implementation projects are being realized (with Denmark and the Netherlands). The Protocol on Energy Charter and relating environmental aspects.

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CHAPTER 4: CHANGING CONSUMPTION PATTERNS - TRANSPORT

Decision-Making: Ministries of Transport, Post and Telecommunications; Interior; the Environment; Construction and Regional Development; Soil Management; Economy; Finance; and Defense. Governmental departments and state organizations: Regional offices; District offices; The Railways; Road Management; Airport Management; Management of Flight Operation; The State Navigation Management; The Slovak Navigation and Ports; The State Railway Office; The Naval Office; The State Transport Office; and The Aviation Office. The Ministry of Transport, Post and Telecommunications reflected the perspective of development of transport, post and telecommunications into the main plans of the sector for 1996 – 1998 and into the Updating of development programmes for period 1996-1999. The main plans of the Ministry of Transport, Post and Telecommunications in the area of development of transport infrastructure have been fully transferred into the Principles of the economic policy. The Acts in force in the area of transport:

- Act of the National Council of the Slovak Republic 168/1996 on road transport;
- Act 135/1961 on terrestrial communications;
- Act of the National Council of the Slovak Republic 315/1996 on traffic on terrestrial communications;
- Act of the National Council of the Slovak Republic 87/1994 on road tax;
- Act of the National Council of the Slovak Republic 258/1993 on the Railways of the Slovak Republic;
- Act of the National Council of the Slovak Republic 164/1996 on railway network;
- Act of the National Council of the Slovak Republic 143/1998 on civil aviation;
- Act 26/1994 on inland navigation.

These acts were adopted or amended after 1992, some are proposed for further amendments in relation with harmonization with the EU legislation, in the framework of the Legislative plan of the Government for 2000.

The comprehensive strategy of transport system development in the Slovak Republic is rooted in the documents Principles of the State Transport Policy and the Strategy of Development of the Sector of the Ministry of Transport, Post and Telecommunications. The basic strategic objectives of the transport development are determined by striving for the European integration of the Slovak Republic and represent conditions of permanent direction of development with the aim of sustainable mobility in integrated use of all modes of transport with special focus at intermodality and support of more ecological modes, i.e. railway transport, inland water transport and combined transport, as well as public passenger transport with creation of conditions for air transport accessibility of the Slovak Republic. Self-governmental authorities of territorial units (municipalities), organizations of the third sector. Comments of the public to the transport policy are collected through public assessment and commenting. The private sector is involved in this process through the Association of employers and its individual unions (e.g. the Union of employers in transport, post and telecommunications).

Programmes and Projects: The Action Plan for the area of transport and the environment was adopted by the resolution of the Government 102/1999. It includes 67 mutually inter-linked measures, which will be in long-term, middle-term and short-term perspective and which are aimed at change of orientation of transport development towards sustainable development. One of these measures is the Programme of support of planning and realization of integrated systems of mass passenger transport which deals with issues of planning, creation and possibility of realization of integrated transport systems in passenger transport in Slovakia.

Status: 53 percent of municipalities have more than 12 pairs of transportation lines during a working day. 25 percent of municipalities have more than 12 pairs of lines on Saturdays and 23 percent of municipalities have more than 12 lines on Sundays. The availability and accessibility of road network (state roads of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd category) is in the Slovak Republic on standard European level. This network is reasonably dense and responds to the needs. It is accessible to all road traffic stakeholders. Taxation of use of road routes is regulated by the Act 87/1994 on road tax. Motorway network in the Slovak Republic is under construction in principle. Perspective length of the whole planned motorway network is 832 km in routes of international roads E65, E75, E58, E50 and E571. 290 km of motorways are currently in operation, of which 50 km only in a half profile (two lanes). Access to

and use of motorways is charged. The railway network is also accessible on the standard European level. The existing railway network is reasonably dense and responds to the needs. Only the Railways of the Slovak Republic have access to the railway network. Use of railway network is on reasonable level. Six airports with a status of international airport are located on the territory of the Slovak Republic – Bratislava, Piešťany, Sliač, Poprad-Tatry, Košice (managed by the Slovak Airport Management) and the Žilina Airport. The current air transport is in the phase of development which relates to its limited utilization at present. In the framework of the national transport regular air connection Bratislava – Košice has been introduced and in the framework of international transport there are regular air connections between Bratislava and Prague, Zurich, Tel Aviv, Kuwait, Larnaka and Moscow. Water transport is represented only by the Slovak part of the River Danube (ca 172 km). From the point of view of the Slovak Republic, the Slovak part of the River Danube is used mainly for international cargo and tourist passenger transport, in particular on routes Bratislava – Budapest, Bratislava – Vienna. The lower parts of the River Váh and a part of the River Bodrog are navigable to limited extent. The unleaded petrol (Natural) was introduced on the market in 1986. The leaded petrols are not distributed since 1997. The split from the Czech Republic led to a modification in transport. The trans-regional east-west flow of raw materials, goods, energy, and services became radial supported by the geo-political location of Slovakia in the heart of the European continent. Western Slovakia became part of a territory with the most promising development prospects within Europe. The Slovak part of this territory is relatively well prepared for this from an infrastructure viewpoint. Highways, electrified double-track railway lines, and systems of energy and power supply are currently available. The European arterial waterway, the Danube river, flows through this part of Slovakia.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: The main measures oriented to increase of public awareness on impacts of transport on the environment are carried out by problem-oriented programmes of the both state and private TV and radio stations, environmentally and specifically oriented mass periodicals and through a number of non-governmental organizations working in the area of environmental education. The basic measure of this kind is still the economic effectiveness of public passenger transport when compared to individual car transportation. In many cases shorter transport times, comfort and safety of transport play a positive role in favour of public transport. The transport divisions at individual regional offices deal with building cycling-routes on the regional level and in border areas. Their assistance is, however, insufficient in particular because of lack of financial sources. Therefore such projects are proposed as international projects, for which it is possible to get financial assistance from international programmes, e.g. Phase programme.

Information: Process of accumulation of information in the state statistic service of the Slovak Republic is organized as follows:

Inputs:

- standard form of sending data (via post to regional district of the Office of Statistics of the Slovak Republic);
- electronic processing of statistic data into input generators according to the kind of data;
- subsequent assortment of data according to sectoral classification of economic activities, legal form, proprietary relations and size structure of enterprises (number of employees)

Outputs:

- publication of selected indicators for irregular users of transport information;
- information service for unpublished data according to the own selection of assortment of ordered data; and
- Info stat – electronic service for users of information (according to the Edition plan of publication of the Office of Statistics of the Slovak Republic).

Research and Technologies: Use of gaseous fuels (LPG, CNG) in road transport as fuel for motor vehicles (gasification of personal cars and lorries and buses). A number of management and information systems oriented to optimization of transport process management and to providing inhabitants with transport services are being implemented recently. They help to remove unprofitable traffic services. Integrated transport systems including the suburban railway transport, suburban road transport with urban public transport are being introduced in the area of passenger regional transport in the larger urban regions (Bratislava, Košice, Žilina, Banská Bystrica, etc.). For the road transport there is an absence of similar comprehensive information and management systems of passenger and

cargo public transport. The important transporters introduce isolated based on mode systems of support for decision-making. The system GSP is being applied (with use of satellite transfer of information) in the area of management of international lorry transport and water transport. Development of combined transport systems, introduction of integrated transport systems, information and management systems of transport of various levels, loading systems of road cargo transport.

Financing: System of funding of road infrastructure is still not completed. The basic sources of road infrastructure funding system are:

- Road tax – 70 percent go directly to the State Fund of Road Management and 30 percent go to municipalities;
- Consumption tax of hydrocarbon fuels and oils – this tax does not go to the State Fund of Road Management, as it could be expected, but to the state budget, from where a part of finances are provided for concrete building activities;
- Administrative charges – for excessive size transportation, permissions, etc.; and
- Motorway adhesive labels – in force in Slovakia since 1996 and only their price is a subject of modification. This system should be in the future replaced by a system of turnpike toll on motorways and high-speed roads (payment for concrete segments of road).

Cooperation: An important part of transport policy is protection of the environment against negative impacts of transport. The objective is acceptable development of transport in the framework of sustainable development of the Slovak economy – in accordance with the National Environmental Action Programme (NEAP) which was elaborated by the Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic. On the basis of specification of principles of the state transport policy in concrete tasks the Ministry of Transport, Post and Telecommunications worked out the National programme for stabilization and reduction of carbon dioxide emissions in transport (1994) and the Conception of environmental protection and management in the sector of the Ministry of Transport, Post and Telecommunications for period 1994-2000. In the framework of cross-sectoral co-operation the Ministry of Transport, Post and Telecommunications participated in preparation of the National programme of reduction of emissions of volatile non-methane organic compounds (March 1995) and the National programme of reduction of emissions of greenhouse gases. The Slovak Republic is a Party to all important multilateral international agreements and conventions in the area of transport. Besides the multilateral international agreements and conventions mentioned above, the Slovak Republic has concluded a number of bilateral agreements with the European and non-European countries in the area of transport.

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CHAPTER 5: DEMOGRAPHIC DYNAMICS AND SUSTAINABILITY

Decision-Making: The National Council of the Slovak Republic (NR SR), the Government of the Slovak Republic. Within the framework of the former Czechoslovakia, the population of Slovakia had a young age structure. However, the country is starting to lose this characteristic. The economic and social transformation of society has brought about new employment and private venture opportunities. For young people, starting a family is not a priority issue. Also, changes in social policy have taken place in which the Government no longer grants extensive benefits to all families, and some earlier measures have been curtailed (loans to young married couples), or modified (the amount of child allowance is contingent on the child's age). Population growth rates have also dropped because of the increasing cost of living for families with children, lack of housing, unemployment, etc. For these reasons, Slovakia's demographic behavior now approximates that of its Western neighbors.

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: Number of inhabitants of Slovakia increased from 2.5 millions in 1869 up to 5.4 millions in 1997, which means that during this relatively short period the number of inhabitants doubled. Intensification of agriculture, development of industry and transport, extensive urbanization and irrational economic objectives with significant adverse impacts on the environment of Slovakia and mainly on biodiversity are connected with this fact. The average density of population is 109.9 inhabitants per km². This fact is, however, determined by a factor that settlements in Slovakia are primarily concentrated in flats and depressions while mountain areas are populated very sparsely. That means that in the main areas of settlements the density of population is many times higher (in average ca 1,800 inhabitants per km².) The average age of inhabitants of Slovakia was 35.4 in 1998 (33.8 males and 36.9 females) and it has moderately growing tendency. Population is slowly getting old and natural growth rate is gradually lowering. Medium life span at birth is 72.8 years (68.63 males and 76.74 females). The NR SR, the Government of the Slovak Republic, Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic (MPSVR SR), municipal authorities are major groups.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: MPSVR SR - demographic situation.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: State budget of the Slovak Republic.

Cooperation: United Nations, European Union, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

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CHAPTER 6: PROTECTING AND PROMOTING HUMAN HEALTH

Decision-Making: The Government of the Slovak Republic, the NR SR, MZ SR are the resulting decisive bodies. MZ SR is the body responsible for this area. All other central state administration bodies and organisations under their competence are cooperating bodies. The Government of the Slovak Republic, NR SR, all central state administration bodies and organisation under their competence - all conceptional materials are subject of discussion at the Council of Economic and Social Treaty. One of the Slovak Government's long-term objectives is to extend life expectancy and reduce morbidity rates to Western European averages. Among the major components involved in restructuring the health establishment network are: ensuring appropriate health care of every citizen; ensuring equality in the availability of health care and its quality; increasing performance, efficiency, quality, and economy of health care; shifting the focus of the health care delivery to preventive health care; expanding the primary health care network; establishing conditions for home nursing; and expanding care of the aged, the elderly, and the chronically sick in facilities with less costly "social" beds. As of January 1995, several health insurance agencies have been operating in the Slovak Republic. National insurance law pertaining to the insurance premiums (paid by the state) has been amended three times. As of July 1990, non-governmental organizations have been involved in rendering social services in Slovakia. Organizations include: the Union of the Blind and Persons With Impaired Eyesight in Slovakia, the Slovak Union of the Handicapped, the Slovak Union of Persons with Impaired Hearing, the Handicapped Club, the Association Assisting the Retarded in the Slovak Republic, etc. Although these associations operate nationally, they are largely of regional significance and focus on a narrow group of beneficiaries.

Programmes and Projects: In accordance with the programme of the World Health Organisation "Health for Europe in the 21st Century", the National Programme of Support of Health - Health for All in the 21st Century (updating)". The framework of basic conceptional measures involve first of all passing the act on protection of human health, the act on medical care and the act on health insurance as updated and amended later. "The Principles of State Health Policy", approved by the Government, which inter alia concretise the role of state and priorities of the state policy in the area of health protection, also belong to the long-term conceptional materials. "Immunization Programme of the Slovak Republic" in accordance with recommendations of SZO and EK, control of diseases preventable by vaccination, belongs to the tasks of fundamental importance. It is a programme representing priority task of the sector in the area of health protection, where Slovakia from the long-term point of view reaches high standard. Further important programme is the assurance of laboratory diagnostics of infectious diseases in accordance of recommendation of EU and SZO. More areas affected by negative impact of industrial activities are being monitored permanently as priority in Slovakia. The Government of the Slovak Republic and competent committee of NR SR are being informed about hygienic situation in Slovakia and impacts on the human health each year. In May 1997 a comprehensive information on epidemic occurrence of the most important chronic non-infectious diseases of the Slovak citizens was submitted to NR SR for discussion. "The National Programme of Combating HIV/AIDS" was approved by the Government of the Slovak Republic. The Slovak Republic has joined the process of certification of eradication of infantile paralysis. "Programme of realisation of conclusions of London conference on the environment and health in the Slovak Republic" has been worked out and approved by the Government of the Slovak Republic to support processes leading towards strengthening the environmental health in the Slovak Republic. This programme defines further orientation in this area of public health care and at the same time it sets concrete tasks for 2000. The most important tasks in the nearest future will be: elaboration of a new state health care policy in the Slovak Republic, revision of the National environmental health action plan (NEHAP) and elaboration of implementation strategy of NEHAP. At present a legislative arrangement regulating assessment of health risk, with regard to effect of chemicals and preparations on human health, is being prepared, which is resulting from the act on chemicals and preparations which is currently under preparation in accordance with the law of the European Union.

Status: The Government of the Slovak Republic in its Programme Declaration (November 1998) committed itself to implement great number of measures for improvement of the health state of population of the Slovak Republic. It formulated several objectives:

- guarantee of broadly available and high-quality ambulance and hospital health care for all citizens of the Slovak Republic,
- to create conditions for fulfilling the tasks in the area of health protection,
- to prepare updating of regulations in the area of health protection,
- to ensure multi-source financing of health service and to increase the share of GDP for health service,
- control of compliance with criteria for establishment of health insurance companies and their operation,
- to ensure equal status of state and non-state health service facilities.

Ensuring the protection of health of citizens of the Slovak Republic belongs to priorities of interest of all sectors of our society since 1990, when the Government of the Slovak Republic approved principles of reform of health care in Slovakia. In this area “the National Programme of Support of Health (NPPZ)” was prepared and approved by the Government and by the NR SR as early as 1991 in accordance with tendency. This Programme is determined by “the Strategy of Health for All up till 2000” (SZO) and was renewed in 1995 in the framework of “Updating of NPPZ” together with definition of tasks, concretised and concentrated into 6 priority areas of health protection.

The average life expectancy at birth for men (66.5 years) is 6-7 years less than for women (75.3 years), and 5-7 years less than in developed countries. Mortality rates, which increased by 2.2 per thousand in the years 1860-1980, have since stagnated. Adverse environmental impacts are seen in some districts through increased parental and infant mortality, a growth in the number of risk pregnancies and children born with congenital defects, an increase in the number of disabled and handicapped, and the rise of socio-pathological phenomena. The majority of diseases are heart and vascular diseases (53.3%), and one-fifth are malignant tumours (19.0%). The morbidity and mortality from malignant tumours has nearly doubled since 1965. A direct manifestation of the negative impacts of work is occupational hazards and disease. In 1985, among the most frequently reported occupational diseases were cases of dermatosis (342), zoonotic bacterial diseases communicated directly or via agents (272 cases), and hearing disorders due to excessive noise. Due to changes in selected technologies, and the elimination of sources and causes of risk, the incidence of some conventional industrial poisonings declined (by lead, phosphorus, mercury, arsenic, chromium, carbon disulfide, hydrogen sulfide, carbon monoxide, hydrogen cyanide, benzene, nitro and amino benzene compounds, hydrogen halide, glycerine nitrate esters). In 1992, the most dramatic increase of occupational asthma in the country was recorded.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising:

MZ SR - protection of human health, provision of health care

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing:

The state budget of the Slovak Republic, the State Fund of Health Protection

Cooperation:

UN, SZO, EU, EK, OECD, FAO, and others.

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CHAPTER 7: PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE HUMAN SETTLEMENT DEVELOPMENT

Decision-Making: The Government of the Slovak Republic is the resulting decisive body. Ministry of Environment (MŽP SR) is the responsible body for this area. MVVP SR, Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family (MPSVR SR), Ministry of Culture (MK SR), Ministry of Economy (MH SR), Ministry of Transport, Post and Telecommunication (MDPT SR), Office for Strategy of Development of Society (ÚRSVT SR), Ministry of Education (MŠ SR), and Ministry of Finance (MF SR) are the cooperating bodies. Major groups are the Government of the Slovak Republic, the NR SR, sectors, local state administration bodies, organizations, municipalities, production enterprises, civic associations, non-governmental organizations, foundations, other legal entities.

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: In 1995 “the Conception of State Housing Policy up till 2000” was approved. In this relation the responsibility for housing is shifting towards the citizen and the state and municipalities are obliged to create legislative, technical and economic conditions so that the housing is available for all citizens and so that each household can arrange housing adequate to income. Currently a new conception is being prepared for discussion within the Government of the Slovak Republic called “Conception of State Housing Policy up till 2005 with perspective up till 2010” which is connected to the 1995 Conception. Support for development of housing has been legislatively arranged (building saving, State Fund for Housing Development) and framework conditions for mortgage credits. Starting from 2000 contributions for housing started to be paid and de-regulation of rental started which creates good conditions for construction of rental houses. Further the state supports development of housing from the public sources (state budget) and partially from the Fund of National Property in a form of programmes of development of housing. Having passed the act on construction products, the conditions for ensuring the quality of construction products comparable to the European standards have been prepared. Privatisation in the sector of construction is almost completed. Current supporting programmes are, however, insufficient and the next problem is deteriorating state of flats. More than 50% of population lives in blocks of flats built in collective forms of construction and social composition of owners does not offer conditions for larger repairs and reconstruction. Current supporting programmes have helped to fulfil intentions of housing policy only to very small extent. Lack of financial sources did not allow more complex solutions and these programmes were aimed rather at energy saving than at increase of quality and life span of flats. Social care is social prevention and solution of material need or solution of social need when a citizen himself or with a help of family is not able to ensure the basic living conditions, and solution of social need of a citizen who is seriously handicapped through compensation of social consequences of his handicap. Forms of solution of material and social need are social consultations, socio-legislative protection, social services (including care in social service facilities which includes also accommodation), payment of social aid, social services and financial contributions for compensation. “National Report on Development of Settlements and Housing in Slovakia” was presented at the UN Conference Habitat II in Istanbul in 1996. Support of sustainable development of human settlements is also ensured in the framework of “the Programme of Rural Areas Revival”, which was approved by the Slovak Government Resolution No. 222 of 25 March 1997. Since 1998 the municipal programme “Programme of Renewal of Rural Areas” is being realized which is aimed at revival of social and demographic foundations of villages, revival and development of local cultural and social traditions, strengthening of local and regional communities, development of economy and employment, rational use of natural resources, production potential of soil, urban and architectonic solution of flats, building basic infrastructure, compliance with ecological and environmental principles in protection of the rural environment, protection of nature in cadastre territory of villages and realization of regional territorial development at local level. Since 1998 realization of development programme of villages has been ensured with a help of trained facilitators. These issues are also the part of “Conception of Soil Management Policy” approved in 1993 (management and protection of soil, agricultural land and ecological management). The next objective is preservation of agriculture and traditional forms of management in mountain regions in accordance with adopted Programme and principles of regional policy in agriculture through the system of subsidies “Support of Management in Worse Natural Conditions.” In 1998 regional energy conceptions were elaborated reflecting support of sustainable energy systems in human settlements. These conceptions were starting points for elaboration of Energy Policy of the

Slovak Republic approved at the end of 1999. The new Energy Policy defines main objectives, trends and energy development framework, as well as tools for achieving these targets. As distinct to previous policies, the new policy is more general with priority of joining the single market of the European Union. Among the main objectives of the sectoral document “Updating and Elaboration of Principles of the State Transport Policy of the Slovak Republic” adopted in January 2000 there are increase of safety of transport and elimination of negative impacts of transport on the environment. It reflects continuing social and economic transformation and accession to the European Union. The basic strategic objective of the Transport Policy is implementation of sustainable transport of people and goods as a necessary precondition of fulfilling the rights and liberties of citizens and requirements of development of free market. Strategy of sustainable development is followed by “Action Plan for the Area of Transport and the Environment” approved by the Government in 1999 which is determined by conclusions of the UN ECE Conference on Transport and Environment held in Vienna 1997. The basic objective of the Action Plan is to solve mutual relations between transport and the environment and to ensure compliance of future transport development with sustainable development. “Conception of Spatial Development of Slovakia is aimed at creation of spatial conditions for integration of the country into the European spatial and residential structures. It is determined by the document “Principles of Policy of Development of European Space” adopted by the European Council. Residential network of Slovakia is due to its high stability one of determining elements influencing the spatial development. Preserved cultural memorabilia, historical urban and architectural structures in a context with cultural land modified by human activities present cultural heritage of Slovakia requiring systematic protection. In the given context it is recommended to achieve a harmonious balance in relations between the society and the environment in order to support “controlled evolution of cultural land” as a part of spatial policy for the whole territory.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: MŽP SR - spatial planning and construction regulations; MVVP SR - in accordance with the act No. 347/1999 as updated later; MPSVR SR - social aid; MK SR - cultural heritage; MH SR - supply of energy and heat; MDPT SR - construction and reconstruction of road network; ÚRSVT SR - State regional policy; MŠ SR – education; MF SR - finances for housing; Ministry of Soil Management (MP SR) - agriculture, forestry and water management.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: State budget, budgets of municipalities, sectoral funds, foundations, sponsors.

Cooperation: OECD, International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), IEA, US AID, UNICEF, European Council, World Bank, PHARE, Czech Republic, and Austria. The year 1989 marked the end of Slovakia's isolation from Western Europe. Its frontiers opened, thus creating new conditions for urbanization along the frontiers with Austria and in the rest of Slovakia's territory. The split from the Czech Republic led to a modification in transport. The trans-regional east-west flow of raw materials, goods, energy, and services became radial supported by the geo-political location of Slovakia in the heart of the European continent. Western Slovakia became part of a territory with the most promising development prospects within Europe. The Slovak part of this territory is relatively well-prepared for this from an infrastructure viewpoint. Highways, electrified double-track railway lines, and systems of energy and power supply are currently available. The European arterial waterway, the Danube river, flows through this part of Slovakia. This territory has the carrying capacity to support further urbanization.

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CHAPTER 8: INTEGRATING ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT IN DECISION-MAKING

Decision-Making: The Government of the Slovak Republic is the resulting decisive body. MF SR is a body responsible for this area. MŽP SR and ŠÚ SR are the cooperating bodies. The Government of the Slovak Republic, NR SR, sectors, state administration authorities, organisations, municipalities, production enterprises. Changes in the political orientation of society after 1989 brought about modifications in sustainable development approaches. The Ministry of the Environment was created to protect the environment, establish zoning and construction procedures, conduct geological research, and provide an integrated information and monitoring system on the environment for the entire Slovak Republic. State administrative bodies established agencies to address environmental concerns at the local level. The Ministry acts as the principal state supervisory body and identifies conservation strategies in collaboration with other state administrative and legislative bodies. According to the Government, the greatest contribution to the work of state administrative bodies responsible for the environment was the establishment of the Slovak Ministry of the Environment, the Slovak Environmental Inspection, and the eight regional and 79 district administration offices with their environmental branches. The Ministry of the Environment has the mandate to analyze the conclusions of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) and incorporating the principles into the environmental policy of the Slovak Government. The Ministers and Directors of other central administrative authorities were likewise entrusted with employing and incorporating the conference conclusions within the environmental programmes of their respective ministries. Progressive transformation of the political system in Slovakia has been reflected in the Constitution of the Slovak Republic adopted by the Slovak National Council on September 1, 1992. The Constitution guarantees all civil rights and freedoms, including the right to environmental and cultural heritage protection. Significant success has also been achieved recently in the establishment of environmental laws. The past and present negative consequences of social and economic influences on the environment are mitigated by approximately 752 regulations of varying legal force. Air, water, and forest protection regulations have been extensively revised and new regulations concerning waste management, the state administrative system for the environment, and the State Fund for the Environment of the Slovak Republic have been implemented. Some regulations that were difficult to implement and enforce have been already incorporated within legal norms by replacing outdated laws with new ones. These cover a number of areas that have not been addressed before and are currently being used effectively. Slovak National environmental policy is based on an analysis of the state of the environment and an evaluation of the overall framework for environmental issues. National policy determines areas of National environmental priorities, which are subsequently divided into long-, medium-, and short-term sustainable development objectives. The time required to accomplish the long-term objectives to ameliorate environmental conditions and achieve sustainable development in Slovakia may be 20-50 years or possibly longer. Medium-term objectives, obtainable by the period 2000-2010, focus on slowing the processes of environmental deterioration and mitigating the impact of the damaged and polluted environment on life expectancy and public health, as well as eliminating activities that place a burden on the environment. The implementation of a National environmental policy is expected to fulfil the pre-conditions for Slovak convergence with European environmental standards and facilitate admission to European organizations. However, the Government has noted that environmental issues are too complex and responsibilities too divided for the strategy to remain the mandate of a single ministry at the National level. The strategy must be incorporated and defined in the environmental policy provisions of individual ministries and further developed at the regional level with the participation of local governments and citizen groups. This has to be provided through the implementation of the recently developed National Environmental Action Programme (NEAP) approved by the Governmental Resolution No. 350/1996. The Programme defines the concrete conceptual, legislation, organizational, educational, training, and especially the investment measures behind the activities of various legal bodies that aim to reach objectives of the adopted National environmental policy.

Programmes and Projects: See under Decision-Making.

Status: In the current Slovak taxation legislation in force the individual taxation acts comprise provisions, which partly take into account the environmental aspects. According to the act No. 317/1992 on real estate tax the municipalities are also authorised to provide tax relief, which take into account the environmental interests when

taxing constructions and lands. Possible changes can be expected after introduction of new environmental taxes as well as preparation of databases and international information exchange. The taxation system is being gradually modified including acceptance of environmental protection and management as well as harmonisation with the legislation of the European Union (updating of consumption tax of hydrocarbon fuels and oils, income tax, value added tax, road tax, etc.) Similarly in the area of duties, modifications in duty scale will be made according to proposals made by sectors of the environment and agriculture. In the framework of establishment of systems of integrated environmental and economic accounting the introduction of assessment system of data and information collection and enforcement of national accounting systems are being planned. It is necessary to involve civil servants who prepare decisions and cooperate in the area of keeping records on costs in additional national accounts and economic statistics. In the area of analysis, collection of data, preparation of national accounts, assessment and use of data the system IEEA has been introduced for decision-making. In 1999 several taxation acts were amended (e.g. income tax, value added tax, hydrocarbon fuel and oil consumption tax, alcohol consumption tax, road tax. During amending the mentioned acts the environmental interests were taken into account. For example, as far as income tax is concerned, the tax payers can devote 1% of tax to organisations of the third sector, which include foundations and civic associations operating in the area of the environment. The untaxed limit has been increased from 100,000 SKK up to 300,000 SKK for these organisations. Number of EMS which have been certified (number of EMS certificates in Slovakia)

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising:

MF SR - national accounts

ŠÚ SR - economic statistics (methodology)

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: Until November 1989, all social organizations were associated with the communist-controlled National Front. Crucial to the free development of civil life was the founding of new social organizations and especially non-governmental and non-profit organizations that had been deprived the opportunity to flourish under the totalitarian regime. Currently, the institutions of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, as well as a number of sub-ministerial organizations contribute significantly to the development of the environmental field and addressing environmental problems in the country. These include for example, the Soil Productivity Research Institute, the Forestry Research Institute, the Institute for Preventive and Clinical Medicine, the Water Management Research Institute, the Slovak Institute for Preservation of Cultural Artifacts, various universities, and citizen's groups (SZOPK, Tree of Life, the Slovak Society for the Environment, the Association for Sustainable Life, etc.).

Financing: State budget

Cooperation: The Slovak Republic, as one of the successor states to the Czechoslovak Federal Republic, assumes the obligations deriving from international legislation and will continue to participate in future agreements. In addition, the Slovak Republic will seek to participate in the resolution of environmental problems within the framework of United Nations organizations, the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE), the European Union (EU), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the Council of Europe, and other organizations.

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CHAPTER 9: PROTECTION OF THE ATMOSPHERE

Decision-Making: The National Council of the Slovak Republic (NR SR) and the Government of the Slovak Republic are the resulting decisive body. Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MŽP SR) is the responsible body for this area. Ministry of Economy (MH SR), Ministry of Transport, Post and Telecommunication (MDPT SR), Ministry of Health (MZ SR), Ministry of Soil Management (MP SR), Ministry of Finance (MF SR), and Ministry of Defense (MO SR) are the cooperating bodies of state administration. Major groups are The Government of the Slovak Republic, the NR SR, sectors, non-governmental organizations, production enterprises, civic associations, municipalities, associations, unions, trade unions.

Programmes and Projects: The new government has committed itself in the Programme Declaration to elaborate the Industrial Policy of the European Union in the conditions of the Slovak Republic and to establish an institutional network and system of multi-source financing of state development programmes in order to fully apply the rules of the EU in the area of structural funds.

Status: Since 1996 in the air protection legislation the following acts and regulations have been passed: the new act on ozone layer protection and related implementing regulations, the 1998 act on charges for air pollution, the 1997 regulation on identification of amount of discharged pollutants and compliance with limits of pollution. In the Slovak Republic there is elaborated “the National Programme for Stabilization and Reduction of CO₂ emissions in Transport in the Slovak Republic”. Each year the real development of CO₂ production in transport is being monitored and compared to prognosis up till 2005 elaborated in the National Programme for Stabilization and Reduction of CO₂ emissions in Transport in the Slovak Republic. In the area of energy production the nuclear power, hydro-energetic potential, gas cycles and reconstruction of existing traditional energy sources, using the newest technologies eliminating emissions of CO₂, NO_x, are utilized exclusively for peaceful purposes. Measuring and regulatory technology is being upgraded. The Energy Policy of the Slovak Republic was discussed within the Government in January 2000 as a new document defining main streams of development and it was also submitted for public discussion. It includes principles of sustainable development and respects all relevant international commitments of the Slovak Republic. One of its main objectives is the effective use of energy and implementation of measures aimed at saving of energy and fuels. Updated frameworks for industrial development in Slovakia determined by the document “Elaboration of Principles of Industrial Policy of the European Union in Conditions of Enterprises of the Slovak Republic” approved by the Government in 1999 were submitted to the European Commission in the framework of integration process. One of priorities of the new policy approach is understanding, how policy of competitiveness, from the point of view of air protection, tries to create proper conditions for investments, which enables to support and regulate industrial development so that negative impacts on air can be minimized. It includes mainly increasing the effectiveness in use of resources and materials in production and consumption and introduction of new environmentally friendly technologies which improve technological level of production potential, its competitiveness strength and position in the world economy. One of techniques of selective approach to support of economic development of Slovakia is establishing economic parks and zones, while basically there are two models of such parks. It is possible to support building of industrial parks attractive for strategic direct foreign investors only through subsidies to infrastructure from sources of the state budget dedicated to support of regional projects and sources of the structural funds of the European Union via regional operational programmes prepared by Regional Offices. The Slovak legislation does not prevent building industrial parks, but it creates real conditions for establishing such parks within industrial zones defined in the adopted spatial planning documentation of municipalities. The elaborated principles of the new industrial policy of Slovakia respect and implement philosophy of sustainable development, contributing to conservation of conditions and forms of life on the Earth, to protection of natural heritage of landscape scenery and to achievement and maintenance of ecological stability.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: NR SR - legislation, the Government of the Slovak Republic - programmes, MŽP SR - air protection, general responsibility, other sectors are responsible for

implementation of legislative regulations and programmes within their competence, MF SR - subsidy policy of the public transport, MH SR - development of ecologically more friendly basis of car fuels.

Information: The main pollutant emissions are monitored in Slovakia through a database that was established in 1985 and operated by the Slovak Institute of Hydro Meteorology. Air pollution is being monitored through a National monitoring system. Since 1994, some 32 permanent monitoring stations have been in operation (there were 18 in 1992). Air pollution measurement at these stations is based on an air index classification. Of the 26 locations in Slovakia evaluated in this manner, some 9 rank among areas with high pollution levels. Currently there are 7 stations in operation to monitor regional air pollution and the chemical composition of precipitation in Slovakia.

Research and Technologies: Imperfect combustion processes are the primary source of carbon monoxide emissions. Anthropogenic carbon dioxide emissions, which have been more or less stagnant, originate predominantly from the combustion of fossil fuels, and they are monitored at the National level. Mobile sources, industrial technological processes, and local heating plants were the prime source of carbon monoxide emissions in 1994. Although the numbers of personal vehicles have been on the increase, they do not necessarily have a direct impact on air pollution in urban areas, due to the introduction of lead-free gas and other technical measures (catalytic converters, etc.). Solid particle emissions have decreased from 308.6 thousand tons in 1990 to 87.3 thousand tons in 1994. Imperfect burning processes are the main source of carbon monoxide emissions.

Financing: State budget of the Slovak Republic, the State Fund of the Environment, domestic and foreign loans, own activities, contributions of physical persons and legal entities, EU, PHARE, means from deposited sanction measures.

Cooperation: Research institutes, SAV, universities, OECD, EU, Programme PHARE, UN, EBRD, International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Council of Europe, World Bank, participation in the EU project, CORINAIR (assessment of emission burden caused by economic sectors, including transport in member states and associated countries of EU).

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CHAPTER 10: INTEGRATED APPROACH TO THE PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT OF LAND RESOURCES

Decision-Making: The National Council of the Slovak Republic (NR SR) and the Government of the Slovak Republic are the resulting decisive bodies. MŽP SR is the body responsible for this sector. All other central authorities are the cooperating bodies.

Programmes and Projects: Support of sustainable development of human settlements is ensured in the framework of the "Programme of Rural Rehabilitation in Slovakia" amended in 1996. Since 1998 realization of development programmes of villages has started. This issue is included in the „Conception of Soil Management Policy" (Ministry of Soil Management of the Slovak Republic) approved in 1993. It concerns mainly maintenance and protection of land resources, countryside and ecological cultivation. The further objective is the conservation of agriculture and traditional forms of cultivation in mountain areas in accordance with adopted Programme and principles of regional policy in agriculture through system of subsidies "Promotion of management in worse natural conditions" (Ministry of Soil Management of the Slovak Republic). In 1997 realization of the second phase of the Waste Management Programme of the Slovak Republic started. On the basis of comprehensive analysis and evaluation of the first phase the objectives and measures of the Waste Management Programme have been laid down for the period till 2000. These objectives and measures took account of real economic situation of the state and expected economic development, which significantly influenced the results achieved in individual areas of waste management. In 1999 the Government adopted the programme "Wood - the Resource of the 21st Century". Wood is an important, renewable resource, which is at present used on lower level in Slovakia when compared to developed countries of the European Union. One of the objectives of this programme in mid-term horizon (by 2005) is to harmonise strategies of forest management and wood-processing industry of the Slovak Republic with the aim to utilise synergetic effects of both sectors to increase their effectiveness. This programme has an objective to increase wood processing by 1 mill. m³ by 2005. It includes particularly use of surplus sorts of wood, which are not currently used and application of wood in other sectors of economy, as well as creation of new jobs. Potential for the future is also use of biomass for energy production purposes. Wood has good properties determined by its biological and chemical nature, physical and mechanical properties and relations to protection of the environment. Role of the programme is to promote higher level of application of wood in construction activities, products for flats, construction systems of flats, industrial construction, etc. Products from wood can be easily recycled which increases their competitiveness on the market of developed countries with strict environmental legislation.

Status: Support for planning and management of sources of the country is ensured in the light of "the Conception of Soil Management Policy" approved by the NR SR and the Slovak Government in 1993, which includes also issues of agricultural soil and forestry and in the light of "the Conception of Water Management Policy" approved by the NR SR and the Slovak Government in 1994, which deals with use of water. The issue is well-reasoned utilisation of natural resources and maintenance of ecological stability of the land as a prerequisite of sustainable development of agriculture, forestry and water management. Appropriate legislation has been created for management and protection of agricultural soil of the Slovak Republic. Because of protection, enhancement and stabilisation of the area of agricultural land the act No. 307/1992 on protection of agricultural land was passed together with subsequent executing regulations - regulation of the Government No. 76/1993 on conditions and procedure of granting funds from the State Fund of Protection and Enhancement of Agricultural Land, regulation of the Government No. 152/96 on basic rates of payments for use of agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes. From the point of view of protection of land quality the decision of Ministry of Soil Management of the Slovak Republic on maximal acceptable values of harmful substances in soil has been adopted. On the basis of the resolution of the Slovak Government projects of land arrangement are being worked out in ecologically disturbed areas. The State Water Management Policy is aimed at providing the citizens with drinking and supply water, transfer of municipal waste water, protection of territory against floods, protection of waters, use of hydroelectric potential of water courses, and it is legislatively regulated in legal and policy documents. The updated Water Management Policy for the period up to 2005 will be prepared in 2000. The Energy Policy of the Slovak Republic was adopted by the Slovak Government in 2000, which enables to fulfil the relevant targets. Taking into account the long-term loss-making of extraction and processing of ore resources in

Slovakia, the Slovak Government adopted a resolution concerning the weakening programme in the sector of ore mining. On the basis of the 1991 resolution all ineffective mining and ore processing operations are being closed down which is followed by surface treatment and recultivation, including the removal of damages after mining activities. The need of integrated approach to planning and management of land resources in the area of industry requires a new approach to strengthening this task. This is expected to be carried out on the basis of measures included in Elaboration of Principles of Industrial Policy of the European Union in the Slovak Republic (1999). The new industrial policy is primarily oriented towards achieving competitiveness of industry on globalized markets under conditions of growing competition. That is mainly facilitation of adaptation of industry to structural changes, support of creation of the environment suitable for business initiatives and constant development of industry, in particular small and medium enterprises, promotion of environment suitable for cooperation among enterprises and promotion of better utilization of industrial potential.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: Ministry of Environment (MŽP SR) - hydro-ecological plans; it cooperates in activities related to Principles of the trans-regional spatial system of ecological stability, Ministry of Economy (MH SR) - energy production, industry, Ministry of Soil Management (MP SR) - agriculture, forestry and water management, Regional and district offices - regional energetic conceptions.

Information: Evaluation system for land from the point of view of its quality is based on categorizing the soils in classed soil-ecological units, which represent very concrete properties of agricultural soils. The whole territory of the Slovak Republic has been mapped. The set properties of the land are expressed through a code of BPEJ (classed soil-ecological units) are continuously updated to lay them down more precisely. In order to identify and control negative impacts on soil properties, the regular monitoring in five-year cycles in more than 300 locations is being carried out. Satellite image processing and aerial photograph surveys are carried out only sporadically according to immediate needs. The criteria concerning the integrated land management and sustainable use of land resources are laid down directly in the legislation related to protection of the registered agricultural land resources. The Government has not worked out indicators on integrated land management. Information on land properties, soil and slope characteristics and productivity is registered in the Information system on soil at the Research Institute of Soil Science and Soil Protection. Information on integrated land management and sustainable use of land resources are processed, regularly updated and available to users on request though, not yet available on the internet.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: State budget of the Slovak Republic, State Fund of Protection and Management of Agricultural Soil of the Slovak Republic, State Fund of Forestry of the Slovak Republic, State Water Management Fund, municipalities, internal sources, PHARE

Cooperation: Research institutions, universities, SAV, EU, OECD, IEA, Council of Europe, World Bank. In accordance with recommendation of 1993 Helsinki Conference the monitoring system “Lesy” (Forests) is being implemented in Slovakia, which is aimed at monitoring the health state of forests. It is a part of the European monitoring system “FOREST”. There is also the monitoring system “PÔDA” (SOIL) of which the first phase was realized during the period 1992-1996.

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CHAPTER 11: COMBATING DEFORESTATION

Decision-Making: The Slovak Government is the resulting decisive body. Ministry of Soil Management (MP SR) is a body responsible for this sector. Ministry of Environment (MŽP SR), Ministry of Defense (MO SR) and state forest organizations are the cooperating bodies.

Programmes and Projects: The Slovak Government has approved “the Programme of Reforestation of Lands not Suitable for Agricultural Production”. This programme supposes that by 2000 50,000 hectares of agricultural land will be reforested. In 1998 1,010 hectares including so-called “white areas” were afforested. Because of lack of available financial sources for afforestation for the next years there is a proposal for cancelling the “afforestation programme”. 3,536 hectares of land were afforested in the framework of this programme. Further afforestation of lands owned by non-state sector will continue after approval of SAPARD project (2000).

Status: The forest percentage in Slovakia (40.7 of the total territory of Slovakia) is still overreaching the average European level with the tendency to increase further. The basic objective of the state forest policy is maintenance of forests, their protection and management in accordance to the act on forests. Forest vegetation protection is an integral part of protection of forest resource which is rooted in the national conceptual documents. The primary objective of “the Strategy and Conception of Forestry Development in Slovakia” and “the Principles of the State Forestry Policy in Slovakia” is maintenance of forests, i.e. maintenance and gradual increase of forested territory. This objective is also followed by legislation which deals with forest management in accordance with the law. All forests, regardless their size and form of management, have to be managed according to plans. The most important indicators of forest management are determined by the forest management plans, which are to ensure and increase the production and public functions of forests, that is the interests of the state. In this context important role is given to management arrangement of forests and its results, forest management plans, through which the main principles of forest protection are being applied under concrete conditions.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: Forest research is aimed also at issues of biodiversity, ecological stability, integrated protection and conservation of genetic resources. To realize and control the application of these principles, specialized work places have been established for control of seeds, phytosanitary control, protection of forests and monitoring of forest ecosystems.

Financing: State budget of the Slovak Republic - policy of subsidies for forestry and agriculture.

Cooperation: The Slovak Republic, represented by the Ministry of Soil Management, Section of Forestry, participated in the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests for the first time in 1996 (9-20 September) in Geneva. The further continuation of this process was the special session of the United Nations devoted to evaluation of fulfilling the Agenda 21. Along with the General Assembly, negotiations of special committee established within the UN Commission for Sustainable Development. The negotiations of the special committee was chaired by the President of the UN Commission for Sustainable Development. Attention was paid to continuation of work of IPF. The Slovak delegation positively evaluated the IPF. It also supported the idea of creation of Forest Policy and stressed the necessity to prepare adoption of such a document as soon as possible. The next session of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests in 1998 (12-22 February in New York) was attended by representatives of the Ministry of Soil Management, Section of Forestry. Due to the lack of financial sources the representatives of the Ministry of Soil Management did not participate in the session of IPF this year. On 21-23 September 1999 a session of the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests will be held in Madrid (Spain) which is a continuation of IPF. Negotiations will relate to solution of issues of sustainable forest management. Solution of these issues is still an obstacle for

adoption of the Global Convention on Forests. Discrepancies in this area were decisive reason of unsuccessful of the European countries (including Slovakia) in persuading the other countries to adopt such a convention. The Ministry of Soil Management, Section of Forestry, supports the activities of IPF and that is why it proposes that the Ministry of Soil Management nominate its representative for the above-mentioned session in Madrid.

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CHAPTER 12: MANAGING FRAGILE ECOSYSTEMS: COMBATING DESERTIFICATION AND DROUGHT

Decision-Making: The National Council of the Slovak Republic (NR SR) and the Slovak Government are the resulting decisive bodies. Ministry of Soil Management (MP SR) is the body responsible for this sector. Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MŽP SR) is a cooperating body. sectors, scientific and research basis, professional organizations.

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: This issue does not belong to the most urgent ones in Slovakia at present, but taking into account the prognosis of climate development (increase of average temperatures, lowering of rainfall and subsequent processes of land and ecosystem degradation) it is necessary to expect that processes of desertification can be demonstrated also in our conditions. A study related to the issue of desertification for support of accession to the Convention to Combat Desertification has been prepared. In 1999 the research project “Impacts of Predicted Changes on Properties and Functions of Soil in the Slovak Republic” was completed.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: International Convention to Combat Desertification in Countries Experiencing Drought and/or Desertification Particularly in Africa; Each party shall file reports on implementation with the Conference of Parties, as often and in the form to be determined. Parties are to report on development of national action programmes. The Conference shall assist affected developing countries to make reports.

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CHAPTER 13: MANAGING FRAGILE ECOSYSTEMS: SUSTAINABLE MOUNTAIN DEVELOPMENT

Decision-Making: No information available.

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: No information available.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: No information available.

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CHAPTER 14: PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Decision-Making: The Slovak Government is the resulting decisive body. MP SR is the body responsible for this area. The cooperating bodies are: Ministry of Economy (MH SR), Ministry of Environment (MŽP SR), Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family (MPSVR SR), Ministry of Interior (MV SR), Ministry of Culture (MK SR), MVVP SR, Ministry of Finance (MF SR).

Programmes and Projects: The National Agency for Development of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprising operates in the area of the Programme of Comprehensive Support of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprising. One of the main results has been elaboration and adoption of the State Medium-Term Policy of Support of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprising, which defines individual objectives and intentions of the state support of small and medium-sized enterprising for the period up till 2000. The Report on State and Development of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprising and its Support in the Slovak Republic is submitted to the Slovak Government and to the NR SR for discussion each year. Till 2000 the support of small and medium enterprising provided by the state has been realized according to the act No. 100/95 on the state support. From 1 January 2000 a new act No. 231/99 on the state support entered into force. In connection with the new act the programme criteria have been modified which have to be complied with in order to gain financial assistance.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Status: A project of the Slovak Republic and FAO called “Strategy of adaptation of agriculture and rural country” is being realized in Slovakia (the 1st phase in period 1996-1997, the 2nd phase in period 1999-2000), which is oriented towards support of plans included in this chapter, as well as working out the programme SAPARD. In the framework of cross-sectoral discussion the representative of the section of tourism of the Ministry of Economy raised a request that programme SAPARD can be utilized also by non-agricultural organizations, which was not possible under the condition of 30% incomes from agricultural production. Remark of Ministry of Economy has not been accepted by Ministry of Soil Management because the non-agricultural organization can create an association with agricultural company a gain support provided that it covers 25% of total costs of a project.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: In Slovakia there are programmes for: allocating the grants for production and consumption of bio-oil in accordance with the article 26 of the decree of the Ministry of Soil Management of the Slovak Republic No. 928/2/1999-100 on support of enterprising in agriculture, allocating the grants for preservation of genofund and for crossbreeding of varieties, seed grains and seedlings and farm animals in accordance with the article 11 of the decree of the Ministry of Soil Management of the Slovak Republic No. 928/2/1999-100 on support of enterprising in agriculture.

Cooperation: In accordance with conclusions of the Pan-European Conference on Rural Development, which was held in Bratislava in May 1997 under the responsibility of the Committee of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe for Agriculture and Rural Development, “the Conception of Rural Development in the Slovak Republic” was worked out and approved by the Slovak Government in 1998. It works out principles which are in compliance with EU principles, e.g. integrated principles, economic and social diversification, sustainability, as well as principle of planning and projecting the development of agriculture and rural areas “from bottom to top”. The Conception is an innovative trans-sectoral document and together with passed act on ecological agriculture present very important documents necessary for integration of the Slovak Republic into the European Union. The Plan of Rural Development of the Slovak Republic is being currently prepared in accordance with the Conception of Rural

Development. Sustainable development of agriculture belongs to the priorities of the sector of soil management and Programme SAPARD for the period 2000 - 2006.

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CHAPTER 15: CONSERVATION OF BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Decision-Making: The Slovak Government is the resulting decisive body. Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MŽP SR) and Ministry of Soil Management (MP SR) are the bodies responsible for this area. The cooperating bodies comprise organizations of the educational and research sectors, the Slovak Agency for the Environment and non-governmental organizations.

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: Achieving ecological stability will require changes in the approach to land use, improvement in forest conditions, the greening of towns and farmland, and significant long-term investment in the renewal of land. Protected areas help mitigate areas vulnerable to environmental stress. Of special importance are five National Parks, covering 199,724 ha (4% of Slovakia), and 16 protected areas in the countryside covering 660,493 ha (13.4% of Slovakia). The 448 state wildfire preserves encompassing 90,999 ha (1.85% of Slovakia) also perform an important eco-stabilizing function. One hundred and four protected habitat areas, covering 6,974 ha, are intended to protect endangered plant and animal species. An additional 19 research areas, one protected park, three protected gardens, and 936 protected natural elements (646 trees, and 45 caves, abysses, and other natural phenomena) are legally protected as special parts of nature. In addition, special protection is afforded to trees growing outside forests; to 226 taxons of wild-growing plants (127 of them completely, 13 partially, 86 territorially); and to 176 species of animals living in the wild.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: State budget of the Slovak Republic via state funds, international research programmes.

Cooperation: The Slovak Republic is party to the Convention on Biological Diversity which it signing on May 19, 1993 with ratification in 1994. The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) became effective in the Slovak Republic on May 28, 1992. The Republic acceded to the Bonn Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals in 1994; and signed the Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats in 1994). Slovakia is also party to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat. Convention on Biological Diversity is to develop national strategies, plans and programmes for sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity and integrate them into general development plans. Parties shall identify, monitor and maintain data on components of biodiversity. Parties shall introduce appropriate procedures requiring EIAs for projects likely to have significant adverse effects on biological diversity. Parties shall submit reports on measures, which it has taken for the implementation of the Convention, at intervals to be determined. Latest report on adopted measures to implement the Convention was submitted in 1998. Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora takes appropriate measures to enforce regulatory provisions and prohibit trade in specimens in violation thereof. Convention also governs treatment of animals in shipment. Each party to prepare periodic reports on its implementation of the convention and to prepare an annual report listing export permits issued and species involved, and a biennial report on legislative, regulatory and administrative measures taken.

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CHAPTERS 16 AND 34: ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND MANAGEMENT OF BIOTECHNOLOGY AND TRANSFER OF ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND TECHNOLOGY, COOPERATION AND CAPACITY-BUILDING

Decision-Making:

Technologies: The National Council of the Slovak Republic (NR SR) and the Slovak Government is the resulting decisive body. Ministry of Soil Management (MP SR), Ministry of Health (MZ SR) and Ministry of Economy (MH SR) are the bodies responsible for this area. The cooperating bodies are: Ministry of Defense (MO SR), Ministry of Environment (MŽP SR), Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MZV SR), Ministry of Finance (MF SR), Institute of Preventive and Clinical Medicine, State Institute for Control of Medicaments, Institute of State Control of Veterinary Bio-preparations and Medicaments, State Veterinary Service, State Health Care Institutes in the Slovak Republic.

Biotechnologies: See under "Technologies."

Programmes and Projects:

Technologies: No information available.

Biotechnologies: The government of the Slovak Republic has approved the "Programme of Development and Use of Biotechnology in Agriculture" as a part of the "National Programme of Development of Biotechnology in the Slovak Republic". The Programme comprised the link to international cooperation, safety and social preconditions of development and application of biotechnology in agriculture. Taking into account the fact that since 1998 financing of the above mentioned programme has not continued, solution of individual projects has been stopped and the achieved results have been used in solution of the other scientific and technical projects under realization. The agricultural sector has elaborated a project "Research and Use of Biotechnology in Plant Production". This project deals with issues of progressive biotechnological processes in plant production and in process of improvement of various agricultural species and selected horticultural species. Scientific and technical projects in water management are aimed at use of biotechnologies with the aim to increase the their level and deal with possibilities of application of biotechnological processes in treatment of groundwater for drinking purposes and treatment of waste waters. Biotechnological programme oriented towards development of foods with improved properties and towards improvement of quality and health aspects of foods is continuing. All tasks are aimed at preparation of foods and their components from naturally renewable sources utilizing in many cases food wastes as secondary sources, e.g. preparation of food fibre.

Status:

Technologies: A positive step in research and technology activities includes the establishment of the Grant Committee for Research and Technology. The amended Higher Education Act and the Act on State Support of Science and Technology are expected to improve the development of science and technology in the educational system. A dramatic decline (60%) of workers in science and technology was reported after 1989. College and university educators often leave school positions due to inadequate working conditions. Generally speaking, funds allocated for research on science and technology have been limited. Of the sum allocated for research and development, 12 to 14% is intended for university research, and 70% for sector research.

Biotechnologies: In the area of health aspects of new foods produced from genetically modified sources - Novel foods - a study has been worked out which suggests legislative solution of this issue, labelling of these products and methods of detection of genetically modified components. In 1998 the Commission for assessment of genetically modified plants was established, which provides comments in a process of assessment of environmental and health risks in relation to application of genetically modified plants in practice. A comprehensive programme for establishment of agro-industrial complex is under preparation. The programme includes new biotechnological products for animal and human nourishment, environmental biotechnology such as recycling of bio-wastes in agriculture and their industrial utilization, treatment of polluted soils, etc. Sector of health care uses more types of biotechnology or biotechnological processes for production of medicaments, diagnostics, sera and vaccinations. This production is a subject of permitting by Ministry of Health for production and complying with requirements of good laboratory practice. Research, development and production of immunological preparations are being carried out in an enterprise IMUNA Šarišské

Micha³/₄any. Concerning this production the Slovak Republic as a part of international scheme on pharmaceutical inspection is subject of control by international inspection authorities.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising:

Technologies: MP SR - research and utilization of knowledge in cleaning and treatment of water, development and production of veterinary medicaments, MH SR - research, development and production of medicaments, MŽP SR - legislation in the area of application of biotechnology in water management practice.

Biotechnologies: MZ SR - research, development and production of immunobiological preparations, state control and supervision over production in pharmaceutical and immunobiological industries.

Information:

Technologies: No information available.

Biotechnologies: No information available.

Research and Technologies:

Technologies: No information available.

Biotechnologies: No information available.

Financing:

Technologies: State budget of the Slovak Republic, internal sources, UN, EU, MF SR.

Biotechnologies: No information available.

Cooperation:

Technologies: FAO, prior informed consent procedure (PIC), OECD, EU, SZO, governmental and non-governmental international organizations.

Biotechnologies: See under "Technologies."

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CHAPTER 17: PROTECTION OF THE OCEANS, ALL KINDS OF SEAS, INCLUDING ENCLOSED AND SEMI-ENCLOSED SEAS, AND COASTAL AREAS AND THE PROTECTION, RATIONAL USE AND DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR LIVING RESOURCES

Decision-Making: The National Council of the Slovak Republic (NR SR) and the Slovak Government are the resulting decisive body. Ministry of Transport, Post and Telecommunication (MDPT SR) is the body responsible for this area. Joint-stock company Slovenská plavba a prístavy is the cooperating subject.

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: At present the 1952 act on sea navigation is in force. Further regulations and decrees are related to this act. A new text of the act on sea navigation is under preparation, which takes into account the international agreements, which were binding for former Czechoslovakia and which are now binding for the Slovak Republic. The act on sea navigation, currently under preparation, takes into account the regulations and guidelines of the EU legislation to achieve the full compatibility. Besides the requirements related to sea ships the act regulates also the appropriate requirements on river-sea ships and recreational vessels (sea yachts). Division of sea transport of joint-stock company Slovenská plavba a prístavy, Bratislava, runs three self-moving sea motor vessels and non-self-moving cargo vessels (lighters of type DM), which are currently run mainly on the river Danube and in ports of the Black Sea.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: State budget of the Slovak Republic

Cooperation: The most important international conventions, to which the Slovak Republic has accessed, are: International Convention on Prevention against Pollution from Ships (1973) with subsequent 1978 Protocol; International Convention on Safety of Human Life on Sea (1974) with subsequent 1978 Protocol; UN Convention on Open Sea (Geneva, 1958); UN Convention on Sea Law (Montego Bay, 1982), ratified in 1996 and for the Slovak Republic in force since 1996.

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CHAPTER 18: PROTECTION OF THE QUALITY AND SUPPLY OF FRESHWATER RESOURCES: APPLICATION OF INTEGRATED APPROCHES TO THE DEVELOPMENT, MANAGEMENT AND USE OF WATER RESOURCES

Decision-Making: The National Council of the Slovak Republic (NR SR) and the Slovak Government are the resulting decisive bodies. Ministry of Environment (MŽP SR) is the body responsible for this area. The other cooperating bodies are Ministry of Soil Management (MP SR), Ministry of Health (MZ SR), Ministry of Interior (MV SR), Ministry of Economy (MH SR), Slovak Environmental Protection (SIŽP), SAŽP, regional and district offices, departments of the environment and divisions of state water administration. The Government's medium-term objectives for freshwater include: a 50% reduction in the amount of pollutants in discharged waste water; bridging the gap between the volume of water extracted and discharged; reduction in agricultural use of underground water to 30%, with exceptions for the food and pharmaceutical industries; watering of livestock and poultry; exportation of geothermal waters; boosting the proportion of total waste water purified with high-efficiency (biological, chemical) methods and by small waste-water treatment plants by 20%; obtaining a 30% decrease in the consumption of drinking water monitored by measuring consumption via water meters; eliminating at least half the leakage in the water distribution system (to 10-15% of total volume); assigning priority to the completion of waste water treatment plants under construction, and the construction of treatment plants near sources of enormous water pollution; obtaining a 60% increase in the volume of waste-water purified; resolving the deficit of drinking water in 16 districts, with priority for Kosice County, Velky Krtis, Lecenec, Rimavska Sobota, Prievidza, Spisska Nova Ves, and Roznava districts.

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: Protection of the quality and supply of surface water and groundwater and their rational use is carried out in accordance with the jurisdictional act following the acts on water and on state administration in water management currently in force. Application via state administration authorities is being carried out by means of hydro-ecological plans, principles of water protection, state review of surface water and groundwater, annual report on water quality and guidelines of central water management authority. Drinking water from public water pipeline systems in Slovakia is provided to 81.8% inhabitants while groundwater accounts for 85% of current capacity of water sources, water reservoirs for 11% and surface water flows with direct withdrawal for 5%. Treated surface water is provided to 25% of inhabitants (in region of Central and Eastern Slovakia - in region of Eastern Slovakia it is 50%). 14,000 samples from public water pipeline systems are controlled each year in Slovakia. Microbiological defects are found in 5.1% of controlled samples, chemical defects in ca 4.6% of samples, while increased (over limit) level of nitrates in drinking water is found in the Southern and Eastern districts of the Slovak Republic. Use of surface water and water reservoirs for recreational purposes is a subject of approval by health protection authorities. It is also valid for resources of thermal water used for recreation. The basic task of the health protection sector is to regulate protection of human health. According to the act on protection of human health the authorities assess proposals for establishing, determination and use of zones of hygienic protection of water resources including specific regime for protection of water quality, capacity as well as assurance of health irreproachableness of drinking and supply water in water resources, and proposals for use of water resources for providing inhabitants with drinking and supply water and establishing the water reservoirs.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: MŽP SR - water protection, review and rational use; MP SR - frontier waters (cooperation), modification and revitalization of water flows, water resources, providing the drinking water and supply water; MV SR (regional and district offices) - water management decisions; MZ SR - state health control over public drinking water supply for inhabitants, hygienic control of drinking water; MH SR - use of water in industry and energy production.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: The quantity and quality of different groups of surface and ground waters in the Slovak territory are monitored by a partial monitoring system. Of the entire 8,210 km of economically important rivers, 3,723.3 km are monitored. The quality of ground waters has been monitored in Slovakia since 1982 in 26 key water management areas by the Slovak Institute of Hydro-Meteorology. The monitoring network of ground water consists of a total of 344 monitoring units. The most significant of these areas is part of the 10 protection areas of natural water accumulation. In addition, some 24 protection zones of natural healing resources and natural spring water resources have been registered. The most dense monitoring network has been created in the Ostrov area, which is the largest drinking water source in Central Europe.

Financing: State budget of the Slovak Republic, State Fund for the Environment, State Water Management Fund of the Slovak Republic, finances of cities and towns, internal sources of water management enterprises, finances of industry, loans.

Cooperation: Regional and district offices, the Danube Commission (water transport), bilateral cooperation on frontier waters with Ukraine, Hungary, Poland, Austria and the Czech Republic, WHO, UN.

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CHAPTER 19: ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND MANAGEMENT OF TOXIC CHEMICALS, INCLUDING PREVENTION OF ILLEGAL INTERNATIONAL TRAFFIC IN TOXIC AND DANGEROUS PRODUCTS

Decision-Making: The National Council of the Slovak Republic (NR SR) and the Slovak Government are the resulting decisive bodies. Ministry of Economy (MH SR) is the body responsible for this area. Ministry of Health (MZ SR) and other central state administration authorities are the cooperating bodies. The coordination of activities in chemical management is provided through: cross-sectoral committees whose members are appointed by ministries (for example, working groups for new legislation); an inter-sectoral consultation process for documents prepared for government sessions; and inter-sectoral meetings. For the chemical and pesticide sector, the government intends to establish a coordination working group which will include all affected parties, including NGOs. This working group will cooperate with international institutions. There is an urgent requirement in the Slovak Republic to introduce legislation on chemicals. The Act on Chemicals and Chemical Preparations, which is being prepared, is the first step in reaching standards of the European Union (EU) and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). The principles of the Act were submitted to the government in 1996 and it is projected to be ratified in 1998. The major objective of the Act is to protect human health and the environment against the harmful impact of chemicals and chemical preparations. This act will contain provisions respecting the rights and obligations of government institutions, producers, and importers in the production, testing, classification, packaging, labelling, and registration of chemicals. The Act establishes the obligation of producers and importers to register all new chemicals as a whole or when used as a part of a chemical preparation. The data required for registration are in compliance with EU and OECD requirements.

Programmes and Projects: The systematic investigation of existing chemicals is part of the management system for chemicals. The Inventory of Chemicals and Chemical Preparations, initiated in 1992-1993, was a preparatory phase of the programme of investigation of existing chemical substances, and risk reduction and assessment of their potential impact on the environment. This programme resulted in a survey of chemicals and chemical preparations in Slovakia and provided data on their physical-chemical, toxic, and eco-toxic properties. The database is gradually being up-dated.

Status: The issue of management of toxic chemicals is currently solved by the 1988 Resolution of the Government of the Slovak Republic on poisons and some other chemicals harmful to health which deals with management of especially dangerous poisons, delivery, sale, packaging, labelling, storage of poisons and caustics and professional ability for management of poisons and caustics. All these provisions have been adopted and introduced into the act on chemicals and chemical preparations, currently being under preparation, which sets conditions from the point of view of human life and health protection and protection of the environment in accordance with guidelines of the European Union and recommendations of OECD. In the legislation on chemicals and chemical preparations the Slovak Republic creates conditions for adoption of international information as well as for preparation of available information on toxic chemicals to provide them to international community.

Capacity Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: MZ SR - creation of legislation on management of toxic chemicals; MH SR - preparation of the act on chemicals and chemical preparations.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: State budget of the Slovak Republic

Cooperation: Specific regulations and international conventions on transport of dangerous chemicals (ADR, RIP) are in force for international transport of toxic and dangerous chemicals. This is a subject to Ministry of Transport of the

Slovak Republic. The new legislation also deals with exchange of information on toxic chemicals and chemical risks, which are available from the sources of OECD and EU.

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CHAPTERS 20 TO 22: ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND MANAGEMENT OF HAZARDOUS, SOLID AND RADIOACTIVE WASTES

Decision-making:

Hazardous wastes: The Slovak Government and the National Council of the Slovak Republic (NR SR) are the resulting decisive bodies. Ministry of Environment (MŽP SR) is the body responsible for this area. Other cooperating bodies are Ministry of Economy (MH SR), Ministry of Soil Management (MP SR), Ministry of Health (MZ SR).

Solid wastes: The NR SR and the Slovak Government are the resulting decisive bodies. MŽP SR is the body responsible for this area. Other cooperating bodies are MH SR, MP SR, MZ SR. Legislative regulations in force in the area of waste management in the Slovak Republic generally deals with management of all kinds of wastes in order to provide a state control in this area.

Radioactive wastes: The NR SR and the Slovak Government are the resulting decisive body. MH SR and Office of Nuclear Control of the Slovak Republic (ÚJD SR) are the bodies responsible for this area. The cooperating bodies are MZ SR, Ministry of Interior (MV SR), Ministry of Transport, Post, and Telecommunication (MDPT SR), Office of Labour Safety of the Slovak Republic (ÚBP SR).

Programmes and Projects:

Hazardous wastes: No information available.

Solid wastes: The Programme of Waste Management of the Slovak Republic up till 2000 taking into account environmental needs and economic needs proposed the process of recovery of the old environmental burdens in three phases which were reflected in programmes of districts and municipalities. The most urgent waste landfills are being solved in the first phase. This process of recovery is being fulfilled and evaluated step by step.

Radioactive wastes: It is anticipated that the nuclear power plants in Jaslovske Bohunice and Mochovce will be able to process almost all kinds of waste from nuclear power plants and any radioactive waste from other originators into a form suitable for final storage. For the final storage of the processed low- and medium-active waste, a storage facility is being built in Mochovce. However, the long-term safe storage of radioactive waste that will not be accepted for the storage in Mochovce has not yet been resolved. Radioactive waste from nuclear facilities is currently stored at nuclear power plants.

Status:

Hazardous wastes: No information available.

Solid wastes: In the Slovak Republic the wastes are liquidated via incineration and dumping. In 1998 358,094.3 tones of special and hazardous wastes were incinerated. At present 92 incinerators are in operation, out of which 24 incinerators comply with emission limits laid down by national legislation and 9 incinerators comply with requirements of the European Union. Besides the mentioned incinerators the waste is incinerated in one cement kiln as an alternative fuel. 2,468,477.6 tones of special and hazardous wastes were disposed at landfills in 1998. 568 landfills were operated in 1998, out of which 139 complied with technical requirements laid down by legislation. The other landfills, operated under specific conditions, are being gradually closed down. Currently 226 landfills are operated under specific conditions. At the same time 62 new waste landfills are under construction.

Radioactive wastes: Safe and environmentally sound management of radioactive wastes is legally assured by compliance with rules set by the act on state control over nuclear safety of nuclear facilities and by the regulation on assurance of nuclear safety in management of nuclear wastes. Legislative support is represented by acts on the State fund for liquidation of nuclear power facilities and management of used fuel and radioactive wastes, on peace use of nuclear power and the act on environmental impact assessment. Office for Nuclear Control of the Slovak Republic within its competence set by relevant legislation controls production, processing, transport, treatment and disposal of radioactive wastes. Together with supervisory authorities it controls release of radioactive nuclides into the environment and recycling of materials containing radioactive substances.

Capacity-building, Education, Training and Awareness-raising:

Hazardous wastes: MŽP SR - wastes, legislative framework, MP SR, MH SR - waste management (as the largest producers), MZ SR - health and hygienic aspects.

Solid wastes: MŽP SR - wastes, legislative framework, MP SR, MH SR - waste management (as the largest producers), MZ SR - health and hygienic aspects.

Radioactive wastes: MH SR - management of radioactive wastes, financing, MZ SR - Radiation protection, institutional radioactive wastes, MŽP SR - participation in licensing process, MV SR - physical protection, MDPT SR – transport, ÚJD SR - execution of state control over nuclear safety in peace use of nuclear power.

Information:

Hazardous wastes: No information available.

Solid wastes: No information available.

Radioactive wastes: No information available.

Research and Technologies:

Hazardous wastes: No information available.

Solid wastes: No information available.

Radioactive wastes: No information available.

Financing:

Hazardous wastes: State Fund for the Environment, state budget of the Slovak Republic, PHARE.

Solid wastes: State Fund for the Environment, state budget of the Slovak Republic, PHARE.

Radioactive wastes: State budget of the Slovak Republic, State fund for liquidation of nuclear power facilities and management of used nuclear fuel and radioactive wastes, internal sources, PHARE.

Cooperation:

Hazardous wastes: The Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal has been ratified by the Slovak Republic. The latest information was provided to the Basel Convention Secretariat in 1996. Regional and international cooperation on hazardous waste in Slovakia is obtained under the Basel Convention; and from the European Union (EU), the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), and bilateral contacts. The National Council of the Slovak Republic agreed with accession of the Slovak Republic to the Amendment to the Convention adopted at the third conference of the parties on ban of export of hazardous wastes from member states to non-member states of OECD in 1998. At the fourth conference of the parties in 1998 new amendments to the Convention were adopted. In 1998 the Slovak Government decided to adopt the new amendment without reservations and the amendment entered into force on 6 November 1998.

Solid wastes: Regional and international cooperation on solid waste in Slovakia is obtained under the Basel Convention; and from the EU, the OECD, and bilateral contacts.

Radioactive wastes: Safety of facilities and technological processes is assessed in the framework of licensing process for nuclear facilities including deposits, which consists of four steps: localization, construction, operation and elimination. In elaboration and assessment of safety documentation the recommendations of International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) are being applied in Slovakia or there is access of the American supervisory body (UN NRC).

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CHAPTERS 24 TO 32: STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF MAJOR GROUPS

Women: Decision-making: Relevant legislation has addressed the following areas: equal rights to education, women's inheritance rights, property rights, and the right to work assistance in maternity. The Government recognizes that disparities in gender-based equality cannot be completely eliminated in a short period of time. The equal status of men and women is enshrined in the 1992 Constitution of Slovakia, as well as the protection of human rights and freedoms. Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: The “Conception Environmental Education at schools” (primary, secondary schools and universities) was approved in 1997. This conception is a part of a national “Conception of Environmental Education of Inhabitants.” The equal status of women, exclusion of any discrimination, is rooted in educational plans of ethical and civil education. Cooperation: On the basis of the 4th World Conference for Women in Peking the Coordinating committee for issues of women has elaborated “National Action Plan for Women in the Slovak Republic”, which was approved by the Government of the Slovak Republic in 1997. The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women was signed in 1982, ratified in 1982, succession after CSFR in 1993. On the basis of cooperation between the Slovak Government and UNDP the National Centre for Gender Issues was established in 1997 as an information, documentary and coordinating centre for non-governmental organizations. The “Gondwana” foundation, which is a member of sub-regional network of the non-governmental organizations in the Central and Eastern Europe, carried out a common programme of the Slovak Republic and the UN „Slovak Women Moving“. On 1 February 1999 a Department for gender issues was established within the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, which has elaborated the National Report of the Slovak Republic on Population and Development, Cairo+5, and the National Report of the Slovak Republic on implementation of the Peking Action Platform.

Children and youth: Decision-making: The government is establishing processes that promote dialogue between the youth and government at all levels and mechanisms that permit youth access to information and opportunity to present their views on implementing Agenda21: Council of Youth of Slovakia (RMS); Council for Children and Youth (RDM); Slovak Youth Assembly (SMS). State youth policy aimed at safeguarding rights and freedoms of youth focuses on establishing legislative conditions that will enable the participation of youth in democratic society. Status: Good quality pre-school education and tuition is ensured for children and youth at schools. This state is being systematically and gradually improved in accordance with transformation and needs of the society. Schools offer opportunities for children to express their views to issues relating to Agenda 21. Approximately 96% of children of age 14-15 continue with secondary level education after completing the primary education and almost all of them complete this secondary education. After completing the full secondary education 20% of children continue to study at universities. Approximately 50% of applicants for study at universities can be accepted.

Indigenous people: Decision-making: It is untypical issue only with a possibility of free application. Citizens of the Slovak Republic are historically connected with their country and are descendants of the original people living on this territory.

Non-governmental organizations: Status: Opportunities are being created for active participation of non-governmental organizations in seeking the sustainable development. NGOs widely participate in influencing and enhancing the environmental awareness at local level. The dialogue between NGOs and the Government in a concrete area is realized through environmental or umbrella organizations (Association of the Third Sector, Slovak Union of Nature and Landscape Protectors, Society for Sustainable Life, Union of Civic Associations and Foundations, Slovak Humanitarian Council, Tree of Life). Approximately 1.5 million SKK (Slovak crown) are allocated for their support via Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic each year.

Local authorities: Decision-making: The government is encouraging local authorities to implement and monitor programmes that aim to ensure participation of women and youth in local decision making. Programmes and Projects: A small grant programme is being implemented for non-governmental organizations and municipalities to support activities aimed at sustainable development of Slovakia. The “National Action Plan for Women” adopted in 1997

deals with participation of women in social development in different areas. Cooperation: In the framework of cooperation with UNDP in period of 1999-2000 besides the “National Strategy of Sustainable Development” a project is being carried out aimed at preparation of a model regional Agenda 21 in a selected region of Slovakia (region of Central river Hron basin).

Workers and trade unions: Decision-making: Council of economic and social agreement was established in 1990 on the basis of voluntary agreement of the three social partners: the Government, trade unions and organizations of entrepreneurs. It works on the basis of consensus of all concerned parties. “Conception of transformation of social area” adopted in 1996 is determined by a complex transformation of individual and collective working relations, transformation of social system and fulfilling the economic, social and cultural rights of citizens guaranteed by the Constitution. In participatory relations employees are represented by a trade union organisation towards which employer has very specifically defined rights and duties.

Business and industry: Decision-making: The Industrial policy of the Slovak Republic defines principles and frameworks of the business environment supporting the shift of activities of traditional resource oriented industry towards productions a services which are less resource consuming. A new economic principle is occurring - management of information and implementation of knowledge-intensive production means became a key to competitiveness of industry and services with high added value. Status: As far as strengthening the role of industry from the point of view of sustainable development is concerned, the issue is to strengthen the coordination and mutual interaction of relations of the process of restructuring of industry and protection of the environment. Priority in this area is to increase competitiveness leading to increase of sustainable productivity in industry, optimisation and change of structure of productive capital, growth of added value, reduction of ineffective capacities, etc. In relation to this priority is to create conditions for promoting the activities of foreign and domestic investors, who bring technological and technical progress, know-how, structural changes of productive potential and its finalization, markets, employment and protection of the environment, which are here conditioning. The Slovak industry cannot afford to ignore the worldwide trend leading to protection of the environment. Its accompanying phenomenon is growing pressure to elimination or closing of productions having adverse impacts on the environment.

Scientific and technological community: Status: In the framework of the act on environmental impact assessment (EIA) nine centres for EIA have been established at universities, which are linked to the pan-European network of centres coordinated by University of Manchester. Slovak Academy of Science, universities, state and private research institutes are taking part in international scientific and research cooperation via cooperative programmes of EU as well as on the basis of bilateral cooperation with similar scientific organizations all over the world. Support of scientific and research activities is being carried out through direct financing the budgeted organizations and contributions to research and scientific organization from the state budget. The further form are earmarked subsidies for scientific and technical projects and state orders oriented towards priorities.

Farmers: Decision-making: Sector of agriculture declares support of participation of agricultural organizations in creation and implementation of conceptions of sustainable development via policy of providing subsidies aimed at support of conceptions of sustainable development. Status: The government is promoting and encouraging sustainable farming practices and technologies. In 1997, 1998 and 1999 so called “Green Reports” were elaborated which deal with support and development of sustainable forms of management in this area. In 1995 the Government adopted resolutions concerning solution of regional problems in selected districts, where the most serious socio-economic problems have been found. Revitalization of agricultural and forest production of a district and unconventional agricultural production were preferred. These regions were given advantageous subsidies, for instance for elaboration of revitalization programmes.

CHAPTER 33: FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND MECHANISMS

Decision-Making:

MF SR

It is possible to expect the consequences of prepared reform of public administration, i.e. movement of sources will appear in relation to changes of responsibilities and powers. Budgets of municipalities and newly created regional territorial units will be strengthened at the expenses of the state (national) budget. These budgets will be related mostly to sustainable development. Currently (in 2000) the conception of new model of financing of the environment and schedule of concrete measures are under preparation in accordance with requirements of the European Union related to the environmental protection and results of screening of the environmental sector. The state subsidies in production deteriorating the environment are decreasing. Since 2000 subsidies to heat price have been canceled and subsidies to damping of ore and coal mining are provided from the state budget. Since 2000 contributions to individuals for housing have started to be provided from the state budget, which deal with the lack of sources of socially weak citizens to cover the costs of housing. Over 700 millions SKK are transferred from the state budget to the environmental state funds in 2000. From the municipal budgets 1.5 billions SKK were spent for environmental purposes in 1999 and similar sum is expected to be spent in 2000. Neither current statistics nor accounting in the Slovak Republic allow needed record-keeping of sources dedicated to the area of the environment. Incomes of state budget, state funds and incomes of municipalities can be partially defined via taxes and payments. Up till now there is no tax for environmental protection in the Slovak legislation, incomes of individual budgets are created mainly from local taxes, payments and penalties from polluters. Taxation system is being gradually modified including acceptance of principles of environmental protection and management as well as harmonisation with legislation of the European Union. Subsidies for support of additional activities, including development of rural tourism and settling the country, were increased in 1998 in comparison to 1997 by 2.4 millions SKK and reached the sum of 21.9 millions SKK. These subsidies were directed first of all to areas with worse natural conditions. Increase of subsidies for support of ecological processes up to 21.9 millions SKK was caused by introduction of subsidies for support of ecological agriculture.

Programmes and Projects: To combat poverty, in particular social aid allowances are allocated from the state budget, budget of the Social Insurance Agency and from the National Labour Office. These allowances are provided during unemployment, social troubles, for support of housing, etc.

Status: The State Environmental Policy in accordance with its conception reflects environmental policies in countries of OECD and EU. Level of compliance with environmental legislation of the Slovak Republic with legislation of EU is in the area of air protection approximately 77%, in water management 78% and in waste management 78%. This policy follows precautionary principle, “polluter pays” principle, principle of acceptable ecological risk and principle of the best available technology. It declares that in implementation of its objectives it will seriously apply also principle of integration, i.e. it will strive to integrate the environmental aspects into market reforms and macroeconomic as well as sectoral policies and subsidiary principle, i.e. problems will be being solved at the lowest level which is able to tackle the problem. These objectives have been worked out in the “National Environmental Action Programme (NEAP)”, which was updated in 1999. The “National Strategy of Sustainable Development” is under preparation, which has ambition to be a vision of further development of the society.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: Information on public financial sources devoted to financing sustainable development is published in the approved state budget, budgets of environmental state funds and budgets of municipalities for respective year. Data covering the whole state budget (balance) are published on Internet, but concrete data on financing the relevant part are not published separately and cannot be found gained from information on the whole state budget. Information from private sector, i.e. private sources, is not known to us.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Cooperation: In February 1997 the Government of the Slovak Republic approved a document “Proposal for further cooperation of the Slovak Republic and the World Bank in the area of technical assistance and sectoral developmental loans”. During previous years the grant programme “GEF - Slovakia Biodiversity Protection” was realised.

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CHAPTER 35: SCIENCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Decision-Making: ÚSRVST SR

Programmes and Projects: Priorities and programme targets of science and research include:

- development of areas of basic applied research, which guarantees increase of labour productivity and reduction of energy and material demand in the main industrial branches;
- development of areas of science and research contributing to more effective utilisation of domestic mineral resources;
- development of social sciences contributing significantly to improvement of economic and legal knowledge;
- development and transfer of high-technologies in the main industrial branches and national science

This determines the following programme directions: prevention and care of health and nutrition, development of information technologies, new materials, development of energy production, use of renewable and domestic natural resources, biotechnologies, development of transport, development of education and knowledge.

Status: No information available.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: The Government of the Slovak Republic takes steps to stabilise the scientific potential. New acts and regulations create legislative framework for activities of scientific and research organisations and further new acts for support of science and research are prepared. Financial support of science and research from the state budget will be perspectively increased from current 0.5% of GDP up to 1% GDP. The Slovak scientific and research teams would like to take part in activities under the Fifth Framework Programme of the European Union, which was approved by the Government of the Slovak Republic in 1998. Cooperation with excellent scientific and research institutions of EU countries in the framework of the Fifth Framework Programme is a condition for stabilisation and further improvement of scientific and research potential of the Slovak Republic.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: No information available.

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CHAPTER 36: PROMOTING EDUCATION, PUBLIC AWARENESS AND TRAINING

Decision-Making:

MŠ SR, MK SR

Based on the Declaration of the Slovak Government Programme, the Ministry of the Environment committed itself, in the document entitled Strategy, Principles and Priorities of the State Environmental Policy, to establish complete school and extra-curricular systems of environmental education by 1997. Possibilities for all concerned groups of citizens to influence appropriately education at schools have been created. There is cooperation of pedagogical public, state administration, heads of schools, teachers, parents and the educated in the framework of management processes, professional, methodological activities at schools and outside schools.

Programmes and Projects: The main objective of the "Complex Project of Public Environmental Training and Education" in Slovakia is to improve the current state of the public's reception to environmental principles which is targeted to all ages and social groups. The given Project is divided in three stages; the first analytical one has been completed.

Status: Transformation of the educational system after 1990 greatly contributed to its democratisation, humanisation and diversification. There was increase in number of possibilities as far as the post-secondary education is concerned. The following types of schools appeared: private schools, new types of schools, study professions, study orientations (higher professional schools, bilingual secondary schools where study is carried out in Slovak and in another world language). New types of secondary professional schools have been established (girl professional school, secondary school for business, trade academy, hotel academy, socio-legislative and pedagogical academy, associated secondary school). All 21 universities are state owned. Study plans of primary and secondary schools were being renewed, the content of study has been liberalised, new comprehensive study professions have been introduced with more selectable courses, it is possible to create alternative educational projects. Education of Western foreign languages have been strengthened, study plans have been broadened by obligatory religious education in alternation with ethical education. Education of history has also been enhanced at secondary schools. Environmental and ecological education and orientation towards Europe and building European awareness in a context of supposed integration into EU have also been strengthened. Schools with teaching language of minorities are being developed and their number is in accordance with requirements of national minorities. Besides this there are schools where comprise classes with Slovak teaching language and classes with teaching language of minorities. Study at secondary schools and universities is possible in a form of daily study or in a form of distant study according to results of admission tests. Forms of bachelor study have been established at universities. Numbers of students at secondary schools and universities have been increased and educational level of citizens has also been increased. The Conception of Environmental Education, approved in 1997, and results of the Second National Conference "Environmental Education and Awareness at Schools" held in 1998, have become a basis for education in the area of sustainable development.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: School system is ensured comprehensively from the state budget except for private schools, which receive state subsidies 70% in comparison to state schools. Religious schools are financed in the way similar to state schools. Salaries of teachers are determined by the act and covered by the state budget.

Cooperation: No information available.

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CHAPTER 37: NATIONAL MECHANISMS AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION FOR CAPACITY-BUILDING IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

This issue has been covered either under Chapter 2 or under the heading **Cooperation** in the various chapters of this Profile.

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CHAPTER 38: INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

This issue deals mainly with activities undertaken by the UN system.

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CHAPTER 39: INTERNATIONAL LEGAL INSTRUMENTS AND MECHANISMS

This issue has been covered under **Cooperation** in the various chapters of this Profile.

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CHAPTER 40: INFORMATION FOR DECISION-MAKING

This issue has been covered either under Chapter 8 or under the heading **Decision-Making** in the various chapters of this Profile.

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CHAPTER: INDUSTRY

Decision-Making: No information available.

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: Industrial production is the origin of a significant amount of air pollution in Slovakia. Slovakia produces four times the sulphur dioxide (SO₂) emissions of neighbouring Austria, despite the fact that SO₂ production has declined from 606,000 tons in 1988 to 374,000 tons in 1992. The reason for their reduction is the replacement of lesser quality fuel by more environmentally sound fuels such as gas, heating oil, coal with lower levels of incombustible components, as well as a general decrease of power generation and consumption after 1989. The conversion to gas has also contributed to the reduction of SO₂ emissions.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: No information available.

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CHAPTER: SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

Decision-Making: No information available.

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: No information available.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: No information available.

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