

**Ministry of Environment
of the Slovak Republic**



Operational Programme Environment

version **34.0**

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Operational Programme Environment

1 Summary

Operational Programme Environment (hereinafter referred to as „OPE“) is a programming document of the Slovak Republic for utilisation of EU assistance for environmental sector defined for 2007-2013 programming period.

Structure of this document and content of its chapters are based on the (EC) Council Regulation N°1083/2006 of July 11th, 2006 that is setting general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, European Social Fund and the Cohesion Fund, and cancelling the (EC) Regulation N°1260/1999 (~~hereinafter referred to as „general regulation“~~) as amended by Council Regulation (EC) No 1341/2008 of 18 December 2008 amending Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund and the Cohesion Fund, in respect of certain revenue-generating projects, by Council Regulation (EC) No 284/2009 of 4 April 2009 amending Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund and the Cohesion Fund concerning certain provisions relating to financial management and by Regulation (EU) No 539/2010 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 June 2010 amending Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund and the Cohesion Fund as regards simplification of certain requirements and as regards certain provisions relating to financial management (hereinafter referred to as „Ggeneral regulation“).

OPE is financed jointly from the European Regional Development Fund (hereinafter referred to as “ERDF”) and the Cohesion Fund (hereinafter referred to as “CF”), and pursuant to Article 37 paragraph 2 of Ggeneral regulation, it contains priority axes specific to each Fund and a specific commitment by Fund. OPE is prepared on national level, in compliance with Article 35 Section 1 of Ggeneral regulation.

The original total sum of the financial contribution from the EU funds for the OPE (in accordance with the OPE financial plan – version 1.0, as well as version 2.0) is 1 800 000 000 EUR, from which 230 756 935 EUR are the ERDF allocation and 1 569 243 065 EUR are the CF allocation. The OPE revision to version 3.0 increases the total sum of the financial contribution from the EU funds for the OPE by 20 000 000 EUR, i.e. to 1 820 000 000 EUR, from which 250 756 935 EUR are the ERDF allocation and 1 569 243 065 EUR are the CF allocation.

In line with Article 37(1) h) of the Ggeneral regulation an indicative list of major projects is also annexed to the OPE (Annex No.1). The list originally included environmental projects with total expenditures exceeding 25mil EUR, in line with Article 39 of the Ggeneral regulation. By Article 1 paragraph 1 of Regulation (EU) No 539/2010 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 June 2010 amending Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund and the Cohesion Fund as regards simplification of certain requirements and as regards certain provisions relating to financial management, the Article

39 of the General Regulation was amended. In compliance with this amendment, major projects in general (i.e. also in the environmental field) mean the projects whose total cost exceeds 50 million EUR. Therefore, within the frame of the OPE revision to version 3.0, in the Indicative list of major projects (Annex No. 1 of the OPE) the projects whose total cost exceeds 50 million EUR are included. Taking into account the indicative character of the list, it can be changed during the programming period.

OPE is based on the analysis of the current environmental situation in the Slovak Republic (hereinafter referred to as “SR”), on the requirements resulting from the environmental acquis, including transitional periods as set by the Accession Treaty, valid European Union (hereinafter referred to as “EU”) legislation and international agreements in the sector of environment, as well as EU legislative measures that are under preparation (drafts of new environmental directives and regulations) that are expected to be adopted during 2007-2013 programming period and, thus, will need to be implemented.

OPE Strategy creates conditions for Slovakia to converge with EU-15 in the area of environmental infrastructure and protection. At the same time, it is significantly contributing so that economic conversion of the Slovak economy to EU-15 average is executed through sustainable development. Global objective of OPE is to improve environmental situation and ensure for rational utilisation of resources, through completion and improvement of environmental infrastructure in Slovakia in compliance with EU and SR regulations, and to strengthen efficiency of the environmental part of the sustainable development.

This objective contributes to accomplishment of Slovak strategic objective that was formulated in the National Strategic Reference Framework of the Slovak Republic for the period 2007 - 2013 as to increase significantly competitiveness and performance of Slovak regions, economy and employment by 2013, respecting at the same time sustainable development.

2 Operational Programme Preparation

2.1 Operational Programme Preparation Process –Partnership Principle Application

Partnership principle has been applied in drafting OPE, in compliance with Article 11 of the [General regulation](#). Therefore, the working group „Partnership for OPE“ was established which consists from representatives of relevant ministries, Self-Governing Regions, municipalities and towns, social and economic partners, and NGOs.

During meetings of the „Partnership for OPE“ its members received information on the actual situation in preparation of OPE. The document was then amended following their comments.

Comments of partners concerning the draft OPE were mainly dealing with expansion of activities that could be supported (e.g. such as to include reconstruction of drinking water supply network and sewer network, more activities in the sphere of protection of nature and landscape). Partners have frequently submitted claims to increase allocation of funds for OPE as a whole or for individual priority axis, mainly on activities for collection and treatment of wastewaters.

It was possible to accept the above mentioned comments from partners only partially due to the allocation of funds for OPE defined in the National Strategic Reference Framework SR for 2007 – 2013.

One of the NGO requirements was to consistently perform strategic environmental evaluation of all operational programmes, including OPE. MoE SR highly accepted this requirement and during negotiations, managed by the central coordination authority, promoted its enforcement.

All members of the working group „Partnership for OPE“ were contacted and asked to comment, during the interdepartmental commenting, upon the draft OPE before it was submitted to the Government session on 16 December 2006. Their comments as well as the ways and reasons of their acceptance or non-acceptance are a part of a document submitted to the Government session which is publicly available at the web site of the Government Office SR.

The partnership principle will also be applied during OPE implementation. Representatives of the self-governing regions, social and economic partners and representative of NGOs will be members of the Monitoring Committee for OPE. This will allow them to supervise implementation of the operational programme and its efficiency.

With the aim to improve possibilities to create a partnership with the regions, in particular between the regions themselves, the OPE Managing Authority will consider the possibility of participation in the EC initiative Regions for Economic Change.

Regional and local self-government bodies are one of the target groups of information activities realized in the framework of the Communication action plan for OPE. During implementation of the operational programme, they, as well as other stakeholders and general public, will be informed about the development and results of OPE.

The OPE – version 1.0 was approved by the European Commission (hereinafter referred to as „the EC“), by the Commission Decision K(2007)5500 of 08 November 2007, by which the Operational Program Environment for the Community assistance from the European Regional Development Fund and the Cohesion fund within the convergence objective in the Slovak Republic regions is adopted – CCI 2007SK161PO00.

During November 2009, on the basis of the Slovak Republic Government resolution No.752 of 21st October 2009 to the proposal of reallocation of financial sources from the Operational Programme Informatisation Society to the Operational Programme Competitiveness and Economic Growth and of the OPE change regarding JEREMIE initiative implementation and proposal of the Amendment No.1 to the Framework Agreement on JEREMIE initiative implementation signed between the Slovak Republic and European Investment Fund, the OPE revision to version 2.0 was elaborated in order to create the possibility of the JEREMIE Initiative implementation within the context of the OPE. The proposal of the revised OPE – version 2.0 was approved by the OPE Monitoring Committee in its 5th session on 4th December 2009 and was consequently submitted to the EC which approved it by the Commission Decision K(2010)2270 of 15^h April 2010, amending The Commission Decision K(2007)5500, by which the Operational Program Environment of the Community assistance from the European Regional Development Fund and the Cohesion Fund within the convergence objective in the Slovak Republic regions is adopted – CCI 2007SK161PO002.

~~Another~~ OPE revision to version 3.0 was elaborated in October 2010 in order to reflect the main changes in national priorities caused by the changes of the social-economic environment.

The priorities on the national level, on which the OPE revision to version 3.0 was based, are defined in the Programme Declaration of the Government of the Slovak Republic for 2010 – 2014 (adopted in August 2010), whereby, in the field of environment, the significant attention is paid to the flood prevention. The Government of the SR sets as its priority to propose flood protection measures which would enable retention of water in the landscape and would reduce floods consequences. Primarily EU funds are to be used in order to (re-)construct flood protection systems and to secure their proper functioning. Thus, the Government of the SR directly reacted with the specified priority to the social-economic consequences as well as financial losses caused by the extreme floods, which affected the SR territory in May – June 2010 (and continued further from the half of August until the beginning of September 2010). The more effective flood prevention was also included in short-term structural measures of the Slovak Republic Government. In order to ensure the implementation of this measure, the Slovak Government declares that funds within the OPE will be reallocated in favour of flood prevention activities.

In compliance with the specified national priorities and with the aim to eliminate or reduce unfavourable social-economic consequences of floods and the population threat by flooding, the Slovak Government has approved by its resolution No. 678/2010 additional increase of the OPE allocation in programming period 2007-2013 in the amount of 20 000 000 EUR from financial resources that have been allocated to the Slovak Republic in terms of Art. 16 and 17 of Institutional Agreement between the European Parliament, European Council 1 and European Commission on budgetary discipline and proper financial management, in order to secure flood protection preventive measures.

~~In compliance with Article 65 letter g) of the General Regulation, the~~ proposal of the revised OPE – proposal – version 3.0 was approved by submitted to the OPE Monitoring Committee for approval on its 7th meeting on 28th October 2010- and was subsequently submitted to the EC which approved it by the Commission Decision K(2011)2270 of 9 June

2011 amending the Commission Decision K(2007)5500, by which the OPE of the Community assistance from the European Regional Development Fund and the Cohesion Fund within the convergence objective in the Slovak Republic regions is adopted – CCI 2007SK161PO002.

Another OPE revision to version 4.0 has been proposed based on the results of the evaluation referred to in Article 48 Paragraph 3 of the General Regulation. A need for a transfer of funds (so-called reallocation) from the priority axis 4 to priority axis 1, as well as for modifications of the indicative distribution of the funds contribution into aid categories of the “Priority Theme” dimension under priority axis 1 in favour of activities focused at supporting the municipal waste water collection and treatment pursuant to SR commitments towards EU, has been identified pursuant to the results of the internal evaluation aimed at assessing the current status of OPE implementation (ref. to 30. September 2012). Changes already approved by the OPE Monitoring Committee that are to be, due to their character (so-called non-urgent changes), incorporated into the next revised version of the OPE that will be submitted to the EC, have been also reflected within this revision. These changes includes modifications of indicative distribution of the funds contribution into aid categories, namely transfers of funds from the priority theme 86 to the priority theme 85 and from the priority theme 54 to the priority theme 51, as well as the transfer of funds from the form of finance 04 to the form of finance 01 in relation to the exclusion of OPE funds from JEREMIE initiative implementation, an update of the indicative list of major projects (Annex no. 1 of the OPE) that consists in deletion of a major project "Water supply and ewage system in the region Spiš and Tatras" and supplement of the OP E Core indicator entitled "Induced investment" in relation to priority axis 3 and 4.

In compliance with Article 65 letter g) of the General Regulation the OPE revision to version 4.0 was submitted for approval to the OPE Monitoring Committee on its 10th meeting on 18 December 2012.

2.2 Ex Ante Evaluation

Pursuant to Article 48 of the [General regulation](#), ex ante evaluation for OPE has been carried out. The Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter referred to as the „MoE SR“), as the OPE managing authority, is responsible for this activity.

MoE SR, following the methodical guideline of the NSFR co-ordinator No. 3/2005 - „Methodological Guideline for Ex-ante Evaluation of the National Reference Framework – Framework Terms of Reference“, prepared Terms of Reference for OPE ex-ante evaluation.

Based on these, in compliance with the Act N°5/2006 on Public Procurement as amended, AUREX, spol s r.o. located in Bratislava, has been selected as ex-ante evaluator.

Ex ante evaluation commenced in the first half of July 2006 and finished in February 2007.

Pursuant to the article 48 of the [General regulation](#), the main objective of ex ante evaluation was to identify and appraise the disparities, gaps and potential for development, the goals to be achieved, the results expected, the quantified targets, the coherence of the strategy proposed for the region or the sector, the Community value-added, the extent to which the

~~Community~~EU's priorities have been taken into account, the lessons drawn from previous programming and the quality of the procedures for implementation, monitoring, evaluation and financial management.

In line with above objective, ex ante evaluation was focused on:

- assessment of analysis given in the OPE (including SWOT analysis), identified disparities according to their significance and development potential in the area of environment and environmental infrastructure
- assessment of OPE strategy justification and consistency, including proposed priorities, objectives and the proposed volume and structure of investments for priorities, i.e. proposed financial framework and formulation of recommendations for changes and/or adjustments
- assessment of expected results and impacts of planned interventions, quantification of proposed interventions objectives and formulation of recommendations for changes and/or adjustments
- assessment of OPE coherence with national and regional strategic documents of both the Slovak Republic and the EU
- assessment of proposed OPE implementation system – process of management, monitoring and evaluation, including financial management with regard to their functioning and efficiency

Ex ante evaluator prepared an Interim Reports on each of the above given objectives during individual phases of evaluation. Five Interim Reports have been prepared, focusing on assessment of analytical and strategic parts of the OPE, evaluation of OPE coherence with strategic documents, assessment of the proposed interventions, including quantification of their planned outputs, outcomes and impacts as well as evaluation of the OPE implementation system proposal.

Recommendations formulated in these Interim Reports have been subject to ongoing discussion between MoE SR, which prepared the OPE, and the ex-ante evaluator. Ongoing changes and adjustments of OPE draft have been made following the results of discussions and based on the formulated recommendations.

In February 2007, the ex-ante evaluator elaborated the final report from the ex-ante evaluation which evaluated OPE as a whole and summarized recommendations from individual phases of the ex-ante evaluation. The final report from the ex-ante evaluation was submitted to the MoE SR on 27 February 2007.

Summary of results and recommendations of ex-ante evaluation including description of the way how they were taken into account during the process of elaboration of the OP and its amendments is presented below.

Evaluation of the analytical part of the OP ENV

Conclusions of the ex-ante evaluator

- three parts of the analytical part of the OP fit together appropriately: analysis of the current state and development of environment, SWOT analysis and also formulated disparities and development factors

- relevant data enabling description of the current state and development of environment through its elements and factors were used in the analysis. Analysis is aimed at water management, protection of air, waste management and nature protection and describes all relevant figures in monitored areas.
- in general it is possible to conclude that SWOT analysis is of the good quality. Besides formulations from environmental area SWOT analysis is focusing within its single components on formulations regarding the processes in social and economic area that have influence of environmental state which can be seen as its positive.
- SWOT analysis is balanced in all of priority axis considered and is evaluating data on state and development of the environment in an appropriate manner in fields of interest.
- important disparities and potential factors of development were formulated in the OP and they can be successfully used within the formulation of the strategy of the OP.

Main recommendations and how they were taken into account

- to strengthen regional aspect of analysis
 - in line with stated recommendation data describing regional projection of considered figures were inserted into the analysis (chap. 3.1 – 3.6)
 - since regional aspects of the OP ENV were of special interest of the European Commission (the European Commission in its comments to the OP ENV officially submitted on the 2nd of March alleged the need to focus more on regional disparities), during the process of elaboration and finalization of the OP ENV the regional concentration of analysis was further strengthened, especially in case of priority axis I *Integrated protection and rational utilization of water resources* where on the basis of data stated in the National programme of the Slovak republic for the implementation of the Council Directive 91/271/EEC of 21 May 1991 concerning urban waste-water treatment a separate annex No. 4 was elaborated and inserted named “State of collection and treatment of discharged waste water” as of reference period 2004 according to the separate regions, as well as in the priority axis 3 “Air protection and Minimisation of Adverse Effects of Climate Change” where particularities of the situation in separate areas of air quality management were characterized in more detail.

Regarding the situation in the regions after realization of projects financed from ERDF and CF chapter 3.7 Implementation Results of the 2004-2006 programming period which before contained only data from the whole territory of the Slovak republic, finally it was detailed to the level of regions. Data on assumed and real values of stated indicators according to the regions (self-governing regions) on the basis of which the situation in regions after finalization of project supported from the EU funds can be assessed. Also annexes No. 12 and 13 containing data on regional level are stemming from this chapter.

- to insert into the analytical part data that related to social and economic area (prices of drinking water supply and collection and treatment of waste waters, information on water companies management, state in the area of cross funding etc.).
 - data were inserted (see p. 24 – 25 of this document)
- to respect principle of data sources citation, to correct wrong data (especially in the area of water management) and bring them into correspondence.
 - source of stated data was inserted under each table, data in Chapter 3.2 Analysis at the Level of Priority Axis 1 - Protection and Rational Utilisation of Water Resources were precised to be coherent with the data in National programme of the Slovak Republic for implementation of the Council Directive 91/271/EEC of 21 May 1991 concerning urban waste-water treatment and data on POVAPSYS were also inserted
- to delete some disproportions in SWOT analysis, f. e. between formulation of one of strengths and weaknesses in the priority axis 4 (strength: Adoption of the Investment Strategy for Remedy of Environmental Burdens in the Slovak Republic, weakness: Environmental

burdens inventory in the Slovak Republic not finalised, absence of environmental burdens information system, absence of state programme of re-mediations. According to evaluator's opinion adopted Investment Strategy for Remedy of Environmental Burdens in the Slovak Republic is in fact equal to state programme of re-mediations) and also in priority axis 5 (among strengths followed text is inserted: Drafting "favorable state" definitions for majority of species and habitats of European importance and preparation of assessment methodology; among weaknesses is inserted: Incomplete definitions of "favorable state" for 22 species of flora and fauna of European importance and for all species of national importance, as well as Insufficient countrywide information and data on species and habitats of European importance. By this formulation of weaknesses the formulation of stated strength is rather questionable).

- formulations of said strengths and weaknesses were detailed to avoid their contradiction.
- to consider insertion of weaknesses in case of priority axis 4 with: Lowering of incineration capacities for waste generated from health sector, Insufficient level of bio-degradable waste recovery, Regional disproportions in the area of municipal waste treatment.
- even though proposed formulations mirror weaknesses in the area of waste management, in order to maintain unified level of generalization of SWOT formulations (on the level of operational aims) they were not inserted (since they address concrete types of waste within operational aims).

Evaluation of the strategy of the OP including proposed priorities and aims

Conclusions of the ex-ante evaluator:

- Strategy of the OP ENV is putting together appropriately the basis of the strategy, formulates the global aim and the strategy for reaching this aim itself. Adequate basis for strategy formulation represented by relevant national and supranational strategic and conception materials, results of the analysis of the current state and development of the environment projected to the SWOT analysis, disparities and development factors, as well as legislation in the area of creation and protection of environment.
- In general it is possible to conclude that basis of the strategy of OP ENV ensure its interconnection to the aims of sustainable development which can be seen as a positive of the strategy
- Strategy of the OP ENV covers formulated disparities and factors of development and focuses on their solution and develops them appropriately in priority axis
- Inter-linkage to the obligations of the Slovak republic stemming from environmental acquis and inter-linkage to the content and aims of the cohesion policy of the EU is a positive of the strategy of the OP ENV.

Main recommendations and how they were taken into account

- not to restrict the strategy of OP ENV characteristics just from environmental point of view but also characterize also its social, economic and territorial dimension.
- in line with the stated recommendation the strategic part of the OP ENV in its current version (chap. 4.1.2) explicitly contains provision that strategy intention of the OP ENV are based on 4 dimensions – environmental, economic, social and territorial and also the way is characterized how very of these dimensions will be fulfilled.
- to insert long-term aims to the strategy, on which the strategy is established and which also enable to assess rightness and importance of strategy's direction in a long term.
- intentions, principles and long term aims of State environmental policy were inserted to the strategy (chap. 4.1.3). On this basis it was also possible to justify that strategy and OP as a whole are contributing to solution of identified long-term aims in the field of creation and protection of the environment and sustainable development

- to adjust formulation of the global aim of the OP ENV (original wording of which was: Finalization of environmental infrastructure of the Slovak republic according to the EU standards and enhancement of the efficiency of environmental element of sustainable development), as well as specific aim of priority axis 1 and its operational aims.

- recommendation was accepted partially to the limit that enabled to keep the coherency of the OP ENV with the NSRF that defines global aims of particular operational programmes. In case of priority axis 1 recommendation of ex-ante evaluator has been taken into account within the formulation of its specific aim and characteristics of its operational aims.

to eliminate the partial lack of strategy that was indicated in insufficient regional projection of the strategy, which the ex-ante evaluator recommends to enhance in the strategy

- in line with the stated recommendation and following the comment of the European Commission (to the version of the OP officially submitted on 2nd March 2007), that is requesting to determine the needs on regional level and to take into account regional disparities in the strategy, the regional aspect of the strategy was strengthened. Information on the way how regional disparities were taken into account in the strategy of the OP ENV were inserted to the strategic part of the OP ENV (mainly to the chapter 4.3 Strategy to Achieve the Global Goal as a Result of Thematic and Territorial Concentration). Annex 15. The basis and justification of indicative division of allocations at the regional level was inserted to the OP (on the basis of material adopted within the sector of the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic) where there is a detailed description –at the level of separate operational aims – of the main factors that will be taken into account by the support of regions, as well as indicative financial allocations at the regional level.

Evaluation of the division of the financial sources of the OP ENV to the separate priority axis

Conclusions of the ex-ante evaluator

- The basis of the financial allocation of the ERDF and CF in the OP ENV is the NSRF. The amount of financial allocation to the OP ENV is prescribed by the division of the whole sum of sources of Structural funds and Cohesion fund for the Slovak Republic among separate operational programmes which is fixed in the financial tables of the NSRF.
- Division of financial allocations of the OP ENV to its separate priority axis corresponds the relative financial demandingness of activities planned for the realization of the separate priority axis. In general it is possible to conclude that OP ENV will contribute in a significant way to the solution of environmental problems, but allocated sources will not be sufficient for complete solution of problems in this area, and that is why it will be necessary to allocate further financial sources to ensure required quality of the environment.

Main recommendations and how they were taken into account

- from the comparison of financial allocation of EU funds to the OP ENV with the financial requirements needed for fulfillment of commitments arising from the environmental acquis it is obvious that to fulfill these commitments it will be necessary to allocate notable sums from national sources. SR will have to guarantee the fulfillment of commitments arising from the environmental acquis what is possible only if these commitments will be taken into account by the creation of the state budget of the Slovak republic, its proposal and amendments in 2007-2015.

- this fact is referred to also in the text of the OP ENV (chapter 4.1.3) as to one of the conclusions of the material “Proposal for the amendment of the NSRF of the Slovak Republic

for 2007-2013 resulting the comments of the EC and negotiations with the EC” approved by the Decree of the government of the SR No. 407/2007.

Assessment of the accordance of the strategy of the OP ENV with strategic and conception materials

Conclusions of the ex-ante evaluator

- concordance of the strategy of the OP ENV with strategic and conception materials is in detail characterized in chap. 7 and contains the description of the concordance of the strategy of the OP ENV with documents and EU policies, as well as strategic and conceptual materials at the national and regional level. This part of the Operational programme is elaborated at the sufficient level and according to the evaluator it does not require any further amendments.

Evaluation of indicators of the OP ENV

Conclusions of the evaluator

- System of indicators serves not only to quantification of its aims and monitoring of results of its realization but also to comparison of the state and development of environment and simultaneously the performance and efficiency of environmental services in the areas that are subject to interventions of the OP ENV, at the beginning and at the end of the programming period.
- Systems of indicators of OP ENV has equally the function to prove rightness, justification, and economic efficiency of using of EU and Slovak Republic sources incurred from ERDF, CF and national sources.

Main recommendations and how they were taken into account

- to insert proposed set of indicators of the OP ENV and some other indicators, namely to priority axis 1- loss of drinking water in the water supply network, specific consumption of drinking water in households, in priority axis 3 - Number of supported projects aimed at support of renewable energy sources and in priority axis 5 – number of monitored species/biotops, number of implemented monitoring/information systems and number of visitors in particular protected areas/at educational paths/in information centres of nature protection.

- proposal for insertion of further indicators was partially accepted. Main goal of elaborator of the OP ENV was to maintain unified and balanced approach to formulation of indicators at the priority axis level, with the aim that indicators will represent the most important type of activities (from the perspective of importance and also amount of allocations) supported within stated operational aim. With regard to this the proposal for insertion of indicators of loss of drinking water in the water supply network and specific consumption of drinking water in households was not accepted. Within the operational aim Supply of citizens with the drinking water from public water supply network the support will be aimed primarily at increasing of number of citizens connected to the public water supply network, where set indicators correspond to this aim.

Reconstructions of water supply networks, its existing objects and facilities, will be supported only under condition that their capacity will increase with the aim of real connection of new drinking water consumers and that is why indicator “loss of drinking water in the water supply network” will not be monitored at the level of operational programme. From analogical reasons also indicator of specific consumption of drinking water in households will not be monitored. Proposal for insertion of indicator for priority axis 3, regarding the support

of renewable energy sources within projects, has been accepted, and also regarding the analogical comment of EC two indicators have been inserted – increasing the share of energy production from renewable sources at the level of supported projects and increasing of energy efficiency at the level of supported projects. In case of priority axis 5 were not (from the same reason) inserted indicators proposed by the ex-ante evaluator, however two more indicators were inserted that enable to monitor realization of activities supported within the operational aim 3, namely the number of implemented activities (events) aimed at improvement of public environmental awareness, propagation and enhancement of knowledge in the area of nature protection and number of informed subjects.

- To consider possibility to proposed system of indicators in the structure: main and side indicators. Main indicators then in this structure: state and trend indicators; side indicators in this structure: state, trend and territorial indicators.

Together with this to consider the possibility to include among monitored indicators also the indicators describing regional differences in some monitored quantities.

- stated proposal was not accepted mainly from the reason that the structure of set of indicators is proposed in line with the methodological guide of the Central coordinating body (Ministry of Construction and regional development) that is based on the recommendation of the EC (Working document EC No. 2 to indicators).

In relation to the recommendation to indicate besides state also trend indicators, that means to prescribe also year values of particular indicators, the elaborator of the OP ENV on the working meeting with ex-ante evaluator explained that according to the footnote 1) in the point 2.1 of the annex XVIII of the Regulation of the Commission 1828/2006/EC (which enables to set the aim values of indicators on the year basis or for the whole programming period) the aims of indicators (target values) were inserted in the OP ENV for the whole programming period, i.e. until 2015. To quantify aim values of indicators according to years is very difficult since they are significantly influenced by the number of proposed and approved projects, public procurement process of the final beneficiary, climate conditions, and their suitability for construction, process of implementation of the project etc. Reached values of indicators for separate years will however be monitored, evaluated, and reported to the European Commission in annual reports in sense of the annex XVIII of the Regulation 1828/2006/EC.

Also reached values of indicators according to separate regions of the SR will be monitored (as it was in the period 2004-2006-see chapter 3.7 Results of Implementation Results of the 2004 – 2006 Programming Period).

Evaluation of the implementation system of the OP ENV

Conclusions of the ex-ante evaluator:

- Chapter 9 of the OP ENV is characterizing the system of its implementation and is elaborated in accordance with the regulation valid for the programming period 2007-2013, as well as recommendation of the Central coordinating body to the contents of this chapter. During the process of amendment of the OP ENV the wording of this chapter has been supplemented, amended and elaborated in a more complex way. Part “monitoring” has undergone the most significant change, it is elaborated more concised, more succinct and mainly is concretized for the respective OP.
- In part financial management and control the main responsibilities of managing authority, certification body, paying unit and audit body in this area are described. Control system of the implementation of the programme and system of financial flows is stated briefly, the way of co-financing is not stated.

Main recommendations and how they were taken into account:

- In the part describing the management of the OP ENV extend the list of responsibilities of the managing authority in accordance with the [General regulation](#).

- Main responsibilities of the managing authority were inserted (see chap. 9.1.2) in line with the Art. 60 of the [General regulation](#).

- Regarding changes in the implementation of structural funds and CF which came into validity after approval of new regulations for programming period 2007-2013, to consider possibility to extend the operational programme also with the description of the management system at the level of projects, i.e. information on to whom the applicant (potential beneficiary) submits the application for non-returnable financial assistance, how is this application assessed and by whom, what are basic criteria for project selection, how is the project approved and implemented, what is the difference in submission processes and approval with the expenses below 25 MEUR and major projects over 25 MEUR. It would be suitable to state the possibility of the Managing authority of the OP to request expert assistance within the common initiative of the European Investment Bank, European Commission and European bank for reconstruction and development JASPERS.

- description of the system of management at the level of projects is not a part of the operational programme, according to the methodological guideline of the Central coordinating body (Ministry of Construction and Regional Development) to the elaboration of the operational programmes. Mentioned information will form the part of the documents that will be adopted on the basis of the OP ENV Programme manual, Handbook for beneficiary and will be published also within calls for application for the non-returnable financial assistance.

- Proposal for insertion of the information on possibility and way of using of technical assistance provided within the JASPERS initiative has been accepted and in accordance with it the chapter 7.3.2 has been supplemented.

- to state how functions of certification body and audit body (executed by the Ministry of Finance) will be divided

- requested information was inserted to the Chapter 9.7. Financial management, control and audit.

- to state the time relations between financial transactions (pre-financing of sources from structural funds and Cohesion fund, refunding of expenses already incurred by beneficiary), as well as fundamental information on particular types of payments (advance payment, intermediate payment, balance payment), on using of currency, as well as issue irregularities.

- brief description of the system of financial flows has been inserted to the text of chapter 9.7 Financial management, control and audit on the basis elaborated by the Ministry of Finance unified for all management bodies. Its detailed description is included in the System of financial management of the Structural funds and Cohesion fund for the programming period 2007-2013, adopted by the governmental degree No. 835/2006, to which the OP ENV is referring. From this reason it is not necessary to state detailed information on the system of financial management also in the text of the OP ENV.

- to supplement brief information on the activities of further subject engaged to the process of control and audit

- according to the stated recommendation the brief information on way of engaging of other subject to the process of control and audit has been inserted to the chapter 9.7 unified for all managing bodies on the basis elaborated by the Ministry of Finance

In the final report from ex-ante evaluation the evaluator pointed out at certain factors that according to his opinion can influence smooth running and efficiency of the process of implementation of OP ENV. Mainly these factors were mentioned:

- sufficient personnel capacity- in this relation it is necessary to keep in mind the fact that in the process of implementation are also operational programmes and strategy of the

Cohesion fund (including ISPA projects) from the previous programming period (2004 – 2006) and that certain period both programming periods will be implemented concurrently. Situation is also complicated the condition that previous programming period (2004-2006) is being implemented according to regulations valid for them, while for the programming period 2007-2013 new regulations are valid. In line with this it will be necessary to secure management body and payment unit with sufficient number of personnel and in advance prepare training for them.

- technical securing- technical equipment of workplaces with computers and office equipment and creation of conditions for collection, processing, and exchange of data and information.

- rules- for effective implementation of the OP ENV the existence of implementation documents - manuals and handbooks, for the subjects taking part on management and implementation of operational programme, as well as for applicants and beneficiaries, is necessary

- preparation of projects- on the basis of experience from the previous programming period it is necessary to direct attention on the preparation of major projects

- public procurement – coordinated solution of this issues (f. e. through the manual of public procurement) is seen as an important factor by the evaluator that can prevent delays in the process of implementation of concrete projects, as well as eventual financial corrections done by the EC.

Managing authority for the OPE will during the implementation of the OPE pay more attention to the factors stated above which the ex-ante evaluator labeled as important to secure effective management and smooth implementation of the OPE.

2.3 Strategic Environmental Assessment

OPE is subject to strategic environmental assessment governed by the EIA Act N°24/2006 on the Environmental Impact Assessment and on changes and amendments to certain acts (which transposes the Directive of European Parliament and the Council N°2001/42/EC on the Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment – hereinafter referred to as the “SEA Directive”).

MoE SR, as the OPE managing authority, is responsible for the OPE strategic environmental assessment. In compliance with the Public Procurement Act N°25/200, the EIA Centre within the Faculty of Architecture of the Slovak Technical University in Bratislava was selected as external body, to prepare documents for strategic environmental assessment process. The Centre is at the list of qualified entities issued in compliance with §8 of the MoE SR Decree N°52/1995 Coll. on the list of qualified entities for environmental impacts assessment.

In August 2006, the Centre prepared a notification on draft OPE strategic document in compliance with the Annex 2 to the EIA Act N°24/2006. The above mentioned notification was published (including publication in national newspapers) and MoE SR received 84 standpoints in written and electronic form from 68 subjects. Range and schedule for OPE as the strategic document with the national importance was defined on 3 November 2006 after their public negotiation pursuant to the Annex 4 of the act and Annexes I and II of the SEA Directive and pursuant to the comments submitted to the notification.

Consequently, in line with requirements on content and structure of the report determined in the Annex 4 of the given act, a report on environmental impact assessment of OPE was

elaborated. This environmental impact assessment is the key document for the process of strategic environmental evaluation. A list of comments to the notification of the strategic document –OPE and well as to the draft OPE, as well as a final summary of non-technical character are parts of the environmental impact assessment report. Notification of the strategic document – OPE, as well as the report on assumed environmental impacts of OPE are published at the MoE SR web site: (<http://eia.enviroportal.sk/detail.php?akcia=operacny-program-zivotne-prostredie-navrh>.).

After elaboration, the report on assessment together with the OPE draft as a strategic document, was published, commented and publicly negotiated on the 4 January 2007. The general public was informed about publication of the report on assessment, possibility and deadlines for submission of comments and standpoints, as well as the venue of the public negotiation, in nationwide daily newspapers. Moreover, an expertise from the process of strategic environmental assessment was elaborated and based upon it also the final standpoint from the process of OPE assessment pursuant to the Act No. 24/2006 Coll. on environmental impact assessment and on amendments of some acts was issued.

The standpoint on OPE environment impact assessment was issued by the Department of environmental impact assessment of MoE SR on 26 February 2007 under the number 10272/2006-3.5/tč. The above mentioned standpoint is published at the MoE SR web site: (<http://eia.enviroportal.sk/detail.php?akcia=operacny-program-zivotne-prostredie-navrh>.).

The standpoint declares, that MoE as the relevant state authority in environmental impact assessment recommends to approve the strategic document OPE under the condition that the requirements in the part VI. „Conclusions“, point 3 „Recommendations for revision, finalisation, amendment of the draft strategic document“ will be kept and individual projects funded from OPE will be by law subjects of the environmental impact assessment before their approval according to special rules.

In the part VI. „Conclusions“, point 3 „ Recommendations for revision, finalization, amendment of the draft strategic document“ it is said that „from the result of the process of the OPE environmental impact assessment, from notification, standpoints to the notification, from the determined range of assessment and schedule for the assessment report, from the report on OPE assessment, from the public negotiation connected with OPE assessment and from consultations it is clear that there is no need to review, finalize or make any other amendments to the draft strategic document“.

Simultaneously the following recommendations for security of environmental optimization of OPE implementation as the strategic document, were given:

1. to secure a consistent environmental impact assessment on the level of individual projects by law in order to optimise chosen solutions and their localisation, selection of environmental technologies, time and content succession of individual steps, as well as balance of environmental, social and economic aspects of submitted projects.
2. to apply rigorously in the process of projects approval and to monitor in the projects implementation process the sustainability of proposed activities and the balance of short-term and long-term impacts.
3. to pay special attention to environmental impact assessment of projects that will be connected with the protected sites of special Community interest (NATURA 2000).
4. to pay special attention to assessment of impacts upon health and quality of life of the relevant population.

5. to observe during the project evaluation process, balance of local, regional and national impacts of projects.
6. to secure transparency and access to information in the whole process of calls for projects, selection of projects and allocation of funds, as well as monitoring and evaluation of projects, individual priority axes and the whole programme under the condition of respecting protection of economic competitiveness.
7. to monitor systematically and to evaluate impact of OPE on environment and human health.
8. to secure proper information of applicants in environmental issues and possible connection of submitted projects with the environment.

The above mentioned recommendations do not require any change of structure, objectives or OPE priority. The recommendations resulting from the SEA process will be applied during implementation of the OPE (particularly in the project preparation process, when the requirement to carry out the environmental impact assessment of the projects will be strictly applied, as well as in the project selection and implementation process, in the monitoring process on the project and programme levels, in the process of OPE evaluation and as a part of publicity and public information on the results of OPE implementation process).

Based upon the environmental impact assessment it was declared that OPE is acceptable from the point of view of overall (negative and positive) environmental impacts.

The assessment report specifies, describes, evaluates and quantifies all important impacts of OPE upon environment and health of people. This assessment report unambiguously showed potential of positive impacts of OPE upon environment and development of human resources, as well as elimination or minimization of potential negative environmental impacts of OPE implementation under the condition that preventive measures and monitoring of environmental optimization and their implementation in individual projects, are secured.

Based upon the assessment it was also stated that implementation and approval of OPE will not have, independently or in combination with the activities of the strategic document, any impacts upon proposed or approved special protected areas under the birds convention, sites of Community interest or a continuous European system of protected areas. On the contrary, individual priority axes (mainly the priority axis 5 "Protection and regeneration of natural environment and landscape) will have a very positive impact upon those areas.

Also the OPE revision as a change of the strategic document – OPE, is subject of the environmental impact assessment pursuant to Act No. 24/2006 Coll. on environmental impact assessment and on change and amendment of some acts, as amended. On the basis of the announcement on the strategic document change, i.e on the OPE revision, which has been elaborated by the OPE managing authority pursuant to § 5 Article 5 and Annex No. 2 of the specified Act, the screening procedure has been accomplished.

Within the process of the environmental impact assessment pursuant to Act No. 24/2006 Coll. on environmental impact assessment and on change and amendment of some acts, as amended, a notification on strategic document „Revision of the OPE to version 4.0 “ has been prepared and subsequently published at the MoE SR web site <http://www.minzp.sk/eu/moznosti-financovania-projektov/operacny-program-zivotne-prostredie/operacny-program-zivotne-prostredie-programove-obdobie-2007-2013.html> as well as at the OP E web site <http://www.opzp.sk>. The notification was also published at the web site <http://www.enviroportal.sk/>.

Taking into consideration the OPE overall focus and global objective, as well as the character of the OPE revision in relation with its allocation increase by 20 000 000 EUR from the EU sources, it may be assumed that the character of the environmental impacts will not differ from those already identified in the SEA process of the OPE proposal pursuant to Act No. 24/2006 Coll. on environmental impact assessment and on the change and amendment of some acts that was accomplished in January–February 2007, within the OPE elaboration process. Moreover, the OPE allocation increase will lead to strengthening of the possibilities to prevent negative environmental impacts caused by floods or to reduce them and so to deepen positive possibilities of population health and environment protection in the areas endangered by floods.

3 The Current State of the Environment

3.1 General Characteristic of the Environment of the Slovak Republic

The complete characteristic of the environment is written and regularly updated in reports on the state of the environment which the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic (MoE SR) publishes annually, as stipulated by the Act No. 17/1992 Coll. on the environment and the National Council Act No. 205/2004 Coll. on generating, transmitting and spreading of information on the environment and as amended.

According to the analysis of the current state of the environment of the Slovak Republic, certain areas require greater attention since their current state needs to be improved, their falling behind EU developed countries needs to be minimized, or the fulfillment of obligations and requirements and the implementation thereof, resulting from EU legislation with regards to environmental policies, need to be accounted for.

From the total population of the Slovak Republic, (as on 31.12. 2005) only 55.9 % live in houses with public sewage system, which, compared to 84.4% of the EU developed countries' population, represents a relatively small share. Regulation and cleaning of waste waters via public sewer system is lagging behind public supplies of drinking water. The Slovak Republic is bound by the Council Directive 91/271/EEC of 21 May 1991 on urban waste-water treatment and the EU Accession Treaty due to which Slovakia has transitional periods for implementation of the above mentioned Directive.

The problem specific to the Slovak Republic is flood threat, which has an important economic and social impact. The anti-flood protection in Slovakia is regulated by the Act No. 666/2004 Coll. on flood protection, *which was replaced as of 1st February 2010 by the Act No. 7/2010 on flood prevention. The specified Act underlines preventive measures for protection against floods and highlights their complex nature.* Without securing prevention and without creation of adequate conditions for implementation of measures for flood protection, the costs for eliminating damages will continue to grow. The general risk of development of the society, of the socio-economic climate as well as health and lives of people ranks this issue among the priorities in the area of the environment.

The destructive floods which affected the SR territory in the recent past ~~as well as in 2010~~, have pointed out also the need to increase the level at which hydro-meteorological information is provided, that has not been sufficient yet. From numerous analyses of the flood events of the past period, not only the need, but also the possibility to significantly raise the level of hydrological and meteorological outputs clearly results. Pursuant to Act No. 7/2010 Coll. on flood prevention, one of the main activities in the flood prevention field is providing of the flood forecasting service, which in the SR conditions falls within the competence of the Slovenský hydrometeorologický ústav (Slovak Hydro-meteorological Institute), that is focussing in this field to:

- *elaboration and issuing of meteorological and hydrological forecasts and warnings,*
- *operative monitoring of hydrometeorological indicators and their distribution to the flood protection authorities and the public,*

- processing and providing data for flood prevention.

In connection to the need to reduce flood risks and threats related to floods, it is necessary to secure the execution of the activities listed within the development of the Flood Warning and Forecasting System (POVAPSYS).

Air protection is one of the key problems needed to be solved especially with regard to endangering public health and shortening of length of life of the population. In accordance with the Thematic Strategy on Air Pollution, communicated by the European Commission (hereinafter referred to as "EC") to the European Parliament, the quality of air as well as the reduction of limits for polluting substances (oxides of S, N, particulate suspended matters (PM₁₀ and subsequently PM_{2,5}), NH₃, organic volatile compounds) will have priority in the upcoming years. Respecting emission limits will be financially demanding, representing 0.11% of the Gross national pension¹ yearly, [at the time of preparation of the operational programme](#). The main problem with respect to protection of environment is an insufficient quality of air, high share of polluting substances emission from mobile sources, insufficient composition of the fuel base, and insufficient state of the separating technique. From a territorial perspective, an increased attention will be paid to areas requiring particular air protection.² Priorities will be given to solving problems with managing the air quality. The Slovak Republic has 20 air quality management areas [identified for year 2007 \(based on the assessment of the air quality in zones and agglomerations in 2010 SHMI specified 19 air quality management areas on the territory of the Slovak republic for 2011\)](#), where the limit or rather quotas for polluting substances (particulate matters PM₁₀, NO₂ and ozone), have been transgressed.

One of Slovakia's problems is the high share of green house gases on one inhabitant (8.6 t GHG/per capita). Given a stricter goal on the EU level with regard to the emission of green house gases, it is necessary to secure their reduction via supporting the usage of renewable sources of energy. Despite the positive trends of increasing the share of the energy supplies from renewable energy sources (which during the period of 2000 – 2004 was 14% higher on average than the EU-15 average, and during the past five years reached the level of about 16% from the total energy supply of the Slovak Republic), there still remains a potential to be exploited. Supporting the usage of renewable energy sources needs to be accompanied by a greater energetic efficiency and reduction of usage of energy, as well as by a horizontal approach, proposed with respect to all industry sectors (which in the Slovak conditions are secured by the Ministry of Economy ~~and Construction~~ of the Slovak Republic).

During the programming period 2007 – 2013, it will be important to secure the fulfillment of the Slovak Republic obligations via grants from EU funds (e.g. compliance with the Thematic Strategy on Air Pollution conclusions - reduction of national emission limits for basic polluting substances, the fulfillment of obligations under the international agreements), incorporation and implementation of EU legislation on the protection of air, climate change, all of which are currently being prepared and within the programme period will become valid.

Activities supported within the waste management area result from a hierarchy defined in the EU and SR conceptual documents (Waste Management Programme of the Slovak Republic for years 2006-2010), while respecting transitional periods and requirements resulting from

¹ The cost calculation was prepared by a company contracted by EK IIASA (International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis), using the RAINS (Regional air pollution information and simulations) module, based on the module structure of resources for air pollution in the Slovak Republic. The former includes complex costs, accounting for a change in the energetic costs of the economy.

² § 9 part 1 of Act No. [137/2010 Coll. on Air protection as amended by Act No 318/2012 Coll](#) [478/2002 on the protection of environment which supplements the Act No. 401/1998 Coll. on fines for air pollution, as stated in subsequent regulations \(Act on Air\)](#)

the EU legislation, having a binding character for the Slovak Republic.³ Increasing the total amount of waste requires a support in the area of prevention and minimization of its generation, its rehabilitation and separated collection. Managing separate parts of waste (i.e. PCB/PCT,⁴ health care waste), for which a sufficient infrastructure is lacking, is part of a separate chapter. The issue of municipal waste is characterized by a smaller level of production as compared to the EU 15 by almost 300kg per capita per year (thus by 42%). However, by 2013, the increase of municipal waste quantity is expected, that will require adequate resources for the separate waste collection, waste recovery and waste disposal.

Dealing with environmental burdens is a specific issue for the Slovak Republic, not comparable to the situation in EU Member States. Locating, surface and burden levels of areas dedicated for revitalization represent not only important investment opportunities but also protection of nature, given that the latter might be endangered as a result of investment projects which are being planned from scratch.

Similarly, the protection of nature and landscape is also problematic. On one hand, the Slovak Republic is known for a high diversity of species, eco-systems and protected landscape sites, while on the other hand, it faces lack of resources for nature protection similarly to the situation in other EU Member States. The priority is to fulfil EU obligations and obligations resulting from international agreements, as well as solving these issues on national level (e.g. evaluating National Network of Protected Landscape Areas). Completing the building of a continuous European Network of Protected Landscape Areas (NATURA 2000) is part of priorities, created by the Member States, independently from their national networks of protected landscape areas, management of thereof, and passing other measures on maintaining or rehabilitation of a positive state of species and habitats of European importance.

3.2 Analysis at the Level of Priority Axis 1 - Integrated Protection and Rational Utilisation of Water Resources

Drinking water supply for inhabitants

Annual increase of share of houses connected to public drinking water supply system is a positive fact. Since 2001 to 2004, the portion of people connected to public drinking water supply system grew by 1,91%. Despite of this, when compared with other EU member states is Slovakia significantly behind in provision of inhabitants with drinking water from public water supply system. By December 31st, 2004, 84,8% of inhabitants was linked to the public drinking water supply system (4 569 100 000 people).

In Slovakia, 2 142 municipalities, i.e. 74% has connections to public drinking water supply system. Though, the public drinking water supply system development differs in regions. The best situation is in Žilina region, with 94,6% of municipalities connected to public drinking water supply system, followed by Bratislava region with 89% share. The worst situation is in

³ Directive 2004/12/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 February 2004 amending Directive 94/62/EC on packaging and packaging waste, Directive 2005/20/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 March 2005 amending Directive 94/62/EC on packaging and packaging waste, Directive 2000/76/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 4 December 2000 on the incineration of waste, Council Directive 94/67/EC of 16 December 1994 on the incineration of hazardous waste, 2004/312/EC: Council Decision of 30 March 2004 granting the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Slovakia and Slovenia certain temporary derogations from Directive 2002/96/EC on waste electrical and electronic equipment, Council Directive 96/59/EC of 16 September 1996 on the disposal of polychlorinated biphenyls and polychlorinated terphenyls (PCB/PCT)

⁴ PCB – polychloride biphenyls, PCT – polychloride terphenyls

Prešov, Košice and Banská Bystrica regions, mainly in their southern parts ranging between 58, 1% to 70,3%.

Despite the fact that 184 municipalities were connected to public drinking water supply system during 2000 – 2004, there are still 710 municipalities in Slovakia (approx. 25% of the overall number) without public drinking water supply connection.

A relatively good situation is in the west Slovakia. There are only 5 municipalities in the Bratislava Self-Governing Region which are not connected to the public water supply system. In the Trnava Self-Government Region, the worst situation is in the Dunajská Streda district with 20 municipalities without public drinking water supply connection. In the Nitra Self-Governing Region, the highest number of municipalities without public drinking water supply connection is in the Levice district – 24 of them. In the Trenčín Self-Government Region 41 municipalities are without public drinking water supply connection.

Unfavourable situation is in the Banská Bystrica Region, with 154 municipalities still without public drinking water supply connection, the most thereof in the districts of Lučenec, Rimavská Sobota and Veľký Krtíš. In the Košice Region, there are 121 municipalities still without public drinking water supply connection (mainly in the districts of Košice-viceinity and Michalovce). The highest number of municipalities without public drinking water supply connection is in the Prešov Self-Governing Region – 269 municipalities, mainly in the districts of Humenné, Prešov, Sabinov, Snina, Stropkov, Svidník, Vranov nad Topľou.

Tab 3.1: Public drinking water supply and development of water supply network owned by water companies, municipalities and other entities

Indicator	Unit	Year				
		2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Number of people supplied from drinking water supply network	thousand	4 028,9	4 498,2	4 518,2	4 535,1	4 569,1
Water resources capacity	l.s ⁻¹	29 530	32 999	33 619	33 473	33 855
Drinking water supply network length	km	20 359	23 682	24 168	24 839	25 313
Underground water resources capacity	l.s ⁻¹	24 401	27 869	28 473	28 259	28 413
Drinking water from water utilities	mil. m ³	391,7	395,1	384,2	377,8	353,2
thereof: drinking water from underground water		323,6	331,9	320,5	314,1	298,5
Specific drinking water consumption (from drinking water invoiced to households)	l.per capita ⁻¹ . day ⁻¹	117,1	114,6	113,6	109,2	99,7

Source: MoE SR, Report on water management of Slovak Republic for 2004; issued in 2005

During programming period is also executed implementation of the projects regarding drinking water supply from public water system helps to gradual increase of the length of water system supply networks and increase the percentage of inhabitants supplied from water supply in affected areas.

The total number of inhabitants supplied with drinking water from public water supply network increased to 31.12. 2011 on 4 723 800 inhabitants that is 86,91% of the total number of population of the Slovak republic.

In 2011 the number of municipalities with public water supply network was 2 348 which is 81,2 % of the total number of municipalities in the Slovak Republic. Construction of public water supply network also helped to increase the number of technical facilities and structures. The

total length of water supply systems in Slovakia (water companies, local authorities and other subjects) increased to the total length 28 777 km that created conditions for supplying new consumers with drinking water from public network.

Map Annex No.1 illustrates the situation in development of drinking water network system in municipalities in the Slovak Republic in 2002-2006.

Public sewer and waste water treatment plants

Public sewer development is in Slovakia significantly behind the EU average. Moreover, public sewer network development is lagging behind that of public drinking water network system. Comparing the number of people connected to public drinking water network, the share of people linked to public sewers is lower by 28,4%.

By December 31st, 2004, 3 009 849 (55,9 % of the total number of people living in Slovakia) were connected to public sewer network system. This number grew by 83 635 people (i.e. 1,71%) during 2000-2004.

Public sewers administered by the water utilities collect waste water from 2 808 550 (93,4%) inhabitants. Public sewers operated by municipalities collect waste water from 201 299 (6,6%) inhabitants. Technical status of the sewer network reflects the volume of available funds and the level of care paid to its repair and maintenance in the past. Sewer network owners and operators are responsible for appropriate technical status of the sewers network system.

2 909 114 inhabitants lived in houses connected to public sewer system with a waste water treatment plant (hereinafter referred to as the „WWTP“). The public sewer system was built or partly built only in 556 municipalities out of 2883 municipalities. The overall generated pollution corresponds to approx. 4 mil equivalent inhabitants (hereinafter referred to as the „EI“). Thereof, 1,2 mil EI is the share of industrial wastewaters and rainwater. The Map Annex No.2 shows the increase of inhabitants by districts connected to the public sewer system and WWTP in 2002-2006.

Tab 3.2: Discharge of waste water and development of sewer network owned by water companies, municipalities and other entities

Indicator	Unit	Year				
		2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Number of inhabitants connected to public sewer network	thousand	2 645,0	2 967,4	2 976,4	3 005,9	3 009, 849
Thereof, in houses connected to public sewer with WWTP		2 538,1	2 711,4	2 712,9	2 716,7	2 808,550
Length of public sewer network	km	5 220	6 480	6 692	7 006	7 218
Total volume of water discharged to rivers	mil. m ³	445,3	483,2	488,1	443,7	442,3
Thereof, treated waste waters	mil. m ³	423,2	465,1	468,7	424,4	426,8

Source: MoE SR, Report on water management in Slovak Republic for 2004, issued in 2005

In Slovakia, there is statistically registered 440 municipal waste water treatment plants, out of them 238 are owned by water utilities and 202 by municipalities.

Municipal WWTP treated 426 812 000 m³ of wastewater in 2004, of the overall volume of 442 322 000 m³ of discharged wastewater. 408 700 000 m³ of wastewaters were treated in biological WWTP. In 2004, the overall length of the sewer system network was 7 218 km (increase by 1 952 km compared to 2001), thereof 6 149 km operated by water utilities and 1 069 km by municipalities.

The situation concerning development of the sewer systems and WWTP in settlements of Slovakia in 2002-2006 is shown in the Map Annex No.3.

The highest share of inhabitants connected to the public sewer system and WWTP is in the Bratislava Region (84,3%), the lowest one is in the Nitra Region (42.3%). In other regions it varies from 49,8 % (Trnava Region) to 58,8 % (Banská Bystrica Region).

Tab 3.3: Overview of wastewater treatment in Slovakia, split by regions, situation at the beginning of 2005

REGION	Number of people connected to sewer system		Sewer network length km	Water discharged to rivers Thousand m3	Thereof Treated Thousand m3	Discharged Thousand m3
	number	WWTP thereof				
Bratislava	506 779	506 779	1 092	64 930	64 657	43 504
Trnava	275 359	270 147	744	35 711	35 690	21 057
Trenčín	338 498	321 437	740	39 614	38 487	21 188
Nitra	299 854	288 691	726	38 144	36 431	21 510
Žilina	361 983	359 374	927	94 567	94 268	27 745
Banská Bystrica	387 335	343 583	869	55 563	51 399	23 087
Prešov	432 245	401 472	1 145	55 680	49 645	28 491
Košice	437 891	421 909	975	58 113	56 235	30 339
SR total	3 039 944	2 913 392	7 218	442 322	426 812	216 921

Source: Research Institute of Water Management (hereinafter as "VUVH"), Data on water management investment construction and operation in Slovak Republic, issued in 2005

Slovakia is obliged – in line with the transitional periods for implementation of the EC Directive 91/271/EEC of 21 May 1991 on Urban Wastewater Treatment (hereinafter as "Council directive 91/271/EEC"), which were set up in the EU Accession Treaty – to secure by certain deadlines (by 2010 for agglomerations over 10 000 EI, by 2015 for agglomerations between 2000 - 10 000 EI) collection and corresponding treatment of wastewaters.

For the purposes of implementation of the Council Directive 91/271/EEC, the term agglomeration has been defined as a certain territory, where settlements or business activities are developed to such level when it is meaningful to collect wastewaters through sewer network to WWTP or any other discharge point. The Council Directive 91/271/EEC requirements and the consecutive evaluation of level of sewer connection and treatment of wastewaters pursuant to the requirements of the above mentioned Directive, is done in determined size categories of agglomerations (i.e. above 2 000 EI, 10 000 EI, 15 000 and 150 000 EI). Based on that municipalities in Slovakia had been split to agglomeration categories.

In Slovakia there is altogether 2410 agglomerations, out of which are 2054 agglomerations under 2000 EI. The size category above 2000 EI and their number according to individual size categories are shown in the following table.

Tab 3.4: Overview of number of agglomerations in SR split by size (by 31.12.2004)

Agglomeration	2000 – 10 000 EI	10 001 – 15 000 EI	15 001 – 150 000 EI	Above 150 000 EI	Total above 2 000 EI
Number of EI	1 012 190	226 250	2 166 170	1 650 290	5 054 900
Number of agglomerations	276	19	55	6	356

Source: MoE SR, Report on water management in Slovak Republic for 2004, issued in 2005

All municipalities larger than 10 000 EI have collection and treatment of wastewaters. Though, pursuant to the EC Directive N°91/271/EEC agglomerations larger than 10 000 EI located in sensitive areas – the whole territory of Slovakia was proclaimed as a sensitive area⁵ - must remove nutrients. This means that WWTP and the respective sewer network must create conditions for efficient lowering of content of nitrogen and phosphorus compounds in wastewaters. The category of agglomerations larger than 10 000 EI that require sophisticated technologies for nitrogen removal, will need investments soon, as by December 31st 2004 only 8 WWTP out of 87 WWTP in this category of agglomerations met the Directive's requirements (Article 5, paragraph 2 of the Council Directive 91/271/EEC).

Situation in agglomerations with 2 001-10 000 EI is more favorable, as there were 75 WWTP meeting the limits defined in the Directive (article 4 of the Council Directive 91/271/EEC), by December 31st 2004.

With regard to agglomerations smaller than 10 000 EI situated in sensitive areas, it is required, by the EC Directive No. 91/271/EEC of 21 May 1991 on Urban Wastewater Treatment, to perform biological wastewater treatment - at the level of secondary treatment (for agglomerations with 2001-10 000 EI), or their appropriate treatment (for agglomerations smaller than 2 000 EI).

90 agglomerations from the category of agglomerations with less than 2 000 EI have a sewer system and urban wastewaters are treated in WWTP (Waste Water Treatment Plant). Sewer without urban wastewaters treatment in WWTP is in 58 agglomerations (subsequent more detailed data will be provided later). In compliance with the requirements set in the Council Directive N°91/271/EEC agglomerations with less than 2 000 EI with a sewer should provide secondary treatment of wastewaters by 2015.

The Slovak National Programme to implement the Council Directive N°91/271/EEC was prepared with regard to the reporting duties of the Slovak Republic to the EC on implementation of the Council Directive N°~~91/271~~971/291/EEC (Art. 17 of the Directive) and the evaluation of accomplishment of commitments of the Slovak Republic on discharging and treatment of wastewaters, which evaluates the situation in accomplishing tasks resulting for the SR from the above directive and the Accession Treaty of December 31st, 2004. Similarly, fulfilment of commitments to other transitional periods ~~will be~~are reported – by 2008, 2010 and 2012. The final evaluation of commitments will be made as of the year 2015.

⁵ by SR Government Regulation No.: 249/2003 Coll., which determines sensitive areas and vulnerable areas, which was later substituted by the SR Governmental Regulation No.: 617/2004 Coll. which defines sensitive areas and vulnerable areas.

Annex No.3 (National Programme of Slovak Republic for the Implementation of the EC Directive N°91/271/EEC in a Form Given by the Commission Decision N°98/481/EEC⁶) shows the situation in urban waste waters discharge and treatment as of the reference period 2004. It also includes indicative data on situation in discharge and treatment of waste waters at national level as of 2008, 2010, 2012 and 2015, which take into account results of implementation of both completed and ongoing projects (projects financed from ERDF and CF).

Annex No.3 (Table 7) also includes cumulative investment costs (since January 1st, 2000) to implement the Council Directive N°91/271/EEC, which amounts approximately to 1,5 billion EUR.

Annex No. 4, which specifies Annex No. 3 data on regional level, shows a situation in a waste water discharge and treatment as of reference period 2004 split by regions.

Energy recovery of sludge from urban wastewater treatment

Anaerobic technology is, in long run, used as the main processing method – for stabilization of sludge generated during urban waste water treatment process. Its original purpose was to reduce high content of organic substances by autolysis. Development and application of co-generation units has turn biogas generated in anaerobic stabilization of sludge to a significant source of energy, which positively affects energy balance of WWTP, and thus also its economic operation. Foreign sources define 10 000 – 20 000 EI as the bottom WWTP capacity limit for efficient utilization of mesophil anaerobic stabilization of sludge; 20 000 – 30 000 EI are the estimates made in Slovakia (with regard to the prices of energy and construction and material possibilities), when growing energy prices lower the limit for efficient utilization.

Anaerobic stabilization with biogas production is the most commonly used method for processing WWTP sludge in Slovakia. More than 70% of the overall production of sludge from urban wastewater treatment is stabilized in anaerobic processes. Generation, storage and processing of biogas at WWTP is common for several decades in Slovakia. Therefore, there is sufficient specialized, technical and working and labor safety background for this process.

According to data from a survey made at the territory of the Slovak Republic (WWTP managed by water utility companies), annually 17-17,5 mil m³ of biogas were produced in WWTPs during 2004-2006. Thereof, 60-70% of generated biogas was used to produce heat, 10% for co-generation production of electricity, 10-20% of generated biogas was used for technology purposes – sludge mixing, and about 10% of generated biogas was burned with any other energy recovery. The survey also show that co-generation units were built in 15 WWTPs, and these (except for one WWTP) use certain portion of biogas to produce also heat, alongside the energy recovery.

~~Currently there are 89 WWTPs operated in the Slovak Republic with anaerobic sludge stabilisation (70% of the overall generation of sludge). Thereof, 35 WWTPs use biogas to produce heat.~~

Water companies transformation process

⁶ Draft ~~of the above mentioned~~ Programme was at given time submitted to the EC and ~~has not been~~ is not currently approved, yet.

Transformation of state companies - water and sewage works to water utility joint stock companies was made from 2001 to 2004, following several Resolutions of the Slovak Government, in order to transfer the state assets to municipal ownership free of charge, in form of shares. The National Property Fund transferred gradually shares of water utility companies shares to towns and villages, in 2003, 2004 and 2005. Transformation process in Slovakia resulted in eight large water utilities operating in Slovakia. ~~The recent list of these is in Note⁷.~~ Currently, towns and municipalities are the major shareholders in water utility companies. Major operators of public sewer system in Slovakia are water utility joint stock companies.

Pursuant to the Act N°276/2001 Coll. on Regulation of Distribution Networks as amended and in the wording of the Act N° 658/2004 on Regulation (hereinafter referred to as the „Regulation Act“), since 2003, the Office for Network Distribution Regulation (hereinafter referred to as the „ONDR“) is responsible for regulation of prices for drinking water supply to people through public drinking water network and that for collection and treatment of wastewaters by public sewage collection system.

Prices for production, distribution and supply of drinking water and collection and treatment of wastewaters are set annually by the ONDR, setting the scope of price regulation for production, distribution and supply of drinking water by public drinking water supply network and for collection and treatment of wastewaters by public sewage collection system, including the execution method, scope and structure of eligible costs, method for setting adequate profit and the base for price proposal.

Regulated are not only large water utilities, but also municipalities and companies operating small water treatment systems of local importance. The major objective for regulation of prices for drinking water supply and collection of wastewaters is to set just prices for water utilities and other regulated entities, taking into account the volume of eligible costs and adequate profit, which takes into account the scope of necessary investment.

Removal of cross-subsidies between prices for individual groups of customers (households and other customers) continued also in 2005 and 2006. In 2005, the ONDR set that price for drinking water for 4 of 8 large water utilities would be the same for households and other customers. Unified price of all water utilities for all customers ~~will be~~ set since 2007.

~~7 List of water companies in Slovakia :~~

~~Východoslovenská vodárenská spoločnosť, a.s.
Podtatranská vodárenská spoločnosť, a.s.
Stredoslovenská vodárenská spoločnosť, a.s.
Západoslovenská vodárenská spoločnosť, a.s.
Trnavská vodárenská spoločnosť, a.s.
Trenčianske vodárne a kanalizácie, a.s.
Bratislavská vodárenská spoločnosť, a.s.
Severoslovenské vodárne a kanalizácie, a.s.
Považská vodárenská spoločnosť, a.s.
Turčianska vodárenská spoločnosť, a.s.
Oravská vodárenská spoločnosť, a.s.
Liptovská vodárenská spoločnosť, a.s.
Vodárenská spoločnosť Ružomberok, a.s.
Komárňanská vodárenská spoločnosť, a.s.~~

~~The list of water utility companies created pursuant to the Slovak Parliament Resolution N° 192/1995 and the Slovak Government Resolutions N° 621/1995, 542/2001 and 751/2002, and Severoslovenská vodárenská spoločnosť, a.s., was cancelled as of 7. 9. 2006, and the following companies were registered to the Commercial registry as its successors: Severoslovenské vodárne a kanalizácie, a.s., Považská vodárenská spoločnosť, a.s., Turčianska vodárenská spoločnosť, a.s., Oravská vodárenská spoločnosť, a.s., Liptovská vodárenská spoločnosť, a.s. a Vodárenská spoločnosť Ružomberok, a.s.~~

~~The list doesn't contain other water utility companies.~~

During the cross-subsidies removal process, prices for households grew, as the price paid by them for drinking water supply and collection and treatment of wastewaters didn't cover actual costs for these activities delivered directly to the customer in past.

Tab 3.5: Development of drinking water and wastewater prices in Sk/m³, including VAT

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Drinking water							
households	9,40	11,50	11,50	16,10	22,60	28,26	30,46
Other customers	18,90	20,30	21,30	29,10	29,70	30,35	
Wastewaters							
households	6,40	7,50	7,50	10,20	13,80	19,28	26,19
Other customers	15,80	16,70	16,70	19,60	24,30	27,88	32,47
VAT, in %	10	10	10	14	19	19	19

Source: ONDR, Report on the development of prices for water and sewer fees in Slovak republic, 2007

In recent years there was achieved significant progress in urban waste water collection and treatment in the Slovak Republic. Currently the attention is mainly focused on construction of new WWTPs and sewage networks, reconstructions of WWTPs and sewerage networks with the aim to fulfil the obligations of the Slovak Republic towards the European Union in the field of urban waste water collection and treatment in agglomerations over 2 000 p.e. resulting from the Accession Treaty of the Slovak Republic to the European Union.

The number of inhabitants connected to the public sewerage system increased to 31.12. 2011 on 3 347 300 inhabitants of that number of inhabitants in houses connected to sewerage system with WWTP increased to 3 260 000 inhabitants. The length of sewerage networks is 11 210 km.

Underground and surface water monitoring system

Assessment of state of underground and surface water in Slovakia is governed by the Water Act N° 364/2004, amending also the Act N°372/1990 on Offences as amended (the „Water Act“). Complex monitoring of underground and surface water is performed in basins and partial basins, and is governed by the MoE SR Decree n°418/2010 Coll. on executing some provisions of the Water Act 221/1995 that is setting details on measuring the incidence and assessment of the state of underground and surface water, its monitoring, records on water and water balance. The above legislation transposes requirements resulting for Slovakia from the Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a framework for the Community-EU action in the field of water policy (EU Water Framework Directive). These also stipulate obligations or Slovakia to report to EC the water status.

With regard to the EU Water Framework Directive, Water Act and related legislation, Slovakia is obliged to monitor quality and quantity of underground and surface water through Underground and Surface Water Quality Monitoring Programme for each year. The first Monitoring Programmes were prepared in 2004 and 2005, and were driven by basin operators needs and state administration requirements. Due to transposition of the EU Water Framework Directive to the Water Act and its explanatory legislation, Underground and Surface Water Quality Monitoring Programme for 2006 already contains all requirements defined in the relevant legislation in order Slovakia could meet its obligations resulting from the EU membership. The Programme is setting objectives, monitoring sites, scope of data on

water quantity and quality, their collection frequency, reporting and filing requirements, entities executing monitoring and quality.

Transposition of the EU Water Framework Directive significantly increased the demand on information of water state in Slovakia, increasing thus the volume of monitoring and related costs. Due to the lack of state budget funds allocated for water monitoring, the volume of monitoring has been dropping each year to the minimum allowable level, providing thus minimum information for Slovak reporting obligations to EU. This deepened the deficit of information needed for water state assessment and also for drafting documents related to water planning and remedy measures leading to improvement of water in Slovakia within the deadlines set by the law.

3.3 Analysis on the Level of Priority Axis 2 - Flood Protection

Preventive flood protection measures

In the territory of Slovak Republic, after a relatively quiet period in the second half of the 70's until the first half of the 90's, until around 1996, floods with a dangerous course and significant consequences for the population and economic activities began to occur. Floods occur randomly and are distributed very unevenly in space and time. In Slovakia, floods frequently occur in three periods- in late winter/early spring, in early summer and sometimes also in the period before the end of the year.

The floods in the spring months are caused by a sudden warming with fast melting of snow, and/or long-lasting and intensive rainfalls. „Spring floods“ occur at large watercourses and their lower parts, being the largest risk and causing the extensive flood damages. Besides „spring floods“ there are also „summer floods“ in Slovakia occurring usually in May/June until August, which are usually caused by local intensive rainfalls (rainfalls with high intensity – sometimes up to 60 to 100 mm/per hour at a very limited territory) and result in local flood situations in the river basins of smaller watercourses. The riverbeds of smaller rivers tend to have a water capacity of 1-5-year water, so torrential rains cause an increase of the river flow, the outpouring of water on adjacent area and subsequent local flooding. In addition to floods caused by torrential rains, in late spring and during the summer, floods caused by prolonged rain affect large areas in Slovakia. Rainwater gradually saturates the soil layers and subsequently even statistically less significant rainfall causes intense surface runoff, increase in water flow in rivers and flooding of areas. In the second half of December floods caused by sudden warming followed by melting snow sometimes occur. Water from melted snow cannot soak into the frozen soil and almost all of it flows off across the ground into the watercourse. Ice blocks on hydro-morphologically inconvenient sections of water flow and in profiles of bridges and sluices complicate these floods in a number of places.

The impact of floods is bigger due to erosion of the natural retention capacity of soil, and therefore it is necessary to mitigate it by preventive measures implementation aimed at its improvement.

Damages caused by floods amounted more than 17 billion SKK in Slovakia during last ten years; 2 680 municipalities and towns suffered and the flooded area exceeded 331 000 ha. In 1996-2005, rescue works amounted 548 181 000 SKK, safety activities amounted 475 746 000 SKK, i.e. 1 023 927 000 SKK in total. Damages on the assets of individuals, municipalities and the state, agriculture and water management amounted 16 166 932 000

SKK. Thus, the costs and damages amount in total 17 196 869 000 SKK. Table 1 in Annex No. 5 show data on costs for rescue and safety activities, and damages caused by floods during 1996 – 2005.

In 2010, the Slovak Republic experienced extreme floods which affected almost the entire territory of Slovakia. Flooding began in mid-April 2010 and had four major peaks – in mid-May, at the end of May and in early June, in the middle and the end of August and in first week of September 2010. In connection with the extreme floods during May-June 2010, the Government of the Slovak Republic at its meeting on 14th of July 2010 discussed the Information on the situation caused by floods, together with proposals of actions and short- and medium-term measures.

The annex to this information contains the estimation of expenditure for rescue operations within the competence of particular ministries, which amounted to 2,354 million EUR, as well as expenses for rescue work in the municipalities of 15,934 million EUR. The damage to state property was estimated at around 250 million EUR. Since the flooding had occurred also during August and in early September 2010, the damage caused by it increased and currently provisionally estimated flood damages are more than 500 million EUR, of which about 160 million EUR is on municipalities' property, 150 million EUR on agricultural and forestry assets and 50 million EUR on citizens' properties (these are provisional estimates, the actual flood damage will be known after the floods and verification of the initial estimation).

Flood prevention measures significantly contribute to the prevention of flood damage or even to mitigation and limitation of their scale. Those measures are implemented in accordance with the „Slovak Republic Flood Protection Programme by 2010“. The stated material was elaborated in response to significantly increased annual flood damage range and was adopted by the Government of the Slovak Republic by its resolution N°31/2000, with the total costs for flood protection measures amounting to 17,8 billion SKK. „Slovak Republic Flood Protection Programme by 2010“ has been updated after floods in 2002, setting priorities for protection of areas with higher density of inhabitants and those of economic importance (Bratislava, Banská Bystrica and Prešov). Updated „Slovak Republic Flood Protection Programme by 2010“ was approved by the Slovak Republic Government Resolution N°25/2003, stating the overall budget needs to 20,9 billion SKK.

Flood Prevention measures significantly contribute to the prevention of flood damage or even to mitigation and limitation of their scale. Those measures are implemented in accordance with the Programme of Flood Prevention of the Slovak Republic by 2010. The stated material was developed in response to significantly increased annual flood damage range and was adopted by the Government of the Slovak Republic by resolution no. 31/2000, with a total cost of implementing flood prevention measures amounting to 17,8 billion SKK.

Among effective preventive measures established by the Act no. 7/2010, Coll. on flood protection, which transposes the European Parliament and Council Directive 2007/60/EC on the assessment and management of flood risks into the system of legal regulations and which extended the range of preventive measures into flood protection, are the measures in the country.

Table 2 in Annex No.5 shows implementation costs for „Flood Protection Programme by 2010“. Costs for implementation of scientific and technical projects under the “Flood Protection Programme by 2010” are shown in Table 3 in Annex No.5.

Preventive flood protection measures were focused on one hand upon implementation of technical measures and adjustments directly at watercourses, as well as upon measures in river basins to slow down water discharged from the river basin to watercourses. Brief information on preventive measures on flood protection implemented in line with the Flood protection programme SR till 2010 is attached in Annex No. 6.

River basin administrators are responsible for implementing flood protection measures. The major basin administrator in Slovakia is the Slovenský vodohospodársky podnik, š. p., Banská Štiavnica (Slovak Water Management Enterprise, state enterprise, hereinafter as "SVP), managing 38 183 km of rivers in Slovakia, out of which 8 125 km are regulated watercourses, protective levees are built in the length of 3 127 km. Other smaller rivers of 18 717 km are operated by administrators of forest management, military forests and others. 4 247 km of rivers (small rivers operated by forest managers) have not been transferred to SVP, š.p. yet due to unsettled ownership. 2 770 km of dams were build as flood protection for the territory of 4 896 km². The drainage situation of the territory is influenced also by water plants which with their retention as well as accumulative volume transform flood waves. The accumulated water can be used also for economy use (energetic purpose, shipping), social use (recreation, sport), as well as environmental purposes (water management, fishing, use of flows during dry weather). Moreover, SVP, š.p. Banská Štiavnica designed several smaller projects outside of inhabited parts of towns and municipalities (such as polders), which will significantly contribute to solution of flood situations at top parts of watercourses and reduce their occurrence.

Into the effective preventive measures, as defined by the Act no. 7/2010 Coll. on flood protection, by which the European Parliament and Council Directive 2007/60/EC on the assessment and management of flood risks was transposed into the national law and which extended the range of preventive flood protection measures, also the measures in the landscape are included.

Through their implementation, the need of which is also emphasized by the material "Proposed Principles, Policies and General Conditions for Flood Prevention and Mitigation of Flood Risk, Draught Risk and Other Risks of Sudden Natural Disasters and for Integrated River Basins Management", elaborated by the Slovak Government Plenipotentiary for municipal self-government, integrated river basin and landscape management and approved by Slovak Republic Government Resolution No. 556/2010, it is necessary to achieve retention of rainwater and surface waters in the country „in situ“ to the maximum extent, by:

- the implementation of surface anti-erosion measures,
- the implementation of surface measures to increase the retention capacity of the river basin.

In undertaking these measures, the surface watercourses will drain away only the natural water overflow from the river basin.

In financial terms, the largest share of the cost for implementation of the flood prevention measures falls on SVP as the ultimate administrator of Slovakian water courses, that is 18 415 billion SKK (i.e. 611 266 016 EUR).

The Flood Protection Programme of the Slovak Republic until 2010 is served only to a very limited extent. In financial terms, the implementation of this programme compared with the original plan, falls short by more than 6 billion SKK (circa 200 million EUR). Based on the government resolution of the Slovak Republic No. 892/2005, a report regarding the state of eliminating the flood damage, implementing the stated programme until 2010 and regarding

real possibilities of its implementation in following years (until 2015) has been prepared, although has not been discussed by the government of the Slovak Republic.

The „Slovak Republic Flood Protection Programme by 2010“ is being fulfilled in a very limited extent. In financial terms, the implementation of this programme compared with the original plan, falls short by more than 6 billion SKK (circa 200 mil. EUR) already. „The Report on situation in removing damages caused by floods, on situation in accomplishment of Slovak Republic Flood Protection Programme until 2010 and on real possibilities for its accomplishment in the future (until 2015)“ has been prepared, although has not been discussed by the Government of the Slovak Republic.

In order to obtain the current information on flood protection status, the Government of the Slovak Republic on 14 July 2010, adopted a resolution No. 472/2010 to the “Information on the situation arisen in connection with the floods, together with proposals of short and medium term actions and measures”. By this resolution, the Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Regional Development has been obliged to ensure the elaboration of an analysis of the situation in the field of flood protection in the Slovak Republic, including the status of implementation of flood warning and forecasting system and submit it to the Government session.

Above mentioned analysis was approved by the Slovak Governmental resolution No. 179 on March 9, 2011 which obliges the Minister of Environment of the SR to ensure incorporation of the analysis in Flood Risk Management Plans and coordination of proposed measures of Flood protection with measures proposed into updated Basin Management Plans.

~~A part of the analysis of the of the situation in the field of flood protection will form a proposal of measures to ensure progress in this area by the end of 2015, when the flood risk management plans under the Directive 2007/60/EC and Act No. 7/2010 Coll. will be approved.~~

3.4 Analysis on the Level of Priority Axis No. 3 - Air Protection and Minimisation of Adverse Effects of Climate Change

Air protection

The quality of air has an impact on public health as well as the eco-system. A reduced quality of air is a health risks for the population living in the area with insufficient air quality, increasing at the same time the vulnerability of eco-systems. An acceptable air quality, which should not cause health risks or risks for the ecosystem is defined by the European Commission directives on the quality of air.⁸ These directives stipulate the limits (possible

⁸ (Council directive 96/62/EC of 27 September 1996 on ambient air quality assessment and management; Council directive 1999/30/EC of 22 April 1999 relating to limit values for sulphur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide and oxides of nitrogen, particulate matter and lead in ambient air, EP and Council directive 2000/69 of 16 November 2000 relating to limits values for benzene and carbon monoxide in ambient air, EP and council directive 2002/3 of 12 February 2002 relating to ozone in ambient air, EP and Council directive 2004/107/EC of 15 December 2004 relating to arsenic, cadmium, mercury, nickel and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in ambient air.

concentration) of individual air polluting substances (SO₂, NO_x, PM₁₀, ground ozone, and others). As stipulated in the analysis below, in several areas of the country, these limits are transgressed.

The state of air pollution within the Slovak Republic for the period of 2004 – 2006, is graphically presented by the Map Annex No.4.

Ambient air pollution situation

On the territory of Slovakia, there exist ~~at present~~ 20 air quality management areas (see Map Annex No.5) where the limit or target values of polluting substances are exceeded. The ambient air pollution in Slovakia is presented in greater detail in the Annex No.7 which includes the tables with data from monitoring stations, managed by the SHMÚ. From the presented data the following conclusion for individual polluting substances were made:

SO₂

The transgression of the limit values and values increased within the tolerance rate, took place only in 2004 at a single station in Slovakia, namely in Bystričany. With the exception of Trenčín region, other zones and agglomerations maintain the level of air pollution by SO₂ on considerably lower level than stipulated by quotas. In the Trenčín region zone, a high S-based coal is being burned in local facilities as well as in large energetic facilities, which produce electric and heat energy. These are stationary sources of which emission reduction above the EU directive range is necessary. In the Trenčín region, it is crucial to adopt additional measures so as not to increase the concentration of SO₂ in the air; on the contrary, the latter should present a decreasing tendency. This area inhabits 196 500 people (3.64% of the SR population), with an area of 960 km², barely covering 2 % of the Slovak Republic territory.

NO₂

A transgressed value occurred in 2003 at one station in Bratislava Trnavské mýto. In 2004, the values transgressed the limit per annum quotas at one station in Nitra and in 2006 at one station in Trnava. The main reasons for transgressing the quotas are emissions from transport. All three cities are heavily burdened with mobile transportation of which emissions contribute to the transgression of NO₂ limit values. Ambient air pollution from stationary sources in given areas is acceptable, but activities linked to decreasing emissions of NO_x especially from transportation, should become priorities. The above stated 3 areas cover a surface of 540 km², representing 1.1 % of the Slovak Republic territory, with a population of 579 219 inhabitants (10.77 % of the Slovak Republic population). Without the agglomeration of Bratislava, it is an area of 172 km² (0.35% of the Slovak Republic territory), with a population of 153 680 inhabitants (2.86% of the Slovak Republic population).

PM₁₀ (suspended particles with a perimeter < 10 µm)

In 2004, the PM₁₀ particles were monitored on 27 stations, while the PM_{2,5} particles were measured on 6 stations. In 2004, the limit value increased by a tolerance rate was transgressed in all zones and agglomerations. In 2005, the situation was the same. Transgressing the limit values of **PM₁₀** is linked to several sources of pollution, mainly due to secondary dust particles (construction, cleaning of accessible routes and infrastructure), transport emissions (gas emissions especially from petrol motors, emission from the break coverage, bad organization

of transport, etc.) Stationary air pollution sources are not among the most important ones, however local heating facilities contribute to the worsening of the situation.

Specific problem in terms of the PM₁₀ emissions within the Slovak Republic is the fact that transgression of quotas is caused in all aspects of the air quality management mainly due to a synergy of several types of sources. In Annex No.8 you can find 10 – 30 most important operators of stationary sources of air pollution in the air quality management areas. However, based upon results from modelling and assessment of air quality on the territory of Slovakia, the stationary sources of air pollution with high chimneys do not belong among the critical sources which participate in an increased concentration of suspended particles in the air in the given locality. Reducing emissions from stationary sources will not improve the situation (reducing the number of transgressions of emission quotas). The only alternative form of improvement is a complex approach including decrease of pollution not only from stationary sources but also from mobile sources and at the same time not only from point sources of pollution but also the area sources of pollution mainly by the secondary dustiness). In terms of air quality management, this means: transgression of quota for the PM₁₀, in areas with 1 554 681 inhabitants (28.9 % of the population in the SR). Those areas are on the territory of 2928 km², representing 5.97% of the country's territory. Without the Bratislava agglomeration, it is an area of 2560 km² (5.22% of the Slovak territory) with 1 129 240 inhabitants (20.99% of the Slovak population).

Ground-level ozone

In 2004, annual average of the ground-level ozone concentration in Slovak polluted municipal and industrial areas represented an interval of 38-58 µg.m⁻³, and in the remaining areas an interval of 59 - 91 µg.m⁻³, especially based on the sea-level. In 2004, for the entire part of Slovakia and on all measuring stations (with the exception of Ružomberok, Veľká Ida and Žilina), the concentration level for daily hours (9am - 4pm) for the period of 6 months, represented an interval of 90-95 µg.m⁻³. The year 2004 can thus be considered as a photo-chemically active year, based on average values. Additional data for the period of 2003 – 2005 are presented in the Table No.4 in Annex No.7. Based on the fact that the final value of allowed transgression for 2010 is planned for 25 days on average in 3 years, Table No.4 in Annex No.7 outlines that for the majority of the territory, annual quotas will be transgressed, ceteris paribus. One of the possible areas of improvement is supporting the emission of ozone precursors (NO_x, volatile organic compounds – VOC, etc.).

Monitoring air polluting compounds

With regard to respecting national emission quotas and allowed concentration of the above-mentioned polluting substances, it is necessary to have the monitoring stations sufficiently technically equipped. In Slovakia, the National Air Quality Monitoring Network is responsible for monitoring the quality of air. The former is responsible for monitoring the respecting of national emission quotas, stipulated by the EP and Council directive 2001/81/EC of 23 October 2001 on national emission ceilings for certain atmospheric-pollutants.

In Slovakia, the monitoring network is in an insufficient technical state, the presence of Hg in the air is not monitored, conditions for a minimal number of monitoring places in respective zones are not met, conditions for exploiting the data are not met (due to an old monitoring technical equipment), and the quality of obtained results is insufficient (the network is not accredited). Moreover, – the Directive 2008/50/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe tightens the deadlines for fulfilling the quotas and introduces a new value for the PM_{2.5}. Similarly, it stipulates an enlargement of monitoring programme as well as tightening of measures linked to the monitoring of air

~~qualitythe newly proposed Council directive on air quality and a cleaner air in Europe tightens the deadlines for fulfilling the quotas and introduces a new value for the PM_{2.5}. Similarly, it stipulates an enlargement of monitoring programme as well as tightening of measures linked to the monitoring of air quality.~~

Situation in emissions

One of the ways for increasing the quality of air is fulfillment of emission quotas and limits of facilities, defined by the European Commission with respect to air pollution.⁹ Slovakia respects this path and all facilities, falling within the reach of given directives, are or will be in accordance with the latter provisions (including those for which initial transitional periods, which expire by December 31st, 2007, were ensured). Implementation of these directives via investments into technical equipment on reducing emissions (with the aim to fulfill the directives), together with other factors having common impact, will reduce emission of polluting compounds, as stated in the analysis below.

Particulate polluting matters and SO₂

Emission of particulate polluting matters and SO₂ have decreased continuously from 1990 and since 2008, the trend of SO₂ and PM emissions is relatively stable from 1990 been continuously decreasing, which on top of decreased production and usage of energy, caused by a change in fuel base in favour of better-fuel usage with better quality rate. Reduction of emission of particulate matters was also caused by introducing separation method, more precisely its increased efficiency. At the same time, a decreasing trend of SO₂ emission, caused by reducing the usage of brown and black coal, heavy heating oil, by using heating oils with low level of S (Slovnaft) and by installing de-Sulphured facilities within large energy suppliers (electric power-base in Nováky and Vojany). The instability of SO₂ during 2001- 2003 was influenced by partially or complete management of aforementioned sources, quality of burning fuels and production volume. The year 2004 marked a reduction of SO₂ emissions, especially in the case of large energy suppliers, caused mainly by increasing the level of burning low-sulphur heating oils. A small increase of particulate matters emission in 2004 was caused by an increased usage of wood as compared to 2003 in the sector of small sources (households). In Annexes No. 9 and No.10 you can find list of 50 biggest stationary sources of air pollution on the territory of the Slovak Republic. It is important to point out, that in case of the particulate matters these stationary sources are not the majority generators of pollution. In case of SO₂, these belong to the priority sources; however in the Prievidza region also local fire places and small source of air pollution participate in air pollution.

NO_x

The NO_x emissions have a slightly decreasing tendency since 1990. A slight increase of their emissions in 1995 was linked to an increased usage of earth gas. A decrease of NO_x emission after 1996 was caused mainly by an improved state of technique and technology of burning procedures. Reducing the usage of firm fuels since 1997 led to a further decrease of NO_x emissions. Reduction of emission in 2002 and 2003 was mainly caused by de-nitrification (Power station in Vojany). In 2004, the trend of emissions did not undergo any radical

⁹ Directive 2004/42/CE of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 April 2004 on the limitation of emissions of volatile organic compounds due to the use of organic solvents in certain paints and varnishes and vehicle refinishing products and amending Directive 1999/13/EC, Directive 2001/80/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2001 on the limitation of emissions of certain pollutants into the air from large combustion plants, Directive 2000/76/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 4 December 2000 on the incineration of waste and others

changes. In Annex No.11 you can find a list of 50 biggest sources of air pollution by NO_x. In connection with the air quality improvement, it is required to take into account not only stationary sources, but also mobile sources, i.e. transport. Special attention should be given to heavy vehicles (including buses), which generally cause the most pollution.

CO

The CO emissions have since 1990 a decreasing tendency as a result of reducing the usage and of a change in the composition of fuels for small users. The CO emissions from large suppliers decreased only minimally. Steel and iron industry had a major impact on the total CO emissions from large suppliers. Reduction of CO emissions in 1996 was a result of measures on limiting CO emissions within this sector. Instability of the CO emission levels from large sources during 1997-2003 was also linked to the amount of produced raw iron as well as by fuel usage. In 2004, the CO emissions grew, mainly in the case of large sources, yet within the road transportation sector, they marked a decreasing tendency. The latter is linked to a reduction of fuel consumption as well as a continuous renewal of automobile supplies, equipped with a three-way managed catalyst.

Table No. 3.6: Emissions of basic polluting substances (thousand t) in SR during 2000-2004

			2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Particulate matters	Stationary sources – NEIS	Large sources	29,923	29,722	25,037	20,166	17,670
		Middle-range sources	4,958	4,405	3,767	3,259	2,748
		Small sources	19,877	20,550	17,217	18,300	21,504
	Mobile sources	Road transportation	7,648	8,567	8,866	8,910	9,480
		Other transportation	0,399	0,404	0,366	0,329	0,343
	Total		62,805	63,648	55,253	50,964	51,745
SO ₂	Stationary sources – NEIS	Large sources	101,955	109,823	91,461	95,283	87,932
		Middle-range sources	8,083	6,655	3,964	3,620	2,652
		Small sources	16,055	13,764	7,127	6,384	5,382
	Mobile sources	Road transportation	0,670	0,750	0,733	0,750	0,827
		Other transportation	0,189	0,194	0,064	0,059	0,063
	Total		126,952	131,186	103,349	106,096	96,856
NO _x	Stationary sources – NEIS	Large sources	54,485	51,653	46,412	44,605	44,244
		Middle-range sources	8,052	7,751	6,356	6,620	4,926
		Small sources	7,993	8,391	7,137	7,356	7,582
	Mobile sources	Road transportation	33,438	35,719	36,063	34,814	36,443
		Other transportation	4,860	4,899	4,808	4,305	4,506
	Total		108,828	108,413	100,776	97,700	97,701
CO	Stationary sources– NEIS	Large sources	120,609	115,177	122,225	141,047	147,317
		Middle-range sources	10,779	10,280	9,150	9,394	7,531
		Small sources	53,792	50,178	33,815	33,811	34,753
	Mobile sources	Road transportation	120,190	131,954	119,757	116,050	111,602
		Other transportation	1,719	1,626	1,591	1,463	1,509
	Total		307,089	309,215	286,538	301,765	302,712

Source: Report on air quality and shares of individual sources in its pollution in SR. The Slovak Hydro meteorological Institute (SHMÚ), 2005

The trend for the reduction of emissions of basic polluting substances continued in the coming years, not only due to the decrease in production, but also due to the implementation of measures to reduce emissions from stationary sources of pollution (investment in equipment) as well as measures to reduce emissions from transport. However, year on year fluctuations were recorded. Due to many factors influencing the development of emissions it is necessary to take further measures to reduce them.

Emissions of other polluting substances

Data on emissions of non-methane volatile organic compounds (NMVOC) and heavy metals in the Slovak Republic are presented in Tables No. 4 and No. 5 in Annex No.5.

As mentioned above, the reduction of polluting substance emissions took place also thanks to the application of directives in respective sources of pollution. Moreover, all sources of air pollution met the requirements of the European Commission directives and by December 31st, 2007 must all sources of pollution which are subjects of these directives, fully comply with them. Consequently, the technical infrastructure with regard to respecting emission quotas, defined by directives, is sufficient. However, since the latter did not secure an improvement of air quality to an extent where air concentration limits which endanger public health and eco-system, would be respected, Slovakia (as well as other EU Member States) will have to take further measures, including another improvement of infrastructure of sources of air pollution, which currently fulfil emission limits.

National emission quotas

Slovak national emission quotas for SO₂, NO_x, volatile organic compounds (VOC) and NH₃, were set by the Council directive 2001/81/EC of 23 October 2001 on national emission ceilings for certain atmospheric pollutants, as well as by national regulations.¹⁰ Although currently Slovak Republic respects the given quotas, based on the Thematic Strategy on Air Pollution, tighter quotas are to be set.

It is not possible to reach such significant decrease of emissions without additional measures and investments into sources of air pollution, either stationary or mobile ones, which at present fulfil emission quotas or operational conditions.

Minimising adverse effects of climate change

The Slovak Republic's share on the global anthropogenic emission of green house gases represents about 0.2 %. Annual CO₂ emission per capita represents ~~currently~~ 7.7 t/per annum, placing Slovak Republic among states with the highest measurable emission rates in Europe.

The total level of green house gas emissions, presented as CO₂ equivalents, decreased in 2000 as compared to the 1990 base year by almost 33 % (including the LULUCF data – „Land use -Land use change and forestry“), enabling thus to conclude that the Kyoto protocol conditions will be successfully met, given the realization and securing of appropriate measures.

¹⁰ Act No. 137/2010 Coll. on air protection as amended by Act No 318/2012 Coll. 478/2002 from June 25, 2002 on air protection which complements Act No. 401/1998 Coll. on fines for air pollution as stated in subsequent regulations, MoE SR decision No. 131/2006 Coll. which sets national emission quotas and the total amount of quotas for polluting compounds as amended by the MoE SR decision No. 203/2008 Coll., decision No. 159/2010 Coll. and decision No. 52/2012 Coll.

Aggregated green house gas emissions slightly increased in 2003 as compared to 2002 by 1.5%, representing more than 700 Gg (stated without LULUCF emission rates). However, compared to the 1990 base year, green house emission rates mark a significant decrease by 20 465 Gg, which is approximately 28 % (without the LULUCF data). The most important share on green house emissions is linked to the energy field, representing almost an 80 % share in 2003. The industrial processes and agriculture contribute together to total greenhouse gases emissions by approximately 8 % and the waste sector contributes by 4 %. The percentages represent CO₂ emissions in aggregated equivalents.

Table No. 3.7: Aggregated emissions of green house gases according to sectors (CO₂ equivalent [Tg]) in SR during 1990-2003

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Energy*	58,95	51,14	47,35	44,47	41,46	42,76	43,36	43,57	41,89	39,01	39,4	42,29	41,9	40,8	40,15
Industrial procedures**	4,26	3,37	3,35	3,04	3,36	3,56	3,60	3,75	4,37	3,71	3,91	4,11	3,99	3,99	4,85
Usage of paint thinners	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,01	0,03	0,06	0,06	0,08
Agriculture	8,06	6,89	5,87	5,13	4,94	5,10	4,89	4,76	4,33	4,10	4,14	4,22	4,13	4,02	3,86
LULUCF	-2,41	-3,46	-4,12	-4,25	-3,28	-2,67	-2,42	-1,40	-1,92	-1,62	-2,39	-5,21	-5,23	-4,81	-4,23
Waste	2,09	2,03	1,99	1,91	1,92	1,93	2,11	1,93	1,80	1,82	1,92	1,86	2,13	2,22	2,08

Emission rates as of 15.4.2006 *including Transport **Including F-gases

Source: Report on air quality and shares of individual sources in its pollution in SR. The Slovak Hydro meteorological Institute (SHMÚ), 2005

Green house gases emissions reached the highest level by the end of the 80s. The period of 1990-1994 marked a 25 % decrease; since 1994 emissions have more or less been stagnating but in 2000, a significant decrease was recorded. In past years, emission rates slightly increased, given the renaissance of industrial production, transportation and a change of fuel base.

Re-reduction of greenhouse gas emissions after 2008 is related to the recession in the industry caused by the economic crisis and gas crisis of early 2008.

In 2004, the total green house emission rates represented 51 046,16 Gg , not including data from Land-use - Land-use change and forestry (LULUCF), presenting a decrease with regard to the 1990 base year by almost 30 % (22 000 Gg). Emissions, referred to as net emissions, including data from the LULUCF sector, represented 46 795,27 Gg in 2004. Compared to 2003, the total emissions without the LULUCF sector decreased by 50 Gg, which represents 1 %.¹¹

Table No. 3.8: Aggregated¹² anthropogenic green house gases (CO₂ equivalent [Tg]) in SR during 1990-2004¹³

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Net CO ₂	58,1	48,6	44,2	41,1	39,1	41,1	42,0	43,3	41,7	41,0	38,5	38,7	36,7	37,5	38,2
CO ₂ *	60,5	52,1	48,4	45,4	42,4	43,8	44,4	44,7	43,6	42,6	40,9	43,9	41,9	42,4	42,5
CH ₄	6,4	5,9	5,5	5,1	5,0	5,2	5,2	5,0	4,7	4,6	4,5	4,5	4,6	4,6	4,3
N ₂ O	6,1	5,2	4,5	3,9	4,1	4,2	4,2	4,3	3,9	3,8	3,8	4,1	3,9	4,0	4,1
HFCs, PFCs, SF ₆	0,27	0,27	0,25	0,16	0,14	0,15	0,08	0,11	0,08	0,09	0,10	0,11	0,13	0,17	0,19

¹¹ Report on the air quality and individual sources on its pollution in the Slovak Republic, <http://www.shmu.sk>

¹² Aggregated green house gases emissions presented as the CO₂ equivalent, counted by the GWP100 rate (Global warming potential - methane GWP=21, N₂O GWP=310, F-gases GWP=140-23 900)

¹³ Emissions for 2004 have not yet been subject to a thorough UNFCCC analysis

Total (with net CO ₂)	71,0	60,0	54,5	50,3	48,4	50,7	51,5	52,6	50,5	49,5	47,0	47,3	45,3	46,3	46,8
Total*	73,4	63,5	58,6	54,6	51,7	53,4	54,0	54,0	52,4	51,2	49,4	52,5	50,5	51,1	51,0

Emission rates as of 15.4.2006

Emissions not including data from the LULUCF sector (Land use-Land use change and forestry)

Source: Report on air quality and shares of individual sources in its pollution in SR. The Slovak Hydro meteorological Institute (SHMÚ), 2005

Developments in the years 2005-2009 had still slightly decreasing character, with a more significant reduction in 2009.

Table No. 3.9: Total emissions and CO₂ [Gg] data in SR during 1990-2004

	1990	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Net CO₂	58 131	41 145	41 967	43 260	41 710	40 994	38 521	38 671	36 702	37 529	38 247
CO₂*	60 537	43 841	44 389	44 662	43 649	42 630	40 924	43 896	41 945	42 362	42 498
Burning Phosphor - fuels	57 053	41 062	41 628	41 803	40 089	39 010	37 666	40 563	38 551	39 183	38 593
Energy industry	51 982	36 685	37 186	37 196	35 136	34 191	33 345	35 669	33 513	34 035	33 153
Transport	5 071	4 377	4 441	4 607	4 953	4 819	4 321	4 894	5 038	5 148	5 440
Industrial procedure	3 484	2 779	2 761	2 859	3 560	3 620	3 102	3 198	3 251	3 039	3 757
Mineral products	2 942	2 342	2 250	2 331	3 032	3 052	2 522	2 590	2 602	2 336	2 982
Leads production	542	437	512	528	528	567	580	608	649	703	775
LULUCF	-2 407	-2 696	-2 422	-1 402	-1 939	-1 636	-2 403	-5 225	-5 243	-4 833	-4 251
Forests	-4 454	-4 399	-3 968	-2 717	-3 130	-2 800	-4 318	-5 551	-5 641	-5 156	-3 995
Agricultural lands	3 287	2 063	2 063	3 226	1 798	1 711	4 394	1002	1 174	1 416	-14
Meadows	536	256	93	-50	70	-126	797	-880	-874	-1 363	-373
Other countryside	-1 775	-615	-609	-1861	-677	-420	-1 682	204	98	269	132
Waste	IE	IE	IE	IE	IE	IE	156	135	143	140	148
Burning of waste	IE	IE	IE	IE	IE	IE	156	135	143	140	148
Biomass burning**	314	326	316	349	303	269	263	417	508	555	582
International supplies**	NE	38	44	39	36	37	37	35	37	48	65

Emission rates as of April 15, 2006

* CO₂ emissions not including data from the LULUCF (Land use-Land use change and forestry) sector

**Emissions not part of total national emissions

Source: Report on air quality and shares of individual sources in its pollution in SR. The Slovak Hydro meteorological Institute (SHMÚ), 2005

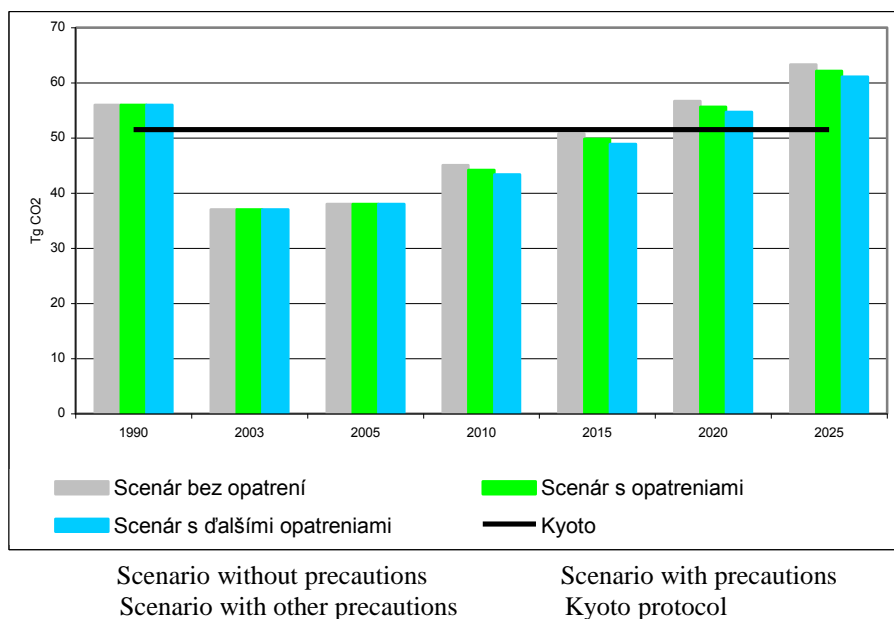
Developments in the period 2005-2009 show the progressive slight decrease in total emissions and CO₂.

Projection of CO₂ emissions from burning and transformation of fossil fuels¹⁴

Results of modelling CO₂ emissions according to state scenarios are presented in graph No. 3.1.

Graph No. 3.1: Scenarios of CO₂ production, not including the LULUCF sector

¹⁴ Fourth national report of the SR on climate change, 2005



Results of the scenarios are compared with the 92% level of CO₂ emission generation from burning and transformation of fossil fuels for the year 1990. Based on modelling results, it is clear that the Kyoto protocol requirements can be realistically met for all scenarios by 2010, including the without-precautions scenario.

Despite the significant decrease in CO₂ emissions, which is also related to a decrease in energy consumption during the recession, updated national projections of greenhouse gas emissions necessary confirm the growing trend related to the expected recovery in the industry and gain in new resources.

Expected economic growth dynamic will lead to a further CO₂ emission growth while for a further decrease of emission generation within the actual strategic goal of the EU- a 20% reduction by 2020 as compared to the level in 1990 is expected. The Slovak Republic will have to define and use a wider range of measures for the CO₂ emission in order for their implementation to take place. Taken into account the above, it is important to decrease greenhouse gases emission in order to ameliorate the quality of air.

3.5 Analysis at the Level of Priority Axis 4 - Waste Management

Waste generation

Tab. 3.10 shows the basic characteristic of waste generation in SR with amounts of waste which is not treated at the place of its production. Map Annex No.6 shows waste produced in individual regions of Slovakia.

Tab 3.10: Waste production in SR in 2004

Waste category	Amount (tons)
Hazardous	561 247
Other	8 809 928
Thereof municipal	1 558 263
Total	10 929 438

Source: Slovak Environmental Agency (SAŽP), Regional Waste Information System (RISO), 2006

Municipal waste

According to the Slovak Statistical Institute, 1 558 263 tons of municipal waste were generated in 2005 in Slovakia, i.e. **289 kg of municipal waste per year per capita**, by average. The largest volume of municipal waste is generated in the Bratislava region (433 kg per capita) and in the Trnava Region (399 kg per capita). In both regions the trend in generation of the municipal waste has an increasing tendency, in Bratislava itself the waste generation was 455 kg per inhabitant. The smallest amount of municipal waste is generated in the Košice region (211 kg per capita) and the Prešov region (204 kg per capita). Most of it, 92%, is being disposed. Recovery of municipal waste reaches only 3 %. For a long time, the most often method used for the municipal waste management (79 %) has been waste landfilling.

Separate waste collection

According to the Slovak Statistical Office, the amount of 16 kg of separated waste from municipal waste per 1 inhabitant means ever growing, but still insufficient level of separate collection of municipal waste. Insufficient structure of waste management allowing separation of several commodities from municipal waste, low environmental awareness and generally low interest in environmental issues are, among others, the main reasons of separate collection. Municipal sphere does not possess sufficient funds, when the most of the separate collection systems being build with state subsidies and loans.

Inventory of separated waste collection facilities was made within the project entitled „Participation of municipalities and towns in separated waste collection and recovery of waste“. The project showed that 1 631 municipalities with 4 317 760 inhabitants participated in separated waste collection, i.e. 80% of the overall number of inhabitants. Data from the project are given in tab 3.14.

Tab 3.11: Separated waste collection data

<i>Number of separated fractions</i>	<i>Number of municipalities</i>	<i>Number of inhabitants</i>
1	386	506 000
2	438	999 000
3	496	506 485
4	301	1 270 206
5	10	35 000

Source: Recycling Fund, project „Participation of municipalities and towns in separated waste collection and recovery of waste“, 2004

Separate collection objectives defined in the Waste Management Programme of the Slovak Republic for years 2006-2010 set 50 kg of separated municipal waste per capita, in 2010. The current situation in separate collection of municipal waste shows significant regional disparities, In Bratislava region, 40,32 kg of municipal waste was separated per capita in 2005, whereas in Prešov and Košice region were the weakest ones, where less than 10 kg of separated municipal waste per capita was collected.

Biodegradable waste

Biodegradable waste can be split to that from municipal sphere, i.e. separately collected fractions of municipal waste (Category in Waste Catalogue (chapter) 20 01) and waste from Category in Waste Catalogue (chapter) 20 02, and other biodegradable waste, such as sludge and biodegradable waste from certain industries (e.g. Category in Waste Catalogue (chapter) 2 and 19). Recovery of biodegradable waste is in Slovakia currently not reaching EU levels. Nevertheless, biodegradable waste is generated in large amounts and at several sources. Compost may be produced from large number of waste in aerobic processes, using several „recipes“ for different compositions of the input material.

Options offered by anaerobic fermentation of biodegradable waste, when biogas (with methane as the main component) is produced, have not been sufficiently used in Slovakia, so far. Biogas stations, often build next to wastewater treatment plants (WWTP) for sludge stabilization, are still missing. Biogas stations as part of waste management infrastructure could improve the situation in disposal of sludge, which is a waste generated in large volumes (WWTP waste).

Stringent conditions for disposal of biodegradable waste (including animal waste) create room for more positive approach to these wastes and their recovery. Therefore, potential offered by the latest technologies should be utilized, mainly of those available currently for industrial composting.

Selected hazardous waste

Health care waste

Health care waste (waste in Waste Catalogue Category (chapter) 18 01), with regard to its occurrence and hazardous features, require specific approach. Waste belonging to Category in Waste Catalogue (chapter) 18 01 is mainly generated in hospitals and polyclinics, specialized health care facilities (sanatoria), spas and in growing number of private ambulances that are often located outside hospitals. Increased production of this type of waste should mainly be connected with concentration of people in region and larger district towns (Bratislava, Trnava, Nitra, Trenčín, Lučenec, Banská Bystrica, Žilina, Prievidza, Rimavská Sobota, Prešov, Poprad, Trebišov), with hospitals and polyclinics with more than 500 beds, or in spas (Piešťany, Smrdáky, Trenčianske Teplice, Bojnice, Sklené Teplice, Dudince, Nimnica, Rajecké Teplice, Turčianske Teplice, Sliač, Kováčová, Lúčky, Korytnica, Brusno, Číž, Štrbské Pleso, Vyšné Ružbachy, Štós and Bardejov).

Incineration is the most often used method for treatment of waste belonging to Category 18 01 in Waste Catalogue (chapter). Smaller volume of these waste is landfilled (only those specified in 18 01 01 and 18 01 04), and part of waste from category 18 01 01 is recovered by recycling of metals. Other disposal methods are used only rarely. Currently, large portion of waste belonging to Category in Waste Catalogue (chapter) 18 01 is incinerated in technically outdated facilities that are gradually being decommissioned. Decreasing number of waste incineration facilities for waste in category 18 01 require from producers to seek for alternative solutions to dispose these. For the future, it is required to reconstruct the existing inconvenient facilities incinerating waste from health care facilities.

Waste containing polychlorinated biphenyl's (PCB) and other persistent organic pollutants (POPs)

PCB waste

In 1959-1984 in Slovakia was produced 21 500 tons of PCBs which were used in the former Czechoslovakia for production of condensers, coating compositions as well as thermal media.

Based upon a wide inventory control (in 2000 and 2002) it can be assumed that there exist approximately 3 500 tons of PCBs at the territory of Slovakia (1000 tons from production, 1000 tons in closed systems and 1500 tons various waste polluted by PCB). Further 900 tons of PCB waste is probably at the landfill Pláne.

Equipment with PCB needs to be destroyed or decontaminated in Slovakia by 2010. Majority of these are still in use and being decommissioned gradually, depending on their lifespan and conditions at the Slovak market. The equipment differs in characteristics regarding its manipulation and disposal method. At present the method of disposal of waste with PCB is in the incineration plant for hazardous waste in Slovakia.

Chlorinated POPs pesticides

The overall volume of pesticides registered during inventory in SR was approximately 300 tons (as of 25.7.2005). If financial support would be allocated within the state budget for disposal of these pollutants (financially costly), higher volume of these can be expected to be disclosed. Therefore, in order to protect the environment it is required to finally solve this issue. Gradually, information on location of „storage facilities“ of different chemicals (pesticides) in former farms and state farms is being updated. These sites are a potential risk of pollutants leakage from unsecured storage facilities that are often easily accessible.

Waste recovery

Material waste recovery

Infrastructure for waste recovery improved in 2002 – 2005, though the situation is still not fully complying with EU requirements for this sector. This is also proved by a very brief evaluation of waste disposal split by the below given commodities, or waste from these commodities (based on the data from Waste Management Programme until 2005). Main reason for insufficient level reached in recovery is mainly the fact, that major investment flows were directed to waste disposal in past. This trend, though, changed recently and majority of funds (including state subsidies) is invested to waste recovery infrastructure. In 2005, 44% of the overall volume of waste was recovered. Pursuant to the Waste Management Programme of the Slovak Republic for years 2006 - 2010, the target is to recover 70% of waste, by 2010. Map Annex No.7 shows the situation in waste recovery split by regions of the Slovak Republic.

Map Annex No.8 shows the situation in constructing waste recovery facilities in 2002-2006.

Energy recovery of waste

In 2005, 306 109 tons of waste were used for energy recovery in the Slovak Republic, representing about 3% from the overall volume of generated waste. The growing trend of using waste as energy recovery source is mainly to use waste as replacement of fossil fuels for co-burning in cement kilns. Both municipal waste incinerators operated in Slovakia use energy for production of heat, nevertheless these are still waste disposal facilities, i.e. no energy recovery of waste in this case.

Currently, only biogas stations are using biogas from waste recovery facilities, which process agriculture waste. Using biogas from landfills makes no sense in Slovakia with regard to the area and size of landfills. Landfill operators though are obliged by law to measure landfill gasses and based on the results to decide whether use these as energy recovery source; otherwise they are obliged to burn the generated landfill gas. By 2008, it will be obligatory to capture landfill gas from all biodegradable waste landfills.

Currently, no specific data are available in Slovakia on biogas utilization generated in facilities for biodegradable waste recovery and landfills (to be addressed in a new legislation)

Waste disposal

Waste management infrastructure for waste disposal mainly comprise of landfills and incinerators. Therefore, objectives for waste disposal infrastructure mainly focused on reconstruction of existing municipal waste incinerators, completion of incinerators for disposal of hazardous waste and health waste, completion of landfills in regions where capacities were insufficient, transfer stations and other facilities for alternative waste disposal methods. It will be important, mainly in the area of hazardous waste disposal, to complete terminal equipment, as many of the existing landfills (hazardous waste landfills and incinerators for disposal of hazardous waste) have to end their operations due to failure to comply with the European legislation. Production of hazardous waste in individual regions of Slovakia is graphically shown in Map Annex No.9 while Map Annex No.10 shows the situation in the hazardous waste recovery. Map Annex No.11 shows situation in the area of hazardous waste disposal in individual regions of Slovakia.

Landfilling

Tab 3.12: Landfilling development in SR

Year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Volume of landfilled waste in mil. tons	3,8	3,7	3,3	3,3	4,6
Share from the overall volume of waste [%]	24,1	23,3	24,3	17,4	48,3
Thereof: municipal waste in mil. tons	1,4	1,1	1,2	1,2	1,2
Portion of the overall volume of generated municipal waste [%]	85	89,1	87,6	78,5	86,0

Source: Slovak Environmental Agency (SAŽP), Regional Waste Information System (RISO), 2005

The share of landfilled waste from the overall volume of waste (regardless to category) is in long-term almost stable, although the volume of landfilled waste is gradually dropping. In 2005, approximately 26% of waste of all categories was landfilled. Landfilling of municipal waste prevails. In 2005, approximately 80% of the overall amount of generated municipal waste was landfilled. The necessity to landfill such high volume of waste is driven by two major facts:

- High volume of mixed municipal waste due to still low waste separation
- Low volume of municipal waste is incinerated, and therefore landfilled is also mixture of combustible (high content of organic carbon)

In 2005, there were 163 landfills in Slovakia, 13 thereof landfills for hazardous waste, 132 landfills for non-hazardous waste (also used as landfills for municipal waste) and 18 landfills for inert waste.

Waste incineration

In Slovakia, municipal and industrial sphere are using the waste incineration, though evaluation of Waste Management Programme objectives accomplishment was proved less successful.

Municipal waste incinerators

Incineration facilities for municipal sphere are only incinerators in Bratislava and Košice. Reconstruction of Bratislava incinerator, in order to meet air pollution limits, significantly

improved air quality in the city. In 2004, almost 130 000 tons of municipal waste from Bratislava was incinerated there. The residual slag represented approximately 26,6% of the incinerated waste weight (34 000 tons). Then, iron scrap is separated from the slag by magnetic separation (in 2004, approximately 2 300 tons was separated). Incinerator in Košice was also under reconstruction, and currently is this incineration facility operated as „facility for waste energy recovery – the so called thermo-valorisation“. Heat generated in both incinerators is further used.

Tab 3.13: Share of municipal waste incineration on the overall waste disposal in SR

Year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Volume of incinerated municipal waste in mil. tons	0,2	0,08	0,06	0,07	0,07
Portion of the overall volume of waste in %	1,24	0,55	0,44	0,40	0,43

Source: Slovak Environmental Agency (SAŽP), Regional Waste Information System (RISO), 2005

Industrial waste incinerators

Industrial waste is incinerated in 18 incinerators in Slovakia, technical level of which did not changed during the accomplishment of the Waste Management Programme till 2005. Air pollution caused by emissions from these technically outdated waste incinerators (most of them) is still a problem.

Tab 3.14: Share of industrial waste incineration on the overall waste disposal in SR

Year	2000	2001	2002	2003*	2004*
Volume of incinerated industrial waste in mil. tons	0,60	0,90	1,2	0,43	0,43
Portion of the overall volume of waste in %	4,40	5,45	8,58	17,8 (8,30)	17,8 (7,58)

Source: Slovak Environmental Agency (SAŽP), Regional Waste Information System (RISO), 2005

Health care waste incinerators

In Slovakia, the overall number of incinerators disposing waste from health care facilities that are generators of waste of Category in Waste Catalogue (chapter) 18 01 is gradually dropping due to the meeting the requirements of the Directive 200/76/EC. Only 7 health care waste incinerators operating in hospitals with polyclinics meet the technical requirements.

Map Annex No.12 shows the situation in waste management in 2002-2006.

Removal of old environmental burden and closure and rehabilitation of landfills

Based on studies and estimates, there are approximately 30 000 potential old environmental burdens in Slovakia, many of which (approx. 5%) are a serious danger to both human health and ecosystem. These are mainly industrial areas with long-term concealed and uncontrolled leakage of hazardous substances, large agricultural farms, railway depots, uncontrolled dumps of hazardous waste, unsecured storage facilities of pesticides, fuels and other hazardous matters, pollution caused by army, mining and other activities where hazardous waste was treated for long time in uncontrolled manner. These pollutants persist in the environment, contaminating its parts and obviously affecting health status of people living in the neighborhood.

Addressing the issue of environmental burdens became important mainly in early 1990s in relation to removal of contaminated sites after the departure of ancient Soviet Army. The issue of environmental burdens was one of the objectives of “large-scale privatization” process, when the obligation to evaluate the environmental obligations for a company was set

and, in case of pollution, the environmental damage was quantified. However, the application of obligations under the Act. 92/1991 Coll. did not create a framework to acquire reliable data on the state of the environment in the period of the change of ownership from the state to the private property. Moreover, the environmental debt was not taken into account when contracting.

Analysis of valid legislation shows that though there are several legislative regulations related to the issue of environmental burdens, ~~– but none of them defines a comprehensive approach that would provide a general, unified mandatory and detailed rule. Therefore, MoE SR commenced to draft a law on environmental burdens, including executing legislation and methodologies, which could be adopted in the first half of 2008, pursuant to the Government Plan of Legislative Tasks.~~ the following two legislative acts are most important for remedying environmental burdens:

- Act no. 384/2009 Coll. amending and supplementing Act no. 364/2004 Coll. on the waters and amending Act of the Slovak National Council no. 372/1990 Coll. on offenses, (the Water Act), as amended, and amending and supplementing Act no. 569/2007 Coll. on geological works (Geological Act) as amended by Act no. 515/2008 Coll.;
- Act no. 409/2011 Coll. on certain measures in relation to environmental burdens and on the amendment of certain acts.

Act no. 384/2009 Coll., with effect from 1 November 2009, introduced the definitions of "environmental burden" and "remediation of environmental burdens" into Slovak legislation, but it did not include addressing the issue of responsibility for the environmental burden, which was crucial to ensure compliance with the "polluter pays principle".

Act no. 409/2011 Coll., with effect from 1 January 2012, resolved this issue, as it defines: a) the rights and obligations of persons when identifying the environmental burden, b) way of defining the obliged person in the field of environmental burden, c) the rights and obligations of the polluter, the obliged person and the ministry, whose competency is related to the activity that led to the emergence of environmental burden, d) the competence of state administration in the field of environmental burdens, and e) sanctions for breach of duties under this Act.

The issue of environmental burdens removal is discussed in many environmental strategic documents. The latest one entitled „State Program of Environmental Burdens Remediation (2010 – 2015)“ was adopted by Slovak Government's Resolution no. 153/2010.

During the years 2006 – 2008, on behalf of Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic, the Slovak Environment Agency conducted a systematic identification of environmental burdens and the State Program of Environmental Burdens Remediation (2010 – 2015) was adopted in 2010. Both steps are necessary for the process of addressing the issue of environmental burdens and their remediation. Environmental burdens and information on these burdens concerning their location and risk analysis are stored in the Environmental Burdens Information System that is constantly updated by the Slovak Environment Agency.~~„Investment Strategy for Removal of Old Environmental Burdens in Slovakia“~~ was adopted in December 2005.

~~Database of old mines, Old environmental burdens Registry, database of brown sites, database of potential pollution sources in the district of Michalovce, database of old environmental burdens in the district of Dunajská Streda, Registry of landfills, old environmental burdens~~

~~information system—model territory of the district of Piešťany, maps of environmental geofactors, and other projects focusing on survey and monitoring of environmental burdens, are important sources of input data to address the issue of old environmental burdens. Though, the analysis of information showed that databases and registries are not compatible and different approaches to the assessment of environmental burdens were used in their preparation. Moreover, databases contain data that are incompatible with regard to time and content, which resulted in the necessity to create a reliable database in order to successfully manage the issue of environmental burdens. Old environmental burdens information system is supposed to be the data source, which the MoE SR commenced to create in May 2006. Information system will be based on systematic identification of environmental burdens in Slovakia, which will be completed by end 2008. Classification of environmental burdens will be another part of the process and will be based on their preliminary risk assessment. This activity will result in a list of priorities that will be the base for selection of projects from 2009. In 2007–2008, selection of projects will be based on priorities set in the „Investment Strategy for Removal of Old Environmental Burdens in Slovakia“.~~

Based on comprehensive analysis, the current situation in the issue of old environmental burdens can be characterised as follows:

- Insufficient focus on the old environmental burdens issue during privatization
- ~~Absence~~ Recent absence of legislation governing old environmental burdens
- ~~Absence~~ Recent absence of good information system on old environmental burdens
- Insufficient funds in the State budget of the Slovak Republic to remedy old environmental burdens endangering the environment, absence of financial mechanisms to address old environmental burdens
- Lack of projects for remediation of old environmental burdens based on objective evaluation of pollution, their health and environmental risks and financial requirements for their remedy
- Insufficient social and political recognition of the issue of old environmental burdens

~~Key problems calling for immediate action lie in the establishment of a legal framework for environmental burdens issue, in the implementation of a thorough environmental burdens inventory control throughout the territory of Slovakia, in the establishment of an environmental burdens information system, in the definition of criteria for prioritising and development of national priority list and continued implementation of research, monitoring and regeneration work in locations recommended for priority treatment in relation to disposable financial sources.~~

~~In the case of contaminated sites an environmental burdens, the “polluter pays” principle may not be applied”, since the responsible person is unknown, or ceased to exist without a legal successor. These are locations the state has to take care of. Since the state budget lacks funds for the given issues solution, support of activities within operational objective “Solution of Environmental Burdens” would significantly help improve the Slovak environment and remove barriers of further development in impacted regions. Estimated cost of the riskiest environmental burdens removal represents SKK 8,4 billion.~~

A landfill is considered to represent an environmental burden only if causing contamination of surrounding environmental components. In such case, it is not enough to close and regenerate a landfill. It is necessary to prevent contamination spread and redevelop contaminated areas to prevent detrimental impact on human health and the environment.

3.6 Analysis at the Level of Priority Axis 5 - Protection and Regeneration of Natural Environment and Landscape

Protected species of plants and animals and protected habitats

Despite its small area, from European point of view the Slovak Republic possess high number of protected species. Their definitions, lists and protection system were harmonized with the EU legislation during the accession process (terms such as „Habitat of European Importance“ and its „favorable situation“ were introduced to the national legislation). Moreover, the methods for establishment and operation of ZOOs and regulation of trade with endangered species of plants and animals (CITES) were harmonized.

Of the overall number of 12 541 **species of flora** in Slovakia, 1 368 are protected. Among protected species belong 518 species of European importance that including 51 species of flora of European importance that are naturally occurring in Slovakia. There are 2 632 risk taxons, 156 of extinct taxons (source: Ministry of Environment of Slovak Republic, Environmental Report, 2006). Conservation programs were prepared for 26 species (as of 31.12.2005)¹⁵. Annex II to CITES lists 110 species that are subject to special regime in international trade.

Of the overall number of 24 511 types of **animals animate in Slovakia**, 754 taxons are protected (742 species and 12 genus). Among protected species belong 257 species of European importance from annex of the Biotope Directive, including 164 species of European importance, naturally living in Slovakia. From species that are mentioned in annexes of the Bird Directive, there are 111 species of birds of European importance living in Slovakia. Extinct are 40 taxons, 2 078 are at risk (source: Ministry of Environment of Slovak Republic, Environmental Report, 2006), conservation programmes were prepared for 13 of these (situation as of 31.12.2005)¹⁶. Fragmentation and decrease of species habitats are the main peril factors; invasive flora is a special jeopardy. Appendices I and II to CITES list 65 original taxons of animals.

National red lists were prepared for higher and lower taxons of flora, vertebrate and selected groups of non-vertebrate; database is missing particularly for non-vertebrate, but insufficient knowledge is also on other species, such as fishes, or gene-bank of original species of fauna and flora.

Habitats of Community Importance became a new element in the nature protection, for which the EU member states designate protected areas. The term „Habitat of European Importance“ and its „favorable situation“ were introduced to the national legislation during the accession process, including the list of types of natural habitats of European importance.

Habitat Directive lists 208 types of natural habitats, thereof 66 occur in Slovakia, and 22 thereof are priority. Besides habitats of European importance, also 25 habitats of national importance are protected, as well as 480 trees or alleys that are of cultural, scientific, ecologic, landscape, esthetical or another importance and were declared as protected trees.

¹⁵ *Alkana tinctoria*, *Colchicum arenarium*, *Ferula sadleriana*, *Fritillaria meleagris*, *Herminium monorchis*, *Liparis loeselii*, *Peucedanum arenarium*, *Artemisia austriaca*, *Astragalus asper*, *Dactylorhiza ochroleuca*, *Groenlandia densa*, *Lathyrus transsilvanicus*, *Onosma tornense*, *Spiranthes spiralis*, *Drosera anglica*, *Lycopodiella inundata*, *Ophrys holubyana*, *Orchis coriophora* subsp. *coriophora*, *Rhynchospora alba*, *Scheuchzeria palustris*, *Anacamptis pyramidalis*, *Carex chordorrhiza*, *Orchis elegans*, *O. palustris*, *Pulsatilla pratensis* subsp. *flavescens* and *Pulsatilla zimmermanii*.

¹⁶ *Otis tarda*, *Aquila heliaca*, *Emys orbicularis*, *Lutra lutra*, *Rupicapra rupicapra tatrica*, *Crex crex*, *Aquila chrysaetos*, *Aquila pomarina*, *Falco peregrinus*, *Falco cherrug*, *Marmota marmota*, *Umbra crameri* and *Parnassius apollo*.

There are several reasons for jeopardy to types and habitats of both European and national importance, the main (possible) is the loss or fragmentation of their occurrence, change of their characteristics due to human activities, and other factors. It should be noted in this regard that data is missing for many species for detailed analysis of the current situation, trends, possible risks and identification of adequate systematic measures. Only limited monitoring of species and habitats has been (for selected species) realised, so far.

Protected areas

Protected areas cover 23% of the country area, with second to fifth protection levels applied. Together with the territories Slovak Republic proposed in 2004 to the EC to be included to the continuous European network of protected areas (NATURA 2000), protected areas cover 36% of the overall Slovak territory. Besides, there are 13 wetlands of international importance pursuant to the Ramsar Convention in Slovakia, 4 biosphere reservations within UNESCO programme and 2 areas were awarded the European Diploma by the Council of the Europe.

Tab 3.15: Number and size of protected areas by individual categories (as of 31.12.2004)

Protected area category	Number	Size (ha)	Size of protected area (ha)
Protected landscape area	14	522 581,5	-
National Park	9	317 889,9	270 127,6
Protected site	181	5 201,9	2 419,1
National natural reservation	219	83 711,9	2 810,2
Natural reservation	381	12 400,4	233,3
Private natural reservation	2	51,7	-
National natural monument	60	58,9	42,5
Natural monument	230	1 546,1	207,7

Note: 4 957 caves and 179 natural water flows also belong to natural monuments.

Source: Ministry of Environment of Slovak Republic, State of the Environment Report of the Slovak Republic, 2005

As shown in table and maps in Map Annex No.13, the share of protected areas differ in regions. With regard to land cultivation, ownership is important. These facts form a framework for regional priorities, which will be further specified in management programmes.

Protected areas (regardless to individual categories) are located in forests (86%) and agricultural land (10%), 12% are water surfaces and 2% are other surfaces.

The main problem with regard to protected areas is their degradation and endangerment, insufficient and inadequate care, or inappropriate utilization and ineffective application of certain nature protection tools (Management and Conservation Programmes). Another problem are missing information on species and habitats for which these were designated, individual site and other data needed for drafting strategic document on their care. Moreover, there is lack of communication with owners and users of protected areas, who don't always support nature protection interests. There are several reasons for that, e.g. the way how protected areas were designated until 1989, not taking into account private (or non-state) ownership. Underestimation of the public and communication with the stakeholders, for example in proposing and designating NATURA 2000 areas, is another problem. Positions of

certain owners is also affected by their experience and, not always flexible and from their point of view insufficient, financial compensation for limiting the common way of land cultivation.

Almost 0,2% of the overall area of the so called small-size protected areas (that include all categories of protected areas except protected landscape areas and national park) is degraded, and 25,1% endangered. Nature and landscape protection organizations ensure for care in 120 of these, and in 150 caves, trying to maintain their favorable status, investing annually approx. 15 mil SKK (approx. 10% of overall needs).

Conservation programmes are prepared for endangered protected areas (and protected trees) (in 2005, though only conservation programme for the National natural reservation Šúr was approved pursuant to the valid legislation). Management programmes were approved for the respective 6 areas, as of December 31st, 2005: Nízke Tatry (National Park), Tatranský národný park (National Park), Pieninský národný park (National Park), Národný park Malá Fatra (National Park), Národný park Slovenský raj (National Park), Prírodná rezervácia Kráľova studňa (Natural Reservation) and Prírodná pamiatka Súľovský hrádok (Natural monument). Though, several documents were drafted, mainly within LIFE-nature projects and project supported from off-budget resources.

Farming forests form part of national parts, and mainly protected landscape areas. Limiting the farming at sites located in protected areas require financial compensations to their owners. As it was written in the Conception of nature and landscape protection (for years 2005 - 2006) adopted by the Government Regulation No. 47/2006, the financial requirements resulting from limitation of farming in a national network of protected areas amounted to 233,5 mil SKK annually and it is supposed that designating the NATURA 2000 network will increase these by 267 mil SKK, thus the overall amount to compensate limited farming of sites within protected areas, including NATURA 2000 amounts 500,5 mil SKK. The total refund for limited farming (including proposed NATURA sites) was not paid in the expected amount, e.g. in 2004-2006 it was approximately 92 mil SKK. It could be expected that in the following years the annual refund for limited farming will not be higher than 60 mil. SKK. However, the owners or users of sites in protected areas can get money from other EU funds. After adoption of the Rural Development Plan of the Slovak Republic 2007 – 2013, the entitled subjects shall gain financial sources within the NATURA 2000 payments on agricultural and forest land within agri-environmental and forest-environmental measures. Supposed maximal payments for NATURA 2000 areas were calculated on 136,2 MEUR for years 2007 – 2013 (in accordance with provided by the Ministry of Agriculture of the Slovak Republic in October 2007 that are based on the precondition that every proposed area will be designated).

(Proposed) areas of NATURA 2000

On April 28th, 2004 the Slovak Republic sent the European Commission the national list of 38 proposed Special Protection (Birds) Areas (hereinafter referred to as “SPA”) and the national list of 382 proposed areas of European importance (hereinafter referred to as “UEV”) which were approved by the SR Government decrees No. 636/2003 and No. 239/2004.

With regard to the Special Protection Areas it should be noted that [until 31.12.2005](#) only 5 of 38 proposed have ~~already~~ been designated by issuing respective decrees. The other decrees are in various stages of approval. Approval of decrees was subject to a preliminary agreement on compensation with respective owners, which requires amendment of law. [Until the end of](#)

the year 2011 from 37 of 38 proposed Special Protection Areas 37 have been designated by issuing respective decrees.

Tab 3.16: The number and area of areas proposed to be included to the NATURA 2000 network (as of 30.4.2004)

Category	Number	area (ha)	State land	Non-state land	Overlap with the existing network of protected areas (%)	Mutual overlap (%)
Proposed Special Protection Areas	38	1 236 545	627 245	609 300	25,2	31
Proposed Habitats of Community Importance	382	573 690	428 109,8	1 45580,2	86	65

Source: Ministry of Environment of Slovak Republic, State of the Environment Report of the Slovak Republic, 2005

The proposed Special Protection Areas automatically became part of NATURA 2000 network, the process for designating Habitats of Community Importance is more difficult and the [Commission EC](#) set 3 years deadlines for adoption of the national lists in its Directive. The [Commission EC](#) issued Decisions publishing preliminary lists of Special Protection Areas for the overall geographical region¹⁷. Slovakia was included to two areas – Alpine and Pannonia. Evaluation took place in 2005 during the so called biogeographical seminars, when countries defended the completeness of their national lists of proposed Special Protection Areas for individual habitats and species in front of the [Commission EC](#). From the conclusions of biogeographical seminars it resulted for Slovakia that the EC approved territories from the national list of proposed UEV and new territories will be necessary to allocate for approx. 22% of the assessed habitats and species in the Alpine and for approx. 30% in biogeographical regions of Pannonia. A survey to confirm occurrence and gathering other data for possible allocation of new areas of European importance will be necessary for approx. 11% of the assessed habitats and species.

In December 2006, the European Commission circulated a draft schedule to the Slovak Republic, according to which decisions on individual biogeographic regions should be designated by end 2007. Within 6 years since issuing the Commission's Decision (i.e. by end 2013), the Slovak Republic will be obliged to designate 382 Special Protection Areas as protected areas or their zones from the national list.

Pursuant to the conclusions of bio-geographical seminars for the Alpine and Pannonia biogeographical regions, other tasks related to building NATURA 2000 network are implemented in parallel; (i) correction of data and additions on occurrence of species and Habitats of Community Importance to the Special Protection Areas from the national list, and (ii) addition of Special Protection Areas for species and Habitats of Community Importance, which, according to the Commission's conclusions, are insufficiently represented, or a scientific reservation was made on these. In 2006, a specialized institution (State Protection of Nature of the Slovak Republic) revised the data and adjusted forms were delivered to the Commission. Similarly, the State Protection of Nature of the Slovak Republic prepared a proposal for new areas for species and Habitats of Community Importance that didn't require a survey during 2 vegetative periods. This draft proposal has not been discussed with owners of the respective sites, yet. According to the draft schedule, the Commission is

¹⁷ Within the EU (after Bulgaria and Romania joined) there are 9 biogeographic regions defined (Alpine, Atlantic, Boreal, Black Sea, Continental, Macaronesian, Pannonia, Stepp and Mediterranean)

planning the addition of new areas by end 2009. Thus, 6 years deadline since issuing the Commission's Decisions is valid for designating new areas, i.e. by end 2015.

The overview of tasks resulting from the need to implement environmental acquis in the area of nature and landscape protection, situation in their accomplishment and calculation of costs to implement these are part of the Annex No.18.

3.7 Analysis on the Level of Priority Axis 7 – Development of the Flood Warning and Forecasting System

Flood warning and forecasting system

A part of the „Slovak Republic Flood Protection Programme till 2010“ is also the project „Flood warning and forecasting system“ which aims to develop tools which more significantly enable to reduce flood damage, especially loss of life, physical injuries and damage to citizens' property through hydrological forecasts, warnings and alerts. POVAPSYS, as an integrated automatic flood forecasting and warning system, will allow to prepare hydrological forecasts for approximately 100 forecasting profiles, as well as warnings and alerts on possible flood danger for endangered areas. The system will cooperate with similar systems in neighboring countries providing necessary background materials and data from the area of flood protection.

The project will result in a unique, viable forecasting and warning system that will provide operational information on actual meteorological and hydrological situation and its expected development, including meteorological and hydrological forecasts and warnings of dangerous events for broad spectrum of users. For further system functioning it is essential to ensure its reliable operation and well-trained personnel – staff of the Slovak Hydro-meteorological Institute (hereinafter referred to as “SHMI”), who will be decisive also for the further development of the system.

After implementing the project POVAPSYS, in comparison with the current situation, it will be possible to assume:

- provision of increased amounts of current hydrological and meteorological information of much higher quality, in almost real time;
- extension of advance time, in which hydrological and meteorological forecasts and warnings will be at disposal, which will provide more time for relevant organizations, authorities, units responding to emergency cases and for people in flood-threatened areas to help them to prepare for implementation of flood protection measures;
- provision of more accurate and more reliable hydro-meteorological forecasts and warnings;
- provision of more hydrological forecasts for a period of time and for more river profiles all over the country;
- enhancement of awareness and knowledgeability of the population about the flood risks.

POVAPSYS introductory project defined 12 tasks with the aim to ensure the development and operation of flood forecasting and warning system. In regard to the possibility of funding publicity and further information as eligible costs, the original number of tasks has been extended to 13 and the task: „Information and publicity“ has been added. Based on the initial

project, in 2003 the SHMI developed POVAPSYS Project Tasks Methodology, containing information needed for its implementation, including financial allocations.

In 2004-2006, in the first phase of the POVAPSYS project, the supply of high-performance computer system for the forecasting model ALADIN (meteorological forecasts), automatic rain water level sampling stations, hydrological stations and meteorological stations, radio-locator (Kojšova hoľa) and telecoms computer STRATUS (the flow and data exchange) were mainly implemented. Specifically, this means that the necessary technical facilities has been installed and put into operation. The operational tasks related to monitoring, data processing and data evaluation, as well as conceptual and research & development tasks resulting from the system development were also handled. Communication network of SHMI has been upgraded, 210 new automatic hydrologic stations (AHS) with long-distance transport of data and 140 AHS with local recording system, 74 automatic rain water level sampling stations and 7 automatic meteorological stations with long-distance transport of data were put into operation. At the same time software for collection centres and technological line of processing data at all four working places of SHMI were installed. 4 automobile units with complex equipment for measuring flow were purchased. Operation of new Doppler meteorological radio-locator at Kojšova Hoľa has been commenced. So called local forecasting system for storm floods has been build-up in two municipalities. For the sake of operation of meteorological forecasting model ALADIN the computer with requested higher performance, as well as another hardware and software were secured.

In this programming period, the next phase of the development and operation of the POVAPSYS is expected. By 2013, mainly the following tasks will be addressed within POVAPSYS project:

- building-up of integrated information system (IIS) POVAPSYS securing operation of the overall system connected to organisations cooperating in flood protection, including relevant foreign services;
- development of forecasting systems for 11 main river basins (Danube, Morava, Nitra, Váh, Hron, Ipel', Slaná, Bodva, Hornád, Bodrog and Poprad), including the data and information distribution system for users;
- construction of new radio-locator, surface monitoring stations, installation of water flow measurement equipment and other devices for obtaining inputs for hydrological forecasting models and for routine operation of forecasting systems.

3.8 Implementation Results of the 2004 – 2006 Programming Period

Background

Operational Program Basic Infrastructure (hereinafter referred to as the „OP BI“) was the principal programming document for EU structural funds allocations in 2004-2006 programming period. OP BI focused on addressing regional development problems belonging to the Objective 1, mainly to remove existing regional disparities defined and described in the National Development Plan for Environmental, Transport and Local Infrastructure.

Within the EU structural funds management structure, MoE SR acted as intermediate body under the managing authority for OP BI and payment agency for OP BI, during 2004-2006 programming period.

The Slovak Republic Strategy for Cohesion Fund for period 2004-2006 was the basic programming document for the Cohesion Fund allocations in 2004-2006 programming period. Improvement of state of water and environmental infrastructure in water and waste management were priorities.

Within the Cohesion Fund management structure, MoE SR acted as the intermediate body under the managing authority.

OP BI Priority 2 – Environmental infrastructure - comprised the following measures:

Measure 2.1. Improvement and development of infrastructure for protection and rational utilisation of water resources

Major objective of this Measure was to improve water management infrastructure, rational utilisation of water resources, water protection against pollution and protection against adverse effects of floods.

Activities within this Measure mainly focused on:

- support to supply people with drinking water in required quality (fulfilling Council Directive N°98/83/EC) and quantity, lowering regional disparities
- support to connecting people to public sewers, lowering thus the differences in connections to public drinking supply network and public sewer network, lowering regional disparities and harmonisation with the Council Directive N°91/271/EC)
- increased volume of treated municipal wastewater, higher quality of treated water and harmonisation with the Council Directive N°91/271/EC
- increased safety of people, industry, agriculture and environment against adverse impacts of floods, comprehensive flood protection

Final beneficiaries were: Regional Water Companies, Slovenský vodohospodársky podnik (Slovak Water Management Enterprise), Slovenský hydrometeorologický ústav (Slovak Hydro-meteorological Institute), towns and municipalities.

Measure 2.2. Improvement and development of infrastructure for air protection

Activities implemented within this Measure mainly focused on decrease in emissions of major air pollutants (SO₂, NO_x, CO, C_xH_y, dust) and heavy metals, accomplishment of Kyoto Protocol obligations on lowering greenhouse gas emissions, utilisation of environmentally friendly fuels and energy sources, higher support to renewable energy sources and rational utilisation of non-renewable energy sources.

Final beneficiaries were regional self-government bodies, local self-government bodies, state administration and business entities.

Measure 2.3. Improvement and development of waste management infrastructure

The objective of this Measure was to implement waste management strategy to practice, introduction of waste management in order to lower negative affects by introducing protection measures, intensification of separated collection of municipal waste, increased utilization of resources separated from municipal waste, closure and rehabilitation of landfills, leading to better environmental protection.

Final beneficiary/ies were regional self-government, local self-government, state administration and business entities.

Measure 2.4. Protection, improvement and regeneration of natural environment

Major objective of this Measure was to strengthen infrastructure in nature protection that will allow Slovakia to fulfil its obligations in relation to NATURA 2000 creation, and provide sufficient capacities to prepare and implement documents for care of protected species and areas, including NATURA 2000 network, avoiding thus further devastation and jeopardy to the environment, which is a precondition for sustainable development and social and economic development of regions.

Final beneficiary/ies were specialised nature protection organisations (State Nature Conservancy, Slovak Cave Administration etc.), Slovak Environmental Inspection and Slovak Environmental Agency.

Contracting and disbursement situation as of 30.6.2007

Structural funds – European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

As of 30.6.2007, MoE SR as intermediate body under the managing authority for Priority 2 – Environmental Infrastructure OP BI – registered 428 applications for non-returnable financial support (+28 applications within TA Measure)

Measure 2.1:	161 applications for non-returnable financial support
Measure 2.2:	67 applications for non-returnable financial support
Measure 2.3:	149 applications for non-returnable financial support
Measure 2.4:	51 applications for non-returnable financial support
TA:	28 applications for non-returnable financial support

By 30.6.2007, the minister of environment approved 178 applications for non-returnable financial support (grants) (+13 within TA), following recommendations of Selection Committee (Environmental Projects Council). Thereof, 177 contracts on providing non-returnable financial support have already been signed.

The table below shows the overall volume of funds allocated for measures within Priority 2 – Environmental Infrastructure for 2004-2006, as well as amount of the requested support by individual measures.

Tab 3.20: Volume of funds allocated for Measures within Priority 2 – Environmental Infrastructure for 2004-2006, and overall volume of requested support, split by measures (as of 30. 6. 2007)

	<i>Allocated (in SKK) *</i>	<i>Allocated (in €)</i>	<i>Total project costs/ total amount of requested project support (in SKK) *</i>	<i>Total project costs/ total amount of requested project support (in €)</i>
<i>Measure 2.1 (Water)</i>	<i>total: 2 215 150 644 ERDF: 1 748 803 130 ŠR: 466 347 514</i>	<i>total: 58 293 438 ERDF: 46 021 135 ŠR: 12 272 303</i>	<i>12 542 672 164/ 11 565 664 546</i>	<i>330 070 320/ 304 359 593</i>

Measure 2.2 (Air)	total: 1 275 267 384 ERDF: 867 743 110 ŠR: 407 524 274	total: 33 559 668 ERDF: 22 835 450 ŠR: 10 724 323	7 451 620 698/ 4 209 285 186	196 095 282/ 110 770 663
Measure 2.3 (Waste management)	total: 1 174 746 592 ERDF: 829 081 302 ŠR: 345 665 290	total: 30 914 384 ERDF: 21 817 929 ŠR: 9 096 455	6 668 809 699/ 4 968 378 631	175 494 992/ 130 746 806
Measure 2.4 (Natural environment)	total: 289 820 452 ERDF: 217 365 358 ŠR: 72 455 094	total: 7 626 854 ERDF: 5 720 141 ŠR: 1 906 713	472 346 036/ 463 815 661	12 430 159/ 12 205 675

1Euro = 38 SKK

Cohesion Fund

In 2004-2006 programming period, 7 projects were approved from CF within the priority „Improvement of water management environmental infrastructure”. These projects are focused on issues of drinking water supply, collection and treatment of wastewaters and flood protection. Final beneficiaries of approved projects are the regional water companies and the Slovak Water Management Enterprise.

As of 30.6.2007, the amount of 131 550 594 SKK was disbursed. Reasons for the low disbursement of financial resources is mainly the fact that these are investment projects, which didn't allow fast disbursement in the early stage of their implementation, but proportionate disbursement of funds during the overall eligible period. First payments from final beneficiaries are lagging behind the project approval terms within CF projects. Final beneficiaries cannot ensure for fast disbursement of funds for constructions split to several years, as the spending cannot be made as a single one, but only in compliance with the construction phases. Speed of funds disbursement from CF is negatively affected also by problems with public procurement process – long preparation of Terms of Reference, unsuccessful public procurement that need to be repeated, sometimes also several times, prolongation of the process itself due to revision procedures (submitting applications for remedy and the following objections).

Evaluation of efficiency and effectiveness of implemented projects

Objectives and accomplishment of set indicators

Objectives and accomplishment of set indicators in the framework of the Priority 2 OP BI

Accomplishment of indicators defined in the OP BI Programme Complement and in documents published within calls for non-refundable financial contribution proposals is monitored by means of monitoring reports on project level. Individual values of indicators were determined on the basis of the contracts on non-refundable financial contribution signed between the final beneficiaries and the MoE SR (as intermediary body for the OP BI) and after the submission of monitoring reports from the final beneficiaries in the course of the monitoring period.

Based on the above documents, the accomplishment of respective indicators was as follows:

Measure 2.1 – Improvement and Development of Infrastructure for Protection and Rational Utilisation of Waters

Indicator – **Length of new sewer network** – 800 km was projected. Based on projects contracted by June 30, 2007, expected length of new sewer network is to be 171,5436 km. (according to the OP BI Programme Complement, the indicator base in 2004 is 0 km). The actual implementation as of 30.06.2007 is 134,3613 km, thereof 31,6493 in Nitra region, 19,121 in Trnava region, 15,05144 in Banská Bystrica region, 30,970006 in Košice region and 37,5695 in Prešov region.

Indicator – **Number of EI and households connected to the new sewer network and WWTP** – projected is 10 425 km. Based on projects contracted by June 30, 2007, the expected number is 47 870 of newly connected households and individuals (according to the OP BI Programme Complement, the indicator base in 2004 is 0 EI). The actual implementation as of 30.06.2007 is 8 480 people, thereof 3 975 in Nitra region, 2500 in Trnava region, 705 in Košice region and 1300 in Prešov region.

Indicator – **Portion of treated wastewaters of the overall volume of wastewaters** – projected is 96,4%. The expected value for this indicator cannot be calculated at the level of a measure, but only at the level of projects, as this is a relative figure. Therefore, actual values at the level of measure will be submitted after Monitoring Reports are submitted by the final beneficiary during the forthcoming period of implementation.

Indicator – **Length of drinking water pipeline** – projected is to be 25 968 km. Based on projects contracted by June 30, 2007, the expected length of new drinking water pipelines is 137,66 km. (according to the OP BI Programme Complement, the indicator base in 2004 is 24305,66 km). The actual implementation as of March 31, 2007 is 24262,159 km (incl. the base in 2004). Out of 117,2456 km of newly build drinking water pipelines (without the base in 2004) as of 30.06. 2007 is 8,307 km in Nitra region, 34,928 km in Trnava region, 3,926 km in Trenčín region, 32,107 km in Banská Bystrica region, 28,737 km in Košice region and 9,2406 km in Prešov region.

Indicator – **Number of households connected to new drinking water pipelines** – projected value is 1 765 000 households. Based on projects contracted by June 30, 2007, the expected number of new connections is 23 275 households and people (according to the OP BI Programme Complement, the indicator base in 2004 is 1 738 000 households). The actual implementation as of 30.06.2007 is 1 741 146 households (incl. the base in 2004). Out of 3146 new connected households (without the base in 2004) as of 30.06.2007, 862 are in Nitra region, 152 in Trenčín region a 2 132 in Banská Bystrica region.

Indicator – **Decreasing leakage from drinking water pipelines** – projected value is 21,9%. The expected value for this indicator cannot be calculated at the level of a measure, but only at the level of projects, as this is a relative figure. Therefore, actual values at the level of measure will be submitted after Monitoring Reports are submitted by the final beneficiary during the next period of implementation.

According the contracts concluded as of June 30, 2007, the expected value for indicator – **Number of implemented flood protection activities** – is 22 activities. Since this indicator is not included in the Programme Complement, no projected value was set. The actual implementation as of 30.06.2007 was 18,37 activities, thereof 2 activities in Nitra region, 1 activity in Trnava region, 1 activity in Trenčín region, 6,51 activities in Banská Bystrica

region, 3 activities in Žilina region, 1 activity in Košice region and 3,86 activities in Prešov region.

Measure 2.2 Air Quality Infrastructure Improvement and Development

Projected value of indicator **Number of facilities with installed or modernized technologies reducing air pollution** is 8 facilities. Based on projects contracted by June 30, 2007, the expected number of new facilities is 234. (According to the OP BI Programme Complement, the indicator base in 2004 is 0 facilities). The actual implementation as of 30.06.2007 is 180 facilities, thereof 10 in Nitra region, 9 in Banská Bystrica region, 151 in Žilina region., 6 in Košice region and 4 in Prešov region.

Indicator – **Decreasing emissions of air pollution and greenhouse gases** – is -5%. Based on projects contracted by June 30, 2007, the expected decrease is -40,22429 %. (According to the OP BI Programme Complement, the indicator base in 2004 is 0%). The actual implementation as of 30.06.2007 is -11,23768 %, thereof -3,762762% in Nitra region, -1,725014 % in Banská Bystrica region, -79,52934 % in Žilina region, -4,391996% in Košice region and -4,658589 % in Prešov region. For indicator **Decreasing air pollution concentration** – projected value pursuant to the OPBI Programme Complement is -5%. The expected value for this indicator cannot be calculated at the level of a measure, but only at the level of projects, as this is a relative figure. Therefore, actual values at the level of measure will be submitted after Monitoring Reports are submitted by the final beneficiary during the next period of implementation.

Measure 2.3. Waste Management Infrastructure Improvement and Development

Indicator – **Number of build or modernized facilities for waste separation and recovery** – projected value is 55 facilities. Based on projects contracted by June 30, 2007, the expected number of new facilities is 70. (According to the OP BI Programme Complement, the indicator base in 2004 is 0 facilities). The actual implementation as of 30.06.2007 is 49 facilities, thereof 12 in Nitra region, 6 in Trnava region, 22 in Trenčín region, 6 in Banská Bystrica region, 2 in Žilina region and 1 in Košice region.

Projected value for the indicator – **Volume of separated and recovered waste** is 1 000 000 tons.

Based on projects contracted by June 30, 2007, the expected volume is 41 7963 tons (according to the OP BI Programme Complement, the indicator base in 2004 is 0 tons). The actual implementation as of 30.06.2007 is 106 783,38 tons, thereof 378,45 tons is in Nitra region, 2162,2 tons in Trnava region, 15 084,6 tons in Trenčín region, 39 290,13 tons in Banská Bystrica region, 33 868 tons in Žilina region and 16 000 tons in Košice region.

Indicator – **Lowering the share of landfilled waste on the overall volume of generated waste** – projected value is 22%. The expected value for this indicator cannot be calculated at the level of a measure, but only at the level of projects, as this is a relative figure. Therefore, actual values at the level of measure will be submitted after Monitoring Reports are submitted by the final beneficiary during the next period of implementation.

Expected value for indicator – **Number of closed and/or rehabilitated landfills** - according to contracts signed as of June 30, 2007 is 29 landfills. Since this indicator is not included in the Programme Complement, no projected value was set. The actual implementation as of

30.06.2007 is 24 landfills, thereof 9 in Nitra region, 5 in Trnava region, 1 in Trenčín region, 7 in Banská Bystrica region and 2 in Košice region

Measure 2.4 Protection, Improvement and Regeneration of Natural Environment

Indicator – **Number of build or reconstructed facilities for the nature and landscape protection purposes** – projected value is 27 facilities. Based on projects contracted by June 30, 2007, the expected number is 53 newly build or reconstructed facilities. According to the OP BI Programme Complement, the indicator base in 2004 is 0 facilities). The actual implementation as of 30.06.2007 is 42 facilities, thereof 1 in Trnava region, 8 in Banská Bystrica region, 1 in Trenčín region, 9 in Žilina region, 16 in Košice region and 7 in Prešov region.

Projected value for the indicator **Protected areas with prepared/implemented management plans** is 50%. As of June 30, 2007, none project was approved within which the indicator could be monitored. Therefore, the expected value cannot be calculated for this indicator.

Projected value of the indicator **Protected areas where the protection situation improved** is 10%, according to the Programme Complement. The expected value for this indicator cannot be calculated at the level of a measure, but only at the level of projects, as this is a relative figure. Therefore, actual values at the level of measure will be submitted after Monitoring Reports are submitted by the final beneficiary during the next period of implementation.

Tab 3.21: Evaluation of the current demand and absorption for the OPBI, Priority 2 Environmental Infrastructure by June 30, 2007

Environmental Infrastructure by June 30, 2007								
OP	Priority		Measure		Allocation 04-06 (EUR) total ERDF+ ŠR	Demand %	Contracting* %	Disbursement** %
OP BI	2	Environmental infrastructure	01	Improvement and Development of Infrastructure for Protection and Rational Utilisation of Waters	58 293 438	525	99	34,15
			02	Air Quality Infrastructure Improvement and Development	33 559 668	341	113	52,45
			03	Waste Management Infrastructure Improvement and Development	32 317 893	424	94	59,73
			04	Protection, Improvement and Regeneration of Natural Environment	7 626 854	159	103	41,87

* Share of signed contracts to the NFC allocation

** share of the actual disbursement ERDF + ŠR (state budget) to allocation

Annex No.12 shows the results of 2004-2006 programming period for OP BI, Priority 2 Environmental Infrastructure at the NUTS III level.

Annex No.13 shows the results of 2004-2006 programming period for ISPA and CF projects at the NUTS III level.

Brief summary of lessons learned in the process of assessment of applications for non-returnable financial contribution and projects implementation

In 2004-2006, positive fact is that applications for non-returnable financial contribution were submitted continuously, applicants had sufficient time for their preparation not being obliged by deadlines, which positively impacted the quality of approved implementation projects, or lead to a situation when approved projects were already in the phase of implementation and almost immediately after signing the contract on providing non-returnable financial contribution, applicants could submit applications for payments. Of the overall amount of approved projects, more than 65% were those already ongoing or with completed or at least announced public procurement, which positively impacted the speed and the actual disbursement of funds.

With regard to the submitting and assessing the applications for non-returnable financial contribution (NFC) within the OP BI, Priority 2, Environmental Infrastructure, below are the most often causes for rejecting the NFC application:

- administrative requirements for submitting NFC were not met – the applicant didn't attach some of obligatory appendices defined in the Call for Application, or in the State Aid schemes. If such insufficiency was not removed after a formal notice from the Intermediate body, the application was rejected from further assessment process
- insufficient quality/level of the proposed technical and environmental solution – the proposed technical solution didn't guarantee that the required parameters will be met and that a significant improve in environmental situation will occur after the project is implemented
- low level of fulfillment of goals of individual measures – implementation of a project proposed by the applicant did not lead to fulfillment of objectives defined in individual measures of Priority 2 of the Operational Programme Basic Infrastructure
- critical technical discrepancies in project document – the project document didn't include the description of all parts of the implemented project, summary project budget has not been attached, or constructions at sites where the ownership relations are not settled were proposed within the project
- insufficiencies concerning the construction permit – submitting invalid construction permit, or a permit which didn't comply with the submitted project documents. In many cases, the construction permit was not issued for all construction facilities that were supposed to be implemented within the submitted project
- insufficiencies in proving ownership relations – (unsettled ownership) – titles on sites where the project was to be implemented were not submitted, or other documents proving rights to a site, or rental agreements
- critical insufficiencies in financial analysis – financial analysis didn't include the required data, contradicted the summary project budget, or other obligatory appendices, didn't show all cost items or didn't show the formula used to calculate investment costs

With regard to the CF projects in 2004-2006 programming period, the most critical insufficiency is the fact that projects were prepared and submitted for approval without valid construction permits, which caused problems in implementation of many projects (e.g. exceeding the overall investment costs).

This insufficiency will be in the current programming period eliminated so that the Ministry of the Environment, as the Managing Authority for the OPE, will require documentation for construction permit and the valid construction permit for line constructions or constructions

with modest technological equipment (if it is relevant for the project) or at least documents for sitting permit in case of constructions with difficult technological equipment (e.g. WWTP, big water treatment facilities, incineration plants etc.) and issued valid sitting permit, as an obligatory annex to the NFC applications, in case of „large projects“.

With regard to cost-benefit analysis for CF projects, this was difficult for the project „Bratislava – flood protection“ as it was the very first project submitted by Slovakia and there was neither experience available nor a methodology for preparing a cost-benefit analysis. Nevertheless, the applicant, Slovenský vodohospodársky podnik, (Slovak Water Management Enterprise) used TA and followed a similar flood protection project prepared in Germany, Ministry of the Environment assistance was required and the methodology needed to be tailored to the Slovak conditions. Nevertheless, the EC accepted the final proposal.

Implementation of projects financed from the ERDF and CF in 2004-2006 followed contracts signed with final beneficiaries. Allocated funds were contracted and disbursement is going on with minimum discrepancies. Project implementation seems to be successful, in compliance with the n+2 rule, and it is expected that all projects will be completed (financially and the implementation) by end 2010.

Potential problems in project implementation related to public procurement may be removed when thorough application of the Public Procurement Act is ensured by skilled and qualified staff. Problems in procuring services (the construction supervision) were caused by limited possibilities to include experts experience among criteria for bids evaluation, and therefore the lowest price became the critical factor of bids rather than the share quality/price. Taking into account the experience of experts is problematic also with regard to the Slovak Public Procurement Act as it requires the criteria to be objective without opinion of the evaluation committee.

Insufficiencies related to possible differences between the invoiced and actual expenditure are removed during „in-situ“ controls of the submitted applications for payments. The duty to perform „in-situ“ control at least when the first and last payment claims are submitted, guarantees 100% control of the incurred expenditure.

Adherence to the agreed terms and deadlines, financial and time schedule for project implementation are monitored in closed cooperation with the final beneficiary.

3.9 SWOT Analysis

The current situation analysis on the level of individual OPE priorities (discussed above in 3.2–3.7), including relevant database, is the starting point for formulation of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats, which were then used to define the support strategy within individual OPE priorities.

OPE SWOT analysis takes into account also results of SWOT analysis on the level of the Slovak Republic defined in the National Strategic Reference Framework of the Slovak Republic for the period 2007 – 2013, following and specifying these in detail for the environmental sector.

Strengths

Priority axis 1 Integrated protection and rational utilisation of water
Presence of planning process in water protection and utilization and water management by river basins
Suitable legislative environment with full transposition of the relevant EU water sector Directives, creating conditions for sustainable development in protection and rational utilization of water
Presence of multilateral and bilateral agreements in protection and rational utilization of water, which are binding for the Slovak Republic and are aimed at sustainable development in water management
Gradual decrease of pollutants emissions to surface and underground water from point pollution sources
Application of the “polluter pays principle” in granting permits for discharge of wastewaters
Legislative process for monitoring and assessment of water in the Slovak Republic complying with EU requirements
Priority axis 2. Flood protection
Organization of flood protection defined in legislation
Multi-purpose utilization of water facilities which have environmental, economic and national functions
Priority axis 3: Air protection and minimisation of adverse effects of climate change
Positive development in minimization of air pollutants concentration
Positive development in greenhouse gas emissions alongside with growing GDP
Monitoring of individual components of the environment, avoiding sudden decrease of their quality
Priority axis 4: Waste management
Utilization of the “polluter pays principle”
Legislative and economic instrument penalizing landfilling of waste and supporting separate waste collection
Policy and legal instruments favoring waste recovery to disposal
Identification of needs in treatment of specified categories of hazardous waste
Upgrading existing landfills in order these meet legislative requirements
Ongoing systematic inventory of environmental burdens in the Slovak Republic
Adoption of the Investment Strategy for Remedy of Environmental Burdens in the Slovak Republic
Drafting guidelines for inventory and prioritization of environmental burdens
Priority axis 5: Protection and regeneration of natural environment and landscape
High diversity of species and habitats
Well preserved nature in the Slovak Republic
Protected areas (including NATURA 2000) covering 36 % of the Slovak territory, introduced system of State Nature Conservancy institutions and methodology for conservation and management plans for protected nature and landscape
Drafting “favorable state” definitions for majority of species and habitats of European importance and preparation of assessment methodology
Preparation of other methodologies for management of species and habitats
Territorial protection of majority of protected, rare and endangered higher species of flora and fauna of national and European importance
Priority axis 7: Development of the Flood Warning and Forecasting System
Existing legislative basis of the flood forecasting service (the task of the flood forecasting service, whose tool is POVAPSYS, is prescribed by law)

Issuing of flood risk warnings, extra news service during floods
Utilization of the state hydrological network and the state meteorological network for the flood forecasting service provision

Weaknesses

Priority axis 1: Integrated protection and rational utilisation of water

Regional disparities in environmental infrastructure availability in public sewer systems and drinking water supply from public networks
Significantly slower development of sewer systems and wastewater treatment plants comparing to development of drinking water supply systems, which leads to relative growth of pollution by waste water discharge into water recipients.
Relatively high water fees for low-income population groups and potential growth of their social exclusion
Relatively high losses of drinking water in a water supply network
Reduction of water monitoring programme caused by insufficient financial resources
Insufficient financing of Water Framework Directive implementation

Priority axis 2: Flood protection

Insufficient complex approach to implementation of preventive measures for flood protection
Insufficient information on risky areas which could be flooded
Not completed forecast and warning system for flood protection

Priority axis 3: Air quality and minimisation of adverse effects of the climate change

Deficiencies in adherence to air protection limit values (PM ₁₀ , SO ₂ , NO _x), mainly in air quality management areas
High share of greenhouse gas per capita (8,6 t GHG/per capita)
Obsolete technologies generate excessive amounts of pollutants and greenhouse gas

Priority axis 4: Waste management

Inefficient separate waste collection systems
Insufficient promotion of separate waste collection
Insufficient level of recovery of selected types of waste
Ambiguous methodology for assessment of hazardous properties of waste
Environmental burdens inventory in the Slovak Republic not finalized, absence of environmental burdens information system,
Insufficient closure and rehabilitation of landfills operated under special conditions
Missing legislation on environmental burdens

Priority axis 5: Protection and regeneration of natural environment and landscape

Incomplete (not countrywide) information and data on species and habitats of national and European importance, their occurrence, trends, causes of danger and their state
Incomplete definitions of "favorable state" for 22 species of flora and fauna of European importance and for all species of national importance, including assessment methodology
Insufficient systematic, targeted monitoring of species and habitats
Insufficient material and personal possibilities for protection of species and habitats, NATURA 2000 sites and other specially protected parts of nature and landscape
In case of majority of protected areas, management plans are not updated
Insufficient number of implemented protected area management plans

Priority axis 7: Development of the Flood Warning and Forecasting System

Insufficient coverage of the SR territory with radio-locators – insufficient information about current rainfall activity
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Absence of hydrological models calibrated in an hour step
Missing information system (including operational database) for the verification, analysis and processing of operational information and their preparation to hydrological models

Opportunities
Priority axis 1: Integrated protection and rational utilisation of water
To use relatively positive situation in water amount and balance
Possibility to improve public access to basic environmental services in water management through development of public drinking water supply network and public sewer network, and the related improvement of living standard and decrease of negative environmental impact
To increase attractiveness of regions that are lagging behind for people and business activities through development of water management infrastructure
Temporary growth of employment resulting from investment activities in water management and possibility for long-term employment growth resulting from operation of public water supply and public sewer networks
Identified surface and underground water systems in the Slovak Republic – suitable starting point for implementation of water monitoring and testing of efficiency of measures aimed on achieving good water state till 2015
Priority axis 2: Flood protection
Setting up of tasks and responsibilities of individual entities active in flood prevention according to Flood Prevention Plans prepared in compliance with current legislation
Flood prevention measures
Preliminary assessment of flood risk and elaboration of maps of flood risk and flood jeopardy
Priority axis 3: Air quality and minimisation of adverse effects of the climate change
Development of greenhouse gas emission minimizing technologies together with decrease of basic pollutants emissions
Increase share of low-emission and renewable energy sources in production of heat and hot water
High potential of renewable energy sources (biomass, geothermal energy)
Priority axis 4: Waste management
Growing number of municipalities included to separate waste collection system
Gradual increase of waste recovery facilities capacity as well as increase of their level
Presence of environmentally sound disposal technologies for selected types of hazardous waste
Gradual closure and rehabilitation of landfills in a manner not endangering the environment
Investigation, monitoring a remediation of environmental burdens
Identification of risks resulting from presence of environmental burdens
Decrease of water, soil and bedrock pollution
Completion of environmental burdens information system
Priority axis 5: Protection and regeneration of natural environment and landscape
Gathering information for preparation of management plans for NATURA 2000 sites and species conservation programs aimed on achieving or conserve favorable state of species and habitats
Preparation and implementation of management plans for areas and conservation programs for endangered species
Completion of comprehensive habitat and species monitoring system, development of protected area management information system
Improvement of material and personal situation in nature and landscape protection institutions

Completion of the continuous European network of protected areas NATURA 2000, based on comments from the European Commission and new information
Better public information on nature protection and involvement of people in activities related to nature and landscape protection
Priority axis 7: Development of the Flood Warning and Forecasting System
Extended system of forecast and warning issuing
Sufficient coverage of the SR territory with the network of surface monitoring stations within the POVAPSYS
Direct involvement of a local infrastructure in the flood prevention

Threats

Priority axis 1: Integrated protection and rational utilisation of water
Low share of population connected mainly to public sewer system network and overload of some wastewater treatment plants
Trend of growing water and sewer fees resulting in water savings in households (even under the hygienic minimum) with potential human health risks
People in low-income regions currently covering their water needs from own drinking water sources (mainly wells with unknown water quality) may not connect their houses to newly developed public drinking water supply network, public sewers and wastewater treatment plants. This may lead to decrease in planned investment efficiency of financial means incurred for particular projects and negative impacts on financial management of water utilities.
Lack of funds for co-financing large investment projects and related endangering of fulfilment of obligations of the Slovak Republic resulting from transition periods in water management sector
Danger to public health from individual water sources of unsatisfactory quality
Missing or insufficient wastewater treatment may lead to pollution of surface or underground water.
Deficiencies in water situation assessment and in preparation of base for drafting and implementation of measures for improvement of water situation
Inefficient and economically unsuitable corrective measures proposed in water planning documents aimed on improvement of ecologic state of water, endangering fulfilment of the basic goal of the Water Framework Directive - to achieve good state of water until 2015
Priority axis 2: Flood protection
If preventive measure for flood protection are not provided, costs for remedy of damages caused by floods would increase
Not meeting the planned investment needs required to ensure flood prevention of territory, population, and business activities as a preventive measure with probable negative impacts in form of growing damage to properties of state, businesses and individuals.
Risk of human lives losses due to insufficient information about flood jeopardized areas
Priority axis 3: Air quality and minimisation of adverse effects of the climate change
Unsuitable fuel structure and pollution abatement equipment from the viewpoint of achieving good air quality
Increased negative environmental impact of industrial activities as a result of fast economic growth, continuing high energy demand of the economy and low share of energy generated and supplied from renewable energy sources
Risk of exceeding national emission limits and decrease of air quality in zones and agglomerations

Non-compliance with EU legislation and international obligations in the air quality sector
Delays in implementing EU legislation on climate change
Insufficient recognition of environmental aspects in implementation of energy demanding investments
Priority axis 4: Waste management
High waste generation from industrial production
Low volume and quality of fractions separated from municipal waste
Lagging behind in waste recovery capacities in comparison to EU average.
Negative impact of selected types of hazardous waste on human health and the environment
Negative impact of environmental burdens and landfills on human health and parts of environment
Lack of financial means on remediation of environmental burdens
Risk of worsened quality of the environment and public health if environmental burdens are not addressed
Priority axis 5: Protection and regeneration of natural environment and landscape
Insufficient provisioning of obligations resulting from directives on nature and landscape protection
Lack of specialists for research and practical management
Non-professional assessment of habitats, species and parts of landscape
Weakening of biodiversity through aggressive intrusion of non-originated invasive species
Inconsistent control of trade, import, introduction of non-originated species to the territory of the Slovak Republic
Contradictions between environment protection interests and utilization of natural resources
Priority axis 7: Development of the Flood Warning and Forecasting System
Risk of human life loss and huge material damages caused by insufficient information about territories threatened by floods
Limitation of the efficiency and territorial coverage of the flood warning and forecasting system due to its incompleteness

Due to the need to focus OPE mainly on activities which are the most important in order to fulfil the obligations deriving from environmental acquis in the field of water management, air protection, waste management and nature protection, strengths and weaknesses, as well as opportunities and threats were identified in the above SWOT analysis which are of general character, appear on national level and, at the same time, are common for all regions of the Slovak Republic on the NUTS II level.

3.10 Key Disparities and Development Factors

Key disparities	Key development factors
Priority axis 1: Integrated protection and rational utilisation of water	Priority axis 1: Integrated protection and rational utilisation of water
1. Regional disparities in water management infrastructure	a. Growth of population supplied by public drinking water network, living in houses connected to public sewers and wastewater treatment plants and increase of wastewater treatment quality
2. Slow development of wastewater	b. Improvement of environment through

collection and treatment facilities	decreased amount of pollutants from point pollution sources discharged to surface and underground water and improvement of the state of water and protection of biodiversity and water ecosystems
3. Reduction of water monitoring programme caused by lack of funds	c. Monitoring of the state of water and formulation of base for proposal and implementation of measures to improve the state of water
Priority axis 2: Flood protection	Priority axis 2: Flood protection
1. Insufficient comprehensive flood prevention measures, unfinished forecast and warning system for flood protection and insufficient information on risk areas threatened by floods	a. Complex protection of the territory of the Slovak Republic from floods and its material and technical support
Priority axis 3: Air protection and minimisation of adverse effects of climate change	Priority 3 Air protection and minimisation of adverse effects of climate change
1. High share of air pollutants emissions from stable sources as well as mobile sources, unsuitable fuel base and state of separation (abatement) technologies	a. Financial support of technologies and measures contributing to minimization of air pollutants emissions from stable and mobile emission sources ("green" public transport)
2. High share of emission of greenhouse gas per capita (8,6 t GHG/per capita)	b. Support to technologies contributing to minimization of emission of greenhouse gas alongside with minimization of emission of basic pollutants
Priority axis 4: Waste management	Priority axis 4: Waste management
1. Insufficiently developed system of separate collection of waste	a. To increase the number of entities involved in effective system of separate waste collection
2. Waste recovery capacity lagging behind EU average.	b. Completion of infrastructure for waste recovery
3. High share of landfilled hazardous waste	c. Support to technologies and facilities for environmentally sound disposal of selected types of hazardous waste
4. Insufficient legislative pressure to remedy environmental burdens	d. Approval of the law on environmental burdens
5. Insufficient management of environmental burdens and lack of programs on their survey, monitoring and remediation.	e. Improvement of water, soil and bedrock quality.
Priority axis 5: Protection and	Priority axis 5: Protection and regeneration

regeneration of natural environment and landscape	of natural environment and landscape
1. Insufficient knowledge on species and habitats and missing systematic monitoring of their state	a. Creation of material and personnel possibilities to gain missing information, investments to monitoring system construction and operation
2. Insufficient management of protected species, habitats and protected sites including NATURA 2000 sites	b. Conservation of species, habitats and protected sites, including NATURA 2000 sites
3. Disparity between natural values (the variety of species, habitats and size of protected sites) and material, personal and financial means for their protection	c. Country-wide support to activities aimed on achieving or conserving favorable state of species, habitats and management of NATURA 2000 sites and other especially protected nature and landscape sites
Priority axis 7: Development of the Flood Warning and Forecasting System	Priority axis 7: Development of the Flood Warning and Forecasting System
1. Incomplete forecast and warning system for flood protection	a. Creation of the material and personal provision for the building and operation of the state hydrological service and the state meteorological service within the frame of the flood forecasting service

Similarly as in case of strengths and weaknesses, opportunities and threats, the identified key disparities and development factors are, due to the need to secure orientation of OPE on activities which are the most important in order to fulfil the obligations deriving from environmental acquis in the field of water management, air protection, waste management and nature protection, identified disparities and development factors are of general character, appear on national level and, at the same time, are common for all regions of the Slovak Republic on the NUTS II level.

4 Operational Programme Strategy

4.1 Base for the OPE Strategy

The base for formulation of the OPE strategy includes:

- results of the current situation analysis in the environment sector as one of the aspects of the overall situation analysis of the Slovak Republic;
- environmental acquis (i.e. set of EU legislation in the area of environment) and resulting requirements, mainly obligations of SR in the sphere of fulfilment of transitional periods defined in the EU Accession Treaty;
- policy documents prepared on EU level and national level emphasizing strategic documents in the field of sustainable development and environmental protection;
- long-term goals and principles of the state environmental policy, which are the basis for formulation of medium-term goals and priorities for the programming period 2007 – 2013.

4.1.1 Results of the current situation analysis

The base for OPE strategy are the results of the current situation analysis in the Slovak Republic, namely:

- socio-economic analysis on the national level, reflected as key disparities and main development factors in the National Strategic Reference Framework of the Slovak Republic;
- current situation in the environment sector stated in the previous chapter.

Based on the results of the analysis of current socio-economic situation in the Slovak Republic, insufficient quality and incomplete environmental infrastructure was identified as one of key disparities.

Development and modernization of environmental infrastructure and environmental protection is a way for removal of this disparity, and thus one of the main development factors. The state of the environmental infrastructure belongs to decisive factors for economic development and competitiveness. Incomplete environmental infrastructure causes problems in overcoming of regional disparities. Competitiveness of regions with under-developed or insufficient environmental infrastructure is significantly decreased and efforts to locate business activities in these regions often require supplementary investments or state guarantees. Insufficient environmental infrastructure in region is alongside with low attractiveness to business activities decreasing also its social attractiveness.

Insufficient quality and incomplete environmental infrastructure, as a key disparity, can be observed also in form of other specific disparities, mainly:

- Incompleteness and insufficient quality of public drinking water supply and sewer network and waste water treatment plants,
- Insufficient flood protection measures, and its prevention
- Unsatisfactory air quality in certain areas caused by pollution from stationary and mobile sources as well as low share of renewable energy sources utilization,
- Incomplete waste management infrastructure, mainly in separate collection and recycling of waste,
- Insufficient nature protection care, mainly NATURA 2000 sites.

The above directs the OPE strategy mainly to focus on completion and improvement of water management infrastructure (public sewers and WWTP as well as public water supplies systems) in order to decrease of surface and underground water pollution, protection of drinking water sources, their rational use and providing for sufficient amount of high quality drinking water and flood protection measures, support to air protection and waste management infrastructure and landscape and nature protection.

The results of the current situation analysis show that environmental infrastructure of the Slovak Republic is still lagging behind developed EU countries, with regard to the state and quality of some sectors (e.g. water management, waste management).

In order to overcome this lagging and at the same time to secure protection of individual parts of environment and its improvement is possible only through a thorough implementation of the environmental acquis with obligations of the Slovak Republic in transitional periods that are reflected also in the EU Accession Treaty.

OPE Strategy for the programming period 2007-2013 is set up so as to ensure fulfilment of requirements resulting from the environmental acquis with priority direction to fulfilment of obligations connected with the transitional periods defined for many environmentally oriented EC Directives mainly due to high investment needs and complicated technical implementation.

Since several Directives (namely Council Directive 94/67/EC of 16 December 1994 on the incineration of hazardous waste with transitional period for 11 healthcare waste incinerators and 7 industrial waste incinerators, Council Directive N°76/464/EEC on pollution caused by certain dangerous substances discharged into the aquatic environment of the Community, where the transitional period is defined for three facilities) have the transitional periods till the end of 2006, the incoming programming period will focus on accomplishment of obligations of the Slovak Republic related to following directives:

- Council Directive N°91/271/EEC on Urban Waste Water Treatment (transitional period till 2015 with certain phases),
- Council Directive N°96/61/EC concerning integrated pollution prevention and control (transitional period differs for individual facilities, but not longer than December 31st, 2011),
- European Parliament and Council Directive 94/62/EC of 20 December 1994 on packaging and packaging waste, supplemented by the Directive 2004/12/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 February 2004 (in compliance with this as well as with Directive 2005/20/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 March 2005 the transitional period for the Slovak Republic for accomplishment of compulsory limits of recovery and recycling of packaging materials was defined till the end of 2012).
- Directive 2002/96/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 January 2003 on waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) (transition period till the end of 2008)
- Council Directive N°88/609/EEC (in wording of the Directive N°94/66/EC) on the limitation of emissions of certain pollutants into the air from large combustion plants (transitional period till the end of 2007),
- Council Directive N°94/63/EC on the control of volatile organic compound (VOC) emissions resulting from the storage of petrol and its distribution from terminals to gas stations (transitional period for existing facilities till the end of 2004, or 2007, new facilities must comply with Directive requirements).

List of transitional periods and derogations in the framework of the Chapter Environment is attached in Annex No.14.

The Council Directive N°91/271/EEC concerning urban wastewaters treatment is the most difficult directive of those from which transitional periods resulted for Slovakia within the EU Accession Treaty. The Slovak Republic is lagging behind significantly in this sector – the current situation in urban wastewaters discharge and treatment represents 65% of the EU-15 average situation. Application of the Directive requires to complete construction of required water management infrastructure and to improve wastewaters treatment technologies in agglomerations, which is financially very costly. This was the reason to gain 5 transitional periods to fully implement the respective Directive.

Directives and Regulations governing air protection and quality are an important part of the environmental acquis. Due to ever growing importance to address the climate change issue and its possible negative social and economic impacts, requirements resulting from these are being stricter. With regard to the Thematic Strategy on Air Pollution, deadlines for meeting limit values of air pollutants concentration will be stricter, as well as will be the emission ceilings for certain air pollutants. Measures to ensure for accomplishments of the above requirements need to be adopted continually and gradually, as these are demanding steps, both financially and technically.

In the waste management area, focus should be directed upon separated collection activities, waste recovery and recycling, as the necessity to implement these results from transitional periods defined based on the EU Accession Treaty, or those agreed after Slovakia joined the EU. Selected types of hazardous waste are another problem, as sufficient infrastructure is missing for treatment of these.

Environmental acquis also involves commitments related to the protection of habitats, species and areas of European Importance, mainly via the continuous European network of protected areas (NATURA 2000), which the member states build independently on their national networks of protected areas. Slovakia is obliged to fulfil commitments resulting from the EU Directives, mainly care of the NATURA 2000 areas, maintaining or sustaining favourable situation of species and habitats of European Importance and their monitoring.

At the same time, OPE strategy for this programming period 2007 – 2013 is oriented so as to create conditions for accomplishment of obligations resulting from the current EU environmental legislation, as well as EU legislative measures that are under preparation (drafts of new environmental Directives and Regulations), which are expected to be adopted during the 2007 – 2013 programming period and will require high investment for implementation.

At the same time, priority axes that are part of the OPE strategy are directed so as to allow for ongoing support from EU funds in the current and incoming programming periods, and to continue in development of environmental infrastructure, decrease the number of uncompleted facilities and ensure for more efficient utilization of existing ones.

4.1.2 Link of OPE strategy with the vision and strategy defined in the National Strategic Reference Framework

OPE strategy is also directed towards the achievement of the **vision of economic and social development** of the Slovak Republic as defined in the National Strategic Reference Framework and contribute to accomplishment of strategic goal of the Slovak Republic set for the programming period 2007 – 2013.

The overall convergence of the Slovak economy to EU-15 average through sustainable development, as the main vision of the Slovak Republic, is a long term process comprising three development sub-systems – economic, social and environmental.

Priority direction of the OPE strategy is the development of environmental aspect of this process and creating conditions for convergence of the Slovak Republic to EU-15 average in the sector of environmental infrastructure and environmental protection.

Besides the environmental dimension, that is a priority, the OPE strategy has also economic, social and territorial dimensions.

The environmental dimension of the OPE strategy is reflected in the goal to support:

- Improvement of the state of environment, protection of biodiversity, genus, species and ecosystems;
- Rational utilization of resources with the aim to support sustainable development;
- Completion and higher quality of environmental infrastructure, which is an important factor influencing the environment and its parts

The economic dimension of the OPE strategy is reflected in support to:

- Goals of EU economic and cohesion policy as a whole, through the removal of disparities in development of individual Member States, namely the development of environmental infrastructure;
- Sustainable economic development by ensuring that it is oriented on conservation of quality of environment for future generations;
- Development of environmental services of water management, waste management and air quality protection.

The social dimension of the OPE strategy is reflected in the support of:

- EU cohesion and social policy;
- Minimizing of social exclusion;
- Public access to basic environmental services aimed on growing life standards, improvement of public health and increase of life expectancy;
- Creation of jobs related to the development of environmental infrastructure, operation of environmental services, contributing thus to growing employment in the Slovak Republic.

Territorial dimension of the OPE strategy is visible in:

- Contribution to provisioning of proportionate development of EU territory with regard to its coverage with environmental infrastructure;
- Support to rational and balanced use of the Slovak Republic territory and its regions¹⁸

¹⁸ Detailed discussion on territorial distribution of EU funds within OPE can be found in chapter 4.3.

OPE strategy, within the integrity of the above mentioned dimensions, is thus an inseparable aspect of the overall social and economic convergence process of the Slovak Republic towards EU-15. At the same time, it contributes to the sustainability of the convergence process.

OPE strategy aimed on development and modernisation of environmental infrastructure and environmental protection, including improvement of quality of its parts, contributes also to achievement of the strategic goal of the Slovak Republic, which is by 2013 to significantly increase competitiveness and efficiency of regions and the Slovak economy and employment, respecting sustainable development.

Support to environmental infrastructure and protection of the environment has significant impact on the achievement of the strategic goal as is documented on the following two aspects:

- economic – availability of environmental infrastructure increases its investment attractiveness and is a precondition for investments. Thus, investments in environmental infrastructure generate direct private investments, which contribute to increasing competitiveness and economic performance of regions. Support to environmental infrastructure also stimulates the economic development through stricter environmental standards, limits and target values to introduce environmentally friendly technologies, innovations and establishment of knowledge and research base;
- social - provision of environmental infrastructure increases its attractiveness to the public and has positive influence on public health and living standard.

This social and economic influence of environmental infrastructure development and protection of the environment creates a foundation for mutual synergy of the OPE and operational programs oriented on support of knowledge economy and social development, proving at the same time that environmental sub-system is an obvious component of sustainable social and economic development.

4.1.3 Basic strategic documents

OPE strategy has been formulated in accordance with the principles, rules and fields of intervention defined in the [General regulation](#), as well as in the Council regulation (EC) No 1084/2006 of 11 July 2006 establishing a Cohesion Fund and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1164/94 ([hereinafter referred to as „CF regulation“](#)) and regulation (EC) No 1080/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 July 2006 on the European Regional Development Fund and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1783/1999 as amended by Regulation (EC) No 397/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 6 May 2009 amending Regulation (EC) No 1080/2006 on the European Regional Development Fund as regards the eligibility of energy efficiency and renewable energy investments in housing – and by Regulation (EU) No 437/2010 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 May 2010 amending Regulation (EC) No 1080/2006 on the European Regional Development Fund as regards the eligibility of housing interventions in favor of marginalised communities ([hereinafter referred to as „ERDF regulation“](#)).

OPE strategy is based also on key EU strategic documents, namely the Community Strategic Guidelines, Lisbon and Goteborg strategies, EU strategy for sustainable development and The 6th EU Environmental Action Plan.

OPE strategy was defined in accordance with goals stipulated in the EU Accession Treaty which – mainly strengthening of the overall convergence – activities supported from EU funds should focus on maintaining sustainable growth of competitiveness and employment, as set in the Lisbon Strategy. Key objective for regions and Member States eligible for support from EU funds under the objective Convergence will be to stimulate growth potential, to achieve and maintain its high level, i.e. to focus on investments and public services that support long-term competitiveness, creation of jobs and sustainable development.

Environmental investments can contribute to economic growth mainly by the following: they can ensure long-term sustainability of economic growth; they lower certain economic costs (e.g. health care costs, costs related to pollution removal or compensations) and may stimulate innovations and job creation. OPE strategy leads to strengthening of synergy between environmental protection and social-economic growth.

National Strategy of Sustainable Development adopted by the Government of the Slovak Republic in its Resolution N° 978/2001 and Resolution of the National Council of the Slovak Republic N° 1989/2002 as well as the Action plan for sustainable development for 2005-2010 adopted by the Government of the Slovak Republic by its resolution No. 547/2005, are the principal national policy documents for the OPE strategy formulation.

OPE strategy is based on the current situation analysis in the sector of environment, focusing on several areas of the society development that are facing problems and are identified in the National Strategy of Sustainable Development.

OPE strategy is also seeking for solutions for the major environmental issues, which are in particular:

- Continuing unfavorable quality of surface and underground water caused by insufficient treatment of industrial and municipal waste waters,
- Continuing endangering of genofond and ecological stability of the country – decreasing biodiversity, expansion of synantropic and invasive types of fauna and flora,
- Continuing deficiencies in waste disposal – insufficient treatment and further use of waste, low share of separate waste collection,
- Insufficient attention to the issue of environmental burdens and their continuous negative impact on human health and components of the environment (water, soil and bedrock contamination),
- Continuing regional air pollution
- Insufficient utilisation of renewable energy sources,
- Different quality of environment at regional level.

The OPE strategy will be implemented through accomplishment of its defined priorities and their goals, which are, at the same time, methods and means supporting achievement of strategic goals of sustainable development of the Slovak Republic. The OPE strategy contributes to achievement of these objectives mainly through support to lower pollution abatement and environmental damages, to mitigate global climate change effects, to lower ozone layer depletion and natural disasters (floods), and to improve the quality of environment in regions.

Ecologic principle, as one of the key principles of sustainable development, was used for formulation of the OPE strategy. The following criteria prove the inclusion of this principle into the OPE strategy:

- Conservation and support of biodiversity, vitality and resistance of ecosystems,
- Preservation of high quality of parts of the environment – minimizing negative environmental impacts,
- Support to the renewable energy sources.

Implementation of OPE activities will create favorable conditions to strengthen other principles of sustainable development, such as the precautionary principle, prevention principle, polluter pays principle, integration principle, subsidiarity principle and partnership principle.

OPE strategy also complies with other national strategic documents – Slovak Competitiveness Strategy until 2010: National Lisbon Strategy, National Reform Program of the Slovak Republic for 2006-2008 and other strategic materials.

OPE strategy is focusing on thorough implementation of the environmental acquis, which also includes accomplishment of commitments resulting for Slovakia from the EU Accession Treaty, as it was emphasized in the document „Proposal on NSRF of the Slovak Republic for 2007-2013 Amendment, Following EC Comments and Negotiations with the EC“ approved on May 2nd, 2007 by the Slovak Government Resolution N°407. The document states that Slovakia needs to guarantee commitments resulted from the environmental acquis will be fulfilled. Comparing financial expenditures needed to meet the obligations resulted from environmental acquis with the OPE allocation, a conclusion to be made that it is feasible to fulfill these obligations only if the financial expenditures needed are taken into account in the process of state budget preparation, approval and adjustment in the period 2007-2015.

OPE strategy and its priorities, including specific and operational objectives, result also from strategy documents of the Slovak Ministry of the Environment, such as: Environmental Policy Strategy, Principles and the Priorities (1993), National Environmental Action Programme II (1999), Integrated Approximation Strategy in the Environment Sector (2002), Status and Perspectives of the Environmental Acquis Implementation in SR (as of 30 March 2007).

The National environmental policy strategy was updated in 2005 at MoE level, in connection with the preparation of multi-sector documents of social and economic development of the Slovak Republic. In 2005 the chapter “Environmental policy” as a part of a complex National Economic Strategy of Slovakia elaborated by the Ministry of Economy SR, was approved as a principal sector document. Its principle, priorities and objectives has been reflected in elaborating the National Strategic Reference Framework of the SR for 2007 – 2013 as well as the OPE, particularly in defining its global objective, specific objectives and relevant priority axes.

For the OPE operational objectives definition, the partial strategic documents (such as the Concept of the water management policy of the Slovak Republic until the year 2015, Plan of the development of the public drinking water and waste water networks for the SR territory, Waste management programme of the SR for years 2006 – 2010, Nature and landscape protection strategy), the most of which was elaborated and approved in 2006, has been the most important.

Chapter 7 describes the compliance of the OPE Strategy with the above documents.

Goals, principles and priorities of the state environmental policy create frame for the OPE strategy and for formulation of medium-term objectives and priorities for 2007 – 2013 programming period.

The main goal of environmental policy of the Slovak Republic is to achieve high quality of the environment, better protection and utilization of natural resources and landscape as conditions for sustainable development.

OPE strategy was prepared in compliance with the below long-term priorities of the state environmental policy defined as means to achieve the above-mentioned objective:

- Minimizing environmental pollution, development of environmental infrastructure, increasing environmental quality of regions, and flood protection
- Protection against environmental risks and burdens, and increased environmental awareness of public
- Conservation of biological and landscape diversity, protection of important natural sites and rational use of natural resources
- Financing of environmental protection care.

OPE strategy also respects the ground principles of environmental policy that are:

- **To enforce the respect to life and natural and cultural values** – not even ownership rights allow the owner to endanger or destruct these values and to pollute the environment over the limit set by legislation; environment of each individual is a part of the global environment;
- **To consider the improvement of environment as a pre-condition for sustainable development and improvement of public health** – the state of environment is determining factor for social and economic development, and for the quality of life;
- **To accept cross-generation responsibility for the state of environment** – responsibility for its quality for future generations is born by the current society, which does not transfer responsibility for environmental damages and negative impacts on future generations;
- **To enforce the “polluter pays principle”** – who pollutes or damages the environment is responsible for payments related to clean-up and remedies;
- **To prefer precautionary measures to remedy ones** – shifting from remedy of environmental damage consequences to removal of causes, this requires change in approach in all sectors, including the life routines of the society;
- **To enforce EU and Slovak environmental law and accomplish accepted international obligations in environment and nature care at all levels** – fulfillment of obligations resulting from the EU membership, granting constitutional rights for favorable environment and the duty to protect and improve the environment, pay attention to rational utilization of natural resources and ecologic balance;
- **To incorporate environmental policy to economic development policies** – state environmental policy has a multi-sectoral character, thus it can not be a task for one sector only; it understands solutions of environmental problems as that of economic problems of the society, the state of the environment reflects the state of economy and vice versa.

Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic elaborated and approved a document entitled „Status and Perspectives of the Environmental Acquis Implementation in SR (as of 30 March 2007)“, which defines long-term objectives with regard to the requirements resulting

from the EU environmental legislation, including a calculation of financial requirements to meet these. Text of the document, including tables is published on the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic web page.

The document allows to identify the valid EU legislation that Slovakia is required to transpose and implement in environmental sector in 2007-2013 (2015 respectively, in the water management sector with regard to the transitional period pursuant to the EU Accession Treaty). Text section of this document is accompanied by a financial plan for implementation of environmental acquis, providing the latest available information on financial costs to implement the most important EU environmental Regulations and Directives, including those which implementation is financially the most costly.

In the financial plan, calculations show that costs to implement the EU legislation governing water management, air pollution protection, waste management and protection of the nature and landscape amount approx. 6,9 billion EUR; approximately 15% was thereof has been spent (1 015 000 EUR) by end 2006.

The OPE Strategy was adjusted based on the financial costs calculation to implement the EU environmental legislation, mainly the methods of financing, i.e. the OPE financial allocation distribution to individual priority axis, taking into account financial needs to implement the EU legislation within different environmental sectors, as well as the financial resources for the coverage of the expected costs.

The extrapolation of the current trends and allocations to finance commitments resulting from transitional periods for the environment and environmental acquis from individual financial sources (including the state budget funds) shows that there will be insufficient resources available to cover the expected costs in future periods (2007-2015).

Taking into consideration the high financial requirements of commitments resulting from the environmental acquis compared to the OPE financial allocation, it will be necessary to ensure additional resources from the state budget alongside the EU sources to accomplish these. Therefore, in the process of the state budget preparation, approval and adjustment in the period 2007-2015, it will be necessary to take into account also the financial requirements to implement the environmental acquis.

4.2 Global Objective of OPE

The global objective of OPE is to improve the environment and rational utilization of resources through completion and higher quality of environmental infrastructure of the Slovak Republic pursuant to EU and Slovak legislation, and to strengthen the effectiveness of the environmental component of sustainable development.

This global goal of OPE directly results from the above mentioned goal and long-term priorities of the state environmental policy, and contributes to enforcement of its main principles.

The global goal of OPE directly results from the necessity to fulfil obligations of the Slovak Republic to EU, resulting from obligations from transitional periods set up in the Accession Treaty, as well as from valid and prepared EU environmental legislation. The global objective

of OPE is directed mainly on priorities, most complicated and financially demanding activities from the point of view of implementation of the environmental acquis in the area of water, waste, air and nature protection.

Fulfillment of this global goal of OPE increases the attractiveness of the territory of the Slovak Republic and its regions, improves the quality of life, strengthens the open society character from its social and territorial point of view, and creates conditions for sustainable development.

Table No. 4.1: OPE context indicators

Indicator title	Information source	Type of indicator	Specific Unit	Initial and target value for SR	
				2004	2015
Greenhouse gas emissions	Slovak Hydro-meteorological Institute	context	thousand tons CO ₂ eq ¹⁹	51 046	61 902 ²⁰
				2004	2015
Waste generation	MoE SR	context	mill. tons	10,9	12,5
				2004	2015
Amount of waste disposal	MoE SR	context	mill. tons	3,2	4,0
				2004	2015
Rate of waste recovery	MoE SR	context	%	44	60
				2004	2015
Population connected to public sewers	MoE SR	context	number (in thousand)	3 009	4 400
				2004	2015
Percentage of population connected to WWTP	MoE SR	context	%	54,1	81
				2004	2015
Share of population supplied with drinking water from public water supply network	MoE SR	context	%	85	91
				2004	2015
Area of the territory with flood prevention protection	MoE SR	context	km ²	5800	5987
				2004	2015
Number of NATURA 2000 declared territories ²¹	MoE SR	context	number	0	420
				2004	2015

The global objective of OPE will be achieved through following specific objectives, which correspond to individual priority axes of the operational programme:

1. Integrated protection and rational utilisation of water
2. Flood protection
3. Air protection and minimisation of adverse effects of climate change,
4. Waste management
5. Protection and regeneration of natural environment and landscape
6. Technical Assistance
7. Development of the Flood Warning and Forecasting System

¹⁹ Aggregated emissions of greenhouse gas expressed as CO₂ equivalent recalculated using GWP

²⁰ Data according to greenhouse gas emissions projections in the Slovak Republic – scenario without measures, 2005 – according to the projections emissions are increasing with the increase of GDP. Objective of the supported projects in the framework of the priority axis 3 is slowing down the increase of greenhouse gas related to the GDP increase (decoupling).

²¹ These are the territories designed in Slovakia within the process of designation of proposed Special Protection (Birds) Areas as Special Protection (Birds) Areas and of designation of areas of European importance (adopted by EC) in accordance with article 4 paragraph 4 of the Biotope Directive.

4.3 Strategy to Achieve the Global Objective as a Result of Thematic and Territorial Concentration

Thematic concentration of contributions of funds

The strategy to accomplish the OPE global objective is thematically aimed on integrated protection and rational utilisation of water, flood protection, air protection and minimisation of adverse effects of climate change, on support of waste management infrastructure, as well as protection and regeneration of natural environment and landscape.

1. Integrated protection and rational use of water

This priority is thematically aimed on drinking water supply to the population in the required amount and quality, but mainly on collection and treatment of municipal wastewater through public sewers, which is lagging behind the drinking water supply to the population from public drinking water network in the Slovak Republic. The next key area of water management infrastructure is decrease of overload of wastewater treatment plants and improvement of wastewater treatment parameters through development of new and reconstruction of existing wastewater treatment plants. Application of integrated approach to protection and utilisation of water sources within the framework of sustainable development to collection and treatment of municipal wastewater means to decrease discrepancies between the amount and quality of used (delivered) water and the amount and quality of water collected by sewer systems and discharged to water environment.

The European Parliament and Council Directive N°2006/60/EC requires from the Member States to commence water monitoring till December 22, 2006. The obligation to commence water monitoring pursuant to this Directive will in the Slovak Republic increase financial requirements for collection of data on water situation. Information on quantitative and qualitative (chemical and ecological) state of surface and underground waters and the following assessment of their ecologic state are necessary prerequisite for drafting water planning documents and programs of measures on improvement of ecologic state of waters and the subsequent assessment of effectiveness of implemented corrective measures. At the same time, these will be a base for reporting requirements in this sector to EC.

2. Flood protection

All activities belonging to this priority axis are performed within the context of integrated management of river basins, and directed towards a complex flood protection.

The priority axis is thematically focusing to secure flood protection of the Slovak territory of the Slovak Republic. Due to its significant economic and social impacts, flood protection belongs to priorities in environmental field in Slovakia. If the flood protection and prevention measures are not implemented, costs to eliminate damages caused by floods will only grow.

3. Air protection and minimisation of adverse effects of climate change

This priority axis will be aimed on thorough implementation of EU directives in the field of air quality and at the same time on fulfillment of conclusions of the Thematic Strategy on Air Pollution. It is a document which the Board of Commissioners adopted on 22 September 2005 as the first out of 7 strategies which EC has to submit in the framework of fulfillment of the 6th Environmental action plan. The strategy clearly defines environmental goals, fulfillment of which will be the main priority in the area of air protection in the Slovak Republic till 2020. In accordance with them, activities directed on minimization of pollution

emissions – sulphur oxides, nitrogen oxides, solid suspended particles PM₁₀ a PM_{2.5}, ammonium, volatile organic compounds and greenhouse gas will be supported. At the same time there will be a need to decrease concentration of polluting substances in air, even using measures that are above the existing EU legislation.

Directives on air quality also require meeting limits for lead, cadmium, arsenic, mercury and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH). To achieve these standards, emissions from pollution sources need to be lowered through implementation of emission standards set in the Protocol on heavy metals and Protocol on persistent organic pollutants.

High air quality cannot be achieved without a good monitoring system, its maintenance and upgrade according to requirements set by EU directives. The National Emission Information NEIS calls for regular updating and quality improvement. Therefore, the aim is to also support projects completing and developing NEIS.

With respect to the risk of unfavorable climate change, topical focus of the priority axis also lies in the minimization of green house gas emissions coupled with the minimization of principal pollutant emissions.

4. Waste management

Growing Slovak economy causes growth of waste amounts generated by the industry and population. In accordance with the waste management goals hierarchy and obligations, resulting from legislation and EU and Slovak strategic documents, waste management need to focus on support to separate waste collection systems and waste recycling.

Special attention should be given to waste, which may have significant negative impact on human health and the environment (e.g. PCB/PCT, healthcare waste).

From the point of view of sustainable development, focus is needed on investigation, monitoring and remediation of environmental burdens, closure and rehabilitation of landfills. This will lead not only to minimization and elimination of negative impacts of environmental burdens and landfills on human health and ecosystems, but better quality of individual parts of environment in the respective areas will create conditions for further investment activities.

5. Protection and regeneration of natural environment and landscape

This priority is thematically aimed on fulfillment of obligations of the Slovak Republic resulting especially from EU legislation on protection of species and habitats of Community importance, for which the European network of protected sites (NATURA 2000) is assigned and created in common interest of EU, and developed by individual Member States separately to local networks of protected areas. The Slovak Republic, as EU Member State, is obliged to take care of NATURA 2000 sites, ensure for favorable state of habitats and species of European importance and their monitoring. Other tasks regarding protection of biodiversity and landscape result from international obligations, and also from national strategies and policies.

7. Development of the Flood Warning and Forecasting System

The specified priority axis is thematically focused on the ensuring of development of the Flood Warning and Forecasting System (POVAPSYS), which will secure the provision of information about meteorological situation and hydrologic situation, flood risk, flood occurrence and about further possible development of meteorological conditions and hydrological conditions, which have influence to the flooding process as well as about the

maximum possible most accurate spatial localization of the occurrence of sudden risk meteorological situations and consequent expected flood situations pursuant to the models of current run off conditions in partial basins of the lower class.

Territorial concentration of contributions of funds

The base for territorial concentration of funds provided under the OPE is the geographic eligibility of regions to apply for financial subsidies from the structural funds and the Cohesion Fund in accordance with the three main objectives of EU cohesion policy for 2007 – 2013 programming period. This eligibility of regions is based on their economic performance.

The support within the objective Convergence from structural funds – namely from the European Regional Development Fund – focus on NUTS 2 regions, with GDP per capita expressed as purchasing power parity (PPP) (GDP/capita in PPP) calculated from data available for the last three years before the regulation entered in force, will not reach 75% of extended EU average – in case of the Slovak Republic this is the whole territory except the Bratislava region. The objective “Convergence” financed from Cohesion Fund covers the entire territory of the Slovak Republic as a Member State, with Gross National Income (GNI) in purchasing power parity calculated from data available for the last three years, did not reach 90% of EU average.

Administrative division is not relevant for majority of activities in environmental infrastructure and protection of the environment (e.g. air protection activities, nature and landscape protection activities, which are driven by the location of protected areas, flood prevention activities, which implementation follows the river basins; water management activities implemented by water utilities).

1. Integrated protection and rational utilisation of water

The development of public water supply systems and public sewers in the Slovak Republic is co-financed from public means and implemented in compliance with the Development Plan of Public Drinking Water Supply System Network and Public Sewers on the Territory of the Slovak Republic (pursuant to the Article 37 of the Act N°442/2002 on Public Drinking Water Supply System Network and Public Sewers and on changes and amendments to the Act N°276/2001 on regulation in network utilities as amended). Also constructions of this infrastructure under preparations, which will be financed from public means are being proposed according to this Plan. The Development Plan of Public Sewers is based mainly on obligations, which the Slovak Republic accepted in EU accession process. Decisive are the transitional periods – till the end of 2010, when all agglomerations with population over 10 000 equivalent persons (EI) should be equipped with waste water collection and treatment, including nutrients removal. By the end of 2015, it is required to ensure waste water collection and full biological treatment for agglomerations with population over 2 000 EI. Moreover, adequate waste water treatment is required in all agglomerations, which already have sewer network. Thus, financed priorities are originating from the Development Plan of Public Water Supply Systems and Public Sewers on the territory of the Slovak Republic, split mainly by size of agglomerations.

In order to preserve the priority direction to fulfill obligations of SR resulting from the mentioned transitional periods, development needs of regions, i.e. current situation in provision of SR population with drinking water, percentage of population connected to public drinking water system in individual regions and expected investments for utilization of big

water reservoirs in line with Development plans of individual higher territorial units, will be supported from the Cohesion Fund.

Following the principle of process management in water management within hydrologic river basins as defined in EU legislation and transposed to the Slovak Water Act, as well as the fact that approx. 95% of the Slovak territory belong to the Danube river basin and the rest to Visla river basin, monitoring programme is proposed for the entire territory of the Slovak Republic. Monitoring sites, indicators and frequency of monitoring result from the requirement to obtain reliable data on quantitative and qualitative (chemical and ecologic) state of surface and underground waters in the Slovak Republic comparable to those collected in other EU countries.

2. Flood protection

The key administrator of surface water bodies in Slovakia is Slovenský vodohospodársky podnik, š.p., Banská Štiavnica (Slovak Water Management Enterprise, state enterprise), managing 38 183 km of the total length of river network. Other smaller water streams in length of 18 717 km are managed by forest management administrators, military forests administrators and other administrators.

Based on the experience from floods in recent years, the updated Flood Prevention Program of the Slovak Republic until 2010 even more emphasizes the measures aimed on protection of areas with high concentration of population and those with significant economic potential.

The flooding prevention measures are situated directly on water flows and will be situated also in countryside, with the aim to retain water in basins and thus reduce maximum overflows in water flows. The preventive measures in countryside will be situated on strategic areas in basins, in localities generating dangerous surface run off.

3. Air protection and minimisation of adverse effects of climate change

Air protection cannot be divided according to regions. The air does not recognize any borders and its pollution impacts the entire territory of the Slovak Republic.

In terms of ambient air protection, the Slovak Republic includes 8 zones and 2 agglomerations with compromised ambient air quality caused by certain ambient air pollutants concentrations above permissible levels. In these agglomerations and zones, there are defined ambient air quality management areas, where permissible levels of **PM₁₀**, **NO₂** and **SO₂** are exceeded based air pollution monitoring and modeling. These areas are specified in the following chart. In respect of ozone pollutant, the idea of a global problem is enforced. For the stated reason, the entire area of the Slovak Republic was defined as ambient air management area in case of ozone target values exceeding. Therefore, limitation of ozone precursor emissions should be supported country-wide.

Table 4.2: Air quality management areas²²

AGGLOMERATION/ Zone	Defined air quality management area	Pollutant
BRATISLAVA	Territory of the Slovak Republic Capital Bratislava	PM ₁₀ , NO ₂
KOŠICE Region of Košice	Territory of the town Košice and territory of the municipalities Bočiar, Haniska, Sokolany, Veľká Ida	PM ₁₀
Banská Bystrica Region	Territory of the town Banská Bystrica	PM ₁₀
	Territory of the towns Hnúšťa, Tisovec and municipal districts Brádno, Hačava, Likier, Polom, Rimavské Brezovo	PM ₁₀

²² Updated on the basis of the assessment of the air quality on the territory of the Slovak Republic in 2007 and based upon results of monitoring and modelling in 2006.

	and Rimavská Píla	
	Territory of the town Jelšava and municipalities Lubeník, Chyžné, Magnezitovce, Mokrú Lúka, Revúcka Lehota	PM ₁₀
	Territory of the town Žiar nad Hronom and municipality Ladomerská Vieska	PM ₁₀
Košice Region	Territory of the town Krompachy	PM ₁₀
	Territory of the town Strážske	PM ₁₀
Nitra Region	Territory of the town Nitra	PM ₁₀ , NO ₂
	Territory of the town Humenné and municipality Jasenov	PM ₁₀
	Territory of the town Prešov and municipality Ľubotice	PM ₁₀
Prešov Region	Territory of the town Vranov nad Topľou and municipality Hencovce	PM ₁₀
	Territory of the town Poprad	PM ₁₀
	Territory of the town Trenčín	PM ₁₀
Trenčín Region	Territory of the district Prievidza	PM ₁₀ , SO ₂
	Territory of the town Trnava	PM ₁₀ , NO ₂
Trnava Region	Territory of the town Senica	PM ₁₀
	Territory of the town Žilina	PM ₁₀
Žilina Region	Territory of the town Martin	PM ₁₀
	Territory of the town Ružomberok	PM ₁₀

In terms of SO₂, limit values are transgressed due to stationary sources of ambient air pollution, in case of NO_x and PM, it is caused not only by stationary, but especially mobile sources (vehicle, other transport means, secondary dustiness). These contribute to the increasing number of limits transgressed in the SR and to ambient air quality deterioration.

The above mentioned table shows that there is a need to concentrate upon the polluting substance PM₁₀ in all regions. Attention must be paid to decrease of SO₂ emissions in the Trenčín region and decrease of NO_x emissions in the Nitra and Trnava regions. Issue of the ground ozone has a worldwide priority.²³

In geographical terms, ERDF contributions within priority axis 3 should focus into the above stated ambient air quality management areas respecting percentage share of the given region population living in areas with ambient air quality management.

4. Waste Management

Waste management territorial priorities will be based on the approved Waste Management Program of the Slovak Republic 2006 – 2010 (hereinafter referred to as “WMP SR 2006-2010”). The WMP SR 2006-2010 is planned at NUTS I level. Activities planned at NUTS II and NUTS III levels will be specified closer in Regional Waste Management Programs for years 2006 – 2010. Strategy or regional level projects funding will be based on the analysis of waste management status in the respective regions of the SR, which is defined in regional waste management programs. Respective regional projects funding will depend on the volume of communal waste generated per inhabitant, volume of waste recovered and volume of hazardous waste generated in the respective region.

²³ Therefore, in terms of projects character, the region of Trenčín will support projects like, e.g. change of fuel basis from coal to biomass or gas, the region of Nitra will support the change of fuel basis to gas, or DENOX equipment, as well as projects minimizing NO_x in transport. All other regions of ambient air quality management will support projects minimizing PM₁₀, especially in transport – planting greenery in stripes along frequented roads, spraying vehicles, rebuilding of public transport vehicles to less PM₁₀ emitting systems (trams, trolley-buses), etc.

The issue of environmental burdens is subject to regional disparities resulting from unbalanced economic use of respective Slovak regions. Regions with past and present concentration of industrial activities have a much higher contamination level compared to mostly agricultural regions. Therefore, burdened regions will be subject to priority treatment, which will decrease differences in the quality of environment in respective regions and decrease health risks to the inhabitants of the given regions.

Inventory of environmental burdens in Slovakia and specification of priorities for their remediation, taking into account mainly the level of negative impact of environmental burdens on the environment, will be the base for territorial concentration of funds within this priority. Since 2009, it will be possible to assign these priorities to Self-Governing Regions depending on location of each environmental burden, except contaminated sites, where contamination exceeds borders of Self-Governing Regions.

The project “Systematic Identification of Environmental Burdens in the Slovak Republic” was approved in 2006, aimed on systematic registration of all environmental burdens on the territory of the Slovak Republic and development of information system on environmental burdens. The ~~identification will result in project was aimed to~~ definition of priorities in remediation of environmental burdens, which can apply for funding from Cohesion Fund.

Waste disposal sites with special conditions were operated on the whole territory of the Slovak Republic, and prioritization of their closure and rehabilitation cannot be based on regional division but on their impact on the environment.

5. Protection and regeneration of natural environment and landscape

All activities of operational priority relate to the entire territory of the Slovak Republic regardless to its territorial division. Borders of protected areas in the Slovak Republic do not respect its administrative division, and therefore the activities of this priority cannot be divided to individual Self-Governing Regions (NUTS III).

From the point of view of regional direction of ERDF funds the most important is the area of protected territory in the region in relation to the total area of protected territory in the Slovak Republic (without the Bratislava region which is not eligible for ERDF funding).

As a result of the above, interventions in environmental infrastructure and protection of the environment may impact innovative and cohesive growth poles, but state of environment in the given territory is the first priority for their territorial allocation.

An indicative division of financial allocations according to priority axes on the NUTS II level together with its justification is attached in Annex No.15.

7. Development of the Flood Warning and Forecasting System

The POVAPSYS development within the frame of priority axis 7 supposes in particular the provision of the north-west and west Slovakia territory coverage by information about rainfalls, by monitoring the Slovak territory, except for the Bratislava region, as well as the provision of flow measuring technology, the purchase and calibration of hydrological models of all partial river basins outside the Bratislava region and the implementation of further activities for the provision of the flood forecasting service in compliance with the law and for providing the technical support of information systems and technologies.

The responsible subject for the flood forecasting service is Slovenský hydrometeorologický ústav (Slovak Hydro-meteorological Institute), which is obliged to immediately inform the flood prevention authorities, the administrator of water flows significant from the water

management aspect, Hasičský a záchranný zbor (Fire and Rescue Service) and local environment authorities (Act No. 7/2010 Coll. § 14 Art. 2 on the flood prevention), which simultaneously secures issuing of warnings against the flood risk. During the flood forecast service execution, the Slovak Hydro-meteorological Institute evaluates chosen indicators from the state hydrological network and from the state meteorological network of the SR (Act No. 201/2009 Coll.).

5 Priority Axes of the Operational Programme Environment

Global objective of OPE:

Improved environmental status and rational use of resources achieved by completing and improving quality of environmental infrastructure in SR pursuant to EU and SR regulations and stimulation of environmental part of sustainable development

Achievement of the global objective in OPE will be facilitated by the following priority axes:

Title of OPE priority axis	Source of financing
Priority axis 1 - Integrated protection and rational utilisation of water	CF
Priority axis 2 – Flood protection	CF
Priority axis 3 - Air protection and minimisation of adverse effects of climate change	ERDF
Priority axis 4 - Waste management	CF
Priority axis 5 - Protection and regeneration of natural environment and landscape	ERDF
Priority axis 6 - Technical assistance	CF
Priority axis 7 Development of the Flood Warning and Forecasting System	ERDF

5.1 Priority Axis 1 – Integrated Protection and Rational Utilisation of Water

Specific objective:

Reducing water pollution and increasing quality of life for Slovak citizens via completion and improved quality of Slovak water management infrastructure pursuant to EU and SR regulations

The initial point for water management, as part of sustainable development, is state water management policy, which is outlined as a set of principles, measures and tools focused upon:

- facilitation of general water protection including water and water-dependent eco-systems, preservation or improvement of water status, effective, economic and sustainable water use, integrated river basin management, improved quality of the environment and its parts,
- facilitation of services with outstanding public effects on hydrological floods while harmonizing forms and ways of water resource usage with a requirement to provide for their natural recovery, protection of water eco-system while considering measures leading to reduced adverse water effects,
- achievement of strategic objectives and facilitation of policies taking global, European and neighboring relationships into consideration along with national-state interests in water management sector; the main goal is to achieve, via integrated river basin management,

generation of conditions for permanent water resource usage in necessary amount and adequate quality.

Apart from other objectives, the strategy of further development aims to create prerequisites for smooth high-quality water supplies provided to citizens, efficient waste water disposal without negative impacts on environment. Safe waste water collection and treatment forms one of the most significant factors in water protection from pollution leading to fulfillment of objective contained in Water Framework Directive, i.e. to achieve satisfactory ecological status of water by 2015.

Measures to improve water status and verify the efficiency of implemented steps are conditioned by information on qualitative (chemical and ecological) and quantitative surface and underground water.

Water protection, permanent improvements of ecological situation of water contributes to the life quality of lives of inhabitants and to development of social and business activities in SR. Existence of a water-management infrastructure and its corresponding services forms prerequisites for further social and economic development in the given region, whether it applies to local, regional or national levels.

All activities forming part of this priority are being implemented within a context of integrated river basin management and are aimed at sound ecological and chemical water status as well as suitable balance water status in basins.

Operational objectives:

1. Drinking water supply to citizens from public drinking water supply network

The objective aim is to provide access to drinking water for the largest possible number of citizens and to provide for availability of sufficient amount of high-quality drinking water for given territory from public drinking water supply network. This issue will be solved based upon the following conceptual documents - Development plan of public drinking water supply network and public sewers for the territory of the Slovak Republic, individual regional development plans and development plans of higher territorial units, Management plan of river basins or Water plan of Slovakia.

While assessing current status of drinking water supplies for citizens from public drinking water supply networks on the territory of SR, we may state that SR is lagging behind other EU countries. On January 1, 2005, only 84.8% of all citizens were supplied with drinking water from public drinking water supply network.

Both supplies from public drinking water supply network and specific water consumption characterize the standard of living and housing hygiene achieved in a country. At the same time, drinking water supply is one of key regional development factors in terms of housing development as well as service and tourism development, etc. Thus, increased capacity building for drinking water supplies from public drinking water supply networks may help to achieve desired status of regional development. Regional redistribution of future investments will respect regional development needs, i.e. the current status of SR citizens supply with drinking water, percentage of citizens connected to public water distribution systems in respective regions and investments expected into the use of large water sources in line with Development Plans of the respective Higher Territorial Units.

The Operational Goal will be met through the support of activities focusing especially on:

- Construction of municipal public water distribution systems only in case of concurrent construction of public sewage systems according to the SR National Plan for the implementation of EC Directive 91/271/EEC.
- Completion or efficiency improvement of water sources and superior water distribution systems to be used for already established water consumption points within the reach of the superior system to improve quality and quantity parameters of drinking water supplied by public water distribution system.

Reconstructions of water distribution networks, their existing structures and equipment will be supported as part of the above mentioned activities only if their capacity with respect to real new drinking water consumers connection will increase, and this only in the scope adequate to the stated increase.

2. Municipal waste water collection and treatment pursuant to SR commitments towards EU
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The objective aims to increase the number of citizens living in houses connected to public sewer system and benefiting from related services like municipal waste water collection and treatment as a fundamental water management environmental service in line with SR commitments towards EU.

Compared to developed member states, the SR still clearly lags behind in communal waste water collection and treatment. The status quo represents 65% of EU 15 average, whereby, the share of connection to public sewage significantly lags behind the ratio of connection to public water distribution system. Therefore, transitional periods up until year 2015 were negotiated for the construction of sewage systems complying with EU legislation, especially EC Directive No. 91/271/EEC of 21 May 1991 on Urban Waste Water Treatment.

SR commitments resulting from EU Treaty on Accession in respect of EC Directive No. 91/271/EEC of 21 May 1991 on Urban Waste Water Treatment implementation are the following:

- as of December 31, 2004, in line with the directive with Article 3 (on sewer systems in agglomerations over 2000 EI) and Article 4 (waste water treatment in agglomerations with 2000 to 10000 EI) of the directive, eliminate 83% of total biologically removable pollution;
- by December 31, 2008, reach compliance with the directive with Article 3 and 4 for 91% of total biologically removable pollution;
- by December 31, 2010, reach compliance with the directive with Article 5 indent 2 for agglomerations with over 10 000 equivalent inhabitants
- by December 31, 2012, reach compliance with the directive with Article 3 and 4 for 97% of total biologically removable pollution,
- by the end of 2015, reach compliance with the directive with Article 3 and 4 for total pollution generated by agglomerations over 2000 EI.

The following documents form conceptual basis in solution of these issues: National Program of the Slovak Republic for the implementation of EC Directive No. 91/271/EEC of 21 May

1991 on Urban Waste Water Treatment as amended by Commission Directive No. 97/15/EE and European Parliament and Council Regulation No. 1882/2003/EE (further only “National Program of the SR for the implementation of EC Directive No. 91/271/EEC”), Development Plan of Public Water Distribution and Sewage Systems in Slovakia, respective regional and higher territorial unit development plans, River basin management plans, or Slovak Water Plan.

Compliance with the defined SR goals and commitments that are reflected in the above mentioned strategic documents will especially lead to increased protection and improvement of natural water sources and water eco-systems status, complex solution of ecologic and water management interests, improvement of public health, which in end effect will positively impact the regions and society development.

With respect to the need of compliance with the SR commitments resulting from the Treaty of EU Accession, i.e. transitional periods defined for the implementation of EC Directive No. 91/271/EEC, the below specified activities resulting from the Slovak Republic National Program for the implementation of EC Directive No. 91/271/EEC will be supported in terms of investments. Application of the said approach will provide for compliance of the SR with its transitional periods commitments as per Directive No. 91/271/EEC – years 2008, 2010, 2012 and 2015 – as stated in the EU Accession Treaty for Slovakia.

Regional distribution of future investments will reflect the need for equivalent inhabitants connection to sewage system and construction, or reconstruction of unsatisfactory WWTP on the basis of equivalent inhabitants number in line with the commitments resulting from EC Directive No. 91/271/EEC implementation (see Annex No.15).

Operational objective will be complied through the support of activities focusing especially the following:

- Construction of sewage networks and construction and reconstruction of waste water treatment plants with the removal of nutrients in agglomerations over 150 000 EI according to the National Program of the SR for the implementation of EC Directive No. 91/271/EEC and in line with the Development Plan for Public Water Distribution and Sewage Systems in the Slovak Republic and respective regional development plans and development plans of higher territorial units or River basin management plans, or Slovak Water Plan
- Construction of sewage networks and construction and reconstruction of waste water treatment plants with the removal of nutrients in agglomerations between 15 000 to 150 000 EI according to the National Program of the SR for the implementation of EC Directive No. 91/271/EEC and in line with the Development Plan for Public Water Distribution and Sewage Systems in the Slovak Republic and respective regional development plans and development plans of higher territorial units or River basin management plans, or Slovak Water Plan
- Construction of sewage networks and construction and reconstruction of waste water treatment plants with the removal of nutrients in agglomerations between 10 000 and 15 000 EI according to the National Program of the SR for the implementation of EC Directive No. 91/271/EEC and in line with the Development Plan for Public Water Distribution and Sewage Systems the Slovak Republic and respective regional and higher territorial unit development plans and development plans of higher territorial units or River basin management plans, or Slovak Water Plan
- Construction of sewage networks and construction and reconstruction of waste water treatment plants while securing secondary treatment of wastewaters in agglomerations

between 2 000 and 10 000 EI according to the National Program of the SR for the implementation of EC Directive No. 91/271/EEC and in line with the Development Plan for Public Water Distribution and Sewage Systems in the Slovak Republic and respective regional development plans and development plans of higher territorial units or River basin management plans, or Slovak Water Plan

- Construction of waste water treatment plants in places with existing sewage network in agglomerations up to 2 000 EI according to the Development Plan for Public Water Distribution and Sewage Systems in the Slovak Republic and respective regional development plans and development plans of higher territorial units or River basin management plans, or Slovak Water Plan
- Construction of sewage networks in agglomerations of up to 2 000 EI in case of projects focusing measures implementation as defined in a resolution of state water management bodies (according to Act NO. 364/2004 on Water and change of SR NC Act No. 372/1990 of Coll. on Minor Offences as amended), trying to avoid underground and surface water quality and quantity compromising and prevent any threat to their use.

Above mentioned activities are divided so that in them mentioned size categories of agglomerations will correspond with the Annex 2 of National Program of Slovak Republic for the implementation of the EC Directive 91/271/EEC.

Reconstructions of sewage networks, structures and WWTP equipment will be supported as part of the above stated activities, provided the real connection capacity of new waste water generators will increase and this only in the scope of the stated increase and will also provide for the compliance with commitments resulting from the SR EU Accession Treaty.

Note: It is possible to fulfill objectives 1 and 2 with combined projects dealing with implementation of activities aimed at provision of drinking water to population and sewage drainage and disposal, whereby efficient utilization of financial resources will be reached.

3. Facilitation of adequate underground and surface water quality monitoring and evaluation

Underground and Surface Water Quality Monitoring and evaluation in SR is currently covered by the Act N°364/2004 on Waters as amended by the Act N°372/1990 on Offences as amended (the Water Act) and Implementing Decree N°418/2010 Coll. on executing some provisions of the Water Act 221/2005 detailing requirements on identification of occurrence and evaluation of surface and underground water status, its monitoring, record-keeping of water and water balance and which transpose requirements imposed on SR by Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a framework for the Community EU action in the field of water policy (EU Water Framework Directive).

Above mentioned documents imply respective duties of SR to regularly submit reports on water status to EC. Underground and surface water quality monitoring is being carried out based on annual monitoring programmes specifying monitoring places, extent and frequency of indicator monitoring. Established values are being centrally archived and used for water status assessment, which forms basic prerequisite for measures proposed in river basin management plans.

The Monitoring programme for surface and underground water quality and quantity including water monitoring in protected areas comprise monitoring, data verification, their archiving and subsequent water status assessment in given year and for the entire monitoring period.

Persisting disproportion between satisfaction of legal requirements and actual financial capacities of state budget causes constant gap in collection of relevant data on quantitative and qualitative (chemical and ecological) status of surface and underground waters in SR.

The Operational objective will be fulfilled via following activities, mainly

- monitoring and assessment of surface water status in line with the EU requirements,
- monitoring and assessment of underground water status in line with the EU requirements
- reconstruction of the underground water monitoring network

Categorisation of the fields of intervention 2007 – 2013 – for priority axis 1²⁴:	
Priority Theme	45, 46, 54
Form of Finance	01
Territory Type	01, 05
Economic Activity	09

Indicators on the level of the priority axis 1							
Operational objective number	Indicator title	Information source	Type of indicator: <i>R - result</i> <i>O - output</i> <i>C - core</i>		Specific unit	Initial and target value for Slovakia	
1	Length of newly built-up drinking water supply network (without connections)	MoE SR	R <input type="checkbox"/> O <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	C.. <input type="checkbox"/>	km	2006	90 ¹⁾
						2015	44 9315
1	Number of inhabitants connected to newly built-up drinking water supply network	MoE SR	R <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> O <input type="checkbox"/>	C. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	number of inhabitants	2006	8 655
						2015	18-155 15 347
2	Length of newly built-up sewer networks (without sewer connections)	MoE SR	R <input type="checkbox"/> O <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	C.. <input type="checkbox"/>	km	2006	84 ²⁾
						2015	1-211 1 371
2	Number of equivalent inhabitants connected to new sewer network	MoE SR	R <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> O <input type="checkbox"/>	C. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	number	2006	4 696 ²⁾
						2015	325 696 366 454
2	Number of newly built-	MoE SR	R <input type="checkbox"/>	C.. <input type="checkbox"/>	number	2006	46 ²⁾

²⁴ In line with Annex II, tables 1 – 4 Commission regulation (EC) No 1828/2006 of 8 December 2006 setting out rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund and the Cohesion Fund and of Regulation (EC) No 1080/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European Regional Development Fund

	up and reconstructed waste water treatment		R <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> O <input type="checkbox"/>	C.. <input type="checkbox"/>	%	2015	405 113
3	Conformity of monitoring of the situation of water in Slovakia with the requirements of the EU Water Framework Directive	MoE SR	R <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> O <input type="checkbox"/>	C.. <input type="checkbox"/>		2006	44 ³⁾
						2015	100
1, 2	Jobs created	MoE SR	R <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> O <input type="checkbox"/>	C.. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	number	2006	0
						2015	200 ⁴⁾

1) Presents the value for 2004-2006 programming period within undertaken projects with financial support from EU funds (by 31.12.2006).

2) Presents the value for 2004-2006 programming period within undertaken projects with financial support from EU funds in agglomerations of above 2.000 EI (by 31.12.2006).

3) The indicator states the % portion of the volume of undertaken monitoring of water conditions to overall volume of monitoring of water conditions that is in compliance with the requirements of Water Framework Directive.

4) Given amount also includes permanent work posts created due to implementation of project, i.e. during construction works which reflects the character of projects (mostly large projects) of the construction in the field of water management

5.2 Priority Axis 2 - Flood Protection

Specific objective:

Facilitating complex flood protection of the Slovak Republic territory

The general legislative framework for implementation of activities in the field of flood protection is created by the Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2000 establishing a framework for **Community-EU** action in the field of water policy. It defines the framework for application of **Community-EU** measures in the area of water policy (Water Framework Directive), which has been transposed into Slovak law by the Act no. 364/2004 Coll. on water and on amendment of the Slovak National Council Act No. 372/1990 Coll. on violations as amended (the Water Act) as amended by the Act no. 384/2009 Coll. The Water Framework Directive and the Water Act lay down a requirement to elaborate integrated river basin management plans in order to reach and maintain good ecological and chemical conditions of water and conditions of the river basins as a whole. Measures for flood protection implemented in the river basins areas have the same objective and are part of the integrated management. Flood risk management is therefore an integral part of river basin management, although it is not a direct subject to those rules of law.

Flood protection is closer addressed in the Directive 2007/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2007 on the assessment and management of flood risks, which has been transposed into Slovak law by the Act No. 7/2010 Coll. on flood protection. The Directive 2007/60/EC and the Act No. 7/2010 Coll. both provide an obligation to elaborate a flood risk management plans and in accordance to which the preventive flood protection measures have to be implemented in the areas where the flood risk already exists or is expected to occur.

The focus of the flood risk management lies in the planning of preventive measures, which consists of 3 phases, namely: a) preliminary flood risk assessment throughout the whole Slovak Republic territory, identifying the areas where a flood risk already exists or can be expected to occur in the future; b) elaboration of flood hazard maps for the areas identified in the preliminary assessment, showing the scope of the territory that could be affected by potential floods of various likelihoods of occurrence and potential consequences of flooding and c) elaboration of flood risk management plans, including the proposal of specific preventive measures localized in strategically appropriate locations in river basins in order to mitigate flood risks and to reduce their adverse effects.

In compliance to the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) and to the Water Act, the river basin management plans were elaborated in 2009. They will be reviewed and, if necessary, updated in 2015. As an integral part, they will include the flood risk management plans, which in accordance with the Directive 2007/60/EC and the Act No. 7/2010 Coll. will be elaborated in the same year.

In accordance to the Directives 2000/60/EC and 2007/60/EC, EU member states are required to close cooperate in planning and implementation of river basin management plans and flood risk management plans. The „Action Programme of Sustainable Flood Protection in the Danube Basin“, adopted by all countries within the Danube river basin (including those which are not EU members) in December 2004, is an important initial document in terms of flood protection.

The support of flood prevention measures is one of the priorities of the Slovak Government, The Programme Declaration of the Government of the Slovak Republic for 2010 – 2014 (adopted in August 2010) inter alia stating that the Government of the Slovak Republic will propose flood protection measures which would enable retention of water in the landscape and would reduce floods consequences. Primarily EU funds are to be used in order to (re-)construct flood protection systems and to secure their proper functioning.

The conceptual basic document for implementation of this priority axis is the Slovak Republic Flood Protection Programme till 2010, adopted by the SR Government resolution No. 31/2000 and amended by the SR Government resolution No. 25/2003. This programme will be updated and a strategy for flood prevention measures in Slovakia will be developed in accordance with the priorities of the Slovak Republic.

In the light of the current situation related to floods, the Ministry of Agriculture, Environment and Regional Development of the Slovak Republic has drawn up a document “Information on the situation arisen in connection with the floods, together with proposals of short and medium term actions and measures”, which was adopted by the Slovak Republic Government Resolution No. 472/2010 of 14 July 2010.

Another conceptual material is the document “Proposed Principles, Policies and General Conditions for Flood Prevention and Mitigation of Flood Risk, Draught Risk and Other Risks of Sudden Natural Disasters and for Integrated River Basins Management”, elaborated by the Slovak Government Plenipotentiary for municipal self-government, integrated river basin and landscape management and approved by Slovak Republic Government Resolution No. 556 of 27 August 2010.

Another important document in connection with the promotion of preventive measures for flood protection from EU funds is the document „Short-term structural measures of the

Slovak Republic Government”, approved by the Slovak Republic Government Resolution No. 591 of 08.09.2010, which includes also measure 27. More effective flood prevention. The Slovak Government hereby declares that funds within the OPE will be reallocated in favor of flood prevention activities.

One of the priorities of SR is therefore to significantly reduce damages caused by floods by implementation of preventive flood protection measures, to reduce adverse effects on the drainage conditions in river basins caused by human activity, and ultimately to restore the natural water accumulation potential through the regeneration of the river basins. Increased level of flood protection creates better conditions for economic and social development of the areas threatened and affected by floods.

The key tool enabling to prevent flood damages, or at least to mitigate, reduce or minimize them are preventive measures for the SR territory flood protection. The focus of flood protection therefore lies in the implementation of preventive measures whose main task is to mitigate the adverse effects of flooding on the population, property, economic activities, cultural heritage and environment.

In relation to flood protection measures, the specific target of the priority project 2 Flood Protection will be executed by a combined approach, that is by implementation of preventive and other technical measures and adjustments to the water flows (for example, measures that reduce the maximum water flow of flooding or which protect the area against river flooding, such as building and reconstruction of water works, polders, protective dikes, flood protection lines or equipment for pumping subsoil waters), as well as by preventive measures to promote the natural retention capacity of the country that slow down the runoff from the river basin area to the rivers or which support the natural water accumulation in locations suitable for it and which protect the area against flooding by run off. A part of preventive measures for flood protection is also the development of flood risk management plans, including provisional flood risk assessment and the development of flood hazard maps and flood risk maps.

If the flood protection measures will have adverse effects on hydro-morphology, an assessment in accordance with Article 4.7 of Framework Directive on water will be carried out in order to meet the conditions of the stated article.

Concerning the anti-flood measures, the specific objective of the priority project 2 Flood Protection shall be fulfilled by a combined approach, i.e. via implementation of preventive and other technical measures and modifications on the water flows (for example, measures that reduce the maximum water flow of flooding or which protect the area against river flooding, such as building and reconstruction of water constructions, polders, protective dams, flood protection lines or equipment for pumping inner waters), as well as via preventive measures that promote natural retention capacity of the country, that slow down the runoff from the river basin area to the rivers or support the natural water accumulation in locations appropriate for it and which protect the area against flooding by the surface run off. A part of preventive flood protection measures is also an elaboration of flood risk management plans, including preliminary flood risk assessment and the elaboration of the flood hazard and flood risk maps.

In case the flood protection measures have likely adverse hydro-morphological impacts, an assessment in line with Article 4.7 of the Water Framework Directive shall be accomplished in order to comply with the conditions of this article.

The specific objective of the priority axis will be fulfilled via following activities aimed at:

- preventive flood protection measures implemented on a water flows
- flood and water erosion prevention measures in cadastres of municipalities ²⁵, implemented outside water flows
- measures resulting from Directive 2007/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2007 on the assessment and management of flood risks²⁶

Categorisation of the fields of intervention 2007 – 2013 – for priority axis 2 ²⁷ :	
Priority Theme	53
Form of Finance	01
Territory Type	01, 05
Economic Activity	09

Indicators on the level of the priority axis 2						
Indicator title	Information source	Type of indicator: R - result O - output C - core		Specific unit	Initial and target value for Slovakia	
Number of measures aimed at flood protection (for projects in total)	MoE SR	R <input type="checkbox"/> O <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	C <input type="checkbox"/>	number	2006	11
					2015	136
Area of the territory with flood prevention protection	MoE SR	R <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> O <input type="checkbox"/>	C <input type="checkbox"/>	km ²	2006	5 987
					2015	5 970
Number of projects (Risk prevention)	MoE SR	R <input type="checkbox"/> O <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	C. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	number	2006	9
					2015	57
Number of people benefiting from flood protection measures	MoE SR	R <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> O <input type="checkbox"/>	C.. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	number	2006	1420000
					2015	1462100
Jobs created	MoE SR	R <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> O <input type="checkbox"/>	C.. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	number	2006	0
					2015	4

²⁵ § 4 art. 2 letter a) and § 8 art. 8 of Act No. 7/2010 Coll. on flood prevention.

²⁶ § 6 až § 8 of Act No. 7/2010 Coll. on flood prevention

²⁷ In line with the Annex II, tables 1 – 4 Commission regulation (EC) No 1828/2006 of 8 December 2006 setting out rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund and the Cohesion Fund and of Regulation (EC) No 1080/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European Regional Development Fund

5.3 Priority Axis 3 - Air Protection and Minimisation of Adverse Effects of Climate Change

Specific Objective:

Minimisation of basic and other polluting substances emissions, minimisation of adverse effects of climate change, including the support of renewable energy sources in line with EU and SR legislation

Specific objective of the priority axis focuses consistent implementation of EU Directive in the field of ambient air quality. Further, it was defined with respect to the objectives of Thematic Strategy on Air Pollution. Achievement of these goals will represent a priority for ambient air quality protection in the SR until year 2020.

Thematic Strategy on Air Pollution defines the following measures necessary for the observance of the mentioned objectives: amendment of existing ambient air quality directive, review of national emission limits, implementation of controlled operation conditions for combustion equipment with input power below 50 MW, new standards for fuel combustion in households, more extensive support for the limitation of volatile organic compounds emissions generated during fuel storage and its distribution from terminals to fuel stations, as well as in technological equipment, etc.

According to the planned amendment of the Directive 2001/81/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2001 on National Emission Ceilings for Certain Atmospheric Pollutants, counting among key steps leading to the observance of Thematic Strategy on Air Pollution goals, the SR will be obliged to minimize emissions of sulphur dioxide and solid suspended compounds to almost 1/3 of the current status and nitrogen oxides to almost 1/2 of the current status by 2020. Such significant emissions limitation cannot be reached without sufficient measures and investments into the ambient air pollution sources, both stationary and mobile, which currently comply with the emission limits, or operation conditions.

More detailed analysis of the commitments resulting from the directives related to ambient air quality protection is included in Annex No.16.

In line with the stated objectives, support will be focused around activities limiting pollutant emissions – solid suspended particles PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}, sulphur oxides, nitrogen oxides, ammonia, volatile organic compounds and green house gases. However, it will also be necessary to further decrease the concentration of pollutants in the ambient air, and this also via measures exceeding the current EU legislative framework.

The reaching of good ambient air quality is not possible without quality monitoring system, its maintenance and reconstruction in line with EU directives requirements. Information and especially emissions inventory control provided by the National Emission Information System (NEIS) are necessary for ambient air quality monitoring (modeling) leading to the compliance with all EU reporting commitments and commitments resulting from the Convention on Distant Ambient Air Pollution crossing state borders, just as for loop check of efficient spending on measures preventing the emission of pollutants into ambient air.

With respect to the risk of negative climate change, priority axis specific goal also focuses the limitation of green house gas emissions coupled with the limitation of principal pollutant emissions. Limitation of green house gas emissions will contribute to the mitigation of negative climate change impacts, as well as to the compliance with the expected stricter reduction goals under international commitments.

Apart from the measures in the above mentioned specific objective, other measures for reduction of greenhouse gas emissions as well as climate change adaptation and mitigation measures will be supported horizontally throughout all priority axes of Operational Programme Environment. Thus, the sustainability of investments throughout their lifetime will be secured with focus on climate change.

Operational objectives:

1. Air Protection

The reason behind this goal introduction is the securing of good ambient air quality within the Slovak territory in order not to exceed quotas of determined pollutants. Another reason is to fulfill conclusion of the Thematic Strategy on Air Pollution and to secure compliance with the defined national emission limits resulting from EU legislation and international conventions.

The objectives of the Thematic Strategy on Air Pollution shall be implemented through the transposition and implementation of EU regulations, compliance with the defined technical requirements for source operation limiting the volume of emitted pollutants. It is clear, that in line with the Thematic Strategy, the need for minimization of pollutants concentration in the ambient air leading to the minimization of resulting health risks will call for measures exceeding the framework of the existing EU legal regulations.

EU legislation splits the ambient air protection issue into two areas – **ambient air quality and emissions**. Therefore, this division will be also used for the purpose of determination of types of activities that will be supported in this operational objective.

Ambient air quality is defined through the contents of certain substances in the ambient air (especially solid particles PM₁₀, PM_{2.5}, NO_x, ozone, SO₂ and PAH). Reaching **good ambient air quality** for all pollutants with defined limit values, or target values ranks among strategic and key tasks of ambient air protection not only in Slovakia, but throughout Europe.

In terms of ambient air quality, key Slovak problems represent the exceeding of, or risk of pollutant limit values exceeding for monitored substances (especially solid suspended particles PM₁₀, PM_{2.5}, NO_x, ozone, SO₂ and PAH), exceeding of sulphur and nitrogen critical load (high depositions), exceeding to ozone critical levels. The solution of this problem calls for significant emissions reduction of PM₁₀, PM_{2.5}, SO₂, NO_x, benzene, VOC – ozone precursors, NH₃, heavy metals and PAH.

Ambient air quality represents a complex problem. Therefore, with the aim to reach a satisfying or improved ambient air quality it is necessary to cover the air pollution sources in complexity, i.e. stationary pollution sources (individual installations), as well as mobile sources (transport means) and surface sources (frequented roads, free areas in residential areas without any vegetation, etc.).

Pollutant **emissions** from ambient air pollution sources are regulated in legislation. Compliance of these sources with emission limits represents a crucial measure leading to

better ambient air protection. By January 1, 2008, all Slovak ambient air pollution sources will have to comply with all emission limits. To improve ambient air quality, it is still necessary to provide for further minimization of emissions from stationary sources below the defined emission limits and above the valid directives framework.

Old technologies replacement through state-of-the-art technology, reaching of further stricter requirements for machines operation and installation of continues emissions monitoring rank among measures to be immediately implemented in this area.

The operational goal will be implemented through the following activities support:

- minimization of basic and other air pollutant emission, especially of particulate matters (PM₁₀, PM_{2,5}), SO₂, NO_x, benzene, VOC, NH₃, heavy metals and PAH
- minimization of pollutant emissions from public transport, especially in areas requiring special ambient air protection²⁸
- solution of ambient air quality and improvement and expert support for emissions and ambient air quality monitoring according to EU requirements, and improvement of National Emission Control System (NEIS)

Within the group of activities focusing on **minimization of basic and other air pollutant emissions**, support will be especially granted to projects on air pollution sources aiming to prevent or minimize the volume of emissions in ambient air. This will help to fulfill the air quality limit values, which are being transgressed at present, as well as to fulfill the requirements resulting from the Thematic Strategy on Air Pollution.

One of the examples of such a kind of activities are *measures implemented directly at the air pollution sources (private or public) aimed at minimization or decrease of air pollutant emissions* (such as e.g. change of raw material basis to lower content/generation of pollutant emissions; change of technology principle resulting in minimized emissions; installation of more efficient particulate matters separators, desulphurisation equipment or equipment removing NO_x emissions as per directives). In this case, support will focus on sources emitting these type of pollutants, for which limit values are exceeded in the specific ambient air quality management area. Further, the scope of such pollution source impact on the given area ambient air quality will be assessed, i.e. volume of emissions generated by specific air pollution source.

Support will also focus on *activities in air quality management areas resulting from air quality improvement programs or from emission reduction action plans* of the REO²⁹.

In case of private sector, in line with the rules of state aid for environment, support will focus on *projects aiming to minimize emissions above the EU directives framework*, which are however necessary to reach satisfactory ambient air quality in the area. These projects aim to reach significantly lower emission levels at the existing ambient air pollution sources; to minimize VOC³⁰ emissions in companies subject to Directive 99/13/EC³¹ above the directive requirements (e.g. installation of catalytic or thermo-oxidation units, transfer to non-formaldehyde technology of low-temperature sterilization, etc.); minimization of organic solvents use in companies subject to Directive 2004/42/EC³² above the given directive

²⁸ Section 9 Par. 1 of Act No. 137/2010 Coll. on Air protection as amended by Act No. 318/2012 Coll. 478/2002 on Ambient Air Protection amending Act No. 401/1998 of Coll. On Ambient Air Pollution Fees as amended

²⁹ Regional Environmental Offices *or environmental offices with related competences in given area*

³⁰ Volatile organic compounds

³¹ EC Directive No. 1999/13/EC of 11 March 1999 on the limitation of emissions of volatile organic compounds due to the use of organic solvents in certain activities and installations

³² Directive 2004/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 April 2004 on the limitation of emissions of certain volatile organic compounds due to the use of organic solvents in certain paints and varnishes and in vehicle refinishing products and amending Directive 1999/13/EC

framework (e.g. introduction of manufacturing and use of water soluble paints, varnishes and glues in manufacturing processes), measures exceeding requirements of Directive 2000/76/EC in existing hazardous hospital waste incineration plants (i.e. projects limiting emissions significantly below the valid emission limits, introduction of continuous emission monitoring or its improvement, etc.).

Activities focusing the **minimization of pollutant emissions from public transport** will be implemented as a priority **in air quality management areas**, namely in areas polluted by transportation (Košice, Nitra, Trenčín, Trnava, Martin, Žilina, Senica, Banská Bystrica, Prešov, Prievidza). The reason for support of such activities is the fact that transport, i.e. mobile source of pollution, is a significant source of emissions of particulate matters, NO_x, VOC. The support will focus on gas-engine use (replacement of diesel engines by gas-engines) use in public transport busses and construction of CNG stations; replacement of busses by trolley busses (or duo busses) and trams.

The results of investments in infrastructure for minimization of emissions must be verified by adequate and exact measurement of emission at the air pollution sources, as well as by measurement of volume of pollutants in the air. Then, based upon these measurements, they concentrate investment into the areas where they will bring the biggest effect in air quality improvement.

As the monitoring station network and their technical conditions are not sufficient it is necessary to improve it. Therefore support will be given also to activities aimed at **the improvement of ambient air quality and improvement and provision of expert support for emissions and ambient air quality monitoring according to EU requirements, as well as improvement of National Emission Information System (NEIS)**,

As examples of projects to be supported are projects aimed at improving ambient air quality monitoring system in the SR in terms of EU directives requirements, especially on reconstruction and completion of already existing measurement stations of the National Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Network and unification of data transfer system from measurement stations to the central database; projects focusing modernization of automated emission measurement systems (AMS) on existing ambient air pollution sources or for permanent AMS installation on ambient air pollution sources; projects of state organizations aiming for accreditation and licensing of AMS and systems of their quality sustaining, operating tests and operation; projects of state organizations focusing modernization, or introduction of new methods for ambient air pollution sources emissions, emissions measurement and measurement systems accuracy control; private projects of entities performing authorized discontinuous measurements, calibration, tests and inspections in the field of emissions monitoring and AMS; analyses of ambient air quality and dispersion studies including information on results.

2. Minimisation of adverse effects of climate change including support of renewable energy sources

One of the reasons to include the above mentioned operational objective into the priority axis was the obligation to meet requirements contained in adopted international commitments in the area of greenhouse gas reduction. The other reason are activities (inventory and projection of greenhouse gas emissions) connected with transposition of the Directive N°2004/101/EC

amending the Directive N°2003/87/EC establishing a scheme for greenhouse gas emission allowance trading within ~~the Community~~EU, in respect of the Kyoto Protocol's project mechanisms.

In relation to the above stated commitments for green house gas emissions limitation as well as in relation to the commitments for ambient air quality improvement, this operational objective will support activities leading to the minimization of green house gas emissions, as well as minimization of principal and other pollutants emissions in ambient air, especially solid pollutants (PM₁₀, PM_{2,5}), SO₂, NO_x, benzene, VOC, NH₃, heavy metals and PAH.

As one of the biggest sources of greenhouse gas emissions is incineration of fossil fuel, an efficient method of green house gas emissions limitation is the use of renewable energy sources. With respect to the fact that, in most cases, it decreases green house gas emissions, as well as principal pollutants emissions, support of the stated activity ranks to environmental priorities. Its implementation will better and more efficiently control the final positive environmental impact.

Since heat generation sources (combustion processes in heat plants)including small sources (households) significantly impact green house gas emissions generation due to their existing extension and distribution, it is necessary to especially focus the area of heat generation to provide for ambient air protection and prevention of climate change negative impact.

The operational objective will be implemented through the support of the following activities:

- minimization of green house gas emissions coupled with the minimization of basic pollutant emissions in the field of heat generation, including change of energy sources fuel basis towards renewable sources³³
- improvement of green house gas emissions monitoring inventory control and projection quality; studies on climate change impacts on different environmental areas including analysis of economic costs; awareness rising and training programmes, analysis of tools for support of horizontal cooperation in the field of climate change and promotion of activities' results.

In the scope of activities leading towards **green house gas emissions prevention coupled with the minimization of basic pollutants emissions in the field of heat generation**, especially projects changing fuel basis towards lower carbon-content fuels and renewable energy sources (biomass, solar energy, geothermal energy) will be supported, since they aim the minimization of green house gas emissions coupled with the minimization of principal pollutant emissions in the field of heat generation, including combination with co-generation (projects may also include measures decreasing energy losses of constructions; projects targeting the minimization of basic pollutant emissions at heat source may also include the construction, or reconstruction of primary lines of central heat distribution systems under the condition the applicant owns both the heat source and distribution lines). Further, projects installing heat pumps in order to replace heat generation and hot water production from non-renewable sources.

³³ Justification for the inclusion of activity in the OP: supporting of projects focusing the change of fuel basis towards renewable energy sources will help reach a reduction in principal pollutant emissions and support compliance with limit values (concentrations) in ambient air and compliance with commitments for ambient air protection and contribute to the minimization of green house gas emissions.

In relation to fulfillment of higher reduction targets in greenhouse gas emissions, it is necessary to conduct studies on climate change impact on all environmental areas (water, air, soil, biota, etc.) and on economic sectors. Due to the need to receive exact data on greenhouse gas emissions it is necessary to support also activities in the area of **improvement of green house gas emissions monitoring, inventory control, and projection and promotion of activities**' results. Support will be given mainly to the projects of state bodies and state organizations dealing with climate change issues.

Categorisation of the fields of intervention 2007 – 2013 – for priority axis 3³⁴:

Priority Theme	47, 54
Form of Finance	01, 04
Territory Type	01, 05
Economic Activity	21

Indicators on the level of the priority axis 3

Operational objective number	Indicator title	Information source	Type of indicator: R - result O - output C - core	Specific unit	Initial and target value for Slovakia	
1, 2	Number of projects on improvement of air quality	MoE SR	R <input type="checkbox"/> C.. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> O <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Number	2006	0
					2015	115
1	Number of supported activities focused on reducing of air pollution and number of supporting studies and analysis	MoE SR	R <input type="checkbox"/> C.. <input type="checkbox"/> O <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Number	2006	32 ¹⁾
					2015	62
1	Reduction of emissions caused by contaminants converted to reference tons of SO ₂ (in total per individual supported projects) including public transport projects	MoE SR	R <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C.. <input type="checkbox"/> O <input type="checkbox"/>	%	2006	45 ¹⁾
					2015	30
1	Reduction of volatile organics (total per individual projects)	MoE SR and SHMI	R <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C.. <input type="checkbox"/> O <input type="checkbox"/>	%	2006	0
					2015	20
1	Number of projects focusing on public transport greening in	MoE SR	R <input type="checkbox"/> C.. <input type="checkbox"/> O <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Number	2006	0

³⁴ In line with the Annex II, tables 1 – 4 Commission regulation (EC) No 1828/2006 of 8 December 2006 setting out rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund and the Cohesion Fund and of Regulation (EC) No 1080/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European Regional Development Fund

	areas requiring specific air protection				2015	8	
1	Number of modernized and newly installed monitoring stations of National monitoring air quality network	MoE SR	R <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> O <input type="checkbox"/>	C.. <input type="checkbox"/>	Number	2006	0
						2015	25
2	Number of supported activities aimed at reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and replaced fuel base of power resources for production of heat and hot water in favour of renewable resources and number of supporting studies and programmes	MoE SR	R <input type="checkbox"/> O <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	C.. <input type="checkbox"/>	Number	2006	20 ¹⁾
						2015	35
2	Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in supported projects	MoE SR	R <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> O <input type="checkbox"/>	C.. <input type="checkbox"/>	%	2006	13 ¹⁾
						2015	15
2	Reduction of green house gas emissions converted to CO ₂	MoE SR	R <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> O <input type="checkbox"/>	C.. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Thousand t.	2006	124 ¹⁾
						2015	234
2	Increase in renewable energy production in supported projects	MŽP SR	R <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> O <input type="checkbox"/>	C.. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MW	2006	95
						2015	115
2	Number of projects (Renewable energy)	MoE SR	R <input type="checkbox"/> O <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	C.. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Number	2006	0
						2015	21
1, 2	Jobs created	MoE SR	R <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> O <input type="checkbox"/>	C.. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Number	2006	0
						2015	65
1, 2	Number of projects (Direct investment aid to SME)	MoE SR	R <input type="checkbox"/> O <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	C.. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Number	2006	0
						2015	20
1, 2	Jobs created (gross, full time equivalent) (Direct investment aid to SME)	MoE SR	R <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> O <input type="checkbox"/>	C.. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Number	2006	0
						2015	15
1, 2	<u>Investments induced</u>	<u>MoE SR</u>	<u>R <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> O <input type="checkbox"/></u>	<u>C..<input checked="" type="checkbox"/></u>	<u>mil. EUR</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>0</u>
						<u>2015</u>	<u>30</u>

¹⁾ value from programming period 2004 – 2006 in projects co-financed by EU funds (status by 31.12.2006)

5.4 Priority Axis 4 - Waste Management

Specific objectives:

Completing waste management infrastructure in SR pursuant to EU legislation and Slovak legal regulations, reduction and elimination of adverse effects caused by environmental burden and landfills on people's health and ecosystems

Objectives in Priority 4 are based on hierarchy of objectives in waste management sector in SR, laid down in EU and SR policies (Slovak Waste Management Programme) and at the same time, they respect following transitional periods and other timed requirements deriving from EU legislation which are binding for Slovakia:

- packaging and packaging waste – pursuant to the European Parliament and Council Directive 94/62/EC of 20 December 1994 on packaging and packaging waste, supplemented by the Directive 2004/12/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 February 2004 (in compliance with this as well as with Directive 2005/20/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 March 2005, Slovakia has been assigned a transitional period for fulfilment of binding limits applied on packaging usage and recycling until 2012;

- incineration of waste/hazardous waste – pursuant to the Directive 2000/76/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 4 December 2000 on the incineration of waste, Slovakia has been assigned a transitional period for fulfilment of these Directives for selected 11 hospital waste incineration plants and 7 industrial waste incineration plants till December 31, 2006. All other incineration facilities are obliged to meet requirements of respective Directives before December 31, 2005;

- waste electrical and electronic equipment – pursuant to the 2004/312/EC: Council Decision of 30 March 2004 granting the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Slovakia and Slovenia certain temporary derogations from Directive 2002/96/EC on waste electrical and electronic equipment, Slovakia has been assigned an obligation to reach at least 4kg per citizen/year share of separated electrical waste collection from households before December 31, 2008;

- landfill of waste – pursuant to the Council Directive 1999/31/EC of 26 April 1999 on the landfill of waste, applies that only landfills complying with the EU legislation can operate from 1.1.2009;

- PCB/PCT – pursuant to the Council Directive 96/59/EC of 16 September 1996 on the disposal of polychlorinated biphenyls and polychlorinated terphenyls (PCB/PCT) (and pursuant to the Act N°223/2001 on Waste as amended), it is inevitable to facilitate disposal of used PCB as well as to clean up and decontaminate polluted facilities before 2010.

A more detailed analysis of obligations resulting from directives in the waste management is in Annex No.17.

Based on preliminary studies and estimates, there is approx. 30 000 potential environmental burdens, many of which (approx. 5 %) represent serious danger for human health and ecosystems. These are mainly industrial areas where uncontrolled and hidden leakage of hazardous substances into individual environmental constituents has been going on for many years; large agricultural farms; railway yards; uncontrolled landfills of hazardous waste;

insecure warehouses with pesticides, fuels and other hazardous substances; contamination caused by army, raw material mining and other activities handling hazardous substances in uncontrolled manner for a long time. These substances persist in the environment; they contaminate its individual constituents and have provable negative impact on health status of citizens in its vicinity.

Operational objectives:

1. Support of activities in separated waste collection

The abovementioned objective is aimed to increase the share of separated waste.

According to the Statistical Office SR, 1 475 123 tons of municipal waste was generated in SR in 2004, which means 274 kg of municipal waste/year per citizen in average. The value of this indicator in the period 2001 – 2004 oscillates around the same interval, between 274 kg/citizen and 297 kg/citizen, i.e. approx. the same level.

In terms of waste separation, it is necessary to focus on mixed municipal waste separation according to the valid Waste Catalogue (Decree of MoE SR 284/2001 Coll. enacting Waste Catalogue as amended). Pursuant to the Act N°223/2001 Coll. on Waste as amended (hereinafter referred to ~~as referred to~~ as the „Waste Act“), the waste holder is obliged to separate specified types of municipal waste and to separately collect hazardous wastes according to their individual types.

The Operational objective will be fulfilled via following activities aimed mainly at:

- introducing new systems and increasing efficiency of existing systems used for separated municipal waste collection based on creation of separated waste policies
- final sorting of separated fractions from municipal waste and mixed municipal waste.

2. Support of waste recovery activities

The objective is aimed to increase amount of recovered waste. The Waste Act defines waste recovery as activities leading to the utilisation of physical, chemical or biological features of waste. In terms of waste's original quality use, material waste recovery is preferred to other ways.

In terms of waste management hierarchy defined at the [European CommunityEU](#) level that the Slovak Republic was complying with already before EU Accession, waste recovery in the whole scope represents a priority for the SR in the upcoming period, including all related activities necessary for efficient waste recovery. SR waste management strategy, which forms part of the new waste management program, is based on the waste generation prevention and limitation principle and maximum support of waste material and energy recovery.

Waste recovery activities include also industrial and agricultural waste recovery. However, we need to differentiate between facilities treating waste or technological process generating a product intended to be kept by its holder. By-product generated this way can be further utilised in a particular technology and fails to comply with waste definition pursuant to the §2, Section 1 of the Waste Act. Furthermore, these activities should also involve mechanical and biological treatment of waste and thermal waste treatment leading to waste recovery. It applies, for instance to composting and biogas stations.

The operational objective will be fulfilled via the following activities:

- treatment of separated waste fractions before of their recovery or environmentally-friendly disposal
- waste recovery including mechanical-biological and thermal treatment
- increasing the rate of recycling by supporting new ones or increasing quality of output products by completion of existing BAT technologies in the area of waste recovery
- energy recovery of waste.

3. Environmentally friendly treatment of hazardous waste

The objective focuses on facilitation of environmentally sound treatment of hazardous waste, especially for selected types of waste. Fulfillment of this objective may be assisted mainly by efficient system which would collect waste in facilities treating waste from medical and veterinary care leading to stabilized and reduced amount of produced hazardous waste; good use of facilities treating waste from medical and veterinary care in order to eliminate their hazardous features; facilitation of environmentally sound disposal of expired pesticides including POPs on the territory of SR while applying BAT/BEI (best available technology /best environmental practice) and facilitation of environmentally sound disposal of PCB on the territory of SR while applying BAT/BEI.

The Operational objective will be fulfilled via following activities:

- reducing hazardous waste quantities based on relevant strategic solutions
- hazardous waste treatment including construction and reconstruction of facilities aiming at their environmentally sound disposal

4. Addressing the issue of environmental burdens, including their removal

The main prerequisites necessary for fulfilment of above mentioned objectives combined creation of inevitable legal framework for environmental burden (in 2003 MoE drafted a law on environmental burdens, related implementing regulations and methodologies and emerging Act no. 409/2011 Coll. on certain measures in relation to environmental burdens and on the amendment of certain acts came into effect on 1 January 2012), thorough inventory of environmental burdens existing in Slovakia, information system on environmental burden and criteria prioritising environmental burden in terms of its rehabilitation.

Priorities in the area of environmental burdens:

- environmental burden survey,
- Atlas of rehabilitation methods,
- implementation of remedy and monitoring tasks on territories affected by Soviet army,
- survey, monitoring and remedy of priority environmental burdens,
- survey and remedy of randomly detected high-risk environmental burdens, and
- risk analysis.

The Operational objective will be fulfilled via the following activities:

- environmental burden monitoring, survey and risk analysis
- remedy of the highest-risk environmental burdens
- completion of information system on environmental burden.

5. Closure and rehabilitation of landfills

The above mentioned objective focuses on landfills which have been operating based on consent to landfill operation pursuant to the valid Waste Act or based on resolutions according to the former legal regulations. If it is not the case, then the place where waste is deposited cannot be regarded as landfill.

The Operational objective will be fulfilled via following activities:

- closure and rehabilitation of landfills

Activities concerning closure and rehabilitation of landfills will be supported pursuant to the Waste Act and its Implementing Decree N°283/2001 as amended. Such support will be provided to landfills which are supposed to be closed and rehabilitated and for which a non-discretionary financial reserve had not been created.

Categorisation of the fields of intervention 2007 – 2013 – for priority axis 4 ³⁵ :	
Priority Theme	44, 50
Form of Finance	01
Territory Type	01, 05
Economic Activity	21, 22

Indicators on the level of the priority axis 4							
Operational objective number	Indicator title	Information source	Type of indicator: <i>R - result</i> <i>O -output</i> <i>C - core</i>	Specific unit	Initial and target value for Slovakia		
1, 2, 3, 5	Number of waste projects	MoE SR	R <input type="checkbox"/> C.. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> O <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	number	2006	0	
					2015	235	
1	Number of constructed, or modernized separated waste collection facilities	MoE SR	R <input type="checkbox"/> C.. <input type="checkbox"/> O <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	number	2006	9	
					2015	50	
1	Volume of separated communal waste (total for projects)	MoE SR	R <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C.. <input type="checkbox"/> O <input type="checkbox"/>	t/year	2006	286	
					2015	100 000 93 608	
2	Number of constructed or modernized waste material recovery facilities	MoE SR	R <input type="checkbox"/> C.. <input type="checkbox"/> O <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	number	2006	12	
					2015	42	
2	Volume of materially recovered waste (total for projects)	MoE SR	R <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C.. <input type="checkbox"/> O <input type="checkbox"/>	t/year	2006	105 000	
					2015	205 000 198 590	
2	Number of constructed or modernized waste	MoE SR	R <input type="checkbox"/> C.. <input type="checkbox"/> O <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	number	2006	3	

³⁵ In line with Annex II, tables 1-4 Commission regulation (EC) No 1828/2006 of 8 December 2006 setting out rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund and the Cohesion Fund and of Regulation (EC) No 1080/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European Regional Development Fund

	energy recovery facilities				2015	1312
2	Volume of energy recovered waste (total for projects)	MoE SR	R <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> O <input type="checkbox"/>	C.. <input type="checkbox"/>	t/year	2040
					2015	50 000 46 926
3	Number of facilities constructed for hazardous waste treatment	MoE SR	R <input type="checkbox"/> O <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	C.. <input type="checkbox"/>	number	2006 3
					2015	15
3	Share of hazardous waste disposed within projects on total volume of hazardous waste generated in the SR S	MoE SR	R <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> O <input type="checkbox"/>	C.. <input type="checkbox"/>	%	2006 0
					2015	4
3	Share of hazardous waste recovered within the projects on total hazardous waste generated in the SR	MoE SR	R <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> O <input type="checkbox"/>	C.. <input type="checkbox"/>	%	2006 0
					2015	5
4	Number of removed environmental burdens	MoE SR	R <input type="checkbox"/> O <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	C.. <input type="checkbox"/>	number	2006 0
					2015	120 23
4	Size of re-cultivated and regenerated area	MoE SR	R <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> O <input type="checkbox"/>	C.. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	km ²	2006 0
					2015	0, 327
5	Number of closed and regenerated landfills	MoE SR	R <input type="checkbox"/> O <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	C.. <input type="checkbox"/>	number	2006 24
					2015	64 57
5	Size of re-cultivated and regenerated area	MoE SR	R <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> O <input type="checkbox"/>	C.. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	km ²	2006 0,323112
					2015	1, 3231120
1, 2, 3,	Jobs created	MoE SR	R <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> O <input type="checkbox"/>	C.. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	number	2006 0
					2015	105
1, 2, 3	Number of projects (Direct investment aid to SME)	MoE SR	R <input type="checkbox"/> O <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	C.. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	number	2006 0
					2015	30
1, 2, 3	Jobs created (gross, full time equivalent) (Direct investment aid to SME)	MoE SR	R <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> O <input type="checkbox"/>	C.. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	number	2006 0
					2015	25
<u>1,2,3</u>	<u>Vyvolané investície</u>	<u>MŽP SR</u>	<u>R <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> O <input type="checkbox"/></u>	<u>C.. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></u>	<u>mil. EUR</u>	<u>2007 0</u>
					<u>2015</u>	<u>50</u>

5.5 Priority Axis 5 - Protection and Regeneration of Natural Environment and Landscape

Specific objective:

Completion of NATURA 2000 protected sites and nature protection infrastructure in the SR according to the valid EU and SR regulations

Specific objective of the priority axis results from the need for environmental acquis implementation in the field of nature and land protection prioritizing EU legal regulations resulting in the establishment of NATURA 2000 system, namely: EC Directive No. 1979/409/EEC of 2 April 1979 on the protection of wild birds as amended (further only “bird directive”) and EC Directive No. 1992/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the protection of natural habitats and wild birds as amended (further only “habitat directive”). Specific objective of the priority axis is marginally related to the Council Directive 1999/22/EC of 29 March 1999 relating to the keeping of wild animals in zoos.

Documents of departmental character related to the establishment of NATURA in the SR, especially Action Plan of NATURA 2000 Protected Areas Establishment in the SR for years 2001 – 2005, Information and Communication Campaign for the establishment of NATURA 2000 for years 2004 – 2010, Strategy for the Implementation of Bird and Habitat Directives for years 2005 – 2013 in the conditions of Ministry of Environment of SR, Action Plan of Bird and Habitat Directives Implementation for years 2006 – 2013 in the conditions of the SR Ministry of Environment form and State and perspectives of the implementation of Environmental acquis of the Slovak Republic up to years 2013/2015 (state in 30.03.2007) conceptual basis of the priority axis. Action plan measures are also reflected in Nature and Land Protection Concept adopted by the SR Government (Resolution No. 471/2006).

A more detailed analysis of commitments resulting from EU legislation in the field of nature protection and relating tasks of SR is in Annex No.18.

With respect to the mentioned legislative and conceptual starting points, the priority axis is based on preparation and implementation of protected areas management plans and programs for the preservation of specifically protected nature and land portions in line with international commitments, especially European policy for biodiversity protection aiming to reach and sustain favorable state of species and habitats, especially via the NATURA 2000 system. For that reason the support will be mostly focused on realization of activities within Operational objective 1 as well as Operational objective 2. Monitoring of species and habitats represents a precondition, as well as part of such areas management. Fulfillment of demanding tasks (monitoring, reporting, care documents preparation) directly resulting from EU commitments, calls for nature and land protection authorities support, including improvement of infrastructure, especially space and material equipment. Observation of NATURA 2000 establishment goals and successful implementation of protected areas protection into practice depends on increased public awareness and stakeholder support.

Operational objectives:

1. Ensuring favorable status of habitats and species via elaboration and implementation of management plans of protected areas, including NATURA 2000 sites and conservation programmes for critically endangered fauna and flora species and areas including monitoring of species and habitats.

This objective is aimed to maintain the favorable status of species and habitats of European Interest, mainly via NATURA 2000 sites. In order to achieve this goal, current status of species and habitats needs to be examined, measures leading to favorable status should be defined and systemic monitoring must be in place. Protection of species in situ should be complemented by their ex situ protection (in specialized facilities).

To provide for better continuous management of protected areas, including NATURA 2000 areas, management plans are prepared and implemented. The duty to cooperate and implement management plans results from Article 6.1 of Habitat Directive. Preparation of management plans includes collection, processing and evaluation of data on a given area (e.g. databases, reports, studies, maps) and from completion of methodical materials. Management plans include measures to be taken to secure favorable habitats and species status, e.g. revitalization of water streams, wetlands, haymaking, alien wood species removal, etc.

Process of management plans documents preparation, approval and implementation is described in Act No. 543/2002 of Coll. on Nature and Land Protection as amended [in its current version](#) and in its explanatory report. Partially methods are complete, however their actualization is needed. Legal regulations and related methodological instructions suggests the necessity for communication and cooperation with land owners in protected areas in the process of management plans preparation and specific goals definition, as well as in their implementation. In accordance with the act mentioned above, the general responsibility for this area hold state administration of nature and landscape protection. NGOs will participate in the management plans documents preparation and implementation within the public procurement process and based on its results.

The Habitat Directive aims to help preserve biodiversity via the protection of habitats, wild fauna and flora (Article 2.1), whereby, protection means a set of measures aiming to preserve or renew habitats and populations of wild fauna and flora species in a favorable condition (Article 1.a). For this purpose, rescue programmes are processed and implemented for critically endangered flora and fauna species. Processing of the mentioned plans represents collection, processing and evaluation of data on such species. Rescue programs include measures for reaching a favorable status of a given species or elimination of its endangerment causes (e.g. installation of artificial nest supports, construction of road barriers for migrating amphibians, plant species transfers, removal of migration barriers on rivers, genetic analyses, etc.).

Implementation of Habitat and Bird Directives is based on sufficient volume of documents and data on species and habitats. For this purpose, it is necessary to perform full scale monitoring of species and habitats and accessibility of current data via information system. The duty to support research and any activity necessary for nature protection and bird populations' management results from Article 10 of Bird Directive. The duty to supervise the condition of habitats and species results from Article 11 of Bird Directive. Research and monitoring outputs form a prerequisite for the processing of reports on implementation of measures adopted according to the given directive (Art. 17). Monitoring, as well as management plans development is based on the definition of favourable condition for respective species and habitats. Based on these definitions, methodology of favourable condition of a given habitat or species is developed and (not elaborated so far) feasibility study for implementation of monitoring of all species on the national level.

The Operational objective will be fulfilled via the following activities aimed mainly at:

- Developing management plans
- Implementing management plans
- Monitoring of species and habitats

2. Improvement of nature and landscape conservation infrastructure by constructing and developing nature and landscape conservation facilities including introduction of monitoring systems in order to comply with national and international commitments

Implementation of nature and land protection regulations, including protected species and areas, is organized by the bodies of state nature and land protection authority in cooperation with Slovakia wide expert organizations (especially State Nature Conservancy of the SR, Slovak Cave Administration, ZOO Bojnice and Slovak Nature Protection and Speleological Museum). Expert organizations will have a principal position in the implementation of the given tasks. Fulfillment of demanding tasks in the field of management plan documents preparation, as well monitoring and reporting, directly resulting from EU legal regulations, calls for the support of expert nature and land protection agencies, including their premises and material equipment. The need for reconstruction/construction of respective establishments and objects for administration of National Parks and Protected landscape areas (office space, field stations) also results from protected areas management plans, where it represent one of key measures for systematic provision of management, research and monitoring in protected areas. Similarly, efficient communication with the general public, including owners of land in protected areas (e.g. discussions on management plan documents and actual measures), calls for sufficient volume of quality publications and information sources, as well as for adequate premises and equipment. Construction of visitor centres representing a pre-condition for efficient communication and improvement of environmental awareness, which results in natural values protection, is not purposeless. It is closely linked with commitments resulting from EU regulations.

The operational objective will be implemented through the support of the following activities:

- Support of nature and land protection infrastructure (buildings and premises of nature and land protection authorities, information centres, educational paths and locations, including caves opening, cave visitor centre, expositions and other promotion forms, technical infrastructure, including the introduction of monitoring and information systems).

<p><i>3. Improvement of public information and environmental awareness, including improvement of cooperation and communication with stakeholder groups</i></p>

Principal condition for nature protection measures implementation is sufficient environmental awareness of general public and support sides land owners and users. Similarly, implementation of Habitat Directive goals, namely prevention of any habitat and species condition deterioration, as well as species eradication (Art. 6.2) and securing of their favorable condition, is not possible without cooperation with protected area land owners/users, general public and improvement of their environmental awareness. To observe Bird and Habitat Directives goals, it also is necessary to improve information levels on NATURA 2000 areas and species of European significance. Article 22. c) of the Habitat Directive suggest the duty to support education and general information spread on the need to protect wild fauna and flora and their habitats.

Despite large number of declared protected areas, number of protected species and conflicts between nature conservation interests and economic land utilization, quality information and promotion material is being only rarely produced. Thus, it is a priority for upcoming period to design and produce quality publications informing about natural values, nature conservation objectives and roles of other entities involved in protection. Unlike in the past, planned publications are now being developed with active participation of other entities.

Another substantial element comes in form of awareness raising events and communication. Planned events should encompass specialized meetings dealing with key issues (such as completion of NATURA 2000 network) and mainly joint events for stakeholders focusing on clarification of individual interests and consensus seeking.

Activities in this operational objective will be implemented by the state administration bodies and professional nature and landscape protection organizations in cooperation with NGOs and other entities involved in development of the NATURA 2000 network.

The Operational objective will be fulfilled via the following activities aimed mainly at:

- Preparation and publication of brochures and other forms of public awareness raising
- Seminars and specialized events

Categorisation of the fields of intervention 2007 – 2013 – for priority axis 5³⁶:	
Priority Theme	51, 54
Form of Finance	01
Territory Type	00
Economic Activity	21

Indicators on the level of the priority axis 5							
Operational objective number	Indicator title	Information source	Type of indicator: R - result O - output C - core		Specific unit	Initial and target value for Slovakia	
1	Number of elaborated management plans	MoE SR	R <input type="checkbox"/> O <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	C.. <input type="checkbox"/>	number	2006	7
						2015	420
1	Number of implemented management plans	MoE SR	R <input type="checkbox"/> O <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	C.. <input type="checkbox"/>	number	2006	7
						2015	280
1	Percentage of total number of protected areas with elaborated management plans or conservation	MoE SR	R <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> O <input type="checkbox"/>	C.. <input type="checkbox"/>	%	2006	1
						2015	60
1	Percentage of total number of protected areas with implemented management plans or conservation programmes	MoE SR	R <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> O <input type="checkbox"/>	C.. <input type="checkbox"/>	number	2006	15
						2015	35
2	Number of completed or reconstructed facilities for the purpose of natural and landscape protection	MoE SR	R <input type="checkbox"/> O <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	C.. <input type="checkbox"/>	number	2006	23
						2015	62
2	Percentage of total number of protected	MoE SR	R <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> O <input type="checkbox"/>	C.. <input type="checkbox"/>	%	2006	20

³⁶ In line with Annex II, tables 1-4 Commission regulation (EC) No 1828/2006 of 8 December 2006 setting out rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund and the Cohesion Fund and of Regulation (EC) No 1080/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European Regional Development Fund

	areas for which, facilities were reconstructed or completed					2015	80
3	Number of effected activities (events) focused on public awareness increase, publicity, training and education about nature protection	MoE SR	R <input type="checkbox"/> O <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	C.. <input type="checkbox"/>	number	2006	130
						2015	2 000
3	Number of informed subjects	MoE SR	R <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> O <input type="checkbox"/>	C.. <input type="checkbox"/>	number	2006	3 000
						2015	16 000
2	Jobs created	MoE SR	R <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> O <input type="checkbox"/>	C.. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	number	2006	0
						2015	3

5.6 Priority Axis 6 - Technical Assistance

The specific goal of the priority axis Technical Assistance is the provision of an effective process of the management and implementation of the OPE in accordance with the demands imposed on the administrative structures responsible for the execution of the operational programme through the support to the preparation, management, monitoring, evaluation, information and control activities related to the OPE jointly with the activities serving to the strengthening of the administrative capacities providing programming, management, implementation, evaluation, monitoring, publicity, information, financial management, control and audit of the OPE.

The operational goal of the priority Technical Assistance is the provision of the support to the activities and functions of the bodies participating on the management and implementation of the OPE (managing authority, paying unit, control and audit bodies) and its administrative capacities, provision of support to the project preparation as well as to the information of public and experience Exchange.

The technical assistance is individual priority axis of the OPE. Its purpose is to support the execution of the other priority axis and activities included in this operational programme. The effective implementation of the operational programme depends on the capability of the bodies involved to the implementation to perform their functions in accordance with the obligations resulting for the EU regulations.

The given goal will be fulfilled through the activities focused mainly on:

- Support to the processes of management, programming, implementation, monitoring, evaluation, financial management, financial control and system audit, including harmonization of financial control and system audit
- Information, propagation, publicity and exchange of experience including creation of contact points networks, activities connected with development and implementation of a communication plan, as well as with increasing the absorption capacity of applicants
- Development of IT monitoring systems
- Preparation of the next programming period
- Provision of the activities of the Monitoring Committee and working or coordination groups and commissions

- Personnel training (e.g. seminars, trainings, courses, expert stays, business trips) and wage provision of the staff participating in the programming, management, implementation, evaluation, monitoring, publicity, information, financial management, control and audit
- Material and technical, operational and expert provision of the programming, management, implementation, evaluation, monitoring, publicity, information, financial management, control and audit
 - Technical provision and equipment
 - Running costs, operation and maintenance
 - Strategic and methodological documents, expertizes, studies, analyses, reviews, counseling, translations, software support
- External expert services related to the programming, management, implementation, evaluation, monitoring, publicity, information, financial management, control and audit

Categorisation of the fields of intervention 2007 – 2013 – for priority axis 6³⁷:	
Priority Theme	85, 86
Form of Finance	01
Territory Type	00
Economic Activity	17

Indicators on the level of the priority axis 6						
Operational objective number	Indicator title	Information source	Type of indicator: R - result O - output C - core	Specific unit	Initial and target value for Slovakia	
1	Number of activities of public information related to OPE	MoE SR	R <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C.. <input type="checkbox"/> O <input type="checkbox"/>	number	2006	0
					2015	40
1	Number of staff with salaries reimbursed from TA	MoE SR	R <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C.. <input type="checkbox"/> O <input type="checkbox"/>	number	2006	109
					2015	150
1	Jobs created	MoE SR	R <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C.. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> O <input type="checkbox"/>	number	2006	0
					2015	41

5.7 Priority Axis 7 - Development of Flood Warning and Forecasting System

Specific objective:

Enhancement of the prevention and reduction of the risk of flood threat to the population and the flood damage occurrence

³⁷ In line with Annex II, tables 1-4 Commission regulation (EC) No 1828/2006 of 8 December 2006 setting out rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund and the Cohesion Fund and of Regulation (EC) No 1080/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European Regional Development Fund

General legislative framework of activities in the field of flood protection is the Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2000 establishing a framework for ~~Community~~ EU action in the field of water policy (Water Framework Directive), which has been transposed into Slovak law by the Act no. 364/2004 Coll. on water and on amendment of the Slovak National Council Act No. 372/1990 Coll. on violations as amended (the Water Act) as amended by the Act no. 384/2009 Coll.

Flood protection is closer addressed in the Directive 2007/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2007 on the assessment and management of flood risks, which has been transposed into Slovak law by the Act No. 7/2010 Coll. on flood protection.

Legislative basis for the Flood warning and forecasting system (POVAPSYS) development and operation is created by the Act No. 7/2010 on flood protection, namely by its Art. 4,(2)(h) (by which the implementation of the flood forecasting service is included into the preventive flood protection measures) following Art. 14, (1). According to it, the flood forecasting service provides information on meteorological and hydrological situation, on flood risk, flood occurrence and on other possible development of meteorological and hydrological conditions which could have an impact on flooding. The subject responsible for providing the flood forecasting service is Slovak Hydrometeorological Institut (hereinafter as "SHMI"), which, using the Flood warning and forecasting system, shall inform on the maximum possible exact spatial localization of the sudden dangerous meteorological situations. Furthermore, it shall inform on the subsequent expected flood situations on the basis of the models of the current runoff situation in the river basins of a lower rank.

Another related legislation is the Act No.201/2009 Coll. On the State Hydrological Service and on the State Meteorological Service (Art. 4, (3)).

The Slovak Republic Flood Protection Programme till 2010, which was approved by the Slovak Republic Government Resolution No. 31/2000 and amended by the Government Resolution Government Resolution No. 25/2003, creates a conceptual framework for this priority axis implementation.

The development of Flood warning and forecasting system (POVAPSYS) as a tool that enabling to reduce the flood damage, especially loss of life, injuries and property of citizens through hydrological forecasts, warnings and alerts, is a part of a comprehensive Slovak Republic Flood Protection Programme till 2010 and also is included into the Conception of the water management policy of the Slovak Republic until the year 2015 and is designed to improve the quality of the flood forecasting service.

POVAPSYS will enable to issue hydrological forecasts in approximately 100 forecasting profiles, as well as warnings and alerts on possible flood danger for endangered areas. The system will cooperate with similar systems in neighbouring countries providing necessary background materials and data from the area of flood protection.

The aim of the Flood warning and forecasting system (POVAPSYS) is particularly to provide timely and quality forecasts of meteorological and hydrological situation, including a warning of the occurrence of the extreme flood events and operational delegation of this information to the competent bodies/authorities responsible for flood protection.

Early flood warnings, information on flooding and flood forecasts are extremely important to predict the expected dangerous situations, so the time interval from the beginning of the flooding until it reaches the critical level can be used to prevent or reduce the flood damage.

In the current period, the main activities of the 2nd phase of the POVAPSYS construction will be focused on:

- building-up of integrated information system (IIS) POVAPSYS;
- development of the forecasting systems for main Slovak river basins, including the data and information distribution system for users;
- construction of new radiolocator, surface monitoring stations, installation of water flow measurement equipment and other devices to ensure inputs for hydrological forecasting models and for routine operation of forecasting systems.

The priority axis will be implemented via the support of activities focusing at:

- development and operation of Flood warning and forecast system (POVAPSYS)

Categorisation of the fields of intervention 2007 – 2013 – for priority axis 2 ³⁸ :	
Priority Theme	53
Form of Finance	01
Territory Type	01, 05
Economic Activity	09

Indicators on the level of the priority axis 7					
Indicator title	Information source	Type of indicator: R - result O - output C - core		Specific unit	Initial and target value for Slovakia
Number of projects (Risk prevention)	MŽP SR	R <input type="checkbox"/>	C. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Number	2006 0
		O <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			2015 1
Number of institutions connected to POVAPSYS	MoE SR	R <input type="checkbox"/>	C.. <input type="checkbox"/>	Number	2006 1
		O <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			2015 3
Number of issued hydrologic forecasts, warnings and alarms	MoE SR	R <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	C.. <input type="checkbox"/>	Number	2006 7 200
		O <input type="checkbox"/>			2015 15 000
Jobs created	MŽP SR	R <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	C.. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Number	2006 0
		O <input type="checkbox"/>			2015 1

³⁸ In line with the Annex II, tables 1 – 4 Commission regulation (EC) No 1828/2006 of 8 December 2006 setting out rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund and the Cohesion Fund and of Regulation (EC) No 1080/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European Regional Development Fund

6 Horizontal Priorities of OPE

6.1 Marginalised Roma Communities

Objective of the above mentioned horizontal priority is strengthening of cooperation, more efficient coordination of activities and financial resources directed at improvement of living conditions of members of marginalised Roma communities.

The goal of the OPE is mainly the support to the capability of the SR to fulfill the transitional periods related to the individual directives in the sector of environment, that are binding to the SR through the signature of the EU Accession Treaty in the fields of the protection of water, air, nature and in the field of waste management.

Complying with the existing legal framework and principles of the projects sustainability, the individual priority axes have a potential to take part on implementation of the horizontal priority focused on marginalised Roma communities.

The priority axes of the OPE are focused on the improvement of the environment and living conditions of inhabitants through ensuring of access to the environmental infrastructure, including marginalised Roma communities. The OPE in a synergy with operational programmes for other priority areas (education, employment, health) will contribute to the improvement of the living conditions of marginalised Roma communities.

~~At political level, the horizontal priority marginalised Roma communities (hereinafter referred to as "HP MRC") is under the responsibility of Deputy Prime Minister for Information Society, European Affairs, Human Rights and Minorities. This horizontal priority is coordinated by the Bureau of SR Government Plenipotentiary for Roma Communities (ÚSVRK):~~

Suggested tools of horizontal priority marginalised Roma communities implementation are the following:

- Complex approach to the solution of marginalised Roma communities' problems – possible implementation also relates to OP Environment, namely operational objectives 4.1. Support of Separated Waste Collection Activities and 4.2. Support of Waste Recovery Activities. Further, complex approach will be applied in Regional OP, OP Employment and Social Inclusion, OP Education, OP Environment, OP Competitiveness and Economic Growth and OP Healthcare);
- Individual projects (demand oriented) that may be applied in all OP.

The role of ÚSVRK and cooperation with RO, scope and precise conditions of described tools implementation within the actual operational programs will be subject to an agreement on cooperation between ÚSVRK and RO.

Complex approach joining several activities, or projects into one development strategy for an actual location for their implementation to be logical and to contribute to long-term development of marginalised Roma community in a given location. The complex approach stresses mutual links between activities and active participation of local community in project

implementation. With respect to the complex approach scope and intensity, suggested areas/micro-regions³⁹, interested in the complex approach, will be offered help in the development of local Roma communities development strategy, as well as in the preparation of project activities within the strategy to provide for material and time complementarity and overall synergic effect. Complex approach will especially be applied in areas with significant concentration of marginalised Roma communities.

The complex approach is aimed at communities listed in year 2004 sociographic mapping and declaring their interest in the solution of issues through complex approach and showing their eligibility in terms of the conditions to be specified in respective calls for proposals for EU funds grants.

The complex approach will be implemented as follows:

- Submission of local complex approach strategies (further only “CA”) by municipalities, or micro-regions (in relation to regional concepts of socio-economic inclusion of MRC initiated by ÚSVRK in 2006 in case of Prešov, Košice and Banská Bystrica regions, which calls for wide partnership in the given location)
- Evaluation and approval of local complex approach strategies
- Preparation of projects within the approved local complex approach strategies
- Approval and implementation of projects within OP
- Continuous monitoring and evaluation of local strategy goals observation via respective projects
- Evaluation of complex projects contribution to the observation of the horizontal priority

Implementation of projects within complex approach does not exclude the implementation of individual demand based projects complementing the complex approach.

Implementation of individual projects impacting HP MRC will be as follows:

- In the grant application itself, the applicant shall clearly identify the project as one focusing MRC;
- Actual impact of projects on HP MRC, which was so marked by the applicant, will be assessed by ÚSVRK in the process of MRC projects evaluation;
- Projects assessed to have a large impact on MRC, will receive preferential points (except for operational program, where HP MRC forms a separate measure, or group of activities);
- ÚSVRK monitors MRC projects on a sample defined by managing body/implementing agency.

To involve end users and other stakeholders and provide for wider HP MRC implementation platform, and implemented projects monitoring and impact assessment on marginalised Roma communities, a Work Committee for Roma Communities Development, including a representative of the MoE SR, will continue to function ~~in close cooperation with the Department for HP MRC coordination at Bureau of SR Government Plenipotentiary for Roma Communities.~~

³⁹ Projects implementation will be based on already prepared micro-regions and municipalities with project documentation developed within the PHARE grant scheme, 14 micro-regions (134 municipalities) have been identified and pre-prepared within project TA 11400130021 „Development of SR Government Plenipotentiary Administrative Capacities “

Assessment of the impact of projects supported within OP Environment on the implementation of horizontal priority MRC will be performed via indicators included in Annex No.13 of NSRF “Horizontal Priority Indicators”.

6.2 Opportunities Equality

Support of principal rights, non-discrimination and equal opportunities form one of the key principles applied in the EU. Equal opportunity principle is among the pillars of the European Employment Strategy and European Framework Strategy on Non-discrimination and Equal Opportunity, from which the horizontal priority is derived. Equal opportunities mean the avoidance of gender, race, ethnic origin, religion, disablement, age or sexual orientation discrimination.

Special stress is placed on the principal of gender equality (equal opportunities for men and women) belonging to the key objectives of the European [Community union](#) and so to the key objectives of structural funds. According to Art. [82 of the Amsterdam Treaty on European Union](#), the [Community EU aim to eliminate inequalities and promote equality between men and women has to reach equal position of men and women in the society and according to Art. 3, there is the duty to remove inequality and promote gender equality in all activities through the method of gender mainstreaming](#). In the EU funds context, this means the need to look at the contribution to equal opportunities and gender equality at the time of funds programming, monitoring and evaluation.

Minister of Labor, Social Affairs and Family of the SR coordinates the implementation of horizontal priority equal opportunities.

A project impact on horizontal priority equal opportunities will be assessed in the grant application, where the applicant states if a project impacts equal opportunities. Assessment criteria for projects impact on equal opportunity will be developed by the SR Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs and Family. The later will also provide guidance to all managing authorities in this respect.

OPE supports the establishment of the equality of opportunities for the access to the environmental infrastructure as one of the important factor influencing the living conditions and living standard of inhabitants and for the favorable environment as one of the main constitutional rights of the citizens of SR.

Impact assessments of projects funded in the framework of OPE to fulfill the horizontal priority equal opportunities, will be evaluated via indicators which are included in the Annex No.13 of NSRF „Indicators for horizontal priorities“.

6.3 Sustainable Development

The sustainable development as a horizontal priority has a determining importance to the Operational Programme Environment from the view of its overall orientation and general content.

In the line with the § 6 of the Act No. 17/1992 Col. on the environment, as amended, the sustainable development is defined as a such development, that preserves the possibility to meet the basic living needs to the present and coming generations, and in the same time it is not decreasing the nature biodiversity and preserves the natural functions of the ecosystems.

Sustainable development (SD) represents one of the EU principal objectives applying to all policies and activities. It focuses the ever increasing quality of life and welfare of the current and future Earth generations. For this purpose, it supports dynamic economy with full employment, high education, health care, social and territorial integrity levels, as well as a high level of environmental protection. Change of citizens and politicians behavior and approach towards respect for sustainable development principles represents a key and long-term society wide task.

~~On political level, Deputy Prime Minister for Information Society, European Affairs, Human Rights and Minorities coordinates h~~Horizontal priority sustainable development (hereinafter referred to as “HP SD”) is coordinated by the . In respect of sustainable development, the Deputy Prime Minister observes his/her duties via the Governmental Council for sustainable development, which he/she chairs. SR Government Office ~~coordinates the horizontal priority at work level.~~

Key tools governing interventions for the observation of horizontal priority sustainable development represent integration tools resulting from conceptual, legal and institutional framework of sustainable development:

- strategic and program documents, concepts of sustainable development
- sustainable development principles, priorities, goals and parameters

The priority axes of the Operational Programme Environment are contributing to the protection and improvement of the status of individual components of the environment, whereas the Operational Programme Environment as a whole through their support contributes to the preservation of the favourable status of the environment for the coming generations. The sustainable development as a horizontal priority reflects on the level of the programme to its overall contextual scope.

On the level of the individual priority axes the sustainable development as a horizontal priority reflects to their goals, as well as to their expected activity implementation impacts, supported in their frame. The activities supported in the frame of the individual priority axes are, through their results, directly contributing to the fulfilment of environmental indicators of the sustainable development.

In the programming period 2007 – 2013, in the same way as in the programming period 2004 – 2006, it will be necessary to provide the compliance with the National strategy of sustainable development on the level of the projects, in the frame of their evaluation criteria.

One of the areas significantly contributing to sustainable development is **the area of energy and energy efficiency** which will be supported horizontally, it means not only from OP Competitiveness and Economic Growth, but also from OP Environment, as well as from other OP (Regional OP, OP Healthcare, OP Research and Development, OP Bratislava Region and Rural Development Program SR funded from EAFRD). OPE will contribute to the

implementation of EU energy legislation⁴⁰ through the support of the construction and technologies energy efficiency increase (projects may also include measures decreasing energy losses of constructions) as well as through the support of renewable energy sources utilization as a tool for air pollution decrease.

Horizontally, energy sector and energy efficiency support coordination will be organized by the SR Ministry of Economy and Construction of the Slovak Republic, which is responsible for energy policy as per the competency law⁴¹. The above stated suggests close cooperation between the SR MoE and managing authorities listed in the operational programs.

Within negotiations with the SR MoE, it was agreed for one of the horizontal parameters of sustainable development to be projects energy efficiency. SR MoE will provide for such parameter monitoring coordination among all operational programs. SR Ministry of Environment, in cooperation with the SR MoE, will provide for this parameter monitoring and evaluation within OP Environment.

Further, SR MoE will use the implementation agency for OP Competitiveness and Economic Development (Slovak Energy and Innovation Agency – SEIA) to secure energy data collection from respective managing authorities for the total value for all relevant operational programs to be centrally monitored and evaluated.

6.4 Information Society

Currently, in the development of information society, the world is facing gradual change of its traditional understanding in terms of an information triangle (education, research and innovation), which changes to a square (fourth dimension is added – informatisation). The introduction of information-communication technology (ICT) and improved efficiency of processes resulting from ICT use contribute significantly to the increased efficiency and effectiveness of information society elements implementation.

Objective of horizontal priority is to support more efficient, transparent and quality based implementation of NSRF priorities as a result of ICT implementation and use.

~~At political, horizontal priority information society (hereinafter referred to as “HP IS”) is responsibility of Deputy Prime Minister for Information Society, European Affairs, Human Rights and Minorities. At work level, the horizontal priority is~~ coordinated by the SR Government Office. At conceptual and material level, horizontal management and implementation of all informatisation projects is responsibility of the Ministry of Finance of the SR, which is a state administration central body in the field of informatisation according

⁴⁰ Directive 2006/32/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 April 2006 on energy end-use efficiency and energy services and repealing Council Directive 93/76/EEC, Directive 2001/77/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 September 2001 on the promotion of electricity produced from renewable energy sources in the internal electricity market, Directive 2002/91/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2002 on the energy performance of buildings that has been transposed into the SR legislation by the Act No 555/2005 Coll. on the energy performance of buildings and on the amendments of other acts

⁴¹ Act No. 575/2001 of Coll. on Government Activities Organisation and Central State Administration Organisation, [as amended](#)

to Act No. 275/2006 of Coll. on Public Administration Information Systems and change and amendment of certain acts, [as amended](#).

Key tools managing interventions for the implementation of horizontal priority information society will represent integration tools in the competency of the MoF SR, precisely:

- Strategic documents, action plans in the field of society informatisation
- National concept of public administration informatisation and the resulting concept on information systems development of public administration obliged subjects representing public administration institutions
- National projects implemented within OPIS
- Data standards, technological standards and security standards
- Methodological instructions, guidelines, user handbooks, possibly calls for proposals

At horizontal level, information society development will be supported via informatisation projects implemented in other operational programs outside OP IS. In this respect, horizontal priority information society focuses on optimisation of specific service processes provided by central state administration authorities and integration of technological-application infrastructure owned by respective ministries. In terms of horizontal priority implementation, technological and application infrastructure, local and specialised networks purchase and operation projects, just as electronic services development in specific areas will be supported. Horizontal priority interventions will support the implementation of eGovernment services like, e.g. eContent, eLearning, eTransport, eInclusion, eBusiness, eTourism, eSkills etc.

In the operational programs implementation phase, horizontal priority information society will be implemented via the definition of a unified text (consulted with the SR MoF) in the end user manual, including a requirement for the grant applicant to clearly state the project aim to support information society development defining the method, in which this should take place.

Monitoring and evaluation of horizontal priority information society observation will be responsibility of SR Government Office establishing a task force for horizontal priority information society. The mentioned task force will have one member representing the MoE SR.

OP Environment projects impact on horizontal priority information society will be assessed through indicators forming part of NSRF Annex No.13 “Horizontal Priority Indicators”.

7 Compliance of Strategy with Policies, Documents and Goals of EU and SR

7.1 Compliance with the EU Strategic Documents and Policies

7.1.1 ~~Community~~-EU Strategic Guidelines

The strategy of the OPE is focused on the investments to the environmental infrastructure in the fields of water management, air protection, waste management and protection of nature and landscape with the aim to comply with the legal provisions of EU and to ensure fulfillment of international obligations of SR. The strategy also follows the demands of the regions and tries to solve pollution of the environment and its sources through introduction of favorable technologies, support to the environmentally friendly waste recovery, risk prevention and protection of natural environment and landscape. These investments are increasing the attractiveness of the regions, improving the living conditions, following this way the fulfillment of the first priority of the ~~Community~~-EU Strategic Guidelines (ESG) „Improving the attractiveness of Europe and its regions more attractive for investment and work“.

Link to the ~~E~~CSG priorities:

1.2 Strengthening the synergies between environmental protection and growth

7.1.2 Lisbon and Goteborg strategies

The Lisbon strategy (approved in the year 2000) has set out as its goal to make EU the most dynamic and competitive knowledge-oriented economy by the year 2010. It means, the increase of living standards and life quality of inhabitants that is essential provision for the dynamic economic growth and job creation, jointly with a high level of social cohesion and environmental protection. Lisbon strategy consistently follows the approach that is focused to ensuring the accordance of the fundamental policy areas and development dimensions – economical, social and environmental

The conclusion of the mid-term evaluation of the Lisbon process was that its results have been ambiguous. After the promising start in the year 2000 the increase of the employment decelerated rapidly, the productivity growth was not satisfactory all the time, partially caused by the failure to be able to fully use the advantages of the knowledge oriented and information and communication technologies based economy. Despite the fact, that the lower performance of economy was partially influenced by deceleration of the world economic growth, the mid-term evaluation resulted that it is essential to strengthen the activities leading towards the increase the potential for growth and employment of Europe.

In February 2005 the European Commission proposed an innovated strategy for growth and employment to the European Council meeting in March 2005. The Council confirmed its goals, as well as the necessity to re-enforce the Lisbon strategy and underlined that in the frame of reintegration of this effort „The EU has to mobilise all its appropriate national sources and Community sources, Cohesion policy including“.

During the meeting of the European Council, held in Goteborg in 2001, „**A Sustainable Europe for a Better World: A European Union Strategy for Sustainable Development**“ has been adopted as a document that defines the long-term objectives and goals in six areas - 1. global warming, climate change, 2. public health, 3. poverty and social exclusion, 4. stress of natural resources – biodiversity, waste, soil, 5. ageing process of inhabitants and demography, 6. transport, unbalanced spatial development. A consultation process was accomplished in the year 2004, with aim to evaluate the enforcement of the strategy in the EU that it would be possible to define new sustainable development goals for the forthcoming period. The results of this process served as a basis for the revised sustainable development strategy.

A strategic document of principal importance in the field of environment is also **The 6th Environmental Action Programme of European Union (2002 – 2012)**. The 6th Community environmental action programme deals with the key environmental long-term objectives and priorities resulting from assessment of environment and from prevailing tendencies including new environmental problems. The programme also enforces integration of environmental interests into all strategies of the [Community-EU](#) and support of sustainable development in the existing and future expanded [CommunityEU](#).

The Community has to reach the long-term goals that should correspond to the key environmental priorities, in the following areas:

- climate change,
- nature and biodiversity,
- environment, health and quality of life,
- natural resources and waste.

This programme initiated a preparation of „Thematic strategies“ (hereinafter „TS“), that are perceived as way to solve the key environmental problems. At the end of year 2005 and in the course of the year 2006 the EC gradually started to submit the proposals of individual TS (sustainable natural resources, maritime environment, air pollution, natural resources, waste prevention and recycling, sustainable use of pesticides).

The TS provides comprehensive analysis of the crucial problem areas in the field of environment, as well as of linkages between sector policies and their impact on environment (e.g. impact of transport, energy, agriculture on the air, soil, water, etc.). Thematic strategies are focusing to achieve a balance between **the environmental protection and the growth and employment Lisbon goals**. The solution for the problems is being sought from a long-term perspective, defining the frame of activities of the [Community-EU](#) and member states for the forthcoming two decades, thus proposing strategic goals, but they will also analyse short-term and mid-term measures leading to their achievement. The TS should generally help to ensure higher legal assurance and stability to give the possibility for the public sector, companies and individuals for better planning.

Especially important, from the point of view of the specific goals of the OPE, is the *Thematic Strategy on Air Pollution*, as well as the *Thematic Strategy on the Prevention and Recycling of Waste*.

The purpose of the Thematic Strategy on Air Pollution is to ensure the protection of people's health, to decrease the number of illness and mortality related to the air pollution, as well as the analysis of the possibilities and proposal of measures leading to the decrease of air pollutants concentration.

The goal of the Thematic Strategy on the Prevention and Recycling of Waste is to improve the human health protection and environment protection, especially through the modernisation of the waste management strategy and strengthening of the recycling standards and waste prevention.

7.1.3 EC legislation in the field of the Cohesion Policy

OPE, including its priority axes, is elaborated in line with the ~~Council General regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 of 11 July 2006 laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund and the Cohesion Fund and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999 (hereinafter referred to as „general regulation“)~~ as amended by Council Regulation (EC) No 1341/2008 of 18 December 2008 amending Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund and the Cohesion Fund, in respect of certain revenue generating projects, by Council Regulation (EC) No 284/2009 of 4 April 2009 amending Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund and the Cohesion Fund concerning certain provisions relating to financial management and by Regulation (EU) No 539/2010 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 June 2010 amending Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund and the Cohesion Fund as regards simplification of certain requirements and as regards certain provisions relating to financial management; as well as pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 1080/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 July 2006 on the European Regional Development Fund and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1783/1999 (hereinafter referred to as „ERDF regulation“) as amended by Regulation (EC) No 397/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 6 May 2009 amending Regulation (EC) No 1080/2006 on the European Regional Development Fund as regards the eligibility of energy efficiency and renewable energy investments in housing and by Regulation (EU) No 437/2010 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 May 2010 amending Regulation (EC) No 1080/2006 on the European Regional Development Fund as regards the eligibility of housing interventions in favour of marginalised communities and pursuant to Council Regulation (EC) No 1084/2006 of 11 July 2006 establishing a Cohesion Fund and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1164/ (hereinafter referred to as „CF regulation“), and is in that way harmonised with the EU Cohesion policy. Accordance within the specific priority is following:

The scope of the priority axis **1. Integrated protection and rational utilisation of water** is supported in compliance with CF regulation, which regulates the support of the priority 1. in Article 2, point 1: „Assistance from the Fund shall be given to actions in...: the environment within the priorities assigned to the **Community EU** environmental protection policy under the policy and action programme on the environment.“

Similar basis is created by the EC cohesion policy legislation relating to the support of the priority axis **2. Flood protection**. CF regulation regulates the support of the priority 2. in Article 2, point 1: „Assistance from the Fund shall be given to actions in...: the environment within the priorities assigned to the **Community EU** environmental protection policy under the policy and action programme on the environment.“

The scope of the priority axis **3. Air protection and minimisation of adverse effect of climate change** is supported by ERDF regulation, article 4. It states that under the Convergence objective, the ERDF shall focus its assistance on ... environment, including investments

connected with: ... air quality, integrated pollution prevention and control; aid to mitigate the effects of climate change, aid to SMEs to promote sustainable production patterns through the introduction of cost-effective environmental management systems and the adoption and use of pollution-prevention technologies “.

Within the frame of the OPE, the field of the priority **4. Waste management** is also supported in compliance with the CF regulation.

CF regulation regulates the support of the priority axis 4. in Article 2, point 1: „ Assistance from the Fund shall be given to actions in: ... the environment within the priorities assigned to the [Community-EU](#) environmental protection policy under the policy and action programme on the environment.“.

The scope of the priority axis **5. Protection and regeneration of natural environment and landscape** is supported in compliance with the ERDF regulation, in Article 4: „Under the Convergence objective, the ERDF shall focus its assistance on ... environment, including investments connected with: ... promotion of biodiversity and nature protection, including investments in NATURA 2000 sites“.

Priority axis **7. Development of the Flood Warning and Forecasting System** will be funded through the ERDF on the basis of the ERDF regulation, according to Article 4, point 5 of which „under the Convergence objective, ERDF shall focus its assistance on...: prevention of risks, including development and implementation of plans to prevent and cope with natural and technological risks.

7.1.4 [EUC](#) legislation in the field of the rules on competition

The OPE is in accordance with the rules on competition– Council Regulation (EC) 1/2003 on the implementation of the rules on competition laid down in Articles 81 and 82 of the [Treaty on EU-EC-Treaty as amended](#).

The OPE will be implemented in compliance with the state aid rules, whereby the [Community EU](#) legislation in the field of state aid is in SR directly applicable and binding (Article ~~81~~8 and ~~82~~9 of the [EC-Treaty on EU](#)). In the frame of the OPE, the state aid will be provided in accordance with the Act No. 231/2001 Coll. on the state aid as amended.

The OPE Managing authority shall ensure that any State aid granted under this programme will comply with the procedural and material State aid rules applicable at the point of time when the public support is granted.

In the case of assistance granted to a large enterprise, the OPE Managing Authority undertakes to request an assurance from the enterprise concerned that the assistance will not be used in support of investment that concerns the relocation of its production or service facilities from another Member State of the European Union.

The OPE Managing authority shall take into consideration the EC recommendation that in case of direct assistance to firms is foreseen, a substantial share of this support should be directed towards assisting SMEs.

The Antimonopoly Office of the Slovak Republic, as the central body of the state administration, carries out the supervision over the field of the protection and support of competition in the Slovak Republic.

7.1.5 EU legislation in the field of the rules on public procurement

The main principles of the rules on public procurement are based on the ~~EC~~-Treaty on EU and the EU Directives for the field of public procurement. It is dealt with the following principles: transparency, equal treatment, non-discrimination, mutual recognition and proportionality while observing the principles of economy, effectiveness and efficiency in the spending of financial sources.

The issues of public procurement and ordering of the public contracts is ensured through the approximated legislation through Act No. 25/2006 Coll. on the public procurement and amendment and supplement to some acts, introducing the public procurement system respecting the obligations of the SR as a EU members state. This Act arranges public procurement of the orders for supplying goods, the orders for performing construction works, the orders for providing services, the concessions for construction works, tender of proposals and administration of public procurement.

The increase of transparency in the public procurement process, increasing of competitiveness and generally of the business environment is achieved through the implementation of this Act. Moreover, it contributes to the advancing of effectiveness of the control over the spending of public funds and restricting possibilities of corruption as well. This Act arranges public procurement of the orders for supplying goods, the orders for performing construction works, the orders for providing services, the concessions for construction works, tender of proposals and administration of public procurement. The Public Procurement Office is the central body of state administration for the field of public procurement.

The activities that are not the subject to the application of the Act on the public procurement, such as market research are implemented based on the Commercial Code through competitive bidding.

7.1.6 EU legislation in the field of the rules on the protection and improvement of the environment

The strategic environmental assessment is carried out for the OPE in accordance with the Act No. 24/2006 Coll. on the assessment of impacts on the environment and on amending and supplementing some acts, as amended. This act is in accordance with the ~~EU~~-Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and Council on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment, and is applied in assessing strategic documents.

In relation to the activities that are proposed in the frame of the OPE; there aren't any negative impacts on environment expected. On the contrary, OPE and especially its implementation will have a positive impact on the individual environmental components status, as well as on the level of the SR environmental infrastructure development.

Act No. 24/2006 Coll. on the assessment of impacts on the environment and on amending and supplementing some acts, as amended will be applied also in relation to the activities included in the projects that will be supported in the frame of OPE.

The preparation and selection of the projects within the implementation of the operational programme will be carried out with a view for compliance to the principles of protection and

improvement of the environment in accordance with the Act No. 543/2002 on the protection of nature and landscape, [as amended](#).

7.1.7 EUC legislation in the field of the principles of equality of opportunities, gender equality and non-discrimination

The activities in implementing projects will be ensured in accordance with the EUC legislation in the field of observing the rules on equality of opportunities, gender equality and non-discrimination.

The fundamental human rights and freedoms are guaranteed in the Slovak Republic through the Constitution of the SR. Concurrently, the Slovak Republic is bound by the international conventions and state legislation to follow the implementation of equality of opportunities into practice. Related to the implementation of anti-discrimination *acquis communautaire* into the legal order of Slovak Republic, the Act No. 365/2004, Coll. concerning equality of opportunities in selected areas and concerning the protection against discrimination and on amending and supplementing some acts (Anti-discrimination Act) entered into force in the 2004.

The purpose of the Anti-discrimination Act is to ensure to the legal subjects such a protection against all forms of discrimination that will ensure the aggrieved persons the possibility to claim adequate and effective court of justice protection, including compensation of damages and non-property losses. The Act specifies the scope of the equality and non-discrimination provisions set forth in the Constitution of SR and in some international conventions.

As even before the Anti-discrimination Act entered into force, a lot of acts in force included so called anti-discrimination provisions, in order to prevent any duplicities, in the same time with the Anti-discrimination Act several other related acts have been amended, reinforcing the principle of equal treatment with females and males in particular.

The SR Government has been adopting regularly since 2000 the systematic instrument on the prevention and fight intolerance and discrimination titled: Action Plan of Preventing All Forms of Discrimination, Racism, Xenophobia, Anti-Semitism and Other Demonstration of Intolerance. ([Since 2000, The Action Plans are having been prepared for two, respectively three-year period for 2006-2008 is already the 4th in the order since 2000](#)). The goal of this Action Plan is to assist in establishing the systematic and ongoing attention paid to the issue of observing the human rights and the prevention of discrimination within the individual resorts and developing cooperation of the resorts with individual non-governmental organisations and other involved.

7.2 Compliance with Strategic Documents and Policies of SR

7.2.1 NSRF and OPs

7.2.1.1 Compliance with the strategy and vision of the NSRF

It is possible to understand the sustainable overall convergence of the economy of the SR to EU-15 average, the main vision of the SR, as a balanced system, is a long term process comprising three development sub-systems – economic, social and environmental.

The SR convergence to the EU average in the field of environmental component of the sustainable development will be ensured via implementation of the Operational Programme Environment strategy, with its global goal; completion of the environmental infrastructure according to the EU standards. Fulfilling the mentioned global goal of the specific priority, the attractiveness and competitiveness of the regions, improvement of the environmental conditions and increase of the living standard of inhabitants will be ensured. This will contribute to the fulfillment of the vision set in the NSRF, i.e. to reach the overall convergence of the SR to the EU-15 average via the sustainable development.

7.2.1.2 Complementarity / synergy of OPE with other operational programmes

OPE

Priority axis 1 Integrated Protection and Rational Utilisation of Water, operational objective: Drinking water supply to citizens from public drinking water supply network

Thematically similar measure:

**Regional Operational Programme (hereinafter as “ROP”)
priority axis 4 Regeneration of settlements**

Demarcation line:

In the priority axis 4 of the ROP, activities concerning reconstruction and construction of drinking water supply networks, namely in connection with activities connected with regeneration of settlements (e.g. reconstruction of local roads and public area) implemented in municipalities defined as cohesion or innovation growth poles or in municipalities which are not growth poles under the conditions that those municipalities have separated or segregated Roma settlements, which are registered in the Atlas of Roma communities, will be supported. *(Background for implementation of the above mentioned projects is the project pipeline developed from PHARE projects and consequently also further municipalities fulfilling conditions for implementation of investment projects in line with the SR legislation).* Engineering network in municipalities is not primary activity in the framework of ROP.

In the operational objective of OPE, projects for reconstruction and construction of public drinking water supply network for municipalities will be independently implemented. During the evaluation process, managing authorities for ROP and OPE will use information from the ITMS II system, which registers all projects financed from structural funds up to the level of operations, in order to avoid any duplicity financing.

OPE

Priority axis 1 Integrated Protection and Rational Utilisation of Water, operational objective Municipal waste water collection and treatment

Thematically similar measure:

ROP

Priority axis 4 Regeneration of settlements

Demarcation line:

In the priority axis 4 of the ROP, activities concerning collection and treatment of municipal wastewaters, namely in connection with activities of settlements regeneration (e.g. reconstruction of local roads and public area) implemented in municipalities defined as cohesion or innovation growth poles or in municipalities which are not growth poles under the

condition that those municipalities have separated or segregated Roma settlements which are registered in the Atlas of Roma communities, will be supported. (*Background for implementation of the above mentioned projects is the project pipeline developed from PHARE projects and consequently also further municipalities fulfilling conditions for implementation of investment projects in line with the SR legislation*). Engineering network in municipalities is not primary activity in the framework of ROP.

In the operational objective of OPE projects for collection and treatment of municipal wastewaters via public sewers for municipalities will be independently implemented. During the evaluation process, managing authorities for ROP and OPE will use information from the ITMS II system, which registers all projects financed from structural funds up to the level of operations, in order to avoid any duplicity financing.

OPE

Priority axis 2 Flood protection

Thematically similar measure:

ROP

Priority axis 4 Regeneration of settlements

Demarcation line:

In the priority axis 4 of the ROP, activities of regulation of rivers in the urbanized areas of municipalities (residential areas) defined as cohesion or innovation growth poles, namely in connection with activities of settlements regeneration, will be supported, whereas regulation of rivers is not eligible as independent project intent and their implementation is conditioned by the approval from the administrator of the water flows, i.e. from the Slovak Water Management Enterprise, S.E. Banská Štiavnica. In municipalities which are not growth poles, the above mentioned activities can be realized under the condition that those municipalities have separated or segregated Roma settlements which are registered in the Atlas of Roma communities (*Background for implementation of the above mentioned projects is the project pipeline developed from PHARE projects and consequently also further municipalities fulfilling conditions for implementation of investment projects in line with the SR legislation*).

In the operational objective of OPE, independent activities aimed at investments into regulation of river basins in compliance with § 4 Article 2 letter a) to f) of Act No. 7/2010 on flood prevention will be supported.

During the evaluation process, managing authorities for ROP and OPE will use information from the ITMS II system, which registers all projects financed from structural funds up to the level of operations, in order to avoid any duplicity financing.

OPE

Priority axis 3: Air protection and minimisation of adverse effects of climate change, operation objective Minimisation of adverse effects of climate change including support of renewable energy sources

Thematically similar measure:

OP Competitiveness and economic growth (hereinafter as “OP C&EG”),

priority axis 2: Energetics, measure 2.1 Increase of energy efficiency on the side of production as well as on the side of consumption and introduction of progressive technologies in the energy sector

Demarcation line:

In the operational objective 2.2. Minimisation of adverse effects of the climate change including support of renewable energy sources (OPE) only projects for utilization of renewable energy resources as a tool for decrease of basic and other pollutants (PM₁₀, PM_{2,5}, SO₂, NO₂, benzene, NH₃, heavy metals and PAH), together with decrease of green house gas emissions at the pollution source, will be supported. Due to decrease of pollutant emissions (mentioned in brackets above) also decrease of its volume in the air will be reached, what is the objective of obligations resulting from acquis and the Thematic Strategy on Air Pollution. During the evaluation process, managing authorities for ROP and OPE will use information from the ITMS II system, which registers all projects financed from structural funds up to the level of operations, in order to avoid any duplicity financing from structural funds.

In the measure 2.1 Increase of energy efficiency on the side of production as well as on the side of consumption and introduction of progressive technologies in the energy sector in OP C&EG the utilization of renewable resources and increase of energy efficiency including highly efficient combined production of energy and heat for business sector will be supported. In Slovakia, Increase of energy efficiency will be implemented in several operational programmes and the Ministry of Economy will coordinate it. There will be synergy with the Programme for rural development, where the Ministry of Economy will from ERDF support technologies for production of electricity, heat and bio fuel from biomass and the Ministry of Agriculture will support growing of annual and multi-annual plants for production of electricity, heat and bio fuel.

OPE

Priority axis 3: Air protection and minimisation of adverse effects of climate change, operation objective Air protection

Synergy:

OP Transport:

Priority axis 4, Infrastructure of integrated transport systems

Priority axis 6, Public railway passenger transport

In the priority axis 4 of OP Transport construction (or modernisation, modification) of carry railway infrastructure in the city of Bratislava and Košice for operation of integrated municipal transport systems will be supported. By implementation of the priority axis 4 in connection with the priority axis 6 conditions for increase of ecological public railway personal transport as well as municipal mass transport will be created.

In OPE, activities for decrease of emissions of pollutants from public transport, that is one of the mobile sources of pollution, will be supported mainly in areas attracting special air protection. Gasification of busses used for mass transportation (municipal and intercity) and construction of CNG fuel stations, as well as purchase of trolleybuses and trams and substitutes for busses will be supported as well.

OPE

Priority axis 3: Air protection and minimisation of adverse effects of climate change, operation objective Minimisation of adverse effects of the climate change including support of renewable energy sources

Thematically similar measure:

**Operational programme Bratislava region (hereinafter as “OP BR”),
Priority axis 2 Knowledge economy, measure 2.1 Innovation and technological transfers**

Demarcation line:

Demarcation line with the above mentioned priority axis of the OPE financed from ERDF is defined by boundaries of territories eligible for objective Convergence and regional competitiveness and employment.

In OPBR measure 2.1, activities implemented in the Bratislava region will be supported.

In the priority axis 2 OPE activities implemented on the whole territory of Slovakia, except of the Bratislava region, will be supported.

OPE

Priority axis 5 – Protection and regeneration of natural environment and landscape, operational objective Management plans of protected areas, including NATURA 2000 sites and conservation programmes for critically endangered fauna and flora species including monitoring of species and habitats

Thematically similar measure:

**Operational programme Bratislava region (hereinafter as “OP BR”),
Priority axis 1 Infrastructure, measure 1.1 Regeneration of settlements**

Demarcation line:

Demarcation line with the mentioned operational objective of OPE, financed by the ERDF, is set by the borders of the regions that are eligible for the Convergence and Regional competitiveness and employment objectives.

In OPBR, activities implemented in the Bratislava region will be supported.

In the priority axis 2 OPE activities implemented on the whole territory of Slovakia, except of the Bratislava region, will be supported.

Interconnection of major projects implementation with employment services

Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs and Family SR via labor offices will secure training of potential employees with relevant skills in professions which are lacking at the labor market and are needed for implementation of big projects (mainly infrastructure projects) in order to strengthen interconnection between operational programmes financed from ESF and ERDF and decrease unemployment in regions. The above mentioned training will be financed from ESF.

Managing authorities for OP Transport, OPE and OPC&EG will provide **information to beneficiaries about possibilities to employ the trained people**. Information about this possibility will be mentioned in the contract on provision of grant from funds.

In order that the labor offices manage to train required employees well in advance, will the above mentioned managing authorities send **information about the projects expected to be implemented in the next year** to the MOLSAF SR. MOLSAF SR will take this information into account while developing the employment strategy for the next year.

7.2.2 Operational Programmes in the frame of the European Territorial Cooperation Objective

OPE, as well as its priority axes, complements (eventually creating also synergic effects) to the SR priorities for the European Territorial Cooperation Objective in the fields of the cross-border co-operation and trans-national co-operation.

Based on the „Indicative definition of the priorities for the Operational Programmes in the frame of the incoming European Territorial Cooperation Objective – cross-border co-operation“, approved by the Slovak Government’s Resolution N° 9 from 11.1.2006, the priorities that comprises activities focused on the protection of the environment and development of the environmental infrastructure will be included in all of the cross-border programmes. In case of draft Operational Program Cross-border Cooperation Slovak Republic – Czech Republic 2007 – 2013 adopted by SR Government Resolution No. 257 of 14/03/2007, these activities are included in priority “Development of Cross-border area accessibility and environment”, within draft Operational Program Cross-border Cooperation Austria – Slovak Republic 2007 – 2013, adopted by SR Government Resolution No. 514 of 13/06/2007, these activities are included in priority “Accessibility and Sustainable Development”, in case of draft Operational Program Cross-border Cooperation Poland – Slovak Republic 2007 – 2013 adopted by SR Government Resolution No. 591 of 04/07/2007, these are included in priority “Cross-border infrastructure development” and in case of draft Operational Program Cross-border Cooperation Hungary – Slovak Republic 2007 – 2013 adopted by SR Government Resolution No. 591 of 04/07/2007, these activities form part of priority “Environment, nature protection and accessibility”. In case of ~~draft~~ Program of European Neighbor and Partnership Tool Slovak Republic – Hungary – Ukraine, Romania, activities focusing environmental protection and environmental infrastructure development are included in priority “[Improving the quality of the environment](#)~~Cross-border Infrastructure Development~~”.

Activities in the field of the development of the environmental infrastructure will have a smaller sized investment character (e.g. in a villages up to the 2000 inhabitants), expecting positive impact on the environmental quality of our or neighboring country; or they will have a character of a non-investment projects, e.g. environmental studies and analyses of cross-border importance, development of instruments in cross-border water management, waste management and support to the renewable energies utilization.

Similarly in the field of the trans-national co-operation, in compliance with the “Proposal for the indicative priorities of the European Territorial Cooperation Objective – trans-national co-operation for the programming period 2007 – 2013” as approved by the Government of SR Decree No. 27 from 11th January 2006, is environment one of priorities. In a case of the Operational programme Central Europe as approved by the Government of SR Decree No. 592 from 4th July 2007, are the activities related to the protection of environment included in the „Using our Environment Responsibly“ priority axis; in a frame of the Operational programme South East Europe, approved by the same Government of SR Decree are these activities a part of the „Protection and improvement of the environment“ priority axis.

In the frame of the mentioned priorities, projects of mainly non-investment character will be supported, where part of them can have a character of a preparatory documentation for the investments to the environmental infrastructure (e.g. feasibility studies), but also some

investment activities focused on the development of the environmental infrastructure of a trans-national importance.

Specifically, it will support activities focused on the river basin protection and management and water management services (e.g. elaboration of the integrated river basin management plans and their implementation); flood protection; environmental and technological risks protection (especially elaboration of joint risk prevention plans, preparation and implementation of flood protection plans, including ensuring of respective facilities and infrastructure, development of the risk monitoring and mapping systems, as well as joint tools for the study, prevention, monitoring and control of environmental and technological risks, monitoring of environmental damages and effects of disasters, monitoring of relevant parameters in the endangered areas, establishment of networks and support of co-operation in the field of risk prevention, comparison and improvement of tools and methods of risk analysis, studies and pilot projects in the field of environmental burdens elimination); protection and support of the natural heritage for the benefit of the social-economic development and sustainable tourism, studies in the field of the air protection and renewable energy sources utilisation, as well as implementation of pilot projects and model examples („best practices“) in this field; exchange of know-how and practices, e.g. via comparative analyses of tools, methodologies, standards and concepts relating to the environmental protection and natural resources management.

7.2.3 National reform programme/Action plans of the Strategy of development of competitiveness of the Slovak Republic till 2010

The main goal of the strategy of development of competitiveness of the Slovak Republic till 2010 is to ensure that Slovakia will catch up with the living standards of the most developed EU countries as quickly as possible. The strategy is based on two main pillars:

- successful completion of the structural reforms and keeping of their results,
- systematic focus on the fulfillment of the development part of the Lisbon strategy.

The strategy of development of the competitiveness of the Slovak Republic until the year 2010: National Lisbon Strategy, as well as referring Action plans, approved by the government's resolution N°557/2005, has been a basis for the preparation of the National reform programme of Slovak Republic for the years 2006-2008.

The National Lisbon Strategy, as well as the National reform programme of Slovak Republic for the years 2006-2008, approved by the government's resolution N°797/2005, is based on the two pillars: successful completion of the structural reforms and keeping of their results and development of the knowledge economy. National reform programme priorities focus on the development in five areas, namely: education, employment, information society, innovations and business environment.

The status of the environmental infrastructure is one of the decisive factors of the economic development and competitiveness of the SR economy and has a high importance towards the influence of the quality of the business environment.

The national reform programme for the years 2006-2008 makes provisions for the environmental point of view as its horizontal priority. Even though the primary intent of the NRP is the creation of conditions for the quick and long-term economic growth, its support cannot be based on policies, which have an inadequate impact on the environment. The environmental protection and quick economic growth do not have to and in principle they

should not have opposite goals. On the contrary, with right setup of the public policies, they could complement and strengthen each other. The state should actively support such activities and policies, which will lead to ecologically favorable innovations, to the environmental technologies introduction and to decrease of the energy expenditure. From this point of view, it is necessary to respect the two main principles, when elaborating the individual sectoral policies. Both of them have been fully considered also by the elaboration of the NRP:

- *to fully include the environmental costs to the prices of the goods and services (so called internalization of the environmental externalities)* – the production of some types of goods and services has such an impacts on the environment, which is affecting all the community. It is usually a market failure, in these cases, where the producer does not bears the environmental costs and he is not considering it in the goods prices. The state has to correct such a market deformations, that unfairly favorites some types of goods, causing damages to the whole community;

- *not to deform the market environment by incorrect state aid policy* – if the market environment is disturbed by non-systematic elements, as a inappropriate state aid policy, inevitably it results in the deformation of products and services prices and decrease of the competitiveness of the environmental technologies and services.

The priorities of the environmental policy are formulated with respect to the contents and goals of mentioned documents. They are as follows:

- decrease of the pollution of the environment, construction of environmental infrastructure, increase of the environmental quality of regions and flood protection,
- ensuring the protection of air and Earth ozone layer, prevention and minimization of the adverse effects of the climate change, including the renewable energy sources utilization,
- preservation of the biological and landscape diversity, protection of important nature habitats and rational utilization of natural resources,
- hazardous environmental risks and burdens protection and increase of the level of the environmental awareness of inhabitants.

7.2.4 National Strategy of Sustainable Development/ Action Plan of Sustainable Development

„National Strategy of Sustainable Development“ (NSSD) approved by the Slovak Government's Resolution N°978 from October 10th, 2001 and following by the resolution of the NC of the SR N°1989 from April 3rd, 2002 plays an important role in the field of implementation of the sustainable development. The sustainable development is defined as such a development that allows the possibility for the present and future generations to satisfy their basic living needs, while keeping the nature's diversity s and natural functions of ecosystems. With this goal the NSSD harmonises economic, social and environmental needs of the progress of the Slovak Republic and sets its development principles. The national strategy is based on the evaluation of the sectoral as well as regional social, economic, environmental, cultural and institutional conditions and leads toward the establishment of a community based on 16 principles and 40 criteria of the sustainable development. It sets 10 priorities followed by 28 strategic goals with 236 initial measures, as instruments of the strategy implementation.

In the frame of its strategic goals, the NSSD includes reductions of the global climate change impacts, ozone layer harm and natural disasters, as well as the improvement of the quality of the environment in the regions. This is also the goal of the individual operational objectives in the frame of OPE.

7.2.5 Slovak Spatial Development Perspective

Slovak Spatial Development Perspective settles the spatial structure and functional utilization of the area of SR and sets a framework of a social, economic, environmental and cultural demands of the state to the spatial development, environmental care and landscaping of the Slovak Republic and its regions.

OPE is in compliance with the following regulations in the field of environmental infrastructure that are contained in the Slovak Spatial Development Perspective:

Water management

- ensuring the elimination of the flood damages from the previous years and constructing necessary flood protection measures with emphasis to the protection of residential areas of cities and villages. Following this, solving in a complex way the issues of water basin flow rates with emphasis to the diversion of inner waters in compliance with the ecological limits of the land use and nature protection;
- increase the ratio of inhabitants connected to the public drinking water networks with an aim to gradually converge the level of the highly-developed EU countries;
- increase the utilization of the capacities of the already constructed large drinking water sources (water-supply reservoirs) via quickening of the construction of the feed-water supplies and drinking water networks in the villages that are in the balance radius of this sources;
- increase the reliability of the drinking water supply via the extension of the diversification of the sources, utilization of the joint connection of the ground and surface water sources and via creation of water management control systems;
- according to the spatial development plan proposal, and resulting needs, to ensure the water sources preparation in such a way, that the compliance between the water management development, nature protection and ecological stability of the territory will be reached;
- ensuring the requirements in the field of the sewerage networks with a goal to gradually decrease the difference between the ratio of the inhabitants connected to the sewerage networks and to the drinking water networks;
- ensuring the requirements in the field of the sewerage networks with a goal to gradually harmonize the waste water discharge from the existing sewerage networks and waste water treatment plants with the required legal status;
- ensuring the requirements in the field of sewerage networks with a goal to gradually increase the level of the connection of cities and villages to the sewerage networks in compliance with the EU legislation requirements (construct the waste water treatment plants in the settlements with public sewerage network, construct public sewerage networks with mechanical-biological treatment in the agglomerations over 2000 equivalent inhabitants, and similar).

Energy – support to the renewable energy sources

- via the enforcement of the energy policy of the Slovak Republic, of the regional energy policy and of utilization of the competencies of the local public administration bodies, to support the construction of the co-generation electricity and heat production sources and where it is economically reasonable, to keep and innovate already constructed systems with centralized heating supply of inhabitants.;
- creating favorable conditions for the intensive utilization of renewable secondary energy sources as a local supplemental sources in the systematic energy;

- supporting and promoting the utilization of local energy sources (biomass, geothermal and solar energy, small water power plants) for the needs of inhabitants and services in the mountainous regions.

Waste management

- guiding the objective direction of the recovery of selected waste categories and amounts in the given time, construction of new waste recovery and disposal as well as construction of the construction of the facilities for different waste management in the areas in compliance with the waste management programmes;
- creating spatial conditions to ensure the hazardous waste disposal, as condition of the further development of some industry branches;
- creating spatial conditions for the construction of regional corporations and operations for the waste separation and recovery and waste incinerators for the individual areas with their location in optimal range for the largest waste producers.

7.2.6 Other national, sectoral strategic documents

Integrated protection and rational utilization of water

- Concept of the water management policy of the Slovak Republic until the year 2015 – approved by the Slovak Government's Resolution N° 117 from 15.2.2006.

Concept of the water management policy of the SR for the period after accession of SR to the European Union in the planned horizon until the year 2015 follows the previous Concept of the water management policy until the year 2005. The concepts responds to the tasks and needs in the year 2015 horizon, when the transitional period of the requirements of the Council directive 91/271/EEC on the urban waste treatment and in the same time to the implementation of the EC Water framework directive (2000/60/EC) and to the continuation of the preventive flood protection measures. In both cases, the major problem is to ensure sufficient financial resources for the implementation of the objectives and commitments of the SR towards EU. It is obvious, that despite of the highest possible use of EU funds, it is necessary to ensure national resources, strengthened by the suitable loans from international financial institutions where appropriate (especially when linked to the financial resources of the EU via programme financing). The other priority is to prepare a new style of the water management planning – using the form of an integrated management of the water resources treatment and protection in the hydrological basins.

- Plan of the development of the public drinking water and waste water networks for the SR territory – considered for information by the Slovak Government by the resolution N°119 from 15.2.2006.

The development plan of the public drinking water and waste water networks for the SR territory is a framework document focused on the guidance of the public drinking water and waste water networks preparation, planning and implementation, on the SR territory. It follows the fulfillment of the requirements of EU and national legislation in the field of the public drinking water and waste water networks.

The strategic objective of this plan is to ensure a non-problematic supply of the clean and high-quality water to the inhabitants of the SR, disposal and treatment of the waste water in compliance with the European directives requirements without negative impact on the environment. In order to fulfill the strategic goal of the public sewerage networks development, it is necessary to ensure the compliance with the Council directive 91/271/EEC in two transitional periods – years 2010 and 2015. In the field of the public drinking water networks it is necessary to prioritize the increase of the ratio of inhabitants connected to the

public drinking water networks, mainly from the existing water capacities and to complete the public drinking water networks that are in the process of construction.

- The National Programme of the Slovak Republic for execution of the Directive No. 91/271/EEC

The National Programme of the Slovak Republic for execution of the Directive No. 91/271/EEC has Slovakia elaborated and submitted to the European Commission pursuant to the article 17 of the Council Directive No. 91/271/EEC, which imposes on the EU member states a duty to prepare a programme for implementation of this directive and each two years, if required, to submit to the European Commission its updated version

The Slovak Republic, pursuant to the article 17 of the Directive, submitted the European Commission its first National Programme in February 2005 and the 2nd National programme on June 30, 2006 and on April 30, 2007 (updated version). The National Programme submitted to the European Commission on April 30, 2007 introduces situation in implementation of this Directive by December 31, 2004.⁴²

- Joint implementation strategy for the Water framework directive

The Joint implementation strategy for the Water framework directive, that is giving the basis for the joint proceedings in the field of the river basin management plans preparation, has been adopted by the member states on the level of the European Commission. The joint goal of the member states in the Danube river basin is to establish a joint Danube river basin management plan, based on the WFD requirements. Following bilateral agreements with neighboring countries, in the frame of the co-operation on transboundary rivers, joint bodies of the surface and ground water have been agreed with Hungary, Poland and Czech Republic, as well as harmonized processes for implementation of the WFD requirements.

Flood protection

- Flood protection programme of the SR until year 2010 – approved by the Slovak Government's Resolution N° 31/2000 and updated by the Slovak Government's Resolution N° 25/2003,

- Principles, Policies and General Conditions for Flood Prevention and Mitigation of Flood Risk, Draught Risk and Other Risks of Sudden Natural Disasters and for Integrated River Basins Management – the material aimed to the formulation of the conceptual framework for the execution of the complex scale of flood prevention measures, elaborated by the Slovak Government Plenipotentiary for municipal self-government, integrated river basin and landscape management and approved by Slovak Republic Government Resolution No. 556 of 27th August 2010.

Air Protection and Minimisation of Adverse Effects of Climate Change

- Energy policy of the Slovak Republic - approved by the Slovak Government's Resolution N° 29/2006 and is elaborated for the period of 25 years. The goal of the energy policy is to create conditions to ensure sufficient amount of energy, its effective utilization, secure and continuous delivery and savings maximization on the consumption side. This long-term concept is based on constant decrease of the energy demand of the Slovak Republic and on the increase of the energy efficiency. Energy policy of the Slovak Republic sets also its goals to reduce the impacts of the energy on the environment (decrease of the greenhouse gases emissions and basic pollutants)

⁴² Updated version of the 2nd National Programme of the Slovak Republic for execution of the Council Directive No. 91/271/EEC is at present commented by the European Commission and will be valid after its approval.

- The concept of renewable sources utilization - approved by the Slovak Government's Resolution N° 282/2003. The goal of this document is to identify the key areas and opportunities of the renewable energy sources utilization, to show their importance in a national and international level and to formulate the tasks directing to the development of the renewable energy sources utilization in all economy sectors in the Slovakia.

- The strategy of the utilization of the agricultural and forestry biomass to the energy purposes has been adopted by the Slovak Government's Resolution N° 149/2004 in the year 2004. The consumption of the sector of agriculture (agriculture and forestry) is about 3,3 % from the national energy consumption, and at the same time is a producer of biomass, that has the highest energy potential ratio – 42% RES in the SR. The strategy at the same time emphasizes the importance of the RES utilization for the environmental protection, especially protection of air from the pollution.

Waste management

- Waste management programme of the SR for years 2006 – 2010 – approved by the Slovak Government's Resolution no. 69/2012 follows the former Waste Management Programme of the SR for years 2006 – 2010 approved by the Slovak Government's Resolution no. 118/2006. Newly adopted WMP SR 2010-2015 respects all the prerequisites set in Slovak and EU legislation, mainly in Act no. 223/2011 Coll. on waste (Waste Act) and Directive 2008/98/EC on waste and repealing certain Directives. WMR SR 2010-2015 encompasses every waste disposal as set in the waste definition in the § 2 of the Waste Act. Binding part of the WMR SR 2010-2015 is compulsory for decision making of government bodies in the field of waste management~~N° 118 from 15.02.2006, respects and elaborates the main waste management principles and hierarchy as declared in the Act N°223/2001 Coll. on Waste as amended. Waste management programme of the SR for years 2006 – 2010 establish also the basic mid-term goals for hazardous waste treatment on regional level.~~

- ~~State Program of Environmental Burdens Remediation (2010 – 2015), adopted by Slovak Government's Resolution no. 153/2010 sets out priorities of the environmental burdens remediation, that will be met through short-term, mid-term and long-term objectives and activities. This program defines further activities in the field of addressing environmental burdens including their financial estimates with aim to minimize their negative impacts on environment and man's health. Moreover, the program identifies financial resources that might be used when addressing environmental burdens. The investment strategy for the environmental burdens elimination is a strategic document of environmental sector for the field of environmental burdens and its approval presents a significant step towards the fulfilment of the second phase of the policy cycle of the environmental burdens issue solution – objectives and strategies formulation phase. The investment strategy contains mainly the following:~~

- ~~analysis of the initial status of the environmental burdens issues in the Slovak Republic,~~
- ~~short-term, mid-term and long-term objectives of the environmental burdens issues,~~
- ~~definition of the further activities progress in the field of environmental burdens issues, including financial demand estimation with a view to minimise their negative impact to the environment and human health,~~
- ~~identification of eligible financial sources for the environmental burdens issues.~~

- ~~• The investment strategy for the environmental burdens elimination is elaborated for the years 2006 – 2015. The estimated date of update is the year 2010, after the completion of the systematic inventarisation of the environmental burdens in the area of the SR and after the adoption of proposed Act on the Environmental burdens.~~

Protection and Regeneration of Natural Environment and Landscape

- National strategy of biodiversity protection in Slovakia – approved by the Slovak Government's Resolution N° 231 from 1.4.1997 and by National Council of the SR resolution N°676 from July 2,1997

The strategy was elaborated in accordance with Convention on biological diversity (Rio de Janeiro, 1992) and underlies basic document of nature protection on national level.

- Updated action plan for the implementation of the National strategy of biodiversity protection in Slovakia for years 2003-2010 – approved by the Slovak Government's Resolution N°1209 from November 6, 2002

The plan is an update of Action plan for implementation of National strategy of biological diversity protection in Slovakia for 2003 – 2010, approved by the Slovak Government's Resolution N°515/1998. The plan contains responsibilities that underlie main conceptual intentions in Slovakia in regard to implementation of Convention on biological diversity for which Slovakia accede in 1994. The intentions are formulated in consideration with results of key sector documents in the field of natural and biological sources utilization and biotechnological sources and biotechnologies and social movement to sustainable development.

- Nature and landscape protection strategy – approved by the Slovak Government's Resolution N° 471 from May 25, 2006

The concept is evaluating state of nature, protection, defining strategic objectives and measures for its achievement especially in land-nature and landscape protection, protection of species and protection of pulps, in education, enforcement of state administration, non-governmental organisations as well as in international field with exploitation of institutional, legislative and economical tools. The concept is prepared for 10 years.

7.2.7 Regional strategic documents

Prešov self-governing region

- Spatial plan of Higher Territorial Unit Prešov region - approved by the representation of the Prešov self-governing region by its resolution N°228 from June 22, 2004.
- The economic and social development plan of the Prešov region (strategic objective „protection and improvement of environment“ via measures focused on the protection and utilization of water sources, air protection and waste recovery and landscape protection and revitalization) - approved by the representation of the Prešov self-governing region on July 16, 2002.

Košice self-governing region

- Spatial plan of Higher Territorial Unit Košice region - approved by the representation of the Košice self-governing region on August 30, 2004.
- The economic and social development plan of the Košice region (strategic objective „decreasing the environmental burdens“ via the air protection by the decrease of emissions, minimization of the waste production, material and energetic waste recovery, preservation of the special protected nature parts, regeneration of the areas with disrupted environment and

protection of surface and ground water) - approved by the representation of the KSK on October 15, 2002.

Banská Bystrica self-governing region

- Spatial plan of Higher Territorial Unit - approved by the representation of the Banská Bystrica self-governing region on December 17, 2004.
- The programme of the social, economic and cultural development of the Banská Bystrica region (fulfilling its strategic goals contributes to the improvement of the environment of the Banská Bystrica self-governing region) - approved by the representation of the Banská Bystrica self-governing region on November 15, 2002.

Žilina self-governing region

- Spatial plan of Higher Territorial Unit Žilina region
- The economic and social development plan of the Žilina region

Nitra self-governing region

- Spatial plan of Higher Territorial Unit Nitra region – approved by the Slovak Government's Resolution N°297 from April 28, 1998.
- The programme of the development of the Nitra self-governing region 2003 – 2013 (fulfilling its strategic goals contributes to the improvement of the environment of the Nitra self-governing region) - approved by the representation of the Nitra self-governing region on November 18, 2003.

Trnava self-governing region

- Spatial plan of Higher Territorial Unit Trnava region
- The economic and social development plan of the Trnava region (in the field of environment focuses on the landscape tending, water quality tending, forest and soil tending, air protection, waste management, environmental education and training) - approved the representation of the Trnava self-governing region on February 19, 2004.

Trenčín self-governing region

- Spatial plan of Higher Territorial Unit Trenčín region – Binding part declared by the General statute regulation of the Slovak Government N°149/1998 Coll.
- Changes and amendments of the Spatial Plan of Higher Territorial Unit Trenčín region N° 1/2004 approved by the representation of the Trenčín self-governing region by resolution N°259/2004 from 23.6.2004. Binding part declared by the General statute regulation of the Trenčín self-governing region N°7/2004.
- The economic and social development plan of the Trenčín self-governing region (the field of environment focuses on the protection and rational utilisation of water, air protection, waste management and protection, improvement and regeneration of the natural environment.) - approved on the representation of the Trenčín self-governing region meeting held on June 25, 2003.

Bratislava self-governing region

- Spatial plan of Higher Territorial Unit Bratislava region - approved by the Slovak Government's Resolution N° 27/1998
- Development strategy of the Bratislava self-governing region – approved by the representation of the BSK by its resolution N° 36/2003.

7.3 Links to other EU Financing Instruments

7.3.1 Synergy, complementarity with the programmes funded from EARDF and EFF

Some activities of the OPE are complementary with the activities within the the Rural Development Programme (RDP) financed from the EAFRD.

OPE

Priority axis 1, operational objective: Drinking water supply to citizens from public drinking water supply network

Thematically similar measures:

RDP

Axis 1 Increasing of competitiveness of agriculture and forest sector, measure: Modernisation of farms

Demarcation line:

Within **RDP**, support may be provided to construction, reconstruction and modernisation of WWTP and construction of septic tanks, being activities that improve the overall performance for the needs of the company (farm), i.e. to physical and legal entities running business in primary agricultural production.

Within the **OPE**, support is focusing on discharge and treatment of **municipal** wastewaters in agglomerations of a certain size, whereby physical and legal entities running businesses in the primary agricultural production are not eligible.

RDP

Axis 1 Increasing of competitiveness of agriculture and forest sector, measure: Adding value to agriculture and forestry products

Demarcation line:

Within **RDP**, support may be provided to construction, reconstruction and modernisation in the area of wastewater treatment plants (WWTP) in order to improve the overall performance of company, i.e. to physical and legal entities running business in processing products from primary agricultural production, and forestry products.

Within **OPE**; support is focusing on discharge and treatment of **municipal** wastewaters in agglomerations of a certain size, whereby physical and legal entities running businesses in the primary agricultural production are not eligible.

RDP

Axis 3 Quality of life in rural areas and diversification of rural economy, measure: Diversification into non-agricultural activities

Demarcation line:

Within **RDP**, support will be given to develop businesses that will create an alternative to employment in agriculture, via activities of construction, reconstruction and modernization of hygiene and ecology objects used for development of agro-tourism facilities.

Within **OPE**; support will focus on discharge and treatment of **municipal** wastewaters in agglomerations of certain size, pursuant to the Slovak Public Pipelines and Sewer Network Development Plan.

RDP

Axis 3 Quality of life in rural areas and diversification of rural economy, measure: Village renewal and development

Demarcation line:

Within **RDP**, support will be provided to activities of complex improvement and development of basic services and investments in rural areas, to enhance the situation with drinking water and sewer systems (reconstruction and modernization), in order to increase the attractiveness of rural areas.

Within **OPE**; support will focus on discharge and treatment of **municipal** wastewaters in agglomerations of certain size.

OPE

Priority axis 1 Integrated Protection and Rational Utilisation of Water, operational objective Facilitation of adequate underground and surface water quality monitoring and evaluation

Thematically similar measure:

RDP

Axis 2 Improvement of environment and landscape, measure: NATURA 2000 payments and payments linked to Directive 2000/60/EC, sub-measure: Payments linked to Directive 2000/60/EC

Demarcation line:

Within **RDP**, the physical and legal entities running businesses in the primary agricultural production will be supported in form of compensation payments to overcome disadvantages in areas included to the River basin management plans pursuant to the Directive N°2000/60/EC, as their cultivation will be limited to ensure for the landscape management. Management measures to guarantee protection and improvement of water resources in these areas will be specified after the Slovak River basin management plans are prepared and approved.

Within **OPE**, activities related to **water monitoring** will be supported with regard to the river basins management pursuant to the RDP.

OPE

Priority axis 2, Flood protection

Thematically similar measures:

RDP

Axis 1 Increasing of competitiveness of agriculture and forest sector, measure: Infrastructure related to development and adaptation of agriculture and forestry

Demarcation line:

Within **RDP** support will be provided to measures for landscape ecologic stabilization and protection, via water management, anti-erosion, ecologic and re-cultivation activities within land adjustment projects.

Within **OPE**, support will be provided to activities in compliance with § 4 Article 2 letter a) to f) of Act No. 7/2010 on flood prevention, except for land adjustment projects.

RDP

Axis 2 Improvement of environment and landscape, measure: NATURA 2000 payments and payments linked to Directive 2000/60/EC, sub-measure: Payments linked to Directive 2000/60/EC

Demarcation line:

Within the RDP, providing of compensation because of changed conditions of farm on agriculture land will be supported after elaboration of management plans of rivers basins till the end of 2009.

Within OPE activities in accordance with § 4 Article 2 letter a) to f) of Act No. 7/2010 on flood prevention except of land alteration will be supported

OPE

Priority axis 3 Air protection and minimising adverse effects of climate change, operational objective Minimisation of adverse effects of climate change, including support of renewable energy resources

Thematically similar measure:

RDP

Axis 1 Increasing of competitiveness of agriculture and forest sector, measure: Modernisation of farms

Demarcation line:

Within the **RDP**, only physical or legal entities running business in primary agricultural production are the eligible beneficiaries.

Within the **OPE**, physical and legal entities running businesses in the primary agricultural production are not eligible.

OPE

Priority axis 4 Waste Management, Operational Objective - Support to Waste Recovery Activities

Thematically similar measures:

RDP

Axis 1 Increasing of competitiveness of agriculture and forest sector, measure: Adding value to agriculture and forest products

Demarcation line:

Within **RDP**, support will be provided to primary processing of products with regard to the Annex 1 to the ~~EC~~-Treaty on EU, (except for fishing products) and forestry products. Final beneficiaries are: physical and legal entities (micro-enterprises, small and medium enterprises

in accordance with recommendation of EC 2003/361/ES) that run a business in primary agricultural production (except for fish products).

Within the OPE, physical and legal entities running businesses in the primary agricultural production are not eligible.

RDP

Axis 3 Quality of life in rural areas and diversification of rural economy, measure: Diversification towards non-agricultural activities

Demarcation line:

Within the RDP, only physical and legal entities running businesses in the primary agricultural production and forestry will be eligible.

Within the OPE, physical and legal entities running businesses in the primary agricultural production are not eligible.

OPE

Priority axis 5 Protection and regeneration of natural environment and landscape, Operational objective Ensuring for favorable status of habitats and species via Management Programmes for protected sites, including NATURA 2000 sites and Conservation Programmes for critically endangered species of plants and animals, and sites.

Thematically similar measures:

RDP

Axis 2 Improvement of environment and landscape, measure: Payments within NATURA 2000 network and payments related to Directive 2000/60/EC sub-measure: Payments within NATURA 2000 network and measure: Agro-environmental payments, sub-measure: Protection of biotope selected birds species.

Demarcation line:

Within the RDP, support will be provided to farmers to overcome disadvantages in certain areas, which result from implementation of the Council Directive 79/409/EEC on conservation of wild birds and the Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora to support effective management of NATURA 2000 areas management.

Within the RDP, only physical and legal entities running businesses in the primary agricultural production will be eligible.

Within the OPE will not be provided compensational payments to overcome disadvantages in certain areas. Only the elaboration and the implementation of management plans of protected areas of NATURA 2000 will be supported.

Within the OPE, these entities will not be eligible beneficiaries, and eligible will be the public sector entities participating in implementation of NATURA 2000 areas Management Programmes.

OPE

Priority axis 5 Protection and regeneration of natural environment and landscape, Operational objective - Ensuring favourable status of habitats and species via elaboration and implementation of management plans of protected areas, including

NATURA 2000 sites and conservation programmes for critically endangered fauna and flora species and areas including monitoring of species and habitats.

Thematically similar measure:

RDP

Axis 2 Improvement of environment and landscape, measure: Payments within NATURA 2000 network – forest land, Sub-Measure: Payments within NATURA 2000 network – forest land and measure: Forestry-environmental payments, sub-measure: Conservation of favourable state of forest biotope and protection of biotope selected birds species.

Demarcation line

Within the RDP, will be supported farming of forest land on NATURA 2000 areas according to conditions determinate for support. Within the RDP, final beneficiaries will be the private owners of forests and their associations with legal personality.

Within the OPE, will not be provided compensational payments to private forest owners. Only **the elaboration and the implementation** of management plans of protected areas of NATURA 2000 will be supported.

Within the OPE, final beneficiaries will be the public sector entities participating in **the elaboration and the implementation** of NATURA 2000 areas management plans .

OPE

Priority axis 5 Protection and regeneration of natural environment and landscape, Operational objective - Improvement of public information and environmental awareness, including improvement of cooperation and communication with stakeholder groups

Thematically similar measure:

RDP

Axis 1 Increasing of competitiveness of agriculture and forest sector, measure: Specialised training and information activities.

Demarcation line:

Within the NSRDP/RDP, physical and legal entities running business in processing products from primary agricultural production, food industry and forestry products.

Within the OPE, supported will be activities related to increased environmental awareness and information, focusing on enhancement of the environmental awareness of the public, except beneficiaries defined in the NSRDP/RDP within the Measure “Specialised training and information activities”.

7.3.2 Synergy, complementarity with the other financing instruments of EUC

With regard to the OPE, the ESU LIFE+ financial instrument will be used as a complementary one.

LIFE+ is a specific instrument to support environmental projects that contribute to the development of environmental policy and legislation, and projects that are to a certain level innovative and their implementation brings added European value to the EU member states.

Thematically, within the environmental sector, LIFE+ focus on the part 6 of the Environmental Action Programme

A distinction line with the LIFE+ instrument is not set at the level of operational programmes, since LIFE+ is a **complementary** instrument to other [Community-EU](#) financial resources. This means that a specific type of activity or a project eligible to be financed from other operational programmes or financial instruments of the [European CommunitiesEU](#) available to applicants in Slovakia need to be primarily financed from these and will thus not be eligible to be financed from LIFE+, nevertheless a possibility within LIFE+.

Implementation of this rule will be guaranteed through the three-level control of project applications submitted to LIFE+. Applicants for LIFE+ will be obliged to do the first control round of possibilities to finance activities or projects from other resources available in Slovakia within their project application (a special form needs to be filled in). The competent national authority will be obliged to do the second level of control (Slovak Ministry of the Environment, in this case) and the result needs to be included to its statement to the LIFE+ project application. Then, the EC will do the third control after receiving all LIFE+ project applications. Should the control prove that the project or any of its activities may be financed from other resources (regardless whether the applicant applied for a financial contribution from other resources or not), that project or activity will be rejected from LIFE+ financing.

JASPERS initiative will be used to assist in preparation of applications for non-returnable financial contribution for “[large-major](#) projects” (i.e. environmental projects with overall costs exceeding [250](#) MEUR⁴³).

JASPERS (Joint Assistance to Support Projects in European Regions) is the principal joint initiative of the EIB, EC (DG REGIO) and the EBRD. Its main objective is to assist the EU member states, mainly the new member states from Eastern and Central Europe in using structural funds and CF means in 2007-2013 programming period.

2006 JASPERS Action Plan for Slovakia provided opportunity for the country to use the initiative’s assistance for CF environmental projects already in 2006. The 2006 Action Plan listed two projects in water management and one project for flood protection, as well as the horizontal issue of cost-benefits analysis methodology for environmental projects in 2007-2013 programming period.

Slovakia will use JASPERS initiative assistance also in the current 2007-2013 programming period. 2007 JASPERS Action Plan for Slovakia–Environment has already been approved. Again, it involves water management and flood protection projects, as well as the horizontal issue of financial and economic aspects of “large projects” applications preparation. The Action Plan may be updated to reflect the latest needs of Slovakia, and for example, “large projects” from other sectors may be included (e.g. air protection, waste management etc.)

Ministry of the Environment, as the OPE Managing Authority will coordinate utilization of the initiative’s assistance in the sector of environment during 2007-2013 programming period. Moreover, it will also guarantee the necessary communication between the initiative and applicants for “large projects” that are to be prepared in cooperation with the initiative.

⁴³ [Until the 16th of June 2010, when article 39 of the General regulation was amended by the Regulation of the European Parliament and Council no. 539/2010, the limit for major projects in the environmental field was 25 MEUR.](#)

~~Within OP ENV the possibility will be used, as stemming from the Article 44 of the General Regulation, according to which the Structural funds (in case of OP ENV the European Regional Development Fund) as a part of operational programme may finance expenditure in respect of an operation comprising contributions to support financial engineering, mainly for SMEs. Following stated legislative framework, regarding documentation elaborated by the Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic, specifically the Proposal of JEREMIE initiative implementation procedure in the Slovak Republic in the programming period 2007-2013, approved by the Slovak Republic Government decree No 785 of 19th September 2007 and the Proposal for selection of alternative of implementation of the holding fund based on the elaborated JEREMIE implementation alternatives in the Slovak Republic in the programming period 2007-2013 and proposal of JEREMIE initiative implementing documents, approved by the Slovak Republic Government decree No 951 of 17th December 2008 and according to the Proposal of reallocation of financial sources from the Operational Programme Informatisation of Society to the Operational Programme Competitiveness and Economic Growth and of the OP ENV change regarding JEREMIE initiative implementation and proposal of the Amendment No 1 to the Framework Contract on Initiative JEREMIE implementation signed between the Slovak Republic and European Investment Fund, approved by the Slovak Republic Government decree No 752 of 21st October 2009, within the OP ENV the financial engineering instrument JEREMIE will be implemented.~~

~~JEREMIE (Joint European REsources for MIncro and Medium Enterprises) is the common European Commission, European Investment Bank and European Investment Fund initiative aimed at the support of SMEs access to the capital in the EU regions in the programming period 2007-2013 mainly in the field of research and development and the Lisbon strategy aims support through the Structural funds.~~

~~As a positive of the JEREMIE implementation it is supposed:~~

- ~~• enhancement of the SMEs access to the financial sources~~
- ~~• attraction of additional private investment and know-how~~
- ~~• revolving character of the financial sources~~
- ~~• minimization of administrative burden and public sources put for the applications and financial means administration, and that through the involvement of the private sector do the mentioned processes~~
- ~~• absence of deformation influence on the market and economic competition transparency of the financial sources utilisation.~~

8 Financial Plan

The indicative financial plan is a basis for funding of the Operational Programme Environment.

The draft of National Strategic Reference Framework of the Slovak Republic for the period 2007 – 2013, approved by the Government Resolution No 1005 of December 6th, 2006, is the background document defining the financial framework of OPE and the amount of available ERDF and CF financial sources.

Within the frame of OPE, the allocation of funds for individual priority axes was based on the document „Status and Perspectives of the Environmental Acquis Implementation in SR (as of 30 March 2007)“ which defines financial needs to implement the EU legislation relevant to the individual priority axis, as well as the extent of the expected costs coverage by financial resources.

Besides the above mentioned factors which were important for distribution of allocated resources among individual OPE priority axis, also the total ERDF and CF amount allocated for OPE in NSRF financial tables were taken into account. This fact has been influenced the OPE financial plan mainly in respect to the requirement of mono-fund financing that is defined in [g](#)General regulation. In accordance with this requirement operational programme shall contain priority axes specific to each Fund, i.e. to CF and ERDF individually, and a specific commitment by each of them.

In compliance with the SR Government decree from October 8, 2006 concerning The Strategy of Financing from the Structural Funds and the Cohesion Fund for the programming period 2007 – 2013, the share of assistance from ERDF is expressed to the total eligible public expenditures pursuant to the article 53, para. 1b of the Council Regulation (EC) No. 1083/2006 from July 11, 2006, which determines general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, European Social Fund and Cohesion Fund and which void the Regulation (EC) No. 1260/1999.

8.1 Financial Plan of OPE – Annual Commitments According to the Fund (Art. 36 (1)(e)(i) GR)

Table No. 8.1

(pursuant to Annex XVI 1 of the [G](#)eneral regulation)

(in EUR, current prices)

	Structural Funds ERDF / ESF (1)	Cohesion Fund (2)	Total (3) = (1)+(2)
2007	32 819 473	84 199 655	117 019 128
2008	31 936 043	138 336 529	170 272 572
2009	30 733 379	201 194 396	231 927 776
2010	28 353 006	285 997 924	314 350 930
2011	37 196 775	307 119 220	344 315 995
2012	40 351 674	315 262 538	355 614 212
2013	49 366 584	237 132 803	286 499 387

Total 2007 - 2013	250 756 935	1 569 243 065	1 820 000 000
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8.2 Financial Plan of OPE for the whole Programming Period According to the Priority Axes and Financial Sources

Table No. 8. 2 (pursuant to Annex XVI 1 of the [General regulation](#))
(in EUR, current prices)

	EU sources (a)	National sources (b)=(c)+(d)	Indicative distribution of national sources		Total (e) = (a)+(b)	Co-financing rate (e)= (a)/(d)	For information	
			National public sources (c)	Private sources (d)			EIB contribution	Other sources
Priority Axis No.1.: Protection and Rational Utilisation of Water Fund: CF	998 783 065 915 643 065	176 255 835 161 584 071	176 255 835 161 584 071	0	1 175 038 900 + 977 227 136	0,85	0	0
Priority Axis No.2.: Flood Protection Fund: CF	120 000 000	21 176 471	21 176 471	0	141 176 471	0,85	0	0
Priority Axis No.3.: Air Protection and Minimisation of Adverse Effects of Climate Change Fund: ERDF	180 000 000	31 764 706	31 764 706	0	211 764 706	0,85	0	0
Priority Axis No.4.: Waste Management Fund: CF	401 860 000 485 000 000	70 916 471 85 588 235	70 916 471 85 588 235	0	472 776 471 570 588 235	0,85	0	0
Priority Axis No.5.: Protection and Regeneration of Natural Environment and Landscape Fund: ERDF	50 756 935	8 957 106	8 957 106	0	59 714 041	0,85	0	0
Priority Axis No.6.: Technical assistance Fund: CF	48 600 000	8 576 470	8 576 470	0	57 176 470	0,85	0	0
Priority Axis No.7.: Development of the Flood Warning and Forecasting System Fund: ERDF	20 000 000	3 529 412	3 529 412	0	23 529 412	0,85	0	0
Total	1 820 000 000	321 176 471	321 176 471	0	2 141 176 471	0,85	0	0

8.3 Distribution of the Funds Contribution into Aid Categories at the OPE Level

Table No. 8.3: Indicative distribution of the Funds contribution into categories (following EC implementation regulation, Annex II) of the “Priority Theme” dimension

Category Code	Code Description	Indicative amount of resources (EUR in current prices) within category
44	Management of household and industrial waste	339 530 100 368 600 000
45	Management and distribution of water (drinking water)	63 853 164 90 643 065
46	Water treatment (waste water)	913 277 499 800 000 000
47	Air quality	107 800 000
49	Mitigation and adaptation to climate change	39 800 000
50	Rehabilitation of industrial sites and contaminated land	62 329 900 116 400 000
51	Promotion of biodiversity and nature protection (<i>including Natura 2000</i>)	37 125 099 30 454 161
52	Promotion of clean urban transport	32 400 000
53	Risk prevention	140 000 000
54	Other measures to preserve the environment and prevent risks	35 284 238 45 302 774
85	Preparation, implementation, monitoring and inspection	32 500 000 24 300 000
86	Evaluation and studies; information and communication	16 100 000 24 300 000
Total		1 820 000 000

Table No. 8.4: Indicative distribution of the Funds contribution into categories (following EC implementation regulation, Annex II) of the “Form of Finance” dimension

Category Code	Code Description	Indicative amount of resources (EUR in current prices) within category
01	Non-repayable aid	1 820 000 000 1 793 000 000
04	Other forms of finance	27 000 000
Total		1 820 000 000

~~As to the other forms of finance (category code 04) application, it will be realised through JEREMIE initiative implementation, which characteristic is included in the chapter 4.3.2.~~

Table No. 8.5: Indicative distribution of the Funds contribution into categories (following EC implementation regulation, Annex II) of the “Territory Type” dimension

Category Code	Code Description	Indicative amount of resources (EUR in current prices) within category
01	Urban	847 722 226 836 812 763
05	Rural areas (<i>other than mountains, islands or sparsely and very sparsely populated areas</i>)	851 268 437 858 830 302
00	Not applicable	121 009 337 124 356 935
Total		1 820 000 000

9 Implementation System of OPE

Chapter 9 describes the system of the implementation of the OPE in accordance with the EC Regulation No. 1083/2006 and in accordance with Management System of the SF and the CF for the programming period 2007 – 2013.

9.1 Managing and Implementation Bodies of the Programme

9.1.1 Central Coordination Body

The Ministry of Construction and Regional Development of the Slovak Republic by 30.6.2010 and from 1.7.2010 the Government of the Slovak Republic⁴⁴ acts as the Central Coordination Body (hereinafter refers to as “CCB”) for the operational programmes in the SR National Strategic Reference Framework for 2007-2013. The Ministry of Construction and Regional Development of the Slovak Republic by 30.6.2010 and from 1.7.2010 the Government of the Slovak Republic⁴³ acts as the Central Coordinating Body (hereinafter “CKO”) for the operational programmes in the National Strategic Reference Framework of the Slovak Republic for the years 2007 to 2013 (i.e. for the Convergence and Regional competitiveness and employment objectives). CCB provides for the strategic level of the management system of the NSRF, whereby CCB carries out in the field of management of aid from the SF and the CF mainly the following functions:

- Ensures at the level of the NSRF the programming, monitoring, evaluation, publicity and information and education of administrative capacities in these fields;
- Ensures coordination of the management and implementation processes of the operational programmes in accordance with the Management System of the SF and the CF;
- Coordinates and guides methodically the subjects, that are involved in the management and implementation of the operational programmes;
- Provides for the creation of ITMS and performs tasks related to its operations;
- Performs other tasks in the process of coordination of the activities of the managing authorities in providing the assistance from EU funds.

9.1.2 Managing Authority

The Managing Authority of the OP (hereinafter „MA”) represents the operational level of the management system of the NSRF. The MA is the body appointed by the Member State based on Article 59(1) of General Regulation that is responsible for management and implementation of the programme in accordance with the EU and the SR regulations. In managing the programme the MA proceeds in accordance with the methodological instructions of the CCB and the methodological instructions of the certifying authority and the audit authority in the relevant fields.

⁴⁴ in response to Act No. 37/2010 Coll., amending and supplementing Act No. 575/2001 Coll. on the government activity organization and the central state administration organization as amended

The Managing Authority for the OPE is **the Ministry of the Environment of SR and during the period from 1.7.2010 to 31.10.2010 the Ministry of Agriculture, Environment and Regional Development of the Slovak Republic⁴⁵**.

In accordance with Article 60 of the [General Regulation](#), the MA is responsible for the management and implementation of the operational programme in accordance with the principle of sound financial management, in particular for:

- elaboration of the operational programme;
- co-financing of the operational programme from the State Budget;
- guidance of the beneficiaries;
- evaluation of the operational programme in accordance with point (e) of the article mentioned above;
- monitoring of the operational programme, guiding the work of the Monitoring Committee for the OPE in accordance with point (h) of the article mentioned above and elaboration of annual and final reports on implementation, their submission to the Monitoring Committee and the European Commission in accordance with point (i) of the article mentioned above;
- publicity concerning the EU aid and information of the public concerning the EU funds in accordance with Article 69 of General Regulation;
- collecting and recording the data in electronic form that are required for the financial management, monitoring, reviewing, auditing and evaluation;
- keeping archived and accessible the documents in accordance with Article 90 of General Regulation;
- receiving, selection and approval of the projects of beneficiaries in accordance with the projects evaluation and selection criteria approved by the Monitoring Committee and ensuring the operation compliance with applicable [Community-EU](#) and national rules for the whole of their implementation period in accordance with point (a) of the article mentioned above;
- concluding contract agreements with beneficiaries on the provision of financial contribution;
- verification of the co-financing of the individual projects from the beneficiary's sources and from other national sources;
- verification of the delivery of co-financed products and services and verification of the actually paid expenditure and their compliance with [Community-EU](#) and national rules in accordance with point (b) of the article mentioned above;
- provision to keep the separate accounting system by beneficiaries and other bodies involved in the implementation;
- ensuring that the certifying authority receives all necessary information on the procedures and verifications carried out in relation to expenditure for the purpose of certification;
- providing the Commission with information to allow it to appraise major projects.

⁴⁵ in response to Act No. 37/2010 Coll., amending and supplementing Act No. 575/2001 Coll. on the government activity organization and the central state administration organization as amended and to Act No. 372/2010 Coll., amending and supplementing Act No. 575/2001 Coll. on the government activity organization and the central state administration organization as amended

The internal structure and distribution of the responsibilities of the MA for OP Environment in accordance with Article 71 of General Regulation will be described in the description of the management and control systems submitted by the Member State to the EC prior to the submission of the first ongoing payment application or at latest within 12 months since the approval of the OP.

OPE Managing Authority Address and Contact (except for the period from 1.7.2010 to 31.10.2010):

Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic
Nám. Ľ. Štúra 1, 812 35 Bratislava
Tel.: +421 259 562 350
Fax: +421 259 562 508

OPE Managing Authority Address and Contact (in the period from 1.7.2010 to 31.10.2010):

Ministerstvo pôdohospodárstva, životného prostredia a regionálneho rozvoja SR
Dobrovičova 12, 821 66 Bratislava
Tel.: +421 259 562 350
Fax: +421 259 562 508

The function of the OPE Managing Authority is at the MoE SR (and in the period from 1.7.2010 to 31.10.2010 at MoAERD SR) executed by the General Directorate of Environmental Programmes and Projects. Individual duties of the OPE Managing Authority are executed by its following departments:

- Department of Programmes by 22.8.2010 and from 23.8.2010 the Department of the Management of Programmes,
- Department of Projects Coordination and Development by 22.8.2010, and from 23.8.2010 to 31.5.2011 the Department of Administration of Projects and from 1.6.2011 the Department of the Management of Administration of Projects.
 - Department of Projects Implementation and from 23.8.2010 the Department of the Management of the Implementation of Projects.

The OPE Managing Authority is responsible for overall management and implementation system of the aid from European Regional Development Fund and Cohesion Fund in the frame of the OPE. The Managing Authority will perform its tasks in full extent in accordance with the institutional, legal and financial systems of the Slovak Republic.

9.1.3 Monitoring Committee

Monitoring Committee for OPE

A Monitoring Committee (hereinafter “MC”) should be established for every OP within three months since the European Commission’s approval of the relevant OP in accordance with Article 63 of General Regulation. The goal of the MC is to supervise effectiveness and quality of the implementation of the programme.

The chairperson of the MC for OPE is the Minister of Environment as the representative of the OPE Managing Authority. Function of the MC secretariat is carried out by the MA OPE. Members of the MC are appointed by the minister. In accordance with Article 11 of General Regulation, the composition of the Monitoring Committee is based on the principle of partnership; besides the representatives of relevant ministries the members of the MC are also

the representatives of the regional and local self-government, the third sector and other social and economic partners concerned by the contents of the respective OP, while it is required to ensure the balanced participation of partners. Members of the MC are also the representatives of the CCB, the certifying authority and the audit authority. In addition, the representative of the European Commission, the representative of the EIB and the representative of the EIF participate in the MC activities as observers and advisors.

The Monitoring Committee meets at least twice~~once~~ a year, or based on an initiative of the MA, or of a member of the MC more frequently where there is a need to discuss matters for that is required an approval by the Monitoring Committee (e.g., proposal for the revision of the OP). The scope of competences and activities of the MC are governed by the statute and rules of procedures that are approved by the MC at its first meeting.

The main tasks of the Monitoring Committee in accordance with Article 65 of General Regulation are as follows:

- to approve the criteria for projects selection (within six months since the approval of the OP) and their possible revisions;
- to appraise and approve proposals for changes and complementation to the contents of the OP;
- to regularly examine the results of implementation of the OP, in particular, achievement of the goals of the OP and evaluation given in Article 48(3) of General Regulation;
- to assess and approve annual and final reports on the implementation of the OP prior to their submission to the European Commission;
- to receive the information on annual control report or on such parts that report that relates to the OP and on the all important comments that the Commission can raise after its examination;
- the MC may anytime propose to the Managing Authority any revision or review of the OP that would enable to achieve the goals of the relevant fund or to improve the management of the OP, including financial management.

The selected representatives of the OPE MA are taking part as members also on the meetings of the **National Monitoring Committee** for the NSRF. The National Monitoring Committee for the NSRF (hereinafter “NMC”) is chaired by the Minister of Construction and Regional Development of Slovak Republic as the representative of the CCB for the NSRF.

The following tasks belong among the main activities of the National Monitoring Committee:

- monitoring of the implementation of the NSRF;
- approving of the changes in the NSRF falling under its competence;
- elaborating of summary annual (or final) report on the NSRF;
- approving of strategic reports prior to their submission to the European Commission;
- formulating of recommendations for the activities of the Monitoring Committees for OPs with an aim of achieving the effective system of monitoring the implementation of the Cohesion policy in the SR;
- approving of redistribution of the finances between OPs;
- fulfilling the function of the Monitoring Committee for OP Technical Assistance.

9.2 Monitoring

The monitoring activities in accordance with the Management System of the SF and the CF represent such activities that are systematically dealing with the collection, sorting, aggregating and storing of the relevant information for the needs of evaluation and control of the managed processes. The main goal of the monitoring is regular following of the implementation of the goals of the NSRF, the OP and the projects using respective indicators.

The outputs from the monitoring provide for the Managing Authority the inputs for decision-making to improve the implementation of the OP, elaboration of annual reports and final report of the implementation of the OP and basis for decision-making of the Monitoring Committees (e.g., in relation to the case of possible revision of the OP).

The monitoring process issues from the structured model of management at the level of the NSRF, the OP and at the levels of projects. The monitoring and evaluation are performed by all subjects involved in the management of the SF and the CF to the extent of the defined tasks and responsibilities and the subjects using the financial resources from the Funds.

Tasks of the CCB in the field of monitoring:

- responsibility for elaboration of the national system of indicators for the NSRF in cooperation with the individual management bodies and its possible update;
- coordination and methodological guidance of the management bodies in the field of monitoring;
- monitoring at the level of the NSRF.

Tasks of the OPE MA in the field of monitoring:

- proceeds in accordance with the methodology of the CCB in the field of monitoring;
- if required submit to the CCB proposals for changes or supplements to the national system of indicators;
- is responsible for data collection and data analysis at the level of the programme in the field of monitoring through the system of indicators as well as in the field of monitoring at the level of aid categories;
- is responsible for the elaboration of annual and final reports on implementation of the OP Environment submitted for approval to the MC for OPE and later to the European Commission.

Monitoring (and subsequent evaluation) is carried out in two ways – based on the system of indicators and based on the SF aid categories.

Monitoring through the System of Indicators

The goals of the NSRF and the individual Operational Programmes are defined and subsequently quantified in the programming process through the system of physical and financial indicators (National System of Indicators for the NSRF). The indicators will be binding for the all subjects and are a part of the ITMS. Fulfillment of the defined indicators

represents the most important instrument for the monitoring and evaluation of the fulfillment of the goals of the operational Programmes and the NSRF.

The monitoring starts at the lowest level, at the level of a project. The project is a basic unit for the purposes of monitoring and this unit is analyzed through the relevant collected data. An agreement on the provision of aid from the Funds establishes the obligation of the respective beneficiary to provide data for the purposes of monitoring and reporting of the given project. The physical as well as financial indicators of the projects obtained from the beneficiary through the separate monitoring sheets are reflected into the ITMS and aggregated in direction upwards, to the level of priority axis, operational programme, and the NSRF.

Monitoring through the SF Aid Categories

Expenditures of funds are monitored pursuant to the following Categories in accordance with Article 9 of General Regulation and Annex II of the Implementation Regulation:

- Priority Theme;
- Form of Finance;
- Territory Type;
- Economic Activity;
- Location.

Every OP E contains an indicative planned distribution of contributions from Funds at the level of the programme within the first three Categories. The following procedure is used in monitoring through the Aid Categories: during the approval of the project the data is recorded into the ITMS, and after the completion of that project, an actual value achieved in the given Category is recorded. Through the ITMS, the data are aggregated for categorisation from the level of individual projects into the higher levels of the programme structure and comprise a part of annual reports.

Monitoring reports

Project level monitoring takes place based on the measurable indicators, that will be described in the Guidelines for grant applicants in the frame of OPE. Beneficiary submits indicators from the beginning of the project implementation in the form of monitoring reports. Periodicity of the submission of the monitoring reports to the Managing Authority for the OP E by the beneficiary will be specified in the grant agreement.

Basis for the preparation of annual reports and final report on the OP E implementation will be gradually gathered by aggregation of relevant information from the lowest level (e.g. monitoring reports from [FB/ARbeneficiaries](#)) through the priority axes level. Monitoring reports from the beneficiary received for the given period will be evaluated so that they incorporated all aspects of a monitoring report (e.g. indicators, verbal evaluation of progress) with the aim to comment the progress achieved for the programme structure and to point out possible problems and irregularities – i.e. to evaluate progress of OP E implementation.

Managing Authority for OP E will submit to EC until the 30th of June of each year and first time in the year 2008 an annual report and until the 31st of March 2017 the final report on OP E implementation. With the aim to provide comprehensible and understandable information on the operational programme implementation, the annual reports and the final report will contain the information pursuant to the Article 67 of the General regulation.

The extent of the information submitted to the EC has to be proportional to the total public expenditure of the respective operational programme. When appropriate, this information could be provided in a summarised form.

9.3 Evaluation

In accordance with the Management System of the SF and the CF, evaluation represents a process that systematically examines the benefits from the implementation of programmes and their compliances with the goals set in the OP and the NSRF, analysing efficiency of the implementation processes and suitability of the setting of individual programmes and measures, and prepares recommendations to increase their effectiveness.

In terms of Article 47 of General Regulation, any evaluation may have the strategic character (i.e., examination of the developments of a programme or a group of programmes in relation to the [Community-EU](#) priorities and the national priorities), or the operative character (i.e., with an aim of supporting the course of an operational programme).

The evaluation process is in the term of its pursuance divided into internal and external evaluation. **Internal evaluation** is performed directly by MA on the basis of objective, financial and time monitoring data, internal processes and publicity. Internal evaluation is focused on outputs and results of measures and evaluates primarily its effectiveness. **External evaluation** is initiating by MA, Monitoring committee, central coordinating body and/or European Commission and is performed by external independent evaluator considering effectiveness and suitability of realised measures.

Evaluation is carried out prior to the beginning of the programming period (ex-ante evaluation), during (ongoing evaluation) and after the completion of the programming period (final evaluation).

Ex-ante evaluation was performed by Aurex, spol.s r.o.. Process of the evaluation started in the half of July 2006 and finished in February 2007. The evaluation process is further described in chapter 2.2. Ex-ante evaluation.

Ongoing evaluation will be performed during programming period by strategic and operative evaluations according to Evaluation plan of OPE as well as according to requirements of MA and founded departures from OP's objectives. During ongoing evaluation will be evaluate also environmental effect and impact of OPE.

Ex-post evaluation

In accordance with article 49 (3) of general regulation, EC in close cooperation with member state and MA shall carry out an ex-post evaluation. Objective of final evaluation is to explore effectiveness and efficiency of programming and social impacts as well as how financial sources were used. Ex-post evaluation shall cover each objective and will be aimed to draw conclusions for the policy on economic and social cohesion. Final evaluation will identified factors that contributed to success or failure of implementation of OP and also will identified well-established methods. Final evaluation has to be done till 31 of December 2015.

Evaluation is carried out within the responsibility of the Member State (CCB, MA), or the EC in accordance with the principle of proportionality. The results are published pursuant to the applicable regulations on access to information.

Tasks of the CCB in the field of evaluation:

- to ensure ex ante evaluation of the National Strategic Reference Framework of SR as the main strategic document for the programming period till year 2013;
- to ensure ongoing, thematic evaluation at the central level;
- to coordinate and methodologically guide the managing authorities in the field of evaluation.

Tasks of the OPE MA in the field of evaluation:

- to proceed in accordance with the methodology of the CCB in the field of evaluation;
- to provide ex ante and ongoing evaluations of the OPE and to submit the results of ongoing evaluation to the Monitoring Committee for OPE and to the EC;
- to ensure communication with the EC and the inputs for the ex-post evaluation of the OPE and possible strategic evaluation carried out by the EC.
- to prepare the Evaluation plan for the Operational Programme Environment in line with Annex I of the EC Working paper No. 5. – „General guidelines to the evaluation methodologies: Evaluation during the programme period“. The mentioned plan will contain mainly: the description of the link between the OPE monitoring and evaluation, OPE evaluation time-schedule, the amount of financial resources allocated for the OPE evaluation, description and time-schedule of the evaluation of the adequacy of administrative capacities for the effective management of the processes of OPE. Following the CCB methodological guidelines No. 8/2007 the OPE evaluation plan will be prepared in 12 months form the approval of the OPE.

Link between the monitoring and the evaluation

The Article 48 (3) of Regulation (EC) 1083/2006 points to necessity to provide link between the monitoring and the evaluation.

Monitoring providing operational information (about reached inputs and results, financial absorption, quality of implementation mechanism) from the evaluation can come out (for example, in case if actual or possible problems in the OPE implementation process will appear). For that reason if monitoring reveal strong deflection from OP's objectives MA would perform ongoing evaluation of OPE.

Ongoing evaluation in accordance with article 48 (3) of Regulation (EC) 1083/2006 will be performed also in revision of OP cases pursuant to article 33 of Regulation (EC) 1083/2006.

Results of evaluation of OPE performed by MA will be sent to Monitoring committee for OPE and to EC.

Link between the monitoring and the evaluation is ensured by Monitoring committee for OPE. The Monitoring committee will provide:

- After submission of the Evaluation plan of OPE, consideration of relevance, suitability and purpose of proposed evaluations,
- Ratifying the Evaluation plan of OPE
- Can request OPE MA to add to the Evaluation plan additional evaluations that members of the Monitoring committee consider as necessary for effective and efficient management of OPE.

9.4 Information Technological Monitoring System

The Information Technological Monitoring System for the SF and the CF (hereinafter “ITMS”) is the central information system serving to keeping records, processing, exporting and monitoring of the data on the programming, the project and financial management, control and audit of the SF and the CF. It comprises of the two parallel working subsystems for the programming periods 2004-2006 and 2007-2013. These subsystems for the two programming periods cooperate closely using a joint database and joint records of objects.

The all operational programmes utilize the ITMS to the equal extent. The joint monitoring system has the role to ensure the uniform and compatible system of monitoring, management and financial management of the programmes financed from the SF and the CF.

The system is divided into the three main sections:

1. The non-public section of the ITMS ensures the programme, project and financial management, control and audit linking to the accounting system of the ISUF and through it to the state treasury and the budget information system;
2. The output section ensures generations of static and dynamic data exports;
3. The Public section ensures communications with the beneficiaries, with the information system of the European Commission SFC2007 and with the monitoring systems of the surrounding countries for the cross-border cooperation programmes.

Based on an application the eligible users of the public section of the ITMS can be the all entities who have the opportunity to submit an application for a contribution from the Funds. Communication of the applicants/beneficiaries with the public section of the ITMS is provided through the SSL protocol. The CCB elaborates a guide for the beneficiaries for use of the public section of the ITMS. The following is enabled to the applicants/beneficiaries of contributions from the Funds through the public section of the ITMS:

- electronic submission and receipt of applications for a contribution from the Funds;
- obtaining digest information on the status of the processes of their projects, including applications for payment/reimbursement of expenditures;
- other options (e.g., update of the beneficiary data, electronic receipt of a payment application, electronic receipt of monitoring sheets).

The ITMS and the processes of communications of the beneficiaries of a contribution from the Funds at the level of the project are as follows:

- establishing an account, signing to an agreement on usage between the MA and the beneficiary of a contribution from the Funds, activating an account;
- entering data into electronic forms and their transfer into the public section of the ITMS, sending a verified hard-copy form by the beneficiaries to the administrator and the user of the non-public section of the ITMS;
- verification of the compliance of the electronic information and the hard-copy information by the user of the non-public section of the ITMS;
- further processing of applications after accomplishment of checks and repairs of possible irregularities between the electronic form and the hard-copy form.

Tasks of the CCB related to the ITMS:

- responsibility for the development, operation and maintenance of the system, providing for operations of all sections of the ITMS;
- to manage the committee, with representatives of every Managing Authority, that proposes a direction of development, communicates the requirements of the MA to the CCB, manages and guides the users of the system pursuant to the CCB instructions and guidance, is responsible for the initialization data of the system;
- to elaborate the guidelines for using the ITMS;
- to maintain the initialization data at the level of the NSRF in the updated status.

Tasks of the OPE MA related to the ITMS:

- to maintain the initialization data of its programme in the updated status;
- responsibility for entering the data about the programme, the projects and the subordinated structures pursuant to the CCB guidance for using the ITMS;
- responsibility for allocation of the roles to the users pursuant to the internal manuals;
- to provide first level support to the users of the public and the non-public section of the ITMS.

9.5 Electronic Data Exchange with EC

The electronic communications of the Member State with the SFC 2007 Database of the European Commission are obligatory pursuant to the Implementation Regulation, section 7.

The following forms of electronic communication are possible:

- Web interface SFC2007;
- Integration of the Member States' monitoring systems with the SFC2007.

The second option has been selected in the condition of the SR, i.e., the integration of the ITMS II with the SFC2007 system. The ITMS II will ensure the data collection and communication with the SFC2007. It is possible to use the web interface SFC2007, if required, by the individual MA, however through the use of the interface of the ITMS II, the integrity of the data of both systems will be secured and time for entering the data will be spared. In a case of malfunction of the ITMS, or of the interface, after the consent of the CCB it is possible to use the web interface for entering the data into the SFC2007, however the responsibility for the correspondence of the data in both systems is on the data importer.

Interface ITMS II and the SFC2007:

- import of breakdowns of allocated amount coming from the SF and the CF for the SR pursuant to goals in fixed prices 2004 and in current prices;
- export of the NSRF;
- export of the OP and the Priority Axes;
- export of the major projects;
- export of the OP TA;
- import of the EC Decisions on the OP;
- breakdown of the categorisation of the EU Funds;
- export of expected expenditure estimation;
- payment applications to the EC;

- statement on the partial suspension of a programme;
- export of description of the management and control systems;
- export of the annual reports;
- export of the final report;
- export of the final payment;
- settlement pursuant to the n+2 rule, (n+3);
- export of a non-structured data: the NSRF;
- import of a non-structured data: the EC Decisions on the NSRF, the OP.

The provision of communications of the ITMS II and the SFC2007 is at the level of the systems treated using a guaranteed electronic signature that is issued for the ITMS II.

The MS Liaison is responsible in every Member State for identification of the users and client systems within the SFC2007. As far as to the SR, the role of the MS Liaison for the Funds such as the ERDF, the ESF and the CF is met by the appointed employee of the CCB. All requests for access to the web interface SFC2007 and access rights changes are sent to the CCB. The MS Liaison communicates with the European Commission after the formal and content control in establishing and updating the user account. Access passwords are sent from the European Commission in two parts; the user receives the first part, and the MS Liaison receives the second part.

9.6 Publicity and Information

The Member State and the Managing Authority in accordance with the Article 69 of General Regulation provide for notifying of information of the citizens and the beneficiaries and publicity on the co-financed programmes with an aim of emphasizing the role of the [Community EU](#) and ensure transparency of aids coming from the Funds.

For the purposes of ensuring information and publicity, the Managing Authority elaborates the Communication Action Plan (CAP) for the respective operational programme and submits it to the EC within four months after the approval of the OP. In implementing the CAP, the MA ensures to carry out all the measures on information and publicity in accordance with Articles 5 to 7 of the Implementation Regulation.

Tasks of the CCB in the field of information and publicity:

- to elaborate and implement the Central Communication ~~Action~~ Plan for the SF and the CF (~~hereinafter “CCAP”~~) comprising the profile activities for the all Operational Programmes;
- to coordinate and methodologically guide the Managing Authorities in the field of information and publicity.
- to be a contact body for the European Commission and the [Community EU](#) communication networks and to notify the Managing Authorities;

Tasks of the OPE MA in the field of information and publicity:

- to elaborate the Communication ~~Action~~ Plan for the OP;
- to proceed in accordance with the methodology of the CCB in preparation of the Communication ~~Action~~ Plan and in the course of other activities of information and publicity;

- to submit the Communication Action Plan to the European Commission within 4 months after the approval of the respective OP;
- to include the area of publicity and information into the annual and final reports on implementation of the OP;
- to notify the Monitoring Committee of OP concerning the progress of the implementation of the Communication Action Plan as well as the activities performed and planned;
- to ensure the compliance with the provisions of Article 8 of Implementation Regulation from the part of the beneficiary (the duty to inform the public of aid provided from the Funds) through settling of that issues in the agreement with the beneficiary

Involvement of other bodies into the field of information and publicity:

The responsibilities of the beneficiaries are in particular:

- to inform the public using suitable information means about aid from Funds, including the means explicitly stated in the Article 8 of the Implementation Regulation;
- to use the technical characteristics of information according to Article 9 of the Implementation Regulation.

9.7 Financial Management, Control and Audit

The Financial Management System of the Structural Funds and the Cohesion Fond comprises a complex of sub-systems and activities interconnected and linked to each other, ensuring effective financial planning, budgeting, accounting, reporting, payments to the beneficiaries, monitoring of financial flows and financial control and audit in implementing [EUE](#) aids.

The following bodies are involved in the financial management system of the operational programme:

- Managing Authority,
- Certifying Authority,
- Paying Unit,
- Audit authority.

The functions of **Managing Authority** are described in section 9.1.2.

The Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic performs the functions of the **Certifying Authority**. The ministry is responsible especially for:

- coordination and methodological guidance in relation to the financial management of the Structural Funds and the Cohesion Fund, including coordination of the activities of the Paying Units;
- compiling and submission of ongoing payments applications for and final payment application to the European Commission;
- interim financial control of the summary application of the Paying Units for payment;
- certificate verification at the all levels of financial management, including the beneficiary with an aim of verifying the procedures of the Managing Authority, the Intermediate Body under the Managing Authority and the Paying Units;
- [compiling](#), certification [and submission](#) of statements of expenditures to the EC;

- receipt of the resources from the EU for the specific off-budgetary accounts of the MF SR;
- transfer of financial resources from the EU to the beneficiary through the Paying Unit;
- compiling and submitting of an expected expenditure estimation for the respective and subsequent year to the European Commission based on the information from the Managing Authority annually by the end of April;
- keeping the Book of Debtors;
- by 31st March each year compiling and submitting the statement to the EC~~statement of amounts as of 31st of December of the preceding year that have to be returned in a breakdown pursuant to years of the commencing of the proceeding~~in accordance with article 20 (2a – 2d) of the Regulation (EC) no. 1828/2006, that is to say statement of amounts, identifying for each priority axis of the operational programme the amounts withdrawn from statements of expenditure submitted during the preceding year following cancellation of all or part of the public contribution for an operation, the amounts recovered which have been deducted from those statements of expenditure and a statement of amounts to be recovered as at 31 December of the preceding year, classified by the year in which recovery orders were issued;
- financial corrections of the resources from the EU based on the requirements of the European Commission;
- returning back the resources not eligibly used or not used to the European Commission, including interests of delay;
- introducing of the unified system of accounting for the Certifying Authority and the Paying Units (Information System for Accounting Funds - ISUF);
- bookkeeping, reporting and keeping documents.

The functions of the **Paying Unit** are performed by the Ministry of Environment of SR (and in the period from 1.7.2010 to 31.10.2010 by the Ministry of Agriculture, Environment and Regional Development of the Slovak Republic). The Paying Unit is responsible in particular for:

- assessment of beneficiaries payment claims received from the Managing Authority
- transfer of the resources of the EU and the State Budget for co-financing to the beneficiaries;
- filling in and submitting the summary applications for payment and the partial statements of expenditure to the Certifying Authority;
- bookkeeping, reporting and keeping documents;
- keeping the partial Book of Debtors.

The functions of the Paying Unit at the Ministry of Environment of SR (and in the period from 1.7.2010 to 31.10.2010 at MoAERR SR) is performed by the Department of Project Financing and Payments by 22.8.2010 and from 23.8.2010 Department of Payments and Audit coordination, which is functionally independent from the OPE Managing Authority structures.

The MF SR performs the functions of the **Audit Authority**. The responsibilities of the ministry as the Audit Authority are set in line with the general regulation.

The main tasks of the Audit Authority are:

- a) elaboration of the report setting out the results of an assessment of the systems set up, pursuant to the point 2, Article 71 of the Regulation 1083/2006

- b) ensuring that audits are carried out to verify the effective functioning of the management and control system of the operational programme
- c) ensuring that audits are carried out on operations on the basis of an appropriate sample to verify expenditure declared;
- d) presenting to the Commission within nine months of the approval of the operational programme an audit strategy covering the bodies which will perform the audits referred to under points (b) and (c), the method to be used, the sampling method for audits on operations and the indicative planning of audits to ensure that the main bodies are audited and that audits are spread evenly throughout the programming period. Where a common system applies to several operational programmes, a single audit strategy may be submitted;
- e) by 31 December each year from 2008 to 2015:
 - (i) submitting to the Commission an annual control report setting out the findings of the audits carried out during the previous 12 month-period ending on 30 June of the year concerned in accordance with the audit strategy of the operational programme and reporting any shortcomings found in the systems for the management and control of the programme. The first report to be submitted by 31 December 2008 shall cover the period from 1 January 2007 to 30 June 2008. The information concerning the audits carried out after 1 July 2015 shall be included in the final control report supporting the closure declaration referred to in point (f);
 - (ii) issuing an opinion, on the basis of the controls and audits that have been carried out under its responsibility, as to whether the management and control system functions effectively, so as to provide a reasonable assurance that statements of expenditure presented to the Commission are correct and as a consequence reasonable assurance that the underlying transactions are legal and regular;
 - (iii) submitting, where applicable under Article 88, a declaration for partial closure assessing the legality and regularity of the expenditure concerned. When a common system applies to several operational programmes, the information referred to in point (i) may be grouped in a single report, and the opinion and declaration issued under points (ii) and (iii) may cover all the operational programmes concerned;;
- f) submitting to the Commission at the latest by 31 March 2017 a closure declaration assessing the validity of the application for payment of the final balance and the legality and regularity of the underlying transactions covered by the final statement of expenditure, which shall be supported by a final control report.

Functions ~~on-at~~ the Ministry of Finance of SR are administratively secured by separated units. The function of the Certifying Authority is executed by the General Directorate of European ~~and International Affairs~~ funds of the Ministry of Finance of SR, which is administratively subordinated to the 1st State Secretary. The Function of the Audit Authority is executed by the General Directorate of ~~International Financial Sources~~ Audit and Control of the Ministry of Finance of SR with the General Director directly subordinated to the Minister of Finance.

The Ministry of Finance of SR in the role of Audit Authority prepared “Procedures for audit of structural funds, Cohesion Fund and European Fishery Fund for programming period 2007-2013” and consequently will sign contracts with individual ministries in order to specify subject of audit performance to be executed by respective independent bodies at the ministries and Financial Control Administration. These bodies will perform audits as authorities acting on behalf of the Audit Authority and will be managed by methodology defined by the Ministry of Finance of SR.

The bodies must be independent from other units delegated with whatsoever duties in relation

to management, implementation or monitoring of the structural funds, Cohesion Fund and European Fishery Fund for programming period 2007-2013. This obligation will be declared in the audit trails related mainly to organisation and procedures of the Audit Authority and other bodies executing their tasks under the management of the Audit Authority, in line with requirements of the general regulation. Procedures for audit of structural funds, Cohesion Fund and European Fishery Fund for programming period 2007-2013 will be approved by the Slovak Government on 30.November 2007 at the latest.

System of financial flows

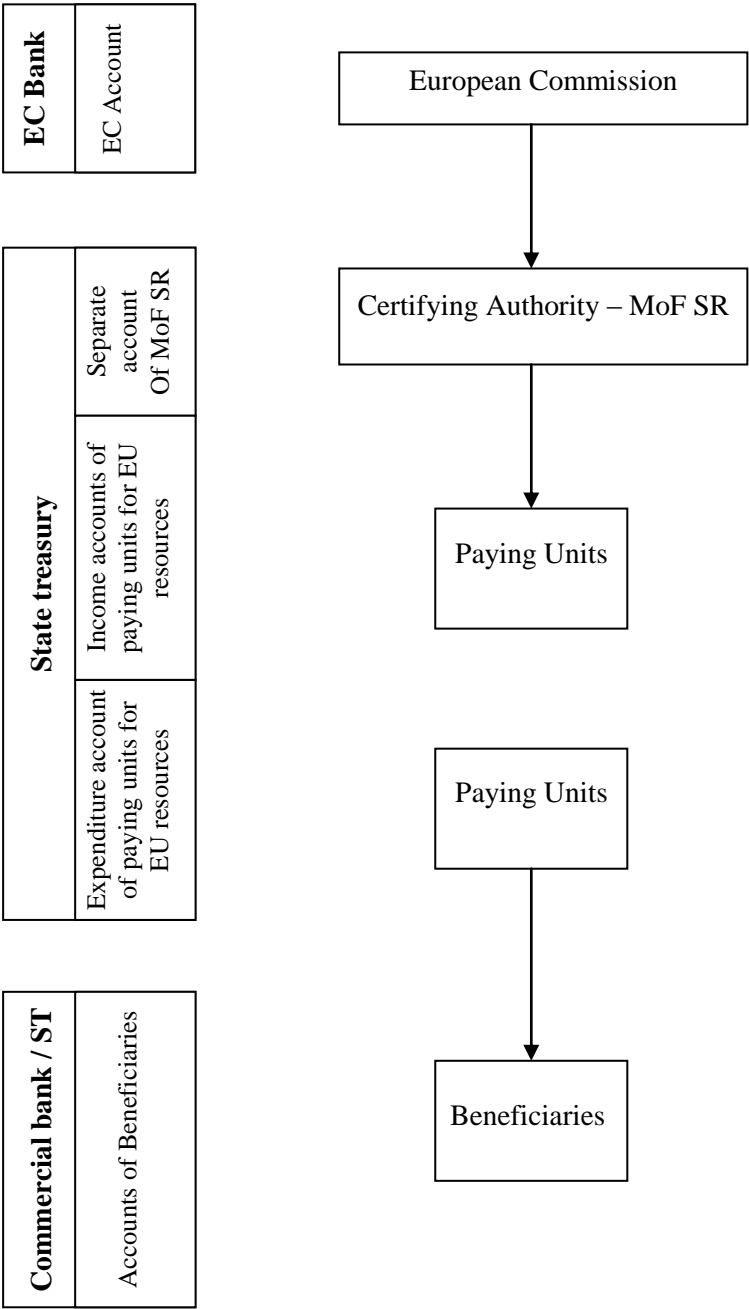
The European Commission transfers payments of financial resources from the EU to the specific account of the Certifying Authority of the Ministry of Finance of the SR kept in the State Treasury within the commitment adopted by the European Commission. Payments of the financial resources from the EU are made to the beneficiaries through the State Budget.

The financial resources from the EU and the resources for the State Budget for the co-financing are paid to the beneficiaries through the Paying Unit concurrently, based on the agreement on providing non-returnable financial contribution in a rate as set for the given project.

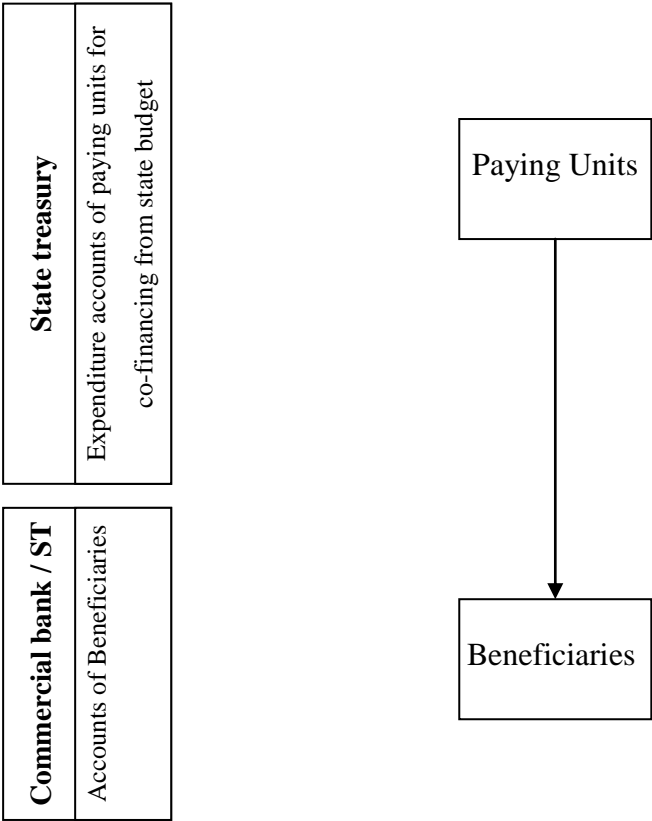
Payments of EU financial resources and State Budget co-financing to the beneficiaries are carried out by the Paying Unit in the amount approved by the Certifying Authority based on the summary payment claim in a case of the reimbursement system. In case of advance payments system or pre-financing, payments to beneficiaries are carried out by the Paying Unit in the amount of approved advance payment claims or pre-financing, without a prior approval of the Certifying Authority.

Detailed description of the financial management is set in the Financial Management System of the Structural Funds and the Cohesion Fund for the programme period 2007-2013 approved through the SR Government Resolution 835/2006 of 8 October 2006 and published at www.finance.gov.sk.

Scheme of financial flows of Structural funds and Cohesion fund resources



Scheme of financial flows of the national co-financing from state budget



10 Annexes

Annexes:

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- Annex No. 2** List of the Working group „Partnership for the OPE“ members
- Annex No. 3** National program of Slovak Republic for the Implementation of the EC Directive 91/271/EEC on Urban Waste Water Treatment as Amended by Directive 98/15/EC in a Form Given by the Commission Decision 98/481/EEC
- Annex No. 4** EC Directive 91/271/EEC on Urban Waste Water Treatment - regional level
- Annex No. 5** Analysis of the situation in the field of environment of SR on the priority axes level – tables
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- Annex No. 7** Ambient air quality status in 2003 – 2005 in Slovak Republic
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- Annex No. 12** Implementation results of programming period 2004 – 2006 – Operational program Basic Infrastructure, Priority 2 Environmental Infrastructure – on the NUTS III level
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- Annex No. 15** Base and justification for indicative division of regional allocations
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Map Annexes:

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- Map Annex No. 2** The increase of inhabitants with public sewer and with waste water treatment plant by districts in 2002 – 2006 (in %)
- Map Annex No. 3** Development of sewer systems and waste water treatment plants (WWTP) in settlements in 2002 - 2006
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- Map Annex No. 7** Waste recovery ratio on the total waste production in regions of SR in 2005

Map Annex No. 8 Construction of waste recovery facilities in 2002 - 2006

Map Annex No. 9 Amount of hazardous waste produced in regions of SR in 2005

Map Annex No. 10 Recovered hazardous waste ratio on the total hazardous waste produced in the regions of SR in 2005

Map Annex No. 11 Disposed hazardous waste ratio on total hazardous waste produced in regions of SR in 2005

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