

**MEDIUM - TERM STRATEGY
FOR DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION
OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC
FOR 2014 - 2018**



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN
AND EUROPEAN AFFAIRS
OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC



**Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs
of the Slovak Republic**

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Bratislava, 20 December 2013

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1. Introduction

In 2014, Slovak development assistance has entered the second decade of its existence. The Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs SR (MFEA SR) started to provide official development assistance under the SlovakAid logo¹ in 2003. In the following years institutional, legal and strategic framework of the development programme has been created. The Department for Development and Humanitarian Assistance (DDHA) and the Slovak Agency for International Development Cooperation (SAIDC) were established, the Act on Official Development Assistance and two five-year medium - term strategies and annual national programmes were adopted. Development assistance has become an integral part of the Slovak foreign policy and of the strategy of external economic relations. A number of Slovak ministries and state institutions have joined the development programme over the years and a stable base of NGOs represented by the Platform of the Non-Governmental Development Organisations was created. Several business entities have also joined the development activities. Within ten years more than 400 projects for ca EUR 40 million were implemented in almost 20 countries.

In September 2013, Slovakia was accepted as a fully-fledged member of the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD/DAC). This achievement can also be considered as a symbolic conclusion of ten years' integration into the international donor community. At the same time, it represents a new challenge for building modern, transparent and effective SlovakAid system when the international community is defining global development agenda beyond 2015.

At the time of formulation of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) before 2000, the Slovak Republic was still a recipient of aid. Now, at the time of preparation of new development goals beyond 2015, Slovakia is already acting as a donor country. The strategy for development cooperation of the SR, therefore, bears in mind the new position, new tasks and new responsibilities.

The Medium - Term Strategy for Development Cooperation of the Slovak Republic for 2014 - 2018 (the 3rd development strategy of the SR) reflects the new requirements for the Slovak development cooperation system which result from the accession process and membership of the SR in the OECD/DAC². It defines the vision, goals and principles of SlovakAid, basic programmes and instruments used within these programmes. The document defines as well the territorial and sectoral priorities of SlovakAid and the management mechanism.

The Medium - Term Strategy for Development Cooperation of the Slovak Republic for 2014 - 2018 is based on the evaluation of the previous Strategy for 2009 - 2013. It was developed after intensive consultations with all important stakeholders involved in the Slovak development policy, i.e. ministries, other central state authorities, non-governmental, private and academic sector.

The first phase of the implementation of the Strategy will be evaluated by MFEA SR by the end of 2016. MFEA SR shall submit the final evaluation of the Strategy to the Slovak Government by the end of 2018, using the table of goals, activities and indicators in Part 9 of this Strategy.

¹ The term 'SlovakAid' signifies all activities falling under the Slovak official development assistance system.

² <http://www.oecd.org/dac/peer-reviews/specialreviewoftheslovakrepublicsdevelopmentco-operation2011.htm>

2. Global challenges of development policy and contribution of the Slovak Republic

Over the last decade, the agenda of the development cooperation has been confronted with significant global changes requiring an appropriate response. Centres of the world economic growth are gradually moving not only from the west to the east, but also from the north to the south. Despite the continuing high level of poverty there is a middle class being formed in developing countries. It is getting stronger and has rising expectations on the living standards. This results in growth of international trade, increase in the consumption of food as well as energy, and thus exhaustion of mineral resources, increasing vulnerability of the environment and decreasing resistance to climate change. Moreover, as a result of global economic and financial crisis, many societies are experiencing social inequalities and unemployment which increases the risk of increasing tension and conflicts. Instability is also characteristic for global security due to increase of threats, such as organised crime, international terrorism, illegal migration, or natural disasters.

From the point of view of the development cooperation, the abovementioned challenges require finding effective solutions within the global partnership of donor countries, emerging donor countries, partner countries, civil society, private and academic sector, international institutions and other stakeholders. Both developed and developing countries are equal partners in this mutual effort.

Despite some progress in fulfilling the MDGs, there is still a high level of poverty in some parts of the world, mainly in Sub-Saharan African countries. Within the next two years that are left until their 2015 target date, all actors involved at the international level have to multiply their efforts. Eradication of poverty is an inevitable precondition of sustainable development. Via the programme of bilateral and multilateral development cooperation, the SR is contributing to achievement of MDGs which are a key determinant of the Slovak development activities. The SR will continue to actively participate in the work of the EU and UN and thus contribute to forming of the post-millennium development goals and new development framework beyond 2015, with the focus on coherence of the three dimensions of sustainable development - economic, social and environmental - and their connection to security. The SR will also pay particular attention to the issue of financing development via an active membership in the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing within the UN.

Slovak development policy will primarily be based on the requirements and needs of partner countries. In order to ensure sustainable impact of development cooperation, it will be based on the principle of recipient country ownership. In shaping the development policy in partner countries, the SR will rely on the knowledge and experience of state institutions, NGOs, private and academic sector as well as international development organisations. The SR will also be open to new forms of cooperation with other donors, primarily with Visegrad Four (V4) countries, aiming at achieving complementarity and synergy. The SR will support coordination and collaboration among providers of development assistance in partner countries. The SR will also enforce the cooperation with V4 partners during its V4 Presidency (2014 – 2015).

The SR, as a member country of the biggest donor in the world - the European Union - will actively participate in forming of the European development policy, will strive to implement the Agenda for Change and cooperate in developing and shaping of EU external policy instruments. The SR will also use its Presidency of the Council of the EU in the second half of

2016 for a more active participation of the EU13³ in the European development policy. The SR is committed to implement the concept of Policy Coherence for Development by the Lisbon Treaty (Art. 208). The SR shares the idea that development goals are not be achieved just by increasing the ODA budget, but also many other policies of developed countries, especially the EU, can have a serious negative or positive impact on the development of partner countries (e.g. trade policy, environmental and climate change policy, agricultural policy or financial policy).

A significant challenge on a national as well as global level is financing of development cooperation. The volumes of ODA have been decreasing due to the economic crisis and consolidation measures, and donor countries are getting further away from meeting the targets adopted at international level. Despite these negative effects, the SR has managed to maintain a stable ODA share for the past few years. Since 2010 the SR maintains the ODA share of its Gross National Income (GNI) at 0,09% which is, however, still not enough to fulfil commitments adopted by the EU (to achieve ODA/GNI share of 0,17% in 2010 and ODA/GNI of 0,33% in 2015). The SR is determined to gradually meet these targets depending upon the development of the economic situation in the country. During the validity of the new Medium - Term Strategy, the SR will try to increase the ODA budget, mainly in the bilateral cooperation. It will focus on the aid effectiveness and on the territories and forms where it can provide added value. Due to limited ODA resources, the SR will also develop and support new forms of financing development interventions (e.g. loans with a grant element) which make a significant contribution to the development of partner countries.

³ Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovak Republic, Slovenia

3. Vision, goals and principles of Slovak development cooperation

Vision

Slovakia offers development cooperation to partner countries with the aim of contributing to sustainable development, mainly via reducing poverty, strengthening democracy and good governance. SR is building on its historical experience and a specific story of the country which has gone through a difficult and successful transformation process.

Basic goals

- human development of partner countries, primarily by supporting education and employment;
- support of democracy and good governance including dialogue between civil society and state institutions.

In fulfilling its vision and the goals, the SR relies on:

- its transformation experience in building independent state institutions, development of a market economy and meeting the principles of democracy;
- successful integration in international organisations and groups;
- recent experience as an aid recipient.

Principles

Development cooperation of the SR is an integral part of the Slovak foreign policy. It reflects the foreign policy and economic priorities of the SR and is consistent with the principles and commitments of the international development policy and the European Union. The SR as a fully-fledged member of the OECD/DAC acts in compliance with the DAC rules as well as with recommendations contained in the accession report of the SR to the DAC, and uses them as guidance in development and implementation of its development cooperation policy.

The **principles of aid effectiveness** adopted at international level in the form of the Paris Declaration, confirmed by the Accra Agenda for Action and the Busan Outcome Document play a key role in the implementation of the Slovak development policy. Aid effectiveness is primarily based on the principles of ownership, alignment, harmonisation, result-oriented management, mutual accountability and transparency. Our goal is to achieve a maximum impact of development cooperation using available financial resources. The SR emphasizes the responsibility of partner countries for their own development and their active participation in the development of their national strategies, the priorities of which form the basis of the preparation of the Slovak development cooperation programme. Communication with partner countries is crucial for formulation of Slovak development policy. The SR also pays attention to the cooperation and division of labour with other donors active in partner countries and in this way also supports the EU joint programming. Through adopting a complex system of monitoring and evaluation of the development interventions, the SR shall reinforce the result-oriented management which will also provide feedback for improvement of the decision-making processes. The publishing of data about provided assistance through a common, open standard in compliance with the Busan outcomes will be a key to accountability, increasing public support for development cooperation in Slovakia as well as in partner countries and increasing public awareness of the results achieved.

In order to improve the quality and impact of development cooperation, the SR shall focus on the **principle of Policy Coherence for Development**. The SR follows the OECD definition: "Policy Coherence for Development means working to ensure that the objectives and results of a government's development policies are not undermined by other policies of that same government (e.g. security, trade, environmental, migration policy) which impact on developing countries, and that these other policies support development objectives where feasible"⁴. For this purpose, MFEA SR shall elaborate a strategy and will also this issue will be discussed at the meetings of the Coordinating Committee for Providing Official Development Assistance of the SR. Slovakia also intends to promote Policy Coherence for Development within international organisations and institutions, mainly the EU, UN and OECD.

⁴ The concept of policy coherence for development is part of Act No. 617/2007 coll. on Official Development Assistance, paragraph 7, Art. 1, point e).

4. Territorial and sectoral priorities

Territorial and sectoral priorities of the Slovak development cooperation are based on the needs of partner countries, the global challenges of the international community, priorities of the foreign policy and economy of the SR, Slovakia's comparative advantages, the results of monitoring and evaluation missions, as well as previous experience of SlovakAid. Slovakia has to also take into account its limited capacity, logistic and financial resources.

Considering the OECD/DAC recommendations and development cooperation strategy of the EU Agenda for Change, in 2014 - 2018 the SR will concentrate its development activities on a limited number of countries and sectors. The aim is to decrease the fragmentation of development interventions and increase their effectiveness and impact.

4.1 Territorial priorities

10 territorial priorities of the Slovak ODA have been set for 2014 - 2018. Within two main SlovakAid programmes - the Development Interventions Programme and the Transformation Experience Sharing Programme - the SR will cooperate with the following partner countries:

1. Programme countries: **Afghanistan, Kenya, Moldova**
2. Project countries: **Albania, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kosovo⁵, Ukraine**
3. A country with exceptional humanitarian and development needs: **South Sudan**

Some of the programmes mentioned in Chapter 5 may also be implemented in countries outside the territorial priorities (e.g. Governmental Scholarships Programme, Programme for Sending Development Workers and Civil Experts to Developing Countries and Business Partnership Programme).

Afghanistan has been a territorial priority of SlovakAid since 2003. Slovak entities have mainly implemented projects in the field of education, healthcare and security. Afghanistan ranks amongst the least developed countries in the world (Least Developed Countries - LDC) and development in the country also affects Europe, including the SR (combating terrorism, illegal drugs trafficking, etc.). Development activities of MFEA SR are in synergy with the activities of the MD SR and are based on the international commitments of the SR in the area of security policy. Therefore, Afghanistan remains a programme country of SlovakAid for the next five-year period. Demanding security conditions will require close cooperation with bilateral and multilateral donors and a long-term coverage of the development agenda by a development diplomat based directly in Afghanistan.

Kenya is a traditional partner of the SR in the development cooperation. Slovak NGOs have worked in Kenya since the mid-1990s and SlovakAid since its establishment in 2003. Dozens of successful projects have been so far focused mainly on healthcare, education, rural development and agriculture. In 2012, the first Slovak Development Forum took place in Nairobi and in September 2013, MFEA SR approved a strategy for development cooperation

⁵ In compliance with the UNSCR No. 1244/99.

between the SR and Kenya (*so called Country Strategy Paper - CSP*)⁶ and in November 2013, an intergovernmental agreement on development cooperation⁷ entered into force. Development cooperation with Kenya builds on the long-term tradition, the good reputation of SlovakAid in the country and on the prospect of complex programme activities including non-governmental and academic organisations, state institutions and business entities.

Moldova has been a partner country of SlovakAid since 2009. Over the past years the intensity of involvement of Slovak entities in the development cooperation in this country has been increasing. In July 2013, an Embassy of the SR was opened in Moldova and in October 2013, an intergovernmental agreement on development cooperation was signed. Moldova is the poorest country in Europe, however, possessing a great potential for growth and integration ambitions. SlovakAid has a significant added value for this country and the interest of Moldova in sharing the Slovak transformation and integration experience is as well big. Moldova has, therefore, been included as one of the three programme countries of SlovakAid for the next five years.

Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo⁸ represent the Western Balkans vector of SlovakAid which started to develop in 2003 and is a long-term, important pillar of Slovak development cooperation. Despite of a gradual shift of the focus of Slovak development cooperation to the countries of the Eastern Partnership, selected countries of the Western Balkans, whose integration into the EU appears to be a longer process, will remain amongst the priorities. The geographic vicinity of the region, comparable historic experience, interest in the Slovak transformation experience and ongoing development needs determine the continuation of providing of SlovakAid in these countries.

Belarus, Georgia and Ukraine are included in the SlovakAid territorial priorities as part of the Eastern Partnership Programme. Despite differences in the economic, political and euro-integration processes, they are linked by their interest in sharing the Slovak experience from the transformation and integration process. Development cooperation with Eastern Partnership countries has confirmed the Slovak interest in having reliable and economically and politically stable partners in the East of its borders.

South Sudan has been one of SlovakAid's priorities since Slovak NGOs started working there in 2005 and they have built a positive reputation during this period. The newly established (in 2011), low-income African country is in a specific situation after a 50-year long war and it requires a special approach. SlovakAid will support selected activities of Slovak entities in this country, in coordination with international donors active in South Sudan (e.g. UK).

4.2 Sectoral priorities

Slovak development cooperation will generally focus on the following seven areas:

1. **Education** – vocational training focusing on access to the labour market and self-employment, teacher education, equipment of educational facilities;

⁶ <http://www.slovakaid.sk/sk/novinky/321-strategia-pre-rozvojovu>

⁷ <http://www.slovakaid.sk/sk/novinky/426-bilateralna-dohoda-medzi>

⁸ In compliance with the UNSCR No. 1244/99.

2. **Healthcare** - basic healthcare, nutrition programmes, education of the population and public awareness of prevention and healthcare, education of healthcare personnel;
3. **Good governance and building of civil society** - public finance management, public sector reform, enhancement of rule of law and public participation in democratic processes, security sector reform, activities of civil experts within international crisis management;
4. **Agriculture and forestry** - implementation of new techniques and methods, processing of agricultural products with focus on their marketing and sales, food security, soil protection;
5. **Water and sanitation** - drinking water supply, water and waste management;
6. **Energy** – with focus on energy security and alternative resources;
7. **Support of market environment development** and small and medium enterprises.

Sectoral priorities for **programme countries** are set individually and defined in the strategies for development cooperation of the SR with these countries (so called CSPs).

Sectoral priorities for **project countries** are defined more generally than for programme countries due to diverse needs of the countries undergoing transformation and rich Slovak experience in reforms and integration processes in various areas. In case of potential candidate countries for the accession to the EU the emphasis is put on the application of EU standards.

Separate sectoral priorities are defined for the Business Partnership Programme in compliance with the Concept of Involving Business Entities in Development Cooperation of the SR, approved by MFEA SR in October 2012⁹ and by Government of the Slovak Republic's Council for Support of Export and Investment in March 2013.

4.3 Cross-cutting issues

The following **cross-cutting issues** will be reflected in the programmes, projects and activities of SlovakAid:

1. **Environment protection/climate change** - integration of the issue of the environment protection and climate change into development cooperation is necessary to ensure the sustainable development of partner countries. In accordance with commitments of the SR regarding mitigation and adaptation to climate change as well as in the field of biodiversity protection in developing countries, the SR will pay increased attention to this theme.
2. **Gender equality** – enhancement of gender equality with emphasis on women empowerment are crucial for eradication of poverty, economic growth and social development.

⁹[http://www.mzv.sk/App/wcm/media.nsf/vw_ByID/ID_B097C62A8B048E8AC1257B0200427976_SK/\\$File/130114_koncepcia_podnikatelske_subjekty_roz_spolupraca.pdf](http://www.mzv.sk/App/wcm/media.nsf/vw_ByID/ID_B097C62A8B048E8AC1257B0200427976_SK/$File/130114_koncepcia_podnikatelske_subjekty_roz_spolupraca.pdf)

3. **Good governance** - responsible, efficient and effective government sector, independent judiciary, rule of law, and effective and fair public administration are fundamental for a comprehensive development of every society.
4. **Human rights and human dignity** - respecting human rights and strengthening the role of civil society will be taken into account while enforcing human rights and democratic reforms.

Practical implementation of cross-cutting issues will be specified in a separate document.

5. Bilateral cooperation programmes

Development cooperation of the Slovak Republic in 2014 - 2018 is based on eight main programmes. Each of these programmes (if its specific nature allows) has a defined goal, partner countries in which the programme is implemented, sectoral focus, instruments used to achieve the goal, a programme document and a method of programme evaluation.

5.1. Development Interventions Programme

Development Interventions Programme is a key programme of Slovak bilateral cooperation with three programme countries of SlovakAid and South Sudan. Cooperation with these countries is based on long-term strategic partnerships and is characterised by a bigger volume of financial resources. MFEA SR shall prepare a development cooperation strategy, so called CSP¹⁰ for each of these countries. CSP will specify the goals, priorities and modalities of bilateral development cooperation.

Goals of the programme: human development of partner countries, primarily by supporting education and employment; support of democracy and good governance including dialogue between civil society and state institutions.

Territorial focus: Afghanistan, Kenya, Moldova and South Sudan

Sectoral focus: Sectoral priorities are defined separately for each country and depend on the needs of the partner country, previous Slovak experience from the bilateral development cooperation, available capacities and comparative advantages of Slovak entities and activities of other donors in the country.

Afghanistan

- education - education aimed at facilitation of access to the labour market and self-employment, especially for women and young people, vocational training of healthcare personnel and in agriculture.
- security sector reform;
- agriculture - food security, modernisation of the agricultural sector (production and processing).

Kenya

- healthcare - improve health status in Kenya particularly among children and mothers; make healthcare and preventive services more accessible and effective;
- education - decrease level of youth unemployment; make quality education and vocational training more accessible and effective;
- agriculture - reduce poverty and strengthen food security through support of economic growth in agriculture;
- good governance - strengthen democratic political system, rule of law, good governance and implementation of reforms, mainly by sharing Slovak transformation and reform experience.

¹⁰ In case of Kenya, this was approved by MFEA SR on 19.9.2013.

Moldova

- good governance – reform of public finance, security sector reform, promotion of democratic processes at local level and support of cooperation between government, local governments and non-governmental sector;
- water and sanitation - drinking water supply, water and waste management.

South Sudan

- healthcare - basic healthcare, nutrition programmes, education of the population on the importance of prevention and healthcare, training of healthcare personnel;
- agriculture - development of agricultural projects and farms, implementation of new techniques and methods, agricultural products processing focused on their marketing and sales, food security.

Instruments: block grants, small grant scheme, financial contributions (micro-grants), supply of goods and services, CETIR (Centre for Experience Transfer in Integration and Reforms), Start Ups, trilateral cooperation, financial contributions, instrument of Slovak Republic - UNDP cooperation, instrument of Slovak Republic - EBRD Technical Cooperation Fund.

Evaluation: Evaluation of the Development Interventions Programme is based on the CSPs for the three programme countries. MFEA SR will annually review meeting the goals defined in the CSPs. The review will be a part of the document called Information on providing of ODA for the previous year (approved by the Government of the SR). Data and information necessary for monitoring of the progress in priority areas will be obtained from the government resources of the partner countries, as well as narrative reports from SlovakAid projects and programmes, results of monitoring, etc. An interim evaluation in each of the three programme countries will be carried out in 2016 and a final evaluation will be conducted in 2018. Activities implemented in South Sudan will be assessed by independent evaluations.

5.2. Transformation Experience Sharing Programme

Transformation Experience Sharing Programme benefits from the comparative advantage of the SR which is a recent experience in building rule of law and state institutions, democratisation of society, implementation of reforms and building market environment, as well as integration into the EU and NATO. This programme is mainly implemented in the form of technical assistance.

Goal of the programme: support of democratisation and reform process by sharing Slovak transformation experience with respect to the specific needs of beneficiaries.

Territorial focus: countries of the Western Balkans and the Eastern Partnership, primarily the project countries of Slovak ODA - Albania, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kosovo¹¹ and Ukraine.

¹¹ In compliance with the UNSCR No. 1244/99.

Sectoral focus: Sectoral priorities are based on the needs defined by the partner countries of the Western Balkans and the Eastern Partnership, as well as on expert capacities of Slovak governmental, non-governmental and business entities.

1. reform and management of public finance, tax reforms, management and utilisation of EU financial tools;
2. security sector reform;
3. energy with emphasis on energy security and alternative resources;
4. support of market environment development and small and medium enterprises;
5. protection of water, water and waste management;
6. food security - adopting EU standards;
7. decentralisation and public administration reform;
8. building civil society and cooperation between the governmental and non-governmental sector.

Instruments: small grant scheme, block grants, CETIR, trilateral cooperation, financial contributions (micro-grants), instrument of Slovak Republic - UNDP cooperation, instrument of Slovak Republic - EBRD Technical Cooperation Fund.

Evaluation: The Transformation Experience Sharing Programme will be evaluated by MFEA SR annually as a part of the document called Information on providing of ODA for the previous year (approved by the Government of the SR). The evaluation will assess the relevance of selected themes and Slovak expertise in relation to the needs of beneficiaries and applicability of the outcomes in practise. Slovakia has an ambition to apply a programme approach in the sector-orientated activities of this programme. Such activities shall be evaluated separately based on the adopted implementation plans.

5.3 Business Partnership Programme

An important factor in development is the creation of jobs, support of the mobilisation of domestic resources and support of business. The involvement of the private sector is, therefore, an important precondition for ensuring a successful sustainability of the development activities. Business Partnership Programme supports the synergy between the goals of Slovak development cooperation and the goals of business sector in developing countries. At the same time it strengthens the social-economic development of local communities (jobs, capacities building, access to basic goods and services) and mobilises private financial resources in order to enhance development activities. The programme helps to establish new partnerships with local business entities aiming at sustainable capacity building of partners. It also helps Slovak entities to access the market of the partner countries. Furthermore, the programme supports expansion of existing activities of the private sector in partner countries with emphasis on their interconnection with Slovak development interventions. Direct export support is excluded from the programme.

Goal of the programme: strengthen the social-economic development of partner countries by support of the private sector.

Territorial focus: primarily programme and project countries.

Sectoral focus: sectoral priorities are based on the Concept of Involving Business Entities in Development Cooperation of the SR, approved by MFEA SR in October 2012:

- energy - production and distribution of energy, support of sustainable resources of energy, energy efficiency;
- infrastructure - building transport, logistics and communications infrastructure;
- environment - ecological technologies, protection against natural disasters, hydrogeology;
- water and sanitation - supply, treatment and distribution of drinking water, waste management;
- agriculture - forest management, management of agricultural production, increasing agricultural production, building irrigation systems, food security, modernisation of the agricultural sector (production and processing);
- building of social infrastructure (educational and healthcare institutions).

Instruments: small grant scheme, Start Up, loans with a grant element, instrument of Slovak Republic - UNDP cooperation, instrument of Slovak Republic - EBRD Technical Cooperation Fund.

Evaluation: The Business Partnership Programme will be evaluated by MFEA SR annually as a part of the document called Information on providing of ODA for the previous year (approved by the Government of the SR). The evaluation criteria represent the results of the development of private sector in partner countries, as well as the number of established business partnerships and the number of Slovak business entities established in partner countries.

5.4 Humanitarian Aid Programme

Humanitarian aid is an important component of Slovak development cooperation. It is governed by certain specific features which arise from the necessity to flexibly and promptly respond to the current requirements of countries affected by humanitarian crisis. The SR provides humanitarian aid in compliance with the principles of *Good Humanitarian Donorship* and the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid, adopted by the SR in 2007.

Humanitarian aid is provided in accordance with the needs of the international community, therefore, sectoral and territorial priorities are not defined for this programme.

Goal of the programme: mitigate negative impacts of humanitarian crises caused by natural disasters, armed conflicts, social conflicts, etc.

Instruments: The Humanitarian Aid Programme is based on the Mechanism for Providing Humanitarian Aid (approved on 12 of April, 2006 by the Resolution of the Government of the SR No. 310/2006). The key is the coordination with other donors, mainly within the EU, that allows for reducing the costs of humanitarian material transport effectively. Humanitarian aid can take both the financial form (with MFEA SR being in charge of) and the material form (with MI SR being in charge of).

The instruments of financial humanitarian aid are:

- direct financial contributions to international organisations, multilateral funds or to governments of countries affected by a humanitarian event;

- financial contributions to Slovak entities working in the crisis areas;
- post-humanitarian projects and activities.

Material humanitarian aid may only be provided after a coordination meeting of MFEA SR and MI SR (or other ministries and organisations involved) and after a mutual consent of both ministers is obtained. Providing material humanitarian aid depends on sufficient humanitarian supplies that should be replenished with regards to the used resources.

Evaluation: The Humanitarian Aid Programme will be evaluated by MFEA SR annually as a part of the document called Information on providing of ODA for the previous year (approved by the Government of the SR). The evaluation criteria are efficiency, effectiveness and promptness of providing humanitarian aid.

5.5 Governmental Scholarships Programme

The programme of providing governmental scholarships to students from developing countries for studying at Slovak public universities has been a traditional form of Slovak ODA. It is implemented by MESRS SR in cooperation with MFEA SR. A more effective form of educational support appears to be a direct promotion of education in partner countries due to lower costs and a higher likelihood that graduates will stay working in their country of origin. The SR shall create conditions for implementing this form of educational support.

Goal of the programme: contribute to the support of education, an important element in promotion of social-economic progress in partner countries.

Territorial focus: Afghanistan, Albania, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kenya, Kosovo¹², Moldova, Mongolia, the Occupied Palestinian Territories, Ukraine, Vietnam.

Sectoral focus: Study specializations in which students from partner countries are educated are based on the sectoral priorities of the Slovak ODA for these countries (defined in programmes 5.1 and 5.2).

Instruments: governmental scholarships for students from partner countries in Slovakia, scholarships for university students in partner countries.

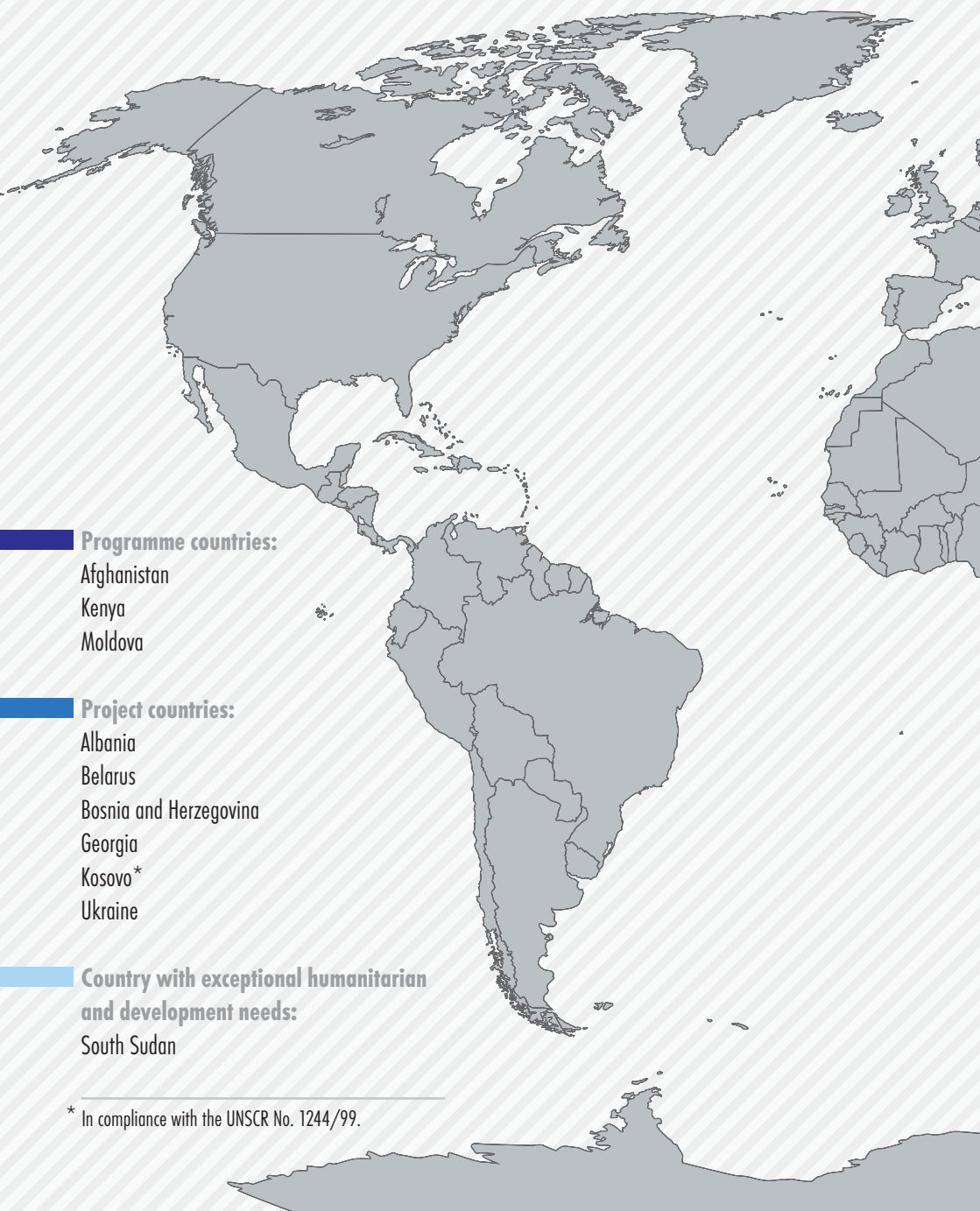
Evaluation: An indicator of the programme's effectiveness and success is the successful completion of studies and subsequent job placement of graduates in the country of origin. There is a precondition of their return to the partner country. Evaluation of the programme's effectiveness and success is carried out annually by the MESRS SR. Evaluation is also influenced by willingness of foreign students to inform about their further professional track after graduating in the SR.

5.6 Programme for Sending Development Workers and Civil Experts to Developing Countries

The programme has two parts - the Programme for Sending Volunteers and Experts to Developing Countries which has been implemented by MFEA SR since 2012, and the inter-

¹² In compliance with the UNSCR No. 1244/99.

Territorial Priorities of the Slovak Devel



Programme countries:

Afghanistan
Kenya
Moldova

Project countries:

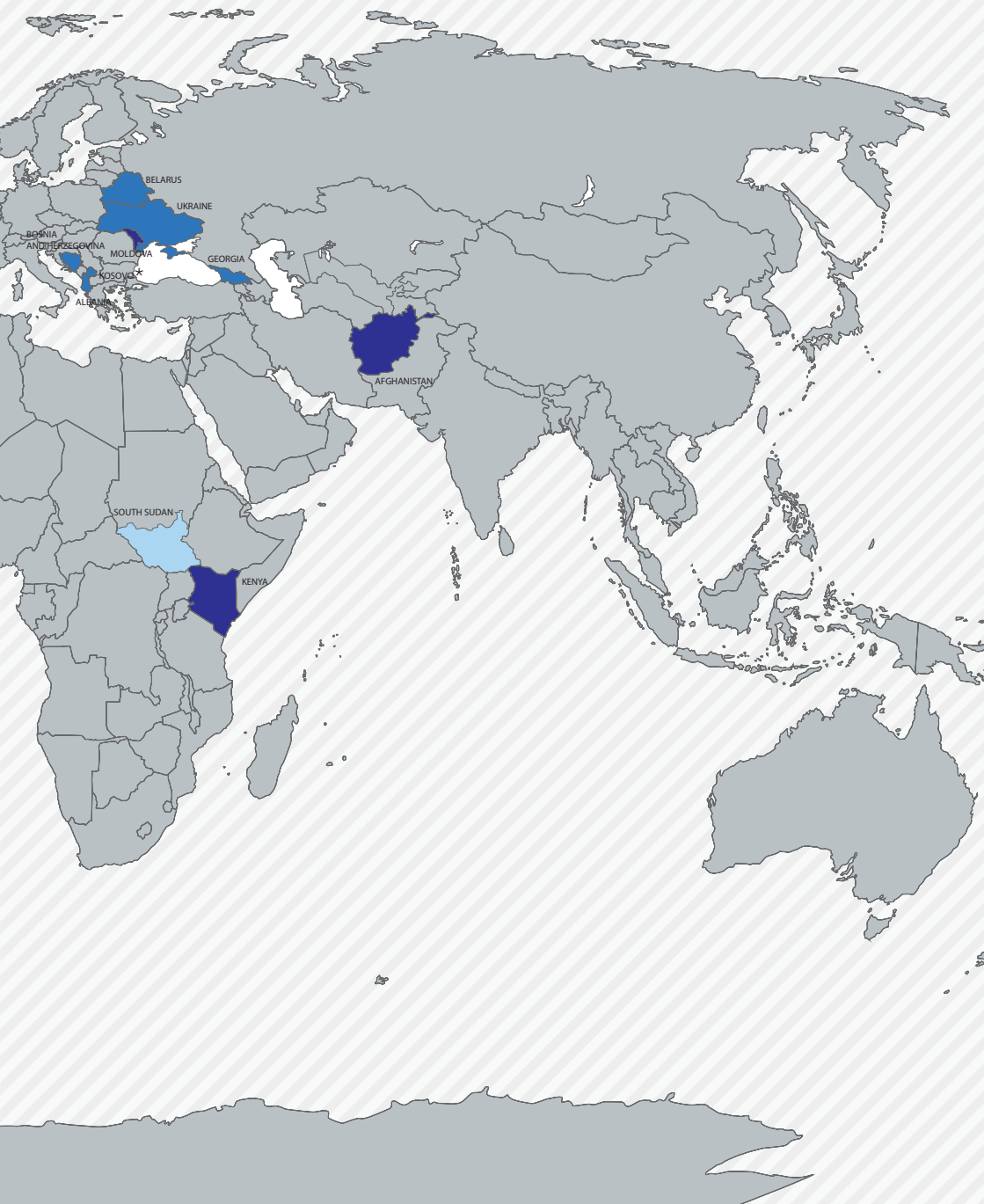
Albania
Belarus
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Georgia
Kosovo*
Ukraine

Country with exceptional humanitarian and development needs:

South Sudan

* In compliance with the UNSCR No. 1244/99.

Development Cooperation for 2014 – 2018



ministerial Programme for Sending Civil Experts to Crisis Management Activities Outside the SR.

Goals of the whole programme:

1. support SlovakAid development activities in priority countries,
2. support activities of international organisations and institutions in crisis areas,
3. build human resources in development cooperation,
4. increase public awareness of Slovak development cooperation.

Territorial focus: primarily programme and project countries.

Instruments: Financial contributions for sending volunteers and experts to developing countries¹³, financial contributions for sending civil experts to crisis areas in compliance with Act No. 503/2011 Coll. on Sending Civil Experts to Carry out Crisis Management Activities Outside the SR, as amended.

Evaluation: The Programme for Sending Volunteers and Experts to Developing Countries will be evaluated by MFEA SR annually as a part of the document called Information on providing of ODA for the previous year (approved by the Government of the SR). An indicator of the success of the programme is the contribution of volunteers and experts to a developing country as well as to Slovak development cooperation activities, mainly within activities in development education and public awareness after returning to the SR. The Programme of Sending Civil Experts to Crisis Management Activities Outside the SR is in compliance with the relevant act evaluated annually in the form of a report on the participation of Slovak civil experts in crisis management activities which is approved by the Government of the SR.

5.7 Development Education and Public Awareness Programme

The programme enhances integration of development agenda into school plans and curricula at all levels of Slovak education system. The programme is also intended to increase awareness of Slovak general and professional public, media and relevant stakeholders concerning the meaning and importance of development cooperation, as well as to increase their involvement in development activities. The aim of the programme will be to approach selected target groups through print and electronic media, internet and thematic events, etc. to form their opinions and provide information about the Slovak development cooperation. The programme follows the National Strategy on Global Education of the SR for 2012 - 2016 approved by the Government of the SR on 18 January 2012. A specific feature of this programme is the focus of its activities on target groups in Slovakia and their implementation in Slovakia. Key partners for its implementation are MESRS SR and members of the Platform of NGOs. The Platform remains an important partner of MFEA SR in increasing public awareness of development cooperation.

Goals of the programme:

1. integrate development cooperation into school plans and curricula at respective levels in Slovak schools;

¹³ In compliance with the document, MFEA SR Programme for Sending Volunteers and Experts to Developing Countries within ODA, approved by MFEA SR on 23.2.2012, see: [http://www.mzv.sk/App/wcn/media.nsf/vw_ByID/ID_E4015DBE6D4F8F3AC1257B390040772E_SK/\\$File/130325_pgram_mzv_zapajanie_dobrovolnikov.pdf](http://www.mzv.sk/App/wcn/media.nsf/vw_ByID/ID_E4015DBE6D4F8F3AC1257B390040772E_SK/$File/130325_pgram_mzv_zapajanie_dobrovolnikov.pdf)

2. increase public support for SlovakAid activities by providing information about the Slovak development cooperation as well as global issues and challenges of developing countries.

Instruments: small grant scheme.

Evaluation: The programme is evaluated annually in the form of a report according to the Action Plan for Fulfilling Tasks resulting from the National Strategy on Global Education of the SR for 2012 - 2016. The report will be a basis for a new Action Plan. The impact of public awareness activities is reflected in the EC Eurobarometer or in public surveys conducted in the SR.

5.8 Capacity Building Programme

Building of professional capacities of the Slovak development cooperation stakeholders remains an integral part of strengthening the Slovak ODA system. Following activities will be supported within the programme:

1. enhancement of coordination and implementation capacities of umbrella organisations of key stakeholders involved in Slovak development cooperation (e.g. non-governmental development organisations, private sector, regional and local self-governments, etc.);
2. increase of training and education of public administration officials involved in development agenda;
3. participation of Slovak entities in the development schemes of international institutions (EBRD, World Bank Group, etc.) and establishment of a contact point for private sector;
4. systematically support of involvement of Slovak entities in development cooperation projects funded from the EU grants within its development instruments (primarily DCI, EDF, EIDHR);
5. improvement of the quality of recording and statistical reporting on development cooperation flows provided by the SR;
6. reform of the SAIDC with the aim of authorizing the agency to implement delegated cooperation with the EC.

Goal: strengthen management, coordination and implementation capacities of respective SlovakAid stakeholders and increase international competitiveness of Slovak entities involved in development cooperation.

Instruments: small grant scheme, financial contributions, instrument of Slovak Republic - UNDP cooperation, instrument of Slovak Republic - EBRD Technical Cooperation Fund.

Evaluation: The Capacity Building Programme will be evaluated by MFEA SR annually as a part of the document called Information on providing of ODA for the previous year (approved by the Government of the SR). Indicators for evaluating activities within the programme will include, for example, number of graduates from a pilot educational scheme in development cooperation designed for central public, regional and local self-government administration, number of Slovak entities involved in development schemes of international financial institutions, number of Slovak entities participating in projects funded by the EC grants, quality of statistical reporting of development cooperation flows of the SR sent to OECD/DAC, etc.

6. Multilateral development cooperation

The SR also participates in development activities of the international community through the EU and international organisations and institutions. Multilateral development cooperation can be perceived as an instrument for support of those developing countries and sectors in which it is not effective for the SR to act on a bilateral basis. Assistance in the form of multilateral contributions has made up approximately 75 % of the total Slovak ODA (in 2012). Through the state budget (programme 097, Chapter General Treasury Administration and the State Financial Assets), the multilateral assistance involves 10 ministries (MFEA SR, MI SR, MF SR, MENV SR, MESRS SR, MH SR, MLSAF SR, ME SR, MARD SR and MTCRD SR) and three other central state administration bodies (NRA SR, IPO SR, SOSMT) that provide contributions to more than 50 international organisations.

The goal of the SR is to actively participate in the decision-making process of the EU, multilateral organisations and institutions to which the SR contributes, and thus reflect Slovak attitudes, values and priorities of foreign policy and development cooperation in specific activities of these international organisations. At the same time it is important to find interconnection and synergy between activities of multilateral development organisations that Slovakia is a member of and SlovakAid bilateral programmes. Therefore, MFEA SR will elaborate a **strategy of multilateral development cooperation of the SR** which will in relation to Slovak development policy priorities define the main criteria for prioritisation of multilateral partnerships including financial principles and methods for optimising the influence of the SR within the EU and international development organisations and institutions.

Slovakia will put emphasis on effective utilization of its compulsory contributions to the EU, EDF, multilateral development organisations and international financial institutions. It is necessary to consider the ratio between the volume of compulsory and **voluntary contributions** since the latter currently represents less than 0.22 % of the total multilateral ODA of the SR. Provision of non-earmarked voluntary contributions will be regarded as expression of political support for the mandate and activities of the particular international organisation.

In case of international financial institutions Slovakia will promote such institutional changes that will lead to stronger representation of developing countries in the management bodies of these institutions. The SR will also contribute to development of more intensive relationships and sharing of experience with constituency countries within international financial institutions as well as provide technical assistance in compliance with the constituent treaty.

Priority of the SR in multilateral development assistance is to increase the **engagement of Slovak entities** in the programmes and projects of the EU, UN and other international organisations and international financial institutions. Therefore, it is necessary, for example, to fulfil the post-graduation operation approach of the EBRD. This requires continuous, systematic support of Slovak entities as well as active provision of information. Slovak entities have had an opportunity to use instrument of co-financing of development projects funded from the EC grants. Interconnection and linking of bilateral ODA, especially the Development Interventions Programme (5.1) and the Transformation Experience Sharing Programme (5.2), with the EU programmes in the SlovakAid priority countries (IPA and ENI instruments) can increase participation of Slovak entities in the EU development programmes.

Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)

Cooperation between the SR and the OECD in the area of development cooperation will focus on active dialogue with Development Assistance Committee (DAC) as well as with OECD Development Centre. The DAC is a grouping of the world's main donors that drives global development agenda. Based on best practices of its members, it defines standards and rules in key areas of development cooperation. Each DAC member country is regularly peer reviewed to help the country understand how to increase quality and effectiveness of its development cooperation programme. As a fully-fledged member of the DAC¹⁴, the SR will participate in OECD activities in development cooperation using its experience from the transformation and integration process as well as a recent experience of a beneficiary¹⁵. Slovakia will follow the DAC recommendations in reforming its development cooperation system.

Slovakia will continue providing multilateral development assistance primarily through instruments and funds of the EU, the UN system, the World Bank Group and the European Investment Bank.

European Union

The European Union, of which SR has been a member since 2004, remains the largest collective donor in the global context. As a Member State, Slovakia actively participates in the activities of relevant working bodies of the EU and thus contributes to framing and shaping of EU development cooperation policy. Seriousness of this task will be multiplied during the Slovak Presidency of the Council of the EU in the second half of 2016 when the SR will become a major actor in forming of European development cooperation policy.

The Slovak annual development contribution to the common EU budget represents a percentage share of the total Slovak contributions to the EU budget. In this way the SR participates in co-financing of EU development cooperation activities. Slovakia also contributes to European Development Fund (EDF), representing the main instrument of the EU for development cooperation with countries in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific. App. 89 % of the total Slovak official multilateral development assistance is made up of contributions to the EU budget and to the EDF.

The United Nations System

UN membership is one of the main pillars of the SR's foreign policy. The priorities of the SR in the UN are based on the universal values of multilateralism, equality, transparency, respecting freedom and human rights, peace and safety, enhancing social, economic and environmental development. Slovakia is resolved to continue actively cooperating with UN System organisations, especially with its specialised agencies such as the UN Development Programme (UNDP), the UN Organisation for Education, Science and Culture (UNESCO), the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the World

¹⁴ since 17.09.2013

¹⁵ until 2003

Health Organisation (WHO), the International Labour Organisation (ILO) or the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

World Bank Group

Upon its graduation from the World Bank in 2008, Slovakia entered into a different level of cooperation with this institution. In case of the **International Development Association (IDA)**, Slovakia joined the group of donors and participated at the 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th and 15th replenishment of IDA resources which has been aimed at financial assistance for the poorest countries in the world. The SR currently participates in the 16th replenishment of IDA resources (2012-2014) and attends sessions of IDA Member States concerning the 17th replenishment of IDA resources (2015-2017). Due to general increase of capital of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), the SR shall contribute to the IBRD in an amount exceeding 6 mil USD using state financial assets in 2015 (in compliance with the Resolution of the Government of the SR No. 718/2010). Slovak participation in this capital increase will contribute to strengthening of the IBRD's financial capacity and, at the same time, to fulfilment of the IBRD's development mandate. The SR will also continue cooperation with the World Bank Institute.

European Investment Bank

Pursuant to the Resolution of the Government of the SR No. 606 of 10 September 2008 Slovakia has agreed with conclusion of the Guarantee Agreement between EIB and its Member States, concerning loans provided by EIB for investment projects in the countries of Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific and in overseas countries and territories, and the Agreement on Back-Payment Administration. Based on the Guarantee Agreement, the SR will provide financial coverage for the benefit of EIB, amounting to app. EUR 2.1 million from 2014 to 2018.

7. Bilateral cooperation instruments

Successful implementation of the individual programmes defined in Chapter 5 depends on the correct setup of the implementation mechanism of the SlovakAid (so-called “business model”), i.e. defining suitable instruments. Some instruments have proven themselves during the previous years, some will gradually be implemented from 2014 and others can only be used after the amendment of Act No. 617/2007 Coll. on Official Development Assistance¹⁶. SlovakAid implementation mechanism will be elaborated in detail according to OECD/DAC recommendations in 2014. SlovakAid system defines following ten instruments.

7.1 Block grants

Block grants are a new SlovakAid instrument and are designed for coherent and interactive programme intervention with a strategic development purpose. Block grants will be, therefore, mainly used in the Development Interventions Programme (5.1).

Block grants are provided pursuant to framework agreements with entities that actively participate in development assistance activities, can prove experience in programme-based interventions, have sufficient human and financial resources and positive assessment from previous implementation of development projects. The criteria for concluding a framework agreement will be defined by a separate document. Entities will have an opportunity to apply for block grants every year depending on the budget of SlovakAid.

7.2 Small grant scheme

Small grant scheme has been a basic instrument of SlovakAid since 2003. Entities can submit project proposals based on the calls announced by MFEA SR/SAIDC. Grants are awarded according to the mechanism defined by the Act No. 617/2007 Coll. on Official Development Assistance and MFEA SR directives No. 134 and 135.

The small grant scheme will remain being used in the SlovakAid system, especially in the Development Interventions Programme (5.1), the Transformation Experience Sharing Programme (5.2), the Business Partnership Programme (5.3), the Development Education and Public Awareness Programme (5.7) and the Capacity Building Programme (5.8).

7.3 Financial contributions (micro-grants)

Financial contributions provided through the network of Embassies of the SR represent operative and targeted form of Slovak development cooperation which enables promptly address needs and challenges of partner countries. Added value of such contributions is increased visibility of Slovakia in partner countries. Project proposals are submitted by local entities through the Slovak Embassy. A specific feature of this instrument is implementation

¹⁶ The estimated year of amendment is 2015.

of the activities solely by local entities, therefore, the instrument can be perceived as a step towards gradual untying of SlovakAid.

Micro-grants are used as a supporting instrument primarily in the Development Interventions Programme (5.1) and the Transformation Experience Sharing Programme (5.2).

7.4 Supply of goods and services

Funding of development projects through a bidding process is a new instrument of SlovakAid. Such request for proposals are opened after consultation of MFEA SR/Embassy with government of the partner country, the EU Delegation and other donors working in the territory. The goal of the request for proposals is to find the most suitable entity for implementation of desired outcomes according to request specifications. This instrument enables implementation of activities that reflect precise needs of a recipient country. At the same time, it gives an opportunity to compare various proposals and select the most effective one.

The instrument is used as a supporting instrument mostly in the Development Interventions Programme (5.1).

7.5 CETIR

CETIR is an instrument aimed at transferring Slovak transformation and integration experience to partner countries. CETIR is governed and implemented directly by MFEA SR through SAIDC and a key role is played by the Embassies of the SR in partner countries. The success of activities depends on cooperation among ministries and other central state administration bodies, regional and local self-governments. CETIR takes mainly form of study visits by state administration, regional and local self-government representatives of partner countries to Slovakia and reciprocal study visits of Slovak experts.

CETIR is primarily used as a supporting instrument in the Development Interventions Programme (5.1) and in the Transformation Experience Sharing Programme (5.2).

7.6 Start Up

The new Start Up instrument is used for starting business partnerships of Slovak entities in partner countries. Activities that can be funded include for example: identification and search for partnership entities in partner countries, marketing activities, product certification, feasibility studies, development of a business plan, market and marketing analysis, or establishing cooperation with local public institutions. Start Up is a key instrument of the Business Partnership Programme (5.3).

7.7 Trilateral cooperation

Trilateral cooperation has always been an effective instrument for increasing effectiveness, harmonisation and coordination of donor activities in partner countries. At the same time this instrument enables the SR to find strategic partners for funding. Donor countries supplement each other's comparative advantages when providing development assistance to third countries. The SR will look for ways of implementing joint projects with partners from V4 countries and other donors. Trilateral cooperation is used as a supporting instrument mainly in the Development Interventions Programme (5.1) and in the Transformation Experience Sharing Programme (5.2).

7.8 Earmarked contributions to international organisations

Professional and administrative capacities of selected multilateral organisations (e.g. UNDP, EBRD, etc.) will be used by the SR through bilateral cooperation with these institutions. The activities serve for implementing priorities of Slovak development policy and help building capacities and thus increase the competitiveness of Slovak entities engaged in developing countries. This category currently includes the instrument of Slovak Republic - UNDP cooperation, instrument of Slovak Republic – EBRD Technical Cooperation Fund.

7.8.1 Slovak Republic - UNDP cooperation

The instrument of Slovak Republic - UNDP cooperation is a follow-up to two previous forms of cooperation between the SR and UNDP: 1. Slovak - UNDP Trust Fund that was established in 2003 and served as a supporting tool for SlovakAid development activities as well as for establishment of Slovak ODA system and capacities, 2. Public Finance for Development Programme which was launched in 2009. Since 2014 instrument of Slovak Republic - UNDP cooperation will focus on support of introducing of a programme approach, involvement of private sector, local and regional self-governments in development cooperation, involvement of Slovak experts in the UNDP projects, increasing effectiveness and transparency and building SlovakAid capacities. Activities within this instrument will be co-managed by MFEA SR, MF SR and the UNDP.

The instrument of Slovak Republic - UNDP cooperation will be used primarily in the Development Interventions Programme (5.1), the Transformation Experience Sharing Programme (5.2), the Business Partnership Programme (5.3) and the Capacity Building Programme (5.8).

7.8.2 Slovak Republic - EBRD Technical Cooperation Fund

MF SR has been using the Slovak Republic - EBRD Technical Cooperation Fund (hereinafter referred to as 'fund') since July 2009. It is a regulated fund aimed at funding technical cooperation of Slovak entities helping transforming partner countries in transition to a market economy. Its priority is to ensure an effective cooperation in partner countries between the

EBRD on one side and Slovak business entities plus Slovak regional and local self-governments on the other side.

The fund will be used primarily in the Development Interventions Programme (5.1), the Transformation Experience Sharing Programme (5.2), the Business Partnership Programme (5.3) and the capacity building programme (5.8).

7.9 Loans with a grant element

Slovakia as a member of the OECD is committed to apply the "Principles and Guidelines to Promote Sustainable Lending in the Provision of Official Export Credits to Low Income Countries" that stem from the initiative of IMF and WB to provide concessional loans (containing a grant element) to public entities in the poorest countries. The grant element which is at least 35% may be reported as ODA. In order to support the development of low income countries and in line with the OECD regulations, MFEA SR in cooperation with the MF SR and EXIMBANKA SR shall propose a scheme for state support of export which will also include loans with a grant element. These will be an important instrument of the Business Partnership Programme (5.3).

7.10 Financial contributions

Financial contributions will mainly be used in the Humanitarian Aid Programme (5.4), the Programme for Sending Development Workers and Civil Experts to Developing Countries (5.6), the Capacity Building Programme (5.8) and partially in the Development Interventions Programme (5.1). In case of the Humanitarian Aid Programme, these are financial contributions to international organisations, multilateral funds, government funds in countries affected by humanitarian crisis as well as to Slovak entities acting in crisis areas. In the Capacity Building Programme contributions will fund activities of umbrella organisations of development stakeholders.

7.11 Financing scholarships

This instrument serves for financing scholarships at Slovak public universities and financing scholarships at universities in partner countries. From the academic year 2014/2015 MFEA SR and MESRS SR shall specify the territorial and sectoral focus for implementation of this instrument. Number of partner countries will be reduced from 35 to 12 and focus will be placed upon harmonisation of selected study specializations with SlovakAid priority sectors in individual partner countries.

The mechanism for financing scholarships in partner countries will be defined and set on the basis of experience of traditional donors as part of the concept for the Governmental Scholarships Programme. The programme will be tested in a selected partner country depending on financial resources and if it proves effective, it will be gradually implemented in other countries.

The instrument is a part of the Governmental Scholarships Programme (5.5).

8. Management mechanism

8.1 Legislative and strategic framework

The system of the official development assistance is based on the Act No. 617/2007 Coll. on Official Development Assistance and the amendment of Act No. 575/2001 Coll. on the Organisation of Activities of the Government and Central State Administration, as amended. In compliance with OEDC/DAC recommendations resulting from the accession report of the SR to the DAC and on the basis of previous experience, MFEA SR will prepare by the end of 2015 an amendment to the Act in order to eliminate and/or modify the provisions which prevent increasing of quality and effectiveness of the Slovak system of development cooperation.

In line with the legislative framework, the strategic framework will include the Medium - Term Strategy of the Development Cooperation that defines medium - term direction of Slovak development policy and annual national programmes of development cooperation that will further indicate utilization of financial resources allocated for development cooperation for individual years.

Other strategic documents related to development cooperation comprise the current National Strategy on Global Education of the SR for 2012 - 2016, the strategies for cooperation with programme countries (CSPs), a planned strategy on multilateral development cooperation of the SR, a planned strategy on evaluation of development cooperation of the SR, a foreseen strategy for Policy Coherence for Development and possible other strategic documents related to individual components of the Slovak development cooperation that might be prepared in the future.

To define detailed methods of implementation of development cooperation of the SR, MFEA SR will prepare concept documents for the selected programmes in Part 5 implementation of which will be supported by internal regulations of MFEA SR.

8.2 Financial framework

Implementation of the Medium - Term Strategy for Development Cooperation of the SR for 2014 - 2018 depends on the amount of available financial resources allocated from the state budget on ODA. The total volume of Slovak ODA in 2012 amounted to EUR 60.99 million. The volume of bilateral ODA was EUR 13.85 million and multilateral ODA accounted for EUR 47.14 million. Therefore, the share of bilateral ODA is 23% and the share of multilateral ODA is 77%. The share of ODA on Gross National Income (GNI) in 2012 reached 0.09%¹⁷.

In 2005¹⁸, the SR as an EU Member State has committed to meet target in the area of official development assistance, i.e. to achieve ODA/GNI share 0,17 % in 2010 and 0,33 % in 2015. The SR realizes the need to meet these targets adopted by the EU as well as other international commitments related to financing development adopted by the UN. Despite

¹⁷ Information about the Slovak Republic's official development assistance for 2012, [http://www.mzv.sk/App/wcm/media.nsf/vw_ByID/ID_F19230595FFDF23DC1257B97004C99D0_SK/\\$File/130627_INFO_ODA_2012.pdf](http://www.mzv.sk/App/wcm/media.nsf/vw_ByID/ID_F19230595FFDF23DC1257B97004C99D0_SK/$File/130627_INFO_ODA_2012.pdf)

¹⁸ The conclusions of the European Council of June 2005, the conclusions of the Council of EU of May 2005, Resolution of the Government SR No. 620/2005.

decreasing of expenditures of some countries on development assistance due to economic and financial crisis over the past five years, the SR has managed to stabilise the ODA budget.

The SR is determined to gradually meet its commitments depending upon development of the economic situation in the country. The aim of the SR is not only to increase the volume of official development assistance, but also improve its quality and effectiveness by adopting reforms in the provision mechanism. During the validity of the new Medium - Term Strategy, the SR will try to increase the ODA budget, mainly for its bilateral part. New financial resources will be used also for implementing new instruments defined in Part 7.

Official development assistance (ODA) is not the only source of funding development of partner countries. Other forms of support for developing countries from governments (so-called Other Official Flows), financial transfers of emigrants (remittances), development investments of private sector, public collections and initiatives of non-governmental sector have as well an undeniable impact on improving the standards of living and quality of life in partner countries. In cooperation with other stakeholders of Slovak development cooperation, the SR will monitor all development flows leaving the country and will try to do their detailed mapping. Instruments of innovative financing of sustainable development become more visible in the global development agenda too. The SR will pay attention to them through an active membership in the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing within the UN.

8.3 Cooperation with stakeholders of Slovak development cooperation, policy coordination and coherence for development

The SR development cooperation system includes various stakeholders:

- a) State administration, regional and local self-governments
- b) Non-governmental development organisations
- c) Academic sector
- d) Private sector
- e) National Council of the SR and members of the European Parliament representing the SR
- f) Media

Pursuant to the Act No. 617/2007Coll. on Official Development Assistance MFEA SR is the national coordinator of official development assistance of the SR. The Act also defines the competences and duties of MFEA SR. Equally, it defines the competences and duties of MFEA SR implementing agency - the Slovak Agency for International Development Cooperation. The Coordination Committee for Providing Official Development Assistance of the SR (hereinafter 'Coordination Committee') coordinates state and non-governmental actors. Members are representatives of selected ministries, representatives of Platform of NGDOs, Platform of entrepreneurs for foreign development cooperation, representatives of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the NC SR, the National Agency for Development of Small and Medium Businesses, the Federation of Employers' Associations, the Slovak Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Association of Towns and Municipalities in Slovakia. The Coordination Committee is an advisory body of the Minister of FEA SR.

One of the main tasks of MFEA SR within implementation of this Medium - term Strategy, will be elaboration of a strategy on Policy Coherence for Development and start using the Coordination Committee as a forum for enforcing a unified approach of relevant ministries to development cooperation, including strengthening the coherence of goals of different domestic policies with the goals of development cooperation policy. Policy Coherence for Development is one of the fundamental principles of development cooperation of the SR (see Chapter 3).

More emphasis within development policy should be gradually given to the cooperation with regional and local self-governments and its umbrella organisations regarding the potential of using their knowledge and experience. A space for cooperation with regional and local self-governments also opens in the area of raising public awareness of Slovak development cooperation.

Key partners of MFEA SR in formulating and implementation of development policy are non-governmental development organisations associated in the Platform of NGOs. The mutual relationship is established by the Memorandum of Understanding signed by MFEA SR and the Platform in 2010.

Not less important partner of MFEA SR is the private sector and businessmen associated in the Platform of entrepreneurs for foreign development cooperation. In regard to the aim of the SR to support synergy and complementarity between official development assistance and private investments, value of cooperation with the private sector will increase.

The academic sector is a significant partner of MFEA SR mainly in implementing the National Strategy on Global Education of the SR for 2012 - 2016, carrying out projects in partner countries in the field of education and in the Governmental Scholarships Programme.

Cooperation with the National Council of the SR (primarily with the Foreign Affairs Committee, the Committee for European Affairs and the Finance and Budget Committee) and the Slovak Members of the European Parliament is an integral part of Slovak development policy, mainly regarding political and financial support for development cooperation of the SR. Members of both parliaments are at the same time significant opinion-making actors. MFEA SR shall, therefore, concentrate more on increasing their knowledge about activities of development cooperation of the SR as well as increasing their engagement in forming and shaping development policy.

Active involvement of media in Slovak development cooperation increases public awareness and thus transparency of development activities. MFEA SR will regularly inform the media about the results of the work of Slovak entities in developing countries to increase public support for providing development assistance. An opportunity to promote the goals and activities of development policy will be the year 2015 which has been declared the European Year for Development Cooperation.

8.4 Monitoring and Evaluation

The monitoring and evaluation of development activities are an integral part of the development cooperation system of the SR.

Regular **monitoring** provides information about the state of implementation of development cooperation projects and their comparison with predetermined objectives and conditions.

The Embassy of the SR monitors individual bilateral projects in cooperation with the SAIDC and the DDHA, or other institutions that provide their funding.

Evaluation represents systematic and objective assessment of ongoing or completed development projects or programmes, their implementation and results in terms of relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, impact and sustainability. The results of evaluation serve as a base for decision-making of the management regarding further territorial and sectoral priorities of development cooperation including allocation of financial resources. The object of such evaluation can be an individual project, the entire Slovak development intervention in a selected partner country, in a selected sector or, for example, one of the programmes mentioned in Chapter 5 of this Strategy.

Pursuant to OECD/DAC recommendations, by the end of June 2014 MFEA SR shall prepare a strategy on evaluation and monitoring of development cooperation of the SR together with a methodology for its implementation. The preparation of the document will build on previous experience from independent, external evaluations done in cooperation with the UNDP in 2011 - 2013.

From 2014 onwards, MFEA SR will annually allocate financial resources within 05T0A Programme for evaluation of Slovak development activities.

8.5 Reporting and publishing information, transparency

Recording and reporting of development flows of the SR are important activities for building an information database necessary for long - term planning of development cooperation and increasing its quality, effectiveness and transparency. Following the ongoing cooperation of MFEA SR and MF SR with a private supplier, an online application for recording and reporting development flows of the SR will be launched in 2014. The application will be linked to the Budgetary Information System and will be in compliance with current OECD/DAC directives on statistical reporting (CRS++ format). Reporting in this system will be compulsory for ministries and other central state administration bodies involved in Slovak development cooperation. Even though that for other actors (self-governments, NGOs, foundations, private sector and academic sector, etc.) providing data into the system is voluntary, it is required that they do so regularly due to OECD/DAC requirements of reporting all Slovak development flows, and as well in order to obtain the most possible detailed overview of Slovak activities in partner countries.

Regarding the transparency of development cooperation, the aim of the SR is to increase the extent and quality of published data about provided, implemented and planned development assistance in compliance with Busan commitments. By the end of 2015, the SR has committed to implement a common, open standard for electronic publication of timely, comprehensive and forward looking information on resources provided through development cooperation¹⁹. MFEA SR will use for this purpose the abovementioned information system for recording and reporting of Slovak development flows. At the same time the quality of published information on MFEA SR and SAIDC websites will be gradually improved.

¹⁹ Para 23 of Busan Outcome Document; http://www.dev-practitioners.eu/fileadmin/Redaktion/Documents/Post-Busan_03_2012/Busan_FINAL_EN.pdf?PHPSESSID=676429f1ff11085f8399f01af656fbbc

8.6 Capacity building of MFEA SR and SAIDC

A long - term aim of MFEA SR is to build a team of SlovakAid development workers and diplomats with experience in development policy, project management and implementing projects in developing countries. MFEA SR plans to achieve this by creating a stable system of rotating diplomats and development workers between MFEA SR, the agency (SAIDC) and Embassies of the SR in partner countries or Permanent Missions to international organisations. Reaching this aim is also one of the recommendations of OECD/DAC (part of the accession report to the DAC, September 2013). This model will be prospectively implemented in the programme countries.

Development diplomats at selected Embassies shall primarily participate in activities related to the project cycle (selection and specification of Slovak development priorities in the partner country, selection of projects, their monitoring and evaluation), establishing contacts with government institutions and local self-governments, and donor coordination and cooperation with EU Delegation in the country. Apart from managing the project cycle, the development diplomat is also expected to actively participate in preparation and implementation of micro-grants and projects within CETIR and involvement of Slovak business entities in development cooperation.

The result of such rotation system will bring career and professional growth of SAIDC/DDHA employees, increase of their motivation, strengthening their expert skills, improving the quality of their performance and thus ensuring long - term stabilisation of capacities of Slovak ODA.

9. Logical matrix for goals and indicators analysis

See the table on the following pages.

Objective - Improve quality of development cooperation mechanism	Output	Target deadline	Responsible ministries	Indicator
1. Effective set-up of legislative framework	Amendment of Act no. 617/2007 Coll. on Official Development Assistance and amendment of Act No. 575/2001 Coll. on the Organisation of Activities of the Government and Central State Administration as amended.	2016	MFEA SR	Adopting the draft amendment of the Act by the NC SR
	Amendment of Regulations No. 134/2011 and No. 135/2011	2016	MFEA SR	Adopting drafts of the amended Regulations by the appropriate permanent working committee of the Legislative Council of the Government of the SR
2. Quality set-up of strategic framework	CSP for Afghanistan and CSP for Moldova elaborated	2014	MFEA SR	Taking into account consultations with key stakeholders active in Afghanistan and Moldova Approval of the draft CSP for Afghanistan and approval of the draft CSP for Moldova by MFEA SR
	National Strategy on Global Education of the SR for 2017 - 2021 elaborated	2016	MESRS SR and MFEA SR	Approval of the draft National Strategy on Global Education of the SR for 2017 - 2021 by the Government of the SR
	Strategy on Multilateral Development Cooperation of the SR elaborated	2015	MFEA SR and MF SR	Approval of the draft Strategy on Multilateral Development Cooperation of the SR by the Government of the SR
	Concept of Transformation Experience Sharing Programme elaborated	2014	MFEA SR	Taking into account evaluation of previous activities Approval of the draft Concept of Transformation Experience Sharing Programme
	Concept of Governmental Scholarships Programme elaborated	2015	MESRS SR and MFEA SR	Taking into account evaluation of previous activities Approval of the draft Concept of Governmental Scholarships Programme by the Government of the SR
3. Strengthening financial framework	Volume of bilateral ODA increased depending on development of the economic situation in the SR	annually	MFEA SR and relevant central state administration bodies	Percentage increase of ODA in comparison with previous calendar year
4. Strengthening Policy Coherence for Development	Active involvement of ministries in the work of the Coordination Committee	annually	MFEA SR	Number of the Coordination Committee sessions, 3 per year
	Strategy on Policy Coherence for Development elaborated	2016	MFEA SR and other ministries	Approval of the Strategy on Policy Coherence for Development by the Government of the SR
5. Increase involvement of stakeholders in development cooperation	Businessmen involved in SlovakAid projects	annually	MFEA SR	The number of businessmen involved in SlovakAid projects including partnerships with other stakeholders, 5 per year
	Towns and municipalities involved in SlovakAid projects	annually	MFEA SR	The number of towns and municipalities involved in SlovakAid projects including partnerships with other actors, 2 per year
	Members of the NC SR and European Parliament involved in Slovak development cooperation	annually	MFEA SR	Number of events with participation of NC SR and European Parliament members, 2 per year
	Slovak entities engaged in development projects co-financed by the EC	annually	MFEA SR	Number of projects co-financed by the EC in which Slovak entities are engaged, 5 per year
	Slovak entities engaged in development projects within international financial institutions	annually	MF SR	Number of projects within international financial institutions in which Slovak entities are engaged, 5 per year
	Contact point for private sector created	2015	MF SR, MFEA SR and SARIO	Contact point provides consultations on business opportunities in developing countries offered by international financial institutions on a daily basis

Objective - Improve quality of development cooperation mechanism	Output	Target deadline	Responsible ministries	Indicator
6. Improve quality of monitoring and evaluation	Strategy on Monitoring and Evaluation elaborated	2014	MFEA SR	Approval of the draft Strategy on Monitoring and Evaluation by the management of MFEA SR
	Evaluations based on the approved strategy conducted	annually	MFEA SR	Evaluations conducted, 2 per year
7. Improve statistical reporting of development flows of the SR	Online system for recording and reporting development flows of the SR launched	2014	MFEA SR	Data about Slovak development flows sent to the OECD is in compliance with OECD/DAC requirements
8. Increase transparency in accordance with Busan commitments	Common, open standard for electronic publication of information implemented	2015	MFEA SR	Publication of timely and comprehensive information on MFEA SR/SAIDC websites in compliance with the open standard
9. Strengthen capacities of state administration in development cooperation	Rotation mechanism for MFEA SR/SAIDC diplomats and development workers implemented	2015	MFEA SR	Posting development diplomats at Embassies of the SR in all three programme countries
	Pilot education programme for employees of state administration, regional and local self-governments created	2014, then annually after evaluation of pilot activities	MFEA SR	Educational programme - document approved by the Diplomatic Academy of MFEA SR Taking into account consultations on needs with key stakeholders Number of educational activities, 1 (duration 30 hours) Number of graduates of educational programme, 25 per year
	New instruments of bilateral development cooperation (block grants, start-up, loans with a grant element, supply of goods and services) prepared and approved	Continuously	MFEA SR	Introducing new instruments Using new instruments in practice
	Guide to cross-cutting issues of development cooperation prepared	2015	MFEA SR	Prepared guide (brochure/document) and its publishing on SAIDC/MFEA SR websites Application of the guide in project cycles
11. Increase public support for SlovakAid activities and global themes	Events for public organised	annually	MFEA SR	Number of public events organised, 4 per year
	Media involved in SlovakAid activities	annually	MFEA SR	Results of a public survey (e.g. Eurobarometer) confirming the support for SlovakAid activities by Slovak public

List of Abbreviations

CETIR	Centre for Experience Transfer in Integration and Reforms
CRS ++	OECD system for reporting development assistance (Creditor Reporting System)
CSP	Strategy for development cooperation with a partner country (Country Strategy Paper)
DCI	Development Cooperation Instrument
DDHA	Department for Development and Humanitarian Assistance
EBRD	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
EC	European Commission
EDF	European Development Fund
EIB	European Investment Bank
EIDHR	European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights
ENI	European Neighbourhood Instrument
FAO	UN Food and Agriculture Organisation
GNI	Gross national income
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
IBRD	International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
IDA	International Development Association
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IPA	Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance
IPO SR	Industrial Property Office of the Slovak Republic
LDC	Least developed country
MARD SR	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MD SR	Ministry of Defence of the Slovak Republic
ME SR	Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic
MENV SR	Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic
MESRS SR	Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic
MF SR	Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic
MFEA SR	Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic
MH SR	Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic
MI SR	Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic
MLSAF SR	Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic
MTCRD SR	Ministry of Transport, Construction and Regional Development of the Slovak Republic
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
NC SR	National Council of the Slovak Republic
NGDO	Non-Governmental Development Organisation
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NRA SR	Nuclear Regulatory Authority of the Slovak Republic
ODA	Official Development Assistance
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
OECD DAC	OECD Development Assistance Committee
SAIDC	Slovak Agency for International Development Cooperation
SOSMT	Slovak Office of Standards, Metrology and Testing
UK	United Kingdom

UN	United Nations
UNDP	UN Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
V4	Visegrad Four
WB	World Bank
WHO	World Health Organisation

