**STANDARD SUMMARY PROJECT FICHE**

**Project nr.:** SR9808.04.01

**Title:** SPP – Special Preparatory Programme for the Structural Funds in the Slovak Republic

**Sub-Programme:** Reinforcement of institutional and administrative capacity - Internal Market

**Component:** **Priority A** - Programming and institutional capacity building for regional and structural policies

**Location:** Slovak Republic

**Objectives:**
The SPP Programme is an Institution-Building Programme in line with the priorities identified in the Slovak National Programme for the Adoption of the Acquis communautaire and the Accession Partnership for Slovakia. The Accession Partnership identifies the reinforcement of institutional and administrative capacity as significant priorities for action and in particular, the need to begin to set up structures required for regional and structural policy. This component (Priority A of the SPP) will therefore contribute to the Accession Partnership’s short-term priority “Reinforcement of institutional and administrative capacity”.

The programming of Slovakia’s own regional and structural policies and the institutional capacity to implement them are important precursors for the development plan(s) and implementation structures which will be required for the Structural Funds system after Slovakia’s accession to the EU. Specific priority actions are also needed to ensure that the new pre-accession aid available under ISPA and SAPARD – which become available in 2000 – can be accessed quickly and implemented efficiently. This requires that particular attention be given to the articulation and development of suitable delivery mechanisms for these instruments.

The general objective of this programme component is to enhance Slovakia’s capacity, after accession, to implement European Structural Fund programmes and large projects under the Cohesion Fund.

The immediate objectives of the component are:

a) Completion of Slovakia’s national programme for regional and structural policies. This will include the definition of development priorities and measures, quantified objectives, selection criteria, co-financing arrangements, monitoring and evaluation procedures and consultation with the relevant partnerships;

b) Establishment of an effective implementation structure for regional and structural policies in Slovakia.
This will comprise the full administrative and budgetary capacity, including control and audit functions, necessary to enable successful implementation of the above programme and of EU Structural Funds after accession, as well as ISPA and SAPARD.

**Description:**

This component (Priority A) will comprise two sub-projects:

A1: Building the national programme for regional and structural policies;
A2: Building the administrative capacity to implement regional and structural policies,

These sub-projects will be implemented through the following types of input:

(i) Secondments from EU Member State administrations

(ii) Training activities (in line with training needs analysis to be undertaken by the Slovak authorities)

(iii) Provision of operational expertise and exchange of experience.

The actions of sub-projects A1 and A2 are described below.

A1: Building the national programme for regional and structural policies

*Operationalising Slovakia’s plans for regional and structural policies in a multi-annual, integrated programme.*

Actions to include:

i) identification and quantification of main structural and regional disparities, and analysis of Strengths Weaknesses Opportunities and Threats (SWOT)

ii) definition of the national strategy for regional and structural policies - to comprise priorities and measures for intervention, relating to SWOT, to be implemented through the integrated multi-annual programme

iii) quantification of corresponding objectives and baselines relative to SWOT

iv) development of project selection methodology and criteria within the framework of the programme strategies

v) definition of methods of allocating resources to priorities and measures and establishment of national budgetary structure for co-financing

v) establishment of monitoring and evaluation procedures
vi) completion of dialogue and consultation processes with the relevant partnerships before finalisation of the programme.

A2: Building the administrative capacity to implement regional and structural policies

Assisting the establishment of a specific integrated administrative structure to implement regional and structural policies. This structure would have the full administrative capacity to implement EU Structural Funds after accession.

Actions to include:

i) review of administrative and budgetary implications related to EU Structural Funds programme management

ii) clear definition of the tasks of the implementing structure with regard to EU Structural Funds programmes after accession

iii) developing legal bases within the field of regional and structural policies

iv) preparing the administrative and budgetary audit and control procedures necessary to participate in EU regional and structural policies

v) addressing human resource development needs in administrative and budgetary aspects of EU regional and structural policies

vi) developing structures to deal with ISPA and SAPARD

Outputs:

Overall outputs will be judged against the quality of the programme document completed by the Slovak authorities, the standard of subsequent implementation of regional and structural policies in Slovakia and successful operation of delivery structures for ISPA and SAPARD. A test of the robustness of the Slovak authorities’ institutional capacity for regional and structural policy implementation will be provided by a series of pilot projects to be carried out under SPP Component 2 (Priority B).

Intermediate outputs of Priority A will be quantified in terms of:

- EU Member State officials completing secondments to Slovak authorities (duration, specialisation, level);
- Quality and volume of training of Slovak officials undertaken in relation to objectives of Slovak authorities’ own training needs analysis (to be completed);
- Volume of operational expertise provided (duration, specialisation, level);
- Number, size and type of exchange of experience actions undertaken and followed up.
Institutional Framework:

An SPP Monitoring Committee (SPPMC) will be constituted to oversee the implementation of the SPP. This committee will also be responsible for ensuring co-ordination between actions supported through the SPP and other related institution building activities undertaken in Slovakia. The membership of the SPPMC will include representatives of the Slovak authorities responsible for implementing the SPP and representatives of the European Commission. The Monitoring Committee will be chaired by the Slovak authorities.

The SPPMC will meet regularly to take decisions on the management of the SPP and to monitor its implementation. These SPPMC meetings will take place as necessary, but in general twice a year. A protocol on the procedures concerning the monitoring of the programme will be agreed between the Commission and the Slovak authorities.

This component of the SPP (Priority A) will be delivered through a Taskforce comprising representatives of the relevant Slovak ministries and institutions and chaired by the Slovak authorities. The administrative structure serving the Taskforce for the delivery of Priority A will be assisted by seconded officials from EU Member State authorities, external experts and, where appropriate, by the European Commission.

Budget (MECU):

The budget foreseen for Priority A is 3,000 MECU. This will be distributed by sub-project as shown indicatively below. The Taskforce will make proposals to be approved by the SPP Monitoring Committee (SPPMC) as regards the organisation of activities, and the budget to be allocated to the three types of input.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPP Slovakia – Component 1</th>
<th>Programming &amp; institutional capacity building for regional &amp; structural policies</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sub-project</td>
<td>Investment</td>
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<tr>
<td>A1: Building the programme</td>
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<tr>
<td>A2: Building the administrative capacity</td>
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<td>TOTAL</td>
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Implementation Arrangements:

The CFCU will be responsible for procurement, contracting and accounting related issues.
Implementation Schedule:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subproject</th>
<th>Start of Tendering</th>
<th>Start of Project Activity</th>
<th>Completion</th>
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</thead>
</table>

**Equal Opportunity:**
The dimension of gender equality will be integrated into all levels of the component objectives. It is anticipated that this will set an appropriate foundation for future gender mainstreaming in the application of regional and structural policies in Slovakia.

**Environment:**
Specific selection criteria will form part of the programme for regional and structural policies. Appropriate input from the environmental authorities will be part of institutional capacity building, including the implementation structures necessary for ISPA and SAPARD.

**Rates of return:**
Not applicable.

**Investment Criteria**
Not applicable

**Conditionality and Sequencing**
Funding will be conditional on Slovakia’s continuing implementation of the provisions of the Accession Partnership.
**LOGFRAME PLANNING MATRIX FOR SPP PROGRAMME PRIORITY A**

**Programming and capacity building for regional and structural policies in the Slovak Republic**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme Number</th>
<th>Programme Title</th>
<th>SPP A: Programming and capacity building</th>
<th>Total Budget: 3 MEU</th>
<th>Phare Contribution: 3 MEU</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SR9808.04.01</td>
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1. **Wider Objectives**

**Wider SPP Objective** is to enhance Slovakia’s capacity to implement European Structural Fund programmes after accession to the EU.

2. **Indicators of Achievement**

- Effective absorption and implementation of pre-accession financial instruments ISPA and SAPARD and (post-accession) Structural Funds and Cohesion Fund (*to be quantified according to future allocations and programmes*).

3. **How, when and by whom indicators measured**

- Commission services annual monitoring of absorption of pre-accession instruments from reports by Slovak authorities
- Commission services monitoring of absorption of Structural Funds and Cohesion Funds post-accession from future Monitoring Committees and regular reports by Slovak authorities

4. **Assumptions and Risks**

- **Assumptions**
  - Commitment of sufficient Slovak public resources, both human and financial, to the implementation of pre-accession instruments and Structural Funds and Cohesion Fund after accession.
  - That adequate co-ordination will take place between the institutions of the Slovak authorities to ensure effective implementation of integrated regional and structural policies.

5. **Immediate Objectives**

**To prepare programme for Slovakia’s regional and structural development policies, which, updated and reviewed as necessary, will form a basis for the preparation of the future Development Plan which will feed into a Community Support Framework after accession.**

Before accession, the programme strategy may be used in the selection of appropriate actions for SAPARD and ISPA.

**To build administrative capacity capable of implementing the national programme along integrated, multi-annual lines.**

6. **Indicators of achievement**

- Programme document established, responding to identified and quantified structural needs and taking account of regional disparities.
- Programme to contain quantified objectives, project selection criteria, cofinancing arrangements, monitoring and evaluation procedures.
- Future selection actions for ISPA and SAPARD according to agreed strategic framework (*to be quantified according to future allocations and programmes*).
- Progress in addressing the shortcomings and priorities identified in the Accession Partnership for Slovakia.

7. **How, when and by whom indicators measured**

- SPP Monitoring Committee on reports from the Slovak authorities during SPP implementation phase

8. **Assumptions and Risks**

- **Assumptions**
  - That the Slovak authorities establish a national structure for regional and structural policies capable of coordinating existing bodies and having the administrative capacity to implement the programme.

- **Risks**
  - Delays in achieving the necessary institutional co-ordination may hinder implementation.
### 9. Outputs
1. Enhanced familiarity and greater understanding by Slovak national administrations of programming a national integrated strategy and the articulation of multi-annual development plans.
2. Improved understanding of the principle of implementation in partnership.
3. Strategic and administrative basis established for selecting and implementing actions under ISPA and SAPARD, as well as for implementing Structural Fund programmes after accession.

### 10. Indicators of Achievement
- Robustness of the administrative capacity of the implementing structure in undertaking the pilot projects (Priority B) – *(to be quantified in relation to each pilot project selected)*

### 11. How, when and by whom indicators measured
- SPP Monitoring Committee on reports from the Slovak authorities during SPP implementation phase

### 12. Assumptions and Risks
- Assumptions
- Trained staff will remain with the implementation structure established for regional and structural policies
- Secondees of the right quality are identified in the Member States and complete their secondments professionally.

### 13. Inputs
- Provision of training programmes to the Slovak implementing structure
- Provision of secondments to the Slovak implementing structure
- Provision of operational expertise and good practice exchanges to the Slovak implementing structure

### 14. Indicators of Achievement
- Meeting the outputs to be determined in the Slovak authorities’ Training Needs Analysis in both qualitative and quantitative terms:
  - e.g. Officials trained (duration, specialisation, level)
  - Secondments of officials from Member State administrations completed.
  - Exchange of experience events held (number, size, type)

### 15. How, when and by whom indicators measured
- SPP Monitoring Committee on reports from the Slovak authorities during SPP implementation phase

### 16. Assumptions and Risks
- Assumptions
- Adequate Training Needs Analysis carried out by the Slovak authorities at the outset.
- Staff trained are at appropriate level in institutions; adequate staff time is allocated to participation in training activities.
- Exchange of experience events relevant and practical in nature
- Successful co-ordination with SPP horizontal training actions and other institution building activities
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Programming and institutional capacity building for regional and structural policies - Priority A - SR9808.04.01</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Implementation Schedule (Quarters)</td>
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<td>1999</td>
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<td>2001</td>
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<td>TOTAL - Priority A</td>
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Legend: D: design of sub-projetcs, C:tendering and contracting, I: contract implementation and payment
### Cumulative Quarterly Contracting Schedule (MECU) - SR9808.04.01

<table>
<thead>
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<th>1Q 99</th>
<th>2Q 99</th>
<th>3Q 99</th>
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### Cumulative Quarterly Disbursement Schedule (MECU) - SR9808.04.01

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