



**Expert evaluation network  
delivering policy analysis on the  
performance of Cohesion policy 2007-2013  
Year 2 – 2012**

**Task 2: Country Report on Achievements of  
Cohesion policy**

**Slovakia**

**Version: Final**

**Karol Frank**

**Institute of Economic Research – Slovak Academy of  
Sciences**

**A report to the European Commission  
Directorate-General Regional and Urban Policy**

## Contents

Executive summary .....	4
1. The socio-economic context .....	5
2. The regional development policy pursued, the EU contribution to this and policy achievements over the period .....	8
The regional development policy pursued .....	8
Policy implementation .....	10
Achievements of the programmes so far .....	13
3. Effects of intervention .....	21
4. Evaluations and good practice in evaluation .....	22
5. Further Remarks - New challenges for policy .....	25
References .....	26
Interviews .....	28
Annex 1 – Tables .....	28

## List of abbreviations

- AIR Annual Implementation Report
- CBC Cross Border Cooperation
- CCA Central Coordination Authority
- IBMA Intermediary Body Under Managing Authority
- MA Managing Authority
- NIIT National Infrastructure for Support of Technology Transfer
- NSRF National Strategic Reference Framework
- OP Operational Programme
- OP BR Operational Programme Bratislava Region
- OP CaEG Operational Programme Competitiveness and Economic Growth
- OP R&D Operational Programme Research and Development
- OP H Operational Programme Health
- OPIS Operational Programme Informatisation of Society
- p.p. percentage points
- PA Priority Axis
- ROP Regional Operational Programme

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Due to relatively strong economic growth in Slovakia in the last two years (compared to the rest of EU countries) the decline in regional GDP per capita in PPS in 2009 will be only temporary. The latest available data on unemployment suggest that the economic recovery after the initial decline of GDP is contributing to reduce the unemployment rates in all regions. Whether these positive tendencies will continue is dependent on the development of external environment. The high openness of the Slovak economy makes it vulnerable to business cycle changes in important export industries. At present the Cohesion policy is providing significant amount of financial resources for public and private investments mainly in the area of public infrastructure, R&D, territorial development, healthcare and environment.

Some of the Operational Programmes (OPs) are being implemented according to plan and show first results, however some of the OPs do not have a satisfactory performance yet. The end of the programming period is approaching very fast and without serious actions the objectives will not be achieved in some of the OPs. The already finished projects and the projects which are being implemented have significant effects in the respective regions and policy areas (increase of R&D spending on GDP, employment in construction sector, investments in public infrastructure, energy efficiency etc.) and are helping to overcome the lack of national and private financial resources due to the effects of the crisis.

The unavailability of relevant impact evaluations, research papers or similar analytical work together with a still low number of finished projects makes it still difficult to present the effects of interventions on the economic, territorial and social cohesion. Nevertheless, the progress in implementation in most of the OPs allows some general conclusions. The most significant progress has been achieved in the field of enterprise support and RTDI, territorial development (health infrastructure, public education infrastructure), environment and transport. The support for R&D is providing a significant volume of financial resources, which is reflected in the increasing share of R&D expenditure on GDP. The reconstruction of second and third class roads has contributed to better intraregional and interregional mobility and accessibility. Similarly, the investments in motorways and expressways have improved the quality and density of existing infrastructure. New water treatment plants, sewer networks, drinking water supply lines have been constructed and the energy efficiency of public buildings has been significantly improved. The investments to public infrastructure are increasing the energy efficiency and reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. The projects financed from OP Health (OP H) are improving the quality and accessibility of healthcare. The investments into information and telecommunication technologies is increasing the quality of education and providing students with latest ICT technology.

The majority of evaluations which have been elaborated to date are process oriented. This applies also for the evaluations listed in this report. It can be expected that with the progress in the physical and financial implementation the demand for evaluations focused on actual achievements will grow but it is difficult to predict the focus and coverage of planned evaluations.

## 1. THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONTEXT

Main points from previous country reports:

- The regional disparities in Slovakia are still characterised by a significant west – east and north – south divide with the Bratislava region being the most developed one in terms of GDP per capita in PPS.
- The existing regional disparities in Slovakia are the result of the following:
  - Lack of high quality transport infrastructures, low regional interconnections and accessibility.
  - Weaknesses/limited capacity of national, regional and local public administration.
  - Low inter-regional as well as intra-regional mobility of labour force.
  - Difficult access to affordable housing in areas providing employment opportunities.
  - Environmental burdens related to previous heavy industrial activity.
  - Low level of economic development in border regions, especially in the east and south of Slovakia – proximity to low developed regions of Ukraine, Poland and Hungary.
  - Restructuring of “traditional” industry sectors in some regions.
  - Low development of human capital (education attainment, entrepreneurial spirit).
- The economic development in the crisis and post-crisis years is characterised by the following trends:
  - There was a slight convergence among the regions in terms of GDP per capita in PPS, however the economic recession probably slowed or stalled this catching up.
  - The economic recession affected all Slovak regions and resulted in increases in unemployment rates especially in 2009 and 2010.
  - The economic recovery in 2010 was driven by external demand and gross capital formation. The recovery of production in export oriented industries (automotive, electronics) has not been accompanied by rapid employment growth and resulted in a substantial increase of labour productivity.
  - The macroeconomic policy carried out in 2010 focused primarily on the reduction of the general government deficit. Due to the parliamentary elections in June 2010 and early parliamentary elections in March 2012, the fiscal policy had only little manoeuvring space to elaborate a thorough plan for fiscal consolidation.
  - Already at the end of 2011 the Slovak economy reached its GDP pre-recession volume and the unemployment rate started to decline, although it remained still high compared to EU average. More important the employment rate is continuously growing, which means that the economic growth especially in the export oriented industries is creating new jobs.

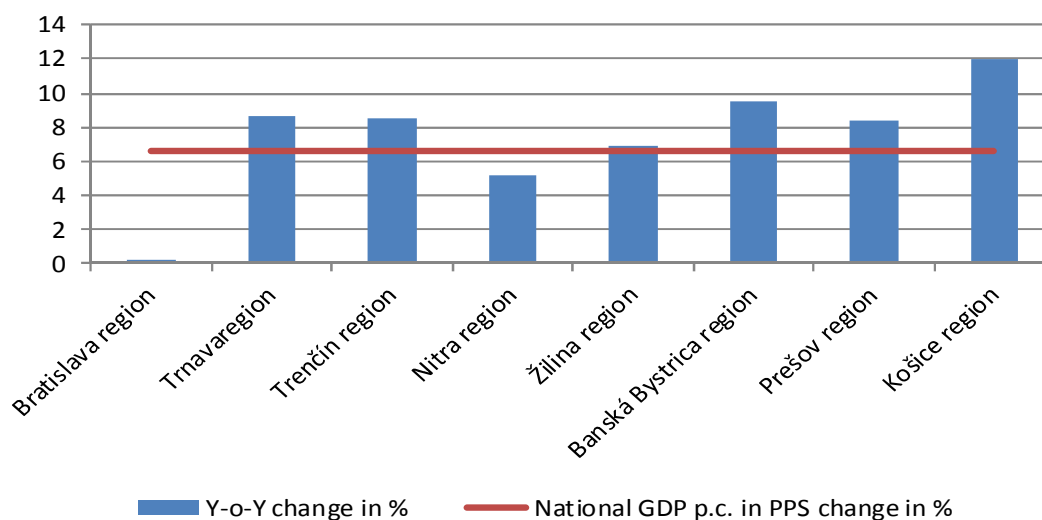
Given the structural nature of regional disparities in Slovakia, there have been only minor changes in economic development of regions in 2011. The latest data suggest that the economic crisis affected all Slovak regions which resulted in the lower GDP per capita volumes at PPS in 2009. The Eurostat data on regional GDP in PPS show that in 2009 the values of the disparity indicators changed only slightly, however the positive development in Disparity 1 (ratio of GDP per capita PPS of the best performing region Bratislava region relative to the worst performing region Prešov region) reversed and again grew by 0.35 points. The decrease of GDP per capita in PPS in the best performing region (Bratislava) was negligible and well below the national average. The rest of the regions recorded and above average annual decrease of GDP per capita in PPS, especially Košice region and Banská Bystrica region (Figure 1).

**Table 1 – Development of regional disparities in 2001 – 2009**

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Disparity 1	3.6	3.6	3.7	3.8	4.1	4.3	4.3	3.9	4.3
Disparity 2	1.7	1.6	1.7	1.8	1.8	2.2	2.2	1.9	1.9
Disparity 3	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6
Disparity 4	2.2	2.3	2.2	2.3	2.4	2.3	2.4	2.3	2.5

Source: Eurostat (2012), own calculations, Note: Disparity 1 – ratio of GDP per capita PPS of the best performing region (Bratislava region) relative to the worst performing region (Prešovský region), Disparity 2 – ratio of GDP per capita PPS of the second best performing region (Trnavský region) relative to the worst performing region (Prešovský region), Disparity 3 – ratio of GDP per capita PPS of the worst performing region (Prešovský region) relative to GDP per capita of Slovakia, Disparity 4 – ratio of GDP per capita PPS of the best performing region (Bratislava region) relative to GDP per capita of Slovakia.

**Figure 1 – Annual decline of GDP per capita volume in PPS in 2009 (Y-o-Y in %)**

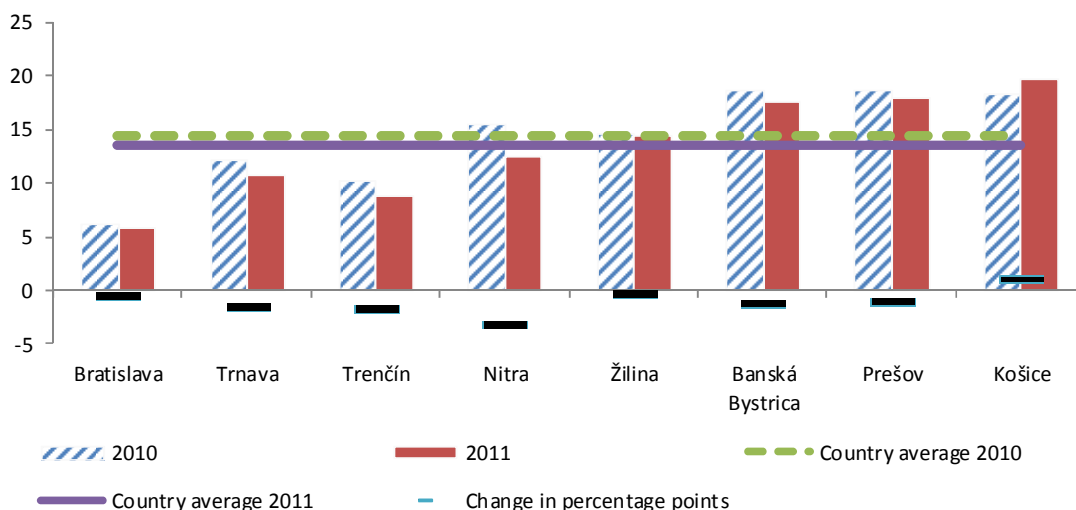


Source: Eurostat (2012), own calculations

Despite the crisis the Slovak economy grew by 4.4% in 2010 and by 3.3% in 2011. The latest estimation of our Institute suggests that in 2012 the GDP will grow by approximately 3.0 – 3.2%. The effects of this development on regions are difficult to extrapolate, due to the unavailability of most recent Eurostat regional data. However, it can be expected that due to relatively strong economic growth in Slovakia (compared to the rest of EU countries) the decline in regional GDP per capita in PPS in 2009 will be only temporary. The latest available data on unemployment

suggest that the economic recovery after the initial decline of GDP is contributing to reduce the unemployment rates in all regions, with the exception of Košice (Figure 2). It is necessary to point out that, due to the strong dependence of Slovak economy on external demand, the future prospects of economic growth remain still very fragile.

**Figure 2 – Unemployment rate in 2011 (NUTS III level)**



Source: Eurostat (2012), own calculations.

The consolidation of public finance did not intentionally reduce the volume of financial assistance available for regional development (e.g. co-financing of Cohesion policy projects). However, a large number of regional municipalities (there are 2,928 municipalities in Slovakia) have limited financial capacity, which makes it in some cases difficult to apply for or co-finance projects (e.g. water supply, sewer systems). At present, given the budgetary constraints and consolidation efforts, the Cohesion policy support represents the lion's share of public investments in Slovakia (e.g. transport and environmental infrastructure, healthcare, research and development, SME support etc.).

Since the beginning of the programming period, the objectives of the Strategy of regional development and of the National Strategic Reference Framework (NSRF) are focused on human capital, knowledge economy and basic infrastructure and services. The objectives have not been modified during the present programming period, although the initiative of the European Commission (EC) to address the unemployment and SMEs support have been taken into account by reallocation of financial resources between OPs (more details in chapter 2).

## 2. THE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY PURSUED, THE EU CONTRIBUTION TO THIS AND POLICY ACHIEVEMENTS OVER THE PERIOD

### THE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY PURSUED

The regional policy in Slovakia in the current programming period is set out in the NSRF and in line with other relevant national strategic documents<sup>1</sup>. It has three strategic priorities: the development of infrastructure and regional accessibility, the knowledge economy and human resources.

- It covers 7 regions in the Convergence objective, 1 region in the Competitiveness objective with a particular focus on the least developed and is carried out in the framework of eleven OPs.
- The priorities under the Competitiveness objective in the Bratislava region are to develop knowledge-based activities (education, support for R&D, for building R&D infrastructure and knowledge transfer, innovation and technology transfers and ICT) and infrastructure building (regeneration of towns and cities and regional and urban transport). The measures funded by the Cohesion Fund in the Bratislava region are covering environmental projects in the framework of OP Environment and also OP Transport (complementarity between OP Transport and OP BR in building roads TEN-T, rail and intermodal transport).
- The regions under the Convergence Objective (seven NUTS III regions) are eligible for support to the enterprise environment, healthcare, transport infrastructure, education, ICT, R&D, the environment and energy as well as territorial development, with substantially larger financial allocation.
- The financial engineering instruments JEREMIE and JESSICA are under preparation with expected implementation starting in 2012. (See country report on financial engineering instruments).
- The main measures contained in the programmes under the cross-border part of the Territorial Cooperation Objective are directed at the labour market, education, cultural activities, tourism, infrastructure and cross-border SME cooperation. Besides Cross Border Cooperation (CBC) programmes, following projects are being carried out in the field of territorial cooperation:
  - Program of interregional territorial cooperation – INTERREG IVC.
  - Programme of transnational territorial cooperation– Central Europe a Southeast Europe.
  - Programme INTERACT II.
- The implementation of policy at a regional level is based on individual Strategies of Economic and Social Development covering the present programming period. The strategies are linked to the priorities of NSRF.

---

<sup>1</sup> National Strategy of Regional Development,

<http://www.build.gov.sk/mvrrsr/source/news/files/003994a.pdf>

Strategy of Spatial Development <http://www.build.gov.sk/mvrrsr/index.php?id=1&cat=222>, National Innovation Strategy [www.economy.gov.sk/inovacna-strategia-sr.../127886s](http://www.economy.gov.sk/inovacna-strategia-sr.../127886s)



### *Reallocations in OPs*

At the end of 2011 the EC approved following revisions of OP Research and Development (OP R&D):

- Reallocation of EUR 127 million from Priority Axis (PA)1 Infrastructure of research and development to PA2 Support to research and development and EUR 42.5 million to PA5 Infrastructure of higher education.
- Reallocation of EUR 104.7 million from PA3 Infrastructure of research and development in the Bratislava region to PA4 Support to research and development in the Bratislava region.

The main reasons for the reallocations are following:

- Efficient use of financial resources in line with the priorities of the government.
- Adjustment of the OPs to the objectives of the 2020 Strategy.
- Reallocation to PA where the likelihood of spending is the highest.
- Concentration of financial resources on large-scale R&D projects focused on medicine, biotechnology, sustainable energy, new materials, ICT etc.

At the end of 2011 the EC also approved following changes in PA2 of the OP Informatisation of Society (OPIS):

- Increase of national financial resources for implementation of PA2 in Competitiveness region (pro rata method).
- Merger of two existing measures under PA2 into one measure 2.1. Digitisation of the content of repository institutions, archiving and provision of access to digital data.

The revision of ROP was approved by the EC in August 2011 with following changes:

- Reallocation of financial resources to PA1 Infrastructure of education.
- Changes in the strategy of social infrastructure.
- Changes in the tourism support strategy.
- Reallocation of financial resources to PA4 Regeneration of settlements.
- Support for housing infrastructure (pilot action – JESSICA instrument).
- Support for municipalities hit by the floods in 2010.
- New PA7 – European Capital of Culture Košice 2013.

The government decided to address the unemployment issue, especially youth unemployment, by adopting changes in the allocation of five OPs:

- The OP Education will contribute EUR 70 million to the OP Employment and Social Inclusion
- The OPIS will contribute with EUR 170 million to the OP Competitiveness and Economic Growth (OP CaEG).
- The OP Transport will contribute with EUR 55 million to the OP CaEG.

The reallocation will provide additional EUR 70 million for the OP Employment and Social Inclusion for active labour policies in the framework of the existing Employment Act (e.g. partial reimbursement of labour and social benefit costs for entrepreneurs employing young people, traineeships in enterprises for young unemployed etc.).

The additional EUR 225 million reallocated to the OP CaEG will be devoted for support of SMEs in the PA Innovation and Technological Transfers with the obligation for final beneficiaries to create and maintain new jobs for at least three years. Although this reallocation seems to be reasonable in the short term given the situation on the labour market and the intention to spend financial resources, the long-term sustainability of these jobs remains questionable with potentially distorting effects on the existing labour market. Moreover, the group of unemployed people aged between 15 and 24 is large because many young people are studying full-time and are therefore neither working nor looking for a job (so they are not part of the labour force which is used as the denominator for calculating the unemployment rate). A more systemic approach aimed at facing the unemployment of young people should be based on the Agenda for new skills and jobs of the EC, the domestic reform of existing education system and a more efficient active labour policy which should focus especially on long-term unemployment in general.

The main reasons for shifts in the OPs are the following:

- The government is aware that the financial implementation as well as contracting in some PAs of the OPs is behind the schedule. Therefore there is strong motivation to reallocate these financial resources to PAs of OPs where the likelihood of spending the money is the highest. Furthermore, in the present fiscal situation of the Slovak government, the available Cohesion policy support represents one of the main resources for public investments. In the last years, large number of major and minor projects in public infrastructure (motorways, roads, public infrastructure, healthcare etc.) as well as private sector aid schemes has been financed through the Structural Funds. Although the rate of financial implementation in Slovakia is lower than in most EU countries, these additional financial resources helped to maintain public investments thus contributing to the economic growth and to improve the quality of public infrastructure and public services.
- The initiatives of the European Commission aimed at promoting the employment of young people motivated the government to reallocate some of the financial resources in favour of this objective.
- Changes in economic development which resulted in lower (or higher) demand for financial support in specific PAs.

## **POLICY IMPLEMENTATION<sup>2</sup>**

Main points from previous country report:

- The rate of implementation of OPs in 2010 and 2011 has been steadily accelerating.
- Although the implementation rate increased, the previous reports highlighted some constraining factors which are still relevant for some OPs<sup>3</sup>.

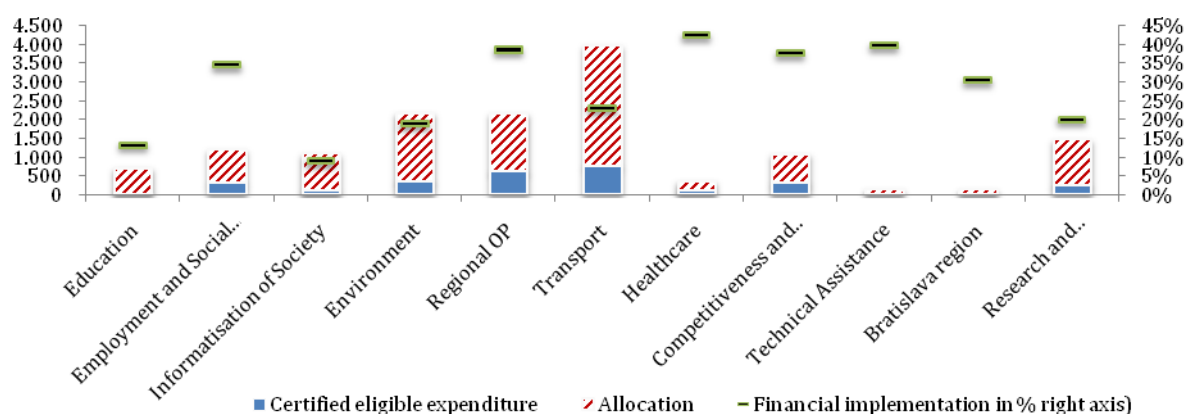
---

<sup>2</sup> The indicators used in this section come from the AIR for 2011, which relate to the situation up to the end of 2011. A more up-to-date view of the aggregate position (though not of the situation in the different policy areas) is presented in the Synthesis Report for 2012 of the Expert evaluation network delivering policy analysis on the performance of Cohesion policy 2007-2013 which is based on data for payments from the ERDF and Cohesion Fund up to the end of 2012, i.e. after the present report was completed.

- Most of the programmes are being gradually implemented, although some PAs in OPs are still behind expectations.
- The completion of the consolidation of the institutional framework (shift of competences among Managing Authorities (MA)) together with already contracted projects in previous years contributed to acceleration of financial implementation especially in 2011.

By the end of 2011, the rate of financial implementation reached 25.0%, which represented an annual increase by 11.6% (Figure 3). The highest increase was recorded in the OP Healthcare (23.2 percentage points (p.p.)) followed by OP CaEG (20.0 p.p.), Regional OP (ROP)(19.0 p.p.), OP BR (16.8 p.p.), OP Employment and Social Inclusion (16.8 p.p.), and OP Environment (12.7 p.p.). In contrast the lowest increase was recorded in OP Education (5.3 p.p.), followed by the OP Information Society (6.4 p.p.) and OP Transport (6.3 p.p.).

**Figure 3 - Financial implementation of Structural Funds and Cohesion Fund in the programming period 2007 - 2013 (Convergence and Competitiveness Objective) at the end of 2011**



Source: own calculation based on [www.nsrr.sk](http://www.nsrr.sk)

By the end of August 2012, the rate of financial implementation gained momentum especially in OPs which were already performing well at the end of 2011. During the first eight months of 2012, the rate of financial implementation has accelerated in most of the OPs with the exception of OP Transport, OP Environment and OP Education (Table 2).

<sup>3</sup> For further information see:

[http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/sources/docgener/evaluation/pdf/eval2007/expert\\_innovation/2011evaluation\\_reports.zip](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docgener/evaluation/pdf/eval2007/expert_innovation/2011evaluation_reports.zip)

**Table 2 – Commitments and financial implementation of Structural Funds and Cohesion Fund at the end of August 2011**

OPs	Commitments (%)	Financial implementation (%)	Increase in Financial Implementation since the end of 2011
“Informatisation” of Society	49.4	14.9	5.8
Competitiveness and Economic Growth	82.8	46.0	8.2
Research and Development	64.4	27.7	7.6
Education	56.2	14.2	0.8
Environment	69.4	19.0	0.06
Bratislava region	52.6	37.8	7.3
Transport	56.8	27.1	3.9
Technical Assistance	90.2	46.0	6.2
Employment and Social Inclusion	90.0	44.7	10.1
Healthcare	101.2	57.1	14.6
Regional OP	87.4	50.5	11.9

Source: own calculations based on [www.nsrr.sk](http://www.nsrr.sk) <sup>4</sup>

The main reasons for delays in implementing the OPs reported in the previous reports are still applicable also for the 2012 country report. These include:

- Administrative and bureaucratic procedures;
- Difficulties in public procurement related to project selection and approval;
- High fluctuations of administrative capacities and fragmented management of Cohesion policy programmes across various ministries and intermediary bodies;
- Preparation and approval of major projects (transport and environmental infrastructure).

Besides the initiatives adopted in 2011, the Central Coordination Authority (CCA) (Ministry of Transport, Construction and Regional Development) has set a special Steering Committee in order to improve the implementation of Cohesion policy programmes. Furthermore the report on NSRF implementation approved by the government on May 2012 outlines in detail the existing problems in OPs and outlines solutions for improvement. The MAs are obliged to submit quarterly indicative plans related to contracting and actual financial implementation. The plans are being evaluated quarterly by the CCA.

In order to speed up the implementation of the PA in the OPIS the MA has set-up monthly implementation action plans which are being evaluated on monthly basis. *The MA* of OPIS adopted in March 2012 an “Action plan for implementation of PA1”. The action plan is structured as follows:

- Systemic action plan for improvement of financial implementation in PA1,
- Specific action plan for implementation of individual projects in PA1,
- Action plan for preparation and implementation of new projects.

<sup>4</sup> [http://www.nsrr.sk/download.php?FNAME=1348488929.upl&ANAME=Mon\\_tab-12-8-31SK.xls](http://www.nsrr.sk/download.php?FNAME=1348488929.upl&ANAME=Mon_tab-12-8-31SK.xls)

Despite the increased effort to speed-up the implementation of OPIS, there is high likelihood, that due to the delays in previous years, the OP will not be able to spend the whole allocation and implement all intended projects.

## **ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE PROGRAMMES SO FAR**

Main points from previous country report:

- Substantial increase in the number of contracted projects has been recorded and the number of completed projects started to report first results across all OPs.
- The OPs which recorded progress in 2009, performed well also in 2010.

The achievements of individual OPs are listed below according the respective policy areas and are based on the 2011 Annual Implementation Report (AIR). In the last year, the financial implementation gained momentum, however some OPs are still reporting very low values.

### **Enterprise support and RTDI**

Enterprise support and RTDI is being implemented through three OPs:

- OP CaEG,
- OP BR and
- OP R&D
- Support of ICT and related services is pursued through the OPIS and OP BR (support for ICT related services in SMEs).

#### *OP CaEG*

Support carried out in the PA1 – “Innovation and Growth of Competitiveness” is focused on introducing innovative technologies in production, expanding productive capacity and supporting enterprises in various industrial branches. The number of projects in implementation and number of contracted projects has increased since the end of 2010. At the end of 2011, a total of 448 projects were contracted, 186 projects were in the implementation phase and 252 were finished.

The already finished projects created additional 757 jobs (504 men, 253 women) and reported an increase of revenue by 20.3%. In the measure 1.2 a total of 11 brownfield industrial parks have been supported. In financial terms, the volume of finished projects amounted to EUR 194.4 million and the volume of contracted projects amounted to EUR 381.4 million at the end of 2011. The rate of financial implementation nearly doubled and reached 38%, which represent an annual increase by 17.7 p.p. by the end of 2011.

#### *OP R&D*

The OP Research and Development is supporting regions under the Convergence and Competitiveness objective. At the end of 2011, the financial implementation of the OP reached 20.1% and the volume of contracted projects reached 61.4%.

In the PA2 – Support for R&D, 13 projects were finished, 207 projects were being implemented and 212 projects were contracted. In financial terms the total allocation for contracted projects reached EUR 364.9 million.

The implementation of this PA resulted in an increase in the number of researchers benefiting from support from 1,459 to 5,112, the number of publications in scientific journals grew from 608.8 to 1,846, the number of technologically appreciated R&D institutions went up from 98 to 112, the number of projects connecting R&D and enterprise sector grew from 138 to 145 at the end of 2011. Furthermore, the financial support increased the share of R&D expenditure on GDP from 0.48% to 0.63% in 2011.

In the Bratislava region the implementation of PA4 – Support for R&D in Bratislava region is financing R&D activities with the aim to increase competitiveness, reduce regional disparities, support new innovative SMEs and create new jobs. At the end of 2011, 105 projects were in the implementation phase, 105 projects were contracted, and no projects were finished. In financial terms the volume of contracted projects reached EUR 186.1 million. The implementation resulted in increased value of selected physical indicators. The number of researchers benefiting from support increased on an annual basis from 1,169 to 2,335, the number of publications in scientific journals increased from 170.5 to 753.2, the number of technological appreciation of R&D institutions went up from 57 to 69, the number of projects supporting networking among R&D institutions grew from 26 to 35 and the number of collaborative projects between R&D and enterprises increased from 66 to 77.

In PA5 – Higher Education Infrastructure focused on modernisation of physical and ICT infrastructure in universities - 33 projects are underway and 13 projects have already been finished. In financial terms the volume of contracted projects reached EUR 218.4 million and the volume of finished projects reached EUR 55.5 million.

Besides demand oriented projects, two national projects are still being implemented:

- National Information System for R&D Support which provides general access to electronic information sources (e.g. ProQuest Central, Knovel, ScienceDirect, Scopus, SpringerLink, and Web of Science) for universities and the Slovak Academy of Sciences and
- National Infrastructure for Support of Technology Transfer (NIIT).

The main difficulties in implementing R&D projects are linked to bureaucratic procedures, mistakes in the submitted proposals of applicants (related to budgetary issues of the projects), lack of administrative capacities and existing bureaucratic burden related to projects in implementation. Concrete steps are being taken by the MA with the cooperation of relevant stakeholders to eliminate the existing bottlenecks. It seems that the above mentioned difficulties seem to be systemic (related to the management of the OP and low experience on the side of applicants) and therefore difficult to eliminate. The MA should increase the efforts to strengthen the administrative capacities (number of civil servants) and further simplify the administrative procedures imposed on final beneficiaries to speed up the implementation.

#### *OPIS*

Since the start of the present programming period the OPIS has traditionally the lowest financial implementation rate of all OPs. The main factors influencing the delays in implementation have been explained in previous country reports.

In PA1 - Electrification of public administration and development of electronic services the volume of contracted projects reached EUR 343.3 million covering 27 projects with 4 finished

projects. The financial implementation and number of contracted projects in other of PAs recorded no progress at all (with the exception of PA4 - Technical assistance). The implementation of PA3 – Increase of broadband accessibility has been cancelled and the implementation of PA4 is progressing slowly. The delays in implementation have been influenced by changes in already approved (contracted) projects related to eGovernment services. The AIR is reporting values of two output indicators – number of projects (23) and number of implemented electronic services (31).

#### *OP BR*

In PA2 – Knowledge economy there are two relevant measures; 2.1 Support innovation and technological transfers, and 2.2 Informatisation of society under the Regional competitiveness and employment objective. At the end of 2011, a total of 50 projects related to innovation and technological transfers were finished and 81 projects were being implemented. The expenditure on already finished projects amounted to EUR 6.3 million. The total allocation for contracted projects reached EUR 23.1 million. On the whole the demand for R&D activities is rather low despite the efforts of the MA to increase the attractiveness by lowering the necessary co-financing by final beneficiaries. Similarly as in previous year, the enterprises give preference to projects focused on technology transfer, which provide the opportunity to minimise costs and maximise output without taking any substantial risks connected to R&D investments. The already finished projects created 12 new jobs.

The measure 2.2 “Informatisation” of society is supporting ICT projects. At the end of 2011, a total of 25 projects were finished and 34 projects were being implemented. The expenditure on completed projects amounted to EUR 1.5 million and the total allocation on contracted projects reached EUR 3.6 million.

#### **Environment and energy**

The support for energy related activities is provided by the OP Environment and the OP CaEG. Compared with the previous year, the rate of physical and financial implementation increased. The support is focused on improving energy efficiency in production, introducing progressive technologies in the energy sector and on increasing public awareness of energy efficiency and renewable energy.

#### *OP CaEG*

At the end of 2011, a total of 178 projects were contracted in the second PA of OP Competitiveness and Economic Growth. In measure 2.1 Increasing energy efficiency and introducing advanced technologies in the energy sector a total of 94 projects were contracted (34 projects are already finished) with total allocation of EUR 141.9 million (EUR 45.9 million). These projects created additional energy production capacity of 41.0 MW from renewable energy sources (especially from biomass). Since the end of 2010 the additional energy production capacity increased by modest 7.1 MW and helped to increase the revenue in the supported companies by 5.6%. This modest annual increase of energy production can be explained by the changes in the national RES support, which have been implemented in last year.

The finished projects focused on energy efficiency of production, heating and building insulation contributed to energy savings at 7.8 tetrajoules.

In measure 2.2 - Building and modernisation of public lighting in cities and municipalities and energy consulting a total of 118 projects worth EUR 29.9 million were contracted and 17 projects worth EUR 6.8 million already finished. Apart from the above mentioned demand-oriented projects, one national project is being implemented with total allocation of EUR 10.8 million. The project is focused on support and increase of public awareness of energy efficiency in enterprises and households.

#### *OP Environment*

The OP Environment is being implemented through six PAs by the ERDF and Cohesion Fund with total allocation at EUR 1,800 million. The financial implementation amounted to 18.9% of which ERDF related expenditures reached 33.3% and Cohesion Fund related expenditures amounted to 16.7% at the end of 2011. At the end of 2011 68.3% of total allocation of the OP has been contracted. The highest implementation with expenditures amounting to EUR 50 million (66 finished projects) was recorded in PA4 – Waste management followed by PA3 – Air protection with EUR 29.3 million (29 finished projects). In PA2 – Flood protection a total of 15 projects have been finished and 52 projects are being implemented. In financial terms the volume of finished projects reached EUR 7.7 million and the amount of contracted projects reached EUR 100.6 million. In PA1 – Integrated protection and rational utilisation of water resources a total of 9 projects have been completed and 129 projects are being implemented.

The progress in implementation since the end of 2010 resulted in increase of the value of selected indicators.

#### **Territorial development**

The support of territorial development is being carried out through the OP CaEG, the OP H, the OP BR and the ROP. The majority of OPs have increased their performance in physical and financial implementation.

#### *OP CaEG*

Since the beginning of the programming period in the measure *3.1 Support of business activities in tourism* 28 projects have been finished, 57 projects are being implemented and the total number of contracted projects reached 85 at the end of 2011. In financial terms the value of finished projects reached EUR 75.6 million and the volume of contracted projects reached EUR 135.1 million. The financial implementation in this measure reached 49.4% of overall allocation (annual increase by 24.5 p.p.). The already finished projects created 340 new jobs and contributed to additional EUR 70 million of private investments and increase of revenue by 15.4%.

#### *OP H*

OP H is the second smallest OP in terms of allocation with a budget of EUR 250 million; however the implementation of this programme is among the most successful of all OPs.

At the end of 2011, expenditure amounted to 42.5% of total allocation for the present programming period. The programme has three PAs – PA1 Modernisation of the Hospital Healthcare System, PA2 Health Promotion and Prevention of Health Risks and PA3 Technical Assistance. At the end of 2011, a total number of 22 projects had been already finished and 43 projects were being implemented. In financial terms the volume of finished projects reached



EUR 78.4 million and the volume of contracted projects amounted to EUR 295.3 million. The progress in implementation resulted in following:

- In PA1 the number of patients hospitalised in modernised facilities reached 20,242, the number of beds operated in the modernised facilities increased from 916 to 1,369 and created 172 new jobs. The total area of reconstructed facilities reached 38,985 sq. m. at the end of 2011.
- In PA2 the number of patients provided with healthcare in modernised facilities grew from 4,632 to 36,628 persons. The total area of reconstructed facilities increased from 4,766 to 18,761 sq. m. Besides demand oriented projects, one national project is supported in the PA2 – Infrastructure of National Transfusion Service of Slovakia.

### *ROP*

The ROP is one of the best performing OP in terms of physical and financial implementation. The programme is supporting regional activities focused on transport, education and social infrastructure, cultural heritage and regeneration of settlements under the Convergence objective. Due to the revision of the OP no new calls have been launched in 2011. The main factors underlying the revision are following:

- Changes in socio-economic development (economic crisis)
- Changes in development priorities on national, regional and local level (e.g. changes in education, tourism and social protection legislation, financing of European Capital of Culture – Košice 2013)
- Difficulties linked to legislative limitations in the area of tourism (complementarity with OP CaEG, new legislation), social protection, and children's home institutional facilities

In the PA1 – Infrastructure of education a total of 389 projects have been finished and 399 projects are being implemented. In financial terms the volume of finished projects reached EUR 293.2 million and the volume of contracted projects EUR 606.6 million. Progress in implementation resulted in increased value of some physical indicators. The number of new and more quality services provided by supported facilities of educational reached 389 and 19,251 students are benefiting from support. The finished projects increased energy efficiency in public buildings by reducing average energy consumption by 46.1% (total energy saving equal to 57.3 TJ) and created 56 new jobs.

The PA2 - Infrastructure of social services, social-legal protection and social guardianship has been revised in 2011. The total allocation of PA2 has been reduced from EUR 270 million to EUR 209.3 million. The PA is still reporting negligible values of physical indicators.

The PA3 - Strengthening of cultural potential of regions and tourism infrastructure is also reporting negligible outcomes in terms of financial implementation and reported values of physical indicators.

In PA4 – Regeneration of settlements substantial progress has been achieved in the number of contracted projects. At the end of 2011 a total of 738 projects have been contracted with total allocation at EUR 462.7 million (mainly in the measures: 4.1a - Demand oriented projects focused on development of municipalities, 4.1c - Regeneration of settlements - projects of development of the municipalities with Roma settlements in the rural environment and 4.2 -

Infrastructure of non-commercial rescue services). The financial implementation of already finished five projects amounted to EUR 53.4 million.

The AIR is reporting following values of indicators in PA4:

- 78 projects focused on regeneration of settlements have been completed.
- 35.5 km of local roads has been reconstructed.
- 22 projects focused on higher quality services of non-commercial rescue services have been completed.
- 14.2% of inhabitants living in higher competitive environment through interventions into regeneration of settlements.

#### *OP BR*

The OP is supporting activities under the Regional competitiveness and employment objective in the Bratislava region. In PA1 – Infrastructure, 20 projects are being implemented and 26 projects have been completed. At the end of 2011, projects in implementation were focused on regeneration of settlements and regional and urban transport. The expenditure of finished projects focused on regeneration of settlement amounted to EUR 9.7 million and the volume of contracted projects reached EUR 19.6 million. In measure 1.2 Regional and urban transport no project have been finished and 6 projects are being implemented.

At the end of 2011, only negligible values of indicators have been reported.

#### **Transport and telecommunications**

The development in this policy area (especially in OP Transport) is since the beginning of the programming period strongly influenced by political cycles<sup>5</sup>, difficulties in public procurement and problems related to Environmental Impact Assessment procedures.

#### *OP Transport*

The OP is providing support in seven PAs in the area of transport infrastructure and has the largest financial allocation (EUR 3,200 million) of all OPs. Funding is provided mainly from the Cohesion Fund (73%). At the end of 2011, the implementation of projects resulted in additional 22.6 km of roads. At the end of 2011, only four projects have been completed and 34 projects are being implemented.

**Table 3 – Regional distribution of new road infrastructure NUTS 2 level at the end of 2011**

Region (NUTS 2)	Length of new roads (km)			Total	Increase in density (km/thousand sq. km)
	Motorways	Expressways	1st class roads		
Bratislava region	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Western Slovakia	9.6	0.0	0.0	9.6	0.6
Central Slovakia	7.5	18.1	0.0	25.6	1.6
Eastern Slovakia	3.3	0.0	4.0	7.3	0.2
Total	20.4	18.1	40	42.5	0.8

*Source: AIR of OP Transport 2011*

<sup>5</sup> See Country report 2011 for further details.

At the end of 2011, 41.2 km of railways have been reconstructed and 42.5 km of new roads built. The objective for the present programming period is to build 169.8 km of new roads, which means that the only 25% of the target value has been achieved. Another 57.2 km of road is being constructed.

#### *ROP*

In PA5 - Regional roads ensuring transport serviceability of the regions 16 projects have been finished and 39 projects are being implemented. The already finished projects contributed to the reconstruction of 34.4 km of second and 179.0 third class roads in the respective regions.

#### *OP BR*

In the measure 1.2 Regional and urban public transport 6 projects are currently being implemented and no projects have been finished.

#### *OPIS*

The support for broadband access in peripheral areas has been cancelled in this programming period.

### **European Territorial Cooperation Objective**

#### *The CBC Programme Slovakia – Czech Republic*

The AIR has not reported significant problems in project implementation (one project has been identified as problematic). The CBC programme is being implemented in the framework of three PAs<sup>6</sup>. The financial implementation of the programme reached 38% (EUR 32.4 million) at the end of 2011.

**Table 4 – Value of selected output and impact indicators by the end of 2010**

	Value
No. of supported projects	105
Length of new or upgraded tourist tracks, cycle tracks and pathways (km)	305.8
No. of partners involved in cross border activities	235
Length of new or upgraded roads (km)	52.8
No. of created and maintained cross border partnership	173

The outcomes of individual OPs are naturally determined by the progress in implementation. Since the financial implementation in some of the OPs is still not satisfactory, the outcomes are varying across all OPs. In general, the OPs which are successful in implementation and reporting outcomes are in line with the objectives set-up in the programmes, however there is still room for improvement. The end of the programming period is approaching very fast and without serious action the objectives will not be achieved in some of the OPs. The already finished projects and projects which are being implemented have significant effects in the respective regions and policy areas (increase of R&D spending on GDP, employment in construction sector,

<sup>6</sup> PA1 – Support of social, cultural and economic development and cooperation in the cross border region (54% of total funding) and PA2 – Development of the cross border region accessibility and environment (40.0% of total funding) and PA3 – Technical assistance.

investments in public infrastructure, energy efficiency etc.) and are helping to overcome the lack of national and private financial resources due to the effects of the crisis.

The quality of the AIRs is slowly improving. Some of the AIRs are providing qualitative information on what has been achieved, but some of them are not, which makes it difficult to make a more thorough assessment of outcomes. As a result of these shortcomings, the AIRs are being adopted by the Commission with substantial delay.

### Tables of main physical indicators and achievements (by the end of 2011)

**Table 5 - Convergence objective**

Policy area	Main indicators	Outcomes and results (physical outcomes plus brief note on what has been achieved)
Enterprise support and RTDI including ICT Increase access to finance by SMEs	Jobs created	757 (OP CaEG)
	Increase of revenue in supported SMEs (%)	20.3
	No. of researchers benefiting from support	5,112
	No. of technologically appreciated R&D institutions	112
	No. of projects connecting R&D and enterprise sector	145
Transport	Length of new roads (km)	20,4 - motorways 18.1 - expressways
	Increase in density (km/thousand sq. km.)	0.8 (ERDF and CF contribution)
	Length of reconstructed second class roads (km)	34.3
	Length of reconstructed third class roads (km)	179.0
Environment and energy	Length of constructed drinking water supply network (without connections) (km)	64.6
	Length of constructed sewer networks (without sewer connections) (km)	370.2
	No. of constructed and reconstructed waste water treatment plants	5.7
	Reduction of emissions caused by contaminants converted to reference tons of SO <sub>2</sub> (in total per individual supported projects) including public transport projects (%)	0.18
	No. of modernised and newly installed monitoring stations of National monitoring air quality network	27
	Increase in renewable energy production in supported projects (MW)	9,315
	No. of constructed, or modernised separated waste collection facilities	58
	Volume of materially recovered waste (tons/year)	744.3
Territorial development (urban areas, tourism, rural development, cultural heritage, health, public security, local development)	Jobs created	340 (OPCaEG)+172 (OP H) + 56 (OP ROP) = 568
	Increase of revenue (%)	15.4
	No. of patients hospitalised in modernised facilities	20,242
	No. of beds operated in the modernised facilities	1,369
	No. of patients provided with healthcare in modernised facilities	36,628
	Total area of reconstructed health facilities (sq. m.)	38,985

Source: Annual Implementation reports 2011, values of already finished projects.

**Table 6 – Regional Competitiveness and Employment objective**

Policy area	Main indicators	Outcomes and results (physical outcomes plus brief note on what has been achieved)
Enterprise support and RTDI including ICT Increase access to finance by SMEs	Jobs created	12
	No. of researchers benefiting from support	2,335
	No. of technologically appreciated R&D institutions	69
	No. of projects connecting R&D and enterprise sector	77
Territorial development (urban areas, tourism, rural development, cultural heritage, health, public security, local development)	No. of regenerated settlements	26

Source: Annual Implementation reports 2011, values of already finished projects.

### 3. EFFECTS OF INTERVENTION

The unavailability of relevant impact evaluations, research papers or similar analytical work together with still low number of finished projects makes it still difficult to present the effects of interventions on the economic, territorial and social cohesion. Nevertheless, the progress in implementation in most of the OPs makes it possible to make at least some general conclusions. The most significant progress has been achieved in the field of enterprise support and RTDI, Territorial development (health infrastructure, public education infrastructure).

#### *Enterprise support including RTDI*

- The support for R&D is providing significant volume of financial resources, which is reflected in the increasing share of R&D expenditure on GDP.
- The investments are helping to upgrade the existing scientific equipment to European standards and launch a number of important research projects<sup>7</sup>.
- The support provided the SMEs with necessary financial resources for introduction of new and innovative technologies into production and created new jobs.

#### *Transport and telecommunications*

- The reconstruction of second and third class road has contributed to better intraregional and interregional mobility and accessibility. Similarly the investments into motorways and expressways have improved the quality and density of existing infrastructure.
- In the area of ICT (eGovernment, broadband support) only little progress has been achieved.

#### *Environment and energy*

- New water treatment plants, sewer networks, drinking water supply lines have been constructed and the energy efficiency of public buildings has been significantly improved.

<sup>7</sup> For example the new supercomputer - Aurel, coronal multichannel polarimeter – astronomical equipment etc.

*Territorial development*

- The investments to public infrastructure are increasing the energy efficiency and reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.
- Investments into ICT is increasing the quality of education and providing students with latest ICT technology.
- The projects financed from OP H are improving the quality and accessibility of healthcare.
- The large number of projects focused on public infrastructure helped to maintain employment in various sectors of the economy.

**4. EVALUATIONS AND GOOD PRACTICE IN EVALUATION**

Main points from previous country report:

- The evaluation culture is slowly developing in Slovakia.
- The evaluation processes are still not integrated into policy making.
- The use of evaluations is limited only to the Cohesion policy.
- The OPs are being evaluated on the basis of existing individual evaluation plans.
- The majority of evaluations are process oriented; only few evaluations which have been carried out are focused on actual achievements.
- The quality, methodological approach, findings and recommendations of the evaluations which have already been carried out differ according to the specific area of intervention of each OP.

**List of evaluations covered by the 2010 and 2011 report****Evaluations listed in the 2010 report**

- Evaluation of the Implementation of OP H.
- Evaluation of Management and Financial Management of MA and IB/MA in OPIS.
- Evaluation of System of Measureable Indicators in the OPIS.
- Regular Evaluation of OP R&D.
- Thematic Evaluation on Absorption Capacity and Possibilities for Update of Project List of OP Transport.
- Regular Evaluation of OP Transport.
- Evaluation Report of OP CaEG.
- Evaluation of Cohesion policy Implementation and its Contribution to the Objectives of Cohesion policy Defined in the Treaty, Community Strategic Guidelines and the NSRF.

**Evaluations listed in the 2011 report**

- Evaluation of the performance of the Intermediary Body under the MA for the OP BR (31.5.2011 – external evaluation).
- Interim evaluation of the OP BR (June 2010-external evaluation).
- Interim evaluation of OP CaEG (February 2010 – external evaluation).
- Evaluation of management and financial management of OPIS from the side of MA and intermediate body under MA (June 2010 – external evaluation).

- Evaluation of measurable indicators of the OPIS (June 2011 – external).
- Ad hoc evaluation of OPIS (March 2010).
- Interim evaluation of ROP (April 2010).
- Analysis of revision of ROP including proposal for concrete solutions for revision and impact of the revision on the strategy of the OP. (October 2010 – external).
- Evaluation of efficiency of MA and IBMA administration including financial management of the OP R&D (January 2011 – external).
- Evaluation of measurable indicators and monitoring system of the OP R&D (February 2011 – external).
- Evaluation of OP H (March 2010 – external).

The majority of evaluations which have been carried out to date are process oriented which leads to the following conclusions:

- The MAs are trying to improve their internal procedures and processes to speed up the implementation of OPs. The evaluations which have been carried out identified large number of existing problems, however the implementation of the recommendations by the MAs seems to be rather slow, due to the existing system of Cohesion policy management in Slovakia.
- The still low rate of financial implementation in some OPs makes it difficult to conduct any evaluations focused on achievements.

The evaluation plans decided by the MAs are often modified and are only indicative. It can be expected that with the progress in the physical and financial implementation the demand for evaluations focused on actual achievements will grow but it is difficult to predict the focus and coverage of planned evaluations (except the Strategic Evaluation of the NSRF 2012 which is currently being elaborated).

To date, given the focus and coverage of evaluations which have been carried out, it is difficult to point out any evaluation exemplifying good practice.

**Table 7 - List of evaluations not covered by the 2010 and 2011 country reports**

Title and date of completion	Policy area and scope (*)	Main objective and focus (*)	Method used (*)	Main findings	Full reference or link to publication
Evaluation related to the simplification of administrative procedures of OPIS (May 2011)	2	1	4	Necessity to implement simplification in administrative procedures related to eligible expenditure. More focus on achievements than excessive control of expenditure. Creation of project pipeline. Elimination of excessive administrative capacities (IBMA under Ministry of Finance).	<a href="http://www.opis.gov.sk/data/files/8134.pdf">http://www.opis.gov.sk/data/files/8134.pdf</a>
Analysis and evaluation eGovernment services for citizens (May 2011)	2	1	4	Specific recommendations for selected life situations related to implementation of electronic services.	<a href="http://www.opis.gov.sk/data/files/8134.pdf">http://www.opis.gov.sk/data/files/8134.pdf</a>
Evaluation of efficiency in the area of information and publicity of the ROP (May 2011)	7	1	4	Relatively good awareness of general population of the OP. Maintain or increase communication for specific projects and intensify the presentation of areas of financial support as well as the results achieved within individual projects. Expand internet communication.	<a href="http://www.ropka.sk/sk/hodnotenie-rop/">http://www.ropka.sk/sk/hodnotenie-rop/</a>
Report on achievements of indicative regional allocations in ROP (June 2011)	7	1	4	Inappropriate initial setting of regional allocations. Different ability and readiness of regions to receive support. External factors (crisis) influenced the investment priorities of municipalities. Increase the number of calls for regions with least performing regions in terms of absorption.	<a href="http://www.ropka.sk/sk/hodnotenie-rop/">http://www.ropka.sk/sk/hodnotenie-rop/</a>
Final report on public awareness of OP H (February 2011)	7	1	4	Significant differences in awareness in group of interviewed in general population and employees in the health sector. Positive awareness of the OP from majority of respondents.	<a href="http://opz.health-sf.sk/?file=73955e625bf2f67323f889276e9c57c1">http://opz.health-sf.sk/?file=73955e625bf2f67323f889276e9c57c1</a>
Evaluation of efficiency in the area of information and publicity of the OP BR (May 2011)	7	1	4	Adjust the present communication mix from mass media to more personalised media (mailing list, conferences, seminars etc.).	<a href="http://www.opbk.sk/download.php?FNAME=1309437028.upl&amp;ANAME=priebezne+hodnotenie+KoP.zip">http://www.opbk.sk/download.php?FNAME=1309437028.upl&amp;ANAME=priebezne+hodnotenie+KoP.zip</a>
Evaluation of objectives and achievements of OP R&D (December 2011)	2	2	4	Specific recommendation for improvement of OP implementation. For example: Set up a simplified implementation system based on the principle of trust, with clearly defined sanctions. Increase the project selection in selected measures and launch calls in selected measures. Simplification of costs reporting. Concentrate support on larger projects etc.	<a href="http://www.minedu.sk/data/USERDATA/StrukturalneFondy/EFRR/DQC/HS-Zhodnotenie_relevantnosti_cielov_OPVaV.pdf">http://www.minedu.sk/data/USERDATA/StrukturalneFondy/EFRR/DQC/HS-Zhodnotenie_relevantnosti_cielov_OPVaV.pdf</a>

Note: (\*) Legend: **Policy area and scope:** 1. RTDI; 2. Enterprise support and ICT; 3. Human Resources (ERDF only); 4. Transport; 5. Environment; 6. Energy; 7. Territorial development (urban areas, tourism, rural development, cultural heritage, health, public security, local development); 8. Capacity and institution building; 9. Multi-area (e.g. evaluations of programmes, mid-term evaluations); 10. Transversal aspects (e.g. gender or equal opportunities, sustainable development, employment); **Main objective and focus:** 1. assess the arrangements and procedures for managing or administering programmes; 2. support monitoring, or check the progress made in implementing programmes, such as many mid-term evaluations; 3. assess the outcome or effects of programmes in terms of the results achieved and their contribution to attaining socio-economic policy objectives. **Method used:** 1. Counterfactual; 2. Cost-benefit analysis; 3. Other quantitative; 4. Qualitative.



## 5. FURTHER REMARKS - NEW CHALLENGES FOR POLICY

Main points from previous country report:

- Cohesion policy programmes in the next programming period should be more concentrated and the number of OPs reduced.
- The system of monitoring indicators should be modified and streamlined in order to provide relevant information on what is being achieved.
- The public procurement on national level needs to be more efficient and transparent in order to speed up the implementation of projects, especially major projects.
- The ITMS information system should be open to public access with the possibility to extract information by FOI codes and other specific criteria from the system for analytical purposes. This could even more increase the transparency and public control over the policy.
- The majority of evaluations are focused on internal administrative, procedural and implementation issues which indicates, that the existing system is still being fine-tuned. The experience from this programming period should be used in the next programming period and fundamental changes need to be introduced in the design of the next programming period.

The challenges for the policy raised in the 2010 and 2011 country reports are still very relevant. The implementation of some OPs is behind the schedule and expectations, with significant impact on the potential effects which could have been achieved. Without swift and decisive action, the objectives of some OPs cannot be achieved at the end of the present programming period. However, the risk of losing the financial resources is increasing the pressure on the government and MAs to introduce changes in the management and implementation. For the remainder of the programming period it is necessary to address all issues mentioned in the 2010 and 2011 country reports. Furthermore, the preparation for the next programming period together with the implementation of actual programming period will increase the pressure on existing administrative capacities, which may negatively affect the remainder of present programming period. Whether the MAs have the capacity to address the above mentioned issues and speed up the implementation remains to be seen.

## REFERENCES

### Evaluations covered by the 2012 country report

Contracting authority	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
Title	Evaluation of efficiency of measures in the area of information and publicity in the first half period of the ROP
Type	External carried out by FEEDBACK, s.r.o.
Carried out	April - May 2011
Method	Poll (random sample of 961 citizens)
Reference	<a href="http://www.ropka.sk/download.php?FNAME=1309780423.upl&amp;NAME=Hodnotenie+ucinnosti+opatreni+v+oblasti+informovania+a+publicity+ROP+v+polovici+PO+2007-2013+-+maj+2011.zip">http://www.ropka.sk/download.php?FNAME=1309780423.upl&amp;NAME=Hodnotenie+ucinnosti+opatreni+v+oblasti+informovania+a+publicity+ROP+v+polovici+PO+2007-2013+-+maj+2011.zip</a>
Contracting authority	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
Title	Report on achievements of indicative regional allocations in ROP
Type	Internal carried out by Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
Carried out	
Method	Comparative analysis
Reference	<a href="http://www.ropka.sk/download.php?FNAME=1314191125.upl&amp;NAME=Sprava_o_reg_alok_FINAL.pdf">http://www.ropka.sk/download.php?FNAME=1314191125.upl&amp;NAME=Sprava_o_reg_alok_FINAL.pdf</a>
Contracting authority	Ministry of Health
Title	Poll on awareness of OP H
Type	external carried out by Agentúra pre výskum verejnej mienky, Lamač
Carried out	February 2011
Method	Poll (sample 1000 citizens)
Reference	<a href="http://opz.health-sf.sk/?file=73955e625bf2f67323f889276e9c57c1">http://opz.health-sf.sk/?file=73955e625bf2f67323f889276e9c57c1</a>
Contracting authority	Ministry of Finance
Title	Evaluation related to the simplification of administrative procedures of OPIS
Type	Ad hoc evaluation
Carried out	April - May 2011
Method	
Reference	<a href="http://www.opis.gov.sk/data/files/8134.pdf">http://www.opis.gov.sk/data/files/8134.pdf</a>
Contracting authority	Ministry of Finance

Title	Analysis and evaluation of priority life situations for projects of PA1 Electronisation of public administration and development of electronic services
Type	external carried out by Jenewein Slovakia, s.r.o. and EUROFORMES, a.s.
Carried out	May 2011
Method	Target groups
Reference	<a href="http://www.opis.gov.sk/data/files/8134.pdf">http://www.opis.gov.sk/data/files/8134.pdf</a>
Contracting authority	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
Title	Evaluation of efficiency in the area of information and publicity of the OP BR
Type	external carried out by FEEDBACK, s.r.o.
Carried out	April - May 2011
Method	Poll
Reference	<a href="http://www.opbk.sk/download.php?FNAME=1309437028.upl&amp;ANAME=priebezne+hodnotenie+KoP.zip">http://www.opbk.sk/download.php?FNAME=1309437028.upl&amp;ANAME=priebezne+hodnotenie+KoP.zip</a>
Contracting authority	Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport
Title	Evaluation of objectives and achievements of OP R&D
Type	Strategic, external carried out by Slovenská organizácia pre výskumné a vývojové aktivity, o.z.
Carried out	December 2011
Method	Evaluation question, surveys
Reference	<a href="http://www.minedu.sk/data/USERDATA/StrukturalneFondy/EFRR/DOC/HS-Zhodnotenie_relevantnosti_cielov_OPVaV.pdf">http://www.minedu.sk/data/USERDATA/StrukturalneFondy/EFRR/DOC/HS-Zhodnotenie_relevantnosti_cielov_OPVaV.pdf</a>

### Other references

1. Výročná správa o implementácii Programu cezhraničnej spolupráce Slovenská republika – Česká republika 2007 – 2013 za rok 2011, Ministerstvo pôdohospodárstva a rozvoja vidieka
2. Výročná správa o vykonávaní Operačného programu Zdravotníctvo za rok 2011, Ministerstvo zdravotníctva SR
3. Výročná správa o vykonávaní Operačného programu Veda a Výskum za rok 2011, Ministerstvo školstva, vedy, výskumu a športu SR
4. Výročná správa o vykonávaní Regionálneho operačného programu za rok 2011, Ministerstvo pôdohospodárstva a rozvoja vidieka
5. Výročná správa o vykonávaní Operačného programu Doprava za rok 2011, Ministerstvo dopravy, výstavby a regionálneho rozvoja
6. Výročná správa o vykonávaní Konkurencieschopnosť a hospodársky rast za rok 2011, Ministerstvo hospodárstva SR
7. Výročná Správa o vykonávaní Operačného programu Informatizácia spoločnosti za rok 2011, Úrad vlády Slovenskej republiky

8. Výročná správa o vykonávaní Operačného programu Bratislavský kraj za rok 2011, Ministerstvo pôdohospodárstva a rozvoja vidieka
9. Výročná správa o vykonávaní Operačného programu Životné prostredie za rok 2011, Ministerstvo životného prostredia

## INTERVIEWS

Ministry of Transport, Construction and Regional Development – Anna Hrončáková – Head of Evaluation Unit

Ministry of Economy – Juraj Hrdlovič, Head of Monitoring, Evaluation, Publicity and Programming Unit

Ministry of Health – Edmund Škorvaga, Head of EU Programmes Department

## ANNEX 1 – TABLES

See Excel Tables 1 -4:

Excel Table 1 – Regional disparities and trends

Excel Table 2 – Macro-economic developments

Excel Table 3 - Financial allocation by main policy area

Excel Table 3cbc - Financial allocation by main policy area – cross border cooperation

Excel Table 4 - Commitments by main policy area (by end-2011)

Excel Table 4cbc - Commitments by main policy area (by end-2011) – cross border cooperation

### Annex Table A - Broad policy areas and correspondence with fields of intervention (FOI)

Policy area		Code	Priority themes
1. Enterprise environment	RTDI and linked activities	01	R&TD activities in research centres
		02	R&TD infrastructure and centres of competence in a specific technology
		05	Advanced support services for firms and groups of firms
		07	Investment in firms directly linked to research and innovation (...)
		74	Developing human potential in the field of research and innovation, in particular through post-graduate studies ...
	Innovation support for SMEs	03	Technology transfer and improvement of cooperation networks ...
		04	Assistance to R&TD, particularly in SMEs (including access to R&TD services in research centres)
		06	Assistance to SMEs for the promotion of environmentally-friendly products and production processes (...)
		09	Other measures to stimulate research and innovation and entrepreneurship in SMEs
		14	Services and applications for SMEs (e-commerce, education and training, networking, etc.)
		15	Other measures for improving access to and efficient use of ICT by SMEs

Policy area		Code	Priority themes
	ICT and related services	11	Information and communication technologies (...)
		12	Information and communication technologies (TEN-ICT)
		13	Services and applications for citizens (e-health, e-government, e-learning, e-inclusion, etc.)
	Other investment in firms	08	Other investment in firms
2. Human resources	Education and training	62	Development of life-long learning systems and strategies in firms; training and services for employees ...
		63	Design and dissemination of innovative and more productive ways of organising work
		64	Development of special services for employment, training and support in connection with restructuring of sectors ...
		72	Design, introduction and implementing of reforms in education and training systems ...
		73	Measures to increase participation in education and training throughout the life-cycle ...
	Labour market policies	65	Modernisation and strengthening labour market institutions
		66	Implementing active and preventive measures on the labour market
		67	Measures encouraging active ageing and prolonging working lives
		68	Support for self-employment and business start-up
		69	Measures to improve access to employment and increase sustainable participation and progress of women ...
		70	Specific action to increase migrants' participation in employment ...
		71	Pathways to integration and re-entry into employment for disadvantaged people ...
80	Promoting the partnerships, pacts and initiatives through the networking of relevant stakeholders		
3. Transport	Rail	16	Railways
		17	Railways (TEN-T)
		18	Mobile rail assets
		19	Mobile rail assets (TEN-T)
	Road	20	Motorways
		21	Motorways (TEN-T)
		22	National roads
		23	Regional/local roads
	Other transport	24	Cycle tracks
		25	Urban transport
		26	Multimodal transport
		27	Multimodal transport (TEN-T)
		28	Intelligent transport systems
		29	Airports
30		Ports	
31		Inland waterways (regional and local)	
32	Inland waterways (TEN-T)		
4. Environment and energy	Energy infrastructure	33	Electricity

Policy area		Code	Priority themes
		34	Electricity (TEN-E)
		35	Natural gas
		36	Natural gas (TEN-E)
		37	Petroleum products
		38	Petroleum products (TEN-E)
		39	Renewable energy: wind
		40	Renewable energy: solar
		41	Renewable energy: biomass
		42	Renewable energy: hydroelectric, geothermal and other
		43	Energy efficiency, co-generation, energy management
	Environment and risk prevention	44	Management of household and industrial waste
		45	Management and distribution of water (drink water)
		46	Water treatment (waste water)
		47	Air quality
		48	Integrated prevention and pollution control
		49	Mitigation and adaption to climate change
		50	Rehabilitation of industrial sites and contaminated land
		51	Promotion of biodiversity and nature protection (including Natura 2000)
		52	Promotion of clean urban transport
5. Territorial development	Social Infrastructure	10	Telephone infrastructure (including broadband networks)
		75	Education infrastructure
		76	Health infrastructure
		77	Childcare infrastructure
		78	Housing infrastructure
		79	Other social infrastructure
	Tourism and culture	55	Promotion of natural assets
		56	Protection and development of natural heritage
		57	Other assistance to improve tourist services
		58	Protection and preservation of the cultural heritage
		59	Development of cultural infrastructure
		60	Other assistance to improve cultural services
	Planning and rehabilitation	61	Integrated projects for urban and rural regeneration
	Other	82	Compensation of any additional costs due to accessibility deficit and territorial fragmentation
		83	Specific action addressed to compensate additional costs due to size market factors
	6. Technical assistance	84	Support to compensate additional costs due to climate conditions and relief difficulties
		81	Mechanisms for improving good policy and programme design, monitoring and evaluation ...
		85	Preparation, implementation, monitoring and inspection
		86	Evaluation and studies; information and communication