

Slovak Trust Fund 2008–2010: Promotion of the Slovak Transitional Experience and Human Capital in ODA

Expected Outcome: Enhanced development cooperation between Slovakia and its target countries with a special focus on sharing the Slovak transitional experience, promotion of the ODA cadre and strengthening of the ODA system in the international context

Expected Outputs:

1. Increased involvement of Slovak professionals and experts in UNDP regional and country programme activities
2. Slovak transitional experience and best practices shared across the region
3. Cooperation with the Slovak NGOs in volunteers' programme

Executing Entity: UNDP Bratislava Regional Centre

Brief Description

This project is designed as a follow up phase of the successful development cooperation partnership between Slovakia as a new donor and UNDP, namely the Bratislava Regional Centre and its regional programme component Emerging Donors Initiative. It will further enhance development cooperation between Slovakia and its target recipient countries. It will involve Slovak experts and specialists in a demand driven, programmatically sound activities in order to share the Slovak transition experience and best practices. It will engage several ODA professionals in a long term, well defined assignments at UNDP Offices in three continents with the aim to gain international development cooperation experience and to strengthen the Slovak ODA system in terms of programming and monitoring capacities. It will also provide opportunity space for the Slovak NGOs and other legal entities to share their knowledge through study tours, trainings and to get more involved in formulation of strategic programmatic elements of the Slovak ODA such as the system of sending out the volunteers to the recipient countries.

Programme Period: RPD 2006-2010
Programme Component: Emerging Donors Initiative
Project Title: Slovak Trust Fund 2008–2010:
Promotion of the Slovak Transitional
Experience and Human Capital in
ODA
Atlas Award ID: _____
Start date: July 2008
End Date: September 2010

Total resources required: 1,100,000USD
Total allocated resources: 1,100,000USD
• Regular -
• Other:
○ Donor
○ Government 1,100,000USD
Unfunded budget: -
In-kind Contributions: -

Agreed by Government:

Ms. Mária Krasnohorská, Director General, Division for IO and DC, MFA, April 8, 2008

Agreed by UNDP:

Mr. Ben Slay, Director, BRC, April 8, 2008

N. Alharishul

Section I —Narrative

Part I. Background

UNDP's Work with New Donors

UNDP cooperates extensively with the new member states of EU (e.g. Hungary, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Romania, Slovenia) and with some other emerging donors in the region such as Croatia to build their capacity in managing ODA funds. One of the values added by this cooperation is the development knowledge of UNDP and its extensive network of country offices. These two factors enables UNDP to offer a range of options - provision of technical expertise and policy advice; placing young professionals from NMS in UNDP offices in priority countries to gain development experience; first-hand network of development players in the field. In addition, UNDP provides mechanisms for increased coordination of the ODA flows with those from other countries through UN coordination mechanisms.

Slovak ODA Policy

In recent years the international and economic status of Slovakia has changed significantly thanks to joining the Euro-Atlantic structures, other international organisations and as consequence of intensive political and economic reforms. Slovakia has become an active donor signing up for the UN Millennium Development Goals and playing active role in settling global issues.

The act No. 617 stipulates the following goals of the Slovak ODA:

- Reducing poverty and hunger in developing countries
- Promoting sustainable economic, social and environmental development in developing countries
- Ensuring global peace and security, particularly by enhancing democracy, the rule of law, human rights and good governance in developing countries
- Improving the quality of basic healthcare services in developing countries
- Promoting economic cooperation with developing countries

In order to increase effectiveness, visibility and impact of the ODA activities, Slovakia is predominantly focusing on the following priority countries: Serbia, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kenya, Kazakhstan, Afghanistan, Ukraine and Belarus. Special thematic priorities are being specified for these countries. Other priority countries for the Slovak ODA include also Albania, Kyrgyzstan, Macedonia, Mongolia, Mozambique, Sudan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

The Slovak ODA budget has increased from 0,048% of GNI in 2003 to 0,103% GNI in 2006 (it is 1638 million SKK in absolute terms). The political commitment of the Slovak Republic as an EU member state is to strive to achieve 0,17% ODA/GNI ratio by 2010 and 0,33% by 2015.

Institutionalisation of the Slovak ODA system

The need to streamline the Slovak ODA system financially, functionally and politically resulted in the establishment of the national ODA agency. By Resolution No. 806/2006 of 28 September 2006, the Government of the Slovak Republic endorsed the proposal of the

Ministry of Foreign Affairs to institutionalise the Slovak ODA system by establishing the Slovak Agency for International Development Co-operation effective from 1 January 2007 as a budgetary organisation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Development Cooperation Partnership between Slovakia and UNDP

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic (MFA) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) established the Slovak-UNDP Trust Fund (TF) in September 2003 as one component of the Slovak National Official Development Assistance Programme (ODA). The establishment of the Trust Fund reflected the aim of the Slovak government to quickly start to deliver its ODA programme in the most effective and transparent way by sharing the Slovak transition experience with developing countries, providing the Slovak best practices in multiple areas.

At the same time, there was a need to gradually develop national institutional capacities for the provision of ODA. The Administrative and Contractual Unit (ACU) was established in November 2003 by UNDP within the TF framework in order to implement the ODA projects in close cooperation with both the MFA and UNDP Regional Center and to manage the project cycle of the Slovak ODA projects.

UNDP developed on the MFA's behalf the templates necessary for the implementation of the Slovak ODA programme. Several project cycle management trainings had been provided for the newly recruited ACU staff. ACU then trained the Slovak NGOs and companies wishing to implement the Slovak ODA projects. High standards of reporting, monitoring, management and auditing procedures have been thus introduced and incorporated into the Slovak ODA process, including the Bratislava – Beograd Fund that utilized the same patterns introduced by the TF.

The Slovak MFA kept the strategic decision making role by providing general policy directions through the annual national development plans. The MFA was chaired the TF Steering Committee meetings while keeping the majority of votes. The Trust Fund Steering Committee was approving each and every Slovak ODA project and activity to be undertaken within the TF framework.

The major results can be summed up as follows:

- The effective and transparent system of ODA delivery has been made operational
- The MFA kept the strategic decision making role inside the TF and at the same preserved its pivotal role in ODA management among the government bodies keeping thus the ODA programme an integral part of the Slovak foreign policy
- The TF set up and transparent procedures enabled participation of other donors and their co-funding of the Slovak ODA projects (CIDA, ADA and the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe, in total close to 1,5 million USD)
- Creation of a pool of well-trained ODA cadre

The Trust Fund had been compensating for the lack of the national bilateral ODA delivery mechanism till early 2007. It had not been used to its full potential as previously envisaged, especially in terms of more demand driven focus of activities, making wider use of Slovak experts and longer term internships and secondments.

Part II. Strategy

The overall aim of the project is to strengthen the Slovak ODA system by enabling the Slovak ODA professionals to gain international development cooperation experience and to enhance programming and monitoring capacities of the Slovak ODA, including cooperation with other donors. UNDP will provide a practical learning opportunity by seconding the Slovak experts and young professionals on a mid-term or long-term basis to those UNDP Country Offices that would be of special interest to the Slovak government. In some cases, such type of arrangement could effectively compensate for the lack of the Slovak embassies in several priority countries.

While phasing out ACU's original role in project cycle management, the new type of ODA activities will be initiated and implemented within the Slovak TF framework. They will be fully complementary to the bilateral projects managed by the Slovak ODA Agency while enhancing the profile of the Slovak ODA and competitiveness of the Slovak experts, NGOs and companies in the international development cooperation arena.

The new activities will be selected on a demand driven basis from the Slovak priority countries in RBEC region and in close cooperation with UNDP Country Offices and regional programmes. The goal will be to expose the Slovak experts, NGOs and companies to the international development community and practices and to enable their participation in larger, coordinated and programmatically sound projects that are well anchored in the national development strategies of the partner countries. Similar type of cooperation has been successfully going on with other emerging donors such as Czech Republic (e.g. tailor made study tours to the Czech Republic based on the actual demand from the partner countries, long term secondments of MFA staff to UNDP offices) and Hungary (e.g. joint programming in several sensitive Balkan regions).

Such an approach will be fully in line with the Paris Declaration and donor coordination agenda as well as with MDG 8 focused on building partnerships for increased development cooperation. This type of cooperation will be of a mutual benefit for the Slovak development constituency as well as for the effective and coordinated assistance to the partner countries.

These activities would be rather "softer", smaller scale and often policy oriented interventions that would aim at utilizing the best available expertise and knowledge that Slovakia gained during the process of building new state administration, economic and political transition and EU accession.

Concrete forms of such activities could be e.g. workshops, consultancy missions, feasibility studies, assistance in project formulation, evaluation studies, programming missions, study tours, partial participation at larger projects of other donors etc.

The use of funds will be guided by the framework of sustainable human development incorporating the development priorities of the Slovak Republic as defined in its Development Cooperation Strategy as well as UNDP regional and country level programming.

Project outputs and main activities

Project outputs and activities have been defined in discussion with the Slovak Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Their achievement will require close cooperation and coordination between the Bratislava Regional Centre, UNDP Country Offices and main stakeholders in Slovakia. The outputs and indicative activities are briefly defined below and then in more detail in the Results and Resources Framework (Section II).

Output 1: Increased involvement of Slovak professionals and experts in UNDP regional and country programme activities

The main activities to achieve this output will be:

A) Identification and contracting of the Slovak experts for short term assignments in UNDP programmes and projects in the Slovak ODA target countries within the RBEC region (Serbia, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kazakhstan, Ukraine, Belarus and also in Albania, Kyrgyzstan, Macedonia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan).

B) Arranging three long term secondments of Slovak ODA professionals to UNDP Country Offices preferably in Moldova, Ethiopia and Cambodia (at least for one year, specific TOR to be approved both by the Slovak MFA and the hosting office,);

C) Creation of a database of Slovak experts for ODA;

Output 2: Slovak transitional experience and best practices shared across the region

The output will be achieved through tailor-made trainings and study-tour programs to Slovakia based both on explicit requests from the UNDP Country Offices as well as on the on-going UNDP programmes. The territorial focus will be the same as in the case of the first output.

Output 3: Increased role of the Slovak NGDOs in ODA programming

The Slovak Platform of non-governmental development organizations (NGDOs) will assume the major role in elaboration of the system for sending out the Slovak volunteers to the recipient countries. This process will include consultations with the government and the ODA agency. Once approved by the Slovak Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the first pilot scheme will be tested and funded by this project. UNDP will facilitate contacts and consultations with UNV Regional Office in Bonn.

Part III. Management Arrangements

The project will be managed by UNDP Bratislava Regional Center (BRC) in close cooperation with the Slovak Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Slovak Agency for International Development Co-operation and with UNDP Country Offices in the target countries. Small project team consisting of two persons will be set up to implement the project activities (project manager and financial/administrative assistant).

A ***Project Board*** (Steering Committee) will be established to take responsibility for making strategic and management decisions and providing directions for the project when guidance

is required by the Project manager, including approval of project revisions. The Project Board will be comprised of the representatives of the Slovak MFA, Slovak Agency for international Development Cooperation, Slovak NGDO platform, Deputy Director of the BRC and Emerging Donors Policy Specialist. It will be chaired by the Director of the Development Cooperation Department of the Slovak MFA.

The Board's key roles will be as follows:

- (a) Executive role will be performed by the Deputy Director of BRC.
- (b) Senior Supplier role will be held by the Emerging Donors Advisor; and
- (c) Senior Beneficiary role will be held by the Slovak board members

In addition and independently from the Project Board's roles, two other roles will be important for the smooth project implementation:

- (a) The **Project Assurance role** will support the Project Board by carrying out objective and independent project oversight and monitoring functions. During the Running a Project process, this role will ensure that the appropriate project management milestones are managed and completed. The Bratislava Centre will designate a person to provide this oversight as part of the corporate obligation.
- (b) The **Project Support role** will be performed by the Centre's Management Support Unit (MSU) to provide project administration and management support to the Project Manager.

Following the first phase of the Slovak TF, the project will be implemented as an integral part of the regional programme - Emerging Donors Initiative - under the Direct Execution (DEX) modality, fully in accordance with the applicable UNDP rules and regulations.

Part IV. Legal Context

This project document shall be the instrument referred to as such in Article I of the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement (SBAA) between the Governments participating and the United Nations Development Programme.

The following types of revisions may be made to this project document with the signature of the UNDP Regional Support Center Director only, provided that he or she is assured that the other signatories of the project document have no objections to the proposed changes:

- a) Revisions in, or additions of, any of the annexes of the project document
- b) Revisions which do not involve significant changes in the immediate objectives, outputs or activities of the project, but are caused by the rearrangements of inputs already agreed to or by cost increases due to inflation.
- c) Mandatory annual revisions, which re-phase the delivery of agreed project inputs, or reflect increased expert or other costs due to inflation, or take into account agency expenditure flexibility.

Results and Resources Framework

Partnership Strategy: The project is implemented in partnership with the Slovak Ministry of Foreign Affairs as well as UNDP COs in the RBEC region.			
Project title and ID: Promotion of the Slovak Transitional Experience and Human Capital in ODA			
Intended Outputs	Indicative Activities	Responsible parties	Inputs
1. Increased involvement of Slovak professionals and experts in UNDP regional and country programme activities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identifying, selecting and contracting the Slovak experts for UNDP regional and country programmes 2. Three long term secondments of Slovak professionals to UNDP offices in Moldova, Ethiopia and Cambodia 3. Creation of a roster of Slovak experts with proven UNDP experience and of a database of potential Slovak ODA consultants 	UNDP Country Offices, Bratislava Regional Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - intra-UNDP consultations - recruitment process -salaries -staff time - travel - national consultants - communications
2. Slovak transitional experience and best practices shared across the region	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identification of the training needs and demands in the recipient countries 2. Identification of the best practices, institutions and trainers in Slovakia for the provision of the training services 3. Organization of workshops, trainings and study tours in Slovakia for participants from recipient countries 	Bratislava Regional Center, UNDP Country Offices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - workshops - trainings - resource persons - staff time - communications - travel
3. Cooperation with the Slovak NGOs in volunteers' programme	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Formulation of the Slovak volunteer sending strategy 2. Discussions with main stakeholders 3. Pilot scheme testing 	Bratislava Regional Center, UNDP Country Offices, Slovak NGDO platform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - national consultants - staff time - travel - international consultants (UNV)

Project timetable July 2008 – September 2010

	Activity	Quarter											
		III.Q 2008	IV.Q 2008	I.Q 2009	II.Q 2009	III.Q 2009	IV.Q 2009	I.Q 2010	II.Q 2010	III.Q 2010			
1	Increased involvement of Slovak experts												
1.1	Short terms experts	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
1.2	Long terms secondments	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
1.3	Database of consultants/expert roster	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
2	Sharing transitional experience												
2.1	Identification of training needs	X	X					X					
2.2	Identification of the Slovak best practices and training institutions	X	X	X									
2.3	Workshops, study tours, trainings			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
3	Cooperation with the Slovak NGOs in volunteers' programme												
3.1	Discussion of the inputs for the volunteer sending strategy formulation and experience sharing with other donors	X											
3.2	Volunteer sending strategy formulation		X	X	X								
3.3	Pilot scheme testing					X				X	X	X	X

Initial Budget 2008-2010 in USD

	2008	2009	2010
Output 1: Increased involvement of Slovak experts			
Activity 1.1: Short terms experts	51,500	120,500	80,000
Activity 1.2: Long terms secondments – 3 professionals	100,000	200,000	47,000
Activity 1.3: Database of consultants/expert roster	500	500	0
		Sub-total	600,000
Output 2: Sharing transitional experience			
Activity 2.1: Identification of training needs	0	0	0
Activity 2.2: Identification of the Slovak best practices and training institutions	3,000	0	0
Activity 2.3: Workshops, study tours, trainings	97,000	100,000	100,000
		Sub-total	300,000
Output 3: Increased role of the Slovak NGDOs			
Activity 3.1: Discussion of the inputs for the volunteer sending strategy formulation and experience sharing with other donors	4,000	0	0
Activity 3.2: Volunteer sending strategy formulation	1,000	4,000	0
Activity 3.3: Pilot scheme testing – 3 volunteers	0	125,000	66,000
		Subtotal	200,000
Total per year	257,000	550,000	293,000
		GRAND TOTAL	1,100,000