

ENVIROMAGAZÍN

Summary 2/2004

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Meeting of the Ministers of Environment of OECD countries

Juraj Vall, SEA Banská Bystrica

The information about the April meeting of the Ministers of Environment of OECD countries. The Ministers adopted the declaration at this meeting according to which to achieve sustainable development is a key task for OECD countries. The meeting became a new impulse for the implementation of environmental policies of OECD member countries and other countries of the world within the international cooperation in this field.

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EU integration process of Slovakia in environmental field has been completed

Tamás Dórnény, MoE SR

Meeting of conditions in environmental field, i.e. conclusion of the Chapter 22 – Environment was the most complicated process the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic had to go through in relation with the integration to EU. By the conclusion of this chapter one stage of negotiations has ended and the second one – monitoring of the preparedness for entry in EU – has started. Slovakia is

EU member since 1 May 2004. In order to achieve the level of the more developed countries, we have still a long way ahead, however basic conditions in environmental field have been created..
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Environmental sector contributed to the better position of Slovakia in enlarged Europe
Katarína Nováková, MoE

The General Director of the Foreign Aid and EU Affairs Section of MoE SR writes here about the drawing the funds in the conditions of MoE SR. She informs about the Regulation for providing financial means from Structural Funds in environmental field developed by MoE SR in February 2004. The Regulation defines the binding procedure for submitting the application for the provision of non-repayable financial resources.
(page 4-5)

We took advantage of ISPA programme
Jana Tomková, MoE SR

The start of ISPA programming and implementation in the Slovak Republic was not easy. The country was the only not able to take up the available commitments in ISPA programme in the year 2000 in full and also implementation in the environment sector was marked by a lack of progress until 2002. Thanks to a steady increase in performance in 2001, the country was able to present five quality projects in 2002 and to recover the commitments lost two years earlier. The lesson taken in framework of screening of all so far submitted projects issued into signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the European Commission and the Slovak Republic in summer 2002 and brought the ISPA projects in line with the national reform of the water management sector. This step had a decisive impact on the performance in ISPA and created a solid base for launching Cohesion and Structural Funds programming in 2004.

By the end of 2003 the country managed to allocate even more than its average share of commitments (as foreseen in the financial perspective 2000 – 2006) and thus ended the period as one of the best ISPA countries. Also the administrative capacity of the Implementing Agency for Environmental Investment Projects has clearly improved and works have now started in all 2000 and 2001 projects, whereas almost all 2002 projects have been tendered. Measures focused on administrative capacities building within the Ministry and at the Final Beneficiaries' side are briefly clarified in the article. Attached maps show the ISPA's impact on connection rates to public water supply and collection systems after implementation of all ISPA water management projects.
(page 6 – 7)

Pre-accession assistance of EU to the environment of Slovakia
Juraj Gavora et all., SEA Bratislava

PHARE programme is the main instrument within the pre-accession assistance of EU through which the European Union carries out financial and technical cooperation with CEE countries. Before the end of 2003, 6 PHARE twinning projects have been successfully implemented, within which 4.5 mil. EUR were drawn from PHARE fund. At present, implementation of other 11 twinning projects takes place. From this year on, PHARE programme will be substituted by the transition financial instrument of the European Union, so called Transition Facility. The objective of the programme is to provide assistance to new EU member countries. LIFE is a significant Community programme, which has been implemented in EU since 1992.
(page 8-9)

Structural Funds and Cohesion Fund in environmental field

Roderik Klinda, Alexandra Kušnírová, Milena Gabalcová, MoE SR

The main EU objective in environmental field is the improvement of environmental infrastructure and elimination of shortages mainly in the field of quality of water, air and soil. Structural funds (SF) and Cohesion Fund (CF) will help to achieve standards in the field of environment set in relevant Directives of the Community, mainly as far as water, air, waste management and nature protection are concerned.

Ministry of Environment of SR, Foreign Aid and EU Affairs Section is responsible for the management of the Priority 2- Environmental Infrastructure of the Operational Programme Basic Infrastructure and of the Cohesion Fund in the field of environmental protection. Within this responsibility it provides for the preparation of programme documents, collection and evaluation of applications for financial contributions from Structural Funds, monitoring and evaluation of assistance, information activities and coordination of projects preparation. It cooperates with potential beneficiaries on preparation of applications for Structural Funds and, last but not least, answers for the implementation of approved projects in the field of Structural Funds and Cohesion Fund.
(page 10 – 11 and 13)

In the field of environmental management and policy Slovakia is at forefront of new EU member countries

Alena Kostúriková, SEA Banská Bystrica

An interview with the Director of the Department of EU Affairs at MoE SR Mr. Kamil Viliňovič on the topic: What is in front of Slovakia in the field of environment after its entry in EU. He states that in comparison with other accession countries Slovakia finds itself at the middle position. The evaluation of the chapter Environment is positive and it reflects the real situation.

Participation of Slovakia in the initiative of the European Community INTERREG III B

Miroslava Hrušková, Zuzana Butášová, MoE SR

INTERREG IIIB is an initiative of the Community, which is financed from ERDF. It serves for the strengthening of transnational cooperation in the field of spatial development. According to the geographical area it is divided into several programmes and the Slovak Republic is involved in the Community's Initiative INTERREG IIIB – CADSES (CIP – CADSES) focused on transnational cooperation in Central European, Adriatic, Danubian, South-East European Space – CADSES. Basic programming documents include: Programme of the Community's Initiative INTERREG III B (CADSES) (2000-2006) and Programme Complement INTERREG III B CADSES. The programme focuses mainly on the support of transnational projects in the field of sustainable spatial development, transport systems and on the support of projects in the field of environment, e.g. management of sources, natural and cultural heritage protection and environmental risks prevention. Entitled applicants / project partners include selected public and private institutions. 6.2 mil. EUR are earmarked for Slovakia within INTERREG IIIB CADSES. Calls for the submission of project applications are publicized at least once a year. Ministry of Environment of SR is responsible for the management of INTERREG IIIB CADSES programme in Slovakia.
(page 13 and 34)

A few words about the history of the integration in European space and environmental policy development

Zuzana Lieskovská, SEA Banská Bystrica

Environmental policy development in European Community can be seen in three time horizons: from 1987 – before the adoption of the Single European Act, from 1993 – till the Maastricht Convention came into force and after 1993 – the period of the Maastricht Convention efficiency. The author of the article informs also about the documents for environmental policy of European Community from the first up to the sixth Environmental Action Programme – Environment 2010: Our Future, Our Choice

(2001 – 2010), which was adopted by the decision of the European Parliament and Council in July 2002. The Programme defines four priorities – Climate changes, Nature and biodiversity, Environment, Health and life quality, Natural sources and wastes.
(page 14-15)

Slovak Republic – the active member of the European Environment Agency
Vladimír Benko, Zuzana Lieskovská, Slávka Štroffeková, SEA Banská Bystrica

Slovakia became the member of EEA on 1 August 2001 when the Agreement between the European Communities and SR about the membership of the SR in EEA and European Information and Observation Network (EIONET) came into force. Main EEA's activities include the development of specialised reports, which evaluate individual environmental components, relation between individual components and the impact of human activities on environment and human health. The significance of SR membership in EEA lies in the direct access to comparable information about the state of environment in Europe and to new development trends and information in relation to the 6th Environmental Action Programme.
(page 16-17)

10th ENVIROFILM launched a new era – the first year in the European Union
Anna Gudzová, Alena Kostúriková, SEA Banská Bystrica

The article documents the course and contribution (in the Attachment also results) of the jubilee 10th International Festival ENVIROFILM. This year at the festival, rich in accompanying events, 108 films by authors from 20 countries all over the world competed.
(page 18-20)

Anthony D. Thomas: When I have grandchildren I will definitely bring them to this wonderful place

Article about the SEA's Environmental Education Centre Drieňok – Teplý Vrch that was awarded the Eco-centre statute in March 2004.
(page 21)

Young people about environment
Anton Hykish, Bratislava

The jury chairman of the literary competition The Earth for Everybody, which was held during ENVIROFILM 2004, meditates about this year's competition. According to him, price winning works prove that first successes were achieved in environmental education in Slovakia. (All price winning works are published in the Attachment).
(page 22-23)

Environmental protection and improvement in the SR from the point of view of the country's entry in the European Union
Zita Izakovičová, Slovak Academy of Sciences Bratislava

Basic positive trends, which with regard to Slovakia's entry in EU represent strengths in the field of environmental protection, include an efficient system of legislative protection compatible with EU legislation, a rich tradition of landscape-ecological research, international cooperation, manifold programmes and instruments for landscape protection, gradual drop of landscape degradation, significant activation of NGOs and public in the field of environmental protection and improvement, information system building and progressive approach to environmental protection.
(page 24-26)

Inspiration in the form of INSPIRE

Martin Tuchyňa, SEA Banská Bystrica

Slovakia, as the new member of the European Union, has the possibility of participating in common projects and initiatives which make the work with spatial information more effective. Also INSPIRE initiative offers such participation. Its objective is to speed up the creation of the European Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI). SDI provides services that enable users to identify and obtain spatial or geographic services from various sources.

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Historical bases of environmental policy and environmental legislation (I)

Jozef Klinda, MoE

Creation of relations towards environment and regulation of activities condition, in principle, the existence of mankind as an organism and the origination and development of culture in the widest sense.

(page 28-29)

Landscape profile – the most comprehensive reflection of the Agenda 21 implementation

František Koločány, MoE SR

Agenda 21, adopted at the UN Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, underlined the significant role of countries in Agenda 21 implementation on the national level. In 1993, governments started to prepare national reports for CSD. In Slovakia these reports have been prepared since 1997. At present, the Country Report for 2003 has been under preparation. Evaluations of all chapters of Agenda 21 are being updated. Chapter 3, for example, deals with the fight against poverty that is one of the biggest environmental problems because it leads to the devastation of natural sources and uncare for environment.

(page 30-31)

Selected hazardous substances according to SEVESO II how dangerous they are?

Katarína Palúchová, SEA Banská Bystrica

Today we cannot imagine our life without chemical substances. However, their production, storage, transport, use and disposal represent a potential risk, which, if not prevented, can mean serious threat not only to environment and property but mainly to human health. The article is mapping negative experience that evoked an increased attention of responsible bodies and informs about documents for the prevention and protection of population's health, environment and property.

Benzidine

General information on benzidine, its impact on environment, experimental animals, benzidine in relation to health, as well about the situation in Slovakia – no limit value has been set for ambient environment and no measurements of its concentration are being carried out.

GMES – a challenge for Europe

Juraj Vall, SEA Banská Bystrica

The European Commission has approved on 3 February 2004 the Action Plan for GMES programme (Global Monitoring for Environment and Safety): Creation of capacities for GMES activities in 2008 – Action Plan (2004-2008). The Action Plan defines the procedure for the system implementation, which will ensure the use, coordination and enhancement of current systems of Earth's monitoring and use of information from satellites and monitoring stations on the Earth. The objective of the Action Plan is to improve the decision making process for the benefit of environmental protection and to ensure the safety of population.

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World Heritage

Uzbekistan – historical centre of Bukhara, Libya – archaeological site Cyrene, Brazil – Brasilia, India
– Taj Mahal
(page 35)

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Note: On request we can translate the whole article into English.