

# ENVIROMAGAZÍN

2<sup>nd</sup> Special edition / 2003

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## *Curriculum vitae of the Slovak Environmental Agency*

The short factography of the Slovak Environmental Agency (SEA), the scientific organisation of the Ministry of Environment (MoE SR), brings basic milestones of its ten year development since the decision adopted by the Minister of Environment (17 May 1993), through its official establishment (1 July 1993) up to the present. SEA consists of the headquarters in Banská Bystrica and ten professional centres on the whole territory of the Slovak Republic.

## **László Miklós / MoE SR**

### *Slovak Environmental Agency, the organisation of a universal significance*

The Minister of the Environment stresses the contribution of SEA in environmental awareness creation and raising. He expresses his thankfulness to the employees of the Slovak Environmental Agency, who evaluate the state of the environment in the Slovak Republic and on the bases of obtained data they develop annually since 1993 the State of the Environment Report of the Slovak Republic, organise various international events, such as the International Festival of Films ENVIROFILM, etc.

**Alena Kostúriková / SEA**

***Miroslav Tončík the SEA general director: We have been building a strong organisation with a strong position***

The general director balances in the interview ten years of the Agency's existence and talks about tasks for the near future. SEA's priorities, as he says, are clear – execution of activities that will bring funds and activities connected with EU accession. Miroslav Tončík not only has merit in the foundation of the Agency but at the same time has been its General Director for eight years already. He also speaks about his love for nature's and man's creativity and his dislike of human stupidity.

**Alena Kostúriková / SEA**

***How the Slovak Environmental Agency originated***

The interview with the general director of the Division of Environmental Concepts, Law and Informatics of MoE SR Jozef Klinda, who was at the "birth" of the Slovak Environmental Agency. His answer of the question “ What is your opinion of the Slovak Environmental Agency after ten years” is as follows: I think that my words, I had wrote for the Minister of Environment's festive speech, still apply – “ The establishment of the Slovak Environmental Agency we consider a significant step in the institutional strengthening of environmental protection”.

**Vladimír Benko / SEA's Centre of Environmental Policy and Informatics**

***SEA yesterday and today .... and tasks of the SEA's Centre of Environmental Policy and Informatics (CEPI)***

The author of the article, the director of the SEA's Centre of Environmental Policy and Informatics (CEPI), writes about his impressions and observations and about future perspectives of the Slovak Environmental Agency. He stresses that behind success and good results of the Agency we have to see people. Educated, skilled and willing to work regardless time, eager to learn all the time and overcome obstacles. Today's Centre of Environmental Policy and Informatics originated in 2000 as a result of a gradual formation and development. In his article he focuses on activities of CEPI which, through up-to-date technologies, provides environmental information to the wide public, raising thus public interest in the state of the environment and active participation in the decision-making and permission-granting processes.

**Zuzana Lieskovská / SEA's Centre of Environmental Policy and Informatics**

***SEA – the first Slovak organisation dealing with environmental policy***

In the conditions of the Slovak Republic, as the author states at the beginning of her article, the history of the term “environmental policy” goes as far back as the history of the Slovak Environmental Agency, i.e. ten years back. SEA, as the first organisation dealing with the complex care of the environment in Slovakia, was implementing and has been implementing principles of environmental policy and fulfilling the contents of this term. The oldest activity, on which the first organisational department within the environmental policy development was based, is the work in the field of environmental impact assessment.

**Katarína Palúchová / SEA's Centre of Environmental Policy and Informatics**

***SEA – professional support to the process of environmental risk assessment and management***

SEA has been dealing with the issue of environmental risk assessment and management since its establishment in 1993. The article presents briefly selected projects and methodical materials that were implemented or in the development of which the SEA's Department of Environmental Policy participated. In 1994 already, MoE SR and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) signed the agreement on a common implementation of the Risk Assessment / Risk Management Demonstration Project in Slovakia. The objective of this project was to obtain necessary experience with the process of health and environmental risk assessment ensuing from environmental pollution.

Another significant project SEA has been implementing is the development of risk analyses of 19 sites damaged by the activity of the Soviet Army, with the objective to identify present and potential ecological, environmental and health risks ensuing from the existence of the environmental load caused by the Soviet Army.

**Ján Králik / SEA - URBION**  
***Centre of the Integrated Care of the Landscape***

The Centre of the Integrated Care of the Landscape – URBION Bratislava, exists within the Slovak Environmental Agency since 1994. During ten years the Centre underwent a specific internal development looking for an adequate expert position within the Slovak Environmental Agency. At present, the Centre has good professional background, a stabilised team of experts and a successful co-operation with other SEA's centres. It consists of 3 departments –the Department of Spatial Planning, Regional Development, Building Order and Urbanism, the Department of Landscape Creation and Care and the Department of International Relations, Information and Projects. The Centre passes gradually from addressing issues of spatial planning, development and landscape arrangement to the development of documents seeking the harmonisation of economic, social and environmental issues of the society development on the principles of sustainable development.

**Ingrid Krištofová / SEA's Centre of Environmental Policy and Informatics**  
***We have been assessing environmental impacts***

Among SEA's activities for several years already belongs environmental impact assessment (EIA). It includes such important tasks as the development of expert stand points for various installations, development of intentions and reports for EIA and development of ecological studies on environmental impacts and other activities.

**Dagmar Rajčanová / SEA's Centre of Environmental Education and Promotion in Banská Bystrica**  
***SEA is actively involved in environmental awareness creation***

The author of the article presents the SEA's Centre of Environmental Education and Promotion (CEEP). The name of the Centre indicates its main activities. Environmental education with its orientation on the sustainable development is economically very efficient instrument for the transformation of the society and the thinking of the population. Many activities and events, which CEEP has been preparing and organising, are intended mainly for children and youth. Very popular are such exhibitions as the Green World, Living Nature, Hypericum, projects Creative Teacher, Enviroproject and others. Next year the 10<sup>th</sup> festival of environmental films ENVIROFILM will be organised. In May 2000, this festival won the award of the Environment European Agency and last year it became the member of the environmental festivals network.

**Elena Tulisová / SEA's Centre for Endangered Areas Revitalisation in Prievidza**  
***Requirements for landscape revitalisation come to the fore***

The SEA's Centre for Endangered Areas Revitalisation with the seat in Prievidza originated in September 2002 by the transformation of the Centre in Nitra. From the organisational point of view it is divided into sub-centres in Prievidza, Nitra, Trnava, Komárno and the Environmental Education Centre in Nitra. At present, when requirements for the landscape revitalisation come to the fore in order to restore damaged and devastated landscape structures, the Centre focuses on the identification of the present ecological status of the territory and development of projects for negative phenomena elimination.

**Jozef Kuchta / SEA's Centre of the Landscape-Ecological Planning (CLEP) in Prešov**  
*Landscape-ecological planning – an instrument for a considerate use of the territory*

The landscape-ecological plan drafts, on the basis of the analysis of the territory's conditions, the most suitable ways of the territory use. It takes into account the use of nature, natural resources, biodiversity preservation and support to the ecological stability of the landscape. At present, CLEP is developing the landscape-ecological plan of the Domaša recreation area as a model project on the microregion's level.

**Anna Kršáková / SEA's Centre of the Landscape Creation in Banská Bystrica**  
*Landscape is only one and we are a part of it*

The landscape has to be managed. Who will be the manager, the author of the article asks. In its introduction she quotes words pronounced at the conference Landscape-Man-Culture: "Landscape is only one and we are a part of it ..."Everybody has some interests in the landscape. The land planner harmonises interests of individual sectors, public and private priorities, interests of groups and individuals. In the first part of the article the author explains the significance of spatial, strategic and action planning. In the second part of the article she presents 10-year work of this Centre on concrete examples of projects and activities.

**Iveta Kavčáková / SEA's Centre of the Landscape Creation in Banská Bystrica**  
*Slovak villages - our partners*

The author answers the question "How the Slovak Environmental Agency helps to implement the Programme of the Village Restoration in Slovakia. Through its expert consultants it provides up-to-date information, advice and educational services. Expert assistance consists mainly of documents ordering and development, which contain the process of the Local Agenda 21: the programme of the village restoration, the territorial plan of a village, the landscape-ecological plan, the programme of the social-economic development of a village, the programme of the microregion's development and others. The result of the successful co-operation between SEA, villages and microregions is mutual confidence which is an important condition of the future co-operation.

**Ivona Cimermanová / SEA's Centre of the Landscape Creation in Banská Bystrica**  
*Information on a territory is working in systems*

The abbreviation BISS means basal information on settlements in Slovakia. This subsystem of the information system of the territory includes and processes those data (numbers, texts, descriptions etc.) that are not created on the basis of the geographic information systems but by means of an identifier they can be interpreted in GIS. Such identifier is the identification number of a village. The basic BISS database includes about 200 data about each village in Slovakia. The objective of the BISS project is to create intelligent programme environment, enabling a common user a comfortable work with a large number of numerical, text, graphic, photographic and audio data about Slovak villages.

**Miroslav Lacuška / SEA's Centre of Waste Management and Environmental Management in Bratislava**  
*Ten years of the technical-information background of the waste management for the state administration in the Slovak Republic*

The regional branch office of SEA in Bratislava was entrusted with the function of the Basel Convention focal point. This function predetermined the main fields of its activity: informatics and monitoring for waste management, techniques and technologies for waste handling, ecoanalytics and ecotoxicology of wastes. The Centre of Waste Management and Environmental Management has this orientation in the field of waste management up to date. The article recapitulates ten years of activity, maps the present situation and brings perspectives for the future.

**Emília Bod'ová / SEA's Centre of Waste Management and Environmental Management in Bratislava**

***Environmental management – one of the spheres of SEA activity***

The environmental management was gradually incorporated in SEA strictures since 1995. A significant milestone was the approval of the National Programme of Environmental Assessment and Labelling of Products (Resolution No. 97 from 6 February 1996). During previous seven years, environmental criteria in the form of 24 directives for 24 product groups were developed. The Minister of Environment has granted the right to use the national label “Environmentally Friendly Product” up till now to 59 products of Slovak producers and one importer of products from the U.S.A.

**Peter Bohuš / SEA's Centre of Environmental Regional Classification (CERC) in Košice**

***Interdisciplinary character - the basis of environmental regional classification***

Comebacks, recollections and recapitulation of the 10-year existence within SEA. Peter Bohuš is at the head of the Centre in Košice since its origination. The ambition of this Centre is to find innovative work procedures, mainly in connection with the support of interdisciplinary trends in the environmental sector (integrated landscape management) in order to respond better to the requirements of regional and local self-governments and to support trends contributing to better use of possibilities of the European Union's funds for the benefit of the Slovak Republic. The author stresses good co-operation with the Košice self governmental region.

**Peter Kliment / CERC Košice**

***Environmental aspects of Romany problems***

Within the Annual Programme for 2002 CERD Košice has developed a Pilot Project of the Development and Stabilisation of Socio-Economic Conditions of Romany Population in Slovakia. In the first stage of the project, model villages with Romany population were selected and in the second stage a research and monitoring was carried out with the focus on territorial-technical conditions and analysis of environmental conditions. On the basis of the monitoring, limits of the development of monitored Romany settlements were identified and in the 4<sup>th</sup> stage priorities and recommendations were set. Outputs have the form of a text document for each selected village with a graphic attachment and photo documentation.

**Božena Gehinová / CERC Košice**

***Endangered environmental areas in Slovakia***

The document “Strategy, Principles and Priorities of the State Environmental Policy of the SR” specifies 5 environmental categories and 9 endangered areas. In 2002, CERC Košice developed the 2<sup>nd</sup> update of the environmental regional classification of Slovakia. The 1<sup>st</sup> update in 1998 confirmed 9 endangered areas, in the 2<sup>nd</sup> update some changes occurred. The article with maps informs not only about these changes but also about the situation in air pollution, surface water quality etc.

**Ingrid Fruhaufová / CERC Košice**

***Update of the environmental regional classification of the SR***

The article brings more details about the process of the environmental regional classification of the SR and results of its update. Tables show data about the state of the environment, from which it follows that the largest number of inhabitants live in deteriorated environment (about 60%). As many as 27% of inhabitants live in heavily deteriorated environment that covers about 5% of the total area of Slovakia.

**Miroslav Badík / SEA's Centre of Environmental Components in Žilina**  
*Environmental assessment*

The Centre in Žilina focuses on the monitoring and assessment of environmental components, state of environment and care of environmental conditions. The article brings information about the work of the Centre and its most significant activities. They include also environmental studies – Local Territorial System of Ecological Stability in the tourist centres of Veľká Rača Oščadnica and Súľov – Hradná.

**Martin Kassa / the State Nature Protection of the Slovak Republic in Banská Bystrica**  
*Slovak state nature protection at a crossroads?*

Except for national parks administrations all other organisational units of the State Nature Protection of SR belonged to the Slovak Environmental Agency till July 2000. The author of the article meditates on the direction of nature protection in Slovakia and asks the question if the system of nature and landscape protection is in our country on such level as the nature diversity and preservation deserve. And this also – and mainly, in connection with the entry of Slovakia to EU.

**Jozef Dupej / SEA Banská Bystrica**  
*To take part or to win?*

The idea of the sport games became real in July 1995 when they were organised for the first time in Banská Bystrica. After the Sport Games at Oravská priehrada, the next two took place in Bijacovce, then in Mošovce and Teplý Vrch. This year the record number – 163 of satisfied participants, friends and colleagues met for sport and fun. This is also one side of the life of the 10<sup>th</sup> years old Slovak Environmental Agency.

**Greetings**

This special issue of Enviromagazín, published on the occasion of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Slovak Environmental Agency, brings more than 30 greetings from collaborating organisations, universities, colleagues and friends of the Agency from abroad and from Slovakia.

**Colour enclosure:** the poster on the theme: Do you know the environment in Slovakia?

**Black and white enclosure:** Key indicators of the state of environment in Slovakia

**ENVIROMAGAZÍN**

*The journal dealing with the environmental protection and improvement.*

*The 8th volume, the second special edition, June 2003, published by the Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic and the Slovak Environmental Agency, [www.enviromagazin.sk](http://www.enviromagazin.sk).*

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*Editor: Alena Kostúriková*

*Publisher: EM DESIGN, Zvolen*

*Orders to be sent to the Editor's Office.*

*Registration: MK SR, No. 1459/96, ISSN 1335-1877*

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

