

Slovakia and the European funds 2014 – 2020



Our results for a better Slovakia



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the European Union



MINISTRY
OF INVESTMENTS, REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT
AND INFORMATIZATION
OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC





Dear friends,

We are at the end of 2014 – 2020 programming period, which has been marked with difficult challenges.

In the past three years, the spending of EU funds has increased by more than 6 billion euros and Slovakia moved in the rank comparing the spending of EU funds from 27th to the 21st place.

It was no coincidence but rather a result of hard work and a series of important measures for better, faster and more transparent spending of EU funds. Since March 2020, we have introduced, in total, five antibureaucratic packages, including amendment to the Act on the contribution provided from the European structural and investment funds that has led to a significant simplification for applicants, beneficiaries as well as providers. The government has also introduced a new system for the crisis management of EU funds in order to prevent losing any money from the European package for Slovakia.

We managed to invest the funds allocated for 2014 – 2020 programming period to thousands of projects that have contributed and are still helping to improve lives of people in regions – because this is what they are intended for.

In the programming period, money was spent by means of six main operational programmes: Human Resources, Integrated Infrastructure, Quality of the Environment, Integrated Regional Operational Programme, Effective Public Administration and Technical Assistance. European money was also used to finance projects by means of Cross-Border Operational Programmes,

Rural Development Programme and Fisheries Operational Programme.

The brochure you are now holding in your hands provides an overview of results that we managed to accomplish and, thus, help people in regions in Slovakia thanks to investments from EU funds allocated for 2014 – 2020 programming period. Here, you can learn what particular projects have been implemented or supported in the field of education, social services, transport, environment protection and sustainability, research, development and innovation or technologies in enterprises.

The programming period that is about to end soon has been marked with two events that dramatically affected lives of people and rewrote reality of the European society from the preceding decades – relatively peaceful reality without pandemics and wars. Everything changed with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic on the verge of 2019/2020 and, later, with an unprecedented attack of Russia at Ukraine in February 2022. Slovakia and Europe found themselves in the middle of a joint battle for preserving lives and basic values of our society. These events will have an impact on the development of the society also

in the future – even now, we are witnessing a surging rise of prices of construction materials and energies as well as other commodities.

The European Union responded to both these challenges and prepared legislative adaptations that enabled spending EU resources and transferring them in order to solve problems brought about by the pandemic and, later, the war in Ukraine. It also allocated additional funds for European countries in the form of the REACT-EU package. Also that money helped inhabitants in the EU – and in Slovakia – to better face unexpected challenges.

We are standing at the doorstep of the new programming period that is already prepared and represents a substantial revolution in spending of EU funds. It is also because it combines six main operational programmes into one, with uniform rules, which will bring even more transparency, efficiency and less bureaucracy. The past programming period has shown us that we must be prepared, at any moment, to face new challenges, even the least probable ones. We want the new EU funds to also meet their goal and get exactly where they are supposed to be delivered – to help people.

Operational programmes co-funded by the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF):

Integrated Regional Operational Programme (IROP)

OP Human resources (OP HR)

OP Integrated Infrastructure (OP II)

OP Quality of Environment (OP QE)

OP Effective Public Administration (OP EPA)

OP Fisheries (OP F)

Cross - Border Cooperation program SK - CZ

Cross - Border Cooperation program SK - AT

Cooperation program INTERACT III

Rural Development Programme 2014 – 2022 (RDP)

OP Technical Assistance (OP TA)

In the **2014 – 2020** programming period, more than **EUR 16.78 billion** is allocated from EU resources for Slovakia.

INTEGRATED REGIONAL OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME

ALLOCATION: **EUR 1.94 billion**
MANAGING AUTHORITY: **Ministry of Investment, Regional Development and Informatization SR**

IROP supports through its intermediary bodies in the regions activities to address the needs in different areas of life - transport, environment, health, education, social services. The programme also finances the operation of local action groups, whose activities go beyond the administrative division of the territory and which operate in micro-regions.

Our results for a better Slovakia

- ✓ more than **249 km** of Class II and III roads reconstructed
- ✓ **178** new buses in urban and suburban transport
- ✓ more than **216 km** of new sections of cycling roads
- ✓ **26** modernised acute-care general hospitals, **13** new urgent-care departments, **49** hospital departments and **31** operating rooms reconstructed, new specialized devices in the amount of **EUR 77.1 million**
- ✓ **36** integrated health care centres created
- ✓ supported **214** kindergartens, **421** primary schools, **66** secondary vocational schools, **1,222** classrooms and **148** libraries supported
- ✓ more than **190 thousand** children can attend modernized schools
- ✓ **Assistance in times of crisis**
- ✓ **419** lung ventilators purchased

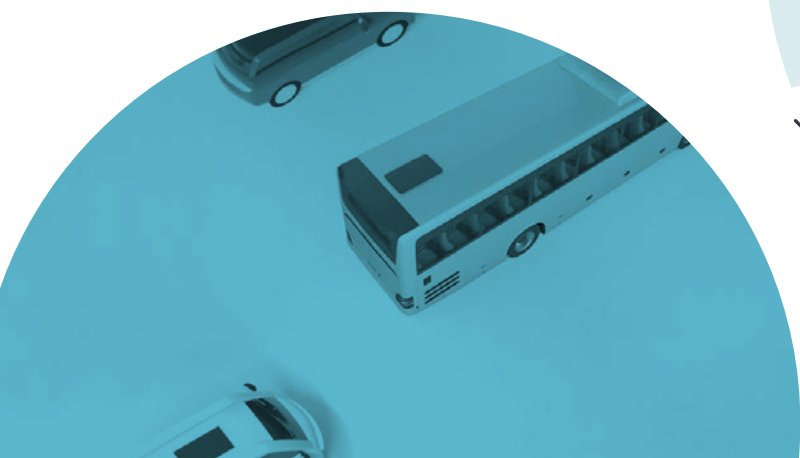
Our results for a better Slovakia

- ✓ **16,165** teaching and professional staff who have increased their professional competences through activities
- ✓ **24,664** participants involved in lifelong learning activities
- ✓ more than **493 thousand** unemployed persons supported and **1,029** employers on the labour market
- ✓ more than **14 thousand** people with improved drinking water supply in municipalities with MRC presence
- ✓ **1,440** individuals employed in local civil order services in the MRC environment
- ✓ **4,078** places created for children in kindergartens in villages with MRC
- ✓ **1,370** education assistant positions, **1,574** teacher assistants, **394** school psychologists, **587** school special educators, and **257** social educators
- ✓ **Assistance in times of crisis**
- ✓ **219,516** employers and **564,215** people were supported under "short employment" schemes

OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME HUMAN RESOURCES

ALLOCATION: **EUR 2.99 billion**
MANAGING AUTHORITY: **Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, and Family SR**

OP HR focuses on supporting activities in the field of education, employment and social inclusion. It supports quality primary and secondary education, preparation of future employees for practice and lifelong learning, as well as access to quality education for children from socially disadvantaged backgrounds. The programme supports active labour market policy activities that help the long-term unemployed, young people and families, the elderly, the disabled and the low-skilled to gain and maintain employment. One of the objectives of the programme is also the care of vulnerable groups and the social inclusion of marginalised Roma communities (MRC).





Our results for a better Slovakia

- ✓ 51 new trainsets in public passenger rail transport
- ✓ 25 km of reconstructed railway lines on the TEN-T network
- ✓ 64 km of newly built motorways and expressways
- ✓ 82 new trolleybuses and trams
- ✓ 29 research institutions supported and 394 enterprises supported
- Assistance in times of crisis
- ✓ 7,540 bridging loans and 8 convertible loans for SMEs granted

OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME INTEGRATED INFRASTRUCTURE

ALLOCATION: **EUR 6.01 billion**
MANAGING
AUTHORITY: **Ministry of Transport SR**

The mission of **OP II** is not only to support transport, but also to improve the business environment, develop the information society and support research and innovation.

OP II is a key implementation tool of the strategy „*Knowledge to Prosperity - Research and Innovation Strategy for Smart Specialisation of the Slovak Republic*“ (RIS3). Support for excellent research is a prerequisite for future high-tech innovation, experimental development, collaboration and building a competitive business sector, especially for small and medium-sized enterprises.

OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME QUALITY OF ENVIRONMENT

ALLOCATION: **EUR 2.83 billion**
MANAGING
AUTHORITY: **Ministry of Environment SR**

The **OP QE** supports the fulfilment of environmental and energy objectives and requirements. It focuses on the sustainable and efficient use of natural resources, environmental protection, active adaptation to climate change and its consequences such as floods and other extreme events, and the promotion of an energy-efficient, low-carbon economy.



Our results for a better Slovakia

- ✓ more than **189 thousand** people with better wastewater treatment in municipalities with over **2,000** inhabitants
- ✓ increase of **62,586 t/year** in capacity for sorting municipal waste
- ✓ **134 ha** of reclaimed land that has been contaminated or destroyed
- ✓ **300 thousand hectares** of land protected by a warning system for natural disasters
- ✓ **664 MWh/year** of electricity and **5,173 MWh/year** of thermal energy produced from renewable sources
- Assistance in times of crisis
- ✓ **15,294,540** tests purchased for diagnosis and testing for COVID-19

OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME EFFICIENT PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

ALLOCATION: **EUR 354.66 million**

MANAGING AUTHORITY: **Ministry of Interior SR**

OP EPA aims to support activities in the field of public administration and the judiciary. It creates a pro-client oriented, modern, efficient and transparent public administration to offer citizens quality and accessible services. Investments are also directed towards strengthening the administrative and analytical capacities of departments at local and regional level.

In the area of the judiciary, the OP EPA aims to ensure greater efficiency, quality, credibility and transparency of the judicial system and to improve the enforcement of law.

Our results for a better Slovakia

- ✓ more than **15 thousand** trained public administration employees
- ✓ **89** job positions of analysts, methodologists, managers in the field of regional development in the HTUs (self-governing regions)
- ✓ **80** project coordinators in the least developed regions
- ✓ **10** courts with a quality management system introduced and **1,700** judges and judicial staff with enhanced qualifications
- ✓ more than **100** NGOs involved in better public policy making and raising civic awareness
- ✓ **Assistance in times of crisis**
more than **80,000** employees supported on the front line of providing assistance (paramedics, police, firefighters) in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic



OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME FISHERIES

The objective of the OP F is competitive fish farming and fish processing with regard to compliance with the rules of the Common Fisheries Policy of the European Union.

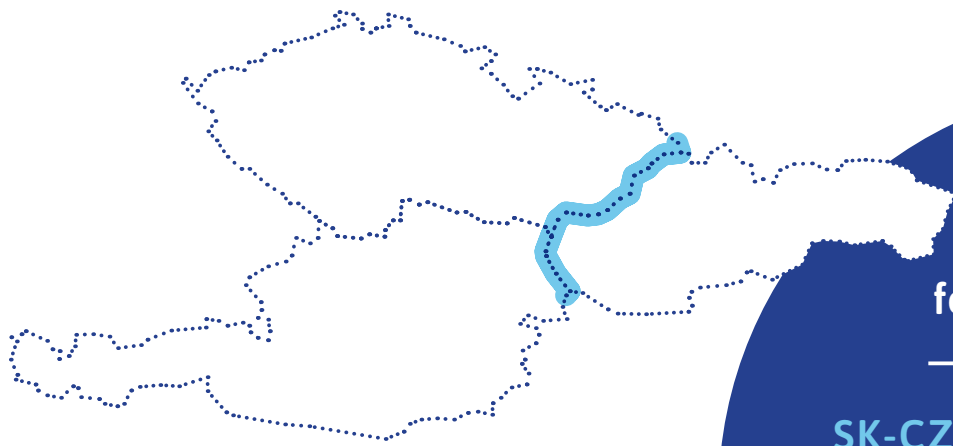
The programme also supports complementary activities such as fishing tourism or direct sales and extension of the product range.

It supports 11 aquaculture projects and a national consumer-oriented information and promotion campaign. The programme's activities place a strong emphasis on nature conservation and improving the quality of the environment.

ALLOCATION: **EUR 9.39 million**

MANAGING AUTHORITY: **Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development SR**





CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION PROGRAMMES

ALLOCATION: **SK-CZ - EUR 90.14 million**
SK-AT - EUR 75.89 million

MANAGING AUTHORITY: **Ministry of Investment, Regional Development and Informatization SR**

Slovakia actively participates in the **Interreg V-A** programmes within the framework of European territorial cooperation, thus supporting the development of border regions along the entire internal border. A specific feature of these programmes is that project partners come from both sides of the border of the territory concerned. Slovakia is the managing authority for the Slovakia-Czech Republic and Slovakia-Austria programmes. The activities are intended to improve life and work in the border areas and to help solve common problems.



Our results for a better Slovakia

SK-CZ

- 107 km** of cycle paths and hiking trails supported
- 113** cultural and natural heritage sites assessed
- 35 km** of Class II and Class III roads reconstructed or rehabilitated
- 6,179** participants in education and training to promote youth employment

SK-AT

- 9** institutions supported in cross-border research projects
- 4,404** participants in joint education and training programmes
- 44** organisations supported in the development of cultural and natural heritage
- 42** organisations supported to cooperate in nature conservation

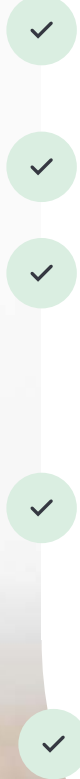
RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

ALLOCATION: **EUR 2.28 billion**

MANAGING AUTHORITY: **Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development SR**

The objective of the **RDP** is to strengthen the competitiveness of primary agricultural production, food processing and forestry with regard to sustainable management and food safety in accordance with the Common Agricultural Policy of the European Union. The revitalisation of rural spaces and support for local action groups, including the creation and maintenance of jobs, are part of a comprehensive rural development approach. The implementation of the program was extended until 2025.

Our results for a better Slovakia



- 595** investment projects supported in primary agricultural production, **301** in food processing and **184** in forestry
- 620** young farmers supported
- supported over **287 thousand hectares** of agricultural land and **36 thousand hectares** of forest land in the context of restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems
- 108** local action groups supported, covering more than three quarters of Slovakia's territory
- Assistance in times of crisis**
- exceptional temporary support for **166** micro, small and medium-sized enterprises in the processing of agricultural products



Innovations and technologies at enterprises including research and development



1 Strengthening research, technology development and innovation



MATERIAL RECOVERY OF CERTAIN WASTE FROM END-OF-LIFE VEHICLES RECYCLING

Acquisition of innovative technology in a private company



The European Investment and Structural Funds (ESIF) allocate **EUR 1.2 billion** into strengthening research, technology development and innovation in the **2014 – 2020** programming period in Slovakia.

Examples of supported investments

- ✓ deployment of information systems supporting research and development
- ✓ support to participation of Slovak public institutions and enterprises in European research and innovation programmes
- ✓ support to development and application of new materials in connection to the technology cluster
- ✓ build-up of an infrastructure of excellent university science parks and implementation of top-level research activities there
- ✓ product and technology innovation in enterprises

Project supported by OP II

Total contracted amount: **EUR 989,500**
Beneficiary: **Kovozber, s.r.o.**

- » deployment of a line for recovery of waste vehicle catalysers using metallurgic procedure
- » the project has resulted in a new product; the company did not process this type of waste before
- » waste recovery generates precious metals intended for further processing in automobile, chemical or pharmaceutical industry



The ESIF in this field support:

- ✓ Implementation of the Smart Specialisation Strategy (RIS3) in all five domains of the strategy
- ✓ Positive trend in increasing investments in research and development
- ✓ Increasing innovation performance of the Slovak enterprises
- ✓ Improving quality of the Slovak scientific publications globally
- ✓ Development of applied research and its commercial outputs



Following measures are needed to maximise the ESIF effects

- ✓ Investing in human resources, especially in education of young researchers and attracting talented young scientists from abroad
- ✓ Increasing success rates of the Slovak universities and the Slovak Academy of Sciences in the European research programmes
- ✓ Increasing innovative potential in enterprises and connecting enterprise and research sector
- ✓ Investing in transformation of industry according to the *Industry 4.0 principles*

2 Information and communication technologies and services for citizens, businesses and the public sector



Call “WIFI FOR YOU I, II”

Free internet available in public areas



The ESIF’s amount of **EUR 0.7 billion** is allocated for Slovakia to support the implementation of digital technologies in the **2014 – 2020** programming period.

Examples of supported investments

- ✓ electronization of public services for business and citizens
- ✓ build-up of electronic information registers at public administration authorities
- ✓ comprehensive data management and providing data to organisations and citizens in a transparent form
- ✓ migration of information systems in the public administration and websites to the government cloud
- ✓ increase of security of public electronic networks and deployment of centralised public administration cyber security management

Call supported from the OP II

- » Designed for cities and municipalities to set up free WiFi zones of their choice in public places such as squares, offices, parks or libraries
- » Support is for more than 640 towns and municipalities
- » The aim is to offer a modern solution supporting the creation of a high-quality environment for citizens’ internet communication in public places and to ensure the access of people to free and fast internet



The ESIF in this field support:

- ✓ Increasing the quality, standard and availability of eGovernment services for citizens and businesses
- ✓ Increasing the percentage of Slovak households’ access to broadband internet. Currently, 90 % of households have a connection¹
- ✓ Increasing the availability of published data in the form of open data
- ✓ Application of the latest trends in digital economy



Following measures are needed to maximise the ESIF effects

- ✓ Enable access to e-services for every citizen, including the elderly, disabled or socially disadvantaged (eInclusion)
- ✓ Adherence to the “one time, enough” principle, the state requests data from citizens and entrepreneurs only once
- ✓ Increase citizens’ digital literacy
- ✓ Migration of public administration IT systems to the government cloud

¹ Eurostat (2021): Digital economy and society. ICT usage in households and by individuals.

3 Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises



DEMAND-ORIENTED CALL AIMED AT SUPPORTING SMES IN COMMISSION INITIATIVE FOCUSED ON TRANSFORMATION OF THE COLA REGION UPPER NITRA

Support to doing business in a transforming region with the emphasis on sustainable development



In the area of strengthening the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) as well as the agriculture, fisheries and aquaculture sectors, nearly **EUR 1.7 billion** ESIF sources are allocated in the **2014 – 2020** programming period.

Examples of supported investments

- ✓ purchase of new technologies in enterprises
- ✓ services for SMEs through the national project – specialised consultancy, participation in fairs, search for potential customers abroad
- ✓ modernization of enterprises in agriculture production and aquaculture
- ✓ investments for processing and development of agricultural products
- ✓ support to young farmers and small farms



Call supported by OP II, section SME competitiveness

- » the region is facing the necessity to discontinue coal mining and find new long-term employment and life opportunities for inhabitants
- » the call is intended for existing micro, small and medium enterprises implementing projects in districts of Prievidza and Partizánske
- » the purpose is to develop the innovation potential in prospective sectors of industry and services, resulting in higher added value
- » projects are aimed and new or innovated products or production processes



The ESIF in this field support:

- ✓ Increasing productivity and improving overall SMEs performance
- ✓ Product and process innovations and technology transfer
- ✓ Improving product quality, marketing and sales at new markets
- ✓ Stabilization of the workforce, generational exchange in agriculture and growth in production
- ✓ Increasing the internationalization of SMEs

Following measures are needed to maximise the ESIF effects

- ✓ Support SMEs at all stages of the business / life cycle
- ✓ Support SMEs in the lagging regions
- ✓ Strengthen the production, technological and export potential of SMEs
- ✓ Develop and strengthen new business models for SMEs



Slovakia and the European
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Supported Areas

Environment



4 Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors



National project

“GREEN LIGHT FOR HOUSEHOLDS I., II., III.”

More than EUR 116 million for households to use renewable energy sources



In the 2014 – 2020 programming period, ESIF in Slovakia contribute to support the transition to a low-carbon economy by more than EUR 1 billion.

Examples of supported investments

- ✓ Renewable energy production, including biomass
- ✓ Renovation of buildings, settlements and services with a focus to reducing energy consumption
- ✓ Increasing the efficiency of the energy use in industry



Project supported by the OP QE

- » Support to the purchase and installation of small electricity and heat production facilities
- » Within the project more than 40,000 vouchers were reimbursed to households for the purchase of photovoltaic panels, solar collectors, heat pumps, and biomass boilers
- » The project also promotes development of a market for households renewable energy appliances
- » The source of information for the general public is www.zelenadomacnostiam.sk



The ESIF in this field support:

- ✓ Reducing greenhouse gas emissions
- ✓ Achieving savings in energy consumption
- ✓ Enhancing positive trends in energy production
- ✓ Reducing energy consumption in heating

Following measures are needed to maximise the ESIF effects

- ✓ Increase support for renewable energy production by increase in supporting small and medium-sized enterprises
- ✓ Continue the trend of projects such as “Green light for households” and reduce emissions from domestic heating, including special focus on groups of residents in the zone of “energy poverty”
- ✓ Develop comprehensive approaches to sustainable mobility, public and alternative transport and respond to passenger problems hand in hand with energy savings

5 Promoting climate change adaptation and preventive measures



Examples of supported investments

Climate change affiliated with unusual weather conditions, which make the regions of Slovakia impacted by droughts, forest fires, tidal rains and floods, creates a situation that requires a complex of preventive measures. In the 2014 – 2020 programming period, ESIF in Slovakia contribute by nearly **EUR 0.9 billion** to support climate change adaptation.

- ✓ Preventive measures to improve protection against floods and landslides
- ✓ Emergency management systems
- ✓ Irrigation and drainage systems and improved water retention in the country
- ✓ Support to non-project measures on agricultural and forestry land within the Rural Development Programme
- ✓ Forest fires and natural disasters preventive measures

WATER RETENTION MEASURES IN URBANISED COUNTRYSIDE IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF CÍFER I. AND II.



Preventive and adaptation measures inside the municipality leading to reduction of the risk of big floods



Project supported by OP QoE

Total contracted amount: **EUR 327,093.34**

Beneficiary: **municipality of Cífer**

The ESIF in this field support:

Following measures are needed to maximise the ESIF effects

- » seven different water retention measures in the area of 3,334 m²
- » collection and use of rainfall water for watering decorative greenery in the centre of the village
- » build-up of rain gardens that will mitigate droughts, alleviate the drainage system, replace lawns with areas with higher biodiversity and provide micro-biotopes for insects and small animals
- » vertical greenery at the municipal office building will improve the climate and serve as protection from overheating

- ✓ Preserving and strengthening soil, water and ecological functions of agricultural and forestry areas
- ✓ Increasing the number of persons benefiting from flood protection measures
- ✓ Building early warning systems for the population

- ✓ Improve cooperation of key stakeholders and the population in overcoming technical, property rights related and administrative problems
- ✓ Improve rapid and coordinated response capability for extreme weather events



6 Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency



RECONSTRUCTION OF THE “LITTLE GREEN BUSH” IN TRNAVA



Completion and revitalising of green and blue infrastructure of a busy place near the city centre



All components of the environment compose a unique resource that needs to be protected and used sustainably. This creates the preconditions for our long-term survival and cooperation with the environment we depend on. ESIF in Slovakia contribute almost **EUR 2.2 billion** to this priority area in the **2014 – 2020** programming period.

Examples of supported investments

- ✓ waste processing
- ✓ modernizing of systems for absorption and cleaning of combustion gases in order to improve the air quality
- ✓ build-up of water supply, sewage and waste water treatment systems
- ✓ monitoring of the quality of water and elimination of barriers on water courses for free movement of animals
- ✓ implementation of programmes of care for living organisms and countryside
- ✓ revitalization of green and blue infrastructure components
- ✓ recovery of environmental burdens



Project supported by IROP

Total contracted amounted:
EUR 1,315,966.44
Beneficiary: **city of Trnava**

- » revitalisation of an important transport node and build-up of new functional components has resulted in an attractive public space for passengers and the general public
- » revitalisation of existing and planting of new public greenery
- » renovation of public space with the area of 6,768 m²
- » build-up of pavements, bus stop shelters, footbridge and cycling path, public lighting, irrigation system, well and drinking fountain
- » enhanced ecosystem contributes to microclimate regulation, dust and noise reduction and sustainable biodiversity in the urban area



The ESIF in this field support:

- ✓ Reducing energy and raw material consumption in order to protect the environment while maintaining economic growth
- ✓ Creating the basic preconditions for improving the quality of life of the population and further development of the regions
- ✓ Preserving agriculture in areas with natural constraints
- ✓ Protecting and preserving biodiversity, particularly in NATURA 2000 sites



Following measures are needed to maximise the ESIF effects

- ✓ To make investments plans in accord with the development possibilities of cities, municipalities and regions
- ✓ Consider in planning what is rate of return, sustainability, value of territories and their resources
- ✓ Focus efforts on waste management
- ✓ Especially in the case of small municipalities and areas with marginalized Roma communities consider use of alternative wastewater treatment such as root-water treatment plants or individual solutions by small household-level facilities where recent technological advances allow alternatives

Slovakia and the European
funds 2014 – 2020
Supported Areas

Transport



7 Promoting sustainable transport



MODERNISATION OF RAILWAY TRACK PÚCHOV – ŽILINA, FOR TRACK SPEED OF UP TO 160 KM/H – STAGE I

Development of railway transport at Trans-European Transport Network (TEN – T) corridors

Project support by OP II

Total contracted amount:

EUR 349,583,068.49

Beneficiary: **Railways of the Slovak Republic /Železnice Slovenskej republiky/**

- » thanks to the project, the last remaining non-modernised section of the railway track between Bratislava and Žilina was reconstructed
- » trains can travel at the maximum speed on the entire section Bratislava – Žilina and offer smoother and safer ride
- » introduction of more modern technologies in communication and interlocking equipment has led to shorter travel time
- » the project included build-up of 2 tunnels, 14 new railway bridges, 4 passenger subway crossings and reconstruction of railway stations and stops along the track with the emphasis on barrier-free access



The ESIF resources for transport development in the 2014 – 2020 programming period account for **EUR 3.7 billion**. This is almost one quarter of the total ESIF resources available in Slovakia.

Examples of supported investments

- ✓ modernization of railway tracks, renovation of train sets and locomotives
- ✓ modernization of lock chambers, measures to improve a smooth and safe operation of the Danube waterway
- ✓ cycle paths and cycle routes
- ✓ build-up of expressways and regional roads
- ✓ modernization in the municipal public transport – new vehicles, routes, junctions, catchment parking lots





CYCLING PATH MALÉ LEVÁRE – VELKÉ LEVÁRE

Development of cycling transport in municipalities



Project supported by IROP

Total contracted amount: **EUR 410,939.35**

Beneficiary: **municipality of Velké Leváre**



The ESIF in this field support:

- » a new cycling path with the length of 3.3 km connects the railway station and bus stops between villages with the focus on safety of its users
 - » the cycling path also includes marked crossings for bikers and a sheltered bicycle parking at the railway station
 - » the entire cycling path is illuminated
 - » the newly built cycling path also connects to local cycling paths that even increases attractiveness of cycling transport in the region
- ✓ Extending network of transport corridors
 - ✓ Improving quality of transport infrastructure
 - ✓ Increasing attractiveness of public passenger transport via building information systems, modernising transport means, etc.
 - ✓ Integrating transport modes and simplifying transition from individual to public passenger transport
 - ✓ Building cycle paths and cycle routes



Following measures are needed to maximise the ESIF effects

- ✓ Improving quality of existing road infrastructure (especially II. and III. class roads)
- ✓ Modernising rail transport and achieving expected effects in time savings
- ✓ Improving passenger safety, comfort and satisfaction
- ✓ Improving travel comfort for disadvantaged passengers
- ✓ Decreasing transport-related emissions, especially in environmentally loaded city quarters and recreation zones



7 Promoting sustainable transport



Slovakia and the European
funds 2014 – 2020
Supported Areas

Social affairs and education



8 Promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility



National project

“GRADUATE INTERNSHIP STARTS EMPLOYMENT”

Support to employment of school graduates



For the 2014 – 2020 programming period, there is EUR 1.6 billion allocated from ESIF for the employment related issues in Slovakia. The specific objective is to reduce long-term unemployment and youth unemployment, employment of people with disabilities, eliminate gender inequalities at the labour market, promote labour mobility and increase the quality of public employment services.

Examples of supported investments

- ✓ Active labour market policies support
- ✓ Provision of individualised counselling
- ✓ Job creation through business activities diversification
- ✓ Employment in the cultural and creative industries
- ✓ Promotion of childcare facilities



Project supported by OP HR

Total contracted amounted:

EUR 17,717,025

Beneficiary: **Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family**

- » the target group covered young people aged up to 29, who enhanced their work skills and habits after taking part in three- to six-month graduate internship
- » the project was joined by 21,815 school graduates; 11,564 young people found jobs after its completion
- » employers were provided a lump sum contribution for the graduate internship or to support creation of job positions for graduates from the target group



The ESIF in this field support:

- ✓ Increasing the employment rate – employment rate in Slovakia got close to the EU-28 average
- ✓ Promoting regions with the highest unemployment rate – 62 % of the total budget allocated for the purposes of the active labour market policies were distributed in three regions with the highest unemployment rate, in the Banská Bystrica, Prešov and Košice regions
- ✓ Increasing the employment of people with disabilities – 14 % of the total number of the people with disability who are employed got the job supported by the ESIF²

Following measures are needed to maximise the ESIF effects

- ✓ To reduce the negative effects of the upcoming trends of automation and robotization on the employment of the low-skilled workers
- ✓ To implement the programs focused on the upskilling, competences development and life-long learning of the job seekers
- ✓ To provide individualized services

² Evaluation of Progress in Implementation of the Partnership Agreement SR as of 31.12.2018, ÚPVII Bratislava, 2019, Slovak edition, 128 and 137 p.

9 Promoting social inclusion, combating poverty and any discrimination



VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IS NOT A MYTH

Accessible professional assistance to women experiencing violence in family relations

For the 2014 – 2020 programming period, there is **EUR 1.4 billion** allocated from the ESIF for the social inclusion, poverty reduction and anti-discrimination related issues. Regarding the social inclusion of people from marginalized Roma communities, the ESIF resources are fundamental, if not the only, source of funding.



Examples of supported investments

- ✓ Assistance for people at the risk of social exclusion and poverty
- ✓ Field social work and community centres support
- ✓ Civil patrol services in municipalities with the presence of marginalised Roma communities
- ✓ Housing in the municipalities with the presence of marginalised Roma communities
- ✓ Deinstitutionalization of the social services and child care services

Project supported by OP HR
 Total contracted amount: **EUR 199,909.67**
 Beneficiary: **Žena v tiesni, o. z.**



The ESIF in this field support:

- » the purpose of the project was to provide comprehensive assistance and support to women experiencing violence in family relation and to the children by means of specialised consultancy, crisis intervention, legal assistance and safe space
- » the beneficiary of the project is civil association "Žena v tiesni/Woman in need/", which has been operating in the Turiec area as an accredited entity for 15 years already
- » during three years, the assistance in the form of out-patient consultancy, crisis line and on-line advisory service was provided to 303 women in the Turiec area in the Žilina Region
- » the project also included the build-up of a consultancy room and a kids corner



Following measures are needed to maximise the ESIF effects

- ✓ Decreasing the number of people at risk of poverty. The number of people at the risk of poverty was reduced by 255,000 and number of households receiving social assistance benefit (in material and social deprivation) was reduced by 55 %³
- ✓ Improving the quality of social services provision
- ✓ Improving the situation of marginalised Roma communities
- ✓ To adopt systematic measures in the field of education, housing or attitudes of the majority population towards minorities in order to reduce the level of social exclusion
- ✓ To mitigate the critical situation of the specific groups, i.e. people from the marginalized Roma communities, people with disabilities, lonely parents or the significant group of seniors
- ✓ To improve an accessibility of community-based services, including the care services of elderly and disable people provided directly at the client's home

³ Evaluation of Progress in Implementation of the Partnership Agreement SR as of 31.12.2018, ÚPVII Bratislava, 2019, Slovak edition, 145 p.

1 Investing in education, training and lifelong learning



Quality education and educated workforce rank to basic pillars of economic and employment growth, and life quality of inhabitants. In the **2014 – 2020** programming period, there are **EUR 634 million** from the ESIF allocated in this area of support in Slovakia.

Examples of supported investments

- ✓ Building and modernising preschool facilities
- ✓ Preparation of future pedagogic and professional employees in education sector
- ✓ Inclosing schools in models of inclusive education – quality education for each child
- ✓ Reconstructions of and equipment for vocational schools and classrooms
- ✓ Supporting partnerships between employers and professional associations

National project

“IT ACADEMY – EDUCATION FOR THE 21st CENTURY”

Support to the development of IT sector by means of changes in the system of education



Project supported by OP HR
Total contracted amounted:
EUR 19,137,065.53
Beneficiary: **Slovak Centre of Scientific and Technical Information**

- » the purpose of the project was to develop an effective model of education and preparation of young people for jobs in the field of informatics and information technologies
- » the project supported building partnerships between schools and companies in IT sector
- » the project was joined by 313 primary schools and 251 secondary schools in Slovakia, outside of the Bratislava Region
- » the project resulted in enhancement of qualification of 3,783 pedagogical employees and experts; 38 partnerships connecting universities and the business sector; 1,123 innovative methodologies for development of scholastic skills of primary and secondary school pupils and new textbooks for students of IT study programmes

The ESIF in this field support:

- ✓ Development of dual education programmes
- ✓ Starting implementation of the life-long learning of adults in areas of digital, financial, entrepreneurial and citizen literacy
- ✓ Increasing numbers of population with tertiary education in Slovakia. Some 40 % of population aged 30-34 years may achieve tertiary education by 2020⁴



Following measures are needed to maximise the ESIF effects

- ✓ Implementing programmes for improving the quality of preparation for teacher’s profession for primary, secondary and tertiary schools
- ✓ Financing higher numbers of professional employees in schools, teacher assistants, social pedagogues, school psychologists, and special pedagogues
- ✓ Applying system of certifying internationally recognised key competences of adults as to improve their employability in practical life
- ✓ Investing in inclusive education to solve the problem with early school leavers

⁴Europe 2020 country-based objective

Slovakia and the European
funds 2014 – 2020
Supported Areas

Public administration.



11 Strengthening efficiency of public administration



An important national strategic goal is a modern, professional, efficient, reliable, non-corrupted and transparent public administration by 2020 in Slovakia. The ESIF resources allocate **EUR 261 million** in this area in the **2014 – 2020** programming period.

Examples of supported investments

- ✓ Extending network of client centres and improving quality of their services
- ✓ Investments in development of human resources in public administration
- ✓ Investments for increasing efficiency of the courts
- ✓ Support to institution and analytical capacity building in sectors of public administration
- ✓ Concepts for digital solutions of processes in public administration

Nation project

“SUPPORT TO PARTNERSHIP AND DIALOGUE IN THE FIELD OF PARTICIPATIVE DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC POLICIES I. AND II.”

Support to participative development of public policies at local, regional and national level

Project supported by OP EPA

Total contracted amount:

EUR 2,350,326.03

Beneficiary: **Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic**

- » the purpose of the project was to build preconditions, test and introduce measures for participative development of public policies at local, regional and national level
- » the project put together experts from the public administration sector, NGOs, academia, civil and private sector in 12 pilot projects in developing particular public policies
- » project outputs comprise more than 70 expert analyses, methodologies, manuals and publications, 5 legislative proposals, 145 information events for more than 4,000 participants
- » the project also included establishment of a new book edition “Participation” and a new educational programme was prepared and tested for employees in the public administration and representatives of NGOs



SLOVAKIA IS ACTIVE IN TACKLING NEW CHALLENGES THROUGH EUROPEAN COMMISSION INITIATIVES



01. Implementation of measures to combat the COVID-19 pandemic:

European Commission has prepared two legislative packages (CRII, CRII+) which have brought flexibilities in the use of the ESIF. Following this, in April 2020, the Slovak Government approved “Proposal for measures financed from the operational programmes of the ESIF to combat the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic and to eliminate and mitigate its consequences” and reallocated **EUR 1.1 billion** of uncommitted ESIF funds.



The objective of these measures is to support

- ✓ maintaining employment: **EUR 410.2 million** (OP HR),
- ✓ health system: **EUR 204.3 million** (IROP, OP II),
- ✓ for SMEs: **EUR 330.2 million** (OP II),
- ✓ Integrated Rescue System components: **EUR 51 million** (OP EQ),
- ✓ and other measures to mitigate the impact of COVID-19: **EUR 109.3 million** (OP HR).

02. Implementation of measures to eliminate the impact of pandemic COVID-19 (REACT-EU):



For the 2021 – 2022 period, European Commission has earmarked additional funding for Member States through the new support area No. 13. Slovakia has been allocated **EUR 745 million** to implement additional measures through the OP HR, IROP, OP EPA and OP FEAD⁵

The aim of these measures is to support

- ✓ job retention,
- ✓ provision of social services to citizens,
- ✓ resilience of the health system,
- ✓ distance learning in schools,
- ✓ funding for green activities (cycle paths),
- ✓ thermal insulation of housing,
- ✓ increasing the capacity of primary schools and the level of vocational education,
- ✓ financial support for health workers, police officers and firefighters,
- ✓ provision of food parcels for the most deprived persons.

03. Implementation of measures to support refugees from Ukraine:

In April 2022, the European Commission approved the Cohesion Action Plan for Supporting Refugees from Ukraine in Europe (CARE), which will allow Slovakia to redirect more than **EUR 300 million** from the 2014 – 2020 programming period to finance e.g., temporary accommodation, food supplies, health care and psychological support for refugees from Ukraine.

04. Implementation of measures for handling of the energy crisis

The purpose of SAFE is to mitigate impacts of the ongoing energy crisis on vulnerable households and small and medium enterprises using the remaining funds from the 2014 – 2020 programming period.

In the sense of the SAFE initiative, it is possible to allocate maximum of **EUR 1.45 billion** in the Slovak Republic for the assistance with increased energy prices, which can be used to cover expenses incurred in the period from 1 February 2022 until 31 December 2023.

⁵ food and basic material assistance for the most deprived persons

2014-2020 Supported areas of the Partnership Agreement

1 Strengthening research, technological development and innovation

2 Information and communication technologies and services for citizens, businesses and the public sector

3 Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)

4 Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors

5 Promoting climate change adaptation and preventive measures

6 Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency

7 Promoting sustainable transport

8 Promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility

9 Promoting social inclusion, combating poverty and any discrimination

10 Investing in education, training and vocational training for skills and lifelong learning

11 Strengthening the efficiency of public administration

13 Supporting recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and preparing for a green, digital and resilient economic recovery

**Ministry of Investments, Regional
Development and Informatization
of the Slovak Republic**

Central Coordination Body

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Unless stated otherwise, the presented data are taken from ITMS2014+ and annual reports of operational programs. The content was updated as of September 2022.