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Transition Facility

Interim Evaluation of the European Union Transition Facility

The Slovak Republic

Sector: Internal Market
Development

2004-2006 Components:

- Agriculture, Statistics and Cadastre
- Environment, Energy, Transport and Standards
- Finance, Customs and Culture

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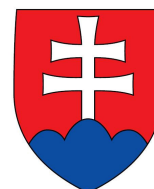
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This report has been prepared as a result of an independent evaluation by CEEN Economic Project and Policy Consulting and Euroformes being contracted under the Transition Facility programme. **The views expressed are those of contractors and do not necessarily reflect those of the Government Office of the Slovak Republic.**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Slovak Republic – Internal Market Development

Monitoring Report/s: M/SR/INT/06013/AGR, ENV and INT issued on 3 November 2006
Interim Evaluation Report: R/SK/TF/INT/07.002

This Executive Summary covers the 2004, 2005 and 2006 Transition Facility assistance under the following Components:

- ❑ Agriculture, Statistics and Cadastre
- ❑ Environment, Energy, Transport and Standards
- ❑ Finance, Customs and Culture

A) Objectives and Scope

The goal of this Interim Evaluation is to review the Transition Facility assistance to Slovakia under the Internal Market Development Monitoring Sector. The total allocation of the EU support to Slovakia was almost 20 M€ for the years 2004, 2005 and 2006 including co-financing. For the evaluation purposes the standard five criteria have been used, namely: relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, sustainability and impact¹.

B) Evaluation Results

The vast majority of the programmes under the Internal Market Development Sector are *relevant*. They cover the priority areas as defined both in the EU and Slovak policy documents and the respective strategies, such as the Public Finance Management Strategy and the Government Resolution No. 558 of 13 July 2005 to the Updated Concept for Internal Auditors and Financial Controllers Education. The **AGRICULTURE** projects remain relevant even from the ex-post perspective, mostly contributing to implementation of complex EU Directives (such as in the Food Safety Framework). The key beneficiary of the Transition Facility interventions 2004-2006 is the Central Controlling and Testing Institute in Agriculture and its individual departments, including laboratories. Also heavy assistance to the Agricultural Paying Agency in the field of the reformed Common Agriculture Policy is still relevant, even after the enforcement of the new legislation and also organisational changes within the Agency. The Transition Facility intervention to **STATISTICS** and **CADASTRE**, focused on implementation of progressive technologies contributes to the eGovernment philosophy, such as the Electronic Registry for the Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre Authority. Similarly to the agriculture assistance, the new senior management seems to be supportive to the new ideas and represents a driving force when implementing a change. All projects under the **ENVIRONMENT** sub-sector are relevant, contributing mostly to the fulfilment of the requirements given by the Water Framework Directive. The twinning seems to be perfectly suitable for know-how transfer in the **ENERGY** project focusing on the transposition and

¹ *Relevance*, relates to the project's design and concerns to the extent to which its objectives address real needs. *Efficiency* concerns how well activities have transformed inputs into outputs. *Effectiveness* assesses whether the project's purposes has been achieved. *Sustainability* evaluates whether project outcomes are likely to continue after external funding ends. *Impact* denotes the relationship between the project's purpose and overall objectives.

implementation of the relevant EU directives by creating the secondary legislation. Important support is given in the Nuclear Safety area, which, following the line of the Council Report on Nuclear Safety, should achieve an adequate management of disused sealed sources. The relevance of the **TRANSPORT** project is given by the recommendations of the Peer Review, focusing on the application of the social legislation. The **STANDARDS** project is relevant as it should assist in solving practical problems with the on-going implementation of the Measurement Instruments Directive introduced recently. As the Public Finance Management system in Slovakia needs further modernisation, and most of the **FINANCE** projects were initiated under the Public Finance Management Reform, they can be characterised as reflecting the real needs in their respective areas. The **CUSTOMS** projects follow the EU current policy in external border and consumer protection. The first assistance to the Ministry of **CULTURE** seems to be relevant, especially after the transposition of the respective EU Directive into the national legislation.

Efficiency of the reviewed projects has suffered from the well-known tardiness, causing the subsequent delay of the start of activities, especially the 2005 ones. Also no Programme Manager was assigned to deal with the Sector at the Aid Co-ordination Unit. For the **AGRICULTURE** sub-component none of the 2005 or 2006 projects have been tendered. For the running and also finalised interventions for the Central Controlling and Testing Institute in Agriculture the co-operation with the same UK twinning and twinning light partner has been highly appreciated. Also the contractor for the 2004 Agricultural Paying Agency Control Section performed well, being very constructive and flexible. The **STATISTICS** assistance shows promising results in its efficiency, also due to the well designed project management, including the establishment of an electronic office. Due to similar reasons (plus the standardised work of the Steering Committee and the Working Groups) we are still positive that the **CADASTRE** intervention will be successful, in spite of its rather demanding nature. Efficiency of the **ENVIRONMENT** projects can be considered as high, the mixture of the managerial proficiency and the skills of the involved staff is showing very good results. Such a clear conclusion cannot be drawn for the **ENERGY** sub-component, particularly the Nuclear Safety projects: the IRAW Management is characterised by a smooth implementation, however the efficiency of the 2005 Radioactive Waste is influenced by the procurement problems. Good cooperation with the twinning partner in the Electricity and Gas Market project is overcoming the current changes resulting from the new Law and influencing the preparation of the secondary legislation. The cooperation with the selected partner at the **TRANSPORT** project cannot be evaluated as efficient because of his reluctant managerial approach resulting also in omitting one of the contractual obligations. The preparation of the **STANDARDS** project is rather lengthy, which is determined, among others, by its specific character. The ongoing **FINANCE** projects are implemented efficiently. Moreover, all sub-components of the Public Finance Management project have been implemented. All problems negatively influencing tendering of some **CUSTOMS** projects seem to be a thing of the past, the efficiency of both ongoing projects can be evaluated as high. The **CULTURE** intervention should benefit from a synergy effect when merging contracts for tendering purposes and also later transposition of the legislation as originally planned, thus overcoming the problems with the delayed start of activities.

Positive forecasts of *effectiveness* of the majority of the projects are based on their outputs, assessing the potential fulfilment of the respective Immediate Objectives. The delivery of massive training, supported by the complementary methodological materials, should bring some effects in the **AGRICULTURE** sub-component, such as the 2004 Food Safety project in

the area of pesticides registration and licensing, also the laboratory staff of the Central Controlling and Testing Institute in Agriculture should perform better when controlling the quality of pesticides. The 2004 Agricultural Paying Agency Control Section should show the first tangible effects in the better performance of controls of agricultural market organisation. The 2004 Variety Register after completion of the relevant software should bring effects in better administration of varieties, including the EU reporting. The 2004 **STATISTICS** interventions again into software development and upgrades should bring benefits in the decreased administrative burden of the reporting units and provision of data on foreign trade. The **CADASTRE** intervention into the Information System has good chances of assisting in the provision of user-friendly cadastral services, depending however on the successful completion of the complementary projects, such as the multipurpose cadastre. Some of the **ENVIRONMENT** projects by completing all activities have already achieved their Immediate Objectives, some others should contribute to fulfilling the defined Immediate Objectives. This will materialise in a discharge of the relevant EU requirements for water quality monitoring and assessment. The Electricity and Gas Market **ENERGY** project should liberalise the respective market for households. It is also realistic to foresee an improvement of the existing management system under the Nuclear Safety intervention; however, the information system to track all kinds of radioactive waste may be at risk. An adequate level of competence of human resources within the 2006 project should be achieved once favourably completed. The support given to the **TRANSPORT** project has contributed to adequate labour inspection performance comparable to EU standards. Once implemented, the **STANDARDS** project is expected to be effective as steps in the implementation of the Measurement Instruments Directive have already been taken. The ongoing **FINANCE** projects have delivered results that are well received by their beneficiaries. A massive transfer of know-how and experience under this component contributes clearly to the modernisation of the public finance administration. The *effectiveness* rating of the **CUSTOMS** projects can be regarded as high: they have realistic chances to contribute to the enhancement of consumer protection and the protection of the EU border by strengthening the anti-fraud control systems. The best results can be reported with regard to the completed Cooperation with Informants project. The **CULTURE** project should mainly assist the respective authorities in enforcement and protection of Intellectual Property Rights, once successfully tendered.

Sustainability of the **AGRICULTURE** projects shows mixed results. For the assistance to the Agriculture Paying Agency the sustainability seems to be secured, also after its organisational change and re-shuffle of the senior management. For instance, the co-operation of peer institutions from the Agricultural Paying Agency Control Section continues also after the completion of Transition Facility activities. Also the forecast of the 2005 assistance to the Agency is positive, mainly due to the stable staff and also the design of the projects, which includes besides training also provision of methodological documents. On the other hand, we remain less optimistic when predicting sustainable outcomes of the intervention to the Central Controlling and Testing Institute in Agriculture, especially after the announced cuts of its staff combined with the previously criticised fluctuation. However, the series of projects in the area of Food Safety should implicitly contribute to the sustainability of the 2004 Food Safety, together with the planned accreditation of the Central Controlling and Testing Institute in Agriculture chemical laboratory. Also the 2004 UIBF Variety Register software has good chances to be sustainable, especially once linked to the Registration Information System. The sustainability of the **STATISTICS** projects appears more likely compared to the previous evaluation, especially due to the existence of the political will of the new Statistical Office of

the Slovak Republic management to adopt legal changes. The **CADASTRE** intervention raises some concerns with regard to the sustainability of its planned outputs, such as the future status of the strategy and business plan. The sustainability of all **ENVIRONMENT** projects is very realistic, using the achieved results as tools in practical executions of the duties of the involved institutions. Nevertheless, the given criterion can be influenced by a new aspect observed at the time of this evaluation - a high turnover of the most qualified staff of the agencies caused by uncertainty over the future. Also the results of the **ENERGY Nuclear Safety** projects should become a tool in the Agency's daily work, which should improve the national / international reporting and the human resources management. Sustainability of the 2005 project's results will be crucially influenced by an ability to overcome the raised procurement problems. The most concrete materialisation of the given aspect of the **Electricity and Gas Market** will be an open, fully liberalised market in the relevant areas. The **TRANSPORT** project has helped to gain new knowledge and practical experience to increase the inspections level and to be used by various beneficiaries. The potential sustainability of the **STANDARDS** project can be assessed positively because of the availability of both a need and an intention to implement legislative changes supporting free movement of goods with a measurement function. The sustainability of the **FINANCE** projects has improved due to the stabilisation of the personnel of the public institutions a few months after the parliamentary elections. The realistic prediction of the **CUSTOMS** project's sustainability is positive due to the top priority status given to this field by the Government; moreover, their results are to be used in every day practice of the involved institutions. Projections of sustainability of the **CULTURE** project are now more optimistic (as compared to the last year), as the relevant legislation has already been transposed and the maintenance of the Intellectual Property database to be secured by the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic.

We can expect that most of the Transition Facility projects will contribute to the fulfilment of their respective Wider Objectives under the impact criterion, mostly in the area of transposition of the relevant *acquis*, such as the Reformed Common Agriculture Policy in the **AGRICULTURE** sub-sector. The Transition Facility assistance to the Agricultural Paying Agency should have an impact, for instance, on the increased exports of agricultural products (using, for instance re-funds), or via a more transparent system of direct payments bringing more financial resources to farmers. A similar positive impact is foreseen for the Central Controlling and Testing Institute in Agriculture support, where in the field of Food Safety the Slovak representatives have already started to participate in the EU peer review and should perform the co-rapporteur work soon. On the other hand, though the establishment of the Co-ordination Unit at the Central Controlling and Testing Institute in Agriculture should have definitely a positive impact on Slovakia's regulation of pesticides, the possibility of direct inclusion of employees from co-operating institutions was rather unclear at the time of this Report. The progressive areas of assistance for the **STATISTICS** and **CADASTRE** projects could both bring broad and tangible impacts, when new and upgraded Information Systems are put into practice, such as increasing the quality of the provided statistical data or a more flexible provision of cadastre information both to the state administration and citizens. The **ENVIRONMENT** projects contribute to the full implementation of the EU and the national water quality legislation by establishing the national monitoring /assessment systems in various fields of water quality monitoring. The **ENERGY Electricity and Gas Market** is also focused on the relevant EU Directive transposition by introducing a EU compliant model to the gas and electricity market. The effective implementation of the **Nuclear Safety** projects contributes to meeting the recommendations of the Nuclear Safety Report by increasing nuclear safety via management of the human resources. The intervention given to the **TRANSPORT** project has

contributed to the proper implementation of the *acquis* in the labour protection in the given sector and utilised the gained knowledge in the respective legal amendments. A broader impact in the form of free movement of goods with a measurement function without a distortion caused by liberalisation of markets can be generated by the **STANDARDS** project once implemented. **FINANCE** projects show good potential to generate a wider impact too. They provide the missing know-how and expertise in the Public Finance Management area. A solid impact can be achieved by the **CUSTOMS** projects by increasing of the east border protection, the overall improvement of the consumer protection and also by increasing the number and reliability of the relevant information sources of the customs authorities. Forecasts of the impact of the **CULTURE** intervention are rather positive mostly due to the planned introduction and protection of Intellectual Property Rights by the Law Enforcement Agencies.

C) Recommendations and Rating

Aid Co-ordination Unit at the Office of the Government SR

The Aid Co-ordination Unit at the Office of the Government should employ a Programme Manager for Standards, Finance and Customs components of the Internal Market Development within its new organisational structure to deal with this complex Sub-sector.

Beneficiary – Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre Authority

The Geodesy Cartography and Cadastre Authority should submit a document to the Aid Co-ordination Unit showing the concrete steps of the approval process of the strategy and the business plan prepared under the 2004 Technical Assistance sub-component. A similar document to be prepared and submitted by the Authority showing the plans for the rollout phase of the testing stage of the functionality of the Electronic Registry.

Beneficiary – Ministry of Transport, Posts and Telecommunications /Central Finance and Contracting Unit

The Beneficiary shall discuss the problem of the omitted output – that is, the preparation of a glossary of specific expressions from the transport control field – with the Central Finance and Contracting Unit in order to find a proper solution.

Rating

	Relevance	Efficiency	Effectiveness	Sustainability	Impact	Verbal Rating
AGRI, STAT, CAD						
2004/016-764.01.01 Food Safety	1	1	1	0	1	S
2004/016-764.08.03 UIBF APA Control Section	1	2	1	1	1	S
2004/016-764.08.03 UIBF Variety Register	1	1	1	1	1	S
2005/017-464.08.01	1	1	0	0	0	S

UIBF Food Safety						
2006/018-175.01.01 Food Safety	1	0	1	0	1	S
2005/017-464.01.01 APA Market Organisations	1	0	1	1	1	S
2005/017-464.01.02 Organic Farming	1	0	1	1	1	S
2005/017-464.01.03 APA Single Payment Scheme	1	0	1	1	1	S
2005/017-464.01.04 Forest Repro Material	1	1	1	1	1	S
2004/016-764.05.01 Statistics	1	1	1	1	1	S
2004/016-764.08.03 UIBF SW for Intrastat	1	1	1	1	1	S
2004/016-764.08.01 Cadastre	1	1	0	-1	1	S
ENV,ENE,TRANS,STAN						
2004/016-764.08.03 UIBF Ec. Status Classification	2	2	2	1	1	HS
2004/016-764.08.03 UIBF,Data Flow Provision	1	1	1	1	1	S
2005/017-464.06.01 EQS for Water	1	1	1	1	1	S
2005/017-464.08.01 UIBF WFD Compliant Method	1	1	1	0	1	S
2005/017-464.08.01 UIBF TA on IS for EIA	1	1	0	0	1	S
2004/016-764.07.01 IRAW Management	1	1	1	1	1	S
2005/017-464.07.02 Radioactive Waste	1	-1	-1	0	0	U
2006/018-175.04.01 HRM at NRA	1	0	0	0	1	S
2004/016-764.06.01 Road Transport	1	-1	0	1	1	S
2005/017-464.07.01 Electr.+ Gas Market	1	1	1	1	1	S
2005/017-464.02.01 RACMI	1	0	1	0	0	S
FIN,CUS,CUL						
2004/016-764.02.01 Strengthening PFM	1	1	1	0	0	S
2004/016-764.02.02 Tax Audit	1	1	1	1	0	S
2004/016-764.02.03 Internal Audit	1	1	1	1	0	S
2006/018-175.03.01 Audit Committees	1	1	1	0	0	S
2006/018-175.03.02 EU Own Resources	1	1	1	0	0	S
2004/016-833 Antifraud Traffic Control Systems	1	1	1	1	1	S
2004/016-764.08.03 UIBF Informants	1	1	1	1	1	S
2005/017-464.08.01 Enhancement ODA	1	1	1	0	0	S
2005/017-464.02.03 Consumer Protection	1	1	1	1	1	S
2005/017-464.02.02 Intellectual Property Rights	1	1	1	1	1	S
Total for the INT Sector	1	1	1	1	1	S

Unacceptable	Poor	Sufficient/ adequate or no rating possible	Good	Excellent
-2	-1	0	+1	+2
Highly Unsatisfactory	Unsatisfactory	No rating possible	Satisfactory	Highly satisfactory
HU	U	N/A	S	HS

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PREFACE

This Interim Evaluation Report covers the Transition Facility assistance to the Internal Market Development sector in Slovakia under the following programmes:

2004/016-764.01.01 Strengthening of Control Systems in the Area of Food Safety, 2004/016-764.08.03 UIBF Technical Assistance for Enhancement of the Control Section of the Agricultural Paying Agency, 2004/016-764.08.03 UIBF Data Synchronisation for the Central Variety Register, 2004/016-764.08.01 Strengthening the Efficiency of Cadastral Services, 2004/016-764.05.01 Use of Administrative Sources for Enhancement and Improvement of the Statistical Information System, 2004/016-764.08.03 UIBF Supplement of Software for Intrastat SK System, 2004/016-764.08.03 UIBF Establishment of the Type Specific Reference Conditions for Classification of the Ecological Status, 2004/016-764.08.03 UIBF Execution of Data Flow Provision on Slovak Lakes and Water Reservoirs Quality of Water in Relation to EEA and EC, and Strengthening of Bathing Water Database System in the Slovak Republic by Means of Software, 2004/016-764.07.01 Establishment and Implementation of a National System for the Management of Institutional Radioactive Waste, 2004/016-764.06.01 Capacity Building in the Area of Road Transport (Enforcement of Social Legislation), 2004/016-764.02.01 Strengthening Public Finance Management, 2004/016-764.02.02 Systemic Changes in Tax Audit, 2004/016-764.02.03 Capacity Building in the Area of Internal Audit, 2004/016-833 Strengthening of the Antifraud Traffic Control Systems at the EU External Border in the SR, 2004/016-764.08.03 UIBF Training Focused on Cooperation with Informants, 2005/017-464.08.01 UIBF Further Strengthening of Prevention and Control Systems in the Area of Food Safety, 2005/017-464.01.01 Reinforcement/ Further Improvement of the Agricultural Paying Agency's Administrative Capacity in the Field of Market Organization, 2005/017-464.01.02 Strengthening of the Management Capacity of the Central Controlling and Testing Institute in Agriculture in the Area of Organic Farming, 2005/017-464.01.03 Enhancement of the Agricultural Paying Agency and Implementation of the Single Payment Scheme according to the Reformed CAP, 2005/017-464.01.04 Reinforcement of the National Control system for Forest Reproductive Material, 2005/017-464.06.01 Establishment of the Environmental Quality Standards for Water and Strengthening of Regional and District Environmental Offices for Implementation of Water Controls and Monitoring, 2005/017-464.08.01 UIBF Development of Water Framework Directive Compliant National Method for Water Quality Assessment of Lowland Rivers using Phytoplankton and Proposal for Phytobenthos Monitoring, 2005/017-464.08.01 UIBF Technical Assistance on Information System for Environmental Impact Assessment - part Strategic Environmental Assessment 2005/017-464.07.02 Development of an Information and Tracking System for Radioactive Waste and Spent Fuel in Slovakia, 2005/017-464.07.01 Preparation for the Opening of the Market in Electricity and Gas to Households, 2005/017-464.02.03 Implementation of Consumer Protection Legislation into Practice, 2005/017-464.08.01 UIBF Enhancement of the Ministry of Finance Official Development Aid Effectiveness, 2005/017-464.02.01 Reinforcement of Administrative Capacity as regards Measuring Instruments, 2005/017-464.02.02 Enforcement of an Intellectual Property Rights in the SR, 2006/018-175.01.01 Strengthening of Capacities and Quality of the Control Services of the Central Controlling and Testing Institute in Agriculture, 2006/018-175.04.01 Strengthening Human Resources Management at the Nuclear Regulatory Authority of the Slovak Republic, 2006/018-175.03.01 Strengthening of Internal Auditors Independence in Public Sector by Creation of Audit Committee(s) and 2006/018-175.03.02 Audit and Ex-post Financial Control of the EC Own Resources

This Interim Evaluation Report has been prepared by CEEN Economic Project and Policy Consulting GmbH and Euroformes s.r.o.² during the period from February to May 2007 and reflects the situation on 2nd May 2007, the cut-off date for the Report. The factual basis is provided by the Monitoring Report M/SR/INT/06013 prepared by the Aid Co-ordination Unit of the Office of the Government, covering the period from 1 March to 31 August 2006 and issued on 3 November 2006. Other findings are based on the analysis of formal Programme documentation, interviews with the main parties and published material.

The Interim Evaluation Report examines the progress of the programmes towards the objectives stated in the formal programming documents, i.e. Project Fiches, etc. The report is intended to provide management information for the benefit of the Joint Monitoring Committee and other involved parties. It draws conclusions and puts forward Recommendations. It provides a general assessment of programmes or components under consideration and included in the corresponding Sectoral Monitoring Report.

Comments have been requested on the draft Report from the following parties:

Party invited	Comments received
Office of the Government/Aid Co-ordination Unit	yes
Ministry of Agriculture SR	yes
Statistical Office of the SR	yes
Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre Authority	yes
Ministry of Culture SR	yes
Ministry of Finance SR	yes
Ministry of Environment SR	yes
Nuclear Regulatory Authority	yes
Regulatory Office for Networking Industries	yes
Ministry of Transport, Posts and Telecommunications	yes
Office of Standards, Metrology and Testing	yes
Ministry of Finance/Central Finance and Contracting Unit	yes
Ministry of Finance/National Fund	yes

Where possible, the Evaluators have integrated the comments received into the Report. Dissenting views are included in the Annex 6.

² Authors: Viera Spanikova, Viera Gazikova and the STTS Dana Simova, Interim Evaluation Cell CEEN/Euroformes. The Report was reviewed by the CEEN Headquarters in Vienna

GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS

ACU	Aid Co-ordination Unit
APA	Agricultural Paying Agency
AS	Administrative Sources
ASIS	Automated Statistical Information System
BCMP	Business Change Management Plan
CA	Competent Authority
CAP	Common Agriculture Policy
CCTIA	Central Controlling and Testing Institute in Agriculture
CCO	Customs Criminal Office
CD SR	Customs Directorate of the Slovak Republic
CFCU	Central Finance and Contracting Unit
CHU	Central Harmonisation Unit
CMO	Common Market Organisations
CMR	Comprehensive Monitoring Report
CS	Control Section
CU	Control Unit
CWEM	Centre of Waste and Environmental Management of SEA
DEPP	Department for Environmental Projects Programming of SEA
Dept.	Department
DG	Director General
DG ECFIN	Directorate General Economic and Financial Affairs
DO	District Offices
DPF	Detailed Project Fiche
EC	European Commission
EEA	European Environmental Agency
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EIONET	European Information Observation Network
EU	European Union
EQS	Environmental Quality Standards
ER	Electronic Registry
FM	Financing Memorandum
FRI	Forest Research Institute
FRM	Forest Reproductive Material
GCCA	Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre Authority of the Slovak Republic
GLP	Good Laboratory Practice
GS	Grant Scheme
HRD	Human Resource Development
HRM	Human Resource Management
HW	Hardware
IA	Indicator of Achievement
IACS	Integrated Administrative and Control System
IB	Institutional Building
IDG	Inspection of Director General
IE	Interim Evaluation
IMF	International Monetary Fund
INT	Internal Market Development
IO	Immediate Objectives
IPO	Industrial Property Office
IPR	Intellectual Property Rights
IPPC	Integrated Pollution and Prevention Control
IR	Inception Report
IRAW	Institutional Radioactive Waste
IS	Information System
IT	Information Technology

JMC	Joint Monitoring Committee
LRCHS for SR	List of Relevant Chemical Substances for the Slovak Republic
MM	Monthly Meeting
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MID	Measurement Instruments Directive
MIS	Management Information System
MO	Market Organisation
MoA	Ministry of Agriculture
MoC	Ministry of Culture
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MoE	Ministry of Economy
MoEnv	Ministry of Environment
MoF	Ministry of Finance
MoI	Ministry of Interior
MoJ	Ministry of Justice
MoLSAF	Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family MS
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MS	Member State
MSA	Market Surveillance Authority
MTPT	Ministry of Transport, Post and Telecommunication
NDA	Nuclear Decommissioning Agency
NFC	National Forest Centre
NGO	Non-governmental Organisation
NMS	New Member State
NPP	Nuclear Power Plant
NRA	Nuclear Regulatory Authority
ODA	Official Development Assistance
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
OF	Organic Farming
OoG	Office of the Government
OSMT	Office of Standards, Metrology and Testing
PF	Project Fiche
PFM	Public Finance Management
PFMR	Public Finance Management Reform
PHO	Public Health Office
PPP	Product Plant Protection
PPR	Programme of Pollution Reduction
PSD	Pesticides Safety Directorate
RIS	Registration Information System
RONI	Regulatory Office for Networking Industries
RTA	Resident Twinning Adviser
SAPS	Single Area Payment Scheme
SAS	Slovak Academy of Sciences
SC	Steering Committee
SCA	Slovak Customs Administration
SEA	Slovak Environmental Agency
SEI	Slovak Environmental Inspectorate
SHMI	Slovak Hydro meteorological Institute
SMSA	Slovak Market Surveillance Authorities
SMSB	Slovak Market Surveillance Bodies
SMSC	Sector Monitoring Sub-Committee
SOSR	Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic
SPO	Senior Programme Officer
SPS	Single Payment Scheme
SR	Slovak Republic
SRI	Slovak Railways
ST	State Treasury
STI	Slovak Trade Inspection
SW	Software

TA	Technical Assistance
TF	Transition Facility
TNA	Training Needs Analysis
ToR	Terms of Reference
ToT	Training of Trainers
TS	Technical Specification
TW	Twinning
TWL	Twinning Light
UIBF	Unallocated Institution Building Facility
VAT	Value Added Tax
VFM	Value for Money
VOSA	Vehicle and Operator Services Agency
WB	World Bank
WG	Working Group
WFD	Water Framework Directive
WO	Wider Objectives
WRI	Water Research Institute

MAIN REPORT

FINANCIAL AND CONTRACTUAL DATA OF THE SECTOR INTERNAL MARKET DEVELOPMENT

Project Number	Title	Beneficiary	Contract			Transition Facility Support			Co-financing		
			Start of Contract	Finish of the Contract /Expiry of Contracting	Expiry of Disbursement	Allocated €	com %	dis %	Allocated €	com %	dis %
<i>COMPONENT 1 : AGRI., STAT, CAD</i>											
2004/016-764.01.01	Strengthening of Control Systems in the Area of Food Safety	MoA	11/10/2005	15/12/2006	15/12/2007	1,565.000	98.34	93.80	305.000	99.96	93.90
	TW		11/10/2005	10/01/2007	15/12/2007	570.000	95.50	95.50	-	-	-
	TWL		20/04/2006	15/12/2006	15/12/2007	80.000	100	79.96	-	-	-
	Supply		05/2006	15/12/2006	15/12/2007	915.000	99.97	93.90	305.000	99.96	93.90
2004/016-764.08.03 UIBF 2004	Data Synchronisation for the Central Variety Register (TA	MoA	16/10/2006	16/08/2007	15/12/2007	200.000	59.81	-			
2004/016-764.05.01	Enhancement of the Slovak Statistical System	SO	05/01/2006	15/12/2006	15/12/2007	1,740.000	91.70	61.21	50.000	87.70	87.70
	TWL		05/01/2006	05/07/06	15/12/2008	250.000	81.90	65.50	65.58	-	-
	TA		21/06/2006	15/12/2006	15/12/2007	1,370.000	96.81	58.10	-	-	-
	Supply+Training		29/09/2006	15/12/2006	15/12/2007	120.000	87.70	87.70	50.000	87.70	87.70
2004/016-764.08.03 UIBF 2004	Supplement of SW for Intrastat	SO	27/09/2006	15/12/2006	15/12/2007	196.000	96.70	-			
2004/016-764.08.01	Strengthening of Efficiency of Cadastral Services	GCCA	07/11/06	15/12/2006	15/12/2007	1,150.000	98.95	45.64	400.000	99.00	33.96
	TWL		05/12/2007	15/12/2006	15/12/2007	150.000	100.0	80.00	60.000	100.00	0.00
	TA		07/11/06	15/12/2006	15/12/2007	600.000	98.1	58.86	200.000	98.1	58.86
	Supply		07/11/06	15/12/2006	15/12/2007	400.000	99.83	12.93	140.000	99.85	12.93
2004/016-764.08.03 UIBF 2004	TA for Enhancement of the Control Section of APA	MoA	28/04/2006	28/02/2007	15/12/2008	235.000	99.23	89.31	-	-	-
2005/017-464.08.01 UIBF	Further Strengthening of Prevention and Control Systems in the Area of Food	MoA	27/04/2007	15/12/2007	15/12/2007	100.000	0.00	0.00	-	-	-

	Safety										
2005/017-464.01.01	Reinforcement of APA in the Field of Market Organisation	MoA	-	15/12/2007	15/12/2008	350.000	0.00	0.00	-	-	-
	TA		-	15/12/2007	15/12/2008	350.000	0.00	0.00	-	-	-
2005/017-464.01.02	Strengthening of Admin. Authority in the Area of Organic Farming	MoA	-	15/12/2007	15/12/2008	190.000	0.00	0.00	-	-	-
	TWL		-	15/12/2007	15/12/2008	190.000	0.00	0.00	-	-	-
2005/017-464.01.03	Enhancement of APA and Implementation of Single Payment Scheme	MoA	-	15/12/2007	15/12/2008	500.000	0.00	0.00	-	-	-
	TA		-	15/12/2007	15/12/2008	500.000	0.00	0.00	-	-	-
2005/017-464.01.04	Reinforcement of National Control System for Forest Reproductive Material	MoA	-	15/12/2007	15/12/2008	180.000	0.00	0.00	-	-	-
	TA		-	15/12/2007	15/12/2008	120.000	0.00	0.00	-	-	-
	Supply		-	15/12/2007	15/12/2008	60.000	0.00	0.00	-	-	-
2006/018-175.01.01	Strengthening of Capacities and Quality of the Control Services of the Central Controlling and Testing Institute in Agriculture	MoA	-	15/12/2008	15/12/2009	200.000	0.00	0.00	25.000	0.00	0.00
	TWL		-	15/12/2008	15/12/2009	200.000	0.00	0.00	-	-	-
	Supply/parallel co-fin.		-	15/12/2008	15/12/2009	-	-	-	25.000	0.00	0.00
Component 2 ENV,ENE,TRANS,STAN											
2004/016-764.08.03	Establishment of the Type Specific Reference Conditions for Classification of the Ecological Status	MoE	21/10/2005	15/12/2006	15/12/2007	200.000	92.67	92.67	-	-	-
	TWL		21/10/2005	15/12/2006	15/12/2007	200.000	92.67	92.67	-	-	-

2004/016-764.08-03	Execution of Data Flow Provision on Slovak Lakes and Water Reservoirs Quality of Water in Relation to EEA and EC, and Strengthening of Bathing Water Database System in SR by Means of Software	MoE	11.10.2006	15.12.2006	15.12.2007	199 000	96,2	60,11	-	-	-
	TA		11.10.2006	15.12.2006	15.12.2007	199 000	96,2	60,11	-	-	-
2005/017-464.06.01	Establishment of the Environmental Quality Standards for Water and Strengthening of Regional and District Environmental Offices for Implementation of Water Controls and Monitoring	MoE	21/6/2006	15/12/2007	15/12/2008	1,600. 000	99,91	39.00	416. 400	45,67	45,67
	TW		21/6/2006	15/12/2007	15/12/2008	1,100. 000	99,91	39.00	100.000	0.00	0.00
	TA		-	15/12/2007	15/12/2008	500. 000	0.00	0.00	125.000	0.00	0.00
	Supply		10.11.2006	15/12/2007	15/12/2008	-	-	-	191.400	99,9	99,9
2005/017-464.08.01	Development of WFD Compliant Method for Water Quality Assessment of Lowland Rivers Using Phytoplankton and Proposal for Phytobenthos Monitoring	MoE		15/12/2007	15/12/2008	100 000	-	-	-	-	-
	TWL		-	15/12/2007	15/12/2008	100 000	-	-	-	-	-
2005/017-464.08.01	TA on Information System for EIA – part SEA	MoE	-	15/12/2007	15/12/2008	147 000	-	-	-	-	-
	TA		-	15/12/2007	15/12/2008	150 000	-	-	-	-	-
2004/016-764.07.01	Establishment and Implementation of a National System for the Management of Institutional Radioactive Waste	NRA	15/11/2006 29/9/2006	15/12/2006	15/12/2007	875.000	88,50	50.81	83. 333	0.00	0.00
	TA		15/11/2006	15/12/2006	15/12/2007	625.000	0.00	0.00	-	-	-
	Supply		29/9/2006	15/12/2006	15/12/2007	250.000	88,50	50.81	83. 333	0.00	0.00

2005/017-464.07.02	Development of an Information and Tracking System for Radioactive Waste and Spent Fuel in Slovakia	NRA	-	15/12/2007	15/12/2008	500.000	0.00	0.00	142.000	0.00	0.00
	TA		-	15/12/2007	15/12/2008	500.000	0.00	0.00	-	-	-
	Supply		-	15/12/2007	15/12/2008	-	-	-	142.000	0.00	0.00
2006/018-175.04.01	Strengthening of the Human Resources Management at the NRA SR	NRA	-	15/12/2008	15/12/2009	400.000	0.00	0.00	-	-	-
	TA		-	15/12/2008	15/12/2009	400.000	-	-	-	-	-
2005/017-464.07.01	Preparation for the Opening of the Market in Electricity and Gas to Households	RONI	23/05/2006	15/12/2007	15/12/2008	650.000	100	44.41	-	-	-
	TW		23/05/2006	15/12/2007	15/12/2008	650.000	100	44.41	-	-	-
2004/016-764.06.01	Capacity Building in the Area of Road Transport (Enforcement of Social Legislation)	MTPT	04/04/2006	15/12/2006	15/12/2007	250.000	99.92	79.94	-	-	-
	TWL		04/04/2006	15/12/2006	15/12/2007	250.000	99.92	79.94	-	-	-
2005/017-464.02.01	Reinforcement of Administrative Capacity as regards Measuring Instruments	OSMT	-	15/12/2007	15/12/2008	450.000	0.00	0.00	-	-	-
	TWL		-	15/12/2007	15/12/2008	250.000	0.00	0.00	-	-	-
	TA		-	15/12/2007	15/12/2008	200.000	0.00	0.00	-	-	-
Component 3 FIN,CUS,CUL											
2004/016-764.02.01	Strengthening Public Finance Management	MoF & ST	-	15/12/2007	15/12/2008	2,200.000	92.78	54.71	-	-	-
	Accounting & Reporting		27/02/2006	15/12/2007	15/12/2008	1,500.000	98.96	74.22	-	-	-
	State Treasury		-	15/12/2007	15/12/2008	200.000	94.81	45.14	-	-	-
	Monitoring & Evaluation		07/11/2006	15/12/2007	15/12/2008	500.000	73.44	-	-	-	-
2004/016-764.02.02	Systemic Changes in the Tax Audit	Tax Directorate	02/08/2005	15/12/2006	15/12/2007	930.000	100.00	68.65	235.000	72.93	72.93
	TW		02/08/2005	01/11/2007	15/12/2007	930.000	100.00	34.35	235.000	72.93	72.93
2004/016-764.02.03	Capacity Building in the Area of Internal Audit	MoF	10/01/2006	15/12/2006	15/12/2007	670.000	100.00	58.24	10.000	154.00	154.00

	TW		10/01/2006	09/05/2007	15/12/2007	670.000	100.00	58.24	10.000	100.00	70.00
2006/018-175.03.01	Strengthening the Internal Auditors' Independence in Public Sector by Creating Audit Committee(s)	MoF	-	15/12/2008	15/12/2009	400.000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-
	TW		-	15/12/2008	15/12/2009	400.000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-
2006/018-175.03.02	Audit and Ex-post Financial Control of the EU Own Resources	MoF	-	15/12/2008	15/12/2009	150.000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-
	TWL		-	15/12/2008	15/12/2009	150.000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-
2004/016-764.08.03	Training Focused on Cooperation with Informants	CD	23/01/2006	15/12/2006	15/12/2007	36.000	75,3	75,3	-	-	-
	TWL		23/01/2006	15/12/2006	15/12/2007	36.000	75,3	75,3	-	-	-
2005/017-464.08.01	Enhancement of the Ministry of Finance Official Development Assistance	MoF	-	15/12/2007	15/12/2008	150.000	0.00	0.00	-	-	-
	TA		-	15/12/2007	15/12/2008	150.000	0.00	0.00	-	-	-
2004/016-833	Strengthening of the Antifraud Traffic Control Systems at the EU External Border in the SR	CD	14.12.2006	15/12/2006	15/12/2007	375.000	86,01	43,3	125.000	86,01	43,3
	Supply		14.12.2006	15/12/2006	15/12/2007	375.000	86,01	43,3	125.000	86,01	43,3
2005/017-464.02.03	Implementation of Consumer Protection Legislation into Practice	CD	15/11/2006	15/12/2007	15/12/2008	250.000	100	80	-	-	-
	TWL		15/11/2006	15/12/2007	15/12/2008	250.000	100	80	-	-	-
2005/017-464.02.02	Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights	MoC	-	15/12/2007	15/12/2008	400.000	0.00	0.00	-	-	-
	TA (Public Campaign)		-	15/12/2007	15/12/2008	70.000	0.00	0.00	-	-	-
	TA (SW, Datab., Training)		-	15/12/2007	15/12/2008	330.000	0.00	0.00	-	-	-
	Total for the Sector					17,538.000	60.66	42.55	1,791.700	60.38	42.98

Source: Perseus by cut-off date 2 May 2007.

1. SECTORAL BACKGROUND AND SCOPE OF EVALUATION

1.1. Sectoral Background

1. This Interim Evaluation (IE) Report is part of the second round of reports to cover the Transition Facility (TF) assistance to Slovakia, namely the Internal Market Development (INT) Sector, the biggest of the three existing monitoring sectors for the TF and Phare support in the Slovak Republic (SR). The programmes under review are closely linked to the respective EU documents, such as the 2003 Country Monitoring Report (CMR), the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the TF 2004 – 2006 Implementation and other sector-related documents, such as Common Agriculture Policy (CAP), Strategy for Development of Organic Farming (OF) in Slovakia or Public Finance Management Reform (PFMR).

1.2 Scope of Evaluation

2. The INT monitoring sector for the TF part covers several 2004, 2005 and 2006 projects, which were split into the following Components for evaluation purposes:

- ❑ Agriculture, Statistics and Cadastre (AGR, STAT and CAD)
- ❑ Environment, Energy, Transport and Standards (ENV, ENE, TRANS and STAN)
- ❑ Finance, Customs and Culture (FIN, CUS and CUL)

1.2.1 Performance of Activities³

Component 1 Agriculture, Statistics and Cadastre

2004/016-764.01.01 Strengthening of Control Systems in the Area of Food Safety, 2004/016-764.08.03 Unallocated Institutional Building Facility (UIBF) Technical Assistance (TA) for Enhancement of the Control Section (CS) of the Agricultural Paying Agency (APA), 2004/016-764.08.03 UIBF Data Synchronisation for the Central Variety Register, 2004/016-764.08.01 Strengthening the Efficiency of Cadastral Services, 2004/016-764.05.01 Use of Administrative Sources for Enhancement and Improvement of the Statistical Information System, 2004/016-764.08.03 UIBF Supplement of Software for INTRASTAT- SK System, 2005/017-464.08.01 UIBF Further Strengthening of Prevention and Control Systems in the Area of Food Safety, 2005/017-464.01.01 Reinforcement/ Further Improvement of the Agricultural Paying Agency's Administrative Capacity in the Field of Market Organization (MO), 2005/017-464.01.02 Strengthening of the Management Capacity of the Central Controlling and Testing Institute in Agriculture (CCTIA) in the Area of Organic Farming, 2005/017-464.01.03 Enhancement of the Agricultural Paying Agency and Implementation of the Single Payment Scheme (SPS) according to the Reformed CAP, 2005/017-464.01.04 Reinforcement of the National Control System for Forest Reproductive Material (FRM), 2006/018-175.01.01 Strengthening of Capacities and Quality of the Control Services of the Central Controlling and Testing Institute in Agriculture

³ For more detailed information on activities, outputs and effects please see Annex 5.

Activities and Outputs

3. The focus of the 2004 Food Safety project is on risk assessment and management of plant protection products, control of primary inputs into the food chain and environment and finally monitoring of forbidden substances in animal products. The 2004 UIBF Variety Register should assist the CCTIA in the Software (SW) development (a database statistic programme) for data registration and processing of results to enable acceptance of varieties according to the EU rules. The 2005 Organic Farming (OF) intervention focuses on enhancement of the performance of the CCTIA and management of granting import certificates for organic products of third countries. The 2005 UIBF Food Safety has the aim of creating a co-ordination unit within the CCTIA to oversee all registration work in Slovakia. The 2006 assistance to the CCTIA Food Safety should support the achievement of the EU laboratory system via capacity building of the Departments (Dept.) of Environmental and Organic Farming and Plant Protection. The 2004 UIBF APA Control Section (CS) project aimed at further enhancement of expertise and skills of the APA inspectors, managers and executives of the APA CS in all areas of the control activities. The 2005 APA Market Organisations (MO) project has the intention to reinforce the market organisation system of the APA via upgrading the commodities intervention system and strengthening the export refunds and their inspection. The 2005 APA Single Payment Scheme (SPS) project supports the improvement of the APA management necessary for the implementation of the SPS. The 2005 Forest Reproductive Material (FRM) intends to implement the EC Directive on marketing the forest reproductive material through upgrading the technical means and enhancement of human resources of the National Forest Centre (NFC). The 2004 Statistics assistance should increase the quality, effectiveness and flexibility of the statistics information system via gathering and using data from administrative sources, providing relevant information on socio-economic and ecological development of Slovakia, including the international comparability. The 2004 UIBF INTRASTAT-SK supports the improvement of the Information System (IS) via upgrading of the existing application SW for the INTRASTAT-SK System. The 2004 Cadastre project provides support to the establishment of an efficient access to cadastral services and its provision to private and business entities; to improve cadastral services via establishing an effective access through introducing the Internet Electronic Registry (ER).

Effects

4. For the 2004 Food Safety assistance the Twinning (TW), Twinning Light (TWL) sub-projects and Supplies were all finished. The TW via a series of theoretical and practical training sessions and study visits to the UK has brought the expertise and supporting methodology to the CCTIA staff to carry out pesticide registration and also authorisation of products. The TWL through its training efforts for the CCTIA laboratory staff, both on its theoretical and practical fronts should bring its effects soon in building up the system of Good Laboratory Practice (GLP). The Supplies for the network of veterinary laboratories and the control of pesticides in water have been delivered and are in operation, for instance when improving the securing of quality along the food chain. The 2004 UIBF Variety Register has brought its first outputs after 6 months of implementation, notably in the system analysis and the SW development; concrete effects to be reported after the complete SW delivery and training late summer 2007. The 2004 UIBF APA CS intervention finished late February 2007 and has managed to complete a series of training sessions, especially for the APA controllers and the staff of the APA CS, which should improve the performance of the relevant APA staff when executing on the spot controls. About 30 APA staff has been trained, provided with the relevant manuals, which are now being tailor made for the CS purposes. From the 2004

Statistics project, the TWL part has been completed, bringing effects in the form of a progressive approach to statistical data management from Administrative Sources (AS), technical analyses for the TA aimed at Software (SW) development of the Automated Statistical Information System (ASIS), and recommendations for amendment of the relevant legislation. The TA assistance focused on the SW development was at the analytical stage of the ASs at the time of the IE with the pilot testing to commence in July 2007 and for the first effects to be reported after the full operation at the end of this year. The complementary Supply of Hardware (HW) was delivered end 2006 and should bring effects after the SW development part. The 2004 UIBF INTRASTAT-SK has progressed already with the testing phase and the system should be up and running in June 2007, providing more efficient and effective statistical data on foreign trade. The 2004 assistance to the Cadastre has also been under implementation, with the TWL having already completed the Training Needs Analysis (TNA) and the Training and Activity Plan, together with the training sessions, such as the Training of Trainers (ToT) element. The TA assistance to the ER development has finished the Global Analysis with the rest of the stages of the SW development to follow later this year, together with the relevant strategic documents for the Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre Authority (GCCA) senior management. The Supply of application licences, tokens and servers has been completed to support the IS in due time.

No effects to be reported from the 2005 or 2006 projects. However, due to their design they should bring at least some effects once successfully implemented.

Component 2 Environment, Energy, Transport and Standards

2004/016-764.08.03 UIBF Establishment of the Type Specific Reference Conditions for Classification of the Ecological Status, 2004-016-764.08-03 Execution of Data Flow Provision on Slovak Lakes and Water Reservoirs Quality of Water in Relation to EEA and EC, and Strengthening of Bathing Water Database System in SR by Means of Software, 2005/017-464.06.01 Establishment of the Environmental Quality Standards (EQS) for Water and Strengthening of Regional and District Environmental Offices for Implementation of Water Controls and Monitoring, 2005/017-464.08.01 Development of WFD Compliant Method for Water Quality Assessment of Lowland Rivers Using Phytoplankton and Proposal for Phytobenthos Monitoring, 2005/017-464.08.01 TA on Information System for EIA – part SEA, 2004/016-764.07.01 Establishment and Implementation of a National System for the Management of Institutional Radioactive Waste (IRAW), 2005/017-464.07.02 Development of an Information and Tracking System for Radioactive Waste and Spent Fuel in Slovakia, 2006/018-175.04.01 Strengthening of the Human Resources Management at the NRA SR, 2005/017-464.07.01 Preparation for the Opening of the Market in Electricity and Gas to Households, 2004/016-764.06.01 Capacity Building in the Area of Road Transport (Enforcement of Social Legislation), 2005/017-464.02.01 Reinforcement of Administrative Capacity as regards Measuring Instruments (RACMI)

Activities and Outputs

5. The aim of the 2004 UIBF Ecological Status Classification is to set up the type specific reference conditions for biological elements, to develop the ecological classification of the water surface by biological elements and to train the Beneficiary staff dealing with water monitoring and assessment. The 2004 UIBF Data Flow Provision is to obtain data on the water quality of lakes/reservoirs to be provided to the European Information Observation Network (EIONET) and to develop a surveillance monitoring programme proposal as well as to monitor

water quality of lakes and reservoirs for the WFD purposes. The 2005 EQS for Water should establish the Environmental Quality Standards (EQS) for dangerous substances covered by the List of the Relevant Dangerous Substances for the SR, including the set-up of the communication network and the Management Information System (MIS) at the regional and the district level. The 2005 UIBF WFD Compliant Method is to review the indicator groups of phytobenthos in rivers in order to make a proposal of the WFD compliant phytobenthos monitoring and to develop the WFD compliant national method of the lowland rivers water quality assessment by using phytoplankton, including also training of the WRI staff. The 2005 UIBF TA on IS for EIA should design and implement an IS for the EIA/SEA, to assure its publicity, to monitor its usage and to train staff. The target of the 2004 IRAW Management project is to improve the existing system of the institutional radioactive waste and to arrange the interconnectivity with the national system. Moreover, the determination of regulatory bodies' responsibilities and proposals for the technological treatment of the IRAW should improve the security of radioactive waste management. The 2005 Radioactive Waste is focused on assuring the quality of the reporting system of the future Slovak national agency on radioactive waste management by developing an IS, which would be able to track all kinds of radioactive waste and spent fuel. The 2006 HRM at NRA is focused on the design of a long-term training strategy, including modular training; computer based testing and certification tool and implementation of a pilot course. The 2004 Road Transport project is to achieve an adequate EU comparable level of the labour inspection performance in the transport sector. The target of the 2005 Electricity and Gas Market is to prepare an open market for electricity and gas to households by changing the decision on the regulation of distribution and supply of electricity and natural gas to the end consumers, as well as by the revision of the regulation which applies to companies supplying electricity and natural gas to households. The 2005 RACMI intends to contribute to solving practical problems with the functioning of the Measurement Instruments Directive (MID, implemented in Slovakia on 30 October 2006). Furthermore, it should assist in the liberalisation of the public utilities market (i.e. electricity, gas) by proposing relevant legislative changes.

Effects

6. All the planned activities of the TWL under the 2004 UIBF Ecological Status Classification have been completed. The surface water typology testing performed during the project implementation has been incorporated into the national Slovak stream typology testing and procedures proposed for water chemistry reference conditions. The settings are used in practice for the national limit values of general physico-chemical determinants in the SR. A serious degree of progress can be reported in the 2004 UIBF, Data Flow Provision project: the Inventory List of Slovak lakes/reservoirs has been completed, an Analysis of the WFD and EIONET requirements for lakes/reservoirs monitoring network and a monitoring programme is finished as well, also the Draft Lakes/Water Reservoirs Monitoring Programme, the IS technological platform is specified. Monitoring itself is going to start in order to be able to provide data to EIONET in the agreed 2007 autumn period, and thus to fulfil Slovak obligations resulting from the relevant European legislation. The TW under the 2005 EQS for Water has progressed substantially with preparation of the Monitoring Manual, the EQS List is in the final commenting stage, the equipment for the Regional /District Offices has been installed, ToRs for the IS design are ready as well. A good cooperation with the Italian partner has materialised also in training and a study trip. Once all the activities are concluded, they should bring effects in ensuring that the MIS is able to manage control and reporting activities and the effective feedback from the governmental agencies.

7. No real effect can be reported yet under the 2005 UIBF WFD Compliant Method, as it is in the contracting phase. The Austrian Federal Environmental Agency has been selected as a TWL partner during the second round. There is a similar situation in the 2005 UIBF TA on IS for EIA, the ToRs of which are under preparation. The 2004 IRAW Management: the last part of the Supply is planned to be delivered in June 2007. The TA part: review of legislation and the IRAW regulatory and surveillance activities are prepared, providing recommendations for improvement of the current state. Information gained during a study trip organised in March 2007 has been taken into account in the review drafting. The crucial and the most demanding phase - the national radioactive waste database is under implementation. All these elements will thus increase the level of radioactive waste management. The Report presenting the efficient centralised collection and IRAW management system, as well as the Report defining the management conditions of wastes exempted from regulatory control will also contribute to the same target. Preparatory work on both reports is ongoing. A not so obvious effect can be reported under the 2005 Radioactive Waste project. The signature for the Supply component to be co-financed by the state budget has been postponed because of its close connection to the TA part which is seriously influenced by the technical problems linked also with the public procurement process. No real effect can be reported and both components of the project seem to be in danger due to unclear results of the tendering. A similar situation concerning the effects can be reported in the given evaluation period for the 2006 HRM at NRA. The first draft of ToRs was submitted in February 2007, according to the common plans of the Beneficiary and the CFCU, the tender should be published during the third quarter of 2007.

8. The project activities of the 2004 Road Transport have been completed, with the exception of the glossary of specific terms, which was omitted. Training workshops focused on the analogue and digital tachograph system, and the roadside checks and company inspections increased the knowledge and experience of trainees. The gained know-how will help the relevant Slovak authorities to comply with the related EC requirements. The 2005 Electricity and Gas Market: completion of the identification of problems connected with the electricity and gas market opening to households, the comparison with the EU old countries procedures and the EU operational models review will surely contribute to the liberalisation of the given market in SR. Implementation of all other activities is smoothly ongoing, only the draft of new decrees on quality standards has to be adjusted according to the changed conditions given by the new Law (March 2007). The provided training including the study trip will increase the knowledge of the Regulatory Office for Networking Industries (RONI) staff. There are no results at the reporting team's disposal, as the 2005 RACMI project is at the stage of finalisation of the tendering documentation. The project should lead to the implementation of the MID in such a way that it does not cause bottlenecks in trade. Moreover, it should contribute to the thorough legislative preparation for the liberalisation of the public utilities market (i.e. electricity, gas).

Component 3 Finance, Customs and Culture

2004/016-764.02.01 Strengthening Public Finance Management (PFM), 2004/016-764.02.02 Systemic Changes in Tax Audit, 2004/016-764.02.03 Capacity Building in the Area of Internal Audit, 2006/018-175.03.01 Strengthening the Internal Auditors' Independence in the Public Sector by Creating Audit Committee(s) 2006/018-175.03.02 Audit and Ex-post Financial Control of the EU Own Resources 2004/016-833 Strengthening of the Antifraud Traffic

Control Systems at the EU External Border in the SR, 2004/016-764.08.03 Training Focused on Cooperation with Informants 2005/017-464.08.01 UIBF Enhancement of the Ministry of Finance Official Development Aid Effectiveness (ODA) 2005/017-464.02.03 Implementation of Consumer Protection Legislation into Practice 2005/017-464.02.02 Enforcement of an Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) in the SR

Activities and Outputs

9. The 2004 PFM project has been initiated as a part of the PFMR effort. The project focuses on improving and strengthening of 3 crucial components represented by the corresponding sub-projects: (i) public finance accounting and the fiscal & financial management reporting systems, i.e. Accounting & Reporting, that should produce adequate fiscal and financial management reports, (ii) the State Treasury that should report adequately on payment transactions, and (iii) Monitoring & Evaluation system of public funds, which should report on the proper use of public funds. The 2004 Tax Audit project deals with the absence of a control system of all value added tax (VAT) payers, with focus on recipients of excessive refunds before refund from the State Budget. Its aim is to increase tax audit efficiency through the improvement of the tax audit methodology and the introduction of new tax audit techniques and risk analysis system. The 2004 Internal Audit focuses on the establishment of a solid framework for performing internal audit and on building a permanent training system for internal auditors in the public sector. The 2006 Audit Committees aims at strengthening internal audit in the central public administration through the establishment of audit committees. The 2006 EU Own Resources should enhance audit and ex-post financial control of own resources and protect financial interests of the European Communities.

10. The 2004 Antifraud Traffic Control Systems aims at the assistance to the Slovak Custom Administration (SCA) in strengthening the anti-fraud control systems at the EU external border in Slovakia through the supply of the specialised technical equipment. The 2004 UIBF Cooperation with Informants supports the SCA via training on recent methods and techniques of handling informants and delivery of training manuals. The 2005 UIBF ODA should increase effectiveness of the aid provided by Slovakia to a partner country by applying principles of modern aid management, such as adoption of harmonised approaches, alignment to partner systems, and management for development results using performance indicators. The 2005 Consumer Protection is focused on training of customs officers and market surveillance bodies' staff and the enhancement of their mutual cooperation in order to support consumer protection in the SR. The 2005 Intellectual Property Rights aims at the assistance to Slovakia in enhancement of the enforcement capacity and awareness raising in the area of IPR.

Effects

11. All three 2004 PFM sub-projects had been implemented by the time of this evaluation. Moreover, as there was a saving of almost € 50,000 in contracting the State Treasury sub-project⁴, 2 additional small projects with the budget up to € 20,000 each were prepared and recently implemented in this area. Under the Accounting & Reporting sub-project 2 cycles of training organised throughout Slovakia have taken place by the time of this evaluation. The State Treasury sub-project has delivered an analytical, process-mapping report, including an assessment of the educational level of employees. The assessment is needed for training needs analysis on the basis of which the training programme will be elaborated. The Monitoring &

⁴ The allocated budget represented € 200,000. The winning bid offered a proposal for € 150,475.

Evaluation sub-project has prepared a draft M&E methodology that has been in a process of discussion with the Ministry of Finance (MoF) at the time of this IE. The 2004 Tax Audit project has clearly increased knowledge and experience of the tax administration. For instance, it improved techniques of enforcement of tax arrears and exchange of information concerning international tax recovery. In the area of e-commerce control, which is new for Slovakia, a report and a number of practical, well-received workshops were delivered. The 2004 Internal Audit project has generated first effects resulting from its extensive training activities, the comprehensive syllabus was translated into Slovak, audits carried out at 6 different institutions in a form of learning-by- doing, and advice & recommendations provided to the MoF by the RTA. No effects can be reported from the 2006 Audit Committees due to the pre-implementation phase of this project at the time of this IE. The same holds true also for the 2006 EU Own Resources.

12. The reinforcement of the SCA's administrative capacity under the 2004 Antifraud Traffic Control Systems should be provided by the equipment and the IS capable of monitoring suspicious traffic entering and departing the EU at the Slovak eastern border. The SCA will thus contribute to the Anti-fraud programme for the protection of the financial interests of the Community. Smooth progress on the IS keeping to the agreed schedule, as well as the preparation of the installation site in Čierna nad Tisou and the guaranteed finish of reconstruction works in Vyšné Nemecké planned for beginning of June 2007 provide a solid base for a very realistic expectation of achieving all planned targets.

13. The 2004 UIBF Cooperation with Informants: the given theoretical background based on the relevant parts of the Europol guidelines and the European Convention on Human Rights has increased the knowledge of customs officers in the new area of their responsibilities. The practical experience to be gained in the investigation of customs offences will be used in future practice of the Customs Criminal Office (CCO). The recommendations of the Dutch partner may contribute to the improvement of the Slovak system in the longer term as well. As the 2005 UIBF ODA has not been implemented at the time of this IE no effects can be reported yet. The 2005 Consumer Protection should improve the cooperation of the SCA and the Slovak Market Surveillance Bodies (SMSB) by providing training and recommendations on the existing cooperation agreements. By the time of evaluation 15 training sessions, 1 study trip and 4 consultations with MSB had been executed in order to increase the relevant knowledge. No effects to be reported from the 2005 IPR project due to the pre-implementation phase of all its activities at the time of this IE.

2. EVALUATION RESULTS

2.1. Relevance

Component 1 Agriculture, Statistics and Cadastre

14. The 2004 Food Safety project seems to be relevant even from the ex-post perspective, as it focused on the complex topic of the control of pesticides within the EU Food Safety Framework. The key beneficiary for the TW and the TWL interventions, notably the CCTIA enjoys support from the senior management to implement progressive methods in its work. Moreover, top management has been stable even after the 2006 parliamentary elections. The Institute has been also successful in obtaining quite a number of TF 2004, 2005 and 2006 projects, which shows its ability to draft good projects suitable for external funding. The TW, originally scheduled for 12-months was extended to 13 months to implement all the theoretical and practical sessions in different fields of the Plant Protection Products (PPP) for the Department of Pesticides Registration of the CCTIA. The TW involved a number of final beneficiaries, some of them suffering from lack of the respective staff, such as the Public Health Office (PHO) or the Water Research Institute (WRI), with negative implications during the implementation of the assistance, as well as on the achievement of its potential effects. However, as a result of the project implementation cooperation of the respective institutions in the field of pesticide registration on the expert level has improved. The TWL in the area of determination of organic contaminants and quality control of pesticides was primarily focused on the transfer of the GLP for the CCTIA lab staff, and as such was relevant. It represented the first step in obtaining the accreditation of this chemical laboratory, which should be followed-up under the 2006 TF intervention. The Supplies for the network of 4 state veterinary labs and the WRI in the form of equipment for control of products of animal origin and pesticides in water complemented the TW and the TWL in the sphere of practical supervision of the whole food chain and were also EU driven when complying with its testing plans.

15. The 2004 intervention for the CCTIA, notably the Variety Register shows good results in its relevance, as it should assist Slovakia in the variety testing, registration and legal protection and concerns about 5,000 varieties currently in the database. The project has linkages to the previous EU assistance, notably Phare under which the Registration Information System (RIS) was developed. At the same time the TF support complies with the EU requirements, including the reporting ones in the field of varieties. The project enjoys active support from the senior management of the CCTIA, including the participation of the Director at the Steering Committees (SCs).

16. The 2005 OF TWL for the CCTIA is still a relevant intervention to the development of the OF in Slovakia, which is a field of agriculture with rapidly growing trends (due to the increased demand from customers but also the APA support). The 2005 TF should support the CCTIA in performing the role of a Competent Authority (CA) in enhancement of its performance in the key areas, such as granting import certificates, calculating food and feed composition or data collection.

17. The 2005 UIBF Food Safety represents a direct follow-up from the 2004 Food Safety TW. The proposed TWL aimed at establishment of the co-ordination unit at the CCTIA to regulate

and administer the pesticides policy in Slovakia under one roof (a common practice in other MSs), and thus is relevant. The designed IB activities take the form of training (complementing the 2004 TW) and a study visit to a MS, i.e. the standard menu. The 2006 Food Safety should again assist the CCTIA, particularly its 2 departments (Environment and OF and Plant Protection) in the improvement of control services, such as quality system and evaluation of post-contaminants, quality of sampling or control of end-users. It follows the previous EU assistance, including the delivery of equipment for the chemical laboratory and should be co-financed from the state budget in the form of the SW supply. The 2006 TF intervention is a logical continuation of the previous assistance to secure food safety in Slovakia, and as such is relevant.

18. The relevance of the 2004 UIBF APA CS can be evaluated positively, also from an ex-post perspective. The APA has recently undergone an organisational change (as of 1 February 2007) with more power being delegated to regions and the shift of the focus of the CS on delegated activities and supervision (both being subjects of the 2004 TF intervention). The focus of the Institution Building (IB) activities, notably the theoretical and practical training and the supporting methodology can be evaluated as the right menu for the learning curve of the APA CS even after the project's completion.

19. The 2005 APA MO remains relevant also after the new legislation on agricultural support and rural development came into force on 1 January and the new organisational structure as of 1 February 2007. The project is clearly EU driven as it reacts to rapid changes of the relevant legislation, directives and their amendments, especially in the area of off-site controls of MOs, which is also the agenda of the APA MO Section. The TA to the APA and the area of Commodity Market Organisations (CMO) is therefore justified, together with the focus on the key commodities of the ANNEX I and Non-ANNEX products.

20. The need for the 2005 APA SPS is still justified, though the new EU legislation has postponed the request to implement the SPS in Slovakia till 2010 (a 2-year shift). The architecture of the TF assistance hasn't changed since the 1st round of the evaluation, providing Member State's (MS) expertise in the practical introduction of the SPS. It should provide the analysis of the relevant EU legislation; define needs to adapt Single Area Payment Scheme (SAPS) and Integrated Administrative and Control System (IACS) and the awareness raising vehicles in the form of brochures for the farmers.

21. The 2005 FRM for the NFC, its Centre of the Control of the FRM as a state forest authority is relevant from the point of view of practical implementation of the relevant EU Directive. However, the key target group of the project remains rather small, about 10 people. The original Project Fiche (PF) has been modified since the last evaluation and approved by the EC in January 2007. Some savings ((such as Personal Computers (PC)s are now to be obtained cheaper compared to the time of the design of the project)) are to be used for the purchase of the laboratory equipment. The TF assistance to the under-financed part of the official body responsible for control of marketing and quality of the FRM seems to be well designed to cover the whole menu of the areas that need to be addressed, that is, from the IS reinforcement through to the Human Resources Development (HRD).

22. The 2004 Statistics project is still relevant as it should decrease the burden of data flows from ASs, thus contributing to a more efficient public administration as well. The new senior management of the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic (SOSR) seems to support the TF

assistance, including the needed legislative changes. Also the new Senior Programme Officer (SPO) has been nominated with no delays (as of mid March 2007). The TWL, though successfully completed, was rather over-ambitious, especially in its dependence on a number of co-operating institutions which performed with mixed success (for instance the Ministry of Economy, which underperformed). The demanding design of the TA part seems to overcome potential risks with the help of the good performance of contractors and project management, including the well functioning SC.

23. The 2004 UIBF INTRASTAT-SK: upgrade of the IS for the SOSR with the focus on the foreign trade statistics seems to be relevant as room for improvement of the quality of data provided to external customers (including EUROSTAT) exists. The project follows the previous EU assistance, as well as complementary funding from EUROSTAT. The co-operation with the Customs Directorate (CD) SR for administration and collection of the relevant data seems to be secured, as a relevant agreement has been signed.

24. The 2004 Cadastre assistance following the heavy Phare intervention into this field remains relevant, contributing to the GCCA's Research and Development Strategy planned to run till 2008, which should be approved by the senior management in the near future. Also the new senior management of the GCCA supports the project, as could be seen also from the interest of the management board in the kick-off seminar of the TWL part. The new SPO (being in place since February 2007) seems to have taken over the responsibilities without any difficulties. The sequencing of the TWL, TA and Supply in the Information Technology (IT) development did not represent a major problem, apart from some adjustments in the information campaign part of the TWL.

Component 2 Environment, Energy, Transport and Standards

25. The apparent need of the 2004 UIBF Ecological Status Classification was given by the necessity of the WDF transposition, and as such is relevant. The definition of the classification system and the reference conditions of surface water status in Slovakia was one of the 9 established working groups to assure the National Implementation Strategy of WFD. The project implemented as an UIBF TWL had clearly stated objectives and this in combination with the planned activities has brought the needed results, such as setting-up the reference conditions for biological elements and development of water surface classification by biological elements as well as training of the Slovak Hydro Meteorological Institute (SHMI) staff.

26. The relevance of the 2004 UIBF, Data Flow Provision is given by the membership obligations of Slovakia in the European Environment Agency (EEA). One of them is to provide results of the surface water and the ground water monitoring to the EEA's database for the EIONET-Water monitoring network. The EIONET-Water provides the information needed for the environment evaluation all around Europe. Although Slovakia fulfils data on quality and quantity of the surface water and the ground water to some extent, the lake water quality still remains a problem. The project relevance is underlined also by Art.8 of the Directive 2000/60/EC requirements, according to which all MSs shall ensure the water status monitoring in order to set up a comprehensive overview of water status within each river basin district. Without achieving the objectives stated by the project, Slovakia would be unable to meet the EEA Priority Data Flow reporting obligations in terms of lakes.

27. The 2005 EQS for Water contributes to the discharge given by the WFD requirements. By establishing pollution reduction programmes for the priority substances, the SR implements the EU requirements of setting of the EQSs and the emission controls. Although the competent authorities are in place, the prior authorisation procedures do not cover all dangerous substances listed at the List of the Relevant Chemical Substances (LRCHS) for the SR. Moreover, the changes in the regulatory and legal framework assign new duties to the regional and district offices, which are not fully prepared for their new responsibilities. Slovakia is still lagging behind in the functioning system of the regional /district offices compared to other MSs. Therefore, the project is relevant and should support transfer of best practices and reinforce the local state water offices.

28. The 2005 UIBF WFD Compliant Method is based on the Slovak water legislation harmonisation with the EU requirements, mainly the Directive 2000/60/EC. Project objectives, in the case they are achieved, will increase the level of monitoring and assessment of the biological quality elements in rivers and also the ecological status assessment of the surface water, and thus are clearly relevant.

29. Relevance of the 2005 UIBF TA on IS for EIA is given by the Act No.24/2006 Coll. on the EIA. The Act represents a transposition of the relevant EU Directives (2001/42/EC, 2003/35/EC, 2003/4/EC, etc.) and responsibilities arising from the Law fully correspond to the stated objectives of the project. The set-up of the IS for EIA and SEA, involvement of public into the processes and access to the proceedings and results for all stakeholders will improve the access to justice in environmental matters, which is in line with the Aarhus Convention.

30. The design of the 2004 IRAW Management project fully respects the EU Council Directive 2003/122/EURATOM and the Council Report on nuclear safety requesting the further strengthening of the newly established Nuclear Decommissioning Agency. The existing system of dealing with disused sealed sources has to be improved in the praxis of industrial applications or hospitals and also in the case of non-standard situations like bankruptcies of companies using radioactive materials.

31. The improved system of IRAW management should be further supported by the computerised MIS, as a crucial base for managerial decisions and reporting to the international safety authorities, which is a target to be achieved within the 2005 Radioactive Waste project. The full relevance of the IS development is seriously influenced by the clarification process which is underway and which concerns the choice of the most suitable technical model which would respect the copyrights of the already existing complex system inherited from the SE.

32. In managing nuclear installations, it is absolutely necessary to keep a very high level of safety of all operations. This is possible only via adequate human resources management. Therefore, there are no doubts about the relevance of the 2006 HRM at NRA which should achieve the adequate level of staff competences and maintain them, including the challenges of technological development, up-to-date concepts and new principles in the given area of responsibility.

33. The relevance of the 2004 Road Transport was given by the recommendations of the CMR and the Peer Review in terms of social legislation enforcement at the roadside as well as at the operator premises. The form of a TWL fits the training nature of the project and gives a lot of

opportunities for know-how transfer, including the practical execution of the gained knowledge and skills. The focus on the social legislation interpretation, its practical implementation, especially in the problematic area of sanctioning of foreign drivers should contribute to the increase of the labour inspection performance unified with the EU standards.

34. The 2005 Electricity and Gas Market: the full transposition and implementation of the EU energy directives requires a complete opening and liberalisation of the electricity /gas market as of 1st July 2007. The households then become the eligible customers and this has to be transposed into secondary legislation, implemented and also controlled by the RONI. The given legislation will create the non-discriminatory conditions for electricity/gas supply to households, ensuring their protection while guaranteeing quality, reliability and safety of supplies. The project provides the RONI with the necessary expertise and experience in what is a the new area in Slovakia, and thus is clearly relevant.

35. The 2005 RACMI will support the implementation of the new MID which is a current issue in the whole EU. The project should assist in solving practical questions and problems related to the MID implementation and its impact on trade. For illustration, an issue of the implementation of the principle of mutual recognition of testing and verification of measurement instruments, which was carried out in different countries, will be dealt with.

Component 3 Finance, Customs and Culture

36. The 2004 PFM project remains relevant, as the focus on removing identified shortages in 3 key public finance areas remains current. The Accounting & Reporting sub-project continues to properly address the issue of development, testing and implementation of an adequate fiscal and management reporting system, as well as providing a proper training in this area. The State Treasury (ST) sub-project correctly addresses budget and financial relations between Slovakia and the EU and specific provisions of the *acquis*, which are relatively new areas for the ST. 2 additional small projects initiated from savings reflect current needs of the ST in the area, i.e. TA in relation to the preparation for the introduction of Euro and the optimisation of prognosis for the financial planning. Monitoring & Evaluation of public funds, aimed at further elaboration of M&E methodology, its pilot implementation, and establishment of M&E training system remains of high relevance to the development of a modern public finance system in the country. This project builds on the earlier WB PFMR project and the Phare project.

37. The need for an increase of tax audit efficiency and the overall modernisation of the tax administration expressed in the 2004 Tax Audit project continues. The project design with its 9 components continues to reflect this. This is illustrated, for instance, by component 5 which aims at the improvement of procedures and cooperation between tax administration structural units and other institutions involved in prevention and detection of fraud, and component 9 aiming at the improvement of procedures for control of VAT refunds.

38. Also the 2004 Internal Audit project remains current and highly relevant as it contributes to building up a modern public finance management system, which facilitates transparent use of public funds. The project has supported the Central Harmonisation Unit (CHU) established at

the MoF under the guidance of the EC⁵, and has assisted also six other budget chapters to strengthen their internal audit know-how and experience through their participation in learning-by-doing audits carried out at these institutions. The 2006 Audit Committees should raise effectiveness of the internal audit function by ensuring participation of senior management of the central public administration in internal control and governance issues through the audit committees which are to be established. Relevance of the establishment of audit committees is justified by the recommendation of the report of the SIGMA⁶ Peer Assistance carried out in September 2003 and also by the recommendation of several EU-financed projects⁷. The 2006 EU Own Resources seems to be relevant as both the Comprehensive Monitoring Report on Slovakia's preparation for membership issued by the EC in November 2003 and the SIGMA Peer Assistance report recommendations, among others, as well as substantial strengthening of administrative capacities and further refining of the legal framework in the area of protection of the EC financial interest.

39. The 2004 Antifraud Traffic Control Systems: the main objective of the customs services in the pre-accession period was the inter-connectivity of their ISs with the EU ones. During the post-accession period, this has been shifted towards the protection of the external Community borders. The SCA will take the same measures to counter fraud effecting the EU financial interests as the other MSs. The Supply of the equipment is therefore correctly focused on the HW and the SW to be located on the selected posts at the eastern border. It should enable the customs authorities to follow the traffic at the Eastern EU border - cars license plates and codes of containers, both in road and railway transport. The relevance of the stated objectives is underlined also by the fact that the project has been designed from the beginning together with the Commission services as a part of the horizontal activities to be implemented in all countries on the eastern EU external border.

40. The 2004 UIBF Cooperation with Informants: The CCO has been established by the SCA as an independent body in order to enhance the effectiveness and the efficiency of law enforcement. The customs authorities could take advantage of using the customs clearance data from the border offices for the investigation and risk analysis before the EU accession. After joining the EU and the elimination of the customs controls there is no similar information available. Therefore, a well-functioning and effective structure of informants and their proper handling can play an important role in performance of customs officers at the operational level. Moreover, no similar training has been delivered to the CCO staff so far. The TWL with a concrete focus and clearly defined objectives fits very well to the know-how transfer nature of the project.

41. The 2005 UIBF ODA initiative is in line with the effort of the Government to increase effectiveness of its public finance management system; the aid management is a part of this system. Moreover, the Slovak administrative capacity in the aid area requires strengthening. Therefore, the project can be assessed as relevant.

⁵ The CHU harmonises financial control and internal audit methodologies, provides methodological supervision and is responsible for the permanent education system of internal auditors and financial controllers, which are also the focus of the project.

⁶ SIGMA: Support for Improvement in Governance and Management in Central and Eastern European Countries under the auspices of the Organisation of Economic Coordination and Development and the European Commission.

⁷ Such as the Phare project 'Strengthening of the protection of the communities' financial interests and the fight against fraud' (project number: 2003-004-995-01-04).

42. The 2005 Consumer Protection: A close cooperation of the SCA with the Slovak Market Surveillance Bodies (SMSB), mainly with the Slovak Trade Inspection (STI) is a necessary pre-condition for a successful process of the imported products surveillance into the EU internal market. Execution of the EU legislation on consumer protection is linked with many problems, which may arise in practice. The insufficient cooperation of the customs and the market surveillance authorities in the detected areas was a base for the training. A clearly relevant project designed in the form of a TWL; strictly limited to 8 months of duration has a very ambitious list of the training sessions. This, combined with the cross-sector character, might be a challenge for its implementation and absorption.

43. The 2005 IPR assistance to the Ministry of Culture (MoC) remains relevant, especially after the transposition of the respective EU Directive into the national legislation as of March 2007 (requesting amendments of 14 different acts). The relevant staff at the MoC has undergone several changes (including the Director General of the Media and Audiovision Section); however the new SPO (from the Section of International Co-operation) seems to be competent to manage the project accordingly. Also the SC and the WGs have been created already in summer last year and presently work mostly via email communication. The project, originally planned for 6 months, has been extended to 10 months, which seems to be a pragmatic step towards the realistic timing of a number of activities.

2.2. Efficiency

44. At the time of the IE there was a vacancy for the position of Programme Manager for Standards, Finance and Customs components of the INT to deal with this complex and biggest TF Sector at the ACU.

Component 1 Agriculture, Statistics and Cadastre

45. The 2004 Food Safety did not suffer from major problems with efficiency, apart from some delays at the beginning of the implementation of the TWL and a minor extension of the TW and TWL. Both the TW's and the TWL's key beneficiaries praised the performance of the UK partner, the Pesticides Safety Directorate (PSD) (for, among others, its flexibility, which justifies the further participation of the PSD on the TF assistance to the CCTIA). The TW has managed to implement an impressive number of different training activities and study visits within more than a year. Participation at some training sessions from the side of some co-operating institutions was low. Also the lack of the relevant experience of some trainees caused some problems in implementation of the new administration systems, as the training had to concentrate on the technical aspects instead. The above mentioned is not true for the data evaluation for chemistry, which can be considered as the most successful part of the training, due to the experience and commitment of the CCTIA staff. The TWL with very restricted budget has managed to implement all the planned soft skills activities, also in the form of hands-on training. The special Supplies have been delivered, together with the complementary user training and serve their purposes in food testing and health protection.

46. No major concerns exist for the efficiency of the 2004 UIBF Variety Register project. The final beneficiary expressed its satisfaction with the work of the contractors, who are the same as for the RIS, thus needed less time for the inception period. Only some delays to be reported at the pre-implementation phase due to the application of the revision procedure and later on due to the timing of the project around the Christmas period and the needed process adjustments.

47. The 2005 OF project is well designed for the planned activities, mainly training sessions and study visits, once the successful bidder is chosen in due time. The TWL partner should ideally possess enough experience in all the selected areas of the OF, combined with the experienced team of the Dept. of Environmental Protection and OF at CCTIA in management of EU projects gives reason for optimism that satisfactory results will be reached in the efficiency rating.

48. The start of the 2005 APA SPS has been delayed for more than a year; although with the postponed implementation of the SPS the later implementation is now not that detrimental. The Department responsible for the SPS implementation seems to possess enough absorption capacity for the TF project, including the stable staff. However, as a result of the recent organisational change, the respective department now also deals with rural development, notably the environmental support.

49. Forecasts of efficiency for the 2005 UIBF Food Safety are largely positive. Though the start of the project has been delayed, due to a misfortunate loss of one of the UK experts, the previous experience of the TWL partner from other projects for the CCTIA (such as the 2004

Food Safety) and involvement of the 2004 Resident Twinning Adviser (RTA) from the TW should contribute to the smooth implementation of all the planned activities. The 2006 Food Safety was at a very early pre-implementation phase at the time of this IE. Circulation of the TWL is dependent on the successful supply of the SW, which is expected to happen only mid this year, as sequencing is key for this project. The target group of about 90 CCTIA people for training sessions and study visits will be probably smaller due to the planned cuts of staff at CCTIA (about 7 percent).

50. Efficiency of the 2004 UIBF APA CS can be assessed positively, as all the planned activities have been implemented (30 APA staff trained), the respective manuals provided and even adjusted by the Beneficiary to comply with Slovak conditions. Moreover, the co-operation between the Slovak and Austrian partners seemed to work very well due to very constructive and flexible bi-lateral co-operation.

51. The 2005 APA MO is still waiting for the tendering process to start. Of key importance is the timing of the assistance and it is especially important not to miss the date of 1 November, when the intervention purchase is completed in Slovakia and the foreign expertise and inputs would be needed for the accompanying activities. Judging from the design we can predict good chances for the planned activities to be implemented (if the contracting is successful), such as legal advice and methodological support to the APA.

52. The 2005 FRM was still at the pre-tendering stage at the time of this IE, though it is nevertheless at the most advanced stage of the 2005 projects for the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA). The delay in implementation has had one positive effect due to the drop in price of PCs which resulted in savings which were then used instead for the laboratory equipment. The lack of experience from managing EU projects by the NFC staff required close co-operation with the Central Finance and Contracting Unit (CFCU) and the implementing unit at the MoA during the pre-implementation stage. The original supply tender has been split into 3 parts to make the tendering easier (creating a separate lot for the special equipment), which can be assessed as a pragmatic approach.

53. The 2004 Statistics project, especially its TWL part has managed to implement successfully all the intended activities, as both the Danish TWL partner and the Slovak Project Leader performed well. For instance, the latter has been delegated with necessary competencies, such as reporting directly to the SOSR's Board of Directors, as well as uses personal contacts when solving problems related to the project's implementation. However, with regard to the TWL, the network of co-operating institutions and their willingness to accept new progressive ideas in statistical data gathering was the biggest drawback of the 2004 TF intervention. The threat of sequencing in respect of the TWL and the TA which was mentioned in the 1st round of evaluation did not turn out to be a serious problem. The Czech-Slovak TA assistance seems to work well. The idea of establishing an electronic office with access to the relevant documents completed under the sub-project contributes to the positive evaluation of its efficiency.

54. The 2004 UIBF INTRASTAT-SK: the contract with the local contractor has been under implementation for more than 6 months at the time of this Report. The performance of the contractor working on the upgrade of the existing modules and developing also new ones, currently at the testing stage (the same one working on the previous project for the SOSR) is satisfactory with good perspectives to implement all the requested activities as planned (till June 2007).

55. The start of the 2004 Cadastre after major delays in its contracting has progressed with the implementation of all its parts, notably the TWL, TA and Supplies. The TWL with the Scottish partner with previous experience from work for the GCCA and a functioning ER seems to work well. Combining the start-up seminar with the meeting of the Management Board of GCCA has caused slight delays but can be evaluated positively in respect of its raising awareness of the senior officials about the project. The foreseen difficulties caused by the demanding sequencing of the TWL and the TA has materialised in some adjustments of the information campaign, which has refocused from technical to softer areas, also the ToT element of the training would have benefited more from a functioning ER (i.e. if introduced later). The TA part seems to be slightly delayed when compared to the original schedule of the required milestones, such as the approval of the Global Analysis. However, assigning an additional expert to work on the TA by the contractor should hopefully improve the performance. The SC and Working Groups (WG)s function well, using among others standard reporting, including the list of assigned tasks for monitoring the progress of activities. However, for further stages of the TA, such as the Detailed Analyses, the lack of local absorption capacity seems to represent a problem.

Component 2 Environment, Energy, Transport and Standards

56. The efficiency of all environmental projects is highly influenced by a mixture of the deep professional knowledge of beneficiaries combined with strong managerial skills provided by the experienced staff of the Slovak Environmental Agency (SEA). The solid skills and the sound managerial proficiency have materialised in the very efficient coordination and monitoring system which has brought a concrete result: the activities implemented under the 2004 UIBF Ecological Status Classification have achieved all the planned results and the activities of both, the 2004 UIBF Data Flow Provision and the 2005 EQS for Water are on track to accomplish them.

57. The second round of the PF has resulted in the selection of a TWL partner for the 2005 UIBF WFD Compliant Method, and the contract is about to be signed while trying to keep the sampling period planned for spring 2007. The sampling season was a reason for the Austrian proposal to divide the implementation into 2 periods (July – October 06, March – June 07). At the time of this IE the official response from the CFCU was not available, however, Beneficiary's experts assured evaluators about the a realistic possibility of implementation within the ongoing sampling season in the event that the contract is signed soon.

58. It is difficult to predict the efficiency of the 2005 UIBF TA on IS for EIA, which is at the pre-tendering stage. The CFCU is working closely with the SEA on the ToRs (clarification of the procurement method), estimating that the problem will be solved by the end of May 2007.

59. Although the start of the 2004 IRAW Management has been influenced by very slow contracting of both the Supply and the TA part, it seems that the implementation is maintaining the right momentum. The contracts for both sub-components are signed with one company, which enables the relevant authorities to organise common meetings, and thus be very operational. 3 SC's meetings have taken place since the evaluation, reports are prepared quarterly, and the agreed scheduled is being respected. The cooperation with contractor is highly appreciated by the Beneficiary; no major problems are envisaged in the Supply, or the TA.

60. Clarification of the NRA's needs after the privatisation of the Slovak Electricity (SE), as well as the availability of PHARE 2003 project's results to be used as inputs into the ToRs design, have prolonged the tendering of the 2005 Radioactive Waste. Although the contract for the Supply part is ready to be signed, the process of the TA's ToRs preparation is heavily influenced by technical problems, the source of which is a duty to respect the valid copyrights. Experts see only 2 possibilities of designing the new IS to be able to track all kinds of radioactive waste: as an independent IS communicating with the existing IS at the NRA-JAVIS – ARSOZ, as with the external data source or, as a specialised module of the ARSOZ. According to the JAVIS authorities, evaluating pros and cons of both solutions, only the second one is sustainable. This, however, will have a substantial impact on the public procurement process, respecting the ownership of the licences and source codes of the existing IS. During the evaluation no decision has yet been made. Despite the fact that ToRs are under preparation, without solving the above question, there is no possibility of continuing the tendering process. The preparatory period of the PF did not provide a space to address this problem. Therefore, a solution to be agreed by all the involved parties will have a decisive impact on the future of both sub-components of the project.

61. It is too early to evaluate the efficiency of the 2006 HRM at NRA, as it is in a phase of its ToRs design. The first draft of the document was submitted in February 2007 to the CFCU for comments. Both the Beneficiary and the CFCU hope the tender will be published during the 3rd quarter of 2007.

62. The un-utilized experience from the previous common project, the frequent changes of experts, the insufficient sharing of information within the TWL partner's team and the underestimation of the project organisation have negatively influenced the efficiency of the 2004 Road Transport project. Besides the meetings at the beginning and by the end of the project, no SC's meetings have been organised, no reporting has been provided by the British Vehicle and Operator Service Agency (VOSA) experts, except the Final Report. The document has not been approved by Beneficiary yet and the commenting process was ongoing at the time of this IE. One of the planned activities – preparation of a glossary with specific expressions in more EU languages – has not been performed at all.

63. Despite delays in the contracting process of the 2005 Electricity and Gas Market there seems to be a good chance of achieving the results. A combination of the experience and the attitude of the German Resident Twinning Adviser (RTA), highly appreciated by the RONI, and the managerial attention given to the project have shown results in the smooth implementation of activities. The time-tested managerial system, including the SC meetings, stayed unchanged also after the introduction of the new RONI management and no negative influence on the implementation can be reported at the time of this IE. However, the new Regulation Board members have not been selected yet. The new Law, which came into force on 15th March 2007, has influenced the preparation process of the new decisions on quality standards, which have to be adjusted according to the changed conditions, respecting the role of the Ministry of Economy (MoE).

64. The preparation of the 2005 RACMI has been slow because of a lengthy finalisation of its TA tendering documentation. This can be explained by both the OSMT needing more time to prepare the documentation according to requirements of the law on procurement of services and the CFCU, which needed extra time to familiarise itself with rather specific metrology

terminology. The project has an ambitious set-up as it should deal with issues which are new in the whole EU. Therefore, it might be challenging to find and select a suitable partner and experts for the specified areas. However, European metrology institutes might be dealing with similar issues. Moreover, the former EU MSs have the advantage of markets already liberalised for a longer time and have experience from which Slovakia can benefit.

Component 3 Finance, Customs and Culture

65. The 2004 PFM project's efficiency has improved. Steering Committees of its individual sub-projects function properly and serve as supervisors of the implementation. The Accounting & Reporting sub-project is well received and continues to be managed efficiently. The planned activities, i.e. the preparation of training manuals and execution of training, are carried out in time and produce agreed deliverables. The cooperation and communication between the beneficiary and the implementing consortium are good. The State Treasury sub-project has been implemented, its Inception Report approved and consequently first activities carried out. This holds true also for 2 small, complementary projects that were initiated in a relatively short time. The Monitoring & Evaluation sub-project is also well on track. There have been no delays reported during the current evaluation. If this continues, the sub-project will manage to achieve its ambitious objectives also in its shortened implementation period⁸.

66. The 2004 Tax Audit project is managed professionally, the project outputs are well received, the Danish TW partner promptly solves all raised issues and prepares good quality progress reports. Despite this a delay has occurred in the implementation of the component 8 'Upgrade and implementation of the SW application of the risk analysis for VAT audit'. The delay has been caused by a change of the management of the Tax Administration after the parliamentary elections in summer 2006 and no decision of the new management on the direction and work on this component till the end of last year, as the management needed time to familiarise itself with the project. The new management has decided to implement the software application according to the original proposal and consequently work on this component started at the beginning of 2007.

67. The second half of the 2004 Internal Audit project can be characterised as efficient. During this period the delays caused by the parliamentary elections, such as those in implementing the learning-by-doing audits, were neutralised. It should also be noted that the project has been prolonged by 2 months because of the provision of training to three times higher number of participants than originally planned⁹. The prolongation was needed and did not influence the efficiency. The 2006 Audit Committees was at a very early implementation phase at the time of this IE, when a draft TW contract and work plan have been in the process of elaboration. The project has an ambitious set-up according to which the legislation for creating and effective functioning of the Audit Committee will be created at the MoF as the pilot and spread out to 14 other line ministries and other central administration organisations. The pre-implementation phase of 2006 EU Own Resources does not allow assessment of its real efficiency. However, one can conclude that the project has properly designed activities, focused on training, on the spot control/audit and study visits. A potential TWL partner should possess solid experience in audit and ex-post financial control of the EU own resources, which is an area that did not receive any training assistance till now.

⁸ The project implementation period was shortened from originally planned 18 months to 11 months, because of an earlier political decision.

⁹ Instead of originally planned 50 participants the project provided training to 150 participants.

68. Despite the lengthy tendering process of the 2004 Antifraud Traffic Control Systems project, the implementation is progressing very smoothly and according to the agreed schedule. It is managed via coordination of 2 professional teams, one of them focused on the construction works and infrastructure building, the other one dealing with the IS development and user requirements. Both teams are personally interconnected and in case of need they organise common meetings. The server of the CO in Čierna nad Tisou is prepared for the installation of the IS and the equipment, Vyšné Nemecké will be prepared after the finalisation of construction works on the road traffic crossing at the beginning of June 2007. The IS is at the stage of data model finalisation. The new management of the CD introduced after the elections has kept the model of the DG assistant for project coordination. Deep IS knowledge of the involved SCA staff combined with the positively evaluated cooperation with the contractor provides solid grounds for predicting positive results.

69. The 2004 UIBF Cooperation with Informants as a small project with clear objectives has been managed very smoothly and timely, overcoming also the problems with the first unreliable contractor. After this change, the performance and the professional attitude of the new Dutch TWL partner was evaluated highly by all trainees. Respecting the confidential project's nature, the representatives of the MoF have been invited only to the kick-off meeting; regular monitoring was done on the basis of reports on monthly meetings. The project succeeded in transforming all the planned activities into the results within the planned period.

70. The finalisation of the preparation of the 2005 UIBF ODA has been delayed by a lengthy elaboration, fine-tuning and approval of its ToR, which was not published within the period covered by this Report. Due to the fact that project is still in the pre-implementation phase, its real efficiency cannot be assessed.

71. The 2005 Consumer Protection: the cross-sector aspect combined with a number of topics to be covered, as well as the ambitious schedule of many seminars, consultations and 3 study trips to be implemented within the prescribed 8 months period of the TWL represents a challenge for the management and absorption capacities of the Beneficiary. However, an immediate start in January 2007, 6 topics already covered by training and concluded, as well as 2 study trips organised in March and April 2007, seem to raise a realistic prediction of the project's success. Moreover, regarding the improvement of the existing agreements between the SCA and the SMSB, a WG has been created the regular meetings of which represent a common platform for discussions and partial negotiations.

72. The original 4 contracts of the 2005 IPR have been merged into 2, benefiting from synergy effects when tendering the TAs, presently one for SW development and training and one local one for the information campaign. To broaden the pool of the potential international experts able to provide the requested assistance, the required qualifications have been defined more generally and the respective ToRs adjusted accordingly. Delays in the start of the project are not that detrimental, as the project should focus on the implementation of the relevant legislation, which has come into force only in March this year.

2.3. Effectiveness

Component 1 Agriculture, Statistics and Cadastre

73. The 2004 Food Safety project after its completion (end of 2006) shows considerably promising results in its effectiveness. The theoretical and practical training of the CCTIA staff should clearly contribute to fulfilment of the respective Immediate Objectives (IOs), such as *implementation of the acquis in the area of plant protection products or effective control of pesticides*. The CCTIA staff has been equipped with the relevant methodology to improve their performance in the field of pesticides registration and licensing. Moreover, the co-operating institutions, especially the new staff via the transfer of the know-how are now able to carry over the respective scientific data evaluation. Also the CCTIA laboratory staff has gained concrete experience using the new equipment and the complementary methodology when controlling quality of pesticides in agricultural products. The above mentioned together with the supply of equipment for the reference labs and the WRI should also contribute to *checking the correct use of pesticides*, as defined by the corresponding IO.

74. The 2004 UIBF Variety Register shows promising forecasts of effectiveness, due to the progress of the respective SW development so far. After successful testing of the system and training of all the relevant staff, the CCTIA should be able to administer the varieties more effectively, also to process the data from testing stations and improve its reporting and communication with the EU.

75. The 2005 OF assistance should be first successfully kicked-off to bring any effects. Its architecture focusing on all key fields of the OF should result in concrete contributions to fulfilment of the respective IOs aimed at enforcement of the relevant EU *acquis*. Once successfully implemented, the TWL via its training and MS experience should bring also effects in *establishment and management of granting import certificates for third countries organic products/foods. Update collection of data on organic farming for EU notification purposes* in the form of the enhanced performance of the CCTIA.

76. The key effect from the 2005 UIBF Food Safety intervention should materialise once the co-ordination unit is established and operating within the CCTIA later this year, with the staff equipped with the transferred know-how from a peer institution and equipped with the relevant methodology, such as standard procedures for pesticides applications from agribusinesses. However, no concrete steps of establishment of the Unit, or its concrete composition were defined at the time of this IE.

77. Due to its design, we are reasonably positive, that chances exist for the 2006 Food Safety project to achieve its rather concrete and technical IOs, namely *improvement of the quality of control procedures ...in order to reach accreditation of laboratory determinations*, as after achieving the GLP (shortly after the cut-off), the needed accreditation to be reached later in 2007. Also *improvement of the supervision over PPP* to be reached with the help of the training of the whole relevant department, however in the almost total absence of evaluation criteria inspectors, concrete measurement of quality of the work of inspectors is rather difficult.

78. Effectiveness of the 2004 UIBF APA CS should bring the first tangible effects, in the form of a better performance of the APA controls. The quality of the CS controllers should improve using the upgraded methodology, notably the manuals and benefiting also from the lessons learnt when being exposed to real-life situations in the MS (Austria). Also the new training system to be shortly approved by the APA senior management and in the future used within the human resource development practice. The CS of APA is now better prepared to take over also new responsibilities in overseeing the 18 regional offices, especially in the area of MOs and in future to perform also integrated controls.

79. None of the 2005 APA MO activities have been implemented to bring effects. However, the project is well designed to meet its objectives, notably *upgrading the intervention system and strengthening the export refunds one*, for instance via amendments of the relevant national legislation, improvement of the present control system, upgrade of the relevant methodology and the IS.

80. No effects to be reported at this stage for the 2005 APA SPS project, as it was at the pre-tendering stage at the time of this Report. However, due to its design, we can predict positive outcomes of the TF assistance to *implementation of the SPS*, as the TA should help the APA in preparing the relevant legal amendments, strategy and methodology. Also about 130 APA people, including the regional structures to be trained. Moreover, via upgrading of the IACS, especially the cross-compliance requirements also the *support to adjustment of IACS* should be reached.

81. So far no tangible effects to be reported for the 2005 FRM project. We can make only projections of the fulfilment of the corresponding IOs. If successfully tendered and delivered, the new equipment and the IS should clearly contribute to *upgrading the IS and reinforcement of the NFC's technical means*, notably the updated national register of basic FRM materials. Through legal advice and training activities also the *knowledge and skills of the stakeholders regarding the quality of production and marketing of FRM to be improved*. The NFC's controllers should be able to perform their tasks more effectively and efficiently, using the new methodological tools (such as the work manual), equipment and the IS.

82. Even at this stage, when only the TWL and the Supply parts of the 2004 Statistics project have been completed, we can be reasonably positive in predicting positive results in its effectiveness criterion. After the successful SW development of the ASIS later this year, this should serve as an IS *managing the data from ASIS* and at the same time *decreasing the administrative burden of reporting units*. The upgraded IS, together with the progressive trends in using registers as a source of statistical information, for instance for future census purposes, should contribute to the respective IO aiming at *quality improvement of statistical data by utilization of all available and relevant administrative sources*. However, introduction of registers would require several legal changes, such as the new package of the statistics legislation or the amendment of the Act on Personal Data Protection, with the former being more realistic to pursue.

83. The upgraded IS under the 2004 UIBF INTRASTAT-SK after its successful testing, implementation; training and a rollout phase should definitely improve the work of the SOSR and its efficiency if able to provide the data in a speedy manner. It should also increase the availability of data and will enable continuous check on data, thus bringing the value added to internal and external customers (including the EU institutions).

84. Though the 2004 Cadastre project will show its first results only later this year, we can predict at least some contribution to its IO focusing at *simplified, accelerated and safe on-line administrative procedures and cadastral services*, especially via preparation of the GCCA staff for the new services (about 200 people trained including the network of district offices), provision of the necessary methodology, including an eLearning study. The first effects of the SW development will be seen during the pilot testing in Bratislava; however, the full effect is dependent also on the progress of the complementary activities at the GCCA, such as the multi-purpose cadastre.

Component 2 Environment, Energy, Transport and Standards

85. The 2004 UIBF Ecological Status Classification: a good cooperation of all the involved institutions, such as the SHMI, the SEA, the WRI, the MoEnv, the Institute of Zoology of the Slovak Academy of Science (SAS) enabled them to review the present river typology and to select variables' representative of each biological element for classification. The needed reference conditions for biological elements defined by the WFD have been set-up and the ecological classification of the water surface by biological elements has been developed. The SHMI staff involved in the monitoring and the assessment of water bodies' surface received training and the guidance on how to correctly perform their obligations and responsibilities, thus the overall evaluation of effectiveness is positive.

86. Also the cooperation of all the stakeholders under the 2004 UIBF, Data Flow Provision can be evaluated as highly positive and at the stage of implementation observed during the evaluation it can reasonably be predicted that the obtained data on the lake/reservoirs water quality will be provided to the EIONET, a new IS monitoring programme on the lake/reservoirs water quality will be operational, and the IS and the database system on bathing water will be improved. By achieving this, Slovakia will meet the requirements of the relevant EU Directives in the given field.

87. The 2005 EQS for Water project seems to be well on track to reach the planned targets. Some activities have finished already (the equipment supply, the training manuals), some of them are about to be finished (the EQS for dangerous substances), the rest are ongoing. Therefore, it is very realistic to predict that *the establishment of EQS for dangerous substances and a communication network and MIS at regional and district level*, as defined by the IO, will be achieved.

88. The UIBF 2005 WFD Compliant Method was at the time of evaluation in a pre-contracting phase with the Austrian partner. Enjoying the well-functioning management cooperation with the SEA and a chance to utilise the ongoing sampling season in the case the contract duration is not split, a high probability exists that monitoring and assessment of the biological quality elements in rivers according to their specific preferences will reach the stated EU requirements by developing the WFD compliant national method for the water quality assessment of lowland rivers by using phytoplankton and phytobenthos.

89. Similarly, the 2005 UIBF TA on IS for EIA, being in the pre-tendering phase it cannot show first results sooner than during 2008. In the case of successful implementation the professional staff together with the general public will be involved into the processes of EIA /SEA by using the new IS and its publicity tools.

90. The first round of evaluation has evoked serious questions about the real chances of achieving the planned purpose of the 2004 IRAW Management because of the last minute contracting. However, the cooperation with the contractor (the same one for TA and supply) seems to be very operational and smooth. The current performance track record provides a solid basis on which to predict that the *improvement of the existing system of IRAW management and the increase of its security aspect via determination of responsibilities of involved regulatory bodies and technologies supply* will be achieved.

91. The 2005 Radioactive Waste is still in a pre-mature phase because of the necessity to clarify the optimal technological solution by accepting the public procurement requirements. If the decision is not made in a very short term period, the *establishment of a reliable and user-friendly computerised IS which would be able to track of all kinds of radioactive waste and spent fuel*, and thus *support the Agency reporting to the safety authorities* as defined by the ambitious IO is at high risk. Nevertheless, at the time of this IE, an ongoing series of common meetings of the Beneficiary and the CFCU has been organised in order to find a satisfactory solution.

92. No real evaluation of the effectiveness criterion can be executed in the case of the 2006 HRM at NRA because of the very pre-mature phase of the project. Nevertheless, the project is well-designed and should be able to contribute to the *achievement of the adequate level of human resources competences. The training program should ensure that staff is aware of technological developments, challenges, new principles and concepts*, and thus fulfil the respective IO.

93. The 2004 Road Transport was influenced by the lack of communication with the British partner, which seemed to underestimate the requirements for project management. By performing all training modules the project improves the level of social legislation control by contributing to *the adequate labour inspection performance comparable with the EU standards*, as stated by the IO. However, it is necessary to add that the list of the originally planned activities has not been fulfilled completely and some indicators as stated in the PF can be reasonably evaluated only in the longer-term perspective.

94. The 2005 Electricity and Gas Market - a shortage of time given by the EU deadline could raise questions concerning the completion of the planned indicators. However, taking into account the current stage of the implementation, it is realistic to predict that the *regulation settings for companies supplying electricity and natural gas to households will be revised and the decision on regulation of distribution and supply of electricity and natural gas to the end consumers will be changed*. At the time of the IE there are no doubts that *the electricity and the gas market to households will be prepared on 1st July 2007*, as defined in the respective IO. The only part - decisions on quality standards, preparation of which was influenced by the new Law entering into force on 15 March 2007, will be issued in late autumn 2007, respecting the prescribed phases of the legislative process.

95. Expectations on effectiveness of the 2005 RACMI are positive. Once the project is implemented it should achieve its purpose, i.e. *'Implementation of the Directive 2004/22/EC and smooth transferring of the application of the former old approach or national regulations to the New Approach'*. The first step in this direction has already been made as the MID has been implemented in Slovakia on 30 October 2006. Furthermore, the continuing positive approach of the beneficiary/OSMT gives a sound basis for the delivery of tangible results.

Component 3 Finance, Customs and Culture

96. The 2004 PFM's IO consists of 3 components: '*Improve public finance accounting and the fiscal and financial management reporting systems; improve the functioning of the State Treasury; strengthen the monitoring and evaluation system of public funds, including EU funds.*' Each of them is a subject of the corresponding sub-project. The Accounting & Reporting sub-project has continued delivering tangible results also during this evaluation period. The first round of training on accrual accounting essentials has been successfully finalised. In total 2054 participants from 1897 public institutions took place in this round. Evaluation of training in the form of questionnaires showed that most of the participants were satisfied with it. Furthermore, training material for a three-day course on Accounting of the state administration and local governments according to principles of the International Accounting Standards for public sector, was prepared, as well as the second round of training initiated. Moreover, the project team has actively participated in the elaboration of the new accounting methodology and contributed to the novelisation of the Accounting Act 431/2002 published on the MoF website. The State Treasury sub-project has delivered its first tangible results, which are: an analytical report and a selection of client groups for training. The analytical report includes a useful map of processes of the ST and an assessment of the educational level of ST employees who come into contact with a client. The assessment is an additional output that was not agreed in the contract. However, it is important for carrying out a proper training needs analysis that took place for 60 participants. The 2 small, additional projects at the ST are working on the delivery of their results too. The Monitoring & Evaluation sub-project has been successfully initiated and delivered a draft version of the further developed M&E methodology of public finance funds. Moreover, six institutions were selected for the pilot testing of the methodology. The next steps are the pilot testing of the methodology and design & implementation of training. However, as the accreditation of the M&E system may take a longer time, only recommendations in this area may be given under this sub-project.

97. The 2004 Tax Audit project continued in delivery of its tangible results. An intensive transfer of know-how and experience took place mainly through the preparation and presentation of tailor-made reports, and organisation of a whole range of workshops and a study tour. For illustration, in the area of e-commerce control (searching and identifying taxpayers on internet and carrying out the audit), which is new for Slovakia, a report and a number of practical workshops were delivered. The report gives a direction and specifies needs of resources to ensure successful implementation of e-commerce control in Slovakia. Evaluations of the workshops by participants confirmed their usefulness. Workshops took place also on transfer pricing tax audit and combating and prevention of tax fraud. Therefore, one can expect that the project contributes to *an increase of the tax audit efficiency*, as stated in the respective IO.

98. The 2004 Internal Audit project intensified the delivery of its tangible results during the reporting period. The training provided to 150 participants was finalised. The syllabus was further elaborated, fine-tuned and translated into Slovak. Six learning-by-doing audits were successfully finished and well received by the corresponding institutions. The RTA provided regular advice to the MoF on legislative and other on-going internal audit issues, and at the end of the project a final dissemination conference was organised. Thus, the project should achieve

its purpose *'to provide an assurance that the Slovak Republic has developed and properly implemented legislative and guidance framework needed for performing internal audit and to assist in building, completion and implementation of the permanent education system for internal auditors.'* The pre-mature phase of the 2006 Audit Committees project does not permit a real evaluation of the planned benefits delivery. However, due to its design and the importance for the MoF, one can predict positive outcomes of the TF assistance to *establishment of the Audit Committees(s) at the Ministry of Finance and at the other central state administration bodies*, as the TW assistance should help the MoF in preparing the legislation, and obtaining and distributing know-how. No concrete effects can be reported at this stage from the 2006 EU Own Resources. However, the project is logically designed to meet its objective, namely *enhance qualification of staff involved in public internal financial control system through providing training for internal auditors and ex-post financial controllers on execution of own resources verification*.

99. The last version of the TS of the 2004 Antifraud Traffic Control Systems has taken into account all technical aspects of the proposed solutions and also relevant features of the selected border crossings with their possible future needs. The progress presented during this IE shows a high probability that the equipment will be installed within the planned timeframe, and thus it will contribute to the protection of external EU border *by strengthening the anti-fraud control systems*, as stated in the respective IO. Nevertheless, the wording of some IAs cannot be considered as relevant for the project evaluation, as the aspect of the improved cooperation between the law enforcement authorities at the national and the international levels can be evaluated only when similar systems are in place in other relevant EU countries.

100. The small 2004 UIBF Cooperation with Informants TWL which is already completed has achieved the concrete planned results, such as training of the 30 SCA officials, including the delivery of the Slovak curricula. We can therefore expect that the capability of staff handling informants, as a new area of responsibility with increasing importance, has improved.

101. Once tendered and implemented the 2005 UIBF ODA should achieve its purpose, i.e. *increase effectiveness of the aid provided by harmonisation, alignment and management for development results, meeting needs of Rome and Paris Declarations*. The relatively straightforward design of the project, consisting of the delivery of 3 key results (legislation, guidelines and training) should facilitate this.

102. The 2005 Consumer Protection should bring concrete results via providing training of the SCA and the SMSB staff, increasing the relevant information base and improving coordination of all beneficiaries by revising the internal procedures and the mutual agreements on cooperation. Provided that the objectives are achieved, the project could be considered as a substantial contribution to the consumer protection in releasing the products, especially from third countries, to the internal market of the EU. Thus, *the implementation of the EU and the national legislation related to the consumer protection will be enhanced in the practice of SCA and SMSB*, as requested by its IO.

103. The 2005 IPR project, though not yet at the stage of implementation, should contribute to the respective IO, aimed at *strengthening enforcement capacities and raising knowledge concerning IPR*, especially once using the new database concentrating all the relevant legal information on the implementation of the IPR in Slovakia but also in the EU. Also the judges, prosecutors, custom officers and the MoC as a roof institution should improve their

performance when dealing with the IPR cases benefiting from the international know-how gained during the training sessions. The public should be better informed about the IPR topic via the information campaign (though the originally planned TV spots have been dropped out of the mix of the information vehicles in order to save the resources).

2.4 Sustainability

Component 1 Agriculture, Statistics and Cadastre

104. The 2004 Food Safety shows uneven results in its sustainability. Some effects from the TW sub-project have good chances to reach sustainable status, such as the recommended split of the Efficacy Dept. (as a direct result of the TW) to avoid a conflict of interest between testing and evaluation of applications. Also the 2005 UIBF Food Safety should directly follow the 2004 assistance in establishment of the Co-ordination Unit to oversee pesticides registration. As indicated under the 1st round of the evaluation, staffing remains a problem, especially now when a 7 percent cut of staff is planned at the CCTIA. The TWL should bring sustainable effects; especially once the CCTIA receives the GLP (and later this year the accreditation). On the other hand the fluctuation of the lab staff remains high. The lab equipment should be self-sustainable, plus post-warranty service agreements exist with foreign suppliers.

105. Early observation of sustainability of the 2004 UIBF Variety Register is reasonably positive. The respective dept. of the CCTIA enjoys low fluctuation, thus the transfer of know-how, especially from training should be stable at least in the short-term. Also the newly developed SW should be linked to other parts of the IS, notably the RIS. Moreover, the CCTIA has provided the complementary HW from own sources (the deliveries in 2 tranches were completed in March 2007).

106. The 2005 OF hasn't reached a sustainable status yet. The CCTIA as a CA should in future improve its performance, especially in certifying imports from third countries (from outside the EU). Also the perspective of the OF development in Slovakia seems to be promising, besides other factors, also due to overall growth in the wealth of people in the country and their willingness to pay for organic products and the EU/national agricultural support policy.

107. A concrete step towards securing the future sustainability of the 2005 UIBF Food Safety project could be reported, once the Co-ordination Unit is approved by the senior management of the CCTIA and established, possibly by the end of 2007. Sustainability of the TF activities should be provided also by the delivered methodological documents for the future Unit's staff and by permanent cooperation of relevant institutions on the expert and also the senior management level.

108. Preliminary forecast of sustainability of the 2006 Food Safety show mixed results. Sustainability to be secured mostly for the laboratory part, especially after the successful accreditation of the chemical laboratory by the local company (SNAS) later this year. On the other hand a relatively high staff turnover, combined with the planned staff rightsizing have negative influence on the assessment of the project's sustainability.

109. Sustainability of the 2004 UIBF APA CS, though finished only a couple of months ago, shows promising results. The staff of the CS is rather stable; all the trained employees (30) presently perform also the ToT role. The new dept. of Delegated Activities (one of the focus of the TF assistance) is to be created in the new future within the APA. The Slovak-Austrian co-operation between the peer institutions continues, for instance when working on common procedures and exchange of information within the EU forum of APA CSs.

110. Forecasts of sustainability of the 2005 APA MO assistance remain largely positive. Key outputs from the TF intervention will be the improvement of the methodology of the market intervention to be made in the MoA regulations as well as the development of the internal manuals. Also the fluctuation of the relevant APA staff remains low. Moreover, the training activities should be accompanied by manuals and suggested changes for the IS system should be made by the SW provider.

111. No major concerns with regards to sustainability of the 2005 APA SPS can be raised, especially once the project completes all the planned activities. The respective APA Dept. is stable; the introduction of the SPS remains a priority area, and the adaptation of the IACS is to be financed from the state budget.

112. The assistance under the 2005 FRM project should bring mostly sustainable results in the form of a functioning control system of the NFC, equipped with the relevant methodology and technical support. The NFC, its Unit of Control of FRM possesses stable staff. In the mid-term, the TF should help the NFC's laboratory to be re-accredited for testing the quality of forest seeds in 2010 (as due to the delays the project missed the 2007 re-accreditation).

113. Sustainability of the 2004 Statistics project shows more positive results compared to the 1st round of the evaluation, as the new top management of the SOSR, including the Chairwoman has shown the political will to pursue the necessary legislative changes, such as the amendment of the Act on Statistics. However, the amendment of the Act on Personal Data Protection remains unclear (as it would need broader political support), though using the birth number seems to be necessary for the effective implementation of registers for census purposes. The individual parts of the 2004 assistance also shows promising signs of their sustainability, such as the TWL, where the co-operation of the partners continues. Also the TF project's results were presented during the regional conference at the end of last year. Moreover, the upgrade of the ASIS should be made internally by the SOSR IT people, with no additional costs needed to be allocated from the state budget. In addition, the electronic office created under the TF intervention should become a part of the SOSR archive to be further used as a valuable source of information.

114. The new and upgraded IS created under the 2004 UIBF INTRASTAT-SK assistance does not require the purchase of the new HW, at least in the mid-term perspective, the SOSR should however secure its maintenance and upgrade; especially once the 24-month guarantee period expires. Sustainability of training activities should be secured via the provision of manuals and also the ToT element, so that the the SOSR staff can train new staff in future.

115. The 2004 Cadastre intervention has incorporated some safeguarding tools for its sustainability, such as the ToT element in the training activities and provision of training manuals, however some external factors to the project to be fulfilled for the ER itself to be sustainable, such as the successful completion of the multipurpose cadastre, the functioning

OoG Portal or amendment of the legislation on guaranteed electronic signature. Moreover, at the time of the IE the future fate of the planned strategy and business plan to be prepared under the TA sub-project for the GCCA senior management was unclear, thus showing poor results in sustainability at the same time. Also no firm plans existed for the rollout phase of the TA assistance and maintenance and the upgrade of the SW.

Component 2 Environment, Energy, Transport and Standards

116. Under the 2004 UIBF Ecological Status Classification the know-how provided by the TW partner allows the Slovak experts to proceed with further water monitoring. The applied ToT aspect should also contribute to the sustainable results of the project. The Slovak staff capable of the future practical execution can substantially contribute to the enforcement of the new legal requirements. Therefore, there are no doubts that the involved institutions are able to continue to utilise the achieved benefits after the project ends.

117. When the 2004UIBF, Data Flow Provision is successfully executed, the obtained data on lake/reservoirs water quality will be regularly provided to the EIONET (on a yearly basis). The newly designed monitoring programme in the given area will enable the execution of the water quality monitoring for the WFD purposes. However, the quality of the sustainable aspect will be influenced by the financial sources to be allocated by the MoEnv for monitoring purposes, though the current trend is the opposite, that is, to decrease the number of monitoring places. The IS and the database system on bathing waters will be used by the Ministry of Health and the Public Health Authority Offices, for which the database system is badly needed to fulfil reporting requirements of the relevant EU Directives.

118. The results of the 2005 EQS for Water will materialise through managing the interconnectivity of ISs between the central and the District/Regional level. Once all projects' targets are achieved, which seems to be a very real possibility at this stage, the prepared list of the EQSs for dangerous substances will become an every day practical tool of the involved beneficiaries, as well as the functioning communication network and the MIS. All this will indubitably improve the quality of the water control in Slovakia.

119. The 2005 WFD Compliant Method has not reached sustainable status yet. When successfully finished, the monitoring and assessment system of biological quality elements in rivers will be adjusted according to their specific preferences. The system will become an integral part of the ecological status assessment of the surface water, being used by the Slovak relevant authorities as day to day practical tools for water quality assessment or even, looking at it from the wider perspective, water quality improvement.

120. A similar situation can be reported on the 2005 TA on IS for EIA, which is at the pre-tendering stage. After its completion, the new IS will enable access to the EIA/SEA to the professional administration staff but also to the public, and thus increase the general awareness on the importance of environmental assessment. The longer term sustainability will be influenced by the financial resources to be allocated for maintenance and up-date of the IS by the MoEnv.

121. One common aspect has been repeatedly raised by various actors discussing the environmental projects, especially those to be implemented by the SEA and the SHMI. The future position of the agencies and their operations could be made difficult by high staff

turnover. The situation is caused by uncertainty linked to the governmental decision on the reduction by 20 percent of civil servants and its practical execution by the MoEnv. Highly qualified staff is very difficult to replace at the same level of competence, and incorporating new staff in already established teams involved in international cooperation is very difficult; hence, the possible dismissal of existing staff constitutes a serious danger for ongoing operations. This factor can also play an important role in terms of sustainability of projects results.

122. Mixed results of the sustainability factor can be predicted in the nuclear safety area. Nevertheless, the contractors' performance of the 2004 IRAW Management project gives rise to a high probability that the precise division of responsibilities of the regulatory bodies and the connection of the existing managerial IRAW system with the national one will contribute to the safety improvements. Therefore, the results can be reported as sustainable.

123. On the other hand a badly needed IS which is able to track all kinds of radioactive waste and the spent fuel to be designed and established under the 2005 Radioactive Waste project seems to be in danger. If the procurement problems are mastered and the implementation is successful, the project results will become a tool of the Agency's daily work which would then be a major contribution to its sustainability.

124. The pre- mature status of the 2006 HRM at NRA does not provide a real basis on which to predict its sustainability. However, if the project results are achieved, the technical knowledge of the Agency' staff will be increased and the adequately trained staff will be able to supervise the nuclear installations safety by respecting the best international practices.

125. A good mixture of beneficiaries of the 2004 Road Transport project assures the appropriate dissemination of the gained knowledge from the MTPT through the Police and the Labour Inspectorate's branches at the regional and the district levels. Participation of the Žilina University is the best guarantee for spreading of the up-dated EU rules and practices among the future professionals. The ToT aspect can sustain the transfer of the know-how to the staff of relevant institutions. The gained know-how has increased the inspection performance and it will be used as a tool in every day practice of inspectors.

126. If the planned objectives of the 2005 Electricity and Gas Market are achieved, as seems likely at the time of this IE, new skills and the know-how will be transferred to the RONI and its staff will be capable of managing the new area of its responsibility. Liberalisation of the electricity and gas market should be in line with the relevant EU directives. Although the new law which came into force in March 2007 raises questions about the real independence of the RONI and also gives rise to the possibility of Government interventions into the system, there are no doubts about the Slovak preparedness to open the markets in the given areas.

127. Once implemented, results of the 2005 RACMI project are expected to be sustainable. There is a clear need for a project that identifies changes in the borderlines legislation like this one. When identified, relevant legislative changes supporting free movement of goods having measurement function (i.e. smooth liberalisation of public utilities market) will be implemented, which gives good grounds for a positive assessment of their sustainability.

Component 3 Finance, Customs and Culture

128. The sustainability of the 2004 PFM project remains positive. The implementation of accrual accounting from 1 January 2008 confirms sustainability of the Accounting & Reporting sub-project's results. This date represents a culmination of the sub-project's efforts, among which are the elaboration of the accounting and operational manual, the consolidation manual, and provision of basic training to more than 2,000 public officers and follow-up training to about 900 others. Moreover, this sub-project will deliver a strategy for sustainability of its results, focusing on continuous improvement of quality of auditing information. The State Treasury sub-project has a high potential of sustaining its results too. The methodology of education, training materials, training, and a report on changes in IT needs for financial planning should facilitate this. The same applies to the 2 small projects, results of which will be used by the ST in order to improve and further develop its activities, i.e. improve financial prognosis provided by the ST to the Agency for Management of Debt and Liquidity, and prepare a smooth introduction of the Euro. The Monitoring & Evaluation sub-project is well on the track to set-up the external M&E training system providing education to civil servants dealing with M&E of public funds. Therefore, the prediction of its sustainability is positive.

129. The intensive transfer of know-how, skills and experience through a whole range of training, delivery of corresponding training materials, current topical reports, as well as an active involvement and dedication of the beneficiary to the project represent a solid basis for sustainability of the 2004 Tax Audit. This holds true in general also for the SW application for the risk analysis in VAT, which has been in a process of development during this evaluation. Although, because of an earlier mentioned delay, a limited time for its testing and no time for training might be left under this project. This may, to some extent, influence sustainability of this project component¹⁰.

130. Sustainability of the 2004 Internal Audit has clearly improved. The personnel, involved in the project from the beneficiary side, have stabilised. Moreover, the sustainability is ensured by the delivery of the extensive syllabus, which was translated into Slovak. The syllabus is being used in education of internal auditors in Slovakia. However, because of changed circumstances, no activities in the direction of its accreditation by the Ministry of Education have taken place. The 2006 Audit Committees intervention should be sustainable, although the newly established Audit Committees may be vulnerable to and suffer from fluctuations in the personnel of the public sector. However, due to their character, once being established and embedded in the public administration, they should bring sustainable outcomes in raising effectiveness of the internal audit function. The assistance under the 2006 EU Own Resources has the potential to bring sustainable results through putting in place training, which does not exist in this area yet, and the delivery of supporting documentation for performing control with a focus on financial flows, which should be used in carrying out audit trails.

131. The prediction of sustainability of the 2004 Antifraud Traffic Control Systems after the instalment of the equipment at the selected border points can be assessed as very positive. The fully operational system which is able to exchange the data flow with other countries included into the project frame, together with the trained staff, will move the protection of the external EU borders to a higher level of safety. The importance of the east border's protection is illustrated by the attention given by the Government to the preparation of the traffic border posts for the Schengen and the massive financial allocations to be spent for the above

¹⁰ Component 8: Upgrade and implementation of the software application of the risk analysis for VAT audit.

mentioned purpose from the state budget. The maintenance of the installed systems will be indubitably followed with the same interest.

132. Complete performance of all the planned activities under the 2004 UIBF Cooperation with Informants has resulted in the stated objectives being achieved and the knowledge of the updated methods and techniques has undoubtedly been transferred. However, the execution of the conclusions and recommendations prepared beyond the planned outputs of the project, such as the creation of databases of informants, their nation-wide system of registration, adaptation of the Europol guidelines or the legal changes are under consideration, can be evaluated in the longer term only.

133. Sustainability of the 2005 UIBF ODA project can be reported only if we assume its successful contracting. Then the open question on the selected contractor's performance follows. If the contractor delivers the expected results as they are planned, there is a high chance that the project will increase effectiveness of the provided aid. At the time of this IE, however, any assessment is premature.

134. The prediction of the 2005 Consumer Protection sustainability seems to be a rather positive one. The smooth and operational execution seen in the period of evaluation should result in the revision of procedures and cooperation agreements which would form a solid basis for the improvement of the management of the release of dangerous products into the internal EU market. The institutional capacity of the involved beneficiaries will be increased and the ownership of results may be seen in their day-to-day operations.

135. The outcomes of the 2005 IPR project haven't reached sustainable status yet. The sustainability of the key output, notably the IP database, should be secured by the MoC, which is responsible for its maintenance. Moreover, the SW should be compatible with the MoC's IS and that of the IPO as well. Plans exist for future linkage of the database with the Government portal; however concrete steps were not fully clear at the time of this IE. Also, the provided training should in future be included in the Justice Academy's curricula.

2.5. Impact

Component 1 Agriculture, Statistics and Cadastre

136. The first observations of the impact from the 2004 Food Safety project are rather optimistic, as it should definitely contribute to the fulfilment of its Wider Objectives (WOs) in the area of *risk assessment and management of PPP and control of primary inputs in food chain and environment*. The Slovak representatives have already started to participate in pesticides risk assessment peer reviews at the European Food Safety Authority. Also chances exist for the CCTIA to perform the co-rapporteur role (together with France) on the chemical active substance dossier in 2008-09, thus Slovakia seems to be more pro-active in participation at the EU system of PPP compared to the past. The CCTIA labs should now better comply with quality standards and the GLP. The delivered equipment for the labs and the WRI should among others help to achieve the EU standards in safety of food supervision.

137. Broader impact from the 2004 UIBF Variety Register can be reported only after the full operation of the new SW later this year. However, even at this stage we can be reasonably

optimistic that the work of the CCTIA will improve using the progressive system (even when compared regionally). Varieties will be compared more objectively, the on-line access to data from fields should assure better supervision, the quality of the Slovakia's inputs into the EU variety register should improve as well.

138. The 2005 OF TWL via the planned training activities and also practical transfer of know-how from study visits should have a positive impact on the *enhanced CCTIA's management* in the field of the OF, as stipulated in its WO. The project should have a broader impact on rural development in Slovakia, in positively influencing employment in the respective regions. At the same time it should support trade within the EU in the field of the OF (promoting both exports and imports), consumer protection and implicitly the environmental protection as well (no PPP or fertilizers used for the production of the OF).

139. Some question marks exist with regard to the impact of the 2005 UIBF Food Safety TWL. Though the establishment of the Co-ordination Unit at the CCTIA should definitely have a positive impact on the Slovakia's regulation of pesticides, including its preparation for the new EU regulation (to come into force in 2008), the possibility of a direct inclusion of employees from co-operating institutions (such as the PHO or the WRI) were rather unclear at the time of this Report.

140. The respective WO for the 2006 Food Safety project is rather broad, notably *improve CCTIA's capacities towards enhancement of the quality of control services to secure food safety in the SR*, thus even at this stage of evaluation we can predict at least some contribution of the designed IB activities to its fulfillment. After the planned accreditation, the reputation of Slovakia in the relevant field should increase, also in the form of an active participation on the EU food safety monitoring. Besides improvement of the consumer protection, the project should also have a positive impact on the environment due to similar reasons as mentioned under the 2004 and 2005 projects in the same area.

141. For the 2004 UIBF APA CS, we can report early signs of its positive impact, such as spreading the gained know-how via the ToT activities, also controllers being equipped with the new methodology and thus performing progressive controls. At the same time the reputation of inspectors should increase, especially in dialogue with agri business.

142. The 2005 APA MO has a potential to give rise to some macroeconomic impact in the form of the increased export of the Slovak agricultural products via the provided support. At the same time via the information campaign the potential group up of to 800 agricultural producers should be able to use the different forms of the APA's support, such as re-funds. The 2005 assistance should contribute to its WO focused on *reinforcement of the MO system in the APA*, especially when reinforced on the methodological front.

143. The 2005 APA SPS has a rather broad goal in its corresponding WO, namely *enhancement of APA procedures...* The SPS system should be more transparent compared to the existing SAPS and topping-up. Also the potential impact on farmers should be rather broad (12,000 brochures to be printed out) informing them about the new system of payments and ultimately providing them with the available financial resources. Also a potential east-east approach could be speculated for the future, as the employees of the SPS and Environmental Support Dept. presently work on projects in New Member States (NMS) (though in a different area).

144. Once finally implemented, the TF assistance 2005 FRM should contribute to the defined WO aimed at *reinforcement of the control system on the marketing of FRM and improving its quality and skills of producers, suppliers and end users*. The NFC's control capacities should be reinforced (about 10 people). Moreover, the target group of about 100 people, including FRM suppliers trained on the relevant FRM topics. At the same time with the help of the 2005 TF intervention the NFC should become the first Control Centre from NMSs to start operating in the field of the FRM and be recognised by the old MSs. The project should also have a positive environmental impact when influencing the suitability of the FRM according to regions in Slovakia.

145. The 2004 Statistics project has a potential to have a positive impact, especially once the idea of using registers, as proposed under the 2004 TF assistance, is fully adopted in Slovakia – realistically first for the 2021 census. The progressive system seems to be now more realistic to pursue (compared to the 1st round of evaluation), as it enjoys the attention and support from the SOSR senior officials, however changes of some pieces of the legislation seems to be beyond the control of the statistics sector. Overall, the 2004 TF intervention should contribute to its defined WO *to increase quality, effectiveness and flexibility of the statistical information system*, especially through the upgrade of the existing one.

146. The broader impact of the SW for INTRASTAT-SK (under the 2004 UIBF) system should in future materialise, among others in the possibility of the SOSR to provide new products to its external customers, improve the quality of the delivered data to EUROSTAT on the Slovak foreign trade performance both with the EU states and the rest of the world.

147. The 2004 Cadastre project has a real potential to contribute to the ambitious goal, as defined in the corresponding WO, notably *establishing an efficient access to cadastral services*. Even at this stage we are reasonably confident, that after its completion, the TF assistance should have an impact on the preparation of the GCCA staff to provide the electronic service, including the new approach to customers. The new services, after being fully implemented and complemented by other neighbouring projects (as mentioned under the respective evaluation of the sustainability criterion) should represent a unique solution in the EU (especially when processing graphic and text data in an integrated form) and at the same time more flexible provision of information both to the state administration and citizens.

Component 2 Environment, Energy, Transport and Standards

148. All environmental projects show promising results as far as the impact criterion is concerned: the 2004 UIBF Ecological Status Classification focusing on the set-up of the type specific reference conditions and development of the ecological classification of the water surface by biological elements allowing the monitoring and assessment of biological quality elements of rivers, and thus to contribute *to the harmonisation of the Slovak legislation with the requirements of the EU regulation*. The fruitful cooperation of TWL partners has fully achieved the stated WO.

149. The 2004 UIBF Data Flow Provision will, thanks to the complex project design (through providing data on lake/reservoirs water quality to the EIONET, the setting up of a monitoring programme in the given area, and an improvement of database system on bathing waters)

indubitably contribute to the *achievement of obligations resulting from the Accession Treaty* to be focused on the *water sector reporting*, according to the *EU legislation*.

150. Also the development of the 2005 EQS for Water allows us to realistically predict that the quality standards for dangerous substances will be completed and the MIS will coordinate monitoring and reporting activities between the central and the district level. Thus, *the capacity of the central administration and District Offices (DO) responsible for water quality will be enhanced* and the *national legislation and the EU acquis on water quality will be implemented*, as requested by the respective WO.

151. It is difficult to predict the impact of the 2005 UIBF WFD Compliant Method since it is at a pre-mature stage. However, by monitoring of phytobenthos in the selected river types and phytoplankton in lowland rivers *the monitoring /assessment of the biological quality elements in rivers will become an integral part of the ecological status assessment of the surface water*. This, similarly to the previous projects, can contribute not only to the quality of water monitoring but can play a catalytic role for the improvement of the water quality as such.¹⁵² It is also not possible to predict the impact of 2005 UIBF TA on IS for EIA, which is at the stage of commenting on the ToRs by the CFCU. Nevertheless, the design and implementation of the new IS should *support awareness of all stakeholders and the public in the process of SEA*, and thus contribute to the given WO.

153. The 2004 IRAW Management, due to its complex design is likely to contribute to its WO, *to improve the existing system of IRAW management respecting the relevant recommendations of the Report on Nuclear Safety*. The executed review of the EU legal framework should provide also for practical proposals for an improvement of the regulatory infrastructure. The ongoing set-up of the national radioactive waste database is likely to have serious impact on the neutralisation of industrial break-downs or fires consequences.

154. The same can be stated with regard to the 2005 Radioactive Waste project. Once all the planned activities are eventually implemented, *the project will indubitably contribute to the safe management of radioactive waste and spent fuel in Slovakia through establishment of relevant information system*, as defined in its WO. The desired development process of the IS to keep information on all kinds of the radioactive waste is nevertheless endangered by the existing copyrights ownership problems, not envisaged during the PF preparation.

155. The quality of human resources can play a decisive role in such a specific area as nuclear safety. Therefore, the project's design of the 2006 HRM at NRA focuses on the NRA staff awareness raising about the up-dated technological development. Once the project is implemented with success, it will *contribute to maintain a high level of nuclear installations safety through the adequate human resources management of the NRA*.

156. The improved knowledge of the respective authorities under the 2004 Road Transport project has materialised in drafting of the law amendment on digital tachographs and also the draft of the new law on the Working Time Organisation in Transport. Both legislative norms were approved by the Government in April 2007 and should proceed to the Parliament in due time. This can be considered as a successful contribution to the WO focused on the *proper implementation of the acquis in the area of labour protection, safety and competitiveness – Negotiation Chapter No.9 – Transport Policy*.

157. An indisputable impact of the 2005 Electricity and Gas Market project will be the transposition of the relevant EU Directives and Regulations into the Slovak gas and electricity market in the adoption of a model compliant with the EU requirements. The process of the secondary legislation application should also strengthen the position of the RONI in the consumer protection area focused on households. In broader terms, the project has a strong potential to *prepare conditions for development of Electricity and Gas markets in accordance with Directive 2003/54/EC and Directive 2003/55/EC (the WO)*.

158. The expectation of an impact of the 2005 RACMI remains positive. One can predict that the project will generate a broader impact in the form of *free movement of goods with measuring function without a distortion caused by changing environment in their usage and operation*, such as liberalisation of markets of public utilities. The prediction remains based on the design of this project and the pro-active approach of the beneficiary, the OSMT, to this project.

Component 3 Finance, Customs and Culture

159. This evaluation confirmed that the 2004 PFM project's impact, characterised by *timely and reliable reports and statistics on macro-economic*, should materialise. All sub-projects contribute clearly to this WO. The Accounting & Reporting sub-project by preparation of modern fiscal and financial management reports providing all needed information for local and international purposes (i.e. EC and IMF requirements); the State Treasury sub-project and also 2 small projects by preparing missing reports and improving the existing ones in relation to integration of the country in the EU; and the Monitoring & Evaluation sub-project by generating evaluation reports on the current use of public funds. The expected impact of the 2004 PFM project remains wider than stated in the WO as it will cover not only macro-economic performance but also public finance performance statistics and data on the use of and accountability for the use of the public funds.

160. The expected impact of the 2004 Tax Audit project expressed, as '*modernisation of the tax administration*' will materialise. An increased tax audit efficiency facilitated by an intensive transfer of know-how, skills and experience, as well as development of new audit techniques and SW applications does significantly contribute to the achievement of the WO.

161. Positive developments that took place during the reporting period, such as the stabilisation of the personnel at the MoF and line ministries and a strong project ownership confirmed by the beneficiary suggest that the 2004 Internal Audit should '*further strengthen system of internal audit at the Ministry of Finance, line ministries and spending centres in compliance with relevant EU regulations*'. The 2006 Audit Committees has a potential to bring a broader impact through *raising the effectiveness of the internal audit function by securing senior management participation in internal control and governance issues via the establishment of Audit Committees*. The 14 line ministries and other central state administration organisations should benefit from the MoF's pilot and use the MoF's helpdesk on an everyday basis. Forecasts of the impact of the 2006 EU Own Resources intervention are rather positive due to similar reasons as with its effectiveness criterion. The WO aiming at *enhancing of the EC own resources' audit and ex-post financial control to further strengthen and protect European Communities financial interests* should be achieved. The corresponding activities, once implemented, such as training, elaboration of audit trail supporting documentation and

performing on the spot control/audit should enhance qualification of staff involved in public internal financial control system, and thus ultimately strengthen and protect European Communities financial interests.

162. Prediction of the impact of the 2004 Antifraud Traffic Control Systems is based on the successful equipment delivery and its instalment, which will un-doubtedly increase the east border protection in a mid-term perspective. Nevertheless, the international cooperation of the relevant customs authorities is a question of longer-term perspective and as such must be a result of similar projects successfully implemented in other involved countries, which is beyond the influence of the evaluated project. Once implemented, the project will unambiguously contribute to the WO defined by the EC for all the involved countries, as *to assist the New Member States to meet the obligations pursuant to Article 280 of the EC Treaty and other legislative acts on the protection of the Community financial interests by putting into place effective monitoring mechanism.*

163. The completion of the 2004 UIBF Cooperation with Informants positively contributes to the improvement of working with informants, and thus increasing the number and at the same time also reliability of the relevant information sources for customs authorities.

164. The pre-implementation phase of the 2005 UIBF ODA does not offer any basis for real evaluation of the project's impact. However, because of its relatively straightforward design the project has a potential to contribute to its WO, i.e. *contribute to the achievement of the Slovak Republic financing goals set by the European Commission by further improving of the financial management system.*

165. The desired future well functioning cooperation of the customs and the MSAs within the 2005 Consumer Protection is tested by their abilities to manage the project's implementation within the limited time-frame. If they succeed, the project will definitely contribute to the *overall improvement of consumer protection from the sides of the SCA and the SMSBs.*

166. Forecasts of the impact of the 2005 IPR intervention remain positive. The WO aiming *to ensure awareness and protection of IPR, to reduce the level of piracy and counterfeiting* should be, at least partially achieved (also due to the general trends in this area in Slovakia). In the future there will be more impact to be reported, once the relevant bodies, including the Law Enforcement Agencies start to use the IP database in their work when safeguarding the IPR. Also the ToT element of the training activities (besides about 400 participants reached directly) has a potential to spread the gained know-how in the IPR field more widely among peers. In the longer-term more impact can be expected once the outcomes of the project become a part of the eGovernment philosophy.

2.4. Specific issues

167. There were no specific issues during this IE.

3. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1. Conclusions and Recommendations

3.1.1. Relevance

168. The TF assistance to the INT Sector is relevant, covering the EU and national priority areas.

169. The **AGR** projects remain relevant even from the ex-post perspective, mostly contributing to implementation of complex EU Directives (such as in the Food Safety Framework). The key beneficiary of the TF interventions 2004-2006 is the CCTIA and its individual departments, including laboratories. The TF interventions enjoy the support of the senior management of the CCTIA. Also the considerable assistance to the APA in the field of the reformed CAP is still relevant, even after the enforcement of the new legislation and organisational changes within the APA. The TF assistance to **CAD** and **STAT**, focused on implementation of progressive technologies, contributes to the eGovernment philosophy, such as the ER for the GCCA. Again, the new senior management seems to be supportive to the new ideas and the foreseen problems of sequencing of activities represented only a minor problem, when for instance implementing the 2004 TWL for the GCCA.

170. The **ENV** projects are relevant, contributing mostly to the fulfilment of the requirements given by the WFD into the Slovak conditions and focusing on the improvement of water management. The support is given to the SHMI, the SEA but also to all institutions involved in the water monitoring and assessment, as well on the district and regional levels. The TW and the TWL forms fit perfectly into the needed know-how transfer, the IS are implemented via the TA and supported by the Supply. The **ENE** projects from the Nuclear Safety area follow the line of the Council Report on the Nuclear Safety trying to achieve the adequate management of disused sources; the 2006 project focuses on the adequate knowledge level of the HR. The highly specific know-how will be provided by the TA, to be combined with a Supply intervention. The Electricity and Gas Market should also fully transpose and implement the relevant EU directives by creation of the secondary legislation. The **TRANS** project follows the recommendations of the Peer Review, focusing on the social legislation. The **STAN** project is relevant and current as it should assist with the implementation of the MID.

171. The **FIN** projects are relevant. They reflect the PFMR strategy and the DG ECFIN recommendations on modernisation of the public finance area. All **CUS** projects have their significance in the implementation of the EU policy in the area of external border and consumer protection; the Cooperation with Informants is focused on an area in which there is no coherent previous experience. The relevance of the Antifraud Traffic Control Systems is given also by its horizontal nature which was designed by the Commission services. The first assistance to **CUL** under TF or Phare remains relevant, especially after transposition of the respective EU Directive into the national legislation in March this year. Also the new project management works well, including the functioning of the SC and WGs.

3.1.2 Efficiency

172. At the time of the IE there was a vacancy for the position of the Programme Manager for Standards, Finance and Customs components the INT to deal with this complex and biggest TF Sector at the ACU.

173. For the **AGR** sub-component none of the 2005 or 2006 projects have been tendered. For the running and also finished ones, co-operation with the same TW and TWL partner, notably the PSD for the CCTIA, has been highly appreciated. Also the contractor for the 2004 UIBF APA CS performed well in a constructive and flexible way. The **STAT** assistance shows promising results in its efficiency, also due to the well-designed project management, including the establishment of an electronic office. Due to similar reasons (plus the standardised work of the SC and the WGs) we are still positive that the **CAD** intervention into the ER will be successful, though still rather demanding.

174. The efficiency of the **ENV** projects can be considered as high, the mixture of the SEA managerial proficiency and the knowledge of the SHMI staff demonstrates very good results, supported by the efficient coordination and monitoring system. The situation is not so clear in **ENE** sub-component, particularly the Nuclear Safety projects. Despite a quite critical first round of our evaluation focusing on the lengthy tendering process of the IRAW Management, its implementation is smooth. However, the procurement problems can negatively influence efficiency of the 2005 Radioactive Waste. The appreciated cooperation with the TW partner in the Electricity and Gas Market project is overcoming complications linked with the changes given by the new Law and influencing the preparation of the secondary legislation. The **TRANS** project, especially its organisation, has suffered from the underestimation of the TWL partner, which has negatively influenced the quality of provided training at the beginning of the implementation. Moreover, the execution of a glossary with the specific expressions in the given area has been omitted completely. The preparation of the **STAN** project has taken a longer time because of its rather specific nature, which influences efficiency negatively.

175. The implementation of the **FIN** projects is efficient. For illustration, all sub-components of the PFM project are running and there were 2 additional small projects implemented from procurement savings in a relatively short time. All problems negatively influencing tendering of some **CUS** projects have been clearly overcome, the efficiency of both ongoing projects can be evaluated highly, such as the Cooperation with Informants, positively appraised already by the previous evaluation. The **CUL** intervention should benefit from a synergy effect when merging the 4 contracts into 2 and also later transposition from the legislation as originally planned, thus overcoming the problems with the delayed start of TF activities.

3.1.3 Effectiveness

176. Positive projections of effectiveness of most of the projects are based on their outcomes or potential fulfilment of the respective IOs. The delivery of massive training, being supported by the complementary methodological materials should bring at least some effects in the **AGR** sub-component, such as 2004 Food Safety in the area of pesticides registration and licensing, also the CCTIA laboratory staff should perform better when controlling the quality of pesticides. The 2004 UIBF APA CS should bring the first tangible effects in the better performance of APA's controls of agricultural market organisation. The 2004 UIBF Variety

Register after completion of the relevant SW should bring effects in better administration of varieties, including the EU reporting. The 2004 **STAT** projects have progressed with the completion of the TWL part and SW development of ASIS and INTRASTAT. They should bring effects in the decreased administrative burden of the reporting units and provision of data on foreign trade. The **CAD** intervention into the ER should bring about future effects in provision of user-friendly cadastral services, depending however on the successful completion of the complementary projects, such as multipurpose cadastre.

177. One of the **ENV** projects has already been completed; the others should contribute to the defined IO once implemented. This will result in a discharge of the relevant EU requirements of the water quality monitoring and assessment. The Electricity and Gas Market **ENE** project should liberalise the respective market for households by 1st July 2007 as was the deadline stated by the EC, and this seems to be a realistic prediction. It is also realistic to estimate an improvement of the existing management system of the Nuclear Safety, however, the IS to track all kinds of radioactive waste may be in danger in the case the procurement problems are not solved. The adequate level of HR competences within the 2006 project should be achieved, if successfully completed. The support given to the **TRANS** has contributed to adequate labour inspection performance comparable to EU standards. We can expect that the **STAN** project will achieve its IO once implemented. This is because the first steps in the implementation of the MID directive have taken place and because of the pro-active approach of the beneficiary, which gives a good basis for predicting the delivery of tangible results.

178. The implemented **FIN** projects have already delivered some of their results in modernisation of the PFM system. This holds true for the PFM project with all its components, the Tax Audit and the Internal Audit projects, where an intensive transfer of know-how and experience took place. The set of 3 **CUS** projects has achieved a high rating level: the completion of the Cooperation with Informants represents a positive evaluation of the given criterion, as it has successfully achieved all the given goals. The Consumer Protection has considerable chances of contributing to the enhancement of consumer protection. The protection of the EU border by strengthening the anti-fraud control systems within the Traffic Control Systems project seems also to be well on track, thus clearly shifting the previous critical evaluation results caused by lengthy preparation of the tender documentation. The **CUL** project should mainly assist the respective authorities in enforcement and protection of IPR, once successfully tendered.

3.1.4 Sustainability

179. Sustainability of the **AGR** projects shows mixed results, mostly depending on the particular final Beneficiary. For assistance to the APA the sustainability seems to be secured, also after its organisational change and re-shuffle of the senior management. For instance, the co-operation of peer institutions from the 2004 UIBF APA CS continues also after the completion of TF activities. Also the forecast of the 2005 assistance to the APA is positive, mainly due to the stable staff and also good project design, which includes besides training also provision of methodological documents. On the other hand, we remain less optimistic when predicting sustainable outcomes of the CCTIA intervention, especially after the announced cuts of its staff combined with the previously criticised fluctuation (for instance of the laboratory people). However, the series of projects in the area of Food Safety should implicitly contribute to the sustainability of the 2004 Food Safety, together with the planned accreditation of the

CCTIA chemical laboratory. Also the SW developed under the 2004 UIBF Variety Register has good chances of being sustainable, especially once linked to the RIS. The sustainability of the **STAT** projects appears more likely when compared to the previous evaluation, especially due to the existence of the political will of the new SOSR management to adopt legal changes, such as the statistics package. Moreover, the TWL partners continue in the co-operation informally and the upgrade and maintenance of the ASIS have been secured. The latter is however less true for the 2004 UIBF INTRASTAT project. The **CAD** intervention raises some concerns with regard to the sustainability of its planned outputs, such as the future status of the strategy and business plan prepared under the TA sub-project for the new cadastre services, as their future acceptance by the GCCA senior management remains questionable. Also no firm plans existed for the rollout phase of the TA assistance and maintenance and the upgrade of the SW.

180. The sustainability of all **ENVIRONMENT** projects seems to be assured by the involved beneficiaries, using the achieved results as tools in practical execution of their duties. Nevertheless, it is necessary to add that, as observed since the last evaluation, a potentially high influence on the given criterion could result from the high turnover of the most qualified staff of the agencies. This is linked to the governmental decision on 20 percent staff reduction in the public sector and its practical implementation resulting in an uncertain future of beneficiaries. Also the results of the **ENERGY - Nuclear Safety** projects should become the Agency's daily working tools, to help to improve the national / international reporting and the HR management. Sustainability of the 2005 project's results will be crucially influenced by the ability to overcome the raised problems linked to the ownership of the copyrights. The most concrete result of the given aspect of the Electricity and Gas Market will be the opened fully liberalised market in relevant areas from the given deadline. The **TRANS** project has helped to gain new knowledge and practical experience to increase the inspections level and to be used by various beneficiaries. The positive potential sustainability of the **STAN** project can be assessed on the basis of the current need and the current intention to implement legislative changes supporting free movement of goods with a measurement function.

181. The sustainability of **FIN** projects has improved, which is determined, among others, by a stabilised personnel at the public institutions several months after the parliamentary elections. The prediction of sustainability of the **CUS** projects is rather positive: the CCO uses the gained knowledge in its day-to-day operations, the protection of the east border posts is the top governmental priority and it is not likely to be changed even after accession to the Schengen agreement. The attention given to the defence of the Community interests should be a lasting and continuous process, important also for consumer protection. Projections of sustainability of the **CUL** project are now more optimistic (as compared to the last year), as the relevant legislation has already been transposed and the maintenance of the IP database will be secured by the MoC.

3.1.5 Impact

182. We remain mostly optimistic when predicting the contribution of the TF projects to the fulfilment of their respective WOs, mostly in the selected areas of transposition of the relevant *acquis*, such as the reformed CAP in the **AGR** sector. The TF assistance to the APA should have an impact on performing progressive controls of the MOs, increased exports of agri products (using, for instance re-funds), or via a more transparent system of direct payments ensuring more financial resources for farmers. The control systems should be strengthened also

for the NFC in the area of FRM, and thus obtaining EU recognition at the same time. A similar positive impact is foreseen for the CCTIA support, where in the field of Food Safety the Slovak representatives have already started to participate at the EU peer review and should perform the co-rapporteur work soon. On the other hand, although the establishment of the Co-ordination Unit at the CCTIA (as foreseen under the 2005 assistance) should definitely result in a positive impact on Slovakia's regulation of pesticides, the possibility of direct inclusion of employees from co-operating institutions (such as the PHO or WRI) was rather unclear at the time of this Report. The progressive areas of assistance for the **STAT** and **CAD** could both bring broad and tangible impacts, when using in practice new and upgraded ISs and thereby decreasing the administrative burdens and costs of future censuses (as of 2021) and increasing the quality of the provided data in the case of the former and a more flexible provision of information both to the state administration and citizens in the case of the latter.

183. All the **ENVIRONMENT** projects show promising impact results: by enhancing the capacity of the central and district administration responsible for water management, by establishing of national monitoring /assessment systems in various fields of the water quality monitoring thus contributing to the full implementation of the EU and the national water quality legislation. The **ENERGY Electricity and Gas Market** is also successfully focused on the relevant EU Directive transposition by introducing the EU compliant model on the gas and electricity market. The effective implementation of Nuclear Safety projects contributes to fulfilling the recommendations of the Nuclear Safety Report by increasing nuclear safety, via improvement of the existing IRAW management system, paying also attention to the HRM aspect. Training provided under the **TRANS** project and its ToT element have increased the know-how of the staff of the involved institutions, the gained knowledge has been utilised in the preparation of the respective legal amendments, and thus the project has contributed to the proper implementation of the *acquis* in the labour protection of the given sector. We can expect a broader impact in the form of free movement of goods with a measuring function without distortions caused by liberalisation of markets, once the **STAN** project is implemented.

184. All **FIN** projects have a good potential to generate a wider impact, as they provide the missing expertise in for instance accounting, fiscal and financial management reporting systems, monitoring and evaluation of public funds, tax audit, internal audit and control, and the ODA. A solid impact can be achieved in increasing the east border protection by the **CUS Antifraud Traffic Control Systems** after the instalment of the equipment at the selected border posts. Training provided under the Consumer Protection will enhance a performance and a mutual cooperation of the Customs Administration and the MSAs, and will thus contribute to the overall improvement of the consumer protection. The Cooperation with Informants has contributed to the increased number and reliability of the relevant information sources of the customs authorities. Forecasts of the impact of the **CUL** intervention remain positive, especially once in future the LEAs start to use the IP database when protecting the IPR.

Conclusion	Recommendation	Output	Reference/ Paragraph	Responsibility	Deadline
<p>All Projects At the time of the IE the position of the Programme Manager for Standards, Finance and Customs components of the INT sector was vacant at the ACU.</p>	<p>The Aid Co-ordination Unit at the Office of the Government should employ a Programme Manager for Standards, Finance and Customs components the INT within its new organisational structure to deal with this complex Sector.</p>	<p>Improved efficiency of project management</p>	<p>44,172</p>	<p>ACU</p>	<p>asap</p>
<p>2004 Cadastre Project (2004/016-764.08.01 Strengthening the Efficiency of Cadastral Services) For the strategy and the business plan for the new cadastral services (to be prepared under the TA sub-component) the future acceptance by the GCCA senior management was unclear. Also no firm plans existed for the rollout phase of the TA assistance and maintenance and the upgrade of the SW.</p>	<p>The GCCA should submit a document to the ACU showing the steps for the approval process of the strategy and the business plan prepared under the TA sub-component. A similar document to be prepared showing the plans for the rollout phase of the testing stage of the ER functionality.</p>	<p>Improved sustainability, impact</p>	<p>115,147,179</p>	<p>GCCA</p>	<p>By the end of the project</p>
<p>Transport Project (2004/016-764.06.01) During the implementation of the Transport project the execution of a glossary with the specific expressions in the given area has been omitted completely.</p>	<p>The Beneficiary shall discuss the raised problem with the CFCU in order to find a proper solution.</p>	<p>Improved efficiency and effectiveness</p>	<p>62,93,174</p>	<p>MTPT/CFCU</p>	<p>asap</p>

3.2. Performance rating

Rating

	Relevance	Efficiency	Effectiveness	Sustainability	Impact	Verbal Rating
AGRI, STAT, CAD						
2004/016-764.01.01 Food Safety	1	1	1	0	1	S
2004/016-764.08.03 UIBF APA Control Section	1	2	1	1	1	S
2004/016-764.08.03 UIBF Variety Register	1	1	1	1	1	S
2005/017-464.08.01 UIBF Food Safety	1	1	0	0	0	S
2006/018-175.01.01 Food Safety	1	0	1	0	1	S
2005/017-464.01.01 APA Market Organisations	1	0	1	1	1	S
2005/017-464.01.02 Organic Farming	1	0	1	1	1	S
2005/017-464.01.03 APA Single Payment Scheme	1	0	1	1	1	S
2005/017-464.01.04 Forest Repro Material	1	1	1	1	1	S
2004/016-764.05.01 Statistics	1	1	1	1	1	S
2004/016-764.08.03 UIBF SW for Intrastat	1	1	1	1	1	S
2004/016-764.08.01 Cadastre	1	1	0	-1	1	S
ENV, ENE, TRANS, STAN						
2004/016-764.08.03 UIBF Ec. Status Classification	2	2	2	1	1	HS
2004/016-764.08.03 UIBF, Data Flow Provision	1	1	1	1	1	S
2005/017-464.06.01 EQS for Water	1	1	1	1	1	S
2005/017-464.08.01 UIBF WFD Compliant Method	1	1	1	0	1	S
2005/017-464.08.01 UIBF TA on IS for EIA	1	1	0	0	1	S
2004/016-764.07.01 IRAW Management	1	1	1	1	1	S
2005/017-464.07.02 Radioactive Waste	1	-1	-1	0	0	U
2006/018-175.04.01 HRM at NRA	1	0	0	0	1	S
2004/016-764.06.01 Road Transport	1	-1	0	1	1	S
2005/017-464.07.01 Electr.+ Gas Market	1	1	1	1	1	S
2005/017-464.02.01 RACMI	1	0	1	0	0	S
FIN, CUS, CUL						
2004/016-764.02.01 Strengthening PFM	1	1	1	0	0	S
2004/016-764.02.02 Tax Audit	1	1	1	1	0	S
2004/016-764.02.03	1	1	1	1	0	S

Internal Audit						
2006/018-175.03.01 Audit Committees	1	1	1	0	0	S
2006/018-175.03.02 EU Own Resources	1	1	1	0	0	S
2004/016-833 Antifraud Traffic Control Systems	1	1	1	1	1	S
2004/016-764.08.03 UIBF Informants	1	1	1	1	1	S
2005/017-464.08.01 Enhancement ODA	1	1	1	0	0	S
2005/017-464.02.03 Consumer Protection	1	1	1	1	1	S
2005/017-464.02.02 Intellectual Property Rights	1	1	1	1	1	S
Total for the INT Sector	1	1	1	1	1	S

Unacceptable	Poor	Sufficient/ adequate or no rating possible	Good	Excellent
-2	-1	0	+1	+2

Highly Unsatisfactory	Unsatisfactory	No rating possible	Satisfactory	Highly satisfactory
HU	U	N/A	S	HS

ANNEXES

ANNEX 1

Indicators of Achievement

Indicator Level	Objectives	Indicators of Achievement (Objectively Verifiable Indicators)	Remarks
COMPONENT 1 : Agriculture, Cadastre and Statistics			
<i>2004/016-764.01.01 Strengthening of Control Systems in the Area of Food Safety</i>			
Project Purpose	To train administrative capacities in the phytosanitary area as regards implementation of the <i>acquis communautaire</i> in the area of plant protection products (Council Directive 91/414/ EEC, 97/57/EC, 79/117/EEC, 99/45/EC, 67/548/EEC, 2000/60/EC	Training of staff which is involved in registration process, 91/414, 97/57 by 1 Q 2005 with the particular regard to the implementation of the EU-wide harmonised registration /authorisation/ procedures	Not measurable, not valid as an indicator
Project Purpose	To check whether pesticides were used correctly and to prepare maps of vulnerable areas using appropriate lab equipment/ HPLC	Proper control results achieved and confirmed by EU standards	Not measurable, not valid as an indicator
Project Purpose	to facilitate effective control of primary inputs into food chain by quality control of plant protection products (pesticides) formulations and feeds; by monitoring of harmful organic compounds namely the pesticide residues in raw agricultural products of plant origin and in agricultural products produced in organic farming system (raw unprocessed bio products), as well as assistance to introducing the residues content control of forbidden substances in animal products into practice, in accordance with Commission Regulation 2002/657/EC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved control of primary inputs into food chain (plant as well as animal origin) • Improved control related to food safety 	Not measurable, not valid as an indicator
<i>2005/017-464.01.01 Reinforcement/ Further Improvement of the Agricultural Paying Agency's Administrative Capacity in the Field of Market Organization</i>			
Project Purpose	Upgrading of the intervention system for selected commodities (cereals,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CMO cereals administrative and inspection procedures ready for implementation by the end of project 	Valid as indicators

	potato starch, dry fodder, flax, tobacco, hemp)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administrative and inspection procedures in the starch sector ready for implementation by the end of project Commodity specific templates and forms are ready by the end of project 	
Project Purpose	Strengthening the export refunds system and its inspection for ANNEX I and NON ANNEX I products	Administrative and inspection procedures prepared for implementation in the sector of dry fodder, flax, tobacco, hemp by the end of project	Valid as indicator
<i>2005/017-464.01.02 Strengthening of the Management Capacity of the Central Controlling and Testing Institute in Agriculture in the Area of Organic Farming</i>			
Project Purpose	Improvement and extension of performance of duties and tasks of the organic farming competent authority in the Slovak Republic according to the provisions of Council Regulation (EEC) 2092/1991	Ability to exchange information on the matter Reports´ level and Documents on the issue sent to EC	Not measurable, thus not valid as indicators.
Project Purpose	Establishment and management of granting import certificates for third countries organic products/foods. Update collection of data on organic farming for EU notification purposes		
Project Purpose	Enforcement of the new acquis: Art.8.1. of the Council Regulation (EC) 392/2004		
<i>2005/017-464.01.03 Enhancement of the Agricultural Paying Agency and Implementation of the Single Payment Scheme according to the Reformed CAP</i>			
Project Purpose	Support for tuning and adjustment of shortcomings observed during the first year of IACS implementation	Procedures, manuals and guidelines prepared for SPS by the end of the project	Valid as indicator
Project Purpose	Implementation of the Single Payment Scheme originating from Title III of Council Regulation nr.1782/2003		
<i>2005/017-464.01.04 Reinforcement of the National Control system for Forest Reproductive Material</i>			
Project Purpose	Upgrading information system and reinforcement of the technical means of the Official Body for the control of forest reproductive material (FRM)	All FRM clearly identifiable via the entire process from its collection to delivery to the end user. Inspection of suppliers, registration of FRM and exchange of the related information regular and standardised. Timely and accurate administrative	Mostly non measurable , not valid as indicator

Project Purpose	Improvement of the knowledge and skills of stakeholders, including inspectors of the official body, suppliers and forest owners, regarding the quality of sources (basic materials), production and marketing of FRM	assistance to the official bodies of the other member states and domestic authorities. Unavoidable amount of stakeholders trained and a system for regular information of all stakeholders created. All the above mentioned issues will be completed by the end of the project.	
<i>2004/016-764.08.01 Strengthening the Efficiency of Cadastral Services</i>			
Project Purpose	Simplified, accelerated and safe on-line administrative procedures and cadastral services for citizens, enterprises and businesses, as well as for state administrative bodies and municipalities	Availability and completeness of cadastral generic services Simplification and reduction of the administrative procedures for enterprises, businesses, municipalities.	Non measurable, not valid as indicator
<i>2004/016-764.05.01 Use of Administrative Sources for Enhancement and Improvement of the Statistical Information System</i>			
Project Purpose	Integration of individual administrative sources into the statistical information system and creation of the system managing use of data from administrative sources	Integration tools and indicators of administrative sources harmonised	Non measurable, not valid as indicator
Project Purpose	Quality improvement of statistical data by utilization of all available and relevant administrative sources	Improvement of data quality from administrative sources according to EUROSTAT recommendation	Non measurable, not valid as indicator
Project Purpose	Decreasing of data quantity obtained from reporting units min. by 20% and decreasing the administrative burden of reporting units	Decreased number or extent of statistical surveys burdening reporting units	Non measurable, not valid as indicator
Component 2 Environment, Energy, Transport and Standards			
<i>2005/017-464.06.01 Establishment of the Environmental Quality Standards for Water and Strengthening of Regional and District Environmental Offices for Implementation of Water Controls and Monitoring</i>			
Project Purpose	To establish EQS for dangerous substances covered by the List of Relevant Dangerous Substances for SR in PPR	EQSs for priority and dangerous substances relevant for SR are published and enforced by the end of project	Valid, applicable, measurable and <i>in time</i> indicator.
Project Purpose	Establish a communication network and MIS at regional and district level to coordinate the control and reporting activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EQSs for priority and dangerous substances relevant for SR published and enforced by the end of the project Monitoring system comprising all dangerous substances to be in place by the end of 2006 	Valid, applicable, measurable and <i>in time</i> indicators.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State admin. Offices provide relevant info for reporting and decision making process by the end of the project • Authorisation regime in compliance with Directive and functioning, the enforcement system in practice by the end of the project 	
<i>2004/016-764.07.01 Establishment and Implementation of a National System for the Management of Institutional Radioactive Waste</i>			
Project Purpose	Improvement of the existing IRAW system and its optimal connection with the overall national system of radioactive waste and spent fuel management	Acknowledgment of EC	The form and time of an acknowledgment is not specified. Non-measurable invalid indicator.
Project Purpose	Detailed determination of responsibilities of involved regulatory bodies, users of radioactive materials and the organisations in charge for the centralised management of institutional radioactive waste		
Project Purpose	Improvement of the security aspect of radioactive waste management		
Project Purpose	Proposal for technological treatment of IRAW including the supply of technologies		
<i>2005/017-464.07.02 Development of an Information and Tracking System for Radioactive Waste and Spent Fuel in Slovakia</i>			
Project Purpose	To establish a reliable and user-friendly IS for all kinds of radioactive waste generated or to be generated during operation, decommissioning and dismantling of nuclear installations in SR	Computerised system that will enable the tracking of all kinds of radioactive waste	Not <i>in time</i> indicator
Project Purpose	To develop a computerised system that would enable tracking of all kinds of radioactive waste and spent fuel		
Project Purpose	To fulfil one of the main tasks of the future Slovak Agency on radioactive waste management		

Project Purpose	To support the reporting of the Agency to safety authorities and other organisations on waste management and spent fuel inventories		
2006/018-175.04.01 Strengthening of the Human Resources Management at the NRA SR			
Project Purpose	To ensure the adequate level of competences of human resources through well defined training programmes and tools focusing on the technological development, new principles, challenges and concepts	Training documentation and computer based testing and certification tool	Indicator is not <i>in time</i>
2005/017-464.07.01 Preparation for the Opening of the Market in Electricity and Gas to Households			
Project Purpose	Preparation for opening of the market in electricity and gas to households on 1 st July 2007. Change of the decision on regulation of distribution and supply of electricity and natural gas to end consumers. Revision of regulation setting for companies supplying electricity and natural gas to households.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of the EU Directives: 2003/54 EC, 2003/55 EC, 2001/77 EC • Decrees of the RONI (approx. 14, to the end of 2006) 	Valid, applicable, measurable and <i>in time</i> indicators.
2004/016-764.06.01 Capacity Building in the Area of Road Transport (Enforcement of Social Legislation)			
Project Purpose	To provide adequate labour inspection performance comparable with the EU standards	Items checked during controls carried out according to the EU rules in the field of road transport social legislation	It is impossible to evaluate the given indicator; the relevant benchmark for comparison is not available. Indicator is not <i>in time</i>
2005/017-464.02.01 Reinforcement of Administrative Capacity as regards Measuring Instruments			
Project Purpose	Implementation of the Directive 2004/22/EC and smooth transfer of the application of the former old approach or national regulations to the New Approach	Government Ordinance transposing MID is published, changes in the borderlines legislation identified and implemented	Valid, applicable, measurable and <i>in time</i> indicator
Component 3 : Finance, Customs and Culture			
2004/016-764.02.01 Strengthening Public Finance Management			
Project Purpose	Improve public finance accounting and the fiscal and financial management reporting systems	Accrual accounting system, adequate fiscal and financial management reports	Not specific and measurable. Therefore not valid as indicator

	Improve the functioning of the State Treasury	ST producing adequate reports on EU funds	Not specific and measurable. Therefore not valid as indicator
	Strengthen the monitoring and evaluation system of public funds, incl. EU funds	External M&E system in place	Specific and measurable. Valid as an indicator
<i>2004/016-764.02.02 Systemic changes in tax audit</i>			
Project Purpose	Increase of the tax audit efficiency through introduction of systemic changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shortening the time for tax audits in taxpayer premises – the year 2006 in comparison with 2004 • Increase in findings from tax audit by 10% in comparison with 2004 • Software application for risk analysis in VAT audit developed • Decrease in number of unjustified excessive refunds and correct computation of tax liability the year after implementation of SW for risk analysis in VAT audit in comparison with 2004 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specific, measurable and in time. Valid as an indicator • Specific, measurable, however, not fully in time. The indicator needs to be improved • Specific and measurable. Valid as an indicator • In time and measurable, however, not specific enough. The indicator needs to be improved
<i>2004/016-764.02.03 Capacity Building in the Area of Internal Audit</i>			
Project Purpose	To provide an assurance that the Slovak Republic has developed and properly implemented legislative and guidance framework needed for performing internal audit and to assist in building, completion and implementation of the permanent education system for internal auditors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow up report on implementation of all recommendations of the Audit report • Training centre at the Ministry of Finance is going to establish • Accreditation of the Advanced Level Internal Audit course • Certificates of professional competency awarded to all Ministries' internal auditors who complete the course 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not specific and measurable. Not valid as an indicator • Not specific and measurable and not in time. Not valid as an indicator • Specific and measurable. Needs to be placed in time. The indicator needs to be improved • Specific, measurable and in time. Valid as an indicator
<i>2006/018-175.03.01 Strengthening of Internal Auditors Independence in Public Sector by Creation of Audit Committee(s)</i>			
Project Purpose	Establishment of the Audit Committee(s) at the Ministry of Finance and at the other central state administration bodies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nominated members of the Audit Committee • Actions taken by the Audit Committee (approval of the 30 annual internal audit plans) • 75 Audit Committees meetings (each Committee at least four times a year) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For all it holds true that they are not specific enough and not placed in time; they need to be improved.
<i>2006/018-175.03.02 Audit and Ex-post Financial Control of the EC Own Resources</i>			
Project Purpose	Providing training for internal auditors and ex-post financial controllers on execution of own resources verification in order to enhance qualification of	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To increase quality of performed audit and ex-post financial control evaluation by means of supervision executed by the MF SR, Commission and EDA auditors. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not specific and measurable and not in time. Not valid as an indicator.

	staff involved in public internal financial control system.		
<i>2005/017-464.02.02 Enforcement of an Intellectual Property Rights</i>			
Project Purpose	To strengthen enforcement capacities and to raise knowledge concerning intellectual property rights within enforcement authorities, right holders, users and public	Legislation is well known to the enforcement authorities after training Work of enforcement authorities more efficient	Non measurable, not valid as an indicator
<i>2004/016-833 Strengthening of the Antifraud Traffic Control Systems at the EU External Border in the SR</i>			
Project Purpose	To strengthen the anti-fraud control systems at the EU external border by providing specialised technical equipment capable of monitoring suspicious traffic entering and departing the EU in SR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equipment as described delivered and installed • System is operationally in use by all relevant authorities • Relevant law enforcement authorities at chosen border crossing trained and capable of using the new equipment in monitoring the traffic • Cooperation between the law enforcement authorities at national and international levels is improved especially when it comes to the monitoring of suspicious traffic entering and departing the border points at EU external borders • Increase in number of detection of fraud cases 	The first 3 indicators are valid, applicable and measurable. The fourth indicator is not measurable; moreover, the cooperation at the international level requires also authorities which are not influenced by the project results. The last indicator can be misleading as the installation of the equipment does not necessarily correlate with the increased number of detections. However, the protection of the border will be increased.
<i>2005/017-464.02.03 Implementation of Consumer Protection Legislation into Practice</i>			
Project Purpose	Enhanced implementation of the EU and national legislation related to consumer protection in the practice of SCA and SMSB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase of the relevant information bases in the field of market protection coordination by SCA and SMSB • Trained SCA and SMSA officers • Agreements on cooperation revised • Internal regulations of SCA procedures revised 	Indicators, except the first one, are valid, applicable and measurable. The increase of the relevant info bases is impossible to measure, invalid indicator
<i>2005/017-464.02.02 Enforcement of an Intellectual Property Rights</i>			
Project Purpose	To strengthen enforcement capacities and to raise knowledge concerning intellectual property rights within enforcement authorities, right holders, users and public	Legislation is well known to the enforcement authorities after training Work of enforcement authorities more efficient	Non-measurable, not valid as indicator
<i>All 2004 and 2005 UIBF</i>			
Project Purpose	Completion of some specific urgent, unforeseen needs identified in the updating of the Comprehensive	Acceleration of the progress within ministries/institutions towards meeting the requirements of the acquis	Non-measurable, non applicable and invalid indicator;

	Monitoring Report, the Peer Reviews and the Action Plan for Internal Market		
<i>2006/018-175.01.01 Strengthening Capacities and Quality of Control Services of the CCTIA</i>			
Project Purpose	Improvement and strengthening of the quality control procedures and the statistical evaluation of analytical data acc. To EN 17 025 in order to reach needed accreditation of laboratory determinations in the frame of environmental analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of the current EU standards and legislation in the SR in the context of the above requested areas within the project • 14 CCTIA experts trained in the area of environmental analysis conc. EN 17 025 • 75 CCTIA experts trained in the area of plant protection 	The 1st and the 4 th are valid as indicators, 2 nd and 3 rd are outputs indicators.
Project Purpose	Improvement of the supervision over PPP in the vertical chain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to adopt needed laboratory accreditation after Project's implementation 	
<i>2005/017-464.08.01 UIBF Enhancement of the Ministry of Finance Official development Assistance</i>			
Project Purpose	Increase effectiveness of the aid provided by harmonisation, alignment and management for development results, meeting needs of Rome and Paris Declarations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not available in the time of this IE yet. 	

ANNEX 2

LIST OF INTERVIEWS

INSTITUTION	INTERVIEWEE	DATE
Ministry of Culture SR Nam SNP 33 SK-813 31 Bratislava	Ms. Slavomira Salajova	8 March 2007
Ministry of Culture SR Nam SNP 33 SK-813 31 Bratislava	Ms. Alexandra Burianova SPO	8 March 2007
Ministry of Culture SR Nam SNP 33 SK-813 31 Bratislava	Mr. Radoslav Kutas	8 March 2007
Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre Authority of the SR Chlumeckeho 2 SK-820 12 Bratislava	Ms. Patricia Sokacova Director International Relations Dept.	15 March 2007
Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre Authority of the SR Chlumeckeho 2 SK-820 12 Bratislava	Ms. Michaela Spetkova SPO	15 March 2007
Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre Authority of the SR Chlumeckeho 2 SK-820 12 Bratislava	Ms. Jarmila Urcikanova	15 March 2007
Research Institute for Geodesy and Cartography Chlumeckeho 4 SK-826 62 Bratislava	Mr. Rastislav Filipek IT Analyst	15 March 2007
Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre Authority of the SR Chlumeckeho 4 SK-826 62 Bratislava	Mr. Neil Smith MS Expert	15 March 2007
Statistical Office of the SR Social Statistics Dept. Mileticova 3 SK-824 67 Bratislava	Mr. Pavol Baxa Director, Project Leader	16 March 2007
Ministry of Agriculture SR APA Trade Mechanism Division Dobrovicova 12 SK-815 26 Bratislava	Ms. Henrieta Kozarova Director	20 March 2007
National Forest Centre Centre of the Control of FRM SK-033 01 Liptovsly Hradok	Ms. Elena Foffova Director	20 March 2007
Ministry of Agriculture SR Foreign Relations Dept. Dobrovicova 12 SK-815 26 Bratislava	Ms. Michaela Motajova	20 March 2007
CCTIA Matuskova 21 SK-833 16 Bratislava	Ms. Anna Vitariusova Director	22 March 2007
CCTIA Dept. of Pesticides Registration Matuskova 21 SK-833 16 Bratislava	Ms. Marta Galusova	22 March 2007
Ministry of Agriculture SR APA Control Section Dobrovicova 12 SK-815 26 Bratislava	Mr. Daniel Rataj Director	23 March 2007

Ministry of Agriculture SR APA Direct Payment Authorisation and Env. Dept. Dobrovicova 12 SK-815 26 Bratislava	Mr. Andrej Gajdos Director	23 March 2007
CCTIA Sunflower Section Matuskova 21 SK-833 16 Bratislava	Ms. Zuzana Hudecova Head of Section	26 March 207
Statistical Office of the SR External Trade Statistics Dept. Mileticova 3 SK-824 67 Bratislava	Ms. Jana Condikova Director, Project Leader	27 March 2007
Statistical Office of the SR External Trade Statistics Dept. Mileticova 3 SK-824 67 Bratislava	Ms. Alzbeta Ridzonova Team Member	27 March 2007
Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre Authority of the SR Chlumeckeho 4 SK-826 62 Bratislava	Ms. Ailsa Robertson TWL Partner	27 March 2007
CCTIA Environmental and Ecological Farming Section Hanulova 9/A SK-844 29 Bratislava	Ms. Juliana Schlosserova Director	28 March 2007
CCTIA Plant Protection Dept. Hanulova 9/A SK-844 29 Bratislava	Mr. Frantisek Hrdina Director	28 March 2007
State Veterinary and Food Institute Botanicka 15 SK-842 52 Bratislava	Ms. Alexandra Slezarova* Head of Laboratory	30 March 2007
Ministry of Finance of the SR PIU Phare Štefanovičova 5 SK- 817 82 Bratislava	Mr. Matej Dostal Deputy SPO	3 April 2007 5 April 2007
Ministry of Finance of the SR PIU Phare Štefanovičova 5 SK- 817 82 Bratislava	Ms. Lucia Zimanyiova Task manager	3 April 2007 5 April 2007
Ministry of Finance Stefanovicova 5 SK-817 82 Bratislava	Mr. Joseph Dobbin RTA	4 April 2007
Ministry of Finance Stefanovicova 5 SK-817 82 Bratislava	Mr. Mikulik Project Leader	4 April 2007
Ministry of Finance Stefanovicova 5 SK-817 82 Bratislava	Mr. Milan Simunek Director of Internal Audit Methodology Department	4 April 2007
Ministry of Finance Stefanovicova 5 SK-817 82 Bratislava	Mrs. Katarina Kaszasova Director-General of Accounting Department	4 April 2007
State Treasury Radlinskeho 32 SK-810 05 Bratislava	Mr. Jaroslav Mach Project Coordinator	5 April 2007
Nuclear Regulatory Office SR Bajkalská 27 SK – 820 07 Bratislava	Mr. Mikulas Turner Director of the International Relations Division	11 April 2007
Nuclear Regulatory Office SR Bajkalská 27 SK – 820 07 Bratislava	Ms. Jarmila Racova International Relations Division	11 April 2007

Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre Authority of the SR Chlumeckeho 4 SK-826 62 Bratislava	Mr. Petr Prazsky Deputy PL	12 April 2007
Customs Directorate of the SR Mierová 23 SK - 851 11 Bratislava	Mr. Jan Gajdos special assistant of DG for EU projects	12 April 2007
Customs Directorate of the SR Mierová 23 SK - 851 11 Bratislava	Mr. Juraj Karkus Project Leader	12 April 2007
Customs Directorate of the SR Mierová 23 SK - 851 11 Bratislava	Mr. Lubomir Kovacik Project Leader	12 April 2007
Customs Directorate of the SR Mierová 23 SK - 851 11 Bratislava	Mr. Henrich Cernusko Vice - Project Leader	12 April 2007
Slovak Environmental Agency Department of Projects Management Klobúčnická 7 SK – 811 01 Bratislava	Mr. Juraj Gavora Head of Department	20 April 2007
Slovak Environmental Agency Tajovského 28 SK - 975 90 Banska Bystrica	Mr. Vladimir Benko SPO of SEA projects	20 April 2007
Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute Jeseniova 17 SK - 833 15 Bratislava	Mr. Jan Kucharcik Director General	20 April 2007
Ministry of Finance SR Central Finance and Contracting Unit Stefanovicova 5	Mr. Miroslav Skvarka Task Manager	20 April 2007
Slovak Environmental Agency Tajovskeho 28 SK - 975 90 Banska Bystrica	Ms. Renata Grofova Project Manager	20 April 2007
Slovak Environmental Agency Tajovskeho 28 SK - 975 90 Banska Bystrica	Ms. Katarina Kovacova Project Manager	20 April 2007
Water Research Institute Nabrezie L. Svobodu 5 SK - 812 49 Bratislava	Ms. Dasa Hlubikova Project Manager	20 April 2007
Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute Jeseniova 17 SK - 833 15 Bratislava	Ms. Lea Mrafkova Project Manager	20 April 2007
Ministry of Finance SR Central Finance and Contracting Unit Stefanovicova 5 SK-813 08 Bratislava	Ms. Martina Galabova* Programme Manager	26 April 2007
Ministry of Finance SR Central Finance and Contracting Unit Stefanovicova 5 SK-813 08 Bratislava	Ms. Zora Paulikova* Financial Manager	26 April 2007
Ministry of Transport, Posts and Telecommunications Nám. Slobody 6 SK- 810 05 Bratislava	Mr. Milos Prochazka ★ Director of European Integration Department	26 April 2007
Ministry of Transport, Posts and Telecommunications Nám. Slobody 6 SK- 810 05 Bratislava	Ms. Ľudmila Mikleticova ★ Project coordinator	19 April 2007, 23 April 2007, 26 April 2007
Tax Directorate of the Slovak Republic Nova Steet 13 SK-975 04 Banska Bystrica	Mrs. Eva Takacova ★ Project Leader	2 May 2007
Office of Standards, Metrology and Testing of the SR Stefanovicova 3 SK-810 05 Bratislava 15	Ms. Erika Kraslanova ★ Project Manager	2 May 2007

*Telephone interviews.

ANNEX 3

LIST OF DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN THE INTERIM EVALUATION

Name of Originator	Date	Title of Document
European Commission	2003	Comprehensive Monitoring Report on Slovakia's Preparedness for the EU Membership
European Commission	2004	Commission Decision of Financial Contribution of Transition Facility for Strengthening Institutional Capacity to the Slovak Republic
European Commission/Office of the Government SR	August 2004	Memorandum of Understanding on the Implementation of the TF 2004 – 2006 (in Slovak only)
European Commission	2004	Planning Document Transition Facility 2004-2006, Slovak Republic
European Commission	December 2003	Programming and Implementation Guide – Transition Facility
European commission/Office of the Government SR	2004-2006	Project Fiches and their modifications for TF Programmes 2004, 2005 and 2006
European Commission/Office of the Government	July 2006	Financial Proposal on the Implementation of the TF 2006
MWH Consortium	June 2006	Phare and CBC ex-post evaluation 1999-2001
Ministry of Finance SR	17 April 2007	Financial Tables for TF 2004 and 2005 Programmes
Office of the Government SR	August 2006	Government's Manifesto
Office of the Government/Aid Co-ordination Unit	3 November 2006	Monitoring Report M/SR/INT/06013
Office of the Government/Aid Co-ordination Unit	19 January 2007	Implementation Status Report of the EU Phare and TF Programmes Co-financed by the Slovak Republic
CFCU	January 2006	Twinning Contract of the Internal Audit project SK 2004/IB/FI/02
CEEN/Euroformes	15 January 2007	R/SK/TF/INT/06002
CEEN/Euroformes	13 December 2006	Country Interim Evaluation Summary
Ministry of Agriculture SR	n.a	Information on the progress of TF Projects for the 2 nd half 2006 (in Slovak)
Pesticides Safety Directorate UK/Ministry of Agriculture SR	n.a	Twinning Contract SK 2004/IB/AG/01
Pesticides Safety Directorate UK/Ministry of Agriculture SR	August 2006	Twinning Inception Report 2004/016.764.0101.-03
Pesticides Safety Directorate UK/Ministry of Agriculture SR	March- December 2006	Quarterly Reports Nr.1 - 4 Twinning Contract SK 2004/IB/AG/01
Pesticides Safety Directorate UK/Ministry of Agriculture SR	20 February 2007	Final Report SK 2004/IB/AG/01
Pesticides Safety Directorate UK/Ministry of Agriculture SR	9 February 2007	Final Report TWL
Ministry of Agriculture SR	n.a	Technical Specifications for 2004/016-764.010.01 (in Slovak only)
Ministry of Agriculture SR/CCTIA	n.a.	DPF UIBF 2004 Variety Register
S&T/CCTIA	November 2006	Inception Report UIBF 2004 Variety Register (in Slovak)
Ministry of Agriculture SR	n.a	ToRs for UIBF 2004 APA CS
Ministry of Agriculture SR/GBI	June 2006	Inception Report UIBF 2004 APA CS (in Slovak)

Consulting Austria		only)
Ministry of Agriculture SR/GBI Consulting Austria	September 2006	Progress Report Nr. 1 for UIBF 2004 APA CS (in Slovak only)
Ministry of Agriculture SR/GBI Consulting Austria	28 February 2007	Final Report UIBF 2004 APA CS
Ministry of Agriculture SR	n.a	ToRs for 2005 MO, OF, SPS (in Slovak)
Ministry of Agriculture SR	n.a	DPF 2005 OF
Ministry of Agriculture SR/CCTIA	n.a	DPF 2005 UIBF Food Safety
Pesticides Safety Directorate UK/Ministry of Agriculture SR	n.a	Proposal for TWL UIBF 2005 Food Safety
Ministry of Agriculture SR	n.a	DPF for 2006 Food Safety
Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre Authority SR	n.a	DPF for TWL
Registers of Scotland/GCCA	February 2007	Inception Report TWL
Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre Authority SR	n.a	Tender Specification for SW Development (in Slovak only)
Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre Authority SR	n.a	Tender Specification for servers delivery (in Slovak only)
Datalan/GCCA	7 March 2007	Draft Progress Report TA (in Slovak only)
BLOM/GCCA	15 February 2007	Inception Report (TA part Strategy)
Statistics Denmark/Statistical Office SR	January 2006	TWL Contact 2004/016-764.05-0101-0001
Statistics Denmark	April 2006	Interim Quarterly Report TWL Contact 2004/016-764.05-0101-0001
Statistics Denmark	October 2006	Final Report TWL Contact 2004/016-764.05-0101-0001
Ness/SOSR	August 2006	Inception Report TA
Ness/SOSOR	September- November 2006	Progress Report 1 and 2
SOSR	n.a	ToRs INTRASTAT-SK UIBF 2004
Softec/SOSOR	11 November 2006	Inception Report UIBF2004 INTRASTAT-SK
Softec/SOSOR	20 February 2007	Progress Report Nr.1 UIBF2004 INTRASTAT-SK
MoF/NESS Slovakia	n.a	Licence Agreement 2004/016-764.05-0101-0002
European Commission	11 November 2004	Commission Decision of 2004 in the Strengthening of the anti-fraud traffic control systems at the EU external border in the SR to be financed by the Transition Facility
Customs Directorate SR	2006 n.a.	Technical Specification for 2004-016-833 (in Slovak only)
Customs Directorate SR	February 2005	Study Trip Report (2004-016-833)
Customs Directorate SR	November 2006	Info on the Reconstruction of Border Crossing Point in Vyšné Nemecké
Ministry of Finance SR	January, February, March 2006	Steering Committee Meetings Minutes of 2004-016-833
Ministry of Finance SR	January, February, March 2006	Steering Committee Meetings Minutes of 2004-016-833
Ministry of Finance SR	2006	Tender Dossier for 2004-016-833
Ministry of Finance SR	2 December 2005	Evaluation Report for 2004-016-08.03
Ministry of Finance SR	24 January 2006	Minutes of Kick off Meeting of 2004-016-08.03
Ministry of Finance SR	23 June 2006	Final Report of 2004-016-08.03
Ministry of Finance SR	26 April 2006	Evaluation Report of 2005-017-464-02.03
Ministry of Finance SR	26 July 2006	Evaluation Report of 2005-017-464-02.03
Ministry of Finance SR	2006	Twinning Proposal of 2005-017-464-02.03
Ministry of Finance SR	26 January 2007	Monthly Meeting Reports
Customs Directorate SR	2006	Schedule of project activities 2005/017-464.02.03
Ministry of Finance SR	8 November 2006 21 November 2006	Minutes of meetings , 2005/017-464.02.03

Customs Agency Italy National Health Institute Italy	5 January 2007	Start up Report 2005/017-464.02.03
Customs Directorate SR	19 March 2007	Study Trip Report - Roma
Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute	January 2006	Start up Report of TWL 2004-016-764-08.03
Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute	December 2005	Work Report of TWL 2004-016-764-08.03
Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute	June 2006	Final Report of TWL 2004-016-764-08.03
Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute	21 June 2006	TW Contract of 2005-017-464-06.01
Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute	October 2006	Quarterly Report of 2005-017-464-06.01
Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute	March 2007	Start up Report 2004-016-764.08-03
Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute	March 2007	Interim Report 2004-016-764.08-03
Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute	March 2007	Terms of Reference 2005-017-464.06.01
ACEL Italy	October 2006	1 Quarterly Report 2005-017-464.06.01/ SK05/IB/EN/01
ACEL Italy	January 2007	2 Quarterly Report 2005-017-464.06.01/ SK05/IB/EN/01
Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute	December 2006	Technical Specification for Hardware 2005-017-464.06.01
Ministry of Finance	March 2007	Terms of Reference 2005-017-464.08.01
Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute	26 September 2006	Project Proposal 2005-017-464.08.01
Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute	March 2007	Schedule of Activities 2005-017-464.08.01
Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute, CFCU	March, April 2007	Exchange of letters on the evaluation criteria
Slovak Environmental Agency	July, September 2006	Minutes of Monthly Meetings: 2004-016-764-08.03 2005-017-464-06.01
CFCU	18 October 2006	Letter requesting the submission of TSs and TORs by the given deadline
Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute	18 September 2006	Letter – explaining of the Public Procurement selection methods
Regulatory Office for Network Industries	23 August 2006	Minutes of the Steering Committee Meetings of 2005-017-464-07.01
Regulatory Office for Network Industries	15 June 2006	Press Report of 2005-017-464-07.01
Regulatory Office for Network Industries	18 August 2006	1 st Interim Quarterly Report of 2005-017-464-07.01
Regulatory Office for Network Industries	2006	Annual Report 2005
Regulatory Office for Network Industries	November 2006	Review of the workshops, meetings, activities of 2005-017-464-07.01
Regulatory Office for Network Industries	6 December 2006 7 March 2007	Steering Committee Minutes
Regulatory Office for Network Industries	10 February 2007	Study Tour Report - Bonn
German Federal Ministry of Economy and Labour	30 November 2006	2 Quarterly Report 2005-017-464-07.01
German Federal Ministry of Economy and Labour	28 February	3 Quarterly Report 2005-017-464-07.01
Office of the Government/Aid	2006	Report No.M/SR/NUC/06002

Co-ordination Unit		
Ministry of Transport Post and Telecommunications SR	June, July, August 2006	Study Trip Reports 2006 of 2004-016-764-06.01
Ministry of Transport Post and Telecommunications SR	25 April 2006	Minutes of Kick off Meeting of TWL 2004-016-764-06.01
Ministry of Transport Post and Telecommunications SR	10 May 2006	Brief Information of Implementation of the Activity No2 of TWL 2004-016-764-06.01
Ministry of Transport Post and Telecommunications SR	2006	Table of Side Letters of TWL 2004-016-764-06.01
Ministry of Transport Post and Telecommunications SR	May 2006	Original Schedule of Project Activities TWL 2004-016-764-06.01
Ministry of Transport Post and Telecommunications SR	May 2006	Original Schedule of Project Activities TWL 2004-016-764-06.01
Vehicle and Operator Services Agency	13 December 2006	Draft of Final Report / TWL 2004-016-764-06.01
Vehicle and Operator Services Agency	30 March 2007	Draft of Final Report / TWL 2004-016-764-06.01
Ministry of Transport Post and Telecommunications SR, Vehicle and Operator Services Agency	February 2007	e-mails exchange
Ministry of Transport Post and Telecommunications SR	19 April 2007	Comments of the MTPT SR to the Draft of Final Report / TWL 2004-016-764-06.01
Nuclear Regulatory Authority	June 2006	Tender Dossier
Nuclear Regulatory Authority	December 2006, January 2007, February 2007	Monthly Reports of 2004/016-764.07.01
Nuclear Regulatory Authority	21 December 2006 22 February 2007	Steering Committee Meetings Minutes of 2004/016-764.07.01
Nuclear Regulatory Authority	15 December 2006	Inception Report of 2004/016-764.07.01
Nuclear Regulatory Authority	6 February 2007	Tender Specification of 2005/017-464.07.02
Nuclear Regulatory Authority	6 November 2006	Technical Specification for equipment for Nuclear Decommissioning Agency, 2005/017-464.07.02
Nuclear Regulatory Authority	9 February 2007	Draft /Tender Dossier of 2006/018-175.04.01
Nuclear Regulatory Authority		Analysis of IS' copyright
Nuclear Regulatory Authority	22 March 2007	TOR of 2005/017-464.07.02 Meeting - Minutes
Office of the Government/Aid Co-ordination Unit	14 September 2006	Report No.M/SR/INT/06022
Office of the Government/Aid Co-ordination Unit	4 May 2006	Monitoring Report M/SR/INT/06012 - Environment
Office of the Government/Aid Co-ordination Unit	4 May 2006	Monitoring Report M/SR/INT/06012 – Internal Market
Office of the Government/Aid Co-ordination Unit	20 October 2006	Monitoring Report M/SR/INT/06013 - Environment
Office of the Government/Aid Co-ordination Unit	20 October 2006	Monitoring Report M/SR/INT/06013 – Internal Market
Office of the Government/Aid Co-ordination Unit	20 October 2006	Monitoring Report M/SR/INT/06013 – Internal Market
Office of the Government/Aid Co-ordination Unit	7 September 2006	Monitoring Report No. M/SR/ENE/2006/01 - Energy
Office of the Government/Aid Co-ordination Unit	7 March 2007	Monitoring Report No. M/SR/ENE/07002 - Energy
Office of the Government/Aid Co-ordination Unit	14 March 2007	Report No. M/SR/INT/06023 - Environment
Tax Administration of the SR	2005	Twinning Workplan of the Tax Audit project SK2004/IB/FI/01
KPMG & PWC Slovakia	2006	Essentials of Accrual Accounting, training material prepared under the PFM project/Accounting & Reporting sub-project

Documents requested but not made available (with reasons): none

ANNEX 4

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM PREVIOUS INTERIM EVALUATION

Interim Evaluation Report No. R/SR/INT/TF/06.002 on 15 January 2007

Programmes included in the report:

Transition Facility 2004 and 2005 projects:

- Agriculture, Statistics and Cadastre
- Environment, Energy, Transport and Standards
- Finance, Customs and Culture

Recommendation	Accepted	Responsibility for Follow-up	Deadline	Details of action/ Remarks
<p>Environmental Projects The Aid Co-ordination Unit at the Office of the Government should consider a proposal to the relevant Beneficiaries concerning the sufficient delegation of responsibilities of the respective project managers, as successfully proven under the Environmental sub-component. The project managers who are not at the managerial positions should be empowered with the necessary authority to manage at least the project activities and the needed logistics without bureaucratic burdens.</p>	Yes	ACU/SPO	February 2007	<p>Coming out from the General Directive Coordinating the Foreign Assistance, it is the Senior Programme Officer who is incorporated in the organisational structure of the beneficiary institution in a managing position that enables her/him to bear responsibility for correct technical implementation of Phare, Transition Facility and bilateral assistance projects in her/his sector. It is not within ACU competencies to propose the beneficiaries the delegation of the responsibilities to the project managers, since the institutions have different organisational structures. But it is under influence of the ACU to write a recommendation letter that will encourage beneficiary institutions to delegate project managers with the necessary authority to manage the projects.</p> <p>The letter proposing to encourage Beneficiaries for Project Managers status improvement has been prepared and sent out to all Beneficiaries in April 2007.</p>
<p>Nuclear Safety Projects In cases of lengthy tendering processes the Central Finance and Contracting Unit should inform the respective Senior Programme</p>	Yes	CFCU	February 2007	<p>The ACU suggests establishing contracting meetings on a regular basis, where IAs will get a chance to inform the ACU about risky projects. In case a risky project is indicated, the beneficiaries will be</p>

Officers on the updated information on the progress of the contracting. However, this should be executed by respecting the Public Procurement Law rules.				asked to discuss the possible solutions and find a conclusion. The CFCU has prepared a plan of regular contracting meetings with the stated deadlines of the exchange of the relevant tendering documentation.
<p>Tax Audit project (2004/016-764.02.02)</p> <p>The Tax Directorate should explore the possibilities of implementation of the Quality Assurance System developed under the component 1 'Improving the tax audit methodology and techniques' of the project.</p>	Yes	Tax Directorate/ RTA/SPO	After finishing of the project at the latest	<p>The Ministry of Finance, SPO informed that new IDIS, tax information system of the Tax Administration, will contain sort of the quality assurance system itself with the principles and proceedings similar to those proposed in Danish version developed during the project.</p> <p>The IDIS is since recently managed by the MoF, its new section of the Strategy responsible for the Tax and Customs Reform. Therefore, this section should ensure that the IDIS contains elements (i.e. indicators) of the quality assurance system similar to those proposed by the project.</p>
<p>Internal Audit project (2004/016-764.02.03)</p> <p>In order to strengthen the sustainability, impact and public visibility of the project results the syllabus should be placed on the website of the Ministry of Finance.</p>	Partially	Beneficiary/Mo F/RTA/SPO	After the approval of final version	The Ministry of Finance, SPO, agreed to place the syllabus on the website of the Ministry of Finance after the approval of its final version. Because the syllabus was further elaborated and became rather sizeable, it was proposed to place on the website its introduction with contact information. Interested readers could contact the MoF to obtain additional syllabus information.

ANNEX 5

SECTORAL BACKGROUND AND SCOPE OF EVALUATION

SECTORAL BACKGROUND AND SCOPE OF EVALUATION

Component 1 Agriculture, Statistics and Cadastre

2004/016-764.01.01 Strengthening of Control Systems in the Area of Food Safety

Twinning

The contract with the UK partner was signed in October 2005 and finished in November 2006. The TW focuses on the transposition of the relevant *aquis*, assessment and amendment of the Slovak procedures and insurance of their compatibility with the EU systems for the PPP regulation, management of applications and national authorisation, data evaluation for chemistry, environmental fate & behaviour, ecotoxicology, mammalian toxicology, operator exposure, residues and efficacy and post-authorisation procedures. TW activities comprised among others training and study visits to the UK.

TWL with the same UK partner was oriented towards (i) advisory and training in the field of state quality control of plant protection products (ii) training in the performance of plant protection products for the determinations fully complied with the GLP quality system, (iii) advisory and training for monitoring pesticide residues in raw agricultural products of plant origin. The key beneficiary was again the CCTIA and the TWL contract with the UK partner was signed in April 2006 and finished in December last year. Besides training activities, the MS Partner delivered the supplementary special documentation for the CCTIA, also study visits were organised and professional consultations carried out.

Supply included delivery of the equipment for upgrading the performance of veterinary labs for control of products of animal origin. Another set of the equipment to be used for upgrading the observation of pesticide residues in water for the WRI. Deliveries of all the equipment (including the additional equipment for about €70,000) have been successfully completed and serve their purposes.

2004/016-764.08.03 UIBF Data Synchronisation for the Central Variety Register

The TA for the CCTIA, its Dept. of Variety Testing aims at elaboration of a database statistic programme for the central register in Bratislava, 16 testing stations, including the crop programme and the relevant training for about 80 employees.

The contract for the SW development has commenced in October 2006 and to be completed (after the approval of its extension) in August 2007. The IR was approved in

November last year. At the time of the IE the activities have progressed with the process data modelling and the SW development and the testing phase to start mid May this year.

2005/017-464.01.02 Strengthening of the Management Capacity of the Central Controlling and Testing Institute in Agriculture in the Area of Organic Farming

The TWL for the CCTIA being the key beneficiary performing at the same time the role of a Competent Authority (CA). The TWL activities should include (i) assessment of the current level of the CA management of the *acquis*, including the relevant recommendations for its improvement. The stress will be put on granting of import certificates, calculation of organic food and feed composition, supervision performance, data collection and inspection of operators, (ii) implementation of the recommendations, including the CCTIA training of the staff and study visits. The respective contract to be signed after the cut-off and activities to start in September 2007 (due to seasonal field work of laboratory staff at the CCTIA).

2005/017-464.08.01 UIBF Further Strengthening of Prevention and Control Systems in the Area of Food Safety

The TWL should consolidate the training provided under the 2004 Food Safety TW via creation of a co-ordinating unit to oversee registration activities in Slovakia.

The project to include both theoretical and practical training on the EU co-ordination and registration processes, together with study visits to a MS regulatory authority.

After signing of the contract with the UK partner PSD, the first activities to commence shortly after the cut-off.

2006/018-175.01.01 Strengthening of Capacities and Quality of the Control Services of the Central Controlling and Testing Institute in Agriculture

Takes a form of a TWL and a Supply. Under the former theoretical and practical training to be provided in several fields, such as environmental analytical chemistry and quality control procedures or laboratory quality system. Also a study visit to a MS is planned in the above mentioned areas. The Supply sub-project should be co-financed and arranged by the CCTIA and to include a SW delivery to support analytical systems and procedures in the CCTIA laboratories.

Tendering of the SW, database and training has been launched earlier April 2007 and the information campaign shortly after.

2004/016-764.08.03 UIBF Technical Assistance for Enhancement of the Control Section of the Agricultural Paying Agency

The TA for the APA concentrated on preparation of the APA inspectors to perform controls of the market organisation measures, development of the training system for inspectors, completion of the internal control system for the CS of the APA, improvement of management and co-ordination of the delegated activities within the CS of APA and further development of technical control and on-site control of direct payments and market organisation schemes. The TA with the Austrian contractor started late April 2006 and finished in February 2007. The Inception Report (IR) was approved in June 2006 and the FR end February 2007. Several practical training sessions for the APA inspectors have been organised mostly in Austria for individual commodities, such as milk, cereals, starch and sugar, also the complementary manuals (up to 10) have been prepared by the experts, assistance has been provided to performance of the annual control of the intervention stock, about 30 APA staff trained, inspectors on the market organisation measures and also a workshop on the internal control system of the CS of the APA.

2005/017-464.01.01 Reinforcement/ Further Improvement of the Agricultural Paying Agency's Administrative Capacity in the Field of Market Organization

The TA to the APA, its MO Section should assist in strengthening of administration, implementation and inspection of the EU-intervention system for cereals, reinforce the implementation and inspection mechanisms in the potato starch sector, enhance the application and inspection of the export refund system for Annex and Non-annex I products, reinforce administration and inspection of market organisation in the sector of other commodities (tobacco or hemp). Tendering has been launched end April 2007.

2005/017-464.01.03 Enhancement of the Agricultural Paying Agency and Implementation of the Single Payment Scheme according to the Reformed CAP

The TA foresees the following activities: (i) assessment of the relevant EU legislation and preparation of amendments of the national acts relating to the CAP reform, particularly the new cross-compliance rules, (ii) comparative analysis of the current SAPS and topping-up arrangements with the SPS, (iii) adjustments of SAPS and preparation of upgraded IACS, including SW adjustments in line with the relevant EU regulations, (iii) preparation and production of printed guidelines for the farmers on the SPS. Tendering to commence in May 2007.

2005/017-464.01.04 Reinforcement of the National Control system for Forest Reproductive Material

The TA and the complementary supply of the SW and the HW for the NFC aims at (i) upgrading and reinforcement of the NFC's IS, (ii) development of statuses and manual of the NFC's Control Unit of FRM, together with the information brochure on the EC and national requirements on the FRM, (iii) training of the FRM staff and the professionals

on the FRM, (iv) upgrading SW and HW of the NFC and finally (v) elaboration of the report on the compliance of the national system with the EC Directive on the FRM.

Tendering of the supply parts to be launched mid May 2007 and of the TA to commence in June 2007.

2004/016-764.05.01 Use of Administrative Sources for Enhancement and Improvement of the Statistical Information System

Twinning Light

The TWL with the Danish partner was signed early 2006 and finished in July last year. The work plan included several activities, such as building up co-operation networks with individual administrators of relevant sources, analysis of indicators in administrative sources, analysis of alignment of integration tools, analysis of the state of IT, drafting trends for the ASIS, working-out a set of indicators and integration tools for individual administrative sources and quality requirements or drafting recommendations for amendment of the relevant legislation. During the TF assistance several seminars, working sessions with ministries and other relevant institutions but also a study visit to Denmark were organised. The Final Report was completed in October 2006.

TA has started with the kick-off meeting in July 2006 and to be finished in October 2007. The TA is split into several stages from analysis of the relevant legislation and the IS systems related to administrative sources to methodological and technical preparation of central database of harmonised data from Also SW specifications to be prepared for data inputs and their transfer from various sources into the statistical database. The IR was submitted in July 2006. The activities have progressed with the analytical stage of ASs.

Supply The contract for the delivery of the HW was signed in September 2006 for delivery of disk arrays and a communication server in order to increase the data volume of ASIS and automated collection of data and was delivered end 2006.

2004/016-764.08.03 UIBF Supplement of Software for INTRASTAT- SK System

The TA to the SOSR aims at upgrading the IS for INTRASTAT-SK, notably to add new functionalities and to extend the existing ones, to develop operational and training documentation and to provide the staff training.

The assistance has started in September 2006 and to be completed mid 2007. The SW development and upgrade has progressed with the testing stage at the time of this Report.

2004/016-764.08.01 Strengthening the Efficiency of Cadastral Services

TWL focuses mainly on training of the GCCA staff and its supporting institutions in connection with the introduction of the Electronic Registry. The intervention includes a training needs analysis, training courses for the GCCA employees, including a ToT element. Moreover, a study on electronic teaching for sectoral administrative capacities to be elaborated. Finally, the newly available cadastral services to be publicised via an information campaign.. The contract with the UK partner was closed end 2006 and the first activities have started then accordingly with the TNA, a training plan and first training sessions. The sub-project to be completed in June 2007.

TA aims at design, development and prototyping of an ER with generic information, cadastral services and forms. Key activities to include determining generic cadastral services and forms for online access, creation of strategy and an implementation plan for the ER technical and training needs analysis, price recovery study for new online cadastral services, design of security measures, pilot testing and proposal of necessary legislative changes. The respective contract was signed early November 2006 and to be completed in fall 2007. At the time of this IE the Global Analysis was completed and further activities to follow accordingly, such as Detailed Analysis.

Supply includes a server and the SW for data management and a digital archive for the trial run of the ER. . After the successful completion of the tender late 2006, all the supplies have been delivered by the time of this IE.

Component 2 Environment, Energy, Transport and Standards*2004/016-764.08.03 UIBF Establishment of the Type Specific Reference Conditions for Classification of the Ecological Status*

Activities of TWL to be focused on: (i) the evaluation of the present river typology using biological elements data, (ii) the selection of the variables representatives of each biological element for the classification, (iii) the set-up of the type-specific reference conditions for biological elements, (iv) the development of the ecological classification, and (v) training of staff involved in monitoring of surface water bodies.

The project was implemented (October 2005 - June 2006) with the Finnish partner. Biological and chemical data from the Slovak rivers were analysed to identify the best river typology system to be set up. The appropriate methods for assistance in a prediction for biological reference conditions and further classification of the water surface status have been recommended and training of the staff, including the study trip to Finland, has been executed. Moreover, the surface water typology testing performed during the project implementation has been involved into the national Slovak stream typology testing and the procedures proposed for water chemistry reference conditions setting are used in praxis for the national limit values of general physico-chemical determinants in SR. Project has achieved all planned objectives.

2004-016-764.08-03UIBF Execution of Data Flow Provision on Slovak Lakes and Water Reservoirs Quality of Water in Relation to EEA and EC, and Strengthening of Bathing Water Database System in SR by Means of Software

The project is designed to achieve 3 main objectives: (i) to obtain data on lakes/reservoirs water quality to be provided to EIONET, (ii) to develop a proposal of surveillance monitoring programme of lakes /reservoirs for WFD purposes, and (iii) to improve the IS and database system on bathing waters to meet the Directive 76/160/EEC requirements.

Activities focused on the WFD/ EIONET requirements analysis have been finished, the Slovak Lakes/reservoirs Inventory List is ready, and the prepared Draft Lakes/Water Reservoirs Monitoring Programme was submitted to the MoEnv for comments in March 2007. The work on the IS is on-going, the technological platform has been already designed.

2005/017-464.06.01 Establishment of the Environmental Quality Standards for Water and Strengthening of Regional and District Environmental Offices for Implementation of Water Controls and Monitoring

Project consists of 3 sub-components: TW, TA and Supply. It aims at (i) the set – up of EQS for dangerous substances, (ii) the MIS provided to the selected Regional and District Water Offices, (iii) training of MIS' operators, (iv) the development of monitoring and control programmes in selected Regions /Districts, (v) training of staff on using standards and evaluation methods of the water quality and waste water discharges, (vi) the set-up of IS enabling coordination between the central and the local State Water Offices, and (vii) a design of coordination protocols for inter-departmental coordination.

Twining part has advanced substantially with designing the ToT Manual, toxicity tests and their evaluation, the List of EQS is in final commenting stage. The first training session focused on monitoring, control and selection of pilot offices was organised in December 2006. The study trip to Venice took place in March 2007 with 9 participants, including the staff of the selected pilot offices Trenčín and Prievidza.

Supply covered by the state budget sources, has been executed: computers and printers for District/regional Offices has been delivered and installed.

TA: the design of the TOR finished in March 2007; the SHMI is in a process of clarification of the evaluation criteria with the CFCU.

2005/017-464.08.01 UIBF Development of WFD Compliant Method for Water Quality Assessment of Lowland Rivers Using Phytoplankton and Proposal for Phytobenthos Monitoring

Activities of the project to be focused on: (i) the sampling and species determination, (ii) the statistical analysis and the water quality assessment of Phytobenthos and Phytoplankton in order to adjust the monitoring and assessment of the biological quality elements in the Slovak rivers.

TWL partner - The Austrian Federal Environmental Agency was selected in February 2007. In a time of evaluation, there was an ongoing discussion about the possibility to divide the contract into 2 periods which would better respect the seasoning of collected data.

2005/017-464.08.01 UIBF TA on Information System for EIA – part SEA

TA project is designed to: (i) create and test IS for EIA/SEA, (ii) insure its publicity in EIA/SEA leaflets, EIA/SEA guidelines, EIA/SEA Journal, (iii) train 200 participants on SEA process, and (iv) a report on practical usage of EIA/SEA IS within the state administration authorities.

ToRs are under preparation with a common hope of the CFCU and the Beneficiary to be finished by the end of May 2007.

2004/016-764.07.01 Establishment and Implementation of a National System for the Management of Institutional Radioactive Waste

Project is divided into 2 sub-components: TA and Supply. TA part is focused on: (i) the review of the IRAO linked legislation, (ii) design and implementation of the national radioactive waste database, (iii) development of the effective centralised IRAW collection and management system, and (iv) the definition of the main lines and condition of the waste primarily exempted from the regulatory control. Provided recommendations should also be given into practice.

Contracts of both sub-components have been signed with the same company. At the time of evaluation was about 60% of the equipment delivered, the last supply is expected to be finished in June 2007.

TA part has already prepared the overview of the relevant EU legislation; the study trip planned for May 2007 took place in March 2007 with 10 participants. The implementation of the key phase - design and implementation of the national radioactive waste database is ongoing, by collecting data. The future database will have about 200 users able to be connected via internet. The availability of the relevant data can seriously help in the case of fire or any other industrial breakdown. It will be also helpful in a planning process of warehouse capacities. Also the preparatory work for phases 3 and 4 started during January and February 2007.

2005/017-464.07.02 Development of an Information and Tracking System for Radioactive Waste and Spent Fuel in Slovakia

TA part is to design the IS able to incorporate all existing data on radioactive waste and spent fuel. The state budget co-financing component should support the activity by appropriate hardware and software.

The selection of the supplier took place 14th February 2007; the contract has not been signed yet because of still ongoing clarification process of the optimal technical solution of the TA component. The selected solution has to respect the valid licences of the existing system of the Nuclear Decommissioning Agency, inherited from the Slovak Electricity Company. The technical solution will influence the public procurement form and it has to be incorporated into the last version of the ToRs.

2006/018-175.04.01 Strengthening Human Resources Management at the Slovak Nuclear Regulatory Authority

TA has to develop: (i) the long-term training policy as a strategy document, (ii) the formal modular training program, (iii) the computer based testing and certification tool and manual, and (iv) the report on the executed pilot training.

The first draft of ToRs was submitted to the CFCU in February 2007. According to the CFCU's plans the tender should be published during 3rd quarter 2007.

2005/017-464.07.01 Preparation for the Opening of the Market in Electricity and Gas to Households

TW focuses on modifying electricity and gas market rules towards households, including the preparation of relevant ordinances and the provision of rules for consumer information and protection.

At the period of evaluation, 3 activities have already been completed; implementation of the rest is ongoing: the draft amendments to the existing decrees and decisions are well advanced and will be ready by 1st July 2007. The price regulations should be prepared in cooperation with the University of Economics, issued in November 2007 as it is a usual Office practice every year. Also the identification of problems linked with the customer switching, drafting the relevant rules and draft of decree on rules for publication of prices information are under preparation, the common meetings/discussions with the regulated subjects – electricity providers are organised in order to find the best solutions. Already the almost prepared Draft of new decrees on quality standards has to be adjusted in order to reflect the changed conditions under the new Law (March 2007). Taking into account time limits of a legislation process, it is not probable that documents will be ready sooner than in late November 2007. The successful cooperation with the German partner has

also been materialised in 7 workshops, 8 presentations/discussions and one study trip, all highly evaluated by participants.

2004/016-764.06.01 Capacity Building in the Area of Road Transport (Enforcement of Social Legislation)

TWL project consists of 3 main activities: (i) training, including training of trainers, (ii) preparation of guidelines, brochures and manuals, and (iii) preparation of glossary of special expressions to facilitate communication of labour inspectors and EU drivers.

The British partner in a close cooperation with the Ministry have organised 5 workshops focused on the analogue and the digital tachograph system, 2 workshops aimed on the road-side checks and the company inspections. Practical part, including the execution of the roadside checks was an important aspect of training. In total, 75 trainees have been trained, visiting also 5 calibration centres. Participants have been provided with the training manuals and the tachograph equipment sets. The last activity, however, preparation of a glossary of special expressions has not been performed and the glossary was not available at the period of evaluation. Taking into account that the evaluation was executed during the approval process of the Final Report, it does not seem to be realistic to hope in a later execution of the activity.

2005/017-464.02.01 Reinforcement of Administrative Capacity as regards Measuring Instruments (RACMI)

The TWL and the complementary TA should assist in the implementation of the Directive 2004/22/EC and smooth transfer of the application of the former old approach regulations, i.e. the national ones, to the New Approach. The New Approach is represented by the implementation of the New Measurements Instrument Directive. The TWL represents 12 activities and the TA comprises 2 activities. Outputs from these activities are mutually linked.

The preparation of the project has been slow because of a lengthy finalisation of its TA tendering documentation. The DPF should be circulated and the ToR launched in the second quarter of 2007.

Component 3 Finance, Customs and Culture

2004/016-764.02.01 Strengthening Public Finance Management (PFM)

The overall project aims at improving the macro-economic performance and fiscal transparency and achieving compliance with certain obligations arising from the *acquis* related to the EC budget, financial relations and reporting duties. It is divided into 3 sub-projects.

The Accounting & Reporting sub-project focuses on improving public finance accounting and the fiscal and financial management reporting systems. It prepares the implementation of the accrual accounting in Slovakia, which will be introduced on 1 January 2008. The planned activities, i.e. the preparation of training manuals and execution of training, are carried out in time and produce agreed deliverables.

The State Treasury sub-project has been implemented, its Inception Report approved and consequently first activities carried out. This holds true also for 2 small, complementary projects initiated from the procurement savings.

The Monitoring & Evaluation sub-project should update strategy and methodology for M&E of public funds, establish a M&E training system of public officers and carry out a number of ex-ante and ex-post evaluations of programme budgets. The sub-project is good on the track. There have been no delays reported during the current evaluation. If this continues, the sub-project manages to achieve its ambitious objectives also in its shortened implementation period

2004/016-764.02.02 Systemic Changes in Tax Audit

The TW project aims at an increase of tax audit efficiency through introduction of systemic changes. It deals with the absence of a control system of VAT payers, with focus on recipients of excessive refunds before return to the State Budget. The audit efficiency should be improved through the introduction of new tax audit techniques and risk analysis system.

The project, structured into 9 components, has officially started on 1 September 2005. Since that an intensive know-how and experience transfer took place and the agreed results were delivered. Some activities, such as that related to the risk analysis have been delayed because of personnel changes that took place after the parliamentary elections.

2004/016-764.02.03 Capacity Building in the Area of Internal Audit,

The TW project was designed to assist in building up the internal audit function. This is in line with the requirement and condition of the EC/DG Budget and the transposition of the *acquis* into the Slovak legislation. The project, divided into 5 components, contributes to building up a modern public finance management system, which facilitates transparent use of public funds. It supports the Central Harmonisation Unit established at the MoF under the guidance of the EC. The CHU harmonises financial control and internal audit methodologies, provides methodological supervision and is responsible for the permanent education system of internal auditors and financial controllers, which are also the focus of the project. The project has been successfully finalised during this IE, its main outputs are: a whole range of training and seminars offered to 150 participants, an extensive training syllabus translated into Slovak, six on the job audits performed at six different central public administration institutions. It has been prolonged by 2 months because of the provision of training to 150, instead of originally planned 50, participants.

2006/018-175.03.01 Strengthening of Internal Auditors Independence in Public Sector by Creation of Audit Committee(s)

This TW project aims at establishment of the Audit Committee(s) at the MoF and at the other central state administration bodies. During its implementation the legislation for creating and effective functioning of the Audit Committee should be created at the MoF as a pilot. The MoF as the central state authority for financial control and internal audit will create legislative environment, provide know-how and serve as an everyday help desk. The idea of having the Audit Committee will be spread to 14 line ministries and other central state administration institutions under this project. The assistance is in the process of the preparation of the TW contract and work-plan with the Dutch partner.

2006/018-175.03.02 Audit and Ex-post Financial Control of the EC Own Resources

The TWL assistance focuses on fine-tuning of the EC Own Resources Financial Management System, in particular audit and ex post financial control. The project shall ensure that auditors/controllers are: (i) updated on the EU legislation in relation to the area of EC own resources, (ii) trained in methodology, methods and techniques of performing audit and financial control, and (iii) acquire best practice approach. The assistance has been in the process of the preparation of the PF for circulation in the time of this IE.

2004/016-833 Strengthening of the Antifraud Traffic Control Systems at the EU External Border in the SR

The project was designed to strengthen the anti-fraud control systems at the EU external borders by providing specialised equipment able to monitor suspicious border traffic. The lasting process of the TS' design (a joint one for the road and railway border crossings) complicated by the reconstruction of the road border crossing at Vyšné Nemecké succeeded by contract signature in November 2006.

The design of planned software is on-going; hardware should be delivered and installed after the completion of construction of border post in Vyšné Nemecké, which is officially planned on 5th June 2007. No complications are envisaged in preparation of instalment site in Čierna nad Tisou.

2004/016-764.08.03 Training Focused on Cooperation with Informants

The TWL has to increase the awareness of the recent methods and techniques of handling informants used by the law enforcement agencies in the EU. During the implementation (January - May 2006) 30 participants from the CCO and the Inspection of Director General have been trained in the relevant topics, also the Europol guidelines and the European Convention on Human Rights with respect to the handling on informants have been explained and discussed. The Dutch partner, besides delivery of training manuals, has provided also the findings and recommendations for the improvement of the Slovak system in the respective area. All planned projects targets have been achieved.

2005/017-464.08.01 UIBF Enhancement of the Ministry of Finance Official Development Aid Effectiveness

This UIBF project has been designed in order to increase effectiveness of the aid provided by Slovakia to a partner country by applying principles of modern aid management, such as adoption of harmonised approaches, alignment to partner systems, and management for development results using performance indicators. It has relatively straightforward design, consisting of the delivery of 3 key results: legislation, guidelines and training.

The finalisation of the project's preparation has been delayed by a lengthy elaboration, fine-tuning and approval of its ToR, which were not published in time of this IE.

2005/017-464.02.03 Implementation of Consumer Protection Legislation into Practice

Project designed as TWL is focused on enhancing of the EU and Slovak legislation related to consumer protection in the praxis of SCA and Slovak market surveillance bodies. The project activities are represented by training in relevant areas of consumer protection: the EU legislation, the EU alert systems, the practical control and the release of products into the common market, etc. Improvement of the current state of the art should be achieved not only via training of beneficiaries' selected staff, but also by providing recommendations on the existing cooperation agreements between the SCA and the SMSB and their internal regulations and procedures.

From 20 planned training seminars, 4 consultations and 3 study visits 15 trainings, 4 consultations and 1 study visit have already took place. Training has been provided to 437 participants at the time of evaluation.

2005/017-464.02.02 Enforcement of an Intellectual Property Rights in the SR

The 2005 IPR project aims at: (i) data collection and creation of individual database of public authorities' rulings/orders/ decisions/findings concerning IPR. The database to be a part of the Register of Culture – the comprehensive data bank of the MoC and accessible via the Internet, (ii) information campaign supporting launch of the database and protection of intellectual property rights generally, (iii) workshops and training contributing to successful application of rights' enforcement tools in compliance with national legislation being fully harmonised with EU law.

Tendering of the project has started in April 2007.

ANNEX 6
DISSENTING VIEWS

There were no dissenting views

