

Interim Evaluation No. R/SR/ESC/0306



Programmes covered:

PHARE 2002/2003

- Structural Funds Institution Building
- Small and Medium Size Enterprises Support
- Regional Development and Cross Border Co-operation Investment
- Joint Small Project Funds
- Roma Minority
- Human Resources Development and European Social Fund Preparation
- Health Care

**Interim Evaluation of the
European Union
Pre-Accession Instrument
PHARE**

The Slovak Republic

**Sector: Economic and
Social Cohesion**

Author:



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This report has been prepared as a result of an independent evaluation by D&D Consulting being contracted under the PHARE programme.

The views expressed are those of D&D Consulting and do not necessarily reflect those of the Government Office of the Slovak Republic.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Slovak Republic – Economic and Social Cohesion

Monitoring Reports: M/SR/ESC/06012/REG issued on 27 April 2006, M/SR/ESC/06012/HRD issued on 27 April 2006 and M/SR/ESC/06012/CBC issued on 2 May 2006.

Interim Evaluation Report: R/SR/ESC/0306

A) Background and scope of the evaluation

The purpose of this Interim Evaluation is to assess the performance of on-going Phare support under the Economic and Social Cohesion monitoring sector, assisting Slovakia in the area of Structural Funds and European Social Fund institution building, regional development, small and medium enterprises, cross border co-operation, Roma minority and health care. This Evaluation covers Phare support allocated for the years 2002 and 2003, approximately totalling a sector allocation of 67.3 M€ from Phare and 21.6 M€ from national sources. The applied interim evaluation methodology is based on the following four main evaluation criteria: *relevance*, *efficiency*, *effectiveness*, *sustainability*, and on *impact*¹.

B) Main evaluation findings and conclusions

Component 1 – Structural Funds Institution Building

The majority of the 2002 activities were fully justified in the planning phase but should have been implemented much earlier to remain relevant. Due to the delayed start and changed conditions the interventions had to be re-focused to reflect the actual needs. In a few cases the assistance became obsolete but nevertheless was implemented. Due to delays, the 2002 grant schemes intended to prepare for the future operation of Structural Funds was started simultaneously with the Structural Funds, running in parallel without any interaction. Important linkages among individual interventions, emphasized in the planning documents, did not receive sufficient attention and thus the expected synergy effect was lost and led to duplications. The relevance of further training delivered within the 2003 Strengthening of Capacities programme, is doubtful, and unlikely to bring the expected benefits although there is some potential to change this status mainly provided that the current conditions are changed.

Efficiency was adversely affected by the late start of projects as well as by unresolved high staff turnover. This has reduced the value-for-money of the delivered assistance. The management of the grant schemes was uneven while certain schemes were generously assisted, some others were paid much less attention. The overall co-ordination of all PHARE interventions, as well as those specifically dealing with

¹ *Relevance*, whether the design of the project targets the needs of beneficiaries; *Efficiency*, whether the same results could have been achieved at lower costs; *Effectiveness*, whether the project purpose has been achieved; *Sustainability*, whether project benefits are likely to continue after external funding ends; *Impact*, the extent to which the benefits received by the beneficiaries had a wider overall effect.

Structural Funds operation, was not properly secured and led to duplications. The newly established Structural Funds structures at the Ministries are too numerous and deal with the administration of very bureaucratic mechanisms.

Effectiveness is disappointing. Although the training efforts of the 2002 Capacity Building programme enhanced the qualification of staff, the system for managing Structural Funds is not stable due to the high turnover of ministerial staff reducing effective absorption. Various training activities have been occasionally repeated with the same minimal effect. Similar outcomes are expected as results of the follow-up 2003 programme unless conditions are changed. The establishment and testing of the administrative structures and procedures needed for the implementation of Structural Funds through PHARE grant schemes did not take place. Practically all of the PHARE capacity building efforts implemented through grant schemes failed as these initiatives were taking place independently and without co-ordination with Structural Funds.

Sustainability shows poor prospects. Most of the training efforts were unsustainable and the same is valid for the capacity building activities delivered within the various grant schemes. The direct benefits for grant recipients show better prospects for sustainability. The expected contribution of the projects to the overall operation of Structural Funds is likely to be marginal.

Component 2 –Small and Medium Enterprises Support

Although the original design of the programmes addressed actual needs, implementation in the area of capacity building was not correctly targeted. The structures dealing with the tourism and industry measures managing PHARE and Structural Funds interventions were built in parallel at two different institutions and thus the intended PHARE learning exercise became irrelevant. Moreover some of the projects repeated the same sort of assistance, or lost relevance, by covering general training activities for staff who were about to finish with PHARE and had uncertain futures. Regarding the measures for risk capital and support for innovation, the needs are justified but lack strategic focus, and the expected outcomes are too ambitious for the respective allocations.

PHARE grant projects for small and medium-sized enterprises proved to be in high demand. The grant schemes were undoubtedly efficient as regards benefits delivered to the grant beneficiaries however no measurable indication can be provided to justify overall benefits of the individual schemes. Implementation was often hampered by the public procurement process, in particular, for construction works. The assumed involvement of local and regional structures did not take place and in this respect not much value-for-money was delivered. Overall, the National Agency for Small and Medium Enterprises has always performed well, without any substantial difficulties, and therefore the initial technical assistance projects, delivered in previous years, should have been sufficient to gain the necessary knowledge for grant scheme implementation. In this respect the repeated technical assistance projects were not efficient.

The projects implemented within the 2002 and 2003 grant schemes are likely to increase the competitiveness of tourism and to enhance the value of the Slovak industry although the indicators set do not allow an assessment of the extent of achievement. The administrative capacities of the Agency have been undoubtedly strengthened but will not be utilised for Structural Funds management as the measures concerned are managed by others. Technology incubators were established and some 30 companies are installed. Whether this can be considered as support for innovation and technology transfer is not clear as none of the companies has qualified for the envisaged venture capital operation yet. Another related grant scheme increased the availability of investment possibilities but encountered the same absorption difficulties. It also suggests that the expectations regarding investment operations were too ambitious.

Although most of the benefits could be considered as being achieved, not many of them can be sustained. Problems with sustainability concern mainly the capacity building efforts within grant schemes, which will not be utilised for the intended purpose. The positive outcomes of individual grant projects are likely to be sustained. Most of the benefits achieved within the programmes dealing with the innovation and technology transfer should be sustainable. The exception is training for the incubators' staff where half of the participants left after project completion. Provided that the incubated companies comply with the conditions for the risk capital operations, the established windows should secure at least some small scale operation. Sustainability is of particular concern at the Sladkovicovo incubator, which is not able to perform in the absence of proper management.

The contribution of the 2002 and 2003 grant schemes to the establishment of Structural Funds administrative capacities is very small and thus the expected impact of these interventions is unlikely to materialise. A limited contribution to increased competitiveness and productivity is expected.

Component 3 – Regional Development, Cross Border Co-operation and Joint Small Project Funds

Most projects were relevant to the development needs and priorities intended but often lacked any obvious cross-border effects. All 2003 investment grant schemes were delayed and are running in parallel with INTERREG operations and Structural Funds instruments, which reduces their relevance in terms of preparing beneficiaries for the use of Structural Funds. The Joint Small Project Funds projects were found relevant, addressing local needs but also not always clearly demonstrating cross-border character with equal benefits for both partners.

Most projects experienced delays in contracting caused by the inadequacy of original planning documents and complexity of tendering procedures. Investment projects generally overcame these delays and grant schemes have also been contracted with sufficient albeit not ideal amounts of time for implementation. The delays which led to the time overlap with other financing instruments affected the demand for projects but sufficient numbers of application have been received to allocate the funds satisfactorily.

Project management staff at the Regional Development Support Agency have not always been able to work as closely as desirable with final beneficiaries due to their workload and the quality of monitoring requires improvement particularly for the Joint Small Project Funds.

Effectiveness is adequate and recipients are seeing the intended effects. Some grant schemes are still under implementation and effectiveness can only be gauged on the basis of running projects. It appears that these will generally be effective but the degree will vary, with some grant schemes not achieving a critical mass for effects beyond the limited and local outcomes. Some of the Joint Small Project Funds projects demonstrate continued co-operation, some are missing this feature; based on the available information it is not possible to assess the proportion of successful projects.

The results of investments in transport and environment infrastructure appear sustainable as the facilities have clear owners. For grant schemes the sustainability will become easier to assess once the implementation of projects is complete and their results are visible. The majority of projects will contribute to the achievement of their overall objectives. Some limited and likely indirect contribution of the Joint Small Project Funds to the economic development of the border regions could materialise.

Component 4 - Roma Minority

PHARE interventions are highly relevant to the needs of the marginalised Roma communities and risks, with regards to relevance caused by changes in the education and healthcare system mainly due to decentralisation, are being addressed. In many localities the projects connect well with other interventions. The PHARE interventions are running efficiently. The 2002 interventions have reached the desired effects and the two 2003 initiatives are on track to achieve planned effects. All projects require careful follow-up by the appropriate education and health authorities to make sure that the results obtained are used beyond the pilot stage.

Sustainability depends on local actors for the direct beneficiaries and in many places strong commitment exists. However, wider sustainability requires that the pilot schemes, methodologies and materials developed are put to broader use, which will require changes in legislation and financing arrangements. The overall impact on the wellbeing of the Roma community fully depends on these future arrangements: without them the projects will only serve as a useful experience and contribution for a limited group of individuals directly affected, but with them they have the potential for broad national-level impact.

Component 5 – Human Resource Development and European Social Fund Preparation

The Component was correctly focused on the preparation for the upcoming management and use of European Social Fund but required a prompt start to planned activities. However, most of the interventions were delayed and therefore could only partly address the original needs; or addressed exactly the same problems for the next Structural Funds cycle. Again, PHARE grant schemes were running simultaneously with European Social

Fund interventions and therefore could not provide the required learning effect. The original scope of the rest of projects' activities comprising numerous training for hundreds of participants remained unchanged despite clear feedback indicating that these activities did not have any positive impact on the amount and quality of the project applications. Training as the universal solution for low project quality and interest of applicants did not prove to be helpful.

Efficiency encountered some difficulties. A part of the project outputs has not been converted into results or further utilised. Because of high turnover of staff the experience gained from the previous grant scheme implementation was lost. To compensate for the lack of knowledge and staff, technical assistance was contracted for monitoring purposes which would have been better carried out by the implementing body. Communication and co-operation between PHARE and European Social Fund structures is very limited and does not ensure sufficient feedback to provide tailor-made assistance. Project activities referring to the training in the area of project design and partnership development are frequently repeated. Rules applicable for the procurement procedures and contracting of experts are not fully respected.

Effectiveness is not optimal. The Human Resource Development grant scheme delivered some positive effects but did not achieve its objective. A similar outcome is predicted for the follow-up scheme as well as for the assistance provided to European Social Fund management. The establishment of the Guidance Centres is likely to face difficulties because of the lack of the staff experience. The technical assistance provided, despite being re-focused towards the next Structural Funds cycle, is unlikely to bring reasonable benefits through its training activities. More successful was the preparatory work to launch EQUAL Initiative.

As regards the grant schemes, sustainable benefits are not significant and in particular the capacity building efforts are not sustainable. Action Plans were the main subject of project activities, but they were not utilised much and also the software tool developed for grant scheme management was lost. Some grant projects provided training which did not deliver sustainable benefits. The sustainability of EQUAL measures suffered from high staff turnover and similar deficiencies are likely to hamper sustainability of the PHARE assistance provided to European Social Fund management.

The overall assessment on impact is unsatisfactory. Although the European Social Fund is performing relatively well, this can hardly be attributed to the PHARE grant scheme assistance. Equally, the contribution of the grant schemes to the reduction of the unemployment and the contribution to the post-accession absorption are both likely to be negligible. The only intervention where some contribution to the overall objective could be observed was the project assisting the introduction of EQUAL.

Component 6 - Health Care

The projects are relevant and addressed the necessary standards for membership of various international and European organisations. The main focus was methodology to comply

with EUROSTAT health statistics reporting requirements. The epidemiology and laboratory control of communicable diseases was also subject of the assistance to enable full membership of the National Reference Laboratories in the European networks/associations dealing with individual diseases.

Implementation of the projects was efficient and no substantial problems occurred. The late contracting of some projects did not allow the planned sequencing of activities and some activities were replaced. Effectiveness is also satisfactory. All projects achieved or are likely to achieve their original objectives. It is also likely that these positive achievements will be sustained. The only exception is the software system for the communicable diseases, which currently lacks the financial resources for regular updates and maintenance. The expected contribution to the overall objectives is likely to take place and the overall impact can be largely attributed to the individual projects achievements.

C) Main Recommendations

Addressed to the management authorities for European Regional Development Fund and European Social Fund

The management authorities for European Regional Development Fund and European Social Fund should assess whether the outsourcing of administration to qualified agencies and/or state bank institution having professional experience would not be a more efficient and effective way for Structural Funds management, reducing the number of employees to a minimum of highly-qualified ministerial staff dealing only with strategically important tasks and overall management.

Addressed to the Community Support Framework and Managing Authorities

The Community Support Framework and Managing Authorities should propose a final decision on the division of the evaluation tasks and responsibilities, and encourage the establishment of a dialogue with potential Slovak research bodies and/or qualified consultants.

Addressed to the National Agency for Small and Medium Enterprises

The Agency should take steps to oblige the current owner of the incubator to employ professional managers to run the facility, in line with the original intention.

Addressed to the Ministry of Health and the Public Health Authority

The Ministry, in co-operation with the Public Health Authority, should estimate the required funds and identify the sources to secure funding for the effective operation of the software system.

Addressed to all PHARE Implementing Bodies

All PHARE Implementing Bodies should ensure that regular project progress reports are prepared and approved. At least an electronic copy of the approved project reports should be delivered to the responsible Project Managers of the Aid Co-ordination Unit.

Addressed to Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health

For PHARE Roma projects, the implementing bodies should ensure that the pilot nature is respected and results are carried through into practice after physical completion of projects. In order to fully utilise the experience from these projects the formal arrangements should be put in place as soon as possible.

D) Performance Rating

Component/ Project	Relevance	Efficiency	Effectiveness	Sustainability	Impact	Verbal overall rating
<i>Component 1 – Structural Funds Institution Building</i>						
2002/000-610.11	1	0	0	-1	-1	U
2002/000-610.13	0	0	-1	0	0	S
2003-004-995-03-08	0	0	0	0	0	S
2002/000-610.02 UIBF	0	0	0	-1	-1	U
2003-004-995-03-15	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	U
<i>Component 2 – Small and Medium Enterprises Support</i>						
2002/000-610.14	1	1	0	0	0	S
2003-004-995-03-10	1	1	0	0	0	S
2002/000-610.12	1	1	1	1	1	S
2003-004-995-03-09	0	-1	-1	1	1	S
2002/000-642.01	1	0	1	1	1	S
<i>Component 3 – Regional Development and Cross Border Co-operation and JSPF</i>						
2002/000-642.02	1	0	1	1	1	S
2002/000-635.01	2	0	1	1	1	S
2002/000-635.02	1	0	1	1	1	S
2002/000-603.01	0	0	0	0	0	S
2002/000-616.01	1	-1	0	0	0	S
2003/004-704.01	1	-1	0	0	0	S
2003/004-704.02	2	-1	0	0	0	S
2002/005-665.01	2	-1	0	0	0	S
2003/004-995-03-12	1	0	0	0	0	S
2002/000-642.03 (SK/A)	1	-1	0	0	0	S
2002/000-603.02 (SK/HU)	1	-1	0	0	0	S
2002/000-635.03 (SK/PL)	1	-1	0	0	0	S
2003/005-616.02 (SK/HU)	1	-1	0	0	0	S
2003/005-704.03 (SK/A)	1	-1	0	0	0	S
2003/005-665.02 (SK/PL)	1	-1	0	0	0	S
<i>Component 4 - Roma Minority</i>						
2002/000-610.03	1	1	0	0	0	S
2003-004-995-01-05	0	0	0	0	0	S
2003-004-995-01-06	1	0	1	0	1	S

Component 5 -HRD and ESF Preparation						
2002/000-610.15	0	-1	-1	0	-1	U
2003-004-995-03-11	0	-1	-1	0	-1	U
2003-004-995-03-13	0	1	1	0	0	S
2003-004-995-03-14	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	U
Component 6 - Health Care						
2003-004-995-03-06	1	1	1	1	1	S
2003-004-995-03-07	1	1	1	0	1	S
2002/000-610.02 UIBF	1	1	1	1	1	S
2003-004-995-03-04 UIBF	1	1	1	1	1	S
Taking into account the contextual constraints on the evaluation, the sector overall is rated to be 'SATISFACTORY'						
ESC Monitoring Sector	1	-1	0	0	0	S

Ratings guide: -2 unacceptable; -1 poor; 0 sufficient/adequate; +1 good; +2 excellent.
 HS-Highly Satisfactory, S- Satisfactory, U-Unsatisfactory, HU-Highly Unsatisfactory.

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PREFACE

This Interim Evaluation Report covers PHARE assistance to the Economic and Social Cohesion sector/ Regional Development and Cross Border Co-operation in the Slovak Republic under the following programmes:

- 2002/000-610.11 Consolidating the Institutional Framework and Enhancing Administrative Capacity for Programming, Implementation and Monitoring of Structural Funds,
- 2002/000-610.13 Local & Regional Development Grant Scheme,
- 2003-004-995-03-08 Support to Local and Regional Project Development Grant Scheme,
- 2003-004-995-03-15 Strengthening Regional and Local Capacities for Managing and Implementing Structural Funds,
- 2002/000-610.02 UIBF Support of Future Intermediary Bodies under the Responsibility of Managing Authority for SOP Industry and Services,
- 2002/000-610.14 Tourism Development Grant Scheme,
- 2002/000-610.12 Industry Development Grant Scheme,
- 2003-004-995-03-09 Support to Innovative SMEs,
- 2003-004-995-03-10 Tourism Development Grant Scheme,
- 2002/000-642.01 Innovation and Technology Development Grant Scheme,
- 2002/000-642.02 III/0238 Moravsky Svaty Jan Bridge over the River Morava,
- 2002/000-603.01 Environmental Protection and Nature Conservation in the Hungarian-Slovak Border Region through Local Initiatives,
- 2002/000-635.01 Reconstruction of Road III/520 19 Oravice – Zuberec,
- 2002/000-635.02 Development of Environmental Infrastructure - Districts of Kezmarok, Poprad, Stara Lubovna,
- 2003/004-616.01 Development and Support of Business Sites and Infrastructure, Innovation Activities and Human Resources in Border Areas,
- 2003/005-704.01 Environmental Protection and Nature Conservation in the Slovak-Austrian Border Region,
- 2003/005-704.02 Economic Development focusing on Support of Tourism,
- 2003/005-665.01 Business related Infrastructure Grant Scheme,
- 2002/000-642.03 Joint Small Projects Fund,
- 2002/000-603.02 Joint Small Projects Fund,
- 2002/000-635.03 Joint Small Projects Fund,
- 2003/004-665.02 Joint Small Projects Fund,
- 2003/004-616.02 Joint Small Projects Fund,
- 2003/004-704.03 Joint Small Projects Fund,
- 2003-004-995-03-12 External Border Initiative,
- 2003-004-995-01-05 Support to Further Integration of Roma in the Educational Field,
- 2003-004-995-01-06 Improved Access of Roma to Health Care,
- 2002/000-610.03 Further Integration of the Roma in the Educational Field and Improved Living Conditions,
- 2002/000-610.15 HRD Grant Scheme,

- 2003-004-995-03-11 Grant Scheme on Equal Opportunities and Social Inclusion Support,
- 2003-004-995-03-13 Create the Administrative Capacity for Implementing the Equal Initiative,
- 2003-004-995-03-14 Preparing for ESF Project Management,
- 2003-004-995-03-06 Strengthening of Statistical Health Information and its Harmonisation with EU requirements,
- 2003-004-995-03-07 Strengthening the Surveillance and Control of Communicable Diseases,
- 2002/000-610.02 UIBF Ensuring Preparedness of the SR Health Insurance System to Apply the *Acquis* on Co-ordination of Social Security Systems, and
- 2003-004-995-01-04 UIBF Strengthening of Human Resources and Implementation of the EU Methodology for Surveillance of Human Enteroviruses.

This Interim Evaluation Report has been prepared by D&D Consulting Ltd.² during the period from May to June 2006 and reflects the situation at 21 June 2006, the cut-off date for the Report. The factual basis is provided by the following Monitoring Reports, covering the period from 1 September 2005 to 28 February 2006:

- M/SR/ESC/06012/REG issued on 27 April 2006,
- M/SR/ESC/06012/HRD issued on 27 April 2006 and
- M/SR/ESC/06012/CBC issued on 2 May 2006, all prepared by the Office of Government.

Other findings are based on analysis of the Financing Memoranda, formal programme documentation, in person, telephone interviews with the main parties and published material. In order to manage the voluminous number of grant projects within individual schemes, questionnaires were prepared and distributed to the final recipients.

The Interim Evaluation Report examines the progress of the programmes towards the objectives stated in the formal programming documents, i.e. Financing Memoranda, Project Fiches, etc. The report is intended to provide management information for the benefit of the Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC) 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 requested on the draft version were received from the following parties:

Parties invited	Comments received
Office of Government/ Aid Co-ordination Unit	yes
Ministry of Finance/ National Fund	yes
Ministry of Finance/ Central Finance and Contracting Unit	yes
Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family	yes
Ministry of Construction and Regional Development/RDSA	yes
Ministry of Construction and Regional Development/CSF	yes
Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family	yes
National Agency for Development of Small and Medium-size Enterprises	no
Office of Government/ Section of Human Rights and Minorities	yes
Ministry of Health	no

² Authors: Dagmar Gombitova, Dietmar Aigner and Short Term Technical Experts Rolf Bergs and Andrej Salner. This Report has been reviewed by Dietmar Aigner (MWH Interim Evaluation Cell) and by Peter Hall (MWH Headquarters).

Where possible, the Evaluators have integrated the comments received into the report. Dissenting views and comments not incorporated are in Annex 5.

GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS

A	Austria
ACU	Aid Co-ordination Unit
BIC	Business Innovation Centre
CBC	Cross Border Co-operation
CF	Cohesion Fund
EC	European Commission
ESC	Economic and Social Cohesion
EDIS	Extended Decentralised Implementation System
FCP	First Contact Point
FM	Financing Memorandum
GS	Grant Scheme
HU	Hungary
IB	Intermediary Body
IDGS	Industry Development Grant Scheme
INTEG	Innovation and Technology Development Grant Scheme
IT	Information Technology
ITMS	Information Technology Monitoring System
IE	Interim Evaluation
JSPF	Joint Small Project Fund
LRD	Local and Regional Development
MA	Managing Authority
ME	Million(s) of Euro
MIS	Management Information System
MoCRD	Ministry of Construction and Regional Development
MoE	Ministry of Economy
n.a.	Not available, not applicable
NADSME	National Agency for Development of Small and Medium Enterprises
OP	Operational Programme
PA	Paying Agency
PF	Project Fiche
PL	Poland
RAIC	Regional Advisory and Information Centre
RDA	Regional Development Agency
RDSA	Regional Development Support Agency
RIC	Regional Information Centre
ROP	Regional Operational Programme
SF	Structural Funds
SISME	Support to Innovative SMEs
SME	Small and Medium-Size Enterprises
SOP	Sector Operational Programme
SK/SR	Slovak Republic
TA	Technical Assistance
TDGS	Tourism Development Grant Scheme
ToR	Terms of Reference
UIBF	Unallocated Institution Building Facility
WWTP	Wastewater Treatment Plant

FINANCIAL AND CONTRACTUAL DATA OF THE SECTOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COHESION

Number	Title	Beneficiary	Contract		PHARE			Co-financing		
			start	expiry	allocated M€	com %	dis %	allocated M€	com %	dis %
COMPONENT 1 – STRUCTURAL FUNDS CAPACITY BUILDING										
2002/000-610.11	Consolidating the Institutional Framework and Enhancing Administrative Capacity for Programming, Implementation and Monitoring of Structural Funds	MoCRD			2.500	100	87	0.263	100	100
	PIM of SF TW		24.09.03	22.10.05	1.800	99	80	0	0	0
	ITMS for SF		n.a.	n.a.	0.505	100	100	0.263	100	100
	ITMS for SF & CF		22.07.04	21.09.04	0.195	98	98	0	0	0
2002/000-610.13	Local and Regional Development Grant Scheme	MoCRD			3.500	100	41	1.278	93	78
	TA 2 Start up assistance and Training for Technical Secretariats and MoCRD		05.08.03	06.02.04	0.200	99	99	0	0	0
	Local and Regional Development GS – Strand A		13.07.04	13.03.05	1.000	99	29	1.278	93	78
	Strand B		08/09.04	06/07.05	0.800	99	46			
	Strand C				1.500	99	37			
2002/000-610.02 UIBF	Support to Future Intermediary Bodies under the Responsibility of Managing Authority for SOP Industry and Services	MoE	30.11.04	31.07.05	0.250	100	89	0	0	0
2003-004-995-03-08	Support to Local and Regional Development Grant Scheme	MoCRD			6.000	99	47	1.700	89	41
	Grant Scheme		30.11.05	30.09.06						
	TA – Development of an on-line project information system		15.07.05	15.02.06	0.154	84		0	0	0

	TA – Strengthening of TS capacities		15.07.05	15.07.06	0.150	90		0	0	0
2003-004-995-03-15	Strengthening Regional and Local Capacities for Managing and Implementing Structural Funds - TA		30.11.05	30.10.06	2.400	71	0	0	0	0
COMPONENT 2 – SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES SUPPORT										
2002/000-610.14	Tourism Development Grant Scheme	NADSME			3.500	94	88	2.200	100	93
	TA for TDGS		03.06.03	30.06.04	0.200	100	97	0	0	0
	GS – SME Direct Support com 1		23.07.04	30.09.05	3.300	93	88	0	0	0
	GS – Component 2		10./11.04	30.09.05	0	0	0	2.200	100	93
2002/000-610.12	Industry Development Grant Scheme				3.500	92	88	1.100	94	91
	TA for IDGS		22.04.03	25.08.04	0.200	98	93	0	0	0
	GS – component 1		23.07.04	30.09.05	3.000	95	70	1.100	95	91
	GS – component 2		10/11.04	30.09.05	0.300	64	50	0		
2003-004-995-03-09	Support to Innovative SMEs (SISME)				3.100	98	13	2.030	100	56
	Grant Scheme		30.09.05	30.09.06	2.700	100	6	0.900	0	0
	Monitoring of the GS		30.11.05	31.10.06	0.050	80	60	0.030	0	0
	Assessment of Proposals		16.05.05	n.a.	0.050	81	81	0	0	0
	Marketing of the GS		16.11.04	16.02.05	0.030	92	92	0	0	0
	Management of GS		16.11.05	16.09.06	0	0	0	0.030	100	0
	Support to SCC		15.01.05	15.01.06	0.220	94	60	1.100	0	0
	BAN Database		30.11.05	31.05.06	0.050	100	60	0	0	0
2003-004-995-03-10	Tourism Development Grant Scheme				3.500	100	12	1.220	100	6
	Grant Scheme		30.11.05	30.11.06	3.350	90	10	1.200	0	0
	TA for TDGS (Benchmarking and Market Research)		23.12.04	23.12.05	0.145	75	98	0	0	0
2002/000-642.01	Innovation and Technology Development GS – INTEG				3.500	100	98	0.400	31	31
	TA for Training of Incubator's Staff		15.11.04	31.07.05	0.400	100	94	0	0	0

	Grant Scheme		04./06.04	30.09.05	2.700	100	98	0.900	0	0
	Venture Capital Fund for Incubators		15.11.04	n.a.	0.400	100	100	0.400	100	0
COMPONENT 3 – REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT, CROSS BORDER CO-OPERATION AND JSPF										
2002/000-642.02	III/0238 Moravsky Svaty Jan Bridge over the River Morava	MoCRD	29.11.04	30.11.05	1.900	90	41	0.640	90	41
2002/000-635.01	Reconstruction of Road III/520 19 Oravice – Zuberec		29.11.04	30.11.05	1.800	100	0	2.827	72	0
2002/000-635.02	Development of Environmental Infrastructure – District of Kezmarok, Poprad, Stara Lubovna		30.11.04	30.11.05	1.800	94	0	0.600	94	0
2002/000-603.01	Environmental Protection and Nature Conservation in the HU – SK Border Region through Local Initiatives		12.11.04	30.11.05	1.800	98	93	0.600	99	94
2003-004-616.01	Development and Support of Business Sites and Infrastructure, Innovation Activities and HR in Border Areas		13.09.05	30.11.06	1.800	100	36	0.600	100	29
2003-004-704.01	Environmental Protection and Nature Conservation in the SK-A Border Region		20.07.05	30.11.06	3.400	96	16	1.070	84	38
2003-004-704.02	Economic Development Focusing on Support of Tourism		30.08.05	30.11.06	2.000	97	25	0.570	84	26
2003-004-665.01	Business Related Infrastructure		20.07.05	21.10.06	3.600	99	40	1.200	99	40
2003-004-995-03-12	External Border Initiative		30.11.05	30.09.06	1.400	100	26	0.357	100	0
2002/000-642.03	Joint Small Project Fund		31.07.04	30.07.05	0.600	100	81	0.067	100	13
2002/000-603.02	Joint Small Project Fund		30.11.03	30.11.04	0.200	95	80	0.021	100	84
2002/000-635.03	Joint Small Project Fund		30.07.04	30.08.05	0.400	100	80	0.048	12	0
2003/004-616.02	Joint Small Project Fund		31.05.05	31.0.06	0.200	100	80	0.024	100	0
2003/005-704.03	Joint Small Project Fund	03.06.05	03.06.06	0.600	98	79	0.072	100	0	
2003/005-665.02	Joint Small Project Fund	30.07.04	30.07.05	0.400	93	83	0.047	100	0	

COMPONENT 4 – ROMA MINORITY										
2002/000-610.03	Further Integration of the Roma Children in the Educational Field and Improved Living Conditions	OoG			1.000	97	70	0.150	100	100
	Equipment for 20 Classes in Special Schools		30.03.05	n.a.	0.050	100	100	0.050	100	100
	Reintegration of Children from Socially Disadv. Environment		29.03.05	30.06.06	0.300	91	0	0	0	0
	Supply of Equipment		30.06.05	n.a.	0	0	0	0.110	100	98
	Activity 2		23.03.05	30.06.06	0.100	100	100	0	0	0
	Activity 3		30.06.05	30.06.06	0.550	95	92	0	0	0
2003-004-995-01-05	Support to Further Integration of Roma in the Educational Field	MoEd			1.000	98	0	0.110	81	38
	Support to Further Integration of the Roma in the Educational Field		30.09.05	n.a.	0.900	100	60	0	0	0
	Equipment supply Lot 1		30.09.05	n.a.	0.110	81	38	0.110	81	38
	Equipment supply Lot 2		30.09.05	n.a.						
	Equipment supply Lot 3		30.09.05	n.a.						
2003-004-995-01-06	Improved Access of Roma to Health Care	MoH			1.420	98	57	0.452	91	25
	Training		09.09.05	n.a.	0.040	100	60	0	0	0
	Roma Health Education, Educational Tools		30.11.05	n.a.	0.052	100	52	0.018	100	0
	Equipment to Health Centres		30.11.05	n.a.	0.050	100	50	0.020	100	0
	TA – Health Field Workers for Roma		09.09.05	n.a.	0.840	70	32	0.250	100	50
	Renovation of Rooms for Health Centres – works		30.11.05	n.a.	0.068	49	0	0.014	100	0
	Supply of Mobile Medical Units		14.11.05	n.a.	0.360	76	0	0.150	61	0
COMPONENT 5 – HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT AND EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND PREPARATION										
2002/000-610.15	Human Resources Development Grant Scheme	RDSA			3.500	94	0	1.600	0	0
	TA	MoLSAF	02.08.04	01.08.05	0.200	91	0	0	0	0

	Strategic Action Plans and Partnership		20.07.04	20.06.05	0.500	100	78	0.100	100	78
	Flexibility of the Labour Market	COLSAF	07.06.04	30.06.05	1.400	100	85	1.000	100	87
	Quality of the Labour Market	MoEd	13.07.04	31.08.05	1.400	100	88	0.500	100	88
2003-004-995-03-11	Grant Scheme on Equal Opportunities and Social Inclusion Support	RDSA			2.500	0	0	0	0	0
	TA		06.09.05	15.09.06	0.100	100	60	0	0	0
	Equal Opportunities GS	MoLSAF	30.11.05	15.09.06	1.000	100	80	0.267	100	80
	Social Inclusion GS	COLSAF	30.11.05	15.09.06	1.400	96	80	0.370	97	80
2003-004-995-03-13	Create the Administrative Capacity for Implementing the Equal Initiative	MoLSAF	28.04.04	31.07.05	0.300	100	70	0	0	0
2003-004-995-03-14	Preparing for ESF Project Management	MoLSAF			1.500	0	0	0	0	0
	Preparing for ESF Project Management - TWL		28.04.04	25.02.05	0.250	100	97	0	0	0
	Methodological support		18.11.05	18.07.05	0.550			0	0	0
	TA for Project Proposals Dvlp.		18.11.05	18.10.05	0.700	96	0	0	0	0
COMPONENT 6 – HEALTH CARE										
2003-004-995-03-06	Strengthening of Statistical Health Information and its Harmonisation with EU Requirements	MoH			0.600	100	77	0.150	43	95
	Strengthening of Statistical Health Information System		21.11.05	21.06.06	0.250	100	83	0	0	0
	TA for MoH and IHIS		19.11.05	19.06.06	0.200	100	95	0	0	0
	Supply of Hardware to MoH and IHIS		31.01.06	n.a.	0.200	100	60	0.150	0	0
2003-004-995-03-07	Strengthening the Surveillance and Control of Communicable Diseases	MoH			1.550	98	14	0.184	99	0
	Harmonisation and Upgrading of Monitoring System of CD – TW		14.02.05	14.11.06	0.510	100	43	0	0	0

	Software Development and Training of NPHU Staff		30.11.05	30.08.06	0.550	94	0	0	0	0
	Supply of HW and SW Lot 1		30.11.05	28.02.06	0.109	100	0	0.054	99	0
	Supply of Laboratory Equipment		30.11.05	30.09.06	0.380	100	0	0.130	99	0
2002/000-610.02 UIBF	Ensuring Preparedness of the SR Health Insurance System to Apply the <i>Acquis</i> on Co-ordination of Social Security Systems	MoH	31.03.04	30.09.04	0.150	100	80	0	0	0
2003-004-005-01-04 UIBF	Strengthening of Human Resources and Implementation of the EU Methodology for Surveillance of Human Enteroviruses	MoH	30.11.05	30.05.06	0.140	100	0	0	0	0

PHARE 2002: commitment deadline 30/11/04; disbursement deadline 30/11/05

PHARE 2003: commitment deadline 30/11/05; disbursement deadline 30/11/06

Source: Perseus by cut-off date 21 June 2006

1. SECTORAL BACKGROUND AND SCOPE OF EVALUATION

1.1 Sectoral Background

1. This Interim Evaluation (IE) report covers PHARE support to the Economic and Social Cohesion (ESC) Sector, one of the three monitoring sectors for PHARE assistance in Slovakia. Overall, the individual parts of the assistance relate to the adoption and application of the sectoral *acquis communautaire* and/ or are in line with the Slovak governmental strategies and comply with priorities set out in the National Development Plan (NDP).

1.2 Scope of Evaluation

2. The evaluated assistance cover support financed from the Financing Memoranda (FM) 2002 and 2003. For the purpose of the IE, the individual activities under the Sector were grouped into the following Components:

- Structural Funds (SF) Institution Building
- Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) Support
- Regional Development (REG), Cross Border Co-operation (CBC) Investment and Joint Small Project Funds (JSPF)
- Roma Minority
- Human Resource Development (HRD) and European Social Fund (ESF) Preparation, and
- Health Care.

1.2.1 Performance of Activities

This section provides a basic overview of activities, outputs and effects. For more detailed information on the individual Components, please see Annex 6 of the Report.

Component 1 – Structural Funds Institution Building

2002/000-610.11 Consolidating the Institutional Framework and Enhancing Administrative Capacity for Programming, Implementation and Monitoring of Structural Funds, 2002/000-610.13 Local and Regional Development Grant Scheme, 2003-004-995-03-08 Support to Local and Regional Project Development Grant Scheme, 2003-004-995-03-15 Strengthening regional and local capacities for managing and implementing Structural Funds, and 2002/000-610.02 UIBF Support of future intermediary bodies under the responsibility of Managing Authority for SOP Industry and Services

Activities and Outputs

3. The 2002 Administrative Capacity programme focused on setting-up relevant Managing Authorities (MA) and on developing central-level professional skills, needed to manage programmes in the area of EU structural policies. The objective of the 2002 Local and Regional Development Grant Scheme (LRD GS) was to establish and to test the administrative structures and procedures needed for the implementation of the

Regional Operational Programme (ROP), by supporting regional and local initiatives. The 2003 LRD GS follow-up is directed towards increasing the capacity of local and regional actors to prepare and implement EU programmes. The 2003 Strengthening of Capacities programme has an identical aim in order to ensure the effective management and capacity to absorb EU funds in area of ESC. The 2002 UIBF Support for Intermediary Bodies (IB) project was to prepare bodies under the MA-Sector Operational Programme (SOP) Basic Infrastructure for successful implementation.

Effects

4. The 2002 Administrative Capacity programme comprised a twinning, addressing the needs of the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA/ MA-SOP Agricultural and Rural Development and Fisheries), the Ministry of Economy (MoE/ MA-SOP Industry/Services and INTERREG) and the Ministry of Construction and Regional Development (MoCRD/ MA SOP Basic Infrastructure and CF). The primary focus of the 2002 assistance was the SF implementation phase and completion of the centralised Information Technology Monitoring System. The 2002 LRD GS initiated the preparation of strategies and project documents, and assisted with building up partnerships at local and regional levels in order to create conditions for SF implementation. The 2002 UIBF Support for IB project adjusted and standardised internal structures and procedures of IBs, provided training and developed an additional Management Information System as the ITMS was not considered sufficient. The 2003 LRD GS was launched; 130 projects were contracted and are running, preparing technical documentation for investment projects. The 2003 Strengthening of Capacities programme was contracted within the deadline and training activities were initiated.

Component 2 – Small and Medium Enterprises Support

2002/000-610.14 Tourism Development Grant Scheme, 2002/000-610.12 Industry Development Grant Scheme, 2003-004-995-03-09 Support to Innovative SMEs (SISME), 2003-004-995-03-10 Tourism Development Grant Scheme, 2002/000-642.01 Innovation and Technology Development Grant Scheme – INTEG³

Activities and Outputs

5. The 2002 Tourism Development Grant Scheme (TDGS) is to increase the competitiveness of the Slovak tourism sector and to strengthen the administrative capacities of the central and regional structures needed to manage and implement SF projects. The subsequent 2003 TDGS should strengthen the MoE's operational and management capacities including the gradual delegation of appropriate functions to complementary regional and local partner bodies in order to ensure the effective use of SF, while its final purpose is to reinforce the competitiveness of the Slovak tourism industry. The 2002 Industrial Development Grant Scheme (IDGS) focuses on increasing the value-added content of the Slovak industry through enhanced product offerings and process technologies. The 2003 Support to Innovative SMEs (SISME) GS should help to increase the availability of financial sources for innovative companies through the

³ Although INTEG represents a CBC initiative it is managed by the National Agency for Development of Small and Medium Enterprises (NADSME); therefore, INTEG is included in this Component

establishment of a sustainable venture capital investment scheme. The 2002 Innovation and Technology (INTEG) GS is proposed to support innovation and technology transfer through the establishment of technology incubators.

Effects

6. Regarding the 2002 TDGS, the grant-aided projects have mostly started, but it is too soon to report any effects. The respective administrative capacities at the National Agency for Development of Small and Medium Enterprises (NADSME), dealing with GS implementation, cover only the central level and are expected to be used also for the upcoming 2003 TDGS GS. However, based on a governmental decision, SF type projects in the tourism sector are now to be implemented through the nominated Intermediary Body (Slovak Tourism Board), which has no PHARE experience in this area. The gradual delegation of functions, in particular monitoring of individual projects, to NADSME's regional partners (Regional Advisory and Information Centres – RAIC, Business Innovation Centres - BIC) is still under consideration. It is also equally premature to report any effects for the 2002 IDGS. First activities have been conducted for the 2003 SISME; the marketing assistance for promoting the scheme is nearly completed and the TA project is about to start. The 2002 INTEG GS adopted a complicated mechanism in order to select only two grant projects. The refurbishment of the two selected technology incubators should be contracted soon. INTEG training activities are contracted and an agreement has been signed to create a venture capital window for the incubators to be assisted. At the cut off date of the report, no effects can be reported.

Component 3 – Regional Development, Cross Border Co-operation and Joint Small Project Funds

2002/000-642.02 III/0238 Moravsky Svaty Jan bridge over the river Morava, 2002/000-603.01 Environmental Protection and Nature Conservation in the Hungarian-Slovak Border Region through Local Initiatives, 2002/000-635.01 Reconstruction of Road III/520 19 Oravice–Zuberec, 2002/000-635.02 Development of Environmental Infrastructure-Districts of Kezmarok, Poprad, Stara Lubovna, 2003/004-616.01 Development and support of business sites and infrastructure, innovation activities and human resources in border areas, 2003/005-704.01 Environmental protection and nature conservation in the Slovak-Austrian border region, 2003/005-704.02 Economic development focusing on support of Tourism, 2003/005-665.01 Business related infrastructure Grant Scheme, 2003-004-995-03-12 External Border Initiative, 2002/000-642.03 Joint Small Projects Fund, 2002/000-603.02 Joint Small Projects Fund, 2002/000-635.03 Joint Small Projects Fund, 2003/004-665.02 Joint Small Projects Fund, 2003/004-616.02 Joint Small Projects Fund and 2003/004-704.03 Joint Small Projects Fund

Activities and Outputs

7. 2002 Moravsky Svaty Jan Bridge project has constructed a bridge to replace a temporary bridge, improving the cross-border accessibility at the Slovak–Austrian border. 2002 Oravice–Zuberec saw the construction of a key stretch of road improving cross-

border accessibility at Slovak–Polish border. 2002 Development of Environmental Infrastructure financed construction of waste water infrastructure (sewage and/or wastewater treatment plants) in seven municipalities in the Slovak – Polish border region. The project 2002 Environmental Protection GS supported ten interventions with two purposes: (i) preparation of various environmental studies to improve contacts between environmental protection institutions and to establish long-term co-operation – six projects; and (ii) preparation and implementation for investment projects in the area of waste water management to promote joint nature and environmental protection initiatives of local character – four projects. The 2003 Development and Support of Business Sites intervention supports twelve projects, including studies and investments in business infrastructure in the Slovak-Hungarian border areas. 2003 Environmental Protection supports implementation of 13 environmental investment projects and studies in the Slovak–Austrian border region while 2003 Support of Tourism supports 14 projects in the area of tourism in the region. 2003 Business Infrastructure finances 18 projects in the Slovak – Polish border region. Finally, the 2003 External Border Initiative supports 17 people-to-people projects and small infrastructure projects at the Slovak-Ukrainian border.

8. The 2002 and 2003 JSPF with Austria, Hungary and Poland are designed to stimulate small-scale activities across the border according to the priorities and measures set up in the respective Joint Programming Document (JPD). The JSPF supports mainly areas such as local democracy, economic development and tourism, cultural exchange, ecology, health, information and communication links of the border regions, by strengthening existing structures and reducing the peripheral character of these areas, thereby improving the quality of life and creating a co-operative network on both sides of the border.

Effects

9. 2002 Moravsky Svaty Jan Bridge completion has increased the border crossing capacity and reduced the number of days when the previous bridge was unusable due to high water in the river. 2002 Oravice–Zuberec road completion has improved transport conditions in a historically and ecologically valuable region near the Polish border, significantly shortening a frequently used route. 2002 Environmental Infrastructure has resulted in the upgrading of waste water infrastructure in seven municipalities, many of which were hindered in developing tourism facilities and industry due to limits of existing infrastructure. The 2002 Environmental Protection GS supported four investment projects for wastewater infrastructure and six projects for the preparation of various studies in the area of environment in the Slovak-Hungarian border region. In general the projects, concluded in 2005, recorded local effects, including the cross-border dimension commensurate with the size of the intervention. The remaining cross-border grant schemes, 2003 Support of Business Sites, 2003 Environmental Protection, 2003 Support of Tourism and the 2003 External Border Initiative are in the process of implementation and effects of most projects will be seen following completion later in 2006.

10. Part of the 2003 and all 2002 JSPF projects have been completed and, on the basis of a sample of the beneficiaries, they are responding to local needs and successful. Some of the projects managed to initiate local co-operation and/or provided a platform for the initiation of future INTERREG projects. However, the overall effects of the schemes are not followed once the projects are completed.

Component 4 – Roma Minority

2002/000-610.03 Further Integration of the Roma Children in the Educational Field and Improved Living Conditions, 2003-004-995-01-05 Support to Further Integration of Roma in the Educational Field, 2003-004-005-01-06 Improved Access of Roma to Health Care

Activities and Outputs

11. 2002 Further Integration carried out three key activities. The first developed materials for transitive classes to allow Roma pupils inappropriately placed in special schools for the mentally handicapped to transfer to regular primary schools and supported the operation of transitive classes at 20 special schools partnered with 19 regular primary schools. The remaining two components led to the preparation of a methodology for selection of 30 municipalities to receive support in preparing project documentation for connecting infrastructure of Roma settlements and subsequently to the preparation of project documentation as needed for waste water, transport and other public infrastructure. The 2003 Roma Education programme has supported activities in three areas. In each, materials were prepared and teachers trained to respectively: (i) support and facilitate the passage from primary to secondary education for Roma children coming from a disadvantaged environment through tutoring, (ii) implement multicultural education at secondary schools, and (iii) prepare pupils for entering the labour and business environment at 29 secondary schools. Schools participating in Activity 3 also received assistance in the form of school supplies and equipment. The activities being delivered within the 2003 Roma Health Care programme have seen the upgrading of selected facilities to provide access to healthcare to marginalised Roma communities, purchase of medical instruments and the training and deployment of Field Health Assistants working to improve the health of Roma communities through assistance and education.

Effects

12. 2002 Further Integration saw the successful operation of transitive classes at 20 special schools. A very limited number of pupils were transferred to regular primary schools as of the end of the 2005/2006 school year⁴ but the project has resulted in the formulation of methodologies and materials, which may continue to be used. Project documentation was prepared for 30 municipalities to improve infrastructure for marginalised Roma communities but the effects will appear only when the infrastructure is built. Under 2003 Roma Education, materials have been prepared. Some have been

⁴ More children passing the transitive class will attend regular basic schools in the schools year 2006/2007. According to the Ministry of Education SR, exact numbers of reintegrated children can be provided at the beginning of the school year 2006/2007.

approved and some are undergoing review by relevant education authorities. Training has been delivered to teachers to provide the three types of activities for pupils at primary and secondary schools and, in one of the activities, support to pupils has been provided with the assistance of project experts at selected secondary schools, which also received supplies of teaching equipment within the project. 2003 Roma Health Care has improved facilities in a number of municipalities to allow better access to medical treatment. Field Health Assistants have been deployed and are working with Roma communities with some measurable effects.

Component 5 – Human Resources Development and European Social Fund Preparation

2002/000.610-15 Human Resources Development Grant Scheme, 2002/000.610-02 UIBF Human Resources Development – Legislation in the Field of Education and its Eligibility for ESF Funding, 2003-004-995-03-11 Grant Scheme on Equal Opportunities and Social Inclusion Support, 2003-004-995-03-13 Create the Administrative Capacity for Implementing the Equal Initiative and Support the Launch of the Equal Initiative in the Slovak Republic, 2003-004-995-03-14 Preparing for ESF Project Management

Activities and Outputs

13. The 2002 HRD intervention was directed towards the strengthening of the administrative processes and the absorption capacity needed to implement the Sectoral Operational Programme for HRD at local and regional levels. It comprised the preparation of Strategic Action Plans in eight regions as well as two GS (one for combating youth and long-term unemployment and one for enhancing labour force quality through education). Overall co-ordination of the HRD projects was secured via Technical Assistance (TA). In total, 99 grant projects were implemented with nearly 9,000 participants. The 2003 GS on Equal Opportunities supports grant projects aimed at increasing the employability of groups threatened by social exclusion and balancing of equal opportunities on the labour market. In total, 48 grant projects are being implemented. The aim of the 2003 twinning (TW) project EQUAL Initiative was to support the MA for the Initiative in developing the mechanisms for its effective implementation and control. Activities comprised mainly training and seminars. The objective of 2003 ESF Project Management is to prepare administration, intermediaries at regional and district level, and potential beneficiaries for the participation in ESF programme operations. The twinning light (TWL) part focused on the establishment of ESF guidance centres in the regions. TA divided into two parts dealt initially with the selection of the project proposals developers, and training and counselling activities are carried out with the aim of preparing high quality projects for the implementation.

Effects

14. The 2002 HRD activities on Strategic Action Plans preparation were completed. The TA provided assistance for the regions (mainly training and methodology support) and experts assisted with the GS implementation at the Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family (COLSAF) and at the Ministry of Education (MoEd). The GS projects were completed and managed to create new vacancies. The 2003 EQUAL Initiative TW formalised and adjusted the management structure and procedures to be

applied and provided numerous training sessions. The EQUAL scheme is running, comprising 101 projects. 2003 ESF Project Management had to be refocused. Whilst its first part was completed and the ESF guidance centres were finally established in February 2006, the two other TA contracts are still being implemented. The first TA selected the project proposals developers and provided them with training on the project proposals preparation. Staff of the newly established ESF Guidance centres were trained as well. The second part of TA has commenced recently.

Component 6 – Health Care

2003-004-005-03-06 Strengthening of Statistical Health Information and its Harmonisation with EU Requirements, 2003-004-005-03-07 Strengthening the Surveillance and Control of Communicable Diseases, 2002/000-610-02 UIBF Ensuring Preparedness of the SR Health Information System to Apply the Acquis on Co-ordination of Social Security Systems, 2003-004-995-01-04 UIBF Strengthening of Human Resources and Implementation of the EU Methodology for Surveillance of Human Enteroviruses

Activities and Outputs

15. The activities within 2003 Statistical Health Information introduced the required methodology and provided technical equipment for statistical health information processing. The TWL also assisted with detailed specifications for the development of software tools. The 2003 Communicable Diseases programme aims at strengthening the surveillance and upgrading the administrative and implementing structures concerning the epidemiological and laboratory control of communicable diseases and to integrate these into EU networks. The 2002 Social Security Systems TWL was directly related to EU accession and prepared the necessary technical and human resources in the Slovak Liaison Body for the direct implementation of EU regulations, in order to export health insurance benefits and to make the refunds for benefits. The 2003 Enteroviruses TWL project intended to upgrade the methodologies for diagnosis and surveillance of human enteroviruses in order to achieve standards necessary for international co-operation.

Effects

16. The 2003 Statistical Health Information TWL has already produced some outputs: the specification of the equipment and Terms of Reference (ToR) for software development were prepared and the methodology part is nearly completed. 2003 Communicable Diseases prepared detailed specification of the SW and enabled the Slovak specialists to study the operation of similar systems in other countries. The 2002 Social Security Systems TWL facilitated the professional operations of the Liaison Body and provided series of training session. Knowledge and skills in handling reimbursement payments for health care within the EU were gained. The 2003 Enteroviruses TWL introduced methodologies and organisation of the National Reference Laboratories dealing with diagnosis and surveillance of human enteroviruses.

2. EVALUATION RESULTS

2.1 Component 1 – Structural Funds Institution Building

2.1.1 Relevance

17. The 2002 Administrative Capacity programme was justified in that Slovakia still needed to give further urgent attention to the reinforcement of its administrative capacities. The overall objective and project purpose of this intervention were directly related to that and the main attention was shifted from the programming to implementation. The programme should have led to the effective and full use of the Structural Funds and the Cohesion Funds (CF). The Project Fiche (PF) correctly pointed out the need to take into account the four grant schemes (GS) included in the PHARE 2002 National Programme as complementary at the regional and local level, and co-operation and linkage should have been sought with other ongoing or finalised related activities and twinning projects. Unfortunately, during implementation these important linkages were neglected. In relation to SF operations, the part of the activities establishing the Information Technology Monitoring System (ITMS), supported also from 2002 sources, is fully justified.

18. The original intention of the 2002 Local and Regional Development GS focused on the establishment and testing of administrative procedures for the future implementation of the SOP Basic Infrastructure and were relevant, however, the implemented activities did not follow this purpose but duplicated some of the previous and simultaneous PHARE efforts. The 2003 LRD GS was in terms of needs justified and correctly addressed the low capacity of local and regional actors to prepare and implement SF projects, but it came too late for the current SF cycle. The activities of the two contracted TA were not relevant, as one was duplicating support provided for TS and the second project developed an online application and monitoring system after the application procedure was over, similar systems had already been in place, no future use was foreseen and ITMS was already operational. The original proposal for the 2002 Support for Intermediary Bodies (IB) appeared relevant, but the SF Call for Proposals were launched and the training activities were too late. Moreover, the same target group was provided with similar training as a part of the twinning under the 2001 and 2002 Administrative Capacity programmes. The proposal to develop a SF Management Information System (MIS) was requested despite fact that the ITMS was operational. This need was explained by insufficient functionalities of ITMS, which had not been communicated by the Ministry of Economy (MoE) to the Community Support Framework (CSF) during its preparation.

19. The PF design of the 2003 Strengthening of Capacities programme is questionable. The project directly builds upon the earlier programmes, which were unsustainable. The justification in the PF, to further train people due to the high staff turnover, is not convincing and requires completely different measures to rectify this deficiency. Training to prospective programme managers can only make sense if regional authorities become responsible in the implementation of Operational Programmes but, apparently, there is only one Regional Operational Programme planned for Slovakia (plus the

Objective 2 Programmes of Bratislava). All OPs are supposed to be managed by the MoCRD. Hence, there seems to be no real need for this project⁵.

2.1.2 Efficiency

20. As regards the 2002 Administrative Capacity initiative, delays and high staff turnover hampered the efficiency. TW as an instrument proved to be suitable for such type of assistance and the planned outputs were largely delivered but in terms of value-for-money, the expected benefits did not fully materialise. Two fields of activities were poorly addressed or untouched: capacity building in evaluation and preparedness for the period 2007-2013. The results from the substantial training activities are practically absent, which is often attributed to the staff turnover. The co-ordination activities with the complementary GS envisaged in the PF were not performed and overlaps and duplications occurred.

21. The individual 2002 LRD GS projects most likely achieved the planned outputs but the overall GS outputs were not monitored/ reported and thus it cannot be assessed. The number of the project proposals prepared, which qualified for SF support and were implemented, is not recorded. Similarly, the 2003 LRD GS monitoring does not provide any other information apart from 130 individual project reports of varying quality. The PF refers to the preparation of large, complex infrastructure and productive investment projects, which was not the case as the projects often deal with the refurbishment of local culture houses, sewerage in the villages, etc. Moreover, the GS has not been co-ordinated with the capacity building efforts. In both GS, the assistance with the implementation was outsourced to TA. The contracting of TA supporting the operation of Technical Secretariats (TS) within 2003 LRD GS duplicated previous assistance⁶. The second TA project record within 2003 LRD GS does not provide sufficient explanation why the development of the on-line application system was contracted, once the application procedures were closed and such systems for GS have already been developed. The intention to use e-application form was not pursued.

22. The assistance provided within 2002 Support for Intermediary Bodies (IB) was the same as the 2002 TW supporting IB for the Operational Programme (OP) in capacity building. No co-ordination between both projects regarding the corresponding institutional assessment/capacity building and training measures was identified, although there must have been substantial overlapping of activities with the same or very similar

⁵ After completion of the IE report the MoCRD announced new developments: In the new programming period MoCRD as Managing Authority plans to decentralise the implementation system of ROP. Based on the document approved by the Government (Report on the establishment of the Intermediary Bodies under MA at the NUTS 2 level and their involvement in the ROP implementation) the IBs will be created. The IBs should implement certain measures of the ROP. The establishment of three IBs at NUTS 2 level represents more effective and efficient use of regional sources – human, financial, institutional and information. IBs will be established as associations of legal persons, with the members: local government of NUTS 2 regions and MoCRD. The IBs will be located in the regions and will employ some 100 people each. People trained within the 2003-004-995-03-15 project will obtain certificates enabling them to work at the IBs.

⁶ As explained by the RDSA, the effort to reallocate TA allocation to the GS was not approved by the EC Representation and therefore not to lose the funds the TA were contracted.

targets. Moreover, any impact from capacity building in EU funding schemes for the private sector has now lost its rationale because between 2007-2013 the private sector is not eligible under EU cohesion policy. The development of a further SF Management Information System (MIS) at the time when the overall ITMS in the CSF department was operational is not efficient, in particular, as IBs are not obliged to use it. What can be expected in terms of value-for-money from 2003 Strengthening of Capacities TA appears highly questionable, however the TA team is aware of the project deficiencies and is committed to optimise the effectiveness of the project. The TA had to be refocused on the programming period 2007-2013 and the project implementation is running smoothly. The involved parties expressed their satisfaction. The regional focus of this project may lead to the situation that capacity building on 2007-2013 has been absorbed in the regions, despite the expectation that no major responsibility for programme management at the regional level is expected in the future. On the other hand, capacity building at the MoCRD for the new programming period has been very modest so far. Indicators of Achievement (IoA) are traditionally very weak for most of the PHARE programmes however this component does not provide any single reasonable IoA supporting justification of the achievements.

2.1.3 Effectiveness

23. In general, the project purpose of 2002 Administrative Capacity programme referring to the establishment of the relevant MA and to the development of the human resources at central level needed to manage structural policies was achieved and SF institutions were established. However, due to the considerable staff turnover at the ministries, the absorption of the SF training and its effectiveness was rather low. The quality of the implementation of the 2004-2006 SF programmes indicates to a large extent the effectiveness of the PHARE Capacity Building efforts. Based on the available information, absorption in the OPs Human Resources and Basic Infrastructure is progressing well, while the OP Industry and Services and the SPD Objective 2 Bratislava show poor fund absorption. The ITMS system is operational and utilised. No substantial effect on the preparation of the IBs for the SF implementation could be expected from the 2002 UIBF Support to IB as it had to be operational at the time of the project start and duplicated the TW efforts. Its main contribution was the ad-hoc assistance given to problems appearing during the implementation phase.

24. The expected benefit of the 2002 LRD GS – the establishment and testing of the administrative structures and procedures needed for the implementation of the OP - has not materialised. The administrative structures dealing with the implementation of OP were set up separately and were not assisted by this PHARE programme. The implementation of the GS projects was assisted by the eight selected TS, which were trained within a TA project and the same structure is used for the 2003 GS. The TA project, firstly training 12 local experts to train TS staff is simply ineffective duplication. While some of the TS and/or Regional Development Agencies currently fulfil the role of counselling and information centres, their tasks in the implementation of future SF measures remain unclear. The achievement of 2003 LRD GS purpose, to increase the capacity of local and regional actors to prepare and implement projects, is realistic as any

experience gained by the final beneficiaries with the project implementation is quite visible. Nevertheless, such a justification should be provided through the number of these projects that are accepted for SF funding.

25. It is unlikely that the purpose of 2003 Strengthening of Capacities programme will be achieved. The project directly builds upon the forerunner programmes, which proved to be unsustainable. It is therefore highly questionable if further training activities are able to ensure the effective management and capacity to absorb EC funds. Training for prospective programme managers can only make sense if regional authorities become responsible for the implementation of OPs, however, so far, all OPs are supposed to be managed by the MoCRD (see footnote 5, page 9).

2.1.4 Sustainability

26. The sustainability of the capacity building initiatives is primarily influenced by the external factor i.e. absence of a professional and stable civil service. Due to low absorption capacity caused by rapid staff turnover and re-organisation of the ministries, which is likely to be repeated with the introduction of a new government, the sustainability of benefits achieved within the 2002 Administrative Capacity programme is not adequate. This equally applies to the 2002 UIBF Support for IB project. As regards the regional structures supported by the 2003 Strengthening of Capacities programme, sustainability is questioned as well because the previous PHARE initiatives delivering training did not bring sustainable benefits. Moreover, it is not clear whether there will be Regional Operational Programmes managed by regional managing authorities. At present it seems that in future the MAs will remain at central level, otherwise there would be a stronger focus on the regional dimension in the National Strategic Reference Framework 2007-2013 (NSRF).

27. It is rather difficult to assess the sustainability of benefits which were or are likely to be delivered through the 2002 and 2003 LRD GS projects (strategies, feasibility studies and technical documentation for the preparation of future SF projects). Although the experiences gained by the applicants are undoubtedly sustainable there are no efforts to follow up, e.g., how many of the projects prepared are eventually implemented within the SF. The established TS did not prove sustainable and TA projects from 2003 LRD supporting the same activities as well as the development of the redundant on-line application system cannot be considered sustainable either. Moreover the involvement of TS in the SF management and implementation is not fully clarified.

2.1.5 Impact

28. Assessing the impact of the 2002 Administrative Capacity programme and 2002 UIBF Support to IB project is problematic as external factors outside the interventions⁷ together with the late start of the interventions adversely influenced its contribution towards the overall objective. PHARE capacity building has not contributed sufficiently to the effective and full use of the Structural and Cohesion Funds. The potential impact

⁷ Problems of quick staff turnover and qualification, insufficient preparedness for future tasks, political influence and the organisation and re-organisation of the authorities

of the 2003 Strengthening of Capacities is also expected at a suboptimal level, for the same reason. The overall contribution of the 2002 LRD GS referring to the conditions for the implementation of OP cannot be judged as no data are available how the produced outputs were utilised. The 2003 LRD GS has the potential to contribute to the development of regional absorption capacity for EU Structural and Cohesion Funds. To assess the extent of this contribution, basic data has to be made available - however at this time there is no intention to monitor such data.

2.2 Component 2 – Small and Medium Enterprises Support

2.2.1 Relevance

29. Design of the identical 2002 and 2003 TDGS and 2002 IDGS addressing the competitiveness of tourism and value-added performance of industry was relevant and followed the general priorities set out in the National Development Plan (NDP). Equally, the capacity building efforts addressing the need to develop administrative capacities (central and regional) for SF project management problems were relevant but not sufficiently reflected in the programmes' activities. There was a shift of TDGS management responsibilities from the Ministry of Economy, previously running the 2000 GS, to NADSME implementing the 2002 and 2003 TDGS. However in parallel, the new Slovak Tourism Agency was established assuming the responsibility for the implementation of tourism measures within SF. If and how the structures built through PHARE implementation will be now utilised, is not clear. The utilisation of capacities built within 2002 IDGS and follow-up 2003 SISME GS is also unclear and makes the relevance questionable. As NADSME is simultaneously implementing two measures from the SOP Industry and Services, the implementation responsibilities were given to another department and, for the time being, the sharing of knowledge and skills is limited. No final decision/exit strategy is known as yet on the future use of the staff currently still dealing with the PHARE projects implementation. The needs addressed through the 2002 INTEG GS, supporting innovation and technology transfer, are justified.

30. The design of the 2003 SISME, as a follow-up of IDGS intervention, was focused on the provision of financial sources for innovation, while the GS itself provides grants to introduce innovations in companies. The original design of the intervention is not fully compliant with the implemented activities. The envisaged preparation of the GS application forms, guidelines and manuals within the project on management was replaced by training in computer skills, project and strategic management, and public procurement for NADSME staff, without any relation to the on-going SISME intervention and at this stage cannot be considered relevant. After the completion of several GS by NADSME, the need for the contracting out of monitoring activities should be questioned. The PF assumed Chamber of Commerce, BICs and RAICs would carry out the monitoring task but due to the potential conflict of interest this did not materialise. The TA part of the intervention focused on the need to increase the availability of risk capital for the innovations within industrial enterprises (venture capital, Business Angels Network). Grant beneficiaries are expected to report performance against the indicators

but not all of the indicators set out at the programme level can be considered valid or measurable.

2.2.2 Efficiency

31. In general, the planned outputs within this Component were or are to be delivered. A large proportion of the funds allocated was utilised via grant projects/ schemes and applied thus the most convenient tool for the preparation for SF utilisation. The MIS developed within the 2002 TDGS represents one of several attempts to establish such a system, however, in this case it was utilised also for 2003 TDGS and adapted for the 2002 IDGS and/or 2003 SISME. Based on the original design, the more significant involvement of BICs and RAICs was foreseen in the GS implementation. Their role was eventually reduced for both PHARE and SF interventions and became more oriented to the provision of services for the applicants/grant holders (provision of information, preparation of the applications), rather than assuming the task of regional structure managing and implementing SF. It is quite difficult to assess the efficiency of individual GS. The monitoring was performed adequately, however, the final summary reports of outputs from the completed 2002 TDGS and IDGS are rather general and clearly determined overall indicators are missing. The summary reports comprise financial data and numbers of projects divided according to the regions and area of support, but the reported effects, such as increased output values, improved quality standards, etc., are not quantified. Moreover, for the completed TDGS projects the first relevant data can only be collected one year after their completion when a tourism season is over. Nevertheless, the project indicators should be monitored during the next three years and provide some measurable justification of the results.

32. The 2003 TDGS and 2003 SISME GS are being implemented after some delays due to the public procurement process, which is traditionally the bottleneck of the grant projects' implementation, in particular, if construction is involved. Moreover, further delays occurred in connection with the amendment of the public procurement law, based on which the management team had to issue new instructions for the grant recipients. Although the grant beneficiaries engaged authorised persons for public procurement, corrective measures had to be applied quite often. As noted by the management team, the quality of the projects has improved in comparison to the previous GS but the budgeting part remains the most problematic and the project management on the side of the beneficiaries is still rather weak. Although the interest of applicants for 2002 TDGS was lower than in 2002, most likely due to the lower allocation, low success rate plus costly and time-consuming preparation, the support schemes with for this type of SMEs are in high demanded. State support schemes provide much lower grants of a non-investment character and are launched only occasionally.

33. The management of the GS provides a rather contradictory picture. On one hand, NADSME is the only Implementing Agency performing on-the-spot monitoring for the three years following projects' completion and overall it has performed well. On the other hand, the necessity for repeated contracting of TA projects assisting in preparation/ implementation for every GS is not clear. This seems to be redundant although it is

explained partly by insufficient capacities of staff, limitations in travel arrangements and better flexibility of contractors. Some of the activities, such as the study visit organised for the staff managing TDGS are considered ineffective. For the time being, the efficiency is questioned for SISME and INTEG venture capital windows, as none of the companies complied with the investment criteria⁸. The final result, reporting four managers working for the incubators out of eight ,trained and selected persons within the 2002 INTEG programme is not an example of good value-for-money. The Bratislava incubator is performing well, staff are active and the incubated companies are considered innovative, but this is, so far, less true in case of the incubator in Sladkovicovo. The capital window was established but none of the companies qualified for venture capital operation. 2003 SISME GS is ongoing without any substantial difficulties however based on the assessment of the established venture capital fund there is the lack of development and introduction of new products and/or technological innovations in the enterprises. Despite previous experience of NADSME staff, most of the activities linked with the GS were contracted out: the information campaign was completed, projects selected and monitoring is taking place.

2.2.3 Effectiveness

34. As regards the project purpose of 2002 and 2003 TDGS, the part referring to increased competitiveness of tourism can be considered achieved or likely to be achieved, however, the indicators do not enable a judgement of the extent of this achievement. The second part of the purpose addressing strengthening of administrative capacities for SF management and/or MoE's tourism section capacities, brought the benefits/experience to the grant applicants only. As mentioned above, the SF tourism initiatives are managed by the Slovak Tourism Agency and thus the administrative capacities created are unlikely to be utilised for the intended purpose. Based on the IoA stating 80 to 100 implemented projects, the purpose of 2002 IDGS programme should be fully achieved, however, it is not considered sufficient to justify the expected enhanced added value of Slovak industry.

35. For the time being, the expected benefits of 2002 INTEG - support to innovation and technology transfer through the establishment of technology incubators - has not fully materialised. Although both of the established incubators provide facilities for some 30 incubated companies, none of them is currently suitable or able to fulfil the conditions⁹ for venture capital operation. The aim of 2003 SISME intervention set out as increasing availability of financial sources for innovative companies through venture capital investment scheme has not been achieved. Although the capital window is established and investment possibilities were offered to successful and unsuccessful applicants of SISME GS, the companies were not found sufficiently innovative because the expected introduction of product and technology innovation is missing. The expected number of 30 investments (stated in the IoA) in innovation companies was too ambitious.

⁸ the IoA mentioned 30 companies for SISME and 10 for INTEG GS, TA setting up conditions for risk capital windows was completed in January 2006

⁹ most frequent problem are too high investment required, missing market and research, non-existing prototype

One project from the machinery area is in the final phase of negotiation, some others are being prepared.

2.2.4 Sustainability

36. When judging the sustainability of 2002 TDGS and 2002 IDGS, in particular their individual grant projects, it is likely that the outcomes for final beneficiaries and end-users will be largely sustainable. Less encouraging is the sustainability of administrative capacities. Those established to manage the 2002 and 2003 TDGS are not to be used for this purpose in the future, as the Slovak Tourist Board became the IB for SF Tourism initiatives. The IDGS management capacities may strengthen the existing NADSME SF Department. In this respect, the capacity could potentially be exploited. Development of regional administrative capacities has not really been initiated and, for the time being, it is difficult to predict the future development in terms of SF structures for the up-coming period. The utilisation of the grant recipient skills is also questionable as these do not belong to the eligible applicants for SF measures. As regards the 2003 SISME intervention, it is likely that the investment funds will be used for small-scale operations. A similar effect is predicted for the 2002 INTEG scheme where the incubators should be able to fulfil their role. This prediction is so far fully applicable to the Bratislava incubator which is actively seeking ways for economic viability. This is less true for Sladkovicovo, where the sustainability of training efforts was not guaranteed, trained staff left and the incubators has no management to secure its proper operation.

2.2.5 Impact

37. According to the planning documents the implementation of 2002 TDGS was supposed to contribute to the establishment of administrative capacities for the effective use of SF, however, this impact is likely to be negligible in the area of tourism. The 2003 TDGS is expected to strengthen central, regional and local capacities for the same purpose but the contribution in this sense is unlikely to be substantial. On the other hand, the contribution to increased competitiveness and productivity of SMEs through innovations could be to some extent attributed to the 2002 IDGS, 2003 SISME and 2002 INTEG schemes.

2.3 Component 3 – Regional Development, Cross Border Co-operation and Joint Small Project Funds

2.3.1 Relevance

38. The 2002 Moravsky Svaty Jan Bridge upgrade was relevant to local needs in terms of cross-border co-operation and improving economic potential by facilitating tourism and commerce. The 2002 Oravice-Zuberec Road is a key road, of regional and cross-border importance, which has been a bottleneck for commerce and tourism development. Its completion contributes to improving conditions for economic growth in the region and attracting tourist traffic. Nonetheless, it is unlikely to contribute significantly to the

growth of GDP in the region to the levels of EU-average as envisaged in the objectives. 2002 Development of Environmental Infrastructure, which financed construction of wastewater infrastructure, is clearly relevant to local development needs, although in terms of cross-border impact the relevance is less direct. 2002 Environmental Protection GS chose among a limited number of applications and the projects were generally mainly of local relevance to a limited population. The objective of “improving environmental potential” is vague and difficult to assess. 2003 CBC grant schemes at the Polish, Austrian and Hungarian borders selected projects with largely local relevance. Due to delays these schemes are running in parallel with a number of INTERREG interventions, for which they had originally intended to prepare applicants. This is likely to have affected the demand for funding, reducing the number of projects to choose from. The 2003 External Border Initiative is relevant to the need of preventing isolation at the EU’s new external border with the Ukraine in the view of the tighter border regime in place. Supported projects include some with largely local relevance but also a few, which if successful, may be of significant relevance for the whole cross-border region.

39. The design of the 2002 and 2003 JSPF programmes is practically identical, with the aim of addressing small local initiatives in the area of local democracy, tourism, economic development, environment, health and cultural exchange; and from this point of view is relevant. As regards individual grant projects, there were some cases identified where some of the above mentioned areas were covered but the cross-border effect was very small (e.g. comprised the participation of two foreign experts from the partner institution at one of the organised activities). The cross-border feature was artificially built into the project in order to qualify for JSPF, but the counterpart would hardly gain any real benefit. How many projects suffer from similar deficiencies cannot be assessed because there are no summary reports available, and the scope of this evaluation does not enable to study all projects’ reports, moreover it is rather difficult to get access to the basic data of the individual projects. The number of the project applications was not provided and therefore the actual demand cannot be assessed. Most of the IoA were either not valid or, the figures could not be provided as they have not been measured/followed.

2.3.2 Efficiency

40. 2002 Moravsky Svaty Jan Bridge, Road Oravice-Zuberec and Environmental Infrastructure – Districts Kezmarok have concluded construction works and all subsequent procedures on time despite earlier delays. The bridge and road are in use, while the wastewater infrastructure saw delays in being put to use due to completion in the winter of 2005/2006. 2002 Environment Protection GS was concluded without significant delays in November 2005. 2003 CBC grant schemes were affected by delays. They have been contracted in the third quarter of 2005 following approval of changes in PFs in early 2005. Final beneficiaries interviewed have reported that they are on track to complete projects on time but some have noted the significant time pressure due to the period for implementation being shorter than originally envisaged in the PFs. This has likely had an effect both on the number of applicants and the overall quality of projects proposed, especially in the view of unintended competition with the already launched

INTERREG grant schemes in the same target regions areas supporting similar types of projects. Nonetheless, beneficiaries interviewed saw the experience as useful for drawing on INTERREG later. While the capacity for implementing the GS at the RDSA has increased, staff appear overburdened, limiting their capacity to communicate with beneficiaries.

41. Some of the JSPF's PF mentioned specific bodies to be established for the monitoring of the funds but these structures were not created, and management of the 2002 and 2003 JSPF on the Slovak side was officially entrusted to the MoCRD/ Regional Development Support Agency (RDSA). The assigned tasks are not managed at an adequate level because of the shortage of human resources. The three assigned RDSA staff members are dealing with the implementation of over 340 JSPF and CBC projects, plus recently contracted INTERREG projects, which far exceeds their capacities (see Annex 7). On the other hand, too much emphasis is given to the detailed financial control. Monitoring does not take place with the exception of some obligatory reporting, which is of varying quality. Most of the communication with the grant recipients concerns contractual arrangements, addenda, reallocations and other small changes. The reported financial status is not fully consistent and commitment/disbursement figures provided in different documents differ. Based on the disbursement rate practically all of the projects overestimated their budgets and the actual expenditure equals the advance payment.

2.3.3 Effectiveness

42. The bridge built over the River Morava in 2002 Moravsky Svaty Jan is seen as highly beneficial by local authorities with benefits at the level of the micro-region and increase in cross-border traffic. The frequency closures of the previous bridge due to high water have declined and the bridge is used by bus and lorry traffic, which was not possible previously. The 2002 Road Oravice-Zuberec has been constructed reducing distance from 45 km to 12.5 km and significantly reducing travel time for tourists in this attractive region. 2002 Environmental Infrastructure has brought significant benefits for a number of participating municipalities by improving conditions for local development through allowing local construction where lack of wastewater treatment resources had been a hindrance. 2002 Environmental Protection projects have been completed but due to problematic IoA in the original PF these are difficult to assess. 2003 CBC grant schemes at the RDSA have all been launched and contracted following earlier delays. Actual effectiveness will depend on the timely completion of projects but is likely to be reduced because of the problems outlined above.

43. Based on the available monitoring data for 2002 and 2003 JSPF projects, it is practically impossible to evaluate the achievement of the objectives. Undoubtedly some of the projects have established a good basis for future co-operation but it is not always formalised and no indication is available on how many projects were successful in this area. There are no data available against which to measure progress, e.g., how many mirror projects were implemented or how many of the projects resulted in the common INTERREG proposals, although it was reported that there were some. The justification

of the achievements via the valid IoA could not be applied because of the lack of data which were easy to report, e.g., number of events of cyclical character organised for the first time. The opinion polls of inhabitants living on the other side of the border was not carried out by the IA but recent news reported on a survey conducted by the Austrian side in the area neighbouring with the Slovak Republic. The results were rather disappointing after the operation of JSPF in the region for more than six years.

2.3.4 Sustainability

44. The bridge in Moravsky Svaty Jan is likely to bring continued benefits for the cross-border micro-region. It is operated by the Slovak Road Administration. The benefits of the new road at the Polish border in Oravice-Zuberec are likely to be sustained and may increase further if related road projects (continuation of the road through Oravice) are successfully prepared and implemented. The 2002 Environmental Infrastructure has been put into operation in a sustainable way with municipal ownership (most facilities are operated by the regional Water Management Company on behalf of the municipalities) and local governments already have plans at various stages to build on the results of the project with further infrastructure development.

45. Projects supported within 2002 Environmental Protection are mixed in terms of expected sustainability of effects, reflecting their varied quality – sustainability may be limited with some of the non-investment interventions but several projects have led to the formation or strengthening of continued cross-border partnerships. With 2003 CBC grant schemes being implemented the benefits and their sustainability will become clearer following the completion of projects being implemented. The mix of projects approved offers some sustainable benefits but there are a number of projects where questions exist over sustainability once project funding ends. Sustainability of benefits from GS presently carried out will be easier to judge after completion of projects. At present there are multiple projects which offer the promise of continued cross-border co-operation with existing partners.

46. The sustainability of the 2002 and 2003 JSPF projects is difficult to assess. Some of the projects have initiated co-operation because there are further projects implemented by the same partners, which is a sign of on-going partnership. However, there were also some projects identified, mostly implemented by NGOs, which clearly proved to be unsustainable and the activities completely ceased after the termination of PHARE support.

2.3.5 Impact

47. In general the assessment of impact of projects is undermined by problems in the original PFs, including inadequate IoA, missing baselines or targets and insufficient capacity and arrangements for measurements. Therefore, in most cases, only a very general estimate can be made. The Bridge in Moravsky Svaty Jan has improved conditions for accessibility, although data clearly enumerating impact are not yet available. The Oravice-Zuberec road is already having a visible impact on tourism

development thus improving conditions for economic growth, but contribution to the projected increase of GDP to the EU average as envisaged in the PF is highly unlikely to materialise. The 2003 Environmental Infrastructure project is likely to contribute significantly to the improvement of the surface and ground water quality in the border region, with effects mainly on the Slovak side but possible cross-border effects due to increased attractiveness of the whole cross-border region. It is too early to assess the impact in terms of tourism and economic development, and arrangements are not in place to make such assessments at a later stage.

48. 2002 Environmental Protection mainly supported projects with local impact; this is especially notable in infrastructure investments in wastewater management. The impact on the environment and economic development of CBC GS presently under implementation can only be estimated on the basis of the number and types of projects running. Some of the approved projects have a limited cross-border dimension – this is especially a problem with some local environmental investments and studies, which view ‘cross-border’ mainly by being implemented in a border region. A number of business infrastructure projects and tourism development projects show promise of more significant impact but this remains to be seen upon the completion of activities. Again little can be said about impact of 2002 and 2003 JSPF. Although, there could be some contribution of the JSPF projects to the economic development of the border regions it is unlikely that they would have any substantial impact on the regional GDP change. It is not possible to assess the contribution of JSPF to the improvement of the quality of life.

2.4 Component 4 – Roma Minority

2.4.1 Relevance

49. 2002 Roma Education addresses a significant existing problem of inappropriate placement of Roma children in special schools for the mentally handicapped. The institution of transitive classes is only relevant if regular primary schools are able to make arrangements to accept transferred children and broader relevance depends on the follow up on this pilot scheme. The second set of activities in this project related to improving infrastructure for Roma settlements is relevant to both national priorities and needs but it must be recognised that it only reaches a limited number of municipalities. Nonetheless, it contributes to similar efforts in other schemes funded domestically and from EU interventions. 2003 Roma Education is a further follow-up to previous PHARE interventions in education. It is intended to raise educational levels by supporting children in the higher grades of primary school through tutoring in order to motivate and prepare them for continuing their education at secondary school. This addresses a clearly identified problem constraining educational achievement of a portion of the Roma minority. Additional activities are targeted at secondary schools, by developing multicultural training systems for use with socially disadvantaged youth and preparing training courses for pupils to equip them for entering the labour market and a business environment. The latter’s relevance depends on general local economic conditions, and it must be recognised that it hinges on the success of interventions at much earlier stages of Roma children’s education,

especially at the pre-school and primary school stage. The 2003 Roma Health programme is planned as a pilot testing activity, trying to improve Roma access to healthcare and to introduce Field Health Assistants. The project is relevant to the health status of Roma directly involved and its relevance will increase further if project results are used on a greater scale.

2.4.2 Efficiency

50. The 2002 Roma Education has responded appropriately to changes in the education system (decentralisation of responsibility for primary education to municipalities), which had posed problems for the original design. The infrastructure portion of the project was carried out without substantial implementation problems and has led to timely approval of construction documentation in most cases, creating room to actually build the planned infrastructure in the near future. The 2003 Roma Education has encountered difficulties related to time pressure in implementation, which to a large degree, reflect the complex nature of the project. Problems have been resolved and activities carried out as planned and most educational materials produced have gained the required approval. Successful implementation will require appropriate dissemination, as well as steps by the Ministry of Education (MoEd) to use the results beyond the schools directly involved in the project. The projects within 2003 Roma Health Care are under implementation with minor issues arising in the implementation actively resolved by the project contractor and management. One difficulty, not directly under the project management's responsibility, concerned the lack of interest of bidders to carry out four of the nine projected reconstructions of healthcare facilities. This is attributable to the complexity of the public procurement process. All of the above projects have encountered some difficulties but these were recognised and addressed, mostly without detrimental effects on efficiency. A request to extend the project implementation period is pending.

2.4.3 Effectiveness

51. 2002 Roma Education concluded with the presentation of results in May 2006, with the key outputs prepared as intended. Only a limited number of children have actually been transferred from transitive classes in special schools to regular schools but this can by no means be seen as project failure¹⁰. The lessons learned showed that the work with the participating children needs to continue beyond the project's duration and further transfers are envisaged for the following school year. The classes will continue as a part of an experiment carried out by the Research Institute of Child Psychology and Patopsychology. Further steps by the MoEd will be needed to ensure that the materials produced are applied more widely both in terms of changes in legislation and financing arrangements. Some steps have been taken but at the moment no clear arrangements are in place to ensure the spread of the results to the whole school system. The technical documentation for infrastructure construction has been prepared in the planned number of municipalities and mayors interviewed hope to receive further financing from MoCRD to build the planned

¹⁰ More children passing the transitive class will attend regular basic schools in the schools year 2006/2007. According to the Ministry of Education SR, exact numbers of reintegrated children can be provided at the beginning of the school year 2006/2007.

infrastructure. The documentation prepared is consistent with the requirements of SF support and the MoCRD is actively seeking a way to obtain the required financing. 2003 Roma Education is in the process of implementation but most activities have been carried out as intended with planned or with a slightly higher number of teachers trained in each of the three activities, and materials produced. Again, effects will depend on the ability of the MoEd to mainstream the materials produced. 2003 Roma Health Care is performing activities as planned and steps are being taken to measure the effects by the project contractor at the project management's request. Broader results will depend on the willingness of the Ministry of Health (MoH) and its subordinated organisations (Public Health Authority offices) to continue supporting the institution of Field Health Assistants and spread it to other localities where they are needed using the project's results.

2.4.4 Sustainability

52. In all three projects' sustainability of results depends on whether the pilot nature of the interventions will be followed up by appropriate system-wide use of results. For 2002 Roma Education this entails changes in legislation and financing. For 2003 Roma Education some of the participating schools intend to continue delivering training and assistance to pupils using methodologies developed in the project while some others indicated this would require further project financing. To achieve dynamic sustainability the education authorities need to make arrangements to introduce more broadly multicultural education in accordance with the existing National Programme, support further spread of materials on primary school tutoring and their use, as well as the use of materials developed for secondary school preparing pupils for the labour market and business. 2003 Health Care is also a pilot initiative and its sustainability of existing benefits will depend on the ability of Public Health Authority regional offices to continue supporting Field Health Assistants after the project concludes where they currently operate. Further follow-up must include the use of methodologies and materials developed in additional localities, which can benefit from these. In its present state, the NSRF for 2007-2013 includes measures that would allow for the continued support of Field Health Assistants.

2.4.5 Impact

53. The 2002 Roma Education has seen impact on the direct beneficiaries but broader impact requires further follow-up as outlined above. The intervention in 2003 Roma Education is in a similar situation – impacts have materialised on a limited scale and can be much broader with appropriate follow up using the project's results. 2003 Roma Health Care has contributed to the improvement of clients' health according to monitoring carried out within the project and could have substantial impact on broader Roma population if the pilot is followed up. As pointed out in earlier evaluation, the likely overall *impact* on Roma mortality and morbidity as currently identified in the planning documents is unlikely as the indicator was not chosen appropriately.

2.5 Component 5 – Human Resources Development and European Social Fund Preparation

2.5.1 Relevance

54. The main problems and needs addressed within the HRD and ESF Preparation component were twofold: (i) combating unemployment and (ii) preparation for upcoming implementation of ESF measures. ‘Upcoming’ originally meant the 2004 – 2006 period but due to delays it had to be adjusted to reflect more the needs of the 2007–2013 programming cycle. The original planning documents also addressed the need to develop administrative capacities at regional and local levels, however, the actual activities were reduced to numerous general and repeated training sessions. It was clear at the design stage that hardly any benefits for ESF implementation could be expected from these 2003 interventions.

55. The design of the 2002 HRD programme was consistent and in line with official policies, however, the implementation of its GS started in parallel with the ESF interventions and thus could only partly serve the purpose of a learning exercise. Similarly, the 2003 Equal Opportunities GS, which was to support the implementation of SOP duplicates the ESF measures and offers the same type of assistance with a slightly different implementation mechanism, creating competition for assistance from the same source of funding. Moreover, taking into account the size of the intervention and type of supported activities, it was unlikely to bring the desired benefit. The 2003 EQUAL Initiative would have been of higher relevance if implemented one year earlier, assisting the preparatory stage. Because of the delayed implementation, the 2003 ESF Project Management could not respond to the identified needs, moreover, the activities delivered often duplicated and overlapped with other assistance. Without changing the original objectives, the recently commenced assistance has been adjusted to support ESF implementation in the next period. The stated IoA do not provide sufficient indication of whether the project purposes were/will be met. Even where indicators have been quantified, they refer to data which are not available.

2.5.2 Efficiency

56. Although, the project activities were conducted as planned, implementation has suffered from several deficiencies. The 2002 HRD programme prepared the eight foreseen Action Plans but these have not been used for the preparation of the National Action Plan. The supply of equipment for TA project took place after the project’s completion. The database developed for the monitoring purposes of the 2002 GS was eventually delivered at the end of the project and replaced time-consuming manual counting of outputs but, for unstated reasons, it has not been utilised for the follow-up 2003 Equal Opportunity GS as originally envisaged. The monitoring of this scheme is conducted via on-the-spot control carried out by TA. The obligatory reporting by the grant recipients is of varying quality and does not provide sufficient information. The change of the staff at the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family (MoLSAF) and COLSAF, which managed the two previous GS, resulted in the loss of accumulated knowledge and experience as well as the

necessity to support the implementation by the TA team, substituting the lack of experience and human resources to manage the work. PHARE GS are managed by two employees solely dedicated to this task without any link with the ESF, which runs in parallel.

57. The issue of the conflicts of interest, emphasised in the previous IE, is still problematic and former administrative staff previously involved in the programme/project preparation are engaged in the position of PHARE TA experts. Procurement procedures are not compliant with the valid legislation as the TA contract for the 2003 GS was concluded with a company which did not formally exist at the time of deadline for the submission of proposals. The TWL assistance provided within 2003 EQUAL Initiative proved to be helpful although an earlier start would have better addressed the actual needs rather than substituting for missing local capacities. Nevertheless the intended outputs were achieved.

58. The 2003 ESF Project Management TWL dealt with the establishment of the ESF Guidance Centres and provided training to regional governments, which were supposed to run the Centres. The decision of the MoLSAF on the Centres came one year after the project completion and the eight Centres were established at the Labour Offices. Staff were newly hired, without experience, and contracted for one year. The MoEd was not consulted about this and has no knowledge about the services provided by the Centres to the potential ESF applicants. No improvement is seen in the communication among the ESF bodies, which are still struggling with the same kind of problems on their own, instead of co-ordinating their efforts. The efficiency of the two TA projects is doubtful. The training efforts are often duplicated and overlapping. Despite a large number of training activities provided by numerous previous and current PHARE projects¹¹ for hundreds of participants they have not led to the expected value for money and no real benefits were observed as results of these interventions. As the current projects are the last PHARE supported interventions they do not receive adequate attention and lack links with and feedback from the ESF part of the MoLSAF.

2.5.3 Effectiveness

59. The achievement of the 2002 HRD intervention's aim, focusing on strengthening the administrative processes and the absorption capacity at local and regional levels, cannot be justified. The regions were expected to benefit, in particular through the experience gained during the implementation of grants in the regions, however these benefits have not materialised¹². The aim of 2003 GS on Equal Opportunities supporting the implementation of the HRD Sector Operational Programme through ESF-type of projects is running in parallel with the on-going ESF interventions. Moreover the projects supported providing short-term (two to three weeks) language or computer training can hardly contribute to the

¹¹ Training activities are currently provided within two TA projects for ESF Project Management and training in regions on Project Cycle Management and Partnerships are also reported by EQUAL Initiative and TA project within 2002 HRD GS (700 participants).

¹² As reported by the ESF Managing Authority the figures from the last call for proposals stated that out of 249 applications 9 projects fully met the administrative requirements and quality standards

decrease of unemployment. The different funding mechanisms have created competition between tools funded from the EU sources.

60. The 2003 EQUAL Initiative was appreciated but again providing mostly substitution for missing resources instead of solely advisory and supervision activities. Nevertheless, support for the MA EQUAL created mechanisms for effective implementation, correct control and launching of EQUAL and the initiative was launched and is running. The achievement of expected benefits within the 2003 ESF Project Management interventions can be questioned. The late establishment of the Guidance Centres with freshly trained staff is unlikely to deliver any valuable assistance. Moreover, the last two Calls for Proposals are to be launched soon and the assistance needed can be easily covered by the on-going TA project. Identical activities focusing on SF are managed by the same consultancy company and run simultaneously within the 2003 TA on Strengthening Regional and Local Capacities. In all cases the assistance/ training provided is too late to bring benefits to the current SF cycle and too early to address the future SF period as the NSRF is still to be negotiated with the European Commission and Operational Plans are only about to be completed.

2.5.4 Sustainability

61. As regards the 2002 HRD programme's benefits, these were only partly sustained. The management experience gained in the course of three subsequent HRD GS projects implemented by COLSAF was lost because of staff turnover. The utilisation of Strategic Action Plans is not known. The quality of projects supported by the follow-up GS and ESF measures does not show any substantial improvements and the interest of applicants was much lower, most likely also due to the availability of ESF funds. Similar prospects are expected for 2003 GS on Equal Opportunities; after completion, the future of the staff running the GS is not known. Most of the projects in both 2002 and 2003 GS delivered activities which are not very likely to have any sustainable effect and no measures have been introduced to follow what happens after the project completion. For instance, the staff were not aware that the software tool had already been developed for GS monitoring within the previous GS and was not utilised.

62. The benefits of the 2003 EQUAL Initiative TW are again only partly sustained due to staff turnover. Based on the current experience with the sustainability of training activities, not much can be expected from the TA activities within 2003 ESF Project Management. Provision of a one-year contract for the Guidance Centre staff does not contribute to sustainability.

2.5.5 Impact

63. In very general terms, the overall impact of the Component is strictly limited by the high staff turnover and timing. The contribution of the 2002 HRD intervention to the effective use of ESF can be partly observed in the final beneficiaries but is not visible at the MoLSAF and at the regional levels. Reviewing the quality of projects, not much can be expected from 2003 GS on Equal Opportunities in terms of the reduction and prevention of

unemployment, and increase in the employability of socially excluded people. The 2003 EQUAL Initiative provided necessary preconditions to implement the EQUAL Initiative. The contribution of the 2003 ESF Project Management interventions to impact described as prompt absorption and maximum impact for ESF is unlikely to be significant.

2.6 Component 6 – Health Care

2.6.1 Relevance

64. The programmes within this Component covered needs linked to the achievement of standards required from Slovakia as an EU member state in the area of health. The objectives set out in the programming documents are thus relevant. The 2003 Statistical Health Information intervention assisted the introduction of the EU applied methodologies for gathering and processing data on health statistics, to be provided to EUROSTAT and other international organisations. The 2003 Communicable Diseases focused on administrative and implementing structures of epidemiological and laboratory control to ensure their integration into EU networks and to strengthen surveillance of communicable diseases. In both cases, the TWL projects were complemented by software development and supply of hardware and/or basic laboratory equipment. The 2003 Enteroviruses TWL project is addressing the need to upgrade the methodologies for diagnosis and surveillance of human enteroviruses in order to achieve standards necessary for the international co-operation. The need for direct involvement of Slovakia into refunds for health benefits through a specific Liaison Body was addressed through the 2002 Social Security Systems activities. Although undoubtedly relevant, this assistance would have been more useful if implemented earlier. The IoA for the programmes were set out though they were not quantified and therefore it is difficult to assess the level of achievement.

2.6.2 Efficiency

65. The efficiency of the health interventions is in general satisfactory. No substantial problems occurred during the implementation, projects are well co-ordinated and co-operation with the concerned beneficiary institutions is ensured as needed. The 2003 Statistical Health Information TWL prepared the required tendering documentation but the introduction of EDIS caused delays in contracting the software development. This meant that the planned pilot testing activity within the TWL could not take place as scheduled but was replaced by the preparation of medical accounts. Nevertheless, the benefits of the assistance are likely to materialise; the new methodology for processing of data is applied and new software is being finalised. The 2003 Communicable Diseases TWL was also contracted late. The planned preparation of Terms of Reference and technical specification for the two complementary projects had to be thus completed by the beneficiary. The TWL assistance in this respect is taking place through the close co-operation with the software development contractor during the implementation. The delivery of the equipment was postponed because of the on-going reconstruction of the laboratory premises. The 2003 Enteroviruses project encountered some communication problems and resulted in the Resident Twinning Advisor's replacement. Despite that, the quality of the project did not

suffer and the guaranteed results are being delivered as planned. The 2002 Social Security Systems TWL was implemented on time and achieved its expected outputs.

2.6.3 Effectiveness

66. As regards the effectiveness of the health care component projects, the prospects are good. The 2003 Statistical Health Information TW provided the required methodological support which together with the hardware and nearly completed software should eventually enable the full provision of health statistical data in compliance with the EUROSTAT requirements. The 2003 Communicable Diseases projects are also likely to deliver the planned benefits. The administrative and implementing structures for the epidemiological and laboratory control should achieve international standards to become a full member of the professional international networks. At the same time the surveillance system should be working effectively and much more quickly. The 2003 Enteroviruses TWL project has practically achieved its purpose. The introduced methodologies and organisation of the National Reference Laboratories should thus enable them to achieve another step in the accreditation process. The 2002 Social Security Systems TWL delivered the expected effects and health insurance benefits and refunds are reimbursed in line with the EU legal framework.

2.6.4 Sustainability

67. Most of the benefits achieved within this Component should be sustained. The newly established National Centre of Health Information as the beneficiary of the 2003 Statistical Health Information programme has the internal capacities and resources to maintain and update the system. The same task however, will be more difficult to manage by the Public Health Authority, the beneficiary of the 2003 Communicable Diseases programme. Although it will undoubtedly sustain most of the benefits, the maintenance and possible future upgrades of the software system will depend on the available financial sources. The software system, which was created a few years ago (funded from the state budget sources) had a very short life as continuous financing was not available. The system was very rigid and did not allow the incorporation of new modules, which is not the case of the current system. The 2003 Enteroviruses TWL project is likely to achieve sustainable results and should be confirmed through the full accreditation of the concerned laboratories. The 2002 Social Security Systems project resulted in obligatory measures, following the legal measures applied in EU countries and therefore is considered self-sustainable.

2.6.5 Impact

68. In general, the interventions implemented within the Component should contribute to the achievement of their overall objectives. The impact in the form of the health monitoring system can be largely attributed to the 2003 Statistical Health Information programme. Also the 2003 Communicable Diseases programme will substantially contribute to the creation of the network for the surveillance of communicable diseases. The accreditation process of the National Reference Laboratories should take place with the valuable contribution of the 2003 Enteroviruses TWL project. The results of the 2002

Social Security Systems project completed two years ago materialised in the reimbursement of the health benefits within the EU.

2.7 Specific issues

69. The introduction of EDIS has not resulted in any substantial speed-up of contracting, so far, however some of the original transparency features are missing. The obligatory reporting by contractors to all involved parties was reduced (in some exceptional cases no reports on the project progress are required by RDSA) and the Monitoring reports do not always contain sufficient and accurate information. Therefore the Aid Co-ordination Unit as the body responsible for the monitoring and evaluation function is not properly informed about all running projects. There is also a risk that if documentation is lost for any unforeseen reason there would be no other source of information for the control purposes.

3. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 Conclusions and Recommendations

Component 1 – Structural Funds Institution Building

70. The majority of the 2002 activities within this Component were fully justified in the planning phase but should have been implemented much earlier to remain relevant. Due to the delayed start and changed conditions the interventions had to be re-focused to reflect the actual needs. In a few cases the assistance became obsolete but nevertheless was implemented and a “spending culture” attitude was preferred, meaning that the allocated funds were contracted although not always fully needed. Due to delays, the 2002 GS, intending to prepare future operation of SF, was started simultaneously with the SF. Consequently two instruments were thus running in parallel without any interaction. Important linkages among individual interventions, emphasized in the planning documents, did not get sufficient attention and the expected synergy effect was lost and led to duplications. The relevance of further training delivered within 2003 Strengthening of Capacities programme, is doubtful, and unlikely to bring expected benefits although there is some potential to change this status, provided that the current conditions are changed.

71. Efficiency was adversely affected by the late start to projects resulting in the operation of PHARE and SF structures in parallel, without co-ordination and information/experience exchange, as well as by unresolved high staff turnover. This substantially reduced the value-for-money of the delivered assistance. The absence of co-ordination resulted in the duplication of some activities. There has been inefficient use of software tools developed for the GS management¹³. While certain areas were excessively assisted, some others remained untouched, for instance, the MAs will soon face the need to have some professional capacities for their evaluation functions. The overall co-ordination of all PHARE interventions, as well as those specifically dealing with SF operation, was not properly secured and led to duplications. The newly established SF structures at the Ministries are too numerous to be efficient and deal with the administration of very bureaucratic mechanisms.

72. Effectiveness of the Component is disappointing. Although the training efforts of 2002 Capacity Building programme enhanced the qualification of staff, the system for managing the SF is not stable due to the turnover of ministerial staff which reduces the effective absorption of the training input. Moreover, various training activities have been repeated with the same minimal effect. Similar outcomes are expected from the follow-up 2003 programme. The establishment and testing of the administrative structures and procedures needed for the implementation of SF through the LRD GS did not take place. Practically all of the PHARE capacity building efforts implemented through GS failed as these initiatives were taking place independently and without co-ordination with SF.

¹³ Such software tools were developed for: (i) 2002 HRD GS and utilised for final reporting but not for subsequent 2003 GS, (ii) 2002 TDGS and adapted for IDGS it was also utilised for two follow-up GS, (iii) 2003 LRD GS and should be utilised for final accounting. None of the tools will be utilised in the future.

Moreover, a final decision regarding roles and tasks of the RDA network in the SF implementation is awaited.

73. The sustainability of the projects within this Component shows poor prospects. Most of the training efforts were found unsustainable and the same is valid for the capacity building activities delivered within the various GS. The direct benefits for the grant recipients, in the form of individual project outputs as well as the experience and skills gained during the implementation, show better prospects for sustainability.

74. The expected contribution of the projects to the operation of SF is likely to be marginal. The impact of the GS assessed on the basis of the programmes' intervention logic cannot be justified as in both cases the secondary monitoring data are missing. Nevertheless at least a part of the produced technical documentation should be utilised. The designed projects could be used to increase the SF absorption capacity.

Component 2 –Small and Medium Enterprises Support

75. Although the original design of the programmes within the Component addressed actual needs, the eventual implementation in the area of capacity building (TDGS, IDGS) was not correctly targeted. The structures dealing with the tourism and industry measures managing PHARE and SF interventions were built in parallel in two different institutions and thus the intended PHARE learning exercise became irrelevant. Moreover, some of the projects repeatedly provided the same sort of assistance (TA for GS implementation) or lost relevance by covering general training activities for staff which were about to finish PHARE and with unclear futures (SISME TA Management). Regarding the measures for risk capital and support for innovation, the needs are justified but lack strategic focus, and the expected outcomes are too ambitious for the respective allocations.

76. PHARE grant projects (mainly small-scale investment) for SMEs proved to be highly demanded. The grant schemes were undoubtedly efficient as regards benefits delivered to the grant beneficiaries however no measurable indication can be provided to justify overall benefits of the individual schemes. Experience confirms that the most difficult part of the project design is the budget breakdown. The implementation part is often hampered by the public procurement process, in particular for construction works. The planned involvement of the local and regional structures (BICs, RAICs and FCPs networks) did not take place and in this respect not much value-for-money was delivered. Overall, NADSME has always performed well without any substantial difficulties and therefore the initial TA projects should have been sufficient to gain the necessary knowledge for GS implementation. The repeated TA projects are not found efficient. The benefits expected from the venture capital windows have not yet materialised.

77. The projects implemented within 2002 and 2003 TDGS are likely to increase the competitiveness of tourism, although the set IoA do not enable to assess the extent of achievement. Equally 2002 IDGS most likely enhanced the added value of the Slovak industry but with the use of IoA it is difficult to assess if it is sufficient. The

administrative capacities of NADSME have been strengthened but will not be utilised for SF management as SF tourism measures are managed by the Slovak Tourist Board, industry measures by another Department of NADSME, and the current grant recipients are not eligible to apply for such support. Within INTEG, the technology incubators were established and some 30 companies are incubated. Whether this can be considered as support for innovation and technology transfer is not quite clear as none of the companies have qualified for the venture capital operation. The SISME GS increased the availability of investment possibilities but encountered the same difficulties. It also suggests that the expectations regarding investment operations were too ambitious.

78. Although most of the benefits could be considered achieved, not many can be sustained. Problems with sustainability concern mainly the capacity building efforts within TDGS (possibly also IDGS), which will not be utilised for the intended purpose. The positive outcomes of the individual grant projects are likely to be sustained. Most of the benefits achieved within the programmes dealing with the innovation and technology transfer (SISME and INTEG) should be sustainable. The exception is training of the incubators' staff, where half the participants left after project completion. Provided that the incubated companies comply with the conditions for the risk capital operations, the established windows should secure at least some small scale operation. Sustainability is in particular a subject of concern in case of the Sladkovicovo incubator, which is not able to perform in the absence of proper management.

79. The contribution of the 2002 and 2003 TDGS to the establishment of SF administrative capacities is very small and thus the expected impact of these interventions will not materialise. The contribution of the 2002 IDGS, INTEG and 2003 SISME to the increased competitiveness and productivity of SMEs is expected, to some extent.

Component 3 – Regional Development, Cross Border Co-operation and Joint Small Project Funds

80. Most projects were relevant to the development needs and priorities intended. The transport infrastructure projects (road Oravice – Zuberec and bridge in Moravsky Svaty Jan) were of significant relevance locally and in cross-border terms. For grant schemes, focusing on environmental infrastructure, the relevance to local needs was clear but the frequently supported wastewater management projects often lacked any obvious cross-border effects. Assistance to business infrastructure and tourism was relevant to both local and regional needs although the cross-border effects were not obvious for many projects. All 2003 CBC investment GS were delayed and are running in parallel with INTERREG operations and SF instruments, which reduces their relevance in terms of preparing beneficiaries for the use of SF. The JSPF projects were relevant, addressing local needs but also not always clearly demonstrating cross-border character with equal benefits for both involved partners. The usual design deficiency – invalid IoA or no data collected/available for the benchmarks set does not permit adequate monitoring and evaluation.

81. Most projects experienced delays in contracting caused by the inadequacy of original PFs and the complexity of the tendering procedures. Investment projects generally overcame these delays and GS have also been contracted with sufficient albeit not ideal amounts of time for implementation. The delays which led to the time overlap with other financing instruments affected the demand for projects but sufficient numbers of application have been received to allocate the funds satisfactorily. Project management staff at the RDSA has not always been able to work as closely as desirable with final beneficiaries due to their workload. Their closer involvement could in some cases significantly contribute to a better success for projects as many beneficiaries indicated they would welcome the possibility of more frequent on-site visits. This would also improve the quality of monitoring. The poor quality of log frames, noted in the preceding interim evaluation, creates problems for monitoring and evaluation of projects, indicators used are in most cases very inadequate and often not measurable or not measured. The same is applicable for the JSPF projects, where the monitoring function is performed at less than an acceptable level due to the heavy workload of the responsible staff.

82. The effectiveness of CBC transport and environmental infrastructure is adequate and recipients are seeing intended effects. Assistance under CBC GS is still under implementation and effectiveness can only be gauged on the basis of running projects. It appears that these will generally be effective but the degree will vary, with some GS not achieving a critical mass for effects beyond the limited and local outcomes. The achievement of general multiple objectives set for the JSPF is difficult to justify. Some of the projects demonstrate continued co-operation, some are missing this feature in the implementation phase, and based on the available information, it is not possible to assess the proportion of successful projects.

83. The results of investment projects in transport and environment infrastructure appear sustainable as the facilities have clear owners. Further investments are under discussion building on these results. For CBC GS the sustainability will become easier to assess once the implementation of projects is complete and their results are visible. The majority of the CBC projects will contribute to the achievement of their overall objectives. Some limited and likely indirect contributions by JSPF projects to the economic development of the border regions could materialise.

Component 4 - Roma Minority

84. PHARE interventions aimed at the Roma minority are highly relevant to the needs of the marginalised Roma communities and risks with regards to relevance caused by changes in the education and healthcare system mainly due to decentralisation are being addressed. In many localities, the projects connect well with other interventions such as those from the ESF, Social Development Fund and other schemes. The interventions are running efficiently and risks have been addressed appropriately in all three projects. The interventions have reached the desired effects in the case of the 2002 programme and the two 2003 initiatives are on track to achieve planned effects. All three projects require

careful follow-up by the appropriate education and health authorities to make sure that the results obtained are used beyond the pilot stage.

85. Sustainability of effects of these projects depends on local actors for the direct beneficiaries and in many places strong commitment exists. However, this requires that the pilot schemes, methodologies and materials developed are put to broader use, which will require changes in legislation and financing arrangements. To fully utilise the expertise used in these projects it would be helpful to make these arrangements as soon as possible. The overall impact on the wellbeing of the Roma community fully depends on these arrangements. Without them, the projects will only serve as a useful experience and contribution for the limited group of individuals directly affected. With the changes, they have the potential for broad national-level impact.

Component 5 – Human Resource Development and European Social Fund Preparation

86. The Component was correctly focused on the preparation for the upcoming management and use of ESF but required a prompt start of planned activities. Most of the interventions were delayed and therefore could only partly address the original needs; or addressed exactly the same problems for the next SF cycle. The PHARE GS were running simultaneously with ESF interventions and therefore could not provide the required learning effect. The original scope of the rest of projects' activities comprising numerous training sessions for hundreds of participants remained unchanged despite clear feedback indicating that these activities do not have any positive impact on the amount and quality of the project applications. Training as a universal solution for low project quality and interest of applicants did not prove to be helpful.

87. Efficiency encountered some difficulties. A part of the project outputs has not been converted into results or further utilised. Because of the high turnover of staff the experience gained from the previous GS implementation was lost. To compensate for the lack of knowledge and staff, TA was contracted for monitoring purposes that should have been carried out by the implementing body in compliance with EDIS. Communication and co-operation between PHARE and ESF structures is very limited and cannot provide sufficient feedback to provide tailor-made assistance for ESF. Project activities referring to training in the area of project design and partnership development are frequently repeated. Rules applicable for the procurement procedures and contracting of experts are not fully respected.

88. The effectiveness of the Component is not optimal. Although HRD GS delivered some positive effects, the achievement of its objective was not justified. An identical situation is predicted for the follow-up GS, competing with ESF measures as well as for the assistance provided to ESF management. The establishment of the Guidance Centres is likely to face difficulties because of the lack of the staff experience. Moreover, several ministries have their own networks of counselling centres with different tasks and responsibilities, existing without any central co-ordination, which is confusing for project applicants. The TA provided, despite being re-focused towards the next structural funds

cycle, is unlikely to bring reasonable benefits through the training activities. More successful was the preparatory work to launch EQUAL Initiative.

89. As regards the GS, sustainable benefits are not significant. The capacity building efforts are not sustainable for the same reasons as for NADSME GS. Action Plans were only subject of project activities but not much utilised, the developed software tool for GS management was lost. Some grant projects provided training which could not deliver sustainable benefits. The sustainability of EQUAL measures suffered from high staff turnover and similar deficiencies are likely to hamper sustainability of the PHARE assistance provided to ESF management.

90. The overall assessment of the Component's impact is also unsatisfactory. Although the ESF is performing relatively well (according to the financial data), this can hardly be attributed to the PHARE GS assistance. Equally the contribution of the GS to the reduction of the unemployment is likely to be negligible as is the contribution of the ESF Project Management to the ESF absorption. The only intervention where some contribution to the overall objective could be observed was TWL assisting EQUAL introduction.

Component 6 - Health Care

91. The projects are relevant and addressed needs, which although not necessarily obligatory represent certain standards inevitable for the membership in various international and European organisations. The main project was the methodology to comply with the EUROSTAT health statistics reporting requirements. The epidemiology and laboratory control of communicable diseases was also the subject of the assistance to enable full membership of the National Reference Laboratories in the European networks/associations dealing with individual diseases. A similar need was followed in the area of enteroviruses, where new diagnostic methods were introduced to comply with the required standards.

92. Implementation of the projects was efficient and no substantial problems occurred. The late contracting of TWL projects did not enable the originally planned sequencing of activities. Some of the activities were replaced and preparation of ToR was entirely left with the beneficiaries. Where possible, the TWL partners closely co-operated with the software developing contractors during the implementation of these activities.

93. The effectiveness of the Component is also satisfactory. All implemented projects achieved or are likely to achieve their objectives. It is also likely that these positive achievements will be sustained. The only exception, where this feature is not fully secured, is the software system for the communicable diseases, which lacks the financial sources for regular updating and maintenance. The expected contribution to the overall objectives is likely to take place and the overall impact can be largely attributed to the individual project achievements.

RECOMMENDATIONS TABLE

Taking into account that this is the last PHARE interim evaluation, the recommendations are provided only for such cases where corrective measures are still feasible and can be realistically applied.

Conclusion	Recommendation	Output	Reference/ Paragraph	Responsibility	Deadline
The simultaneous operation of PHARE and SF did not result in the expected transfer of know-how. The newly established SF structures at the Ministries are too numerous and deal with the administration of very bureaucratic mechanisms.	The ERDF and ESF management should assess whether the outsourcing of administration to qualified agencies and/or state bank institution having professional experience with this type of business (such as Slovak Guarantee and Development Bank), which is commonly utilised in the old EU Member States, would not be a more efficient and effective way for SF management reducing the number of employees to a minimum of highly qualified ministerial staff dealing only with only strategically important tasks and overall management.	Efficient and effective management of SF operations	20, 71	ERDF and ESF management bodies	With immediate effect
In order to comply with the obligatory evaluation functions for SF measures the MAs will soon face the necessity to seek for the evaluation capacities. As these are currently very limited it would have been desirable to create consciousness on that issue.	The CSF and MAs should propose a final decision on the division of the evaluation tasks and responsibilities, and encourage the establishment of a dialogue with the potential Slovak research bodies and/or qualified consultants.	Ensured operation of the future evaluation tasks	20, 71	CSF, MAs	With immediate effect
The absence of proper management in the incubator in Sladkovicovo does not enable its full optimal operation mainly in respect to its future financial viability.	NADSME should take steps to oblige the current owner of the incubator to employ professional managers to run the facility in line with the original intention. If needed their training should be funded from the owner's sources.	Secured sustainability of the incubator	36, 78	NADSME	With immediate effect
The Public Health Authority does not possess sufficient human and financial capacities to ensure necessary regular updates and maintenance of the software system for the communicable diseases.	MoH in co-operation with the Public Health Authority should estimate the required funds and identify the sources to secure funding for the effective operation of the software system.	Full future operation of the software system	67, 93	MoH, Public Health Authority	With immediate effect
Reduced reporting obligations of the contractors do not enable the Aid Co-	All Implementing Bodies should ensure that regular project progress reports are prepared and approved. At least an	Available information	69	IAs	With immediate

ordination Unit to perform its monitoring function.	electronic copy of the approved project reports should be delivered to the responsible ACU Project Managers.	for monitoring purposes			effect
Sustainability of effects of Roma pilot projects depends on local actors for the direct beneficiaries and in many places strong commitment exists. However, this requires that the pilot schemes, methodologies and materials developed will be put into broader use, which will require changes in legislation and financing arrangements.	For Roma projects the concerned implementing bodies should ensure that the pilot nature is respected and results are carried through into practice after physical completion of projects. In order to fully utilise the experience from these projects formal arrangements should be put in place as soon as possible.	Sustainability plans for each of the pilot initiatives	52, 85	MoEd, MoH	With immediate effect

3.2 Performance Rating

Component/ Project	Relevance	Efficiency	Effectiveness	Sustainability	Impact	Verbal overall rating
Component 1 – Structural Funds Institution Building						
2002/000-610.11	1	0	0	-1	-1	U
2002/000-610.13	0	0	-1	0	0	S
2003-004-995-03-08	0	0	0	0	0	S
2002/000-610.02 UIBF	0	0	0	-1	-1	U
2003-004-995-03-15	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	U
Component 2 – Small and Medium Enterprises Support						
2002/000-610.14	1	1	0	0	0	S
2003-004-995-03-10	1	1	0	0	0	S
2002/000-610.12	1	1	1	1	1	S
2003-004-995-03-09	0	-1	-1	1	1	S
2002/000-642.01	1	0	1	1	1	S
Component 3 – Regional Development and Cross Border Co-operation Investment						
2002/000-642.02	1	0	1	1	1	S
2002/000-635.01	2	0	1	1	1	S
2002/000-635.02	1	0	1	1	1	S
2002/000-603.01	0	0	0	0	0	S
2002/000-616.01	1	-1	0	0	0	S
2003/004-704.01	1	-1	0	0	0	S
2003/004-704.02	2	-1	0	0	0	S
2002/005-665.01	2	-1	0	0	0	S
2003/004-995-03-12	1	0	0	0	0	S
2002/000-603.02 (SK/HU)	1	-1	0	0	0	S
2002/000-635.03 (SK/PL)	1	-1	0	0	0	S
2003/005-616.02 (SK/HU)	1	-1	0	0	0	S
2003/005-704.03 (SK/A)	1	-1	0	0	0	S
2003/005-665.02 (SK/PL)	1	-1	0	0	0	S
Component 4 - Roma Minority						
2002/000-610.03	1	1	0	0	0	S
2003-004-995-01-05	0	0	0	0	0	S
2003-004-995-01-06	1	0	1	0	1	S
Component 5 -HRD and ESF Preparation						
2002/000-610.15	0	-1	-1	0	-1	U
2003-004-995-03-11	0	-1	-1	0	-1	U
2003-004-995-03-13	0	1	1	0	0	S
2003-004-995-03-14	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	U

Component 6 - Health Care						
2003-004-995-03-06	1	1	1	1	1	S
2003-004-995-03-07	1	1	1	0	1	S
2002/000-610.02 UIBF	1	1	1	1	1	S
2003-004-995-03-04 UIBF	1	1	1	1	1	S
Taking into account the contextual constraints on the evaluation, the sector overall is rated to be 'SATISFACTORY'						
ESC Monitoring Sector	1	-1	0	0	0	S

Ratings guide: -2 unacceptable; -1 poor; 0 sufficient/adequate; +1 good; +2 excellent.
 HS-Highly Satisfactory, S- Satisfactory, U-Unsatisfactory, HU-Highly Unsatisfactory.

ANNEXES

ANNEX 1 INDICATORS OF ACHIEVEMENT

Immediate Objective (Project Purpose)	Indicators of Achievement (Objectively Verifiable Indicators)	Remarks
Component 1 – Structural Funds Institution Building		
2002/000-610.11 Consolidating the Institutional Framework and Enhancing Administrative Capacity for Programming, Implementation and Monitoring of Structural Funds		
To strengthen the setting-up of the relevant Managing Authorities and to develop the professional skills of the human resources at central level needed to manage programmes in the area of structural policies.	Qualifications of trained staff	Not valid
	No. and quality of advice given and reports/guidance notes/ documents produced by trained staff in relation to EC funded programmes in the area of ESC	Not valid
2002/000-610.13 Local and Regional Development Grant Scheme		
To establish and test the administrative structures & procedures needed for the implementation of the ROP by supporting regional and local initiatives.	Successful testing of management systems for EU funding	Not valid
	Procedures established at each stage of the Programme cycle	Not valid
	Rate of absorption on the grant scheme	Not valid
2003-004-995-03-08 Support to Local and Regional Project Development Grant Scheme		
To increase the capacity of local and regional actors to prepare and implement projects funded under EU programmes.	Percentage of successful applicants	Not valid
	Rate of absorption on the grant scheme	Not valid
2003-004-995-03-15 Strengthening Regional and Local Capacities for Managing and Implementing Structural Funds		
To ensure the effective management & capacity to	Min. 1,000 people trained by core pool of trainers in year 2006	Not valid

absorb EC funds in area of economic and social cohesion.	Rate of absorption 2006 funds (end 2008 latest) increases for that of 2005 funds (end 2007) and 2004 funds (end 2006)	Not valid
	MoCRD (CSF MA) oversees consultative process for development new programme documentation for post-2006 SF/CF funding, with a min. of 12 workshops organised in year 2006	Not valid
Component 2 – SME Support		
2002/000-610.14 Tourism Development Grant Scheme		
To increase the competitiveness of the Slovak tourism sector and strengthen the administrative capacities of the central and regional structures to manage and implement EU Structural Funds type of projects.	Qualitative and quantitative performance of grant disbursements under PHARE 2002 Programme measured against the SPP Priority B TDGS benchmarks.	Not available
2002/000-610.12 Industry Development Grant Scheme		
To increase the value added content of Slovak industry through enhanced product offerings and process technologies through a grant scheme procedure, which will also have the effect of increasing the capacity of the central and regional structures to manage future EU Structural and Cohesion Funds.	80 - 100 successfully implemented projects achieving their projected objectives on time and within budget.	Output indicator
	Rate of absorption of ERDF	Not linked to the project purpose
	Full budget utilisation	Not linked to the project purpose
2003-004-995-03-09 Support to Innovative SMEs (SISME)		
To increase availability of financial sources for innovative companies through establishment of sustainable venture capital investment scheme.	Full budget utilisation	Not linked to the project purpose
	30 investments in innovation companies	Valid and measurable, but not achieved
	Increased awareness of MoE/EU activities.	Not measurable
2003-004-995-03-10 Tourism Development Grant Scheme		
To strengthen the Ministry of Economy's tourism sector operational and management capacities including the gradual delegation of appropriate functions to complementary regional and local	Performance of grant scheme (from quantitative and qualitative point of view) disbursement compared to PTDGS SPP and TDGS under PHARE 2002	Not enough specific

partner bodies to ensure the effective use of EU Structural Funds. The final purpose is reinforcing of competitiveness of Slovak tourism.		
2002/000-642.01 Innovation and Technology Development Grant Scheme (INTEG)		
To support innovation and technology transfer through the establishment of technology incubators	2 – 3 technology incubators established	Valid and achieved
	Venture capital window created	Output level indicator
	Number of common projects between research institutions/universities and SME sector started at the end of the project	The exact number is not known; as reported the conditions for such co-operation were created
	Number of new patents developed	Not valid
Component 3 – Regional Development, CBC and JSPF		
2002/000-642.02 III/0238 Moravsky Svaty Jan Bridge over the River Morava		
Improvement of the cross border accessibility at the Slovak – Austrian border through the construction of the bridge over the river Morava in Moravsky Svaty Jan	Improved accessibility at the border crossing	Not directly measurable, no baseline or units of measurement specified
2002/000-603.01 Environmental Protection and Nature Conservation in the Hungarian-Slovak Border Region through Local Initiatives		
Improvement of contacts of environmental protection institutions, establishment of actual forms of long-term co-operation	Increase (%) in (1) informal contacts (2) ad hoc forums (3) co-operation agreements (4) cross-border structures between environmental organisations	Invalid, as no baseline specified and units of measurement unclear.
Promotion of joint nature and environmental protection initiatives of local character (through the preparation and implementation of investment projects targeted at the improvement of environmental conditions)	Increased number of households served by new wastewater installations	Several investment projects awarded (sewerage) will increase number of households but no baseline or target level specified.
2002/000-635.01 Reconstruction of Road III/520 19 Oravice – Zuberec		
Improvement of the cross-border accessibility in the Slovak – Polish border region	Increased number of border crossing at the Slovak – Polish border	No baseline in project, no specific target
	Transport capacity used as forecast in the pre-feasibility study	Valid and measurable but not followed

	Accident rate as assumed in the pre-feasibility study	Valid and measurable but not followed, no data available
2002/000-635.02 Development of Environmental Infrastructure - Districts of Kezmarok, Poprad, Stara Lubovna		
Development of environmental infrastructure (wastewater treatment plants and sewerage system) in bordering region with Poland, District of Kezmarok, Poprad, Stara Lubovna	Pollution of river Poprad improved to BOD 3,96 mg/l	Valid, measurable after implementation.
	Pollution of river Dunajec improved to BOD 2,62 mg/l	Valid, measurable after implementation.
	90% of population in the region connected to the sewerage system (current situation: 30%)	Valid, measurable after implementation.
2003/004-616.01 Development and Support of Business Sites and Infrastructure, Innovation Activities and Human Resources in Border Areas		
Development and consolidation of economic relations in the Hungarian – Slovak border areas	Number of new investments attracted to the region (10)	Valid, measurable after implementation.
	Number of types of formally constituted partnerships and other long-term co-operation arrangements across the borders (5)	Valid, measurable after implementation.
	SME market share in local and export markets	Invalid, as no baseline or target specified.
	SME with new export activity (10)	Unclear
	SME income growth (3%)	Invalid, as no target date specified.
2003/005-704.01 Environmental Protection and Nature Conservation in the Slovak-Austrian Border Region		
Promotion of nature and environmental protection initiatives on local level through the preparation and implementation of environmentally targeted investment projects.	Quality changes in environmental protection co-operations	Invalid, indicator not measurable.
2003/005-704.02 Economic Development focusing on Support of Tourism		
Creation of conditions for sustainable development of tourism sector in the border area.	Development of cross-border partnership by the increase of co-operation networks	Invalid, indicator not measurable.
	Number of new products and services in tourist field developed	Invalid, indicator not measurable, no baseline or target and date specified.
2003/005-665.01 Business related Infrastructure Grant Scheme		
To improve business related infrastructure while	Number of new companies in the border area	Invalid, no target and date specified.

promoting economic development	Number of Polish tourists in the Slovak border region and of Slovak tourists in the Polish border region	Invalid, no baseline or target and date specified.
	Increased use of the tourist infrastructure	Invalid
	Number of eligible projects implemented	Invalid
2003-004-995-03-12 Phare External Border Initiative		
To support investment and non-investment actions of a genuine cross-border nature at the future EU external border region (Slovak/Ukrainian border)	Development of cross-border partnerships increased	No baseline or target specified
	Number of eligible projects implemented	No target specified
Several sub – projects fulfilling the objectives of this Project Fiche and Regional Development in relevant border region supported	Number of joint projects supported	No target specified
2002/000-642.03 Joint Small Projects Fund		
Promote joint small-scale actions, with a strong cross-border co-operation character.	Cross-border links intensified	Not sufficiently specified to measure, no data available
	Number of cross-border activities increased	Not sufficiently specified to measure, no data available
	Opinion of inhabitants living in the other part of the border (indicator of approval)	Not available
2002/000-603.02 Joint Small Projects Fund		
Encouragement and support for the creation of sustainable co-operation networks between local and regional actors in the border region.	Increased local/regional capacities to design and implement development programmes and projects for those successfully completed the training programmes	Not related to the project activities
Providing on-going assistance for participants in the identification and preparation of projects; increase personal and institutional capabilities for co-operation and participation in future development programmes in particular for the preparation of future INTERREG Programmes.	Increased number of qualified institutions Increased number of cross-border applications per available fund	Not valid
Development of common project management structures	Number of cross-border economic actions increased	Not sufficiently specified

2002/000-635.03 Joint Small Projects Fund		
To support development in the fields of small-scale activities across the border according to the priorities and measures set up in the Joint Programming Document (supporting mainly the following fields: local democracy, economic development and tourism, cultural exchanges, ecology, health, information and communication links).	At least 15 cross border co-operation agreements signed (within the field of local bodies and economic development)	Info not available
	At least 5 events from those financed through SPF are organised for the first time and are of cyclical character	Info not available
2003/004-665.02 Joint Small Projects Fund		
To support development in the fields of small-scale activities across the border according to the priorities and measures set up in the Joint Programming Document (supporting mainly the following fields: local democracy, economic development and tourism, cultural exchanges, ecology, health, information and communication links).	At least 15 cross border co-operation agreements signed (within the field of local bodies and economic development)	Info not available, moreover total number of contracted projects was only 14 and agreements had to be signed otherwise projects could not qualify for obtaining the grants
	At least 5 events from those financed through SPF are organised for the first time and are of cyclical character	Info not available
2003/004-616.02 Joint Small Projects Fund		
Encouragement and support for the creation of sustainable co-operation networks between local and regional actors in the border region.	Increased local/regional capacities to design and implement development programmes and projects for those successfully completed the training programmes	Not related to the project activities
Providing on-going assistance for participants in the identification and preparation of projects; increase personal and institutional capabilities for co-operation and participation in future development programmes in particular for the preparation of future INTERREG Programmes.	Increased number of qualified institutions Increased number of cross-border applications per available fund	Not valid
Development of common project management structures	Number of cross-border economic actions increased	Not sufficiently specified
2003/004-704.03 Joint Small Projects Fund		

Promote joint small-scale actions, with a genuine cross-border co-operation character.	Cross-border links intensified	Not sufficiently specified to measure, no data available
	Number of cross-border activities increased	Not sufficiently specified to measure, no data available
	Opinion of inhabitants living in the other part of the border (indicator of approval)	Not available
2003-004-995-03-12 External Border Initiative		
To support investment and non-investment actions of a genuine cross-border nature at the future EU external border region (Slovak/Ukrainian border).	Development of cross-border partnerships increased	Not valid
	Number of eligible projects implemented	Not valid
Component 4 – Roma Minority		
2002/000-610.03 Further Integration of the Roma Children in the Educational Field and Improved Living Conditions		
Successful implementation of the integrated system of educating Roma	Increased number of Roma studying at standard primary schools	No target or dates specified, will be met if project results are used appropriately
Municipalities able to improve the living conditions of the socially disadvantaged group of inhabitants more effectively	Increased number of municipalities using the technical documentation for construction of infrastructure	No target or dates specified, will be met if project results are used appropriately
2003-004-995-01-05 Support to further Integration of the Roma Children in the Educational Field		
Support and making it easier to pass from primary to secondary education for children coming from disadvantaged environment	Tutoring programme for preparation of children for secondary education introduced to schools	More exact specification in terms of number of schools and time frame is missing
Implementation of multicultural education at Slovak secondary schools	Multicultural development training programmes approved and becoming integral part of the Slovak secondary education system	Considered as valid at the national level, deadline could be useful
Adequate preparation of pupils for entering the labour and business environment	Training programmes preparing pupils for labour/business environment approved and introduced to secondary schools	More exact specification in terms of number of schools and time frame is missing
2003-004-995-01.06 Improved Access of Roma to Health Care		
Improve the access of Roma to health care and raise their understanding of a healthy lifestyle	Roma morbidity rates approach national Slovak averages	Too ambitious for one project, baseline missing

Component 5 – HRD and ESF Preparation		
2002/000-610.15 Human Resources Development Grant Scheme		
To strengthen the administrative processes needed to implement SOP-HRD contained in the National Development Plan at local and regional levels	Preparing and development of strategic employment action plans/SEAP (each SGR – 1 EAP)	Output indicator
	Building of partnerships at regional, sub-regional and local level	Output indicator
2003-004-995-03-11 Grant Scheme on Equal Opportunities and Social Inclusion Support		
To support the implementation of the SOP-HRD through ESF type of projects aimed at employability support and development of inclusive labour market	Decreased rate of unemployed from vulnerable groups (by 1.5% in 2004 compared to 2001)	Not valid because of timing and unavailability of data – vulnerable groups are not legally determined and statistically followed
	Decreased number of social benefit dependants (by 2% in 2004 compared to 2001)	Not valid because of timing, based on the estimate of current unemployment rate this would have to be some 6 000 people, which is unrealistic; moreover social benefits policy has changed substantially and figures would not be comparable.
2003-004-995-03-13 Create the Administrative Capacity for Implementing the EQUAL Initiative		
Support of the Managing Authority for the EQUAL initiative and creating of mechanisms for effective implementation, correct control and launching the 1 st phase EQUAL initiative implementation	Targets stated in the development plan of the Managing Authority achieved by 05/2004	The referred targets are not known and deadline has already expired, not valid as an indicator
2003-004-995-03-14 Preparing for ESF Project Management		
Slovak administration, intermediaries at regional and district level and potential beneficiaries prepared for the participation in ESF programme operation	Targets stated in the development plan of the Managing Authority achieved by 05/2004	The referred targets are not known and deadline has already expired, not valid as an indicator

Component 6 – Health Care		
2003-004-995-03-06 Strengthening of Statistical Health Information and its Harmonisation with EU Requirements		
Methodological and technical strengthening of capacities for provision of statistical health information according to requirements of relevant foreign institutions	New methodology used in the data centre	Valid, methodology is applied
	System passes all required performance tests	Valid, testing on-going
2003-004-995-03-07 Strengthening the surveillance and Control of Communicable Diseases		
Administrative and implementing structures concerning the Epidemiological and Laboratory Control of Communicable Diseases (CD) upgraded and surveillance of CD strengthened	The Communicable Diseases detection and response rate increased	Baseline and benchmark are missing and in this case more specific/ quantified indicators could have been provided

ANNEX 2 LIST OF INTERVIEWS

INSTITUTION	INTERVIEWEE	DATE
Ministry of Labour , Social Affairs and Family PHARE Unit Spitalska 4-6 SK-816 43 Bratislava	Mr. Ludovit Moravcik Project Manager	09.05.2006
Ministry of Labour , Social Affairs and Family PHARE Unit Spitalska 4-6 SK-816 43 Bratislava	Ms. Veronika Orsavova Project Manager	09.05.2006
Ministry of Labour , Social Affairs and Family PHARE Unit Spitalska 4-6 SK-816 43 Bratislava	Ms. Katarina Alexyova Project Manager	09.05.2006
Office of the Government of the SR Aid Co-ordination Unit Namestie slobody 1 SK-813 70 Bratislava	Ms. Sona Gabcova Programme Manager	09.05.2006
Ministry of Labour , Social Affairs and Family EQUAL Initiative Managing Authority Spitalska 4-6 SK-816 43 Bratislava	Ms. Barbora Vallova	10.05.2006
Central Office of Labour , Social Affairs and Family Spitalska 4-6 SK-816 43 Bratislava	Ms. Lenka Kolejakova	15.05.2006
Central Office of Labour , Social Affairs and Family Spitalska 4-6 SK-816 43 Bratislava	Ms. Jana Sirockova	15.05.2006
Ministry of Education of the SR Department for ESF Section of European Integration Hanulova 5/b SK-844 29 Bratislava	Ms. Denisa Madudova	19.05.2006
Slovak Medical University Limbova 12 SK-833 03 Bratislava	Ms. Shubhada Bopegamage	22.05.2006
Public Health Authority Trnavska 52 SK-826 45 Bratislava	Ms. Zuzana Kristufkova	22.05.2006
National Centre of Health Information Lazaretska 26 Bratislava	Mr. Lubomir Vlcek Director	24.05.2006

Ministry of Labour , Social Affairs and Family Section of ESF Management Spitalska 4-6 SK-816 43 Bratislava	Ms. Silvia Matusova Director General	25.05.2006
Central Office of Labour , Social Affairs and Family Spitalska 4-6 SK-816 43 Bratislava	Ms. Danusa Stromsikova TA Team Leader	25.05.2006
Ministry of Construction and Regional Development Regional Development Support Agency Prievozska 2/B SK-825 25 Bratislava	Mr. Peter Skovran Project Manager	30.05.2006
Ministry of Construction and Regional Development Lamacska 8 SK-811 04 Bratislava	Mr. Pavol Weiss Training Co-ordinator	30.05.2006
Ministry of Construction and Regional Development Lamacska 8 SK-811 04 Bratislava	Mr. Costas Hatzis Training Manager	30.05.2006
Ministry of Construction and Regional Development Department of CSF Management Prievozska 2/B SK-825 25 Bratislava	Ms. Anna Hroncakova Project Manager	01.06.2006
Ministry of Construction and Regional Development RDSA Prievozska 2/B SK-825 25 Bratislava	Ms. Lea Hajduova*	01.06.2006
Ministry of Construction and Regional Development RDSA Phare CBC Department Prievozska 2/B SK-825 25 Bratislava	Ms. Anna Reinerova Project Manager	08.06.2006
Ministry of Construction and Regional Development RDSA Phare CBC Department Prievozska 2/B SK-825 25 Bratislava	Ms. Katarina Sobcakova Project Manager	08.06.2006
Ministry of Construction and Regional Development RDSA Phare CBC Department Prievozska 2/B SK-825 25 Bratislava	Mr. Richard Hakszer Project Manager	08.06.2006
National Agency for Development of Small and Medium Enterprises Department of PHARE Programmes Zahradnicka 153 SK-821 08 Bratislava	Ms. Romana Kedronova Team Leader	08.06.2006

National Agency for Development of Small and Medium Enterprises Department of PHARE Programmes Zahradnicka 153 SK-821 08 Bratislava	Ms. Elena Pristasova Team Leader	08.06.2006
Office of the Government of the SR Aid Co-ordination Unit Namestie slobody 1 SK-813 70 Bratislava	Mr. Denisa Smilekova Programme Manager	14.06.2006
Office of the Government of the SR Aid Co-ordination Unit Namestie slobody 1 SK-813 70 Bratislava	Mr. Kornelia Cajkova Programme Manager	14.06.2006
National Agency for Development of Small and Medium Enterprises Ex-ante Unit Zahradnicka 153 SK-821 08 Bratislava	Ms. Zuzana Kovacova* Head of Unit	14.06.2006
National Agency for Development of Small and Medium Enterprises Ex-ante Unit Zahradnicka 153 SK-821 08 Bratislava	Mr. Bystrik Berthoty Director	15.06.2006
Municipal Office Piestany Nam. SNP 3 SK-921 45 Piestany	Ms. Drahomira Moretova*	20.06.2006
Municipal Office Tomasov 1 st May 5 SK-900 44 Tomasov	Ms. Nagyova*	20.06.2006
Municipal Office Galanta Mierove nam. 940/1 SK-924 18 Galanta	Mr. Polak*	20.06.2006
Dianovum, civil association Bajkalska 18/a SK-821 08 Bratislava	Mr. Blazko*	20.06.2006
Ipel Union Hlavne nam. 1 SK-936 01 Sahy	Ms. Ida Wollent*	21.06.2006
Union of Industrial Associations SR Racianska 71 SK-830 08 Bratislava	Mr. Stefan Lednar*	21.06.2006
Municipal Office Devinska Nova Ves Novoveská 17/A SK-841 07 Bratislava	Ms. Blanka Kissova*	22.06.2006
Regional Headquarter of the Fire Brigade Komenskeho 27 SK-974 01 Banska Bystrica	Mr. Ladislav Horvath*	26.06.2006
The Slovak Cyclo-club Nam. Slobody 6 SK-921 01 Piestany	Ms. Zuzaniakova*	26.06.2006
Tatra Bank Hodzovo nam. 3 SK-850 05 Bratislava	Mr. Michal Ruzicka Relationship Manager	29.06.2006

Ministry of Education European Integration Division Hanulova 5B SK-817 30 Bratislava	Ms. Julia Stepankova Deputy SPO and Project Manager	02.06.2006
Ministry of Education European Integration Division Hanulova 5B SK-817 30 Bratislava	Mr. Simeon Jurtinus Project Manager	02.06.2006
Energy centre Bratislava Ambrova 35 SK-831 01 Bratislava	Mr. Igor Ilias * Program Officer	15.06.2006
Association for development of South Slovakia -RDA Filakovska cesta 10/6 SK-984 46 Lucenec	Ms. Martina Pavlovkinova* Project Manager	15.06.2006
Municipal Office Rakusy 35 SK-059 76 Mlynceky	Mr. Alojz Vdoviak Mayor	16.06.2006
Ministry of Construction and Regional Development RDSA Phare CBC Department Prievozska 2/B SK-825 25 Bratislava	Mr. Jozef Borbely* Task Manager	17.06.2006
Office of the Government Section of Human Rights and Minorities Nam. slobody 1 SK-813 70 Bratislava	Ms. Jana Kviecinska Director General	19.06.2006
Municipal Office Sov. Hrdinov 200 SK-089 01 Svidník	Mr. Lubos Cegan* Project Officer	19.06.2006
Kysucké múzeum v Čadci Moyzesova 50 SK-022 01 Čadca	Ms. Lubica Kullova** Director	19.06.2006
Municipal Office Devínska Nová Ves Novoveská 17/A SK-843 10 Bratislava	Ms. Maria Simonova * Project Manager	19.06.2006
Municipal Office Petržalka Kutlíková 17 SK-852 12 Bratislava	Mr. Dusan Vavra* Vice Mayor	19.06.2006
Office of the Government Section of Human Rights and Minorities Nam. slobody 1 SK-813 70 Bratislava	Ms. Julia Spotakova Department of Project Co- ordination	19.06.2006
Office of the Government Section of Human Rights and Minorities Nam. slobody 1 SK-813 70 Bratislava	Ms. Kinga Novotna Director – Department of Project Co-ordination	19.06.2006
Štátna ochrana prírody SR Lazová 10 SK-974 01 Banská Bystrica	Mr. Michal Adamec* Project Officer	19.06.2006
Regionálne poradenské a informačné centrum Zakarpatská 19 SK-048 01 Rožňava	Mr. Ladislav Lorinz* Director	20.06.2006

Municipal Office Slovenské Ďarmoty 99 SK-991 07 Slovenské Ďarmoty	Ms. Margita Durkovicova** Mayor	20.06.2006
Združenie Regi6n „TATRY“ Hlavn6 n6mestie 6. 46 SK-060 01 Kezmarok	Mr. Martin Gallik* Director	20.06.2006
Regional Development Agency Senec - Pezinok Bratislava Self-Governing Region M.R.Štef6nika 1 SK-902 01 Pezinok	Ms. Luba Pavlovova** Director	04.07.2006
Special primary school (SPS) Levo6sk6 22 SK-064 01 Star6 Lubovna	Ms. Zdenka Petrikova** Director	04.07.2006
Special primary school (SPS) Michalsk6 39 SK-053 21 Markušovce	Mr. Stefan Siska** Director	06.07.2006
Municipal Office Hlavn6 28/184 SK-900 65 Z6horsk6 Ves	Mr. Svetozar Prokeš ** Project Manager	07.07.2006
Municipal Office Hlavn6 n6mestie 1 SK-936 01 Šahy	Ms. Agnesa Gubisova** Project Manager	07.07.2006
Stredn6 Odborn6 U6ilište Jelšavs6 317, SK-049 32 Št6tnik	Mr. Maros Raffay* Deputy Director	10.07.2006
Municipal Office Mal6 Slivn6k 48 SK-082 67 Terna	Mr. Ladislav Terpak* Mayor	11.07.2006
National institute for education Pluhov6 8 SK-830 00 Bratislava	Ms. Alena Stihova* Education Expert	11.07.2006
Pre lepš6 život, o.z. Rankovce 21 SK-044 46 Rankovce	Ms. Frantiska Ondrasikova* Director	11.07.2006
Municipal Office Obchodn6 1 SK-064 01 Stara Lubovna	Mr. Pavol Misenko** Project Manager	11.07.2006
Centrum prv6ho kontaktu (CPK) Komenskeho 3 SK-990 01 Velky Krtis	Ms. Katarina Skrdlova** Director	11.07.2006
Ministry of Health Project Unit of Foreign Aid Limbova 2 SK-837 52 Bratislava	Ms. Zuzana Skublova Senior Program Officer	11.07.2006
Ministry of Health Project Unit of Foreign Aid Limbova 2 SK-837 52 Bratislava	Ms. Iveta Krbatova Program Officer	11.07.2006
Municipal Office Hlavna 289 SK-027 32 Zuberec	Mr. Marian Jurina* Mayor	12.07.2006
Free time Centre Farbiarska 35 SK-064 01 Stara Lubovna	Ms. Marta Hanecakova** Project Manager	12.07.2006

Municipal Office Petzvalova 18 SK-059 01 Spisska Bela	Mr. Stefan Bielak* Mayor	12.07.2006
Special primary school (SPS) M.R.Stefanika 83 SK-075 01 Trebisov	Ms. Alena Magurova** Director	12.07.2006
BicyBa – association for support of cyclo transport Hanulova 5/D SK-841 01 Bratislava	Mr. Patrik Martin* Project Manager	12.07.2006
Municipal Office Moravsky Svaty Jan 803 SK-908 71 Moravsky Svaty Jan	Mr. Jozef Zajic* Mayor	12.07.2006
Zdruzena stredna skola Sladkovicova 2723/120 SK-069 27 Snina	Mr. Stefan Ivan* Director	13.07.2006
Slovak Road Administration Mileticova 19 SK-820 05 Bratislava	Mr. Rastislav Palkovic* Project Manager	13.07.2006
Slovak Road Administration M.Razusa 104/A SK-01 001 Zilina	Mr. Jan Mikula* Project Manager	13.07.2006
Municipal Office Laksarska Nova Ves 90 SK-908 76 Laksarska Nova Ves	Ms. Olga Prochazkova* Mayor	13.07.2006
EUROFORMES, s.r.o. Vysokoskolakov 4 SK-010 08 Zilina	Mr. Daniel Kotrc* Project Manager	14.07.2006
Constantine The Philosopher University Detached office Spisska Nova Ves Hviezdoslavova 15 SK-052 01 Spisska Nova Ves	Mr. Vladimir Klein * Education Expert	14.07.2006
Municipal Office Cicava 26 SK-093 01 Vranov nad Toplou	Ms. Maria Nehilova* Mayor	14.07.2006
Municipal Office Rokycany 45 SK-082 41 p. Bajerov	Mr. Peter Soltys* Mayor	14.07.2006
Municipal Office Gortva 138 SK-980 02 Jesenske	Mr. Jan Melisik* Mayor	14.07.2006

* telephone interviews, ** e-mail correspondence

ANNEX 3 LIST OF DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN THE INTERIM EVALUATION

Name of Originator	Date	Title of Document
All ToR		
MWH	13 April 2005	R/SK/ESC/0304
MWH	14 April 2005	R/SK/ESC/0404
Government of the Slovak Republic/ European Commission	2002	Financing Memorandum 2002 and Project Fiches
Government of the Slovak Republic/ European Commission	2003	Financing Memorandum 2003 and Project Fiches
Office of Government/ACU	27 April 2006	M/SR/ESC/06012/REG
Office of Government/ACU	2 May 2006	M/SR/ESC/06012/CBC
Office of Government/ACU	27 April 2006	M/SR/ESC/06012/HRD
Ministry of Employment, Labour and Social Cohesion, France	July 2004	Start up report Preparing for ESF Project Management
Ministry of Employment, Labour and Social Cohesion, France	March 2005	Final report Preparing for ESF Project Management
ECO	30 August 2004	Inception report TA for the project 2002/000.610-15
ECO	July 2005	Final report TA for the project 2002/000.610-15
European Social Fund Division of the Joint International Unit, UK	April 2004	Twinning covenant - Create the administrative capacity for implementing the EQUAL Community Initiative
European Social Fund Division of the Joint International Unit, UK	August 2005	Final report - Create the administrative capacity for implementing the EQUAL Community Initiative
Euroformes	December 2005	Inception report – TA Preparation for Utilisation of ESF at Local and Regional Level – part 1
Euroformes	February 2006	Progress report – TA Preparation for Utilisation of ESF at Local and Regional Level – part 1
Ministry of Education		Final report – HRD GS, Labour Market Quality
MoLSAF	December 2005	Final report – HRD GS Strategic Action Plans Development
The Netherlands Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport	March 2006	Quarterly report 1 – 4, Strengthening the surveillance and control of Communicable Diseases
Federal Ministry of Health and Social Security, Federal Republic of Germany	June 2004	Inception report - Strengthening of statistics health information system and its harmonisation with EU requirements
Federal Ministry of Health and Social Security, Federal Republic of Germany	June 2004	Final report - Strengthening of statistics health information system and its harmonisation with EU requirements
SOFTEC	9 January 2006	Inception report - Information System of Health Indicators
Euroformes	March 2006	Inception report - TA Preparation for Utilisation of ESF at Local and Regional Level

		– part 2
P-E International	January 2004	Final report Start-up Assistance and Training for Technical Secretariats
Service Partner	March 2006	Final report Development of an On-line Project Information System, TA
AJS Management	February 2006	Quarterly report 1,2 Strengthening of Capacities of Technical Secretariats, TA
IBS Slovakia	December 2005	TA SISME GS Monitoring
Ability Development	January 2006	Inception report TA SCC – Business Angel Network database
CEEN Economic and Policy Consulting GmbH	August 2005	Final report Support of future IB under the responsibility of MA for SOPIS
International Development Ireland	May 2003 August 2004	Inception Report, Interim Reports and Final Report TA to IDGS
ECO	July 2003 June 2004	Inception Report, Interim Reports and Final Report TA to TDGS
NADSME	January 2006	Final report TDGS
NADSME	January 2006	Final report IDGS
NADSME	January 2006	Final report INTEG
HYPODOMI	October 2005	TA for the development of human resources, institutional development and training in order to prepare the technology incubator staff
ECORYS-NEI	December 2005	TA Support to the Seed Capital Company in the Establishment of an Innovation Fund and Business Angels Network
Siemens	December 2003 July 2004	Inception Report, Interim and Final Report IT-Monitoring System for Structural and Cohesion Funds
Euroformes	November 2005 December 2005	Inception report, Progress and monthly reports – Support to Integration of Roma in Education
EuroPlus Consulting&Management	November 2005 May 2006	Inception and monthly reports - Deployment of a system of the Health Field Workers for selected micro-regions
ECO	May 2005	Inception and final report, monthly reports - Integration of Roma Children into Regular Primary Schools

ANNEX 4 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM PREVIOUS INTERIM EVALUATION

Interim Evaluation Report No. R/SK/ESC/0404, issued 14 April 2005

Programmes/Components evaluated: SK-0017, SR-0113 & 2002/000-642.01-.03 Cross Border Co-operation Slovak Republic/ Austria; SK-0011, SR-0102 & 2002/000-603.01& 02 Cross Border Co-operation Slovak Republic/ Hungary; SK-0015, SR-0101 & 2002/000-635.01-.03 Cross Border Co-operation Slovak Republic/ Poland; SK-0009 Economic and Social Cohesion; SK-0016 Supplementary Investment Facility; SR0107 Economic and Social Cohesion; 2002/000-610.11 Consolidating the Institutional Framework and Enhancing Administrative Capacity for Programming, Implementation and Monitoring of Structural Funds; 2002/000-610.12 Industry Development Grant Scheme; 2002/000-610.13 Local & Regional Development Grant Scheme; 2002/000-610.14 Tourism Development Grant Scheme.

Recommendation	Applied	Responsibility for Follow-up	Deadline	Remarks
In the event of further needs for Structural Funds capacity building, instead of generic training for voluminous numbers of beneficiaries, only tailor-made coaching in specific areas and for individual staff (Managing Authorities, Paying Authority etc.) related to the future ROPs (to be implemented in the next Structural Funds cycle) should be considered. In this instance, a certain proportion of the PHARE funds for the 2003 Strengthening Regional and Local Capacities for Managing and Implementing SF project should be earmarked for such direct measures.	Yes	MoCRD (ACU)	With immediate effect	Although the MoCRD originally committed itself to prepare the terms of reference and consider this recommendation to prevent any overlaps with the implemented 2002 project and ensure sustainability for a new 2007 – 2013 SF programming period, apart from re-focus of assistance to the next programming period no further measures in terms of tailor-made coaching were introduced. This is the subject of our comments under the Institution Building component. No feedback on the more specific measures taken was provided by the MoCRD despite our repeated effort.
NADSME should immediately initiate negotiations with the MoCRD/ Community Framework Support Department on the Structural Funds management information system, intended to be developed at the Agency, despite having the overall Structural Funds monitoring system in place. Only after inter-institutional clarification, NADSME should agree with its contractor whether there is still a need for a specific management	Partly	NADSME MoCRD	With immediate effect	The MIS software was completed, handed over to NADSME, installed off-premises and made available to all four Intermediary Bodies (NADSME, SEA, SARIO and SACR). MIS does not replace ITMS, however, due to its limited functions NADSME uses MIS software as a supplement to the ITMS one. The rest of Intermediary Bodies could consider the utilisation of the SW.

information system and in which form it could be established.				
Although evaluation is more a matter of external capacities, it would be desirable to create consciousness on that issue and to encourage the establishment of a dialogue between the MoCRD and potential Slovak research bodies and/or qualified consultants. A useful approach would be an open call for registration, where companies, individuals and think tanks in fields such as social sciences, economics, geography, regional/spatial planning etc. can submit structured qualification profiles, reference lists and statement on their financial performance. PHARE assistance could be used to specify the qualification and capacity needs and to assess the submitted profiles.	Yes	MoCRD	With immediate effect	For the time being none of the proposed activities has been implemented.
To make sure that PHARE objectives are achieved the institutions running both PHARE GS and SF measures, should find ways, for ensuring that the same people are managing both instruments. In case where different institutions are involved, very tight, informal and daily communication should be ensured.		MoCRD NADSME	With immediate effect	RDSA ensured an effective cooperation between the Department of PHARE program realization and Department of OPBI realization. Project managers implementing the PHARE projects are helping and recommending into the implementation process of the projects financed from SF and managed by MoCRD. After the PHARE programme will finish (30 November 2006), all people will be removed for managing the SF and will utilize the previous experiences. NADSME: After finishing PHARE programmes people managing relevant PHARE GS will be gradually transformed to SF measures (e.g. a former EAU Financial Verifier has joined SF Structures). Cooperation and transfer of knowledge and experience from PHARE Department and EAU to SF structures is ensured by regular weekly communication of directors, and by SF staff member's (Monitoring Manager) participating and presenting follow-up actions and project implementation reports in monthly meetings on a regular basis.

For all upcoming GS, the necessity to use TA for the preparation of standard guidelines and manuals should be carefully considered in the light of value-for-money aspects and synergy effects.	Yes	MoCRD/RDSA	With immediate effect	Most of the Technical Assistance (TA) projects duplicated previous efforts and were used for the monitoring purposes.
To ensure a reasonable level of efficiency, the Implementing Agency should review the related projects in the light of value-for-money aspects. In the case of INTEG (TA), a discussion should be initiated with the completed incubator in Malacky to discuss the details, to find the most appropriate and efficient solutions to be applied for the implementation of the INTEG projects.	Yes	NADSME	With immediate effect	The initial meeting with the business incubator Malacky was held in Vienna in May 2005, the second meeting of the INTEG team leader and the incubator was held in June 2005, where some aspects of TA carried out within the business incubator Malacky were discussed. Recommendations were following discussed with the INTEG TA experts.
In order to avoid again a situation where investments are completed but not put into operation the RDSA should ensure an adequate follow-up for the investments projects and ensure monitoring after the end of the disbursement periods. This could also provide a useful feedback on the actual success of certain type of investment activities.	Yes	MoCRD/RDSA	With immediate effect	RDSA did not constitute any annex to closed or prepared contracts for ex-post monitoring after finishing project realization and will fully use enactment 523/2003, §49.
In order to enable a more efficient management of PHARE GS, RDSA (and other concerned institutions) should negotiate with NADSME and discuss the possibilities for the common use of the established GS MIS.	Yes	MoCRD/RDSA	With immediate effect	RDSA communicated with NADSME however after the initial meeting announcing the need for licence further communication was terminated. The licence as such did not automatically mean any financial requirements but was subject of conditions agreed for the use of SW.
MoCRD should already now consider increasing the share of JSPF, to be handled by the capacities of the Self-Government Counties/ regional institutions, in order to reduce the workload at the central level.	Yes	MoCRD/RDSA	With immediate effect	No feedback on the actual measures taken was provided by the MoCRD and although the recommendation was accepted by MoCRD according to the information available no measures have been introduced.
To promote CBC, Slovak JSPF managers should seek possible operational synergies with INTERREG IIIA activities from 2005 onwards. The contractual arrangements regarding JSPF should be adapted to increase regional	Yes	MoCRD/RDSA	With immediate effect	No feedback on the actual measures taken was provided by the MoCRD. It was just reported that some of the JSPF projects resulted in further co-operation on INTERREG.

ownership of the projects promoted.				
In order to promote effective cross-border partnerships, project proposals providing clear evidence of real partnership, e.g. via joint applications, should receive a better rating in the project selection process.	Yes	MoCRD/RDSA	With immediate effect	Applicant organizations must have at least one project partner from the other side (county Zakarpatská) of the border. Project 2003-004-995-03-12 has to be implemented in Slovak republic. Project is classified as PHARE ECOSOC, National programme 2003 for the Slovak Republic.
In order to enable the better understanding of project design requirements, a shortened and easy to use Slovak version of the Project Cycle Management Manual, in particular its logical framework part, should be made available for any future GS applicants, as part of the Guidelines, together with an example of the project logframe. Moreover, all GS reporting forms should contain more detailed explanation and examples.	Yes	NADSME MoCRD/RDSA	With the next call for proposals launch	Because of the bad quality of logframes developed by the applicants, RDSA will not require mentioned document as part of Application form. NADSME made documents (guidelines and manuals) readily available on its Internet webpage. It also organised initial trainings for beneficiaries of the GS SISME (in July and August 2005) and GS TDGS 2003 (August 2005) on procurement procedures, writing reports and filling in reporting forms providing them with explanations and examples. NADSME staff updated the SISME Financial Manual that was distributed to all beneficiaries in the end of Feb. 2006. A new version of the TDGS 2003 Financial Manual will be distributed in March 2006. Moreover, SISME beneficiaries were provided with updated and detailed information and advices on reporting and completing project implementation on three regional info seminars in February 2006.

Interim Evaluation Report No. R/SK/ESC/0304, issued 13 April 2005

Programmes/Components evaluated: 2003-004-995-01-05 Support to Further Integration of Roma in the Educational Field, 2003-004-995-01-06 Improved Access of Roma to Health Care, SR-0107.02 Human Resources Development through Preventive and Individual Active Measures for the Unemployed, 2002/000-610.15 Human Resources Development Grant Scheme, SR-0110.01.01.12 Strengthening the Performance of Slovak Administrative Structure Required for Co-ordination of Social Security Schemes, 2002/000-610.02 UIBF HRD – Legislation in the Field of Education and its Eligibility for European Social Fund Funding, 2003-004-995-03-11 Grant Scheme on Equal Opportunities and Social Inclusion Support, 2003-004-995-03-13 Create the Administrative Capacity for Implementing the Equal Initiative, 2003-004-995-03-14 Preparing for ESF Project Management, 2003-004-995-03-06 Strengthening of Statistical Health Information and its Harmonisation with EU requirements, 2003-004-995-03-07 Strengthening the Surveillance and Control of Communicable Diseases, 2002/000-610.02 UIBF Ensuring Preparedness of the SR Health Insurance System to Apply the Acquis on Co-ordination of Social Security Systems

Recommendation	Applied	Responsibility for Follow-up	Deadline	Remarks
In order to secure sensible operations and continuation of community centres the Office of the Plenipotentiary in co-operation with the Association of Social Field Workers, should carefully re-assess and extend the amount of initial training and should plan follow-up training where fellow social field workers could also exchange experience. Networking between community centres should be set up by the Office of the Plenipotentiary to provide support and to promote exchange of skills and experience. A not on-site supervisor should be nominated to act as a mentor.	Yes	Office of the Plenipotentiary	With immediate effect	The recommendation was accepted however, this time the Office of the Plenipotentiary was not involved in the evaluation and therefore no further progress was checked as regards its application and measures taken.
The regional offices of the Plenipotentiary's Office should arrange, in co-operation with the municipal offices, visits of both Roma and non-Roma to see encouraging results (community centres, infrastructure, social housing) in neighbouring villages and to have the chance to discuss these best practice examples, thus stimulating and motivating others.	Yes	Office of the Plenipotentiary	With immediate effect	The recommendation was accepted however, this time the Office of the Plenipotentiary was not involved in the evaluation and therefore no further progress was checked as regards its application and measures taken.
The MoEd should closely follow the implementation of newly introduced education	Yes	MoEd	With immediate	As reported the Ministry of Education will carry out systematic surveys of newly introduced education system for Roma

system for the Roma minority. Systematic surveys need to be carried out to collect the necessary data (national level) on actual needs, number of assistants, number of established parents' rooms, frequency and purpose of their use, on the success of preparatory classes through improved education results of Roma children, including their attendance, etc. In this instance, a comparison is also proposed between PHARE assisted schools/ kindergartens and non-assisted education facilities.			effect	minority. However, so far no such a survey was reported to take place.
The implementing bodies (MoEd, MoH) should prepare, as part of the pilot project, a dissemination strategy, which would include training of relevant staff, foreseen to replace the contracted TA experts, as well as determination of funds and sources, needed to ensure that the dissemination is targeted properly and realised smoothly at the national level.	Yes	MoEd, MoH	At the beginning of project implementation	A dissemination strategy constitutes part of the project preparation and implementation. Training of relevant staff is part of the project and is being realised by the TA. 160 teachers of primary schools and 100 employees of secondary schools are being trained on the project activities. The school staff is financed from the funds of the school (the source is depending on the establisher) and will further disseminate the project results.
Where possible, MoLSAF should re-consider the current design of the 2003 projects and should find ways to use these funds more effectively, taking into account the need to include also regional and local levels in the project implementation.	Yes	MoLSAF	With immediate effect	MoLSAF submitted to CFCU modified TORs in accordance with actual needs of financing from ESF in the SR involving regional and local levels in the project implementation.
The RDSA, as the IA in charge, should clarify if PRAG rules were respected for the identified cases and where possible and needed the RDSA should introduce corrective measures.	Yes	RDSA	With immediate effect	The RDSA was not aware of possible conflict of interests. However, the agency agreed to investigate this suspected case. If the conflict of interests is confirmed, unduly paid funds will have to be recovered. No actions taken were reported.
All institutions involved in ESF management should be invited by MoLSAF to identify their common activities/services that could be covered by horizontal structures at the central and regional/local levels. For the time being, the provision of ESF information and ESF project generation services can be provided by	Yes	MoLSAF	With immediate effect	MoLSAF establish 8 GCs at the Labour Offices within the county seat of appropriate SGRs on 1 February 2006.

the Guidance Centres.				
The Institute of Health Information and Statistics (IHIS) and the Statistical Office of the SR should share the information on the project implementation and should consider the possible use of the same tools for the presentation and provision of statistical data for their end-users to keep the same format of data.	Yes	IHIS	With immediate effect	There was a communication between representatives of IHIS and SO SR. The meetings were devoted to a mutual information update and lead to full agreement regarding the final steps in the project, especially regarding the contribution to SHA and the using of the database.
The National Fund (NF) /National Authorising Officer (NAO) should call a meeting of all IAs, ACU and Public Procurement Office in order to clarify the valid legal framework and the rules that have to be followed for PHARE and Transition Facility. If some discrepancies are found between EDIS rules and the existing governmental directives, necessary changes should be introduced and guidelines, to be followed by the IAs, should be prepared.	Yes	NF/NAO & IAs	With immediate effect	On the Steering committee for EDIS PHARE in February 2005, the National Fund called on all IAs to describe problems or matters on dispute concerning the transition from PRAG to the national legislation in public procurement and send these problems to the NF. Next the Unit for supervision over public procurement at NF worked out possible solvings and discussed them at the meeting with the Office for public procurement. All problems were solved and the minutes with detailed descriptions of solvings were sent to the IAs. Since that the Unit for supervision over public procurement was asked a few times for a standpoint or opinion in the area of public procurement by IAs. These problems are solved also with the assistance of working group for public procurement, which members are (besides the Unit for public procurement) representatives of the Office for public procurement, the Office of the Government (ACU), the National Fund and IAs.

ANNEX 5 DISSENTING VIEWS AND COMMENTS NOT INCORPORATED

Comments not incorporated

Party/ Comment	Reference	Action taken	Evaluators response
Ministry of Finance/ CFCU			
In our opinion, none of the original transparency features are missing, obligatory reporting responsibilities required under DIS were also preserved under EDIS. In case of any further reporting responsibilities, CFCU is open to any discussions. As regards the risk of loss of any documentation, please note, that according to national legislation valid for public procurement and archiving, as well as based upon Financing Memoranda, all institutions involved in PHARE procedures are obliged to archive the respective documentation for 5, resp. 7 years. Based on this, there is no risk of loss of any documentatio at any stage.	point 2.7, Specific issues	none	This was just to say that obligatory reporting responsibilities are not always kept specifically for the cases where the Implementing Agency is at the same time the final beneficiary.
Ministry of Construction and Regional Development/ CSF Department			
It does not mention disbursement of one of the OP. However, the disbursement rates are not directly linked with the project 2002/000-610.11	part 2.1.3. Effectiveness	no action taken	This was just to demonstrate the best and the worst examples.
It mentions that the new SF structures within the Ministries are too numerous to be effective – this opinion could not be made on the base of the evaluation of PHARE programmes.	part 3.1, para 71	no action taken	Since PHARE has been the main support instrument to establish SF structures, and following the evaluation of the huge majority of these interventions the evaluators feel confident to present such conclusion. Moreover, the comparison with structures operating in the old member states leads to the same conclusion.
In general it is necessary to say that despite various external factors, the implementation of the projects 2002/000-610.11 Consolidating the Institutional Framework contributed largely to the improvement of administrative capacities qualifications (at the respective Ministries – MA) focused on SF. The	-	no action taken	The disbursement rate is not the only criteria how to judge the PHARE assistance but the programme was expected to have some impact (to contribute to its overall objective) i.e. to ensure the effective and full use of the SF and CF and

disbursement of SF is influenced by various factors, therefore direct proportion between low disbursement and the project implementation is not objective.			therefore this factor is mentioned.
Ministry of Construction and Regional Development/ Regional Development Support Agency			
2003 LRD GS TA for TS – TA was required by regions, GS was implemented in new conditions comparing to 2002 GS as the SR became EU member state, TA did not concentrate on TS training but trained 16 regional experts to provide info for TS and experts trained final beneficiaries, training also included communication strategy of EU, and publicity and visibility.	-	no action taken	2002 GS was implemented at the time when Slovakia was already an EU member state, according to ToR training should focus on TS and one of the TA activities is monitoring, no specific focus on beneficiaries training was mentioned neither in ToR not in the progress reports
...but often lacked any obvious cross-border effects ... needs identification of such examples	Executive Summary part B, component 3	no action taken	There are several examples, e.g. the CBC SK/A project taking place in Galanta was focused on the promotion of waste separation; the reported CBC effect was a lecture of Austrian experts at the local grammar school; another example was the project organising physical exercise for diabetics, where the reported CBC effect was donation of gluco-meters by the Austrian hospital in Berg.
Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family			
2002 and 2003 GS are not duplicated	-	no action taken	Not mentioned in the report
Change of staff at COLSAF did not cause any problems	-	no action taken	Administrative capacities were not sustained
GS 2003 is relevant as it increases opportunity of employment	-	no action taken	This is not the only purpose of the project
Design was approved and therefore should not be judged	-	no action taken	IE includes evaluation of design quality
GS was implemented with 3 years delay	-	no action taken	Could not be the case
Relevance cannot be assessed as “0”	-	no action taken	The project would be considered more relevant if implemented 3 years earlier
Efficiency and effectiveness can be assessed after the completion of GS	-	no action taken	The purpose of IE is to assess it at the implementation stage
Sustainability cannot be measured	-	no action taken	Sustainability is a condition for any intervention

Dissenting views

Party/ Comment	Reference	Action taken	Evaluators response
Ministry of Finance/ CFCU			
Concerning the projects 2003-004-995-03-14 and 2003-004-995-03-15 CFCU highly disagrees with evaluation of these projects. Although the PF design is in your opinion questionable, the implementation of the projects is running without any problems, is successful, with very positive outcomes and positive feedback from the recipients of the trainings, what will lead to the increased absorption from Structural Funds in the upcoming period 2007-2013.		dissenting view	The evaluators agree with the fact that the project implementation is running without any problems and outcomes are being delivered. However, based on previous experience with the same kind of interventions, not much is expected by the evaluators in terms of results and impacts (set out in the planning materials); the projects remain as presented in the report.
Ministry of Construction and Regional Development/ Regional Development Support Agency			
...operation of Structural Funds was started simultaneously with the Structural Funds, running in parallel without any interactiondoes not reflect the reality.	Executive Summary part B, component 1	dissenting view	The project purpose was set out as to establish and test the administrative structures and procedures needed for the implementation of the ROP by supporting regional and local initiatives. At the time when the project started the SF administrative structures and procedures had to be already in place, moreover, SF and PHARE structures operated simultaneously without any close co-ordination or co-operation. In general, RDSA tends to judge implementation of projects based on the immediate outputs whilst the evaluation is done based on the PF design and has to take into account results and impacts.
Important linkages among individual interventions, emphasized in the planning documents, did not receive sufficient attention and thus the expected synergy effect was lost and led the duplications , should be supported by real example proving that the synergy effect did not occur and where was the duplication identified.	Executive Summary part B, component 1	dissenting view	As quoted from the PF: „The IDGS is one of four GS designed with an objective of strengthening institutional capacity to manage SF. In addition to the IDGS are the following: TDGS; LRD GS; and HRD GS. It will be important that all managing bodies for these grant schemes co-ordinate their activities in order to share best practice and to enhance impact of supported initiatives. It is

			particularly important to co-ordinate with the RDGS since this will also support measures identified under the SOP for Economic Development.“ None of such activities has never been reported to take place. PF also mentions that „Collectively the four proposed GS will test potential SF delivery mechanisms“, which also did not happen and NADSME as one of the involved IAs did not object this conclusion. Duplication was e.g. identified with the creation of SW tools (IS) for the management of GS, where such systems were developed separately for each GS.
We do not agree with the statement that Training as the universal solution for low project quality and interest of applicants did not prove to be helpful . Repetition of training on project design and development of co-operation should be taken as positive and its effectiveness can be quantified via increased number of project applications in all EU funded programmes and via long-term effect of spreading knowledge for the group of inhabitants. Training is never sufficient as the human resources are changing and the environment should provide training opportunities to other potential project designers, which is proved via examples from the old member states, as well as the fact that good PHARE project managers are now working in the lucrative areas of banking and business sector.	Executive Summary part B, component 5	dissenting view	Having completed several projects, which trained a few thousands participants, the finding reported by ESF (where out of 249 applications, 9 fulfilled all the necessary criteria) proved that training cannot be considered as a universal helpful solution. Moreover, EU public funds are definitely not meant to train staff of private banks and business companies; the desired and expected results of these interventions were professional and stable/sustainable administrative capacities whose establishment was to be assisted by PHARE.
Statement that ...because of high turnover of staff the experience gained from the previous grant scheme implementation was lost is not acceptable . Such a statement requires analysis.	Executive Summary part B, component 5	dissenting view	All of the original staff involved in the implementation of HRD GS at the COLSAF left and the new GS is run by completely new staff who started the scheme with the lack of any previous experience. MoLSAF did not have any experience with the GS management.
Sentence Although the European Social Fund is performing relatively well , this can hardly be attributed to the PHARE grant scheme assistance... is not sufficiently documented as RDSA considers synergy effect of PHARE	Executive Summary part B, component 5	dissenting view	As already mentioned the effects of PHARE GS projects could not be the main reason for successful start of ESF as their implementation started later.

activities to be the main reason for successful start of ESF.			
The recommendation addressed to the Community Support Framework and Managing Authorities is considered by RDSA to be very important and in relation to the focus of the document, and not pertaining to the evaluation team.	Executive Summary part C	dissenting view	The evaluators expect a direct CSF Department reaction, moreover the evaluation team is not aware of any official limits as regards the importance of addressed problems.

ANNEX 6 ANNEX TO CHAPTER 1: EVALUATION SECTORAL SCOPE AND BACKGROUND

Component 1 – Structural Funds Institution Building

2002/000-610.11 Consolidating the institutional framework and enhancing administrative capacity for programming, implementation and monitoring of SF

This programme aimed at finalising preparations for regional policy and co-ordination of structural instruments.

Under Component A specific advice was provided for the OP Basic Infrastructure and the SPD Objective 2. The project provided workshops, on-the-job training, supervision and review, expert input, internships and study visits and focused *inter alia* on the activities of transfer of know-how to the practical operations of the implementation unit of the RDSA, to the MoCRD SR and the department for SPD 2, establishing procedures and supporting practical work in intermediary bodies, supporting the Agencies for Road and Rail with project management, establishing procedures and supporting the responsible regional bodies in implementing local infrastructure projects of the OP. According to the final report the intended results could be achieved to a great extent. A good success could be reached already for the SPD Objective 2. Here, permanent day-to-day coaching has been very effective in capacity building. Implementation of the OP was first hampered by shortage of staff and a far-reaching re-organisation of the MoCRD in May 2005.

Under Component B (SOP Industry and Services and INTERREG the effective and full use of the Structural Funds (ERDF) should have been ensured. The establishment of the relevant managing authorities should have been strengthened and the required professional skills of the human resources for the SOP Industry and Services and the different INTERREG-programme management structures should have been developed. The project focused on capacity building in the administration but also provided technical support to project preparation. The most important target groups were the relevant managing authorities. The project aimed at providing training and assistance for the human resources of the managing authorities (MA) and intermediate bodies (IB). According to the final report, activities have been accomplished as scheduled. Important activities were related to the assessment of the OP Industry and Services and the corresponding Programme Complement, assistance for elaboration of grant schemes and state aid schemes for the measures of the SOP Industry and Service, elaboration of an operational manual, setting up a staff recruitment and development plan, a communication action plan, training for relevant administrative departments and project identification and project pipeline development. Several conferences were carried out and activities focused on adjustments of INTERREG III programmes, establishing national authorities and co-ordination procedures and project identification and training of intermediates; advice was provided on financial control.

Under Component C (agriculture, rural development and fisheries) most results have been already achieved by early 2005. Component C was divided into two sub-

components, one of them dealing with cross measure programme implementation and the other dealing with measure specific issues. Additionally a number of conferences and seminars dealing with general issues have been implemented. Finally, one study visit and 4 different internships have been carried out. Priority was given to the assessment and adjustment of the already existing implementation structures adopted from SAPARD. Moreover, in the framework of this sub-component, 3 regional seminars on the financial control requirements have been carried out. Almost 49 persons mainly from APA HQ and regional offices were trained. Besides the above-mentioned activities, assistance has been given to the establishment of the monitoring system, including monitoring indicators and the establishment of a monitoring committee. In the context of sub-component II the Twinning project focussed on the measure design, the eligibility and selection criteria and the presentation of best practise examples. Emphasis was put on measure 1.1 (farm investment grants) and measure 1.2 (improvement of processing and marketing). Specific advice was needed for land consolidation and rural tourism.

Component D (Cohesion) included training activities for the staff of the involved departments and on-the-job support to the Ministry of Transport in the projects, working closely with the counterpart and the directors of the involved departments. The training concentrated on the handling of all EU-regulations and directives concerning CF and SF. The assistance was given to specific issues like eligibility of project and administration costs.

2002/000-610.13 Local and Regional Development Grant Scheme

The TA project was conducted with an aim to provide technical support and training for the staff of the Technical Secretariats and the Ministry of Construction and Regional Development during the start-up phase of the LRDGS in order to assure the implementation and monitoring in a way to guarantee an effective utilisation of the available EU funds. The outcomes of that project were successfully achieved and comprised awareness campaign and information in 8 regions, management of Frequently Asked Questions to guide applicants, workshops and training sessions, numerous guidelines and manuals, on-the-job training for RDSA staff and for selected Technical secretariats staff. The preparation of the GS was thus completed and staff was trained to assure smooth implementation of the projects.

The RDGS, funded under PHARE 2002, was composed of 3 linked but separate ‘Strands’ of activities: Strand (A) ‘Strategies and Partnerships’, Strand (B) ‘Local Development Organisations’ and Strand (C) ‘Project Development’. The figures on application and contracted projects are as follows:

Component	Applications	Technical Evaluation	Contracted Projects
A	323	118	39
B	184	62	28
C	261	75	27
Total	768	255	94

The contracted projects were successfully completed however no summary report of the GS was prepared and the overall outcomes and/or results of this assistance are not known.

How many of the prepared projects were successful in applying for SF support is not followed, either.

2003-004-995-03-08 Support to the Local and Regional Development Grant Scheme

This project (allocation of 6 M€) aims at continuing and building upon the 2002 LRD. It provides grants for local and regional applicants in order to prepare a project 'pipeline' for implementation under the SF and CF. Apparently, the 2003 LRD GS was intended to support the preparation of large, complex infrastructure and productive investment projects, which are identified as being significant in the implementation of local and regional strategies. Previous experience with building infrastructure (e.g. in the PHARE CBC and ESC investment) revealed that such projects are technically demanding (involving feasibility studies, engineering designs, the use of FIDIC contract conditions), time-consuming, and expensive to prepare. Moreover, not all regions have sufficient capacity to undertake the preparation of such projects (in terms of development agencies and consultancies with an understanding of programme requirements and appropriate project preparation skills). The available reports do not provide figures except the number of running approved projects, which is 130. The GS is managed by the TA team.

Strengthening of Capacities of Technical Secretariats for Management of the GS

TA to the technical secretariats was already provided by the 2002 GS, where Technical secretariats (TS) i.e. selected Regional Development Agencies were trained and assisted the implementation. Within the new contract the assistance is being provided to the same TS with the TA team represented by the Team leader, assistant and twelve local experts – in several cases these are permanent staff of Regional Development Agencies. The activities repeated already conducted training (project cycle management, public procurement), prepared project web page without any link to the MoCRD/RDSA pages, assumed administration of partner and project databases, which is in fact a list of partners and projects, and assisted with the selection of the projects. The TA is assisting with the project monitoring and collection of project reports. The training activities were also attended by the TA team of simultaneously running TA developing on-line system. Several activities were conducted as common as these are reported by both TAs in their reports.

Development of an on-line Project Information System

The project was designed with an aim to develop an on-line project information system for management and monitoring of grants despite the fact that the grant projects were already contracted at the stage when this contract was signed and this activity was clearly redundant. As required the system was developed but its availability is restricted and can be accessed only with the password. Apparently the system should be used for final accounting of the GS only; except that there is no future possibility to utilise it.

2003-004-995-03-15 Strengthening Regional and Local Capacities for Managing and Implementing SF

The aim of that project is – according to the Project Fiche - ...’to strengthen the administrative conditions for and capacity to absorb funding at regional and local levels, for the implementation of the Structural Funds support in Slovakia (both the 2004-06 period – National Development Plan, Operational Programmes plus Single Programming Documents Objectives 2 and 3 – and in support of preparation and absorption for the 2007- programming period). Further training to existing and new administrative structures and potential intermediaries on management of programmes and projects will be necessary due to a number of key factors: the ongoing recruitment/ turnover of public servants; the need to remedy the skills deficit evident in public administration in order to raise the overall management capacity for programmes; and the need to support the development of appropriate skills for SF among the new regional actors, including the smooth functioning of relations with final beneficiaries...’

The project, endowed with 1.7 M€, aims therefore at targeting and providing direct training and skills transfer to three main groups of actors, i.e. beneficiaries, managers/administrators and accredited trainers. By providing training and necessary skills transfer to the three target groups this project is intended to finalise the process of regional capacity building and will allow all stakeholders to exploit opportunities provided by the grant schemes.

Further training to existing and new administrative structures and potential intermediaries on management of programmes and projects is considered as necessary. This is due to a number of key factors, such as the ongoing recruitment/ turnover of public servants, the need to remedy the skills deficit evident in public administration in order to raise the overall management capacity for programmes, and the need to support the development of appropriate skills for SF among the new regional actors, including the smooth functioning of relations with final beneficiaries.

UIBF 2002 Support to Future Intermediary Bodies under the Responsibility of Managing Authority for SOP Industry and Services

According to the final report all necessary activities of the institutional analysis (component 1) were carried out successfully. Under component 2 different subjects were addressed, for instance monitoring, on-the-spot controlling, project cycle management, evaluation, programming. Training output (component 2) was controlled by some kind of an examination (multiple choice tests). Apparently the result was on average at 1.6 (very good). Under component 3 the intended results have been achieved as well.

The final report does not say anything about the concrete contents of the capacity building efforts. Although the original proposal for the 2002 Support for Intermediary Bodies (IB) seemed relevant at a first glance, at the time when SF Calls for Proposals have been already launched the approach lost its immediate relevance as regards envisaged training activities. The same input was anyway provided by the 2002 Twinning, component 2, where the Managing Authority and the Intermediate Bodies for the OP IS were supported in their capacity building.

Component 2 – Small and Medium Enterprises Support

2002/000-610.14 Tourism Development Grant Scheme (TDGS)

TA for TDGS

The TA team prepared full set of documents for the preparatory stage of the GS. This included operation manual, guidelines for applicants, application forms, call for proposals, selection criteria for the assessors and projects. Analysis of the pilot TDGS was performed to establish relevant performance indicators. The information/publicity campaign for potential applicants and representatives of Business Information Centres, Regional Advisory Information Centres and First Contact Points was organised. The special MIS was developed to manage the GS. The assessors were selected and trained. The assistance was also provided with the responses for the applicants and for the appeal procedures.

TDGS

The GS was divided into two components - for SMEs and public institutions. The project implementation under component 1 started in July and for component 2, with an additional call for proposals, in November 2004 and was completed in September 2005. A large proportion of project applications did not pass administrative compliance (55%) and most of the projects had difficulties with budgeting. A wide range of activities, including development of accommodation and catering capacities, tourist attractions, leisure time activities etc., was supported. The scheme was centrally managed by a four-member team of NADSME. Grantees were obliged to report regularly and on-the-spot control of every project took place. In accordance with the grant agreement, the projects are monitored three years after their completion and the management team will carry out on-the-spot control of all projects within this period. The MIS developed as part of TA activities was used for data processing on both TDGS and after small adaptation also on the IDGS. Basic figures on the GS are provided bellow:

Component	Call for Proposals	Applications	Technical Evaluation	Contracted Projects
1	1	487	210	37
2	2	451	223	73

The projects were completed and with the exception of two unfinished projects approved and paid. Based on the control of final report the final payment was not reimbursed to four beneficiaries.

2002/000-610.12 Industry Development Grant Scheme (IDGS)

TA for IDGS

The TA contractor was requested to provide identical assistance as for TDGS this time with the focus on industry sector. The assistance was provided in completing basic materials for Calls for Proposals, development of IDGS web site, preparation of

marketing strategy and marketing materials. Training was provided to relevant personnel on the evaluation of project applications, presentation skills, and promotion activities were organised - press conferences and regional information days. The adoption of the MIS developed within TDGS was performed in order to manage the GS more efficiently. Progress of the projects implementation was monitored and on-the-spot controls were carried out by the project team and a representative of the Ex-ante Unit for all projects that included delivery of supplies and works.

IDGS

The GS composed two components focused on She's enhancement of products and production processes; and increase of innovation capacity for such organisations as business support services, research, development institutions and NGOs. Figures are presented in the table below. The interest of organisations was rather low and seven calls for proposals had to be organised to contract the allocation for this component.

Component	Call for Proposals	Applications	Technical evaluation	Contracted projects
1	1	303	242	109
2	7	37		23

All of the projects were successfully completed. NADSME will monitor the projects during 3 years-period after their completion and will regularly assess the achievement of planned indicators (increased output values and enhanced production processes, improved quality standards and enhanced marketability of products/services, new jobs, etc.)

2003-004-995-03-10 Tourism Development Grant Scheme (TDGS)

TA for TDGS

The TA had practically identical tasks as for 2002 TDGS. It was primarily focused on the amendment of manual and guidelines following GGAPP procedure. Based on the analysis of the previous GS, the focus of the scheme i.e. specification of activities to be supported was more narrow reflecting the actual needs of the sector. New selection process of the assessors was carried out and was followed by their subsequent training to ensure the consistency in the assessment of applications. Promotion and information seminars were conducted. The grant contracts were signed in November 2005. The NADSME staff are managing the GS during the implementation phase and performs on-the-spot monitoring. Altogether six employees are dealing with these grant projects and at the same time perform the on-the-spot monitoring of the 2002 completed projects. Within the TA a study tour for NADSME staff was organised.

TDGS

The grant scheme comprised two components dealing with the improvement of standard of facilities providing services for tourists on commercial basis; and indirect support for the creation of favourable environment for SMEs (promotion, information services and conceptual and co-ordinated tourism development within regions). The number of applications was reduced most likely due to the fact that the GS allocation was reduced

and the success rate of the previous GS was rather low while the preparation was costly and time-consuming. 30% of the applications failed to go forward to the technical and financial assessment stage.

Component	Call for Proposals	Applications	Technical Evaluation	Contracted Projects
1	1	323	235	46
2	1	90	58	12

Implementation is on-going, monitoring of projects is performed by the TDGS team. The public procurement proved to be very complicated for the grant beneficiaries. The amendment of the Public Procurement Act came into force in the meantime, which caused the delays. The staff of IA had to get acquainted with the new legal provision and to issue the guidelines for the grant beneficiaries. Although the public procurement procedures were handled by trained specialists on behalf of grantees numerous mistakes appeared and had to be settled in co-operation with the project team. Because of these delays and also severe weather conditions not allowing the start of construction activities, an extension of disbursement period was requested.

2002/000-642.01 Innovation and Technology Development GS (INTEG)

TA for training of Incubator's Staff

Several training activities were delivered within this project. First of all after the final approval of the future staff of the two incubators (STU Bratislava and Slakovicovo) the needs analysis was performed and five three-day training sessions with 16 modules specifically focused on how to run incubator, were prepared and delivered. Training was delivered to eight future employees of the incubators and four NADSME staff also took part. The participants from seven other Slovak incubators were invited to participate in the joint training on the project management and project preparation and to discuss the potential of Slovak incubators for networking. Apart from that the concentrated training was provided by the project as an extra component with the idea of helping other incubators staff to improve their performance. As planned the five-day study visit and study trip were organised in Austria and numerous technology centres were visited. Several workshops and seminars were organised to develop networking and co-operation among incubators on both sides of the border. The project web side was made available providing all the training materials, communication among participants, invitations for organised events with the agendas etc. After the project completion the page was adjusted and serves the presentation purposes of the Slovak incubators.

Grant Scheme

After two Calls for Proposals two out of eleven submitted projects were awarded grants (Slovak Technical University Bratislava and City of Sladkovicovo). The promotion campaign was organised, leaflet and posters printed. Training was provided to the selected applicants and business plans were developed. Based on that, selection of future incubatees was completed. The works were completed in September 2005 and incubators commenced their operation. STU's incubator has three committed and active staff members seeking the sources of financing, arranging free counselling services for the

incubatees, organising information campaigns, looking for sponsors etc. 45% of the incubator is occupied with eight non-commercial and one commercial innovative companies mostly dealing with IT. Incubator in Sladkovicovo has only one employee and nine companies of less innovative character.

Venture Capital Fund for Incubators

As indicated in PF a contract has been signed with the Seed Capital Company, now renamed to Fund of Funds, to establish a revolving fund, providing risk money for the companies incubated in the two incubators. It was expected that approximately 10 projects would be supported in the course of the project. For the time being none of the companies has fulfilled the criteria for the involvement of the investor, however, the negotiations are taking place with five companies.

2003-004-995-03-09 Support for Innovative SMEs (SISME)

Marketing of the GS

These project activities were devoted to the promotion of the SISME GS. Press conferences, seminars and information days were organised to address regional administration, entrepreneur associations. Info kits, promotion brochures and leaflets were designed and issued in order to provide the detailed information for potential applicants. Publicity was assured in the electronic media and on the web page of NADSME.

Management

The project is co-financed from state budget and deals with the training of NADSME staff in the wide scale of different areas such as team building, communication, presentation skills, project management, strategic planning, work with PC, public procurement, etc.

Assessment of the proposals

The assessors were selected by the IA through the tender procedure. They were provided with the training to facilitate the selection of project applications and ensure consistency of the assessment.

Monitoring of the GS

The TA team was assigned with the task to ensure control and provide information on the current status of the projects implementation. The TA provides formal control of interim reports, guidance for the grant holders to ensure correct reporting and accounting, performs currently the second round of on-the-spot monitoring. It is expected that the final report will include GS analysis as regards the achievement of the originally set project objectives.

Support to Seed Capital Company (SCC)

The tasks of the contractor involved development of the business plan for the SCC, definition of a strategy for venture capital financing/ equity investments and development of a business angels' network concept. A complete inventory of existing venture capital

funds in Slovakia was made and the investment portfolio of SCC was studied. The contractor submitted Venture Capital Strategy paper, review of financing opportunities and investment incentives, Business Plan of SCC and Operating Manual for the Innovation Fund. Workshops were held for selected NADSME and SCC staff on Due Diligence procedures to be applied by the Innovation Fund, risk management and Private Sector Finance for relevant representatives. The concept for Business Angels Network was elaborated in the final stage of the contract. TA project organised final dissemination of the outputs and results of the project to stakeholders all over Slovakia, including representatives of national and regional governments, RAICs, BICs and FCPs, financial institutions/commercial banks, press and SMEs.

Business Angels Network (BAN) database

The project was developing software tool assigning offers of informal investors to the SME's demands. The TA also performed marketing activities in order to establish informal network of investors and contacted other BANs to check the possibilities to interconnect the databases.

Component 3 – Regional Development, CBC and JSPF

2002/000-642.02 Moravsky Svaty Jan Bridge over the River Morava

The project involves the construction of a temporary (due to agreements with environmental protection agencies) bridge at the border crossing to Austria at Moravsky Svaty Jan. The bridge replaces a pontoon bridge provided by the Austrian side and operated by the Slovak side after a 1994 agreement between Moravsky Svaty Jan and the village of Marchegg. Construction works on a bridge, which will raise the number of days a broader crossing to Austria is accessible, has begun. The new bridge opens when required to let river traffic through, while the original bridge had to be moved. The pontoon bridge was unusable some 50 days per year due to high river water level and closed to freight transport over 3.5 tonnes forcing drivers to cross at much more distant crossings near Bratislava. Furthermore, no scheduled bus routes were possible due to uncertainty over whether the bridge would be open. The bridge has been completed on time and is in operation.

2002/000-635.01 Reconstruction of Road III/520 19 Oravice-Zuberec at the Polish/Slovak State Border

The Oravice-Zuberec road with total length of 5.6 km is one of great regional importance connecting the Zuberec region to the Sucha Hora border crossing to Poland and to the road leading to the Liptov region. The road belongs to the so-called Small Tatra Circuit serving a number of tourism localities (Oravice and Besenova thermal pools, Zuberec and Habovka skiing centres). The construction of the road has been completed and the road is now in operation.

2002/000-635.02 Development of Environmental Infrastructure - Districts of Kezmarok, Poprad, Stara Lubovna

The construction of environmental infrastructure has begun involving the construction of sewerage pipes and six WWTPs in seven villages in the border region with rich natural and historical heritage. The final beneficiary of the project is an association of villages involved. The overall objective of the project is to assist sustainable tourism development. While in some localities the benefit will be mainly local, others are facing difficulties in terms of obtaining consent of environmental authorities for further construction activity before the completion of adequate environmental infrastructure. One of the villages overlaps with the earlier 2001 project in the region, building a new WWTP.

2002/000-603.01 and 2002/000-604.01 Environmental Protection and Nature Conservation in the Hungarian-Slovak Border Region through Local Initiatives

The GS aimed at improving contacts among environmental protection institutions and promoting joint local initiatives was launched in 2004. The Call for Proposals was issued in July 2004; proposals were evaluated in October and contracted in November. The full amount of funding has been contracted – 1.8 M€ (PHARE) with four 1.3 M€ for investment actions and 0.5 M€ for various studies. National co-financing is 25%. The four investment projects awarded focus on wastewater treatment infrastructure and are currently concluding tenders and contracts for works. The studies focus on a number of development opportunities for sustainable tourism. Five final beneficiaries are villages in the region, while the remainder are associations and public institutions. The initial number of applicants was about 20 but in the end, choice was made only among 13 eligible projects.

2003/004-616.01 Development and Support of Business Sites and Infrastructure, Innovation Activities and Human Resources in Border Areas

The GS launched in parallel with the Hungarian 2003 CBC programme and is to offer 1.3 M€ for investment actions and 0.5 M€ for studies and human resources development. National co-financing is 25%. The investment activities focus on technology incubators, IT infrastructure, technology and innovation. The other component allows a number of activities in the areas of business support, training, counselling and preparation of construction plans, business plans and studies. Following changes of the PF to specify national co-financing more clearly the call for proposals was issued in March 2005. 12 projects were selected with four investments (innovation centres and incubators) and eight for technical equipment, technical documentation and business support.

2003/005-704.01 Environmental Protection and Nature Conservation in the Slovak-Austrian Border Region

The 3.4 M€ GS (with additional 25% national co-financing by final beneficiaries) aims to conserve natural resources in the border region, improve environmental potential and thus

improve living conditions, support alternative energy sources and improve cross-border co-operation and co-ordination in land-use planning and regional development. Of the PHARE support, 0.5 M€ is allocated for environmental studies and strategies, 1.8 M€ for investment actions, 0.9 M€ for renewable energy and 0.2 M€ for TA for the implementing authority. Following changes of the PF to specify national co-financing more clearly the call for proposals was issued in March 2005 and 13 projects have been approved including four sewage drains and WWTP investments and nine other projects mostly by towns and villages and their associations.

2003/005-704.02 Economic Development Focusing on Support of Tourism

The GS focused on supporting tourism development in the cross-border region offers in total 1.7 M€ for investment activities in the area of tourism activities and cross-border networking of information centres. An additional 0.2 M€ is allocated for preparing a project pipeline for INTERREG and 0.1 M€ for TA to the IA. National co-financing is 25% for the investment components. A call for INTERREG IIIA Austria-Slovakia, which also includes tourism, was launched in November 2004, which implies that the present project will not be able to serve the function of preparing for INTERREG. Following changes of the PF to specify national co-financing more clearly the call for proposals was issued in April 2005. 14 projects in the area of tourism promotion and small infrastructure have been approved.

2003/005-665.01 Business Related Infrastructure Grant Scheme

The project will support the creation of business infrastructure in the border region with Poland to the tune of 0.1 to 0.3 M€ per project with a total of 3.6 M€ of PHARE funds and 25% national co-financing. Publication of the Call for Proposals originally planned for the first quarter of 2004 is likely to take place towards the end of the first quarter 2005. In January 2005, the Call for Proposals was launched for INTERREG IIIA with partial overlap with some measures. Following changes of the PF pending approval to specify national co-financing more clearly the call for proposals was issued in March 2005. 18 projects have been selected mainly from villages, covering waste water infrastructure, road infrastructure, and tourism infrastructure.

2003-004-995-03-12 External Border Initiative

The project aims to develop good neighbourhood relations, social and economic actions and contribute to social and economic development in the Slovak-Ukrainian border area with 1.4 M€ of PHARE funds, 0.5 M€ for “People-to-people” actions and 0.9 M€ with 25% national co-financing for small-scale infrastructure projects. The former were to be between 1,000 and 50,000 €, the latter 0.1 – 0.3 M€. The call for proposals was published in March 2005 and 17 projects of 21 applicants received support, five investment projects and 12 people-to-people actions.

2002/000-642.03, 2002/000-603.02, 2002/000-635.03, 2003/004-665.02, 2003/004-616.02 and 2003/004-704.03 Joint Small Projects Funds

The aim of JSPF interventions is to improve the bi-lateral relations between Slovakia and its neighbouring countries of Austria, Hungary and Poland. Typically, JPSF provides co-financing to 'people-to-people' projects, contributing to the promotion of economic and cultural co-operation among inhabitants and institutions of the border region, through a variety of small-scale actions, with a PHARE contribution up to 90%, and a maximum budget of 50,000 €.

The 2002 JSPF projects and 2003 projects at the Polish borders were completed, 2003 projects at the Austrian and Hungarian borders are about to be completed. Unfortunately no statistics are available as regards the projects' focus but most of the activities are devoted to cultural and sport events, tourism and economic development. Environmental projects are prevailing on the Austrian border. Some of the projects were widely oriented and covered several priority areas. The interest of applicants is high, mainly at the Hungarian border despite practically absent marketing. Also municipalities bordering with Hungary but administratively belonging to the eligible Trnava region often participate in Austrian JSPF.

The monitoring of the JSPF projects is practically reduced to the quarterly reporting obligation of the beneficiaries. The most frequent contact between the grantees and the IA takes place over the phone in order to resolve small problems concerning reallocations, changes of activities etc. The final report is provided together with the financial data, which are checked in detail for final accounting purposes. All the data are processed manually. On-the-spot control takes place rarely due to insufficient human resources. Summary reports with the details and statistics data have not been required and prepared. Although such data (summaries of funds' outputs, or indicators) are not available, the IA reported positive results of projects such as successful co-operation of regions initiated via JSPF activities, common cultural and sports events, continuing exchange of experience etc. The numbers of supported projects are summarised in the Annex 8.

Component 4 – Roma Minority**2002-000-610.03 Further Integration of Roma in Education**

Project implementation has been completed for all three components. Activity 1 focused on creating methodology for the implementation of transitive classes at special primary schools to allow selected pupils transfer into regular primary schools. The documents developed have been approved by the State Pedagogical Institute. Transitive classes were created at 20 special primary schools and the methodology developed was implemented in the school year 2005/2006. Teachers at destination regular primary schools took part in the education process at the special primary schools. A small number of pupils have been transferred at the end of the school year and transitive classes are to continue functioning under the supervision of the Institute of Child Psychology and Patopsychology. Activity 2 concerned technical assistance to develop criteria to select municipalities to receive

assistance in Activity 3 with the preparation of project documentation to build infrastructure in Roma settlements and connect it with infrastructure of respective municipalities. In 30 municipalities project documentation has been prepared and construction permits have been obtained, allowing the municipalities to construct the facilities once further financing is secured.

2003-004-005-01-06 Improved Access of Roma to Health Care

All components of the project have begun implementation. Activities focused on reconstructing health centres where doctors could commute close to marginalised Roma settlements have been selected and carried out, although only five of the originally planned nine have been completed due to lack of interest of bidders. Selected hospitals have been provided with ambulance cars and contracts signed that these be used to serve the target population. Additional health centres received technological support. The main activity carried out by technical assistance centres on the provision of Field Health Assistants to serve Roma population in health education and assistance in access to medical services. Compared with original plans the activity was expanded to 49 municipalities grouped in 15 micro-regions. Following the selection and training of assistants these have been carrying out work with the Roma with precisely tracked number of various services (doctor visits, trainings, inoculation, etc.).

2003-004-995-01-05 Support to Further Integration of Roma in Education

Three activities are being implemented through technical assistance to follow up on earlier Phare interventions with respect to Roma education. Activity 1 focused on developing materials and training trainers to later train teachers for the tutoring of Roma students in final years of primary school to help them choose a secondary school and make the transition. Eight trainers have delivered the training developed to over 160 teachers. Activity 2 developed materials and trained some 120 teachers in multicultural education. Activity 3 delivered trainings to employees of 30 secondary schools selected by the Ministry of Education to provide education to students on career issues and entrepreneurship. The trainings have been developed to students under supervision of the project team. The materials developed are in the process of approval and can be later used at additional schools.

Component 5 – HRD and ESF Preparation

2002/000.610-15 Human Resources Development Grant Scheme

Development of Strategic Action Plans and Building of Partnership at Regional, Sub-regional and Local Level (MoLSAF)

The programme assisted four areas and (i) provided TA to the project beneficiaries, (ii) assistance in Grant Scheme monitoring, (iii) development of grant scheme database and web pages and (iv) provision of assistance, methodological guidance and training to teams operating at regional level for the development and implementation of HRD local

action plans. The activities were delivered through three separate but closely linked projects.

Technical Assistance

The purpose of this project was to ensure that the implementing institutions possess the required skills and competencies, and at assisting the final users to fulfil certain strategic functions in the co-ordination, development of partnerships and projects based on ESF principles contributing to regional and HRD development.

The Grant Schemes were already contracted at the time of TA start and thus the assistance was provided with the projects management and monitoring. The grants for eight Self-Government Counties were provided through direct agreements. The regional bodies were provided numerous consultations and training on project cycle management, partnership building, strategic and action plans dissemination. Altogether some 700 participants attended these trainings. The created partnerships played important role during the preparation of the Action Plans. The Action Plans were prepared in all counties. The originally foreseen preparation of the National Action Plan, resulting from individual counties plans did not take place and should have been replaced by some other document. The final report states that the grant scheme database was developed and utilised as well as web pages, which provided all necessary information for the grantees. The equipment originally intended to equip TA team for the project duration was delivered only after the project completion and is currently used by new TA for 2003 GS and staff of the MoLSAF.

Flexibility of Labour Market (GS - COLSAF)

The GS dealt with two measures: (i) Promotion and implementation of preventive measures aimed at tackling the specific needs of the unemployed, (ii) Supporting the re-integration of the unemployed into working life by securing their employability. Call for proposals was published and eight regional information seminars were organised. 267 applications were received, 142 did not pass the administrative compliance part of the evaluation and 50 projects were contracted. In total 4,235 participants took part in 157 courses and 1,421 new vacancies were created. The monitoring guideline was elaborated and regional contact points were established to assist mainly with the selection of the unemployed for the grantees. The grant projects provided quarterly monitoring reports.

Quality of Labour Market (GS - MoEd)

The call for proposals for the GS was launched and regional presentations were organised with very high participation of potential beneficiaries (around 100 people at each event). 370 applications were received, 232 did not pass the first part of the selection due to non-compliance with these requirements. 49 projects were awarded grants and contracts were signed. Again two measures were supported: (i) To improve access to the lifelong learning for different target groups and (ii) Support the access to further education with the aim improving the employability of individuals, with total planned number of participants 4643. Despite initial delay related to the problems with the advance payment, the projects were successfully completed. The monitoring system was identical with the COLSAF managed GS, however, final report does not provide quantification of the final outputs/results. The

developed IT database enabled automatic counting of figures but did not serve as monitoring tool as all data were inserted at the time when final reports were delivered.

2003-004-995-03-11 Grant Scheme on Equal Opportunities and Social Inclusion Support

The programme's objective refers to the support of the implementation of the Sectoral Operation Programme Human Resources through ESF-type of projects aimed at employability support and development of inclusive labour market. Because of the lack of previous experience with the GS implementation at MoLSAF, it has been decided to include a TA component into the GS.

Two financial and one monitoring expert are assisting with the monitoring and management of the GS at both of the institutions MoLSAF and COLSAF. 76 project proposals were delivered to the MoLSAF, out of which 10 received grants. At the COLSAF 64 project proposals were received and 38 of them were contracted. All of the projects were paid monitoring visit. The grantees have an obligation to report quarterly however, the delivered information is not consistent and does not provide sufficient quantification of outputs. In both cases the TA team members are supplementing insufficient resources of the implementing institutions, whose staff are again newly hired and repeatedly suffer from a lack of previous experience. Despite two previous PHARE projects dealing with the GS implementation at COLSAF, staffing situation is the same as at MoLSAF and even results of previous TA – IT tools for project management and monitoring, was lost and all data are managed manually.

2003-004-995-03-13 Create the Administrative Capacity for Implementing the Equal Initiative and Support the Launch of the Equal Initiative in the Slovak Republic

The structure to implement EQUAL had to be established before the project launch. The TW thus provided mainly 'on-the-job' and other training activities (including study visits) for the four MoLSAF staff and for the four Social Development Fund staff members, who represented the National Support Structure (NSS) in the regions. The initial assistance was provided with the preparation of the plan for the EQUAL implementation, call for proposals, selection process and monitoring. With the assistance of TW experts, tasks and responsibilities of the Managing Authority (MA) and NSS were set out, internal manual for and Programme Complement were completed and wide range of thematic, financial management audit and monitoring manuals for MA, NSS staff and applicants were translated. Series of events in the region was carried out to help potential applicants understand the EQUAL principles, rules and how to complete the application forms and numerous training events throughout Slovakia took place to help potential applicants to develop their applications and prepare for Action 1 and 2. A publicity campaign was developed and organised. The EQUAL initiative is still running. In total out of 160 submitted projects 101 were contracted. The created partnerships comprise mostly three to five partners and are manageable. Complaints were raised in relation to very complicated financial management. The projects should be given the responsibility for keeping records about payment and receipts and maintaining accurate financial records, instead of all receipts being checked with every claim. Detailed checking of

receipts should only take place during monitoring visits. This proposed simplification applicable for the whole ESF, will come into force in June 2006. Currently MA has 13 staff members, two of which participated on the project activities, the NSS has 15 employees but none of them benefited from the project. The monitoring system is used and the projects are visited.

2003-004-995-03-14 Preparing for ESF Project Management

Twinning Light

The aim of the TWL was (i) to transfer the experience concerning ESF programme organisation and management structures to the regional and district administrations, (ii) to upgrade the skills of future specialists of the regional and district ESF administrations for directing the programme activities of intermediaries and beneficiaries, (iii) to develop manuals for Guidance Centres and (iv) to establish eight Guidance Centres at regional level. Since the ESF is managed centrally for the current programming period (up to 2006), the activities have focused mainly on the establishment of Guidance Centres. The TWL experts conducted an analysis of the situation in the regions and SGC were visited to discuss the establishment of the Guidance Centres. A model of Guidance centre was designed, tested and presented to all SGC. The supporting material, manuals and plans were prepared. The prepared model has not been eventually implemented. The eight Guidance Centres were established one year after project completion at the Labour Offices instead of SGC. The Centres employ two staff members each (one MoLSAF employee and one contracted), the contracts are signed for a year.

Preparation for Utilisation of the ESF at Local and Regional Level TA

The project purpose was to provide methodological support to the potential (final) beneficiaries for assurance of flexible absorption of the ESF funds and enhance capacities of quality provision of the counselling services of ESF consultants for the beneficiaries. Information seminars were conducted in each SGC for 100 – 200 participants and subsequently 25 – 30 future projects proposals developers were selected. Training was delivered to these developers and Guidance centres employees/consultants on the project preparation.

The second part of TA is focused on the development of project proposals for absorbing the ESF resources and the creation of a quality control system.

Component 6 – Health Care

2003-004-005-03-06 Strengthening of Statistical Health Information and its Harmonisation with EU Requirements

Strengthening of Statistical Health Information System

The programme consisted of TWL, SW development and HW supply components. The TWL was focused on the harmonisation of methodologies in order to provide relevant information in the structure requested by international authorities (EUROSTAT, OECD, WHO). These methodologies were introduced and are applied in the health statistics. Some adaptations of the project were introduced at the inception phase. This concerned

mainly pilot testing of the system that was due to delays flexibly replaced by the introduction of health accounts newly introduced by OECD. The preparation of technical specification for supply of hardware and ToR for software development was completed but because of the EDIS accreditation the contracts were signed with the delays. The supply of hardware was contracted in the final stage of TWL implementation and subsequently supplied. The contracting of SW development took longer and at the time of the evaluation it was about to be completed. The training activities have commenced. The newly developed Information system of health indicators centralised individual existing databases into one complex centralised system, which should be flexible enough to incorporate permanent changes in the reporting obligations towards EC, WHO, OECD and other international bodies. The National Centre of Health Information is sufficiently equipped to maintain the system.

2003-004-005-03-07 Strengthening the Surveillance and Control of Communicable Diseases

The programme comprises TW, software development and supply components. Its purpose is focused on the enforcement of the harmonised legislation in the area of the epidemiological and laboratory control of communicable diseases (CD) and strengthening of surveillance of CD. Although the epidemiology and surveillance of certain types of diseases is being performed for a long time, the SR is involved in numerous European networks, which request certain standards regarding collection, processing and reporting of data in this area. Because most of the communication was performed via phone and fax and data processing was carried out manually, the need to develop complex SW system was identified. The original intention to engage TW experts in the design of the system did not materialise as the ToR for project had to be completed before the start of TW. The TW experts were thus involved in more detail specification of three SW packages (national register of CD, influenza surveillance programme and early warning system). Six Slovak specialists visited institutions in the Netherlands and Germany to study the surveillance and control system. Detailed presentations of the Dutch and German systems were provided to identify important and user-friendly features of the systems. Further activities are planned to assist with the quality assurance system for microbiological laboratories in regions (including hospitals). The communication problems with the RTA led to final decision to replace the person, which took place, but did not have any negative influence on the project activities.

The project also provides assistance for nine Public Health Authority's laboratories (one newly established), which should operate as the National Reference Laboratories for different types of CD. The needs in terms of equipment were specified and prepared technical specification was reviewed by TW experts. The supply was contracted but the delivery of the equipment and HW is limited by ongoing reconstruction of some facilities.

The SW development contract was also concluded and the report on the analysis of data flows and functional requirements for the new system was prepared and approved. The system is being developed and should be pilot tested in the summer period. The IT Department of the PHA should be in a position to carry out maintenance of the system

but its further development reflecting actual needs will be most likely limited by the availability of financial resources.

2002/000-610-02 UIBF Ensuring Preparedness of the SR Health Information System to Apply the Acquis on Co-ordination of Social Security Systems

The TWL comprised series of seminars dealing with selected topics delivered for the employees of the Health Insurance Companies and MoH staff. The participants gained knowledge and skills in handling reimbursement payments for health care within EU, processing of e-forms and provision of statistical data. The Liaison Body is operational and manual on using and processing e-forms was prepared.

2003-004-005-01-04 Strengthening of Human Resources and Implementation of the EU Methodology for Surveillance of Human Enteroviruses

The TWL project was designed with an aim to implement the EU methodology in the Enterovirus National Reference Laboratory to the expected global standards and prepare the laboratory for EU accreditation. The selected contractor belongs to the top specialists in this area and the delivered assistance is highly appreciated by the beneficiary. The initial analysis was carried out to identify weaknesses in laboratories operation. Based on the analysis the practical training was conducted with the participation of 17 specialists instead of intended 12. New diagnostic methods were introduced. The intention of project activities was to bring the technical level of all the virology laboratories to the same level (Bratislava, Kosice, Banska Bystrica) and to prepare them for the accreditation. The handbook on modern techniques for screening, diagnosis and applied research of the Human Enteroviruses should be prepared.

ANNEX 7 PUBLICITY AND VISIBILITY OF PHARE INTERVENTIONS

Programme/ project	Finding
<i>COMPONENT 1 – STRUCTURAL FUNDS CAPACITY BUILDING</i>	
2002/000-610.11	n.a.
2002/000-610.13	info campaign conducted as part of the GS
2002/000-610.02 UIBF	n.a.
2003-004-995-03-08	info campaign conducted as part of the GS
2003-004-995-03-15	regional conferences were organised to introduce National Strategic Ref. Framework, public awareness campaign is part of the project activities
<i>COMPONENT 2 – SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES SUPPORT</i>	
2002/000-610.14	special info campaign conducted as part of the GS
2002/000-610.12	special info campaign conducted as part of the GS
2003-004-995-03-09	special info campaign conducted as a separate project within the GS
2003-004-995-03-10	special info campaign conducted as part of the GS
2002/000-642.01	special info campaign conducted as part of the GS
<i>COMPONENT 3 – REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND CROSS BORDER CO-OPERATION INVESTMENT</i>	
2002/000-642.02	signage erected at the construction place
2002/000-635.01	signage erected at the construction place
2002/000-635.02	signage erected at the construction place
2002/000-603.01	info campaign conducted as part of the GS
2003-004-616.01	info campaign conducted as part of the GS
2003-004-704.01	info campaign conducted as part of the GS
2003-004-704.02	info campaign conducted as part of the GS
2003-004-665.01	info campaign conducted as part of the GS
2002/000-642.03	info campaign conducted as part of the GS
2002/000-603.02	info campaign conducted as part of the GS
2002/000-635.03	info campaign conducted as part of the GS
2003/004-616.02	info campaign conducted as part of the GS
2003/005-704.03	info campaign conducted as part of the GS
2003/005-665.02	info campaign conducted as part of the GS
2003-004-995-03-12	info campaign conducted as part of the GS
<i>COMPONENT 4 – ROMA MINORITY</i>	
2002/000-610.03	info available at the web pages of the Government Office, final conference conducted
2003-004-995-01-05	basic info available at the web pages of the MoE
2003-004-995-01-06	info available at the web pages of the MoH
<i>COMPONENT 5 – HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT AND ESF</i>	
2002/000-610.15	publicity ensured via information campaign for the GS
2003-004-995-03-11	publicity ensured via information campaign for the GS
2003-004-995-03-13	n.a., project on-going
2003-004-995-03-14	promotion campaign is part of TA project activities
<i>COMPONENT 6 – HEALTH CARE</i>	
2003-004-995-03-06	All project details are published at the MoH web page
2003-004-995-03-07	All project details are published at the MoH web page, final press conference was organised
2002/000-610.02 UIBF	All project details are published at the MoH web page
2003-004-005-01-04 UIBF	All project details are published at the MoH web page

ANNEX 8 GRANT SCHEMES DATA

Project No.	Project title	PHARE M€	Co-financing M€	No. of applications	No. of grant projects	IA staff responsible	TA staff responsible	TA allocation M€
2002/000-610.14	TDGS	3.30	2.20	938	110*	4	-	0.20
2003-004-995.03-10	TDGS	3.35	1.22	400	58		-	0.15
2002/000-610.12	IDGS	3.30	1.10	340	132*	6	-	0.20
2003-004-995.03-09	SISME	2.70	0.90	350	79		6	0.05**
2002/000-610.15	HRD GS	2.80	1.60	140	99*	4 + 3	2	0.20
2003-004-995.03-11	Equal Opportunities	2.40	0.64	139	48	2	6	0.10
2003-004-995.03-08	LRD GS	5.70	1.70	n.a.	130	1	12+	0.15
2002/000-603.01	Env. Protection / HU	1.80	0.6	20	10*	1	-	0
2003-004-616.01	Business Sites / HU	1.80	0.6	16	12		-	0
2003/004-616.02	JSPF / HU	0.20	0.02	43	8		-	0
2003-004-704.01	Env. Protection / A	3.20	1.07	20	13	1	5	0.20
2003-004-704.02	Support of Tourism/A	1.90	0.57	19	14		8	0.10
2002/000-642.03	JSPF / A	0.60	0.07	25	19*		-	0
2003/005-704.03	JSPF / A	0.60	0.07	24	19	1	-	0
2003-004-665.01	BRI / PL	3.60	1.20	n.a.	18		-	0
2003-004-995.03-12	EBI / UA	1.40	0.36	n.a.	17		-	0
2002/000-603.02	JSPF / HU	0.20	0.02	n.a.	4*		-	0
2002/000-635.03	JSPF / PL	0.40	0.05	n.a.	19*		-	0
2003/005-665.02	JSPF / PL	0.40	0.05	n.a.	14*		-	0
2002/000-610.13	LRD GS	3.30	1.30	768	94*		-	0.20

* completed projects, ** two additional TA projects were contracted for Marketing (0.03 M€) and Assessment (0.05 M€)