

REPORT
ON BILATERAL ASSISTANCE
of EU Member States and the Kingdom of Norway
to the Slovak Republic
in 2003



LIST OF COUNTRIES

The Kingdom of Belgium

The Kingdom of Denmark

The French Republic

The Hellenic Republic

The Kingdom of the Netherlands

The Republic of Ireland

The Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg

The Federal Republic of Germany

The Kingdom of Norway

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

The Kingdom of Spain

The Republic of Italy

INTRODUCTION

The presented report was drafted on the basis of the task assigned to the Deputy Prime Minister for European Integration, Human Rights and Minorities in Resolution of the Government of the Slovak Republic No. 299 of 4 April 2001 and it presents the situation from 1 January 2003 till 31 December 2003.

This report on bilateral foreign assistance covers 11 EU Member States and the Kingdom of Norway. In 2002 the position of the Executive National Foreign Aid Coordinator was cancelled on the basis of Resolution of the Government No. 1218/2001 and therefore the Department of Foreign Assistance PHARE, Bilateral and Multilateral Cooperation of the Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic elaborated the **General Coordination Guideline** for foreign assistance granted by the EU and its Member States in the period prior to the accession of the Slovak Republic to the EU. The General Coordination Guideline is the basic instrument governing the pre-accession assistance as well as foreign assistance in general. It is designed for sectoral coordinators, all staff participating in the programming and implementation of pre-accession assistance and bilateral co-operation, towns and municipalities and public at large. The guideline serves not only to increase general awareness but also mainly to increase transparency in foreign assistance funds management.

EU Member States pre-accession assistance comes to Slovakia on the basis of bilateral agreements and valid legislative document - like a "Memorandum of Understanding" or "Action Plan" - approved by the Government of the Member State concerned.

The summary overview of foreign assistance per individual country is shown in the attached table. Certain gaps in the summary may result from substantial diversity of forms of co-operation. The data in the summary table allow concluding that foreign assistance granted to the Slovak Republic under the bilateral assistance of the EU Member States and the Kingdom of Norway amounted to a total of **SKK 916,186,229** in 2003. The bilateral assistance granted under bilateral assistance from the EU Member States and the Kingdom of Norway has an increasing tendency; compared with 2002 the total value of supported projects increased by **SKK 137,445,352**.

THE SIGNIFICANCE AND CONTENT OF FOREIGN ASSISTANCE

The objective of bilateral assistance programmes of EU Member States and the Kingdom of Norway, on the one hand, and the Slovak Republic, on the other hand, is the strengthening of co-operation to foster stability and security in the central European region and further progress in meeting the EU membership criteria as well as the progress in achieving the National Programme for the Adoption of the acquis communautaire.

Foreign assistance to Slovakia is an important tool in the process of the current transformation of the economy and the social changes in the Slovak Republic. The term foreign assistance covers investment assistance and a broad spectrum of consultancy, transfer of know-how, new technologies, study stays, scholarships

training activities, financial grants used for technology purchases, etc. In addition to this “official” assistance some countries also grant assistance from funds earmarked by the governments for foreign assistance to CEECs or directly the SR, some countries grant assistance directly to final beneficiaries who can be natural persons, e.g. in the form of scholarships and study stays, private companies, e.g. in the form of staff training, consultancy, strategic analyses, etc. Foreign assistance is granted on the governmental and non-governmental levels.

International assistance granted to Slovakia is of bilateral or multilateral nature. The sources of bilateral assistance are complementary resources to multilateral assistance. Complementarity is not understood as attaching bilateral funds to multilateral ones but it means their utilisation in cases where the multilateral resources cannot be used. The condition of no financing of the same project from multilateral and bilateral funds is stipulated in all basic documents and rules for granting financial assistance in the EU. The Member States are usually interested to grant bilateral assistance only in those areas where it is not possible to apply financing from common funds or when this funding is insufficient or there is a special interest in its targeting.

The orientation of foreign aid is based on the priorities determined by the Slovak Government and its largest volume is channelled to the environment, regional development, state administration training, European integration, standardisation and infrastructure. Assistance to public and local self-government reform made a significant part of the pre-accession assistance. This assistance plays a strategic role in formulating alternative decentralisation options.

Expert assistance coming from donor countries focused on assisting Slovak managers in coping with European regulations and on harmonisation of the Slovak legislation with them. The transposition of the EU legislation and strengthening of institutions and administrative capacities mainly focused on the area of environmental standards, social affairs, agriculture, development of new products and also safety and health aspects. The main benefits from assistance are expert consultations on the best way of adapting to the conditions of the European single market given by experienced foreign experts and lecturers who advise the Slovak beneficiaries of assistance.

In the last three years the scope of bilateral assistance coordinated by the Office of the Government narrowed down to few profile countries that include the Netherlands (MATRA and PSO programmes), the Republic of Italy (Act No./92), the Flemish Community of the Kingdom of Belgium and the Kingdom of Norway. Some donor countries make use of direct links with sectors depending on the target of their assistance, e.g. Denmark cooperates with the Ministry for the Environment, and the Federal Republic of Germany with the Ministry of Economy or specialised agencies e.g. British Know-How Fund.

TOOLS FOR COORDINATING FOREIGN ASSISTANCE

On the basis of Resolution of the Government No. 299 of 4 April 2001 competencies of coordinating EU Member States bilateral assistance programmes were transferred from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic to the Office of the

Government of the Slovak Republic, Section of European Affairs that is carrying out tasks in pre-accession assistance to the Slovak Republic through its Department for Pre-Accession Assistance and Bilateral Cooperation Coordination. The **National Joint Committee** the members of which are appointed by Deputy Prime Minister Pál Csáky upon a nomination by central bodies of state administration is a tool for managing and coordinating foreign assistance with respect to sectors. In 2003 Ivan Fecenko, Director of the Department for Coordination of Pre-accession Assistance and Bilateral Cooperation of the Office of the Government, was Chairman of the National Joint Committee.

In 2003 Deputy Prime Minister for European Integration, Human Rights and Minorities appointed the **Steering and Monitoring Committee**, which upon the request of the Italian Government monitored the implementation of projects financially supported by the Italian Government in the Slovak Republic quarterly. The members of the Committee also dealt with the final evaluation of the completed projects selected by the Italian Government at random.

The **Joint Slovak-Flanders Committee** permanent members of which are Ivan Fecenko, Director of the Department for Coordination of Pre-accession Funds and Bilateral Cooperation of the Office of the Government and Mária Berová, Chief Advisor, Department for Coordination of Pre-accession Funds and Bilateral Cooperation of the Office of the Government, evaluated bilateral cooperation projects at an international level.

THE PRESENCE AND FUTURE OF BILATERAL ASSISTANCE

EU Member States bilateral assistance to candidate countries was defined as pre-accession assistance. It focused on the support of their EU accession. Individual EU Member States prepared Assistance Programmes through which assistance was granted. The implementation of programmes for Slovakia was carried out in compliance with the existing mutual **Agreements on Cooperation and Slovak Priorities**. Assistance programmes were designed for various time periods - mostly five or ten years - depending on the wish of the donor country. Pre-accession assistance coming to Slovakia was a combination of technical assistance and investment support focusing on the harmonisation with EU requirements in all sectors. The best expertise of the donor country was used in all forms and areas.

After EU accession the Slovak Republic will have to accept unified economic principles, territorial policy of the entire Community, it will act as a full-fledged part of the European community in the world economy. After EU accession the Slovak Republic will have the possibility to draw funds from Structural Funds and the Cohesion Fund. In view of this fact some EU Member States have already declared their will and position to end their financial assistance to Slovakia or to grant it in a different form from the one used until 2004. On the other hand, some countries like e.g. the Flemish Association of the Kingdom of Belgium or the Kingdom of Norway earmarked an even higher amount for bilateral cooperation projects with the Slovak Republic in their budget and mutual cooperation will also continue in a broader scope next year.

A SUMMARY OVERVIEW OF FOREIGN ASSISTANCE PRIORITIES

COUNTRY	ASSISTANCE PRIORITIES
Flemish Community of the Kingdom of Belgium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - implementation of accounting processes - the development of health care information - development of tourism, emphasis on quality
Republic of Italy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - transport corridors - interest in employment of the society - Joint Ventures
Kingdom of the Netherlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - planning and development of the society - transposition of EU legislation - the support of NGO development - support to minorities
Kingdom of Norway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - democracy focusing on citizens and media - equal opportunity to all - support to the NGOs
Kingdom of Denmark	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - human resources development - institution building - protecting the environment - taxes
Republic of Ireland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - economic and social recovery of the society
Great Britain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - public administration reform - reduction of social poverty and social exclusion - national infrastructure and support to local self-government - the area of integrated pollution prevention and control
French Republic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - education and culture - support to regional development - support to civil society development
Federal Republic of Germany	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - waste management and water protection - support to economy
Kingdom of Spain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - education and culture - support to minorities
Hellenic Republic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - education and culture
the Walloon region and the French community of the Kingdom of Belgium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - education and culture
Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - education and culture



THE KINGDOM OF BELGIUM



Pre-accession assistance granted to the Slovak Republic by the **Kingdom of Belgium** in 2003 focused on tackling topical issues linked with the continuing influx of migrating families from the Slovak Republic to the Kingdom of Belgium. The Belgian Ministry for the Interior allocated a total of **€ 71 018** that is **SKK 2 879 000 SKK** to the solution of this problem. The objective of the project was to give asylum seekers from Slovakia in the Kingdom of Belgium the possibility of returning home and of reintegrating in the society. The implementation of the project was divided into two parts – information campaign and sustainable reintegration.

In addition to the direct financial support from the budget of the Kingdom of Belgium pre-accession assistance also came from the regional governments budgets, namely from the Flemish Community and the Walloon Region and the French Community to Slovakia in 2003. However, this assistance had a different variability and form.

The assistance coming from the **Walloon Region and the French Community** can be better characterised as bilateral cooperation. It is based on mutual reciprocity of partners, which means that jointly planned activities are financed with partners on both sides equally. The priorities of the Walloon Region and French Community were mainly oriented to culture and education. The **Revitalisation of Industrially Backward Areas** programme, which was allocated € 50,000 in 2003 and the Slovak Republic did not make use of it is the only exception.

The pre-accession assistance coming from the **Flemish Community** can be characterised as one of the most transparent ones. Selection and evaluation criteria were elaborated in a close cooperation of the Slovak and Flemish partners and they form the basis for the evaluation of project proposals by the National Commissions of both partners. It is followed by the meeting of the Joint Flemish-Slovak Commission the task of which is to prepare a final list of projects proposed for financial support granted by the Flemish Government. In May 2004 regional elections will be held in the Flemish Community and the Flemish partner already prepared for it in 2003. Based on the information gathered from questionnaires answered by assistance beneficiaries the university of Brugge elaborated a comprehensive Flemish Community granted pre-accession assistance effectiveness study that should help in further targeting of foreign assistance after candidate countries' EU accession. The resulting report from this study will form the basis of the newly elected Flemish government's foreign policy. A new wording of the 2004-2005 Agreement on Cooperation that is to be signed beginning of June 2004 is prepared on the basis of this study.



THE FLEMISH COMMUNITY



In the framework of the new cooperation strategy the Government of the Flemish Community of the Kingdom of Belgium decided to contribute to the success of restructuring in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and so an **Agreement on Cooperation** for the next 5 years was signed with the Slovak Republic. The bilateral cooperation of the Slovak Republic focuses on the development of democratic society, market economy and balanced social model as well as the creation of sustainable partner links and expansion of mutual bilateral cooperation.

Mutual cooperation project plans focus on:

- **The adoption of the *acquis communautaire*:** implementation of and harmonisation with the EU legislation in the Slovak Republic
- **Commercial project:** the most important objective is to create profitable activity or structure the project deviser will also be involved after project completion.
- **Capacity building:** every form of transferring Flemish knowledge, experience, expertise concerning the organisation or governance of society, organisation, public utility services, managers and public officials.

In the cooperation programme with the Slovak Republic three main priorities were supported in the last three years:

MEDICATION POLICY

The development of specialised system for storing and transferring health documentation with the objective to help Slovak health care sector in the process of gradual reform and quality improvement.

THE ENVIRONMENT

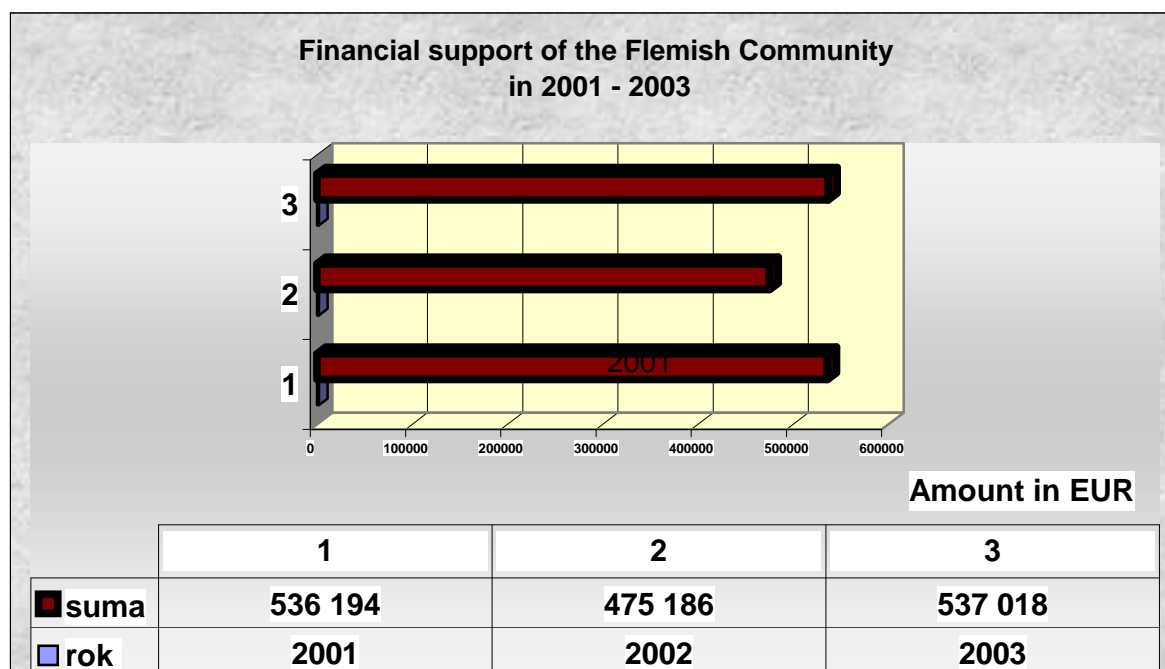
To develop cooperation in the field of the environment, environmental planning, strengthening of scientific and technical data and technology transfer mainly in the field of protecting and improving the environment.

REGIONAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Strengthening the economic potential in less favoured regions of Slovakia. Strategic planning of regional development with an emphasis on utilising cultural and natural wealth of the region and the development of rural tourism.

24 projects were submitted in 2003 and the Joint Flemish-Slovak Commission selected financial support for four projects amounting to a total of **€ 460,000**, i.e. **SKK 18,647,940 SKK** according to the selection criteria. These projects will be implemented under the Slovak-Flemish cooperation in the Slovak Republic in 2004.

The total bilateral assistance coming to Slovakia from the Flemish Community and the Kingdom of Belgium achieved a value of € 537,018, i.e. SKK 21,526,940 in 2003.



Projects supported by the Flemish community:

Project Name	Devised by	Amount in €
Platon Slovakia	Trenčín Regional Chamber	170 000
RUTSAD	Institute of Agriculture at Nitra	150 000
Separated waste at Lučenec	The town of Lučenec	70 000
Directives and quality assurance in home nursing	General Health Insurance co.	70.000
Total		460 000

The list of projects supported by the Government of the Kingdom of Belgium

Project Name	Beneficiary	Amount in €
Prevention of illegal migration, return and reintegration of asylum seekers	International Organisation for Migration	71 018
Total		71 018



THE WALLOON REGION AND THE FRENCH COMMUNITY



In 2003 bilateral cooperation between the French Community and the Walloon Region, on the one hand, and the Slovak Republic, on the other hand, was carried out on the basis of a bilateral cooperation programme signed on 30 March 2001 with validity of implementation till 31 December 2003.

The projects included various areas of cooperation mainly science and technology, culture, youth, cooperation in teaching and granting of scholarships in various areas. Supporting cooperation between universities, research institutes and also other scientific institutions of partner countries mainly in the form of exchange stays to carry out research continued in the framework of **science and technology** in 2003.

Other projects enabled the population of partner countries to learn the **culture** of the other partner while mainly putting emphasis on organising exhibitions and/or lecturing. Programmes designed for the youth provided mainly exchanges between schools with preference given to bilingual secondary schools with a French programme under the "Youth" European Union Programme. In the given calendar year the **cooperation in teaching** supported education at the level of secondary school and university studies - instructed in French as a foreign language and in technical subjects in French. Funds were allocated in the form of **scholarships** as a priority to projects from these areas: scientific cooperation; language and literature; books and public libraries; media; education in arts; training of managerial staff of cultural and educational institutions; economic and administrative sciences; contemporary history and public law, human rights and European Institutions.

The Walloon Community-Brussels supported the above areas of projects implementation with the objective to adopt the *acquis communautaire* in the Slovak Republic.

Funds granted by the Walloon Region and the French Community of the Kingdom of Belgium **were not quantified** for 2003. The programme is carried out on a reciprocal basis and therefore the financial plan was not executed. In case of individuals joining the programme the regions are also involved by granting individual funds.

In the second half of 2003 preparations for the new 2004 and 2005 Cooperation Programme started and it will be signed in April 2004 as agreed by the Slovak and Walloon parties. The new programme of cooperation will build on the previous experience of both partner countries and will include investment and non-investment activities. Concentrating support on projects aiming at revitalisation of zones with declining industry will be the new programme priority.

Overview of the 17 projects carried out in 2003

Project Name	Sector
Pharmacology for arteriosclerosis - Experimental research in transgenic mice	Slovak Academy of Sciences - SAV
Measurements in ordered vector space and fuzzy sets	Slovak Academy of Sciences - SAV
Proteomic analysis of tumour cells expressing or non-expressing MN/CA 9	Slovak Academy of Sciences - SAV
New metallurgical technologies and the environment	Slovak Academy of Sciences - SAV
Preparation and characterisation of clay nanocomposites	Slovak Academy of Sciences - SAV
Genetic transformation of pine	Slovak Academy of Sciences - SAV
Retraining of staff – development of continuous education	Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic
Teaching methods and vocational training	Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic
Festival of francophone film in Bratislava	Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic
From word to picture	Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic
International Film Festival Bratislava	Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic
Brussels: 1000 years of French culture influence	Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic
Presentation of Belgian animated film for children	Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic
Youth and Europe	Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic
Continuation of training for teachers from the Bilingual Secondary School with a Slovak-French and Slovak-Spanish section at Žilina	Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic
Cooperation with the Bilingual Secondary School with a Slovak-French and Slovak-Spanish section at Žilina	Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic
Cooperation with Comenius University at Bratislava	Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic



THE KINGDOM OF DENMARK



The bilateral assistance of the Kingdom of Denmark is carried out through the **Committee for International Expenditures** of the Ministry of Finance of the Kingdom of Denmark and the **Secretariat for Assistance to Countries of Central and Eastern Europe** was established at it. The main content of its activity is providing technical assistance in administrative capacity building in the CEECs in individual areas of activities.

The Danish government prepared the **1990 – 2002 Assistance Programme** for candidate countries in the framework of the pre-accession assistance. Financial aid amounting to a total of **DDK 23.5 million** was granted to the Slovak Republic in the framework of this programme and 227 projects were implemented in the framework of the Danish-Slovak cooperation.

In 2003 after Assistance Programme closing financial assistance was coming to Slovakia from the Kingdom of Denmark from these Danish organisations:

The Danish Environmental Protection Agency,
the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Denmark,
the Ministry of Defence of the Kingdom of Denmark,
the Investment Fund for the Central and Eastern European Countries.

The pre-accession assistance of the Kingdom of Denmark is in compliance with general priorities of the country and it focuses on sharing significant experience and developed technology in areas:

- **the protection of the environment,**
- **securing world-wide peace,**
- **assistance in building democratic society**
- **helping in the implementation of EU legislation in Slovakia.**

THE PEACE AND STABILITY PROGRAMME

In 2003 the Danish Ministry of Defence supported the **Peace and Stability Programme** with a total of **DDK 269,000**, i.e. **SKK 1,459,404**. This programme focused on activities in the area of defence and it supports developing and strengthening common foreign and security policy and strengthening the status of the enlarged EU at a global scene.

THE INVESTMENT FUND FOR THE CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

The objective of the Danish assistance to the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, i.e. including Slovakia, is supporting the reform process and democracy, fostering economic cooperation and relations between Denmark and Slovakia, assistance to developing private sector and supporting EU accession preparation. In 2003 the Danish Government allocated a total of **DDK 8,800,000**, i.e. **SKK 45,752,247** to this programme.

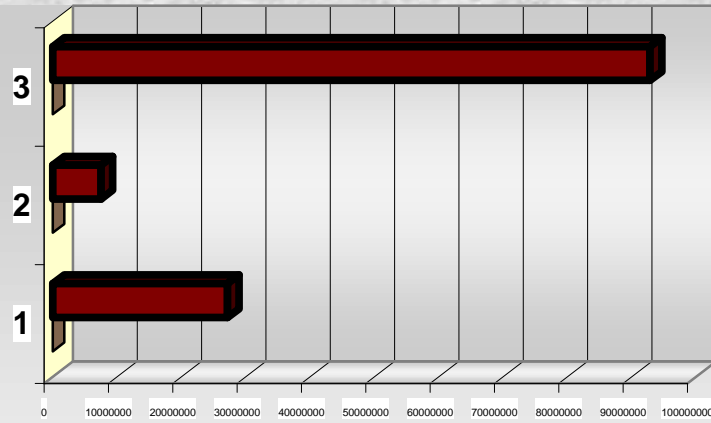
THE PROTECTION AND CREATION OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Bilateral assistance of the Kingdom of Denmark to candidate countries is granted in the framework of the DANCEE programme through the Ministry of the Environment and Energy of the Kingdom of Denmark. The objective of this programme is to concentrate assistance to the Slovak Republic on the preparation for EU accession with respect to the approximation of environmental requirements in compliance with international agreements in the field of the environment and to enhance the influence of the Danish environmental assistance in the Slovak Republic. The assistance to Slovakia in the field of the environment is carried out on the basis of the prolonged agreement with the Ministry for the Environment of the SR that is valid till 2004 and on the basis of which the Danish Government allocated Slovakia **DKK 82,200,000**, i.e. **SKK 444,307,440** for 2003.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The technical assistance of Danish experts in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe is provided through the **FEU + 7 Programme** and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Denmark organisationally covers it. The objective of this programme is to give general assistance to candidate countries in their pre-accession efforts and coming closer to the EU. The main target groups include civil servants in the public sector at central, regional and municipal levels. The programme also supported interested groups and NGOs working in the area of EU accession. In 2003 Slovak-Danish projects amounting to a total of **DDK 1,584,000**, i.e. **SKK 8,553,729** were supported in the Slovak Republic from this programme.

Financial support of Denmark in 2001 - 2003



Amount in DDK

	1	2	3
■ suma	27 178 930	7 500 053	92 853 000
□ rok	2001	2002	2003

Overview of the DANCEE programme projects

Project Name	Sector
Geothermal project	Slovgeoterm
Flood management in Slovakia and Ukraine	DHI
Economic and technical assistance to Slovakia in EU negotiations focusing on approximation commitments implementation	Ministry for the Environment of the SR
Remediation of polluted soils and ground waters - Stage 3	Ministry for the Environment of the SR
Evaluation of investment opportunities in the water sector in Slovakia	Faculty of Chemistry and Technology at Košice
Programme for waste water and education at Poprad - Stage 2	EKO Poprad
Establishment of the Centre of Environmental Education – School of Nature Protection at Varín	State Nature Protection
Participative and sustainable management of the Tatry National Park	TANAP
Reduction of green house gas emissions	Regional Development Agency at Žilina

Overview of the FEU+7 programme projects

Project Name	Sector
Assistance to the Ministry of Finance in the area of indirect taxes and use of information technology	Ministry of Finance SR
Reforms in court management and budgeting	Office of the Government SR
Training and advising on statistical information processing	Statistical Office
Seminar on the EU for civil servants	Office of the Government SR
Train the trainer seminar	Office of the Government SR

The total bilateral assistance coming to Slovakia from the Kingdom of Denmark achieved a value of **€92,853,000**, i.e. **SKK 498 613 416 in 2003**.



THE FRENCH REPUBLIC



In the Slovak Republic the bilateral French-Slovak relations based cooperation is coordinated through the French Institute in Bratislava that together with the French Embassy developed the technical assistance into a tool of French-Slovak cooperation.

In 2003 the French Government supported these areas:

CULTURAL COOPERATION AND THE FRENCH LANGUAGE

Financial support was allocated to granting scholarships for art studies, cultural manifestations, youth and sports, supporting the French language and francophone, modernisation of administration, education and bilingual French-Slovak sections at schools in France and the Slovak Republic. The total amount of funds from this programme was **€ 486,783**, i.e. **SKK 19,733,696**.

COOPERATION AMONG UNIVERSITIES AND IN SCIENCE

The programme focused on cooperation in the audiovisual domain and journalism; support to the French language, education, resources and methods; university cooperation; training of foreigners in France; funds were also allocated to social sciences and archaeology; documentation and scientific information; bilateral projects and programmes. In 2003 it received a support of **€ 683,174**, i.e. **SKK 27,695,191**.

TECHNICAL AND INSTITUTIONAL COOPERATION

The projects were targeted to the area of education of state administration staff with the aim to strengthen the rule of law, the scope of activities covered courses of legal French, cooperation among police force components, modernisation of administration and education, methodology transfer in tourism development, standardisation, certification and product quality in the sector of industry. The total of allocated funds amounted to **€ 337,235**, i.e. **SKK 13,689,380**.

AUDIOVISUAL COOPERATION

This programme focused on the assistance to the promotion of French film and education in the audiovisual area. In 2003 the French Government allocated a total of **€ 41,930**, i.e. **SKK 1,699,800** to this programme.

In 2003 the total of funds allocated by the French government to the implementation of the projects in the framework of the Slovak-French bilateral cooperation amounted to **€ 1,549,122**, which, when converted, is an amount of **SKK 62,739,441** for the Slovak Republic.

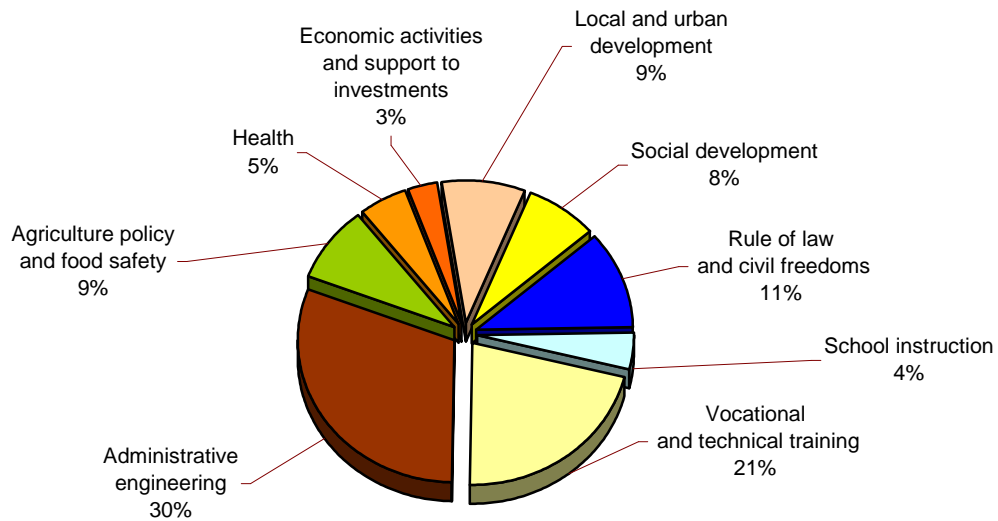
Overview of implemented projects of cooperation among universities and in science

Area	Project Name	Amount in €
Audiovisual cooperation and journalism	Training in the audiovisual area	15 100
	Cooperation among the departments of journalism between Comenius University in Bratislava and CFPJ in Paris	28 820
French language, education, source and methods	The French language at the French studies departments at universities	49 490
	The French language at non-philological specialisations	8 780
	Training of translators and interpreters	38 980
	Evaluation of French departments at universities	23 040
	Development of the French language at non-philological specialisations at universities	23 040
	Creating French Language Summer University at Komárno	11 967
Cooperation among universities	Support to the francophone branch of the University of Economics at Bratislava	19 320
	The French programme at the Faculty of Management of Comenius University in Bratislava	14 720
	Cooperation in the area of European law animated by the University of Nancy 2	34 630
	Secondment of diplomats from the economic sciences branch of the University of Nice to Košice	11 560
Education of foreigners in France	Support to university studies French	3 000
	Scholarships for studies and study stays	303 965
	Harmonisation of instruction programmes between the Technical University of Zvolen and ENSAM at Cluny	30 660
Social sciences and archaeology	Assistance in translating and publishing scientific articles	3 500
Documentation and scientific information	Subscribing scientific revues	4 000
Bilateral projects and programmes	Scientific and university exchanges	17 200
	The "Štefánik" integrated activities programme	30 570
	Logistical support to the project	10 832
TOTAL		683 174

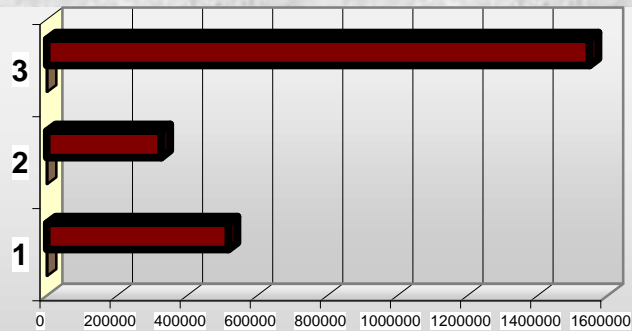
Overview of implemented projects in technical and institutional cooperation

Area	Project Name	Amount in €
Economic activities and support to investments	Standardisation, certification, quality - industrial sector	10 000
Local and urban development	Assistance in drafting the scheme of national deployment and development of the Slovak tourism. Experimenting in the region.	14 610
	Development of the decentralised French-Slovak cooperation	11 500
	Promotion of tourism	3 320
Social development	Training of Roma mediators	25 525
Rule of law and civil freedoms	Support to the Slovak judiciary Training in legal French	6 660
	Police cooperation (11-month scholarships at the police school)	22 550
	Study stays at the National Magistrate's School/ International Human Rights Institute (3-month scholarships for 2 fellows)	8 200
School instruction	Modernization of education administration	14 040
Vocational training and technical training	Equipment for trans-national integrated training for the current Plastik Omnium company employees	41 161
	Methodology transfer in tourism development	30 374
Administrative engineering	Technical assistance in the area of training Slovak administrative staff	23 732
	Study stays at the ENA National School of Public Administration (37-month scholarships for 10 fellows)	74 795
	Study stays concerning "institutional francophonie"	3 000
	Community French courses	700
	Study stays for state administration staff at Strasbourg - CEES «preparation for competitions»	1 160
	Study stays for state administration staff at Warsaw «preparation for EU positions competitions»	360
Agriculture policy and food safety	Support to and placement of equipment for food products quality certification	28 908
Health	Study stays of medicine students (8-month scholarships) expert evaluations in the field of hospital management	16 640
TOTAL		337 235

Technical and institutional co-operation in 2003



Financial support of the French Republic in 2001 - 2003



Amount in EUR

	1	2	3
■ Amount	518 795	327 000	1 549 122
□ Year	2001	2002	2003



THE HELLENIC REPUBLIC



In 2003 the Hellenic Republic supported cooperation with Slovakia on the basis of their **Cultural Bilateral Agreement on Cooperation with the Slovak Republic** signed in 2002 and subsequently the **2002 – 2004 Cooperation Programme** was drafted.

The programme focused on cooperation in the areas of culture, education, youth and sport; the target group included students, teachers at secondary schools and universities and researchers.

In this framework the Slovak applicants were given grants for:

- one-year university study
- study stay for teachers
- language and summer courses
- summer academies
- educational stays focusing on history.

Relevant ministries coordinate these activities directly. Funds granted for the implementation of the programme by the Hellenic Republic in 2003 **were not quantified**.

Overview of supported projects

Project Name	Beneficiary	Number of participants
Study stay for teachers	Ministry of Education SR	2
Summer School of Greek Language and Culture	Ministry of Culture SR	4
Master studies	Ministry of Culture SR	1
Summer School of Greek Language and Civilisation	Ministry of Education SR	1
Post graduate studies	Ministry of Culture SR	1
Summer Academy of European History	Ministry of Education SR	1
	TOTAL	10



THE KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS

In 2003 bilateral cooperation between the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the Slovak Republic continued on the basis of the signed “**2003 Memorandum of Understanding on the PSO Pre-Accession Programme, Matra Pre-Accession Programme and Matra Advisory Missions for the Government**“, which came into validity on 19 December 2003 and into effect on 1 January 2003.

In 2003 the Slovak-Dutch bilateral cooperation featured a broad spectrum of assistance tools, a broad variety of target groups and flexible programming conditions in the course of the whole year.

The pre-accession assistance of the Kingdom of the Netherlands aimed at helping in the harmonisation, implementation and application of the *acquis communautaire* in Slovakia mainly in institution and administrative capacity building and **it had the form of technical assistance, advisory activities, consultancy, seminars, training, analyses and specialised study visits.**

In 2003 the Dutch Government approved two basic assistance instruments:

THE PSO PROGRAMME

It is coordinated by the Ministry of Economic Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the **Ministry of Spatial Planning, Housing and the Environment of the Kingdom of the Netherlands**. It focuses on strengthening candidate country's capacity to build market economy and to comply with the economic criteria for EU accession in the sectors of the environment, agriculture, transport, finance, energy and regional development.

THE MATRA PROGRAMME

The programme was coordinated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and it focused mainly on the development of human resources and support to the reform at all levels.

In 2003 seven projects amounting to a total of **€ 2,270,838**, i.e. **SKK 92,130,168** were supported under the **PSO and MATRA pre-accession programmes** with the target group being state institutions and local self-government bodies.

In 2003 one project amounting to a total of **€ 34,393**, i.e. **SKK 1,395,358 SKK** was supported in the shortened programme “**PSO – short**“.

11 projects of a total of **€ 175,261**, i.e. **SKK 7,110,514** were supported in the framework of the **MATRA - KAP** (kleine ambassade projekten) programme. **Non-governmental organisations and local self-government bodies** were the target group of this programme. The implementation of this programme was coordinated by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands at Bratislava.

The MATRA – classical projects programmes focuses on the NGO sector. The implementation of this programme was coordinated by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands at Bratislava. In 2003 the Dutch Government supported the following projects amounting to total of **€ 1,600,733** ,i.e. **SKK 64,943,338**.

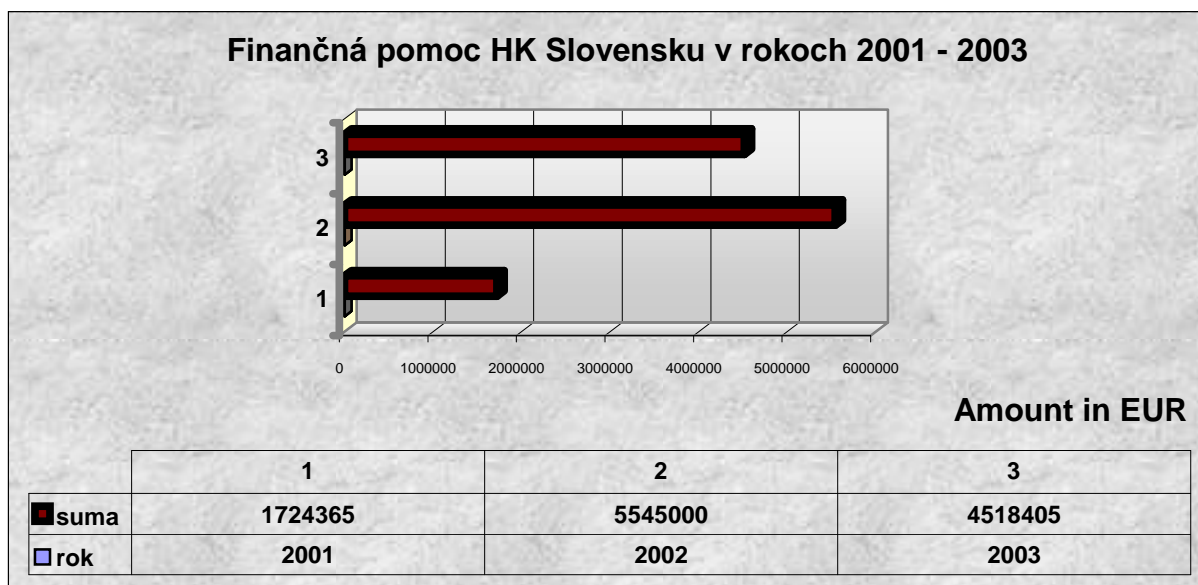
The MATRA – KNIP Programme – focuses on the environment and the bodies of local self-government and the NGO sector were the beneficiaries. This programme was coordinated by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands at Bratislava. In 2003 the following projects amounting to a total of **€ 30,000**, i.e. **SKK 1,217.130** were supported.

MATRA – PUA Programme – is a programme of short expert missions of advisors who came to Slovakia and provided technical assistance to state bodies and local self-government bodies. 16 short expert missions amounting to a total of **€ 27,900**, i.e. **SKK 1,131,931** were implemented in Slovakia in 2003.

MATRA– ADEPT Programme – this programme provided training courses to Slovak civil and public servants held in the Netherlands. 56 Slovak applicants participated in the ADEPT courses in 2003. The total costs of their stays were **€ 357,280**, i.e. **SKK 1,495,207**.

MATRA - IMPACT Programme - the objective of the programme is to enable state administration staff participating in specialised study stays at ministries, governmental organisations and institutions in the Kingdom of Netherlands. 13 applicants from Slovakia attended specialised study stays in 2003. The total costs of their stays were **€ 22,000**, i.e. **SKK 892, 562**.

In 2003 the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands granted Slovakia financial support amounting to a total of **€ 4,518,405**, i.e. **SKK 183,316,208**.



List of PSO and MATRA pre-accession programmes projects:

Project Name	Sector	Amount in €
Building of the quality support programme in Slovakia	Ministry of Economy SR	325 713
EU structural funds project pipeline	Ministry of Construction and Regional Development SR	369 999
Ground water evaluation with respect to the requirements of the Framework Directive and the ground water administration	Ministry for the Environment SR	270 000
Institutional support to the pesticide programme in Slovakia	Ministry for the Environment SR	343 248
Implementation of new EU directives in the field of measuring devices (MID)	Office of Standards, Metrology and Testing SR	301 796
Implementation of the Water Framework Directive in a cross-border context*)	Ministry for the Environment SR	340 082
Improvement in monitoring some pollutants in air emissions in the territory of Slovakia	Ministry for the Environment SR	320 000
TOTAL		2 270 838

*) trilateral project with the Republic of Hungary

List of “PSO – short“ programme projects:

Project Name	Sector	Amount in €
Institution building in the area of transport policy development	Ministry of Transport, Posts and Telecommunications SR	34393

List of “MATRA – IMPACT“ programme projects:

Sector	Number of participants
Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family SR	11
Ministry of Economy SR	2
TOTAL	13

List of “MATRA - KAP“ programme projects:

Project Name	Assistance Beneficiary	Amount in €
Education to human rights and tolerance	Ľudia v ohrození -People in Peril	3 528,00
Let's talk about rural areas	Asociácia pre rozvoj podnikov - Association for Business Development	2 205,00
Help to people in need	Občania pre spoločnosť- Citizens for the Society	6 149,50
Survey on the judiciary	Združenie sudcov Slovenska - Association of Slovak Judges	10 437,49
Integrated education of visually handicapped persons	Specialised school for visually handicapped	6 428,80
Increasing the sensitivity of the majority to the Roma	Roma Press Agency	11 392,50
Voluntary work for the handicapped	Slovenská asociácia hendikepovaných - Slovak Association of the Handicapped	2 930,81
Support to NGO in the cross-border area of Ister Granum	Nadácia Budúcnosť - Future Foundation	5 953,50
Revitalization programme	Civil Association Tatry	10 535,00
Strengthening of land use planning at the level of local self-governments	Regional Educational Centre	10 290,00
Child Deed to Help Others	eRKO	4 410,00
Big Brother, Big Sister	Tandem	11 456,20
Let's go together - we will support our school	Bratislavská komunitná nadácia - Community foundation of Bratislava	8 261,40
Child is no obstacle	Asociácia žien v podnikaní - Association of Women in Business	10 765,30
Support to NGOs and philanthropy	Asociácia pre rozvoj 3. sektora - Association for the NGOs Sector Development	11 470,66
Implementation of modern philanthropy	Pro Donum	5 610,50
Support to the law on free access to information in self-governments	Občan a demokracia - Citizen and democracy	11 147,50
International festival of persons with impaired hearing	EFFETA	10 927,00
Citizens and democracy	LOTOS	11 206,30
Terminal, descend	Association of Supervisors	8 751,40
1% for a better life	Slovak Non-Profit Centre	11 404,75
	Total	175 261

List of “MATRA – classical“ programme projects:

Project Name	Assistance Beneficiary	Amount in €
Rudňany community centre	Asociácia dôstojný život SNV - Worthy Life Association SNV	12 557
Approximation of the Slovak law	Nadácia pre slovenskú a európsku spoluprácu - Foundation for Slovak and European Cooperation	56 020
Civil lines of Slovakia	Ľudia a voda, Košice, Levoča a Sabinov - People and Water, Košice, Levoča and Sabinov	30 000
Slovak publishing project	Nadácia Milana Šimečku, Index - Milan Šimečka Foundation, Index	34 656
Social services for the families of handicapped	Zväz postihnutých civilizačnými chorobami - Association of Civilisation Diseases Victims	60 000
Improvement of environmental education	Centrum environmentálnych aktivít - Centre for Environmental Activities Ministry of Education SR and Ministry for the Environment SR	70 000
Information for citizens	Združenie pre podporu lokálnej demokracie - Association for Support of Local Democracy	169 000
Fostering the position of women in political and public life in the Slovak Republic	Profesionálne ženy PDCS Slovakia - Professional Women PDCS Slovakia	30 000
Development of civil society through children	Nadácia pre deti Slovenska	116 000
Certificate in law and economy EU/ CELE	University of Economics, Comenius University Bratislava	59 000
Institutional project for completing and developing the Slovak Society for Family Planning (Slovenská spoločnosť pre plánované rodičovstvo)	Slovenská spoločnosť pre plánované rodičovstvo a výchovu k rodičovstvu - Slovak Family Planning Association	120 000
Improvement of relations between the police force and public in Slovakia	Police force Headquarters, NCIPS	141 000
Non-governmental organisations in the area of housing in Slovakia	Martin, ZMOS, Ministry of Construction, Regional Development SR	200 000
Transformation towards integrated psychiatry	Integra, Michalovce Psych. hospital	150 000
Your Spiš	ETP Slovakia	112,500
Visually handicapped children	Boarding school for the Blind, Levoča, Únia nevidiacich a slabozrakých Slovenska - Slovak	160 000

	Blind and partially Sighted Union, Primary School Košice, Ministry of Education SR, Comenius University BA and Matej Bel University Banská Bystrica	
Public policy making	Inštitút pre dobré spravovanú spoločnosť - Slovak Governance Institute, Comenius University Bratislava, Inštitút pre verejnú správu - Institute of Public Administration	80 000
TOTAL		1 600 733

List of “MATRA – KNIP“ programme projects:

Project Name	Assistance Beneficiary	Amount in €
Water for life	Aqua vita - Živá voda	806,05
Wetlands in the sub-Tatry basin	Aqua vita - Živá voda	1691,99
Peat bogs at Záhorie	Bratislavské regionálne ochranárske združenie - Bratislava Regional Association of Nature Protection	1372,88
The river unites us	Sosna	1467,55
Saving of golden eagle	Working group for the protection of predators and owls	1744,18
Continuing training in wetlands sustainability	Ministry for the Environment SR	5710,4
Saving of European bison in the Slovak Carpathians	State Nature Protection SR	9200
Saving of great bustard	Spoločnosť pre ochranu vtáctva na Slovensku - Society for the Protection of Birds in Slovakia	8006,88
TOTAL		30 000

List of “MATRA – PUA“ programme projects:

Institution	Number of Missions
Ministry of Construction and Regional Development of the Slovak Republic	3
Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic	2
Postal Office	1
Ministry for the Interior of the Slovak Republic – Migration Office	2
State Food and Veterinary Administration	1
Ministry of Agriculture of the Slovak Republic	2
Telecommunications Office of the Slovak Republic	4
State Vocational Education Institute	1
TOTAL	16

List of “MATRA – ADEPT“ programme projects:

Name of the Course	Number of Participants
Structural Funds	5
How does “Brussels” work	10
Communication with the public I.	7
Communication with the public II.	7
River basin management	4
Social affairs and employment policy	6
Transport infrastructure	5
ISPA the environment/ Cohesion Fund	6
Public health in the EU	3
Decision-making process in the field of drugs	3
Total	56

Programming of the MATRA and PSO pre-accession programmes will not continue in 2004. In 2004 to 2006 projects approved in the framework of MATRA and PSO programming till the end of 2003 will be implemented. In addition, the Kingdom of the Netherlands will give the Slovak Republic a new financial tool "PCB – Programme Capacity Building" aiming at administrative capacity building in economic areas in 2004 - 2006.



IRELAND



Pre-accession assistance from Ireland comes to Slovakia on the basis of the decision by the Irish Government that drafted the **2002 - 2006 Pre-Accession Assistance Programme for Candidate Countries** and this assistance is coordinated by the Department of Foreign Affairs of Ireland. The Department of Foreign Affairs of Ireland allocated funds for seminars and training for civil servants and public administration staff from accession countries from its budget. **The Institute of Public Administration in Dublin** was tasked with the organisation and content of these training events. The Institute in cooperation with experts from the Ireland Office of Civil Service prepared a program of educational activities for participants from Central and Eastern European countries till 2006.

In 2003 the **Programme for EU Accession in the Field of European Policies and Funds** was implemented. In 2003 the following activities were carried out in the framework of this programme:

STUDY STAY

The programme covers 4 stays focusing on specific areas and covering topical issues as:

- Structural and Cohesion Funds
- Competition
- Agricultural Policy and Common Agricultural Policy management
- Strategic management
- 3-week study stays were carried out in Brussels - 1 week and in Dublin - 2 weeks.

SEMINARS

In Dublin

Educational seminars were designed as cross-sectional information on the implementation of Irish policy in the EU framework, involvement of individual sectors into the co-ordination process and clarification of their responsibility and competence. The organisers of the course invited key representatives of state administration of Ireland from Prime Minister's Office (DG of relevant sections and D of departments), Department of Foreign Affairs (State Minister), as well as the representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands (DG of section for EI) and the representative of the Deputy Director of Commissioner Verheugen's cabinet from the European Commission in Brussels. The training was complemented with scientific research results by the representative of the Dublin University focusing on the culture of individual EU Member States administration, strengths and weaknesses of coordination and cooperation of these countries in the field of work of their representatives in EU institutions. The course was attended by 2 representatives of the Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic and 1 representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic.

In the Slovak Republic

The Institute of Public Administration in Dublin in cooperation with the Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic and the Ministry of Construction and Regional Development of the Slovak Republic organised a seminar for 35 Slovak participants from public administration who were a sufficient guarantee to ensure knowledge transfer to public administration at large in the Slovak Republic. Public procurement was the main topic of the seminar.

MASTER STUDIES

The Irish Government also included a year-stay at the University of Dublin and the Dublin European Institute in its assistance programme. The objective of the course is to support completing of master studies in the specialisation European Economy and Public Administration. In 2003 the course was attended by one representative of the Slovak Office of the Government.

Funds granted for the implementation of the pre-accession assistance programme to the Slovak Republic by Ireland in 2003 **were not quantified.**



THE GRAND-DUCHY OF LUXEMBOURG



In 2003 the Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg supported cooperation with the Slovak Republic on a bilateral basis through the **2002 – 2004 Programme of Cooperation between the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic, Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic and Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Youth and Ministry of Sports of the Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg**, which entered into force upon signing the Agreement on 28 May 2002.

The programme focused on cooperation in the areas of culture, education, youth and sports; it focused on students, graduants, teachers and scientists. In the framework of this programme the Slovak applicants were given grants for:

- university study
- study stay
- management and information science courses
- language courses
- musical and artistic activities
- educational stays

Relevant ministries coordinate these activities directly. Funds granted for the implementation of the programme by the Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg in 2003 **were not quantified**.



THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY



The **TRANSFORM PROGRAMME** is the legal instrument for the Slovak-German cooperation. **The Coordination Centre of Economic Consulting** was established at the Embassy of the Federal republic of Germany in Bratislava and it coordinated projects of cooperation under the TRANSFORM programme. The TRANSFORM programme is an all-Germany programme for the support of economy and accession of candidate countries into the EU. It was opened in 1994 and more than 100 Slovak projects amounting to a total of DEM 53 million in the period till 2001 were supported from it. Since 2001 the TRANSFORM programme has been phased out; in 2003 projects programmed before 2001 were financed and their implementation is now being finalised.

The objective of German government's bilateral assistance is to ensure peace and stability in Central Europe and to support the development of democratic politically and economically strong countries. The Slovak-German bilateral cooperation activities focused on:

- Vocational training and further education
- Restructuring of privatised state enterprises
- Support to tourism

In 2003 financial support to Slovakia came from these programmes:

SUPPORT TO THE AGRARIAN SECTOR

The "**Support to the Agrarian Sector in the Slovak Republic**" project financed by the Federal Ministry of Consumer Protection, Nutrition and Agriculture, where the partners are the **Association for Agricultural Companies** and Ministry of Agriculture SR and the Association of Agro Entrepreneurs of Slovakia, is carried out at the Ministry of Agriculture of the Slovak Republic under the TRANSFORM programme. The project focused on assistance in the framework of EU pre-accession preparation of the Slovak Republic.

SUSTAINABLE TOURISM in Central and Eastern Europe

This programme is covering nature protection and ecological tourism across the board. This programme supports various activities in the sector of the Ministry for the Environment. Financial support was also granted for the development of the State Nature Protection Agency at Banská Bystrica. This programme was funded from the budget of the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Protection and Nuclear Reactors Safety. The programme is being implemented in cooperation with the Germany based Ecological Tourism Agency.

The "**Demonstration model applied to the natural and cultural heritage of Banská Štiavnica**" and the "**Strategy of thermal energy supply of the city of Ružomberok**" was implemented under this programme in Slovakia.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION PROGRAMME

The Slovak-German bilateral projects the “**Evaluation of Phenological Data for Climatological Purposes**” in which the Deutscher Wetterdienst and the Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute was implemented under pre-accession assistance in the Slovak Republic in 2003. The project focused on adjusting monitoring programmes and evaluation of acquired results to OECD and EU requirements. Its objective was to support the Slovak Republic in achieving compliance with international commitments in the area of data and information exchange in meteorology, hydrology, air quality and natural environment radioactivity.

The total financial support **was not quantified** in 2003.

Overview of projects carried in 2003

Project Name	Beneficiary
Evaluation of phenological data for climatological purposes	Slovenský hydrometeorologický ústav - Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute
Strategy of thermal energy supply of the city of Ružomberok	Ministry for the Environment
Demonstration model applied to the natural and cultural heritage of Banská Štiavnica	Ministry for the Environment
The support of to the agrarian sector in the Slovak Republic	Ministry of Agriculture SR
Technical assistance	Office of the Government SR



THE KINGDOM OF NORWAY



The Kingdom of Norway aims at creating a platform for a broad and strengthened cooperation of Norway with candidate countries by supporting closer relations, developing a network of contacts and cooperation in a broad scope of areas. State organisations and NGOs, the business sector and the civil society form the target group.

The financial assistance of Norway is channelled through three programmes to Slovakia:

ACTION PLAN

This programme is coordinated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Norway in a close cooperation with the Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic. The objective of the **Foreign Assistance Programme of the Kingdom of Norway** is to strengthen security, stability, sustainable growth and development in Europe by incorporating the Baltic countries and the countries of Central and Eastern Europe into the political and economic cooperation through their membership in the EU. The development of cooperation between Norway and candidate countries in selected areas is an equally important objective.

- In supporting peace and security in Europe and also in joint solving of serious global and social problems that will help to resolve the situation, build administration and that would support sustainable development.
- Supporting the implementation of environmental projects, technology and know how transfer through projects in the private and public sector that will help to improve the environmental situation, administrative capacity building for the protection of the environment and that will support sustainable development and reduction of health risks resulting from pollution, contagious diseases and insufficient food safety.

In 2003 an amount of **NOK 2,760,000**, i.e. **SKK 13,167,960** was earmarked for activities of this programme in the Slovak Republic.

REGIONAL PROJECTS

The main areas of cooperation are defined in the following **priority target areas**:

- Support in strengthening the continuing development of democracy, support to political pluralism, building of democratic institutions and observance of fundamental human rights including gender equality and trade union rights.
- Supporting cooperation in the area of education, research and culture with the objective to facilitate mutual learning each other and mutual understanding.

In the framework of this programme 18 Slovak projects amounting to a total of **NOK 1,082,500**, i.e. **SKK 5,164,608** were supported.

“LINKING UP“ – mobility for Europe

The „**Linking up for Mobility in Europe**“ bilateral programme is financially supported by the Ministry of Education of the Kingdom of Norway and it is open for

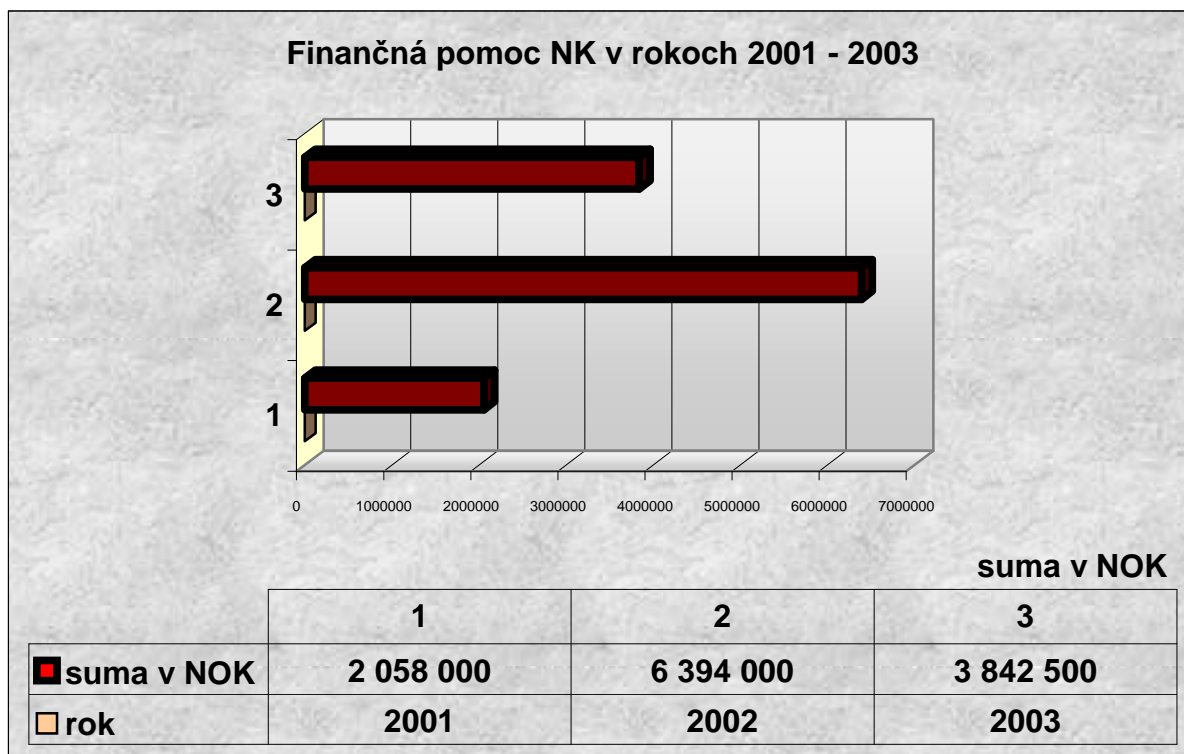
secondary schools, training centres, universities and other educational institutions focusing on all forms of vocational training.

The priorities of this programme are focused on the sectors of:

- Agriculture
- Forestry
- Wood processing and furniture making
- Health care and social work
- New technologies, communications and telecommunications
- Tourism

A contact seminar was organised for those interested in cooperation with the Norwegian Agency Leonardo da Vinci and the Slovak Academic Association in Bratislava. 30 representatives of Norwegian educational institutions and 60 representatives of Slovak organisations interested in cooperation with the Slovak partners in the framework of the Leonardo da Vinci programme and Slovak-Norwegian bilateral cooperation in the framework of the Linking Up programme participated in the seminar. Based on information acquired at this seminar 46 projects were presented and out of them 6 were supported.

The activities of the programme are planned for a multi-year period and therefore the 2003 financial support of this programme **was not quantified**.



Overview of projects supported in the framework of the Action Plan

Name:	Beneficiary	Amount in NOK
Transfer of Norwegian experience in environmental engineering education	Slovak Technical University in Bratislava	280 000
Cooperation the Carpathian Protected Area and Ramsar	National Park – Veľká Fatra	500 000
Support to reducing large scale farming in Slovakia for environmental considerations	Animal Production Research Institute at Nitra	800 000
The Wood Road	Tatry - Spiš Regional Development Agency	50 000
Institutional and administrative support to improving the management of World Heritage of the town of Banská Štiavnica	Environmental Agency and the Centre for Project Programming	600 000
Advocating Slovak interests at working fora in Europe	Academia Istropolitana Nova	530 000
TOTAL		2 760 000

Overview of Regional Projects programme

Name:	Presented by	Amount in NOK
Strengthening of women's position in the parliament	Human Rights League	380 000
Bridges for the Roma	IOM Slovakia	390 000
Dubček - seminar	NUPI	45 000
Slovak – Norwegian / Norwegian-Slovak Dictionary	Ján Zima	40 000
Translation of the book: "Jakten på sannheten".	Ján Zima	10 000
Effective implementation of EU directives on racial equality (Council Directive ES 2000/43/ES)	Liga aktivistov pre ľudské práva - League of Human Rights Activists	217 500
TOTAL		1 082 500

Overview of the “Linking up” programme projects

Name:	Beneficiary
Education and research in the field of forestry and the protection of the environment	Forestry School at Banská Štiavnica
New technologies in education	Slovak Technical University
Planning and organising theoretical education and practical training	Secondary School of Agriculture at Šurany
Economic and social conditions of Slovak farmers	Secondary School of Agriculture at Spišská Nová Ves
Learning the system of education, language and culture	Secondary Medical School at Ružomberok
Quality of hotel services and food preparation	

In 2003 the total of funds allocated to the implementation of the projects in the framework of the Slovak-Norwegian bilateral cooperation amounted to **NOK 3,842,500** , i.e. **SKK 18,332,568** for the Slovak Republic.



The objective of bilateral co-operation is to help Slovakia to successfully complete the transition to a pluralist democracy and well governed market economy so that the benefits are sustainable and distributed at all levels of the society.

In 1992 to 2002 the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland granted financial assistance to Slovakia on the basis of its Strategic Plan. These activities were coordinated by the Ministry for international Development of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and, in Slovakia, they were known under the name Know How Fond. In 2002 all projects supported in the framework of this programme were completed.

Areas of priorities to successfully achieve and fulfil objectives identified in the previous programme were defined on the basis of the completed programme evaluation. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland also made further funds available to Slovak devisers of new projects to support this objective in 2003. The current programmes will strengthen and develop results of the Strategy for Slovakia and they will continue to play an important role in assisting the Slovak

Government to implement its plans for public sector decentralisation and modernisation.

In 2003 bilateral assistance focused on areas of exceptional importance for the future of Slovakia, namely:

- Supporting integration of Slovakia into the EU and other European organisations
- Encouraging transformation into market economy
- Consolidating democracy in Slovakia, laws presented by the Government, freedom of media and respect for human rights.

In 2003 bilateral assistance for the Slovak Republic granted by Great Britain came from the funds of the British Foreign Office, Department for the Environment, Department of Trade and Industry and the Department for International Development of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in the form of following programmes.

ACTION PROGRAMME

Implementation and coordination of the programme is the competence of the Department for International Development. Bilateral cooperation with the Slovak Republic is implemented on the basis of the Strategic Plan for Slovakia. A total amount of £ 125,000, i.e. SKK 7,526,625 was earmarked for this programme. 14 projects were supported in the framework of this programme:

GLOBAL OPPORTUNITIES

The **Global Opportunities Fund** programme focuses on addressing global problems in these areas:

- human rights
- the protection of the environment,
- international crime
- worldwide security.

The implementation and coordination of the programme is under the competence of the British Foreign Office. In the framework of this programme 4 projects amounting to a total of £ 179,114 , i.e. SKK 10,784,992 were supported.

GLOBAL CONFLICT PREVENTION

The **Global Conflict Prevention Fund** programme is coordinated by the British Foreign Office. The objectives of the project focus on educational and training activities of a multicultural society with an emphasis on minority groups and they supported the implementation of human resources development strategy. 4 projects amounting to a total of £ 113,000, i.e. SKK 6,804,069 were supported In from this programme.

THE ENVIRONMENT FOR EUROPE

The Department for the Environment of the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland in cooperation with the Ministry for the Environment of the Slovak Republic identified areas for bilateral cooperation under the **UK Environment for Europe Fund** programme as a complement to EU and other EU Member States programmes. The main objective of the programme is to raise awareness of the environment in protected areas and national parks among citizens. 2 projects amounting to a total of **£ 16,527**, i.e. **SKK 995,141** were supported in the framework of this programme in 2003.

CHEVENING EUROPEAN FELLOWSHIPS

The **Chevening Fellowships Programme** of the British Government for Slovakia includes European fellowships, which were allocated **£ 108,000**, i.e. **SKK 6,503,004**. The objective of this programme is to financially support the education of Slovak employees in state administration in legislation and EU practice.

NUCLEAR SAFETY PROGRAMME

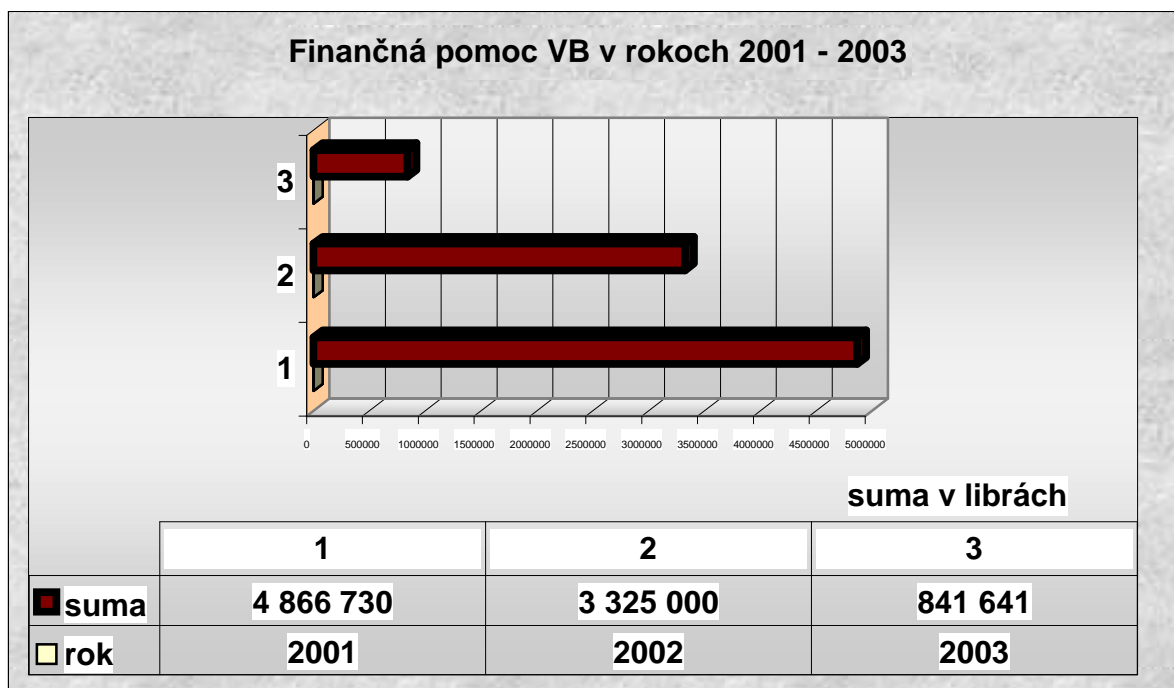
The **Nuclear Safety Programme** was opened for the 2003 to 2005 period and it is financially supported by the **Department for Trade and Industry** of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. This programme focuses on addressing issues of nuclear safety with courses, preparation of safety documentation, development of methodology, progressive work procedures and improvement of nuclear power plants. Operators of VVER nuclear power stations, supervisory bodies and operators of nuclear equipment are the target group. Language courses for target group staff are also given in the framework of this programme. Projects are run by the Environmental Services Ltd. representing the Department for Trade and Industry of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and 11 Slovak projects were financially supported in 2003. A total amount of **£ 300,000**, i.e. **SKK 18,063,900** were allocated to this programme.

BRITISH COUNCIL'S PROGRAMME

The British Council's programme focuses on the area of culture, exchange and study stays as well as an effective assistance in improving English language teaching at all levels of Slovak schools. The total financial support was not quantified.

All projects carried out in the framework of bilateral cooperation between Great Britain and the Slovak Republic are coordinated by the British Embassy in Bratislava.

In 2003 the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland granted Slovakia financial support amounting to a total of **£ 841,641**, i.e. **SKK 50,677,730**.



List of “Global Conflict Prevention“ programme projects

Project name	Beneficiary	Sector
Linguistic training for public administration	Ministry of Defence of the SR	State Administration
Multicultural awareness and diversity of education	ANNWIN	Non-Government Organisation
Communication between the police and the Roma community	Občianske združenie obyvateľov a demokracia - Civil Association of Citizens and Democracy	Non-Governmental Organisation
Combating corruption and money laundering	Centrum pre verejné poradenstvo - Centre	Non-Governmental

	for Public Advisory Services	Organisation
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List of “The Environment for Europe“ programme projects:

Project Name	Beneficiary	Sector
Revitalisation of the Muráň river	Muránska Planina National Park	Non-Governmental Organisation
Revitalisation of the educational trail in the Jakubova dolina	Tatry National Park	Non-Governmental Organisation

List of “Global Opportunities“ programme projects

Project Name	Beneficiary	Sector
Protection of housing policy of the Roma in Slovakia	European Roma Rights Centre	Non-Governmental Organisation
Advising and further education in antidiscrimination legislation	European Roma Rights Centre	Non-Governmental Organisation
Slovak justice system funding reform	Asociácia sudcov - Association of Judges	Non-Governmental Organisation
Training of Roma legal officers	Centrum pre verejné poradenstvo - Centre for Public Advisory Services	Non-Governmental Organisation

List of Action Plan programme projects:

Project Name	Beneficiary	Sector
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Assistance in the financial deregulation process in regions	MESA 10	Non-Governmental Organisation
Technical assistance in auditing	Supreme Audit Office	State administration
Slovakia 2003	Inštitút pre verejné otázky - Institute for Public Affairs	Non-Governmental Organisation
The role of the EÚ	Centre for European Policy	Non-Governmental Organisation
Assistance of the Civil Service Office	Civil Service Office	State Administration
Educating Roma assistants	Regionálna asociácia rómskych iniciatív- Regional Association of Roma Initiatives	Non-Governmental Organisation
Technical assistance	Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic	State administration
Linguistic training for state administration	National Security Authority	State Administration
Combating corruption and fraud in the Slovak republic	Anti-Corruption Office	State administration
Combating corruption at the local level	Transparency International Slovakia	Non-Governmental Organisation
The way to employment	Prison Corps and prisoner guards	State administration
Roma Community Centre at Svinia	Regional Centre for Roma Issues	Non-Governmental Organisation
Linguistic training for judges	Prosecution general	State administration
Free movement of capital - seminar	British Council	Non-Governmental Organisation



THE KINGDOM OF SPAIN



The Government of the Kingdom of Spain focused assistance priorities to the school and culture sectors in the framework of pre-accession assistance. In 2003 financial assistance to Slovakia came from the funds of the Ministry of Schools, Culture and Sports of the Kingdom of Spain and it aimed at spreading of the Spanish language and culture. The teaching of the Spanish language is promoted and supported at various levels of education and in various forms and it is channelled from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Spain via the Agency for International Cooperation.

EDUCATION AND SUPPORT TO SPANISH LANGUAGE TEACHING

Bilingual sections

The Kingdom of Spain prepared a plan for creating 9 bilingual sections in various regions of Slovakia upon a request by the Slovak Republic. To that end bilingual Spanish sections at Slovak secondary schools are included in the school network regularly according to the protocol. Currently 6 secondary schools with a Spanish section - where mathematics, chemistry, physics, biology, geography and Spanish literature are taught in Spanish throughout the whole year - are evenly distributed over the whole of Slovakia. Talented students are supported financially in the form of scholarships and participation in various contests, e.g. the Spanish language Olympiad. In 2003 the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sports of the Kingdom of Spain allocated a total of € 62,249, i.e. SKK 1,523,513 to this programme.

University education

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Spain in cooperation with the Agency for International Cooperation coordinates granting of scholarships for:

- Spanish language summer courses for students
- post graduate studies
- language study stays for Spanish language teachers

20 various scholarships to a total of € 19,200, i.e. **SKK 778,349** were granted in Slovakia in 2003.

CULTURE AND LITERATURE

Translations

The Ministry of Education, Culture and Sports of the Kingdom of Spain grants support to translations of Spanish literature into the Slovak language on an annual basis. In 2003 a financial grant amounting to a total of **€ 4,800**, i.e. **SKK 194,587** was made available for this activity.

Cultural activities

The Ministry of Education, Culture and Sports of the Kingdom of Spain in cooperation with the Embassy of the Kingdom of Spain in Bratislava prepares various cultural activities with the objective of bringing the national culture of Spain in the form of creative arts, film, dance and music close to Slovakia, annually. In 2003 this activity received a support of a total of **€ 14,000**, i.e. **SKK 567,546**.

COOPERATION WITH AECI

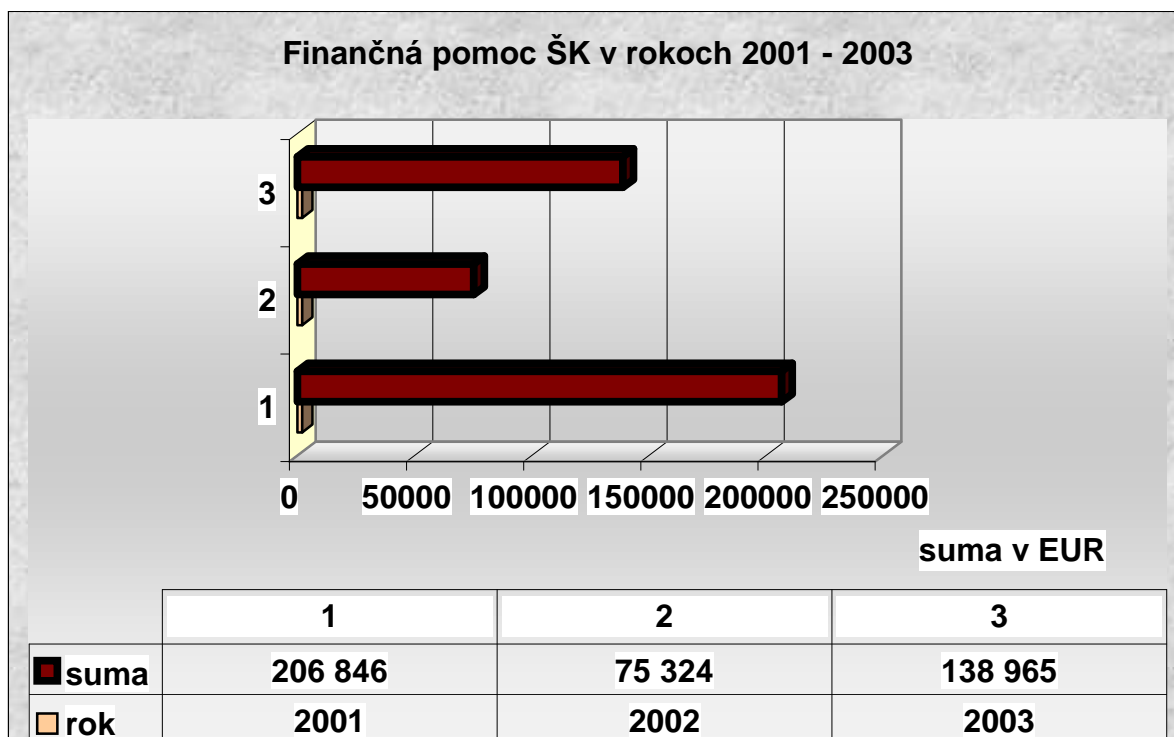
Courses and study stays

The Spanish Agency for International Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Spain grant financial support to the study in specific courses focusing on the transformation of state administration and the business sector. The Spanish Government supported these activities with a total amount of **€ 34,216**, i.e. **SKK 1,387,083** in 2003.

Seminars

The Ministry of Education, Culture and Sports of the Kingdom of Spain supports mutual transfer of experience and skills of teachers teaching Spanish in Slovakia. Therefore in 2003 it allocated a total of **€ 4,500**, i.e. **SKK 182,426** for organising a seminar for teachers and its content.

In 2003 the bilateral assistance from the Kingdom of Spain achieved a total value of **€138,965**, i.e. **SKK 5,633,504**.



Overview of the Bilingual Sections programme projects

Project Name	Sector	Amount in €
Teaching materials	Ministry of Education SR	39 449
Scholarships	Ministry of Education SR	19 200
Spanish Language Olympiad	Ministry of Education SR	3 600
TOTAL		62 249

Overview of the University education programme projects

Project Name	Sector	Number of Participants
Summer language course	Ministry of Education SR	4
Language course for teachers	Ministry of Education SR	11
Post graduate studies	Ministry of Education SR	5

Total	20
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Overview of the Literature and Culture programme projects

Project Name	Sector
Book fair: Bibliotheca - Pedagogy	Ministry of Education SR
Concert by Spanish pianist Carlos Gallard	Ministry of Culture SK
Festival: Mountains and City	Ministry of Culture SK
Translation of the work by Pere Gimferera: The See Burns	Ministry of Culture SK
Translation of the piece by Juana José Millás: Dos mujeres en Praga	Ministry of Culture SK
Exhibitions	Ministry of Culture SK
Total	€ 18,800

Overview of AECI programme projects

Project Name	Sector
Seminar on infrastructure	State administration
European Social Fund	State administration
EU enlargement and the population of the Mediterranean	Ministry of Foreign Affairs SR
Exchange study stays for journalists	Carolina Foundation
VII meeting of Slovak teachers of Spanish	Ministry of Education SR
Total	€ 38,71

THE REPUBLIC OF ITALY



In 2003 financial assistance came to Slovakia from the Republic of Italy on the basis of the Italian legal instrument LEGGE EST No. 212 /92. **The Ministry for Productive Activities of the Republic of Italy** and **the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Italy** have the responsibility for the bilateral assistance programme. The projects financed on the basis of LEGGE 212/92 can be submitted only by Italian entities, which must find and identify a Slovak partner - assistance beneficiary. Based on the project evaluation the Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic awards **Country National Approval**, which is a necessary requirement for acquiring grants from the Republic of Italy.

ACT No. 212 /92

Supporting internationalisation of companies and their penetration to markets of Central and Eastern Europe **is the main objective** of the programme coordinated by the Ministry of Productive Activities of the Italian Republic. Support is given to various types of projects and feasibility studies, pilot projects and general plans focusing on these areas:

- **transport**
- **economy**
- **the environment**
- **territorial development**
- **tourism**
- **energy**
- **agriculture**
- **arts**
- **rural development.**

Italian assistance puts great emphasis on supporting growth of competitiveness and establishing new contacts with companies in EU Member States and candidate countries acceding to the EU with the objective to establish joint ventures. Supporting the implementation of structural reforms and initiatives aiming to facilitate transition to market economy forms in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe. Two projects supported financially by the Republic of Italy with **€ 1,666,102** , i.e. **SKK 67,542,109** were approved under this programme in 2003.

CULTURE AND EDUCATION

Contributions for education and culture to Slovak cultural and educational institutions are reserved from the funds of the Office of the Government of the Republic of Italy annually. The amount of these grants is approved by the Italian Embassy in Bratislava upon a request by a local institution. In 2003 the total support these activities was **€ 112,112** i.e. **SKK 4,544,909**.

REGIONAL COOPERATION

In 2003 several regions of the Republic of Italy showed interest in collaborating with the Slovak Republic at regional level. First contact visits and subsequently prepared mutual presentations of these regions were carried out with this objective:

The Veneto region

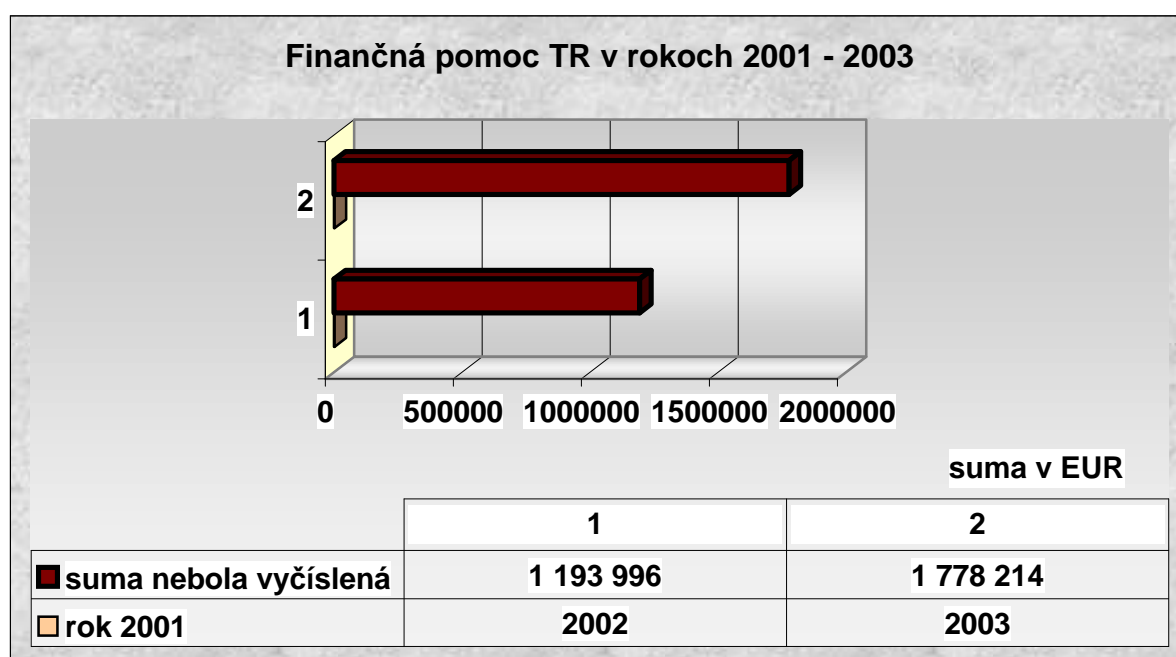
Project plans and priorities of mutual cooperation of two Slovak regions - the Žilina and Bratislava ones - were introduced to the Veneto region. The **Agreement on Cooperation** with the Bratislava region was prepared on the basis of the decision by the regional government of the Veneto region. This cooperation focuses on regional development, education, culture, health care and tourism.

The Emilia Romana region

The Piacenza province – from the Emilia Romana region confirmed interest in regional cooperation focusing on development:

- milk products production and processing
- tomato processing
- wine production and export
- regional development
- education
- agro-tourism and rural tourism

An Agreement on Cooperation between the region of Nitra and the region of Emilia Romagna laying down the possibilities of future cooperation in more detail is under preparation on the basis of first bilateral negotiations.



The bilateral assistance coming from the Republic of Italy to Slovakia in the framework of bilateral cooperation has an increasing tendency. In 2003 the total amount of supported projects had the value of **€ 1,778,214**, i.e. **SKK 72,087,018**.

Overview of projects supported by the Ministry of Production Activities of the Republic of Italy in 2003

Project Name	Sector	Amount in €
Technical-economic assistance feasibility study for the development of the transport system and modernisation of the Plaveč - Poprad railway line	Ministry of Transport, Posts and Telecommunications	843 882

	SR	
Feasibility study of tourism development in the area of Gabčíkovo Water Works	Ministry of Economy SR	822 220
TOTAL		1 666 102

Projects supported by the Office of the Government of the Republic of Italy in 2003

Project Name	Sector	Amount in €
Publications and translations	Ministry of Culture SR	8 912
MEDIA-RADIO	Ministry of Culture SR	7 300
Bilingual Secondary School of Ladislav Sára in Bratislava	Ministry of Education SR	10 000
Scholarships	Ministry of Education SR	59 100
Studies/Master Degrees in Italy	Ministry of Education SR	3 300
Development of Italian language culture teaching at universities	Ministry of Education SR	15 000
Slovak secondary schools – support to Italian language and culture teaching	Ministry of Education SR	8 500
TOTAL		112 112

CONCLUSION

After taking the competencies in the area of bilateral assistance of EU Member States and the Kingdom of Norway over from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs the Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic is in regular contact with the ambassadors from all European Union Member States and the Kingdom of Norway to the Slovak Republic. Bilateral assistance is carried out via diplomatic channels also with an

active cooperation provided by diplomatic missions of the Slovak Republic to EU Member States and the Kingdom of Norway.

In the course of the entire year bilateral discussions were held with the representatives of these embassies in Slovakia. On the basis of information gathered from these discussions materials for sectoral coordinators on project programming and individual Member States cooperation priorities were prepared. All information was regularly published on the website of the Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic: www.vlada.gov.sk .

In order to improve general awareness and funds management transparency in pre-accession assistance to Slovakia the Department for Foreign Assistance PHARE, Bilateral and Multilateral Cooperation of the Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic elaborated the General Coordination Guideline and information manual.

The Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic plays a decisive role in the framework of cooperation with Norway, Flanders, the Netherlands and the Walloon Community, Denmark and Italy. The task of the Office of the Government as a coordinator of foreign assistance in these countries comprises:

- negotiations with the partner country on priority areas for granting foreign assistance for the given period,
- publishing calls for submitting projects via sectoral coordinators and Slovak Office of the Government homepage,
- receiving project plans from devisers,
- selection of projects on the basis of assessing compliance of presented projects with the plan and agreed priorities,
- evaluation of projects, their recommendation to the partners and bilateral discussion on the projects with the partners,
- project monitoring,
- evaluation of project implementation efficiency in the Slovak Republic.

This overview makes it clear that the scope of foreign assistance to Slovakia coming from EU Member States and the Kingdom of Norway is important and the financial support of **SKK 916,186,229** is significant. It is a flexible and efficient tool in comparison with EU programmes. A rapid increase of the number of submitted projects (138 in 2002 and 256 in 2003), as well as a growing trend in the financial support by foreign partners is an evidence of a high interest in bilateral assistance. Compared with 2002 the pre-accession assistance increased by **SKK 137,445,352**.

The following Table and Graph present a summary and visualisation of foreign assistance granted to the Slovak Republic in 2003. Some countries like the Walloon Region and the French Community of the Kingdom of Belgium, Federal Republic of Germany, Ireland and Luxembourg could not be included into the financial comparison because foreign assistance from these countries was not quantified.

Overview of the number of projects by sectors supported in 2003

SECTOR	NUMBER OF PROJECTS
Ministry of Education SR	75
NGOs sector	59
Ministry of Culture SR	21
Ministry for the Environment SR	20
Ministry of Economy SR	14
Nuclear Regulatory Authority SR	11
Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic	11
Ministry of Construction and Regional Development of the Slovak Republic	7
Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic	6
Ministry of Agriculture of the Slovak Republic	6
Ministry of Transport, Posts and Telecommunications SR	5
Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family SR	4
Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic	4
Ministry for the Interior of the Slovak Republic	3
Ministry of Defence of the SR	2
Civil Service Office	1
Anti-Corruption Office	1
National Security Office	1
Office for Standards, Metrology and Testing SR	1
Statistical Office SR	1
Ministry of Foreign Affairs SR	1
Ministry of Finance SR	1
Supreme Audit Authority	1
TOTAL	256

Overview of the number of projects by countries supported in 2003

STATE	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	AMOUNT in SKK
The Flemish Community of the Kingdom of Belgium	5	21 526 940
The Walloon Region and the French Community	17	not quantified
The Kingdom of Denmark	14	501 872 820
The French Republic	39	62 739 441
The Hellenic Republic	10	not quantified
The Kingdom of the Netherlands	74	183 316 208
The Republic of Ireland	7	not quantified
The Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg	6	not quantified
The Federal Republic of Germany	5	not quantified
The Kingdom of Norway	18	18 332 568
The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	35	50 677 730
The Kingdom of Spain	17	5 633 504
The Republic of Italy	9	72 087 018
TOTAL	256	916 186 229

As seen from the Tables the 2003 foreign assistance coming from bilateral sources constituted a significant contribution to state and private institutions in strengthening market rules, democracy, protection and creation of the environment and in the transition and building of institutions according to the example of the European Union.

Graphic presentation of the 2003 bilateral assistance

