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The Implementation of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development represents crucial challenge for strategic planning in all countries all over the World. Slovak Republic as one of the most active countries in the preparatory process of the Agenda 2030 started broad participatory process of defining specific national priorities and drafting own implementation document - the Vision and Development Strategy of the Slovak Republic until 2030 (Vison SK30). This document is unique integrated and integrating implementation document underlying the role of local and regional development players in fulfilling the goals of the Agenda 2030. The integrated development at municipal and regional level seems to be the right framework for strategic and pragmatic elaboration of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) defined by the Agenda 2030 in realistic and target oriented coordinated actions driven by the whole spectrum of actors.

That because the Vison SK30 is based on the participatory process of defining the starting points of the National Strategy for Regional and Territorial Development of the Slovak Republic until 2030 with the participation of representatives of local and regional governments and many other actors of local and regional development. The fact that the defined problems and priorities based on these processes were largely identical to the national adventures of the Agenda 2030, a long-term sustainable development strategy represented by the Vison SK30 also fulfills the role of the National Strategy of Regional Development of the Slovak Republic. The presented document thus integrates sectoral priorities into regional and territorial development. In terms of content, the Vison SK30 is based on four key principles:

- sustainability - the balance between available resources and their use,
- quality of life priorities over economic growth,
- efficiency based on synergy and
- integration of policies and their instruments.

Through cross-sectional cooperation, the Vison SK30 seeks to mobilize public administrations in the harmonization of cross-sectoral policies and the implementation of European programs. For this reason, it is necessary to reflect its content in the documents for the EU programming period 2021-2027. Given the focus on Agenda 2030, the document is oriented towards 2030. At this point, however, it is necessary to think longer-term, for example because the fight against climate change requires a longer period.

The important role in drafting the Vison SK30 was played by academic sector as the driving force and mediator in participatory processes. The Vison SK30 thanks to this involvement achieved not only to be political document but to be joint vision for environmental, social and economic development of the Slovak society, based on scientific knowledge and supported by clear political mandate, which is not so often frequented practice. This is the motivation to publish the Vison SK30 in this issue of Terra-Spectra Planning Studies.

Maroš Finka



VISION AND DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY OF SLOVAKIA UNTIL 2030 A LONG-TERM STRATEGY OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC

SLOVAKIA 2030

**SLOVAKIA AIMING TO ENSURE A HAPPY AND FULL LIFE
FOR ALL ITS CITIZENS AND REGIONS**

BRATISLAVA, DECEMBER 2020

Executive summary

The new version of Vision and Development Strategy of Slovakia until 2030 – a Long-term Strategy of Sustainable Development of the Slovak Republic – Slovakia 2030 (hereinafter as “Slovakia 2030”) is the key implementing document to achieve national priorities of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the Slovak Republic. At the same time, it fulfils the role of the National Strategy for Regional Development in Slovakia in accordance with Act No 539/2008 Coll. on the Support of Regional Development. Its content is in full compliance with Slovakia’s international commitments in the area of sustainable development in its economic, environmental and social dimensions. In this context, these are mainly the international commitments resulting from the European Green Deal, a key document of the new European Commission, which is also based on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of Agenda 2030 while responding to climate change. Slovakia 2030 at the same time reflects the EU programming documents that are being developed in connection with the beginning of the new programming period 2021-2027. It equally takes into account the situation in the society affected by the Covid 19 pandemic. As an integrated development strategy, this document aims not only to reflect and specify priorities of the UN 2030 Agenda and European Green Deal for Slovakia, but also to provide a framework for national public policies and development policies of regional and local governments in order to ensure their coordination, synergy, stability and a more efficient use of public resources.

Slovakia 2030 sets out priorities and development goals of Slovakia in three integrated development programmes covering key development areas: protection and development of resources, their sustainable use and the development of communities. These programmes are seen as cross-cutting, integrating the areas within the remit of various ministries and various levels of state and local administration. They address the main challenges at the national level while taking into account specifics of individual regions.

The priorities and goals of the long-term strategy of sustainable development will be further elaborated in the National Investment Plan, sectoral strategies of individual bodies of the state administration, in the economic development and social development programmes of self-governing regions, towns and municipalities, and they will also be reflected in the preparation of the EU’s new programming period 2021-2027, mainly in the Partnership Agreement and Operational Programme Slovakia.

Key words and their meaning in the document:

communities – people, social relations, cooperation and inclusion regions – space, territory, towns and municipalities
where the needs of people are satisfied development – *improving the quality of life* sustainability – *using resources while also preserving them for the future generations* environment – *sustainable natural, social and cultural environment as a precondition for a healthy and good-quality life both for individuals and communities* safety – *courage, resilience and preparedness for external and internal threats* living a full life – *making the best use of the potential of each individual*



Introduction

The motivation behind the creation of Slovakia 2030 as a long-term strategy of sustainable development of the Slovak Republic was the need to develop a comprehensive horizontal strategic document as a framework for implementation of the 2030 Agenda and preparation of documents for the next programming period. It shall be updated in the context of societal changes, challenges and related international strategic documents. The updated strategy will provide a framework for the direction and development of strategies, and enable better and more accurate links between relevant documents of Slovakia for the EU's programming period 2021-2027 before it is replaced by the Vision and Development Strategy of Slovakia 2050, which is set to be drafted by the expected deadline of 2024.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was adopted by all 193 UN states. It calls for swift action to promote prosperity while protecting the planet, recognising that "ending poverty must go hand in hand with strategies that build economic growth and address a variety of social needs, including education, health, social protection, while creating jobs in tackling climate change and protecting the environment".

The European Union signed up to the 2030 Agenda goals primarily in the following documents:

- Communication from the European Commission No 15011/18 A Clean Planet for all: A European strategic long-term vision for a prosperous, modern, competitive and climate neutral economy
- Towards a Sustainable Europe by 2030
- Joint synthesis report of the European Union and its member states of 15 May 2019: Supporting the Sustainable Development Goals across the World, in which the EU and its member states confirm their commitments to implement the 2030 Agenda goals

These documents resulted in the adoption of the European Green Deal, a flagship document of the new European Commission.

The Slovak government started implementing the 2030 Agenda by adopting the The Baseline for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Subsequently, it approved the Concept for the 2030 Agenda Implementation in the International Environment, outlining a vision of Slovakia's active contribution to the progress on SDGs in the global context. In July 2017, the Slovak government adopted the Roadmap for National Implementation of Agenda 2030 and in June 2018, six national priorities for the 2030 Agenda implementation:

1. Education for a life in dignity
2. Transformation towards a knowledge-based and environmentally sustainable economy in the face of changing demographics and global environment
3. Poverty reduction and social inclusion
4. Sustainable settlements, regions and landscape in the context of climate change
5. Rule of law, democracy and security
6. Good health

Long-term strategy for central and local governments

In its Programme for 2020-2024, the Slovak government committed itself to promoting an internally cohesive, strong and socially just Slovakia, able to use public resources for the development of its regions and for the protection of the environment in order to support the transition of Slovakia to a smart, innovative and transparent country. This commitment of the government is fully compliant with the national priorities of the 2030 Agenda. However, to deliver on these goals, it is essential to involve local and regional governments, which are closest to the citizens. Therefore it is necessary to translate the national priorities of the 2030 Agenda into the plans and support programmes of all relevant ministries, as well as at the level of regional and local administration, including programmes related to the European structural and investment funds.

Slovakia 2030 thus also fulfils the role of the National Strategy for Regional Development under Act No 539/2008 Coll. on the Support of Regional Development. It serves as a source document for regional and local governments in preparation of their economic development and social development programmes (EDSDP). At the same time, in line with the quoted Act, the National Strategy for Regional Development shall be developed and updated, respecting the principle of partnership, based on the current development programmes of higher territorial units, municipalities and joint municipality programmes.



Figure 1: Vision and Strategy in the Hierarchy of Strategic and Programming Documents



Slovakia 2030 is a long-term strategy reaching beyond one political cycle. This way, it aims to improve the predictability of public policies, the use of public resources and the stability of the business environment.

The aim of the Slovakia 2030 document is to overcome a narrowly sectoral approach to development planning at the level of the central government and link it with the level of regions and municipalities according to the following scheme:

A country's vision offers an image of what the country should look like in a given period. It takes into account the expected developments in society, technological progress and their projection into the daily lives of the population. Strategy is a way to progress from the current state to the desired state embodied in the vision. To achieve the goals in a more efficient way, sectoral and territorial strategies are developed. These consist of programmes containing specific measures, areas of their implementation and a timetable.

The figure above illustrates the simplified general principle of vision implementation through strategies, programmes and individual projects. However, it should be noted that successful implementation of the vision depends primarily on the synergies of individual strategies and concepts, created at different levels and sectors of the state, regional and local governments, with Slovakia 2030 having the ambition to serve as an umbrella document. The coherence of individual sub-strategies must be assessed in the process of their preparation, using the standard procedure for preparation of a document of a strategic nature.

Slovakia 2030 – preparation process

National priorities for Agenda 2030 approved by the Slovak government resolution No 273/2018 were designed in a broad participatory process involving public administration together with private sector, academia and NGOs. The Vision and Development Strategy of Slovakia until 2030 was prepared around national priorities of the UN 2030 Agenda. The document was drafted in cooperation with a wide range of stakeholders.

Expert working groups were established for each integrated development programme, bringing together representatives from the public administration (including analytical units), academia, business sector, socio-economic partners and non-profit NGOs. These groups under the leadership of their guarantors elaborated individual parts of the document. The document then went through the consultation process by individual ministries and a strategic environmental assessment (SEA) pursuant to Act 24/2006 Coll. The consultation process ran between June and September 2019. Subsequently, the document was approved by the Council of the Government of the SR for the 2030 Agenda on 16 September 2019, and the National Convent on Slovakia 2030 took place on 23 September 2019.

However, several new factors have affected the preparation of this document – the adoption of the European Green Deal, the coronavirus pandemic and the new political situation following the February 2020 elections.

It was necessary to take into account the new situation and revise the original document entitled Draft Vision and Development Strategy for Slovakia until 2030. An updated document entitled Draft Vision and Development Strategy for Slovakia until 2030 – A Long-term Strategy of Sustainable Development of the Slovak Republic – Slovakia 2030 – was submitted for comments to the members of the expert groups who participated in the preparation of the original document, beyond the standard consultation procedure by the ministries. Based on the discussion with the SEA manager, the SEA process of the original document remained valid also for the updated document, while the relevant explanatory memorandum was published on the website of the author of the updated document. Subsequently, an inter-ministerial consultation procedure of the document was held in November 2020.

The updated document takes into account all relevant comments and suggestions and streamlines them in the final version of the document.

European Green Deal

The European Green Deal is at the heart of the European Commission's strategy for implementing the UN 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. The main objective of the European Green Deal is to transform the EU into an economy for a sustainable future. The EU is to be a fair, prosperous society with a modern and competitive resource-efficient economy, where net greenhouse gas emissions are reduced to zero by 2050 and where economic growth does not depend on the use of resources. The aim is to protect, conserve and enhance the EU's natural capital and to protect the health and well-being of citizens from environmental risks and impacts. At the same time, this transformation must be just and inclusive in the spirit of the motto "no one is left behind". Public participation and confidence in the transformation process are key factors in the success and acceptance of relevant policies. The European Green Deal represents the vision that Europe will become the first climate-neutral continent through the following measures:

European Union increasing its climate ambitions for 2030 and 2050

- Securing a clean and affordable energy supply
- Transforming industries for a clean and circular economy
- Building renovation using energy and resources efficiently
- Zero pollution for toxic-free environment
- Maintaining and improving the air quality
- Conservation and restoration of ecosystems and biodiversity



- From farm to fork strategy: fair, healthy and eco-friendly food systems
- Accelerating transition to a sustainable and smart mobility
- Mainstreaming sustainability into all EU policies

Post-pandemic Recovery Plan for Europe and a streamlined response to the consequences of the corona crisis

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected the society and economy in a significant way emphasising the importance of a functional critical infrastructure of the state. The pandemic revealed vulnerabilities and many characteristics of the current society, such as dependence on international markets and supplies of raw materials and products, and the impact of ecosystems degradation on human health, difficulties in a decision-making process, declining trust of some parts of the population in public administration, and lack of inclusiveness in decision-making. Following a request from the European Commission, the Slovak government has been working on its Recovery Plan in response to the effects of the corona crisis on society.

Addressing the effects of the corona crisis also requires systemic measures within the public administration, in particular the introduction of a horizontal approach. Therefore, according to the recommendations of the International Monetary Fund and the OECD, it is necessary to build more robust institutions and processes, improve strategic planning and prioritise projects. At the same time, investment planning and prioritisation systems need to be

strengthened in order to improve budgeting. From a strategic point of view, the prioritisation of long-term investments will build up on the Slovakia 2030 document, featuring in the National Investment Strategy. This strategy will link the objectives, measurable indicators and strategic selection of investments to create a comprehensive framework. The National Investment Strategy will be then followed by sectoral investment strategies. The need to develop a National Investment Strategy and sectoral investment strategies will be stated in the document on the procedures concerning investment projects that is now under preparation by the Value for Money Department of the Ministry of Finance.

Regional development

Regional development is not possible without a horizontal approach. Therefore, local governments prepare integrated territorial strategies, which should also contribute to deliver on the 2030 Agenda goals. This will be ensured in any given territory mainly by linking regional planning processes with EU programming processes, specifically in the preparation of the economic development and social development programmes (EDSDP), including also for the strategic planning regions and areas of sustainable urban development. At the same time, at the national level, there will be sectoral and territorial coordination of investments with the aim to interlink the investment priorities from integrated territorial strategies of self-governing regions and ministries. Slovakia 2030 is thus an instrument of change, bringing solutions where their implementation requires a horizontal

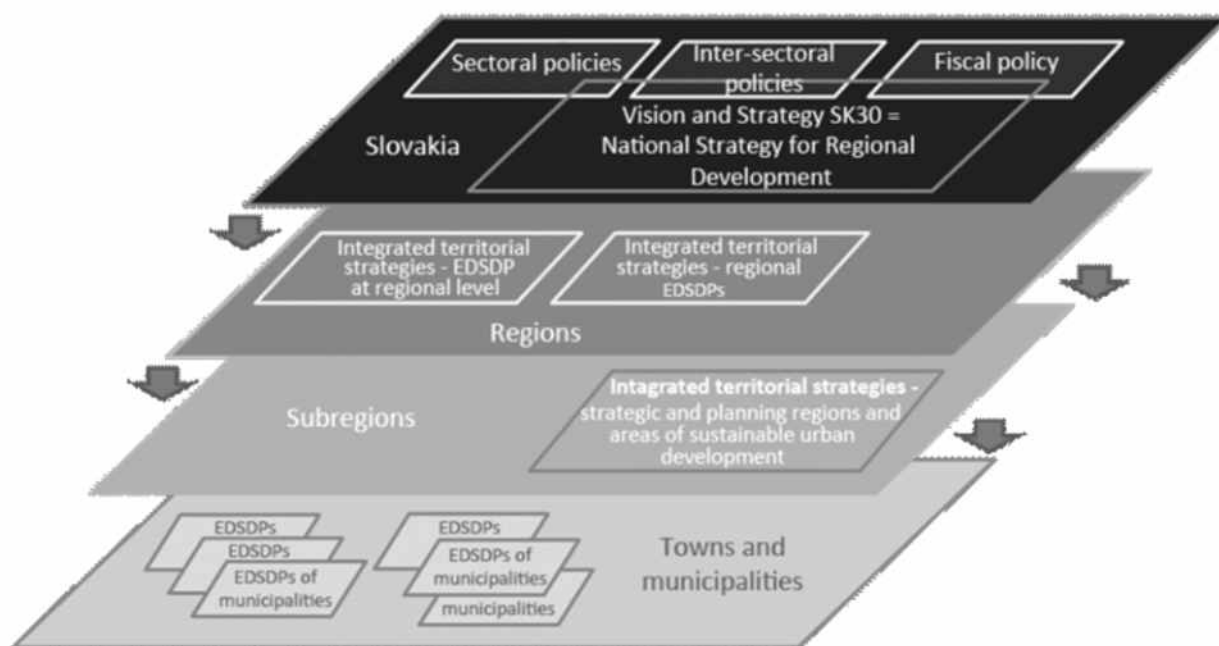


Figure 2: Cross-Sectoral and Territorial Integration of Strategies within the Implementation of the Vision and Strategy SK30



(cross-sectoral) and vertical (between various levels of public administration) integrated management as recommended to Slovakia by the OECD in its document Better Coordination for Better Policies, Services and Results.

At the same time, there is a plan to draft a law on sustainable development, which will encompass integrated cooperation of all branches of public administration and will replace Act No 539/2008 Coll. on the Support of Regional Development and Act No 336/2015 Coll. on the Support of the Least Developed Districts and on the amendment of certain laws while creating legislative frameworks for the support of regional development from EU funds.

Natural (functional) strategic planning regions are equally important. They can arise in several ways (integration, disintegration) and can overlap between several administrative units/areas based on previously defined regionalisation criteria.

Strategy for Partnership Agreement

Slovakia 2030 is based around six national priorities defined for the implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda, integrated into three development programmes:

- Resource protection and development
- Sustainable use of natural resources
- Development of communities

The principles of Slovakia 2030 are:

- Environmental and economic sustainability
- Quality of life as a decisive aspect of public policies
- Efficiency, synergy, subsidiarity, self-sufficiency and integration
- Emphasis on priorities

In line with the global 2030 Agenda and the European Green Deal, the central pillar of Slovakia 2030 is sustainability: emphasis on the protection of the environment in Slovakia, strategic planning and sustainable development, streamlining priorities with the development potential of the regions and industrial development based on green transformation and high added value, automation, market services, digital economy, innovation, and research and development.

The European Union ensures synergies between the European and national policies in various ways, including the cohesion policy and use of financial instruments. Slovakia 2030 is a source document for the preparation of the Partnership Agreement for the years 2021-2027 and its implementation through the integrated Operational Programme Slovakia.

The above figure illustrates the preparation of Slovakia 2030 as an umbrella document of the National Strategy for Regional Development in relation to the EU processes and policies, particularly in the framework of the programming period 2021-2027, and the subsequent preparation of the Vision and Development Strategy of Slovakia until 2050.



Figure 3: Vision and Development Strategy of Slovakia until 2050



Implementation of Agenda 2030

Slovakia 2030 is a source document for the creation of policies, especially for ministries, other central administration bodies and local government bodies, which will be guided by it when planning support programmes and development projects. The implementation of the Vision and Development Strategy will bring benefits to the public administration, business sector, civil society and all citizens.

Slovakia 2030 has no ambition to replace sectoral, and more detailed, strategies, nor other development documents and policies. It outlines the main national priorities, sets out the basic tools to achieve them, and sets the implementation and monitoring framework. It is the role of governments and their political priorities to fill these basic frameworks with appropriate content.

The priorities and goals of the approved document Slovakia 2030 will be subsequently developed in new or updated sectoral strategies of various bodies of central administration, programmes of economic development and social development of self-governing regions, towns and municipalities, and reflected in the National Investment Plan, implementation documents for the European Green Deal (as an integral part of the EU strategy to deliver on the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs), and in the preparation of the programming period 2021-2027, in particular of the Operational Programme Slovakia.

Document structure

The content and structure of the document respond to the main challenges not only at the national level but also in individual specific regions of Slovakia. At the heart of Slovakia 2030, there are three integrated development programmes defining priorities and goals in the key areas of development: protection and development of resources, their sustainable use and the development of communities. They are understood as cross-cutting, integrating issues related to various ministries and various levels of state administration and local government.

Each development programme, backed by the results of extensive analytical work stated in the introductory part of their description, is defined by:

- the goal of integrated development programme
- the expected key change to be achieved by its implementation
- key tasks needed to achieve the desired change

Annex 1 to the document outlines a specific position of Slovakia 2030 as the National Strategy for Regional Development of the Slovak Republic, and Annex 2 sets out the basic concept of progress indicators and their monitoring.

Vision as the basis for the Development Strategy of Slovakia until 2030

Slovakia is a country with a high standard of living, good-quality public services and a healthy environment for all citizens. Slovakia's development is based on vibrant regions with educated and productive human capital, a functioning economy and good-quality infrastructure. Economic development is based on innovation and high value-added industries, leading to an increase in the living standards of the population and a sound work-life balance.

This means:

- Country – a quality space to live, a state that effectively performs its functions, and a public sector
- with good-quality and affordable services
Citizens – equal opportunities for everyone, equal treatment of everyone
Communities – responsibility, cooperation, solidarity
- Regions – space meeting the expectations and needs of its citizens
Development – improving quality of life
- Sustainability – using resources while also preserving them for future generations
- Environment – preservation and sustainable development of the natural environment and cultural heritage as a prerequisite for a healthy and full life
- Security – resilience and preparedness of the state for external and internal threats
- Full life – life lived in good health, work-life balance, enough opportunities for education and cultural activities

Slovakia is a country of successful regions developing in a sustainable way and offering a good-quality and safe environment for a healthy and full life of all its citizens.



Integrated Development Programme I – Resource protection and development

GOAL OF THE INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME I

Growth and qualitative development of population with special emphasis on education, health, culture, development of civil society and rule of law and protection and sustainable management of natural resources.

Key change

Promoting the protection and development of human and natural resources as an overriding public interest by enhancing the resilience of the state and society focusing on the following areas:

- Population growth and health
- Education and social development
- Rule of law and security
- Protection and enhancement of natural and cultural resources

CONTEXT – SOCIAL CAPITAL (HUMAN CAPITAL, CULTURE, RULE OF LAW)

According to the Eurostat population forecasts, Slovakia is one of the fastest ageing populations in Europe. The current ratio of the population aged 65 and over to the working-age population, which is around 1 to 4.1, will change to around 1 to 3 by 2030. Slovakia is therefore facing the challenges of a declining population, including significant social and economic impacts, with negative consequences for the social security and healthcare systems and the need to adopt unprecedented and costly measures. Therefore, the priority is to make an effort to reverse this trend in line with international experience, to shape and promote a strong pro-family policy. Slovakia is one of the countries with the lowest share of GDP investment in early childhood care. Only 5% of children under the age of 3 use formal care facilities, while the EU15 average is 42% (Education at a Glance 2016: OECD).

Measures to mitigate the effects of a declining population include maintaining and increasing the prosperity of an ageing population, which is not possible without increasing labour productivity and substantially improving access to good-quality health care and lifelong learning. In 2019, the share of the population aged 25-64 participating in adult education was 3.6%, while the EU average was 11.7%. Within the EU27, Slovakia is one of the countries with the lowest participation rate in adult learning. At the same time, on average only 2% of unskilled adults in the EU are involved in formal education and vocational training (Eurydice, 2011), while adults with low qualifications, in low-skilled jobs, the unemployed, the inactive, older people and adults with the lowest skills participate in lifelong learning to a much lesser degree than the general adult population (Eurydice, 2015).

According to estimates, up to 300,000 Slovaks, mostly young people under 30 with a university degree, left the country in the last 15 years. The highest levels of international migration from Slovakia are reported by the districts in the east. In the last 10 years, up to around 6% of the population have emigrated abroad from those districts.

The learning results of 15-year-old students in reading and science literacy are below the OECD average, in the case of mathematical literacy they match the OECD average (PISA 2018). The results of 4th year primary school pupils in reading literacy are also below the average of OECD countries (PIRLS 2016), as well as their results in mathematics and science (TIMSS 2015). At the same time, the education system has long been unable to overcome the obstacles that children and students face due to their socio-economic background, health or disability, mother tongue or in relation to the diversity of their educational needs. This is reflected in the strong impact of pupils' socio-economic backgrounds on their results in national and international testing, higher rates of repeating a year and early school leaving for socially disadvantaged pupils, or the over-representation of pupils with disabilities in special education. Sustained discrimination and spatial segregation of Roma pupils as well as their overrepresentation in special education is also a problem. The share of young people leaving school early is also high (8.3% in 2019, Eurostat).

The share of the population with a higher education degree is essential for further development of the Slovak economy and especially the quality of life. This share has an upward trend in the 30-34 age group (reached 40.1% in 2019, which matches roughly the EU average of 41, 6%). A serious problem is the brain drain of the most talented students and young educated people abroad. In 2018, about one in five university students chose to study abroad (19.2%). This is the second highest share among OECD countries. Universities do not profile regional economies to increase their quality and the employment of graduates. The structure of university graduates is markedly tilted in favour of master's studies, while short tertiary programmes commonly available abroad are not offered at all. In the long run, one of the problems is the low participation of adults in education – only 3.6% of those aged 25-64 participated in education in 2019 during the last 4 weeks preceding the survey (the EU average is 11.3%).

Social capital also includes culture capital, which is one of the basic competitive advantages of a given society or state. To unlock the full potential of human capital and culture (including culture and creative industries), both of these elements have to be supported and developed. In this context, it is important to apply from an early age the principles of the so-called STEAM education (a modern interdisciplinary approach to research and innovation, combining science and art in school education), which supports skills such as critical thinking, reading ability or creativity. The development of cultural literacy remains an important issue, reflecting the competence of cultural awareness and expression, which is a prerequisite for



active citizenship, cooperation, respect for one's own cultural identity and other cultures. One of the strongest elements of Slovakia's culture potential is a dense network of small cultural institutions, the involvement of individuals and communities and the extraordinary abundance and diversity of cultural heritage.

By ratifying the UNESCO International Convention for the Protection of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (reflecting the challenges of Agenda 2030), Slovakia has committed itself to recognising the importance and promoting the role of intangible cultural heritage by all appropriate means as an engine and guarantee of sustainable development, as well as to fully integrating the protection of intangible cultural heritage into its development plans, policies and programmes at all levels.

One of the main goals of the state culture policy is a viable and self-confident culture that helps unlock the creative and economic potential of Slovakia. The goals of culture policy in Slovakia are shaped with an emphasis on their societal impact as culture helps reflect current values, but also preserves traditions, transcends borders, builds a system of values, develops creativity, encourages communication and critical thinking, cultivates tolerance, empathy and a sense of beauty. It also serves to prevent negative social phenomena, enhance public space and, last but not least, it contributes to the spiritual and economic growth of society.

When promoting and developing culture, it is essential to place an emphasis on creating a favourable environment, conditions for a good-quality and diverse culture offer and providing culture to various groups of the population while respecting their specific needs and interests (local and regional culture, culture of national minorities and ethnic groups, vulnerable groups, removal of physical and information barriers in cultural services, etc.).

An essential priority for the Slovak society is to continue building the rule of law, without which it is not possible to ensure the basic predictability of the environment and gain the trust of households and businesses. This lack of trust and predictability increases the social costs of development. In the evaluation of the Democracy Index in 2017, all post-communist EU member states, including Slovakia, ranked among the so-called flawed democracies. In 2018, Slovakia ranked the second worst in the EU Justice Scoreboard in the perception of the independence of courts and judges by the public and the worst as perceived by the entrepreneurs. The perception of corruption is at a low level, with Slovakia scoring 50 out of 100 in 2019, ranking 58th out of 198 countries.

The primary goal of Slovakia is to maintain security, that is to say, the conditions in which the main interests of the state are protected, including the lives and health of people, property and the environment. Through risk and crisis management, aimed at preventing existing or anticipated threats, solutions are proposed and appropriate security measures are taken to minimise the severity of the impact of emergencies and the likelihood of their occurrence.

CONTEXT – NATURAL CAPITAL

According to the Environmental Performance Index (EPI), Slovakia ranked 17th in 2007 with a score of 86%, but 26th in 2020 with a score of 68.3%. Slovakia lags behind in air and habitat quality, with main problems caused by high particulate matter pollution, while the forests are affected by climate change and biotic and abiotic pollutants. According to the statistics, air pollution causes 5,000 deaths per year. These are mostly emissions of fine dust particles PM10 and PM2.5 coming largely from solid fuels in household heating, or from burning unsuitable fuels or waste by socially disadvantaged groups of people from poorer backgrounds due to energy poverty. Increased emissions of nitrogen oxides (NOx) leading to worsening air quality in towns and agglomerations mainly come from transport.

In 2019, almost 2.37 million tons of municipal waste were generated in Slovakia. As much as 50.6% (2019) of the total amount of municipal waste ended up in landfills. The recycling rate of municipal waste is 40% (2019), which is below the EU average (47%). As many as half of all the areas in Slovakia that pose a high risk to public health and the environment are landfills (OECD).

Environmental burdens are a grim legacy for future generations. At the end of 2019, there were 1,815 sites (2,049 registration sheets) recorded in the Environmental Burdens Information System. There were 931 sites in the register part A (probable environmental burdens), 310 sites in the register part B (environmental burdens) and 808 sites in the register part C (remediated and reclaimed sites). Following a request by the Ministry of the Environment, 47 sites related to mining activities in the past (sludge ponds and dumps) were added to the information system. In 2009-2015, 141 sites were inspected and 19 were remediated, while in 2015-2021, 102 sites have been or are subject to inspections and 51 to remediation.

Removing environmental burdens and providing a non-toxic environment is essential for the health of the present and future generations. In particular, it is necessary to remediate the environmental burdens with regard to the living conditions of socially excluded groups. In addition to these old burdens, a top priority is to mitigate climate change by introducing new measures. It is quite difficult to quantify the damage suffered by the country, but it is obvious that without substantial investment in the coming programming period, costs will rise and many changes may be irreversible. Preventative action is always several times cheaper than subsequent remediation.

The Slovak economy consumes more natural resources per capita than it is able to protect and renew, and thus the ecological footprint of the Slovak economy is negative, with a deficit of 4.1 global hectares. Every year the period during which we live on ecological debt is extended: in 2020, the Earth Overshoot Day fell on 22 August.



The current energy consumption in Slovakia is not sustainable. We have one of the most energy-intensive economies in the EU, and most of the energy sources we use are non-renewable. The share of renewable energy sources in gross final energy consumption in Slovakia reached 12%, while in the EU28 in 2016 it was 17.0%. A critical situation is in the transport sector, where liquid fuels still account for the largest share of the final fuel consumption (97%).

There is a growing risk of deterioration of the quality of surface water, groundwater and drinking water. Climate change will manifest itself in a decline in groundwater levels and spring flow, a reduction in usable groundwater sources and in the drainage (damage) of terrestrial water-dependent ecosystems. The number of inhabitants connected to the sewerage system in 2019 only represented 69.13% of the total population of Slovakia. As a consequence of constant sedimentation, the retention capacity of water reservoirs is decreasing. In Slovakia 1,510 surface water bodies were defined, of which 56.29% were in high and good ecological status (2018). The ecological status/potential was assessed as moderate in 34.77% of water bodies, and as poor and bad in 8.94% of water bodies. Slovakia lags behind in addressing the adverse effects on watercourses and in enhancing the country's water retention capacity. Good chemical status of surface water bodies was achieved by 97.6% of water bodies. Despite the fact that Slovakia has sufficient good-quality groundwater sources, there is a regional and seasonal drop in groundwater levels. Good quality status was achieved by 96% of groundwater bodies, while the richest groundwater source in the area of Žitný ostrov is exposed to risks of contamination from point and diffuse sources.

Despite the relatively high share of protected areas in the total territory of Slovakia (37.4%), protection and conservation of these areas is not always sufficient. Effective protection of ecosystems, their services and biodiversity as well as the fulfilment of the objectives of Slovakia's Environmental Policy Strategy until 2030 will be achieved with the participation of all the stakeholders and a review of the National Network of Protected Areas following the IUCN criteria, local needs, best practices and goals of the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030, the European Green Deal and other relevant EU environmental strategies. The best preserved natural habitats not requiring active intervention will remain or will be included in the so-called non-intervention areas.

For quite a long time in Slovakia less wood has been harvested than it grows. More stable deciduous and mixed forests are prevalent, with a total share of 74%, of which 45% are deciduous forests, 9% chiefly deciduous forests and 20% mixed. Their proportion is increasing every year. Coniferous and chiefly coniferous forests account for 26%. Slovakia's forests are significantly affected by climate change and by the biotic and abiotic pollutants. Soil quality deteriorates while erosion increases. Almost 99% of the

agricultural land complies with sanitary standards, while the remaining part of the contaminated soil mainly concerns the areas of industrial activity and the areas of influence of the so-called geochemical anomalies of mountain and foothill regions. In recent decades there have been changes in the soil quality, largely due to anthropogenic factors and changing climate conditions. The use of acidifying fertilisers as well as acid atmospheric pollutants have contributed to increased acidification of soils, with almost 60% of agricultural soils showing a slightly acidic or acidic reaction. There is a marked acceleration of erosive and accumulation processes. In 2019, 275,454 hectares of agricultural land in Slovakia were at risk of water erosion. Of farmed agricultural land, 61.6% is located in an area with a high concentration of nitrates in waters threatened with nitrate pollution from agricultural sources. Organic agricultural production in 2019 comprised 10.19% of the total area of agricultural land.

The Programme of the Government of the SR 2020-2024 reacted to all the challenges stated in the section Context – Natural capital.

To improve the situation it is necessary to:

- 1.1 Stop the decline of the population and increase the proportion of the economically active population
 - 1. Retain young people in Slovakia, especially by supporting high-quality education system, improving the quality of educational and support infrastructure, its harmonisation with labour market demand and the creation of job opportunities with appropriate remuneration in accordance with the structure of the available workforce;
 - 2. In public policies, intensify communication with and awareness of Slovak citizens working and studying abroad in order to promote their return to Slovakia;
 - 3. Develop and implement an integrated family support policy, including support for young families through tax and insurance reform, affordable housing, provision of infrastructure for families with children, reconciliation of work and family life, opportunities for culture and sports activities, or parenting preparation programmes and programmes offering care for families with very young children (aged 0-7), including the necessary support services. Family provides unique services for both individuals and society. However, the contribution of specific families to society is to some extent conditioned by the quality of their relationships and their abilities to perform their family functions. The interaction and a certain interdependence between the state of society and the state of families is an important factor in the drafting and implementation of family policy;



4. Draft and implement a plan to support the development of the silver economy and the retention of the population in economically active life;
5. Use social innovations to create debt support programmes in order to facilitate the social inclusion of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion;
6. Reform the pension system in a way that would motivate to long-term participation and at the same time lead to positive demographic development to ensure a sustainable pension system.

I.2 Improve the availability and quality of education and training of the population and match them to the expected demand of the labour market

1. Increase the attractiveness of the teaching profession by gradually increasing teachers' salaries to match the OECD average, improve higher education of teaching professions and strengthen the continuous professional development of teachers;
2. Change the content of school curricula with focus on developing knowledge, skills and attitudes that can be used later in life (e.g. reading literacy, critical thinking, digital skills, etc.) and support the creation of high-quality teaching resources (textbooks, workbooks, teaching materials) through opening up the textbook market and applying innovative and activating teaching methods (e.g. for foreign languages), with special emphasis on inclusive education for children from disadvantaged backgrounds, taking into account the principles of the so-called STEAM education and current needs regarding professional qualifications to best match the labour market demands;
3. Ensure access to good-quality and inclusive services from early childhood by providing a comprehensive system of early childhood care services for children and families at risk (children with disabilities, from socially disadvantaged backgrounds or from marginalised Roma communities) and increasing enrolment rate in pre-primary schools in all groups;
4. Increase the inclusiveness of education in kindergartens, primary and secondary schools by removing all types of barriers and ensuring accessible and good-quality support for all children and students in accordance with their educational needs;
5. Promote education and training on human rights, sustainability and the impacts of climate change, environmental education and active citizenship in formal, non-formal and lifelong learning. Develop active citizenship also through the promotion of volunteering;

6. Increase the support and development of education of children and students from national minorities in their mother tongue;
7. Eliminate discrimination against Roma pupils resulting from social exclusion and residential spatial segregation and their disproportionate representation in special education, and eliminate discrimination against pupils with disabilities by gradually transforming special education into a system providing support via mainstream education;
8. Streamline the financial and methodological management of regional education by transferring the powers associated with establishing, funding and governing schools from the Ministry of Interior to the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sports and in cooperation with self-governing regions enhance the network of primary and secondary schools. When enhancing the network of secondary schools, it is necessary to think of preserving those fields of study that are not popular at the moment, but are necessary or may be in demand in the future;
9. Introduce a more flexible qualifications system, support all types of adult education (formal, non-formal and informal learning) to acquire the skills needed for the 21st century labour market and society, introduce tools to support lifelong learning (e.g. individual learning accounts) and effective lifelong guidance;
10. Adopt structural changes in higher education by supporting the implementation of higher education quality assurance reform in line with European Standards and Guidelines ESG 2015, introducing performance contracts in the funding of higher education institutions and deregulating the internal structure and internal governance of higher education institutions;
11. Increase the share of students in inter-university study programmes.

I.3 Improve the health and active life expectancy of the population

1. Provide high-quality healthcare throughout Slovakia, including corresponding personnel, financial and technical resources, and support for the provision of healthcare through digital technologies;
2. Support primary and community healthcare;
3. Ensure the availability of good-quality social services and support of human resources by:
 - building new and upgrading existing social service facilities at the community level;
 - increasing the motivation and social recognition of employees in social



- appropriate environmental measures for all sources of pollution (industry, energy, transport, agriculture, home heating), and ensure appropriate monitoring of air pollutants, creating new air quality monitoring stations;
5. Reduce the amount of municipal waste in landfills to less than 10% of the total amount of generated municipal waste (by 2035), increase the rate of preparation for re-use and recycling to 60% in accordance with the EU legislation on waste management and introduce measures to prevent the generation of waste, thus reducing the total amount of municipal and industrial waste generated each year;
 6. Increase the share of organic fertilisers originating from the processing of sorted biodegradable municipal waste (BMW) and their use in agriculture;
 7. Reduce the acidification of agricultural soils by liming or support basic agrochemical and agrotechnical measures for the overall improvement of soil quality parameters in order to make better use of nutrients from fertilisers;
 8. When planning and designing large structures, line structures and interventions in underground spaces, carefully consider geological factors of the natural environment, including rock stability (deformation structures) and slope deformations (mainly landslides), seismic activity and protection of surface water and groundwater sources;
 9. Reduce the level of surface water contamination with priority and priority hazardous substances and the level of groundwater contamination with dangerous and other polluting substances, in particular nitrogenous substances and pesticides, so as to achieve good status/potential in all water bodies by 2027;
 10. Develop and implement a water policy that would ensure the gradual restoration of water bodies, the protection and restoration of natural floodplains, peatlands, wetlands and small reservoirs, preventing water pollution and groundwater reduction and providing sufficient drinking water in the regions;
 11. Develop and implement a comprehensive integrated river basin management plan, including strengthening the water retention capacity of the landscape, comprising flood, drought and water scarcity prevention, in accordance with the adaptation measures to mitigate the negative effects of climate change;
 12. Increase the share of continuous non-forest tree and shrub vegetation in towns and reduce the size of undeveloped land by at least 50% by 2030 compared to 2019, and create landscape elements with a high degree of diversity on at least 10% of agricultural land;
 13. Increase the share of organically farmed land to 16% in an ambitious increase over the current long-term situation (10%), thus moving closer to the ambitions set out in the EU strategies;
 14. Encourage the use of environmentally sound technologies and equipment in agriculture and forestry;
 15. Review and simplify the system of protected areas and levels of protection, and complete the remaining conservation programmes in protected areas, including an efficient implementation of their management measures. The review of protected areas and their protection zones will take into account international criteria for assigning IUCN management categories of protected areas and will respect property rights including compensation, while in the national parks reviewed and classified as IUCN management category II, the core zone will consist of territories without human intervention, the area of which will reach 50% of the total area of the national park by 2025 and 75% by 2030:
 - restore at least 15% of degraded ecosystems compared to 2018; and
 - increase the share of habitats and species of European interest in favourable conservation status from 1/3 of habitats and 1/4 species in 2018 to 2/3 of habitats and 1/2 species by 2030.
 16. Prioritise and encourage nature-friendly adaptation measures, forest management principles, etc., which reflect regional specificities and sufficiently address climate change and biodiversity protection issues, with emphasis on strict protection of climax forests and primeval forests;
 17. Increase the share of nature-friendly forest management to 25% of the forest area by 2030;
 18. Increase and support the cascading use of wood, encourage the recycling of wood products and make better use of waste biomass in agricultural and forestry production for energy generation;
 19. Draft the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) national strategic plan in a way that would complement the Slovakia 2030 strategy and at the same time contribute to achieving the general goals of Slovakia;
 20. Create a single administration of protected areas under the responsibility of the Ministry of the Environment.
- I.6 Ensure efficient and sustainable management of cultural resources
1. Continue the restoration of national cultural monuments and make appropriate use of them. Allocate real funds for the preservation and protection of cultural heritage so as to avoid the



deterioration of the structural condition of the monuments protected in the Monument Fund and their decline in numbers, loss of Slovakia's competitiveness and an increase in "social debt" in this area;

2. Strengthen the role of cultural heritage in the life of society and integrate the protection of cultural heritage into comprehensive planning programmes. Emphasise the prevention of physical degradation of monuments, education and awareness-raising among the population, enhancing cultural and natural environment, supporting civic activities, creating effective methods of integrating the Monument Fund into the process of spatial planning, regional and local development and reflecting the objectives of protection and development of cultural heritage in spatial planning;
3. Increase Slovakia's competitiveness in tourism, making cultural heritage sites more attractive and improving the related services as part of sustainable cultural tourism;
4. Increase culture consumption in Slovakia;
5. Improve the interpretation, presentation, management and marketing of public cultural values as part of shaping a good-quality environment;
6. Make maximum use of the latest technological and technical possibilities (digitisation) of presenting cultural heritage;
7. Strengthen the relationship with the country and its cultural and historical values and the environment.

Integrated Development Programme II – Sustainable use of resources

GOAL OF THE INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME II

Transforming the Slovak economy into a sustainable one, with its competitiveness based on innovative and efficient use of resources, providing good wages and prosperity.

Key change

Transformation of the national economy towards:

- Harnessing innovations for sustainable development and unlocking of the regions' potential
- Creating high added value with the support of good-quality infrastructure
- Environmental and social sustainability

CONTEXT

Similarly to other countries, Slovakia also competes in the global market for the workforce and competitiveness of its products and services. On the one hand, there are growing demands for higher wages and better working conditions as well as for mitigating climate change, while on the other, new technologies, digitisation, large databases and the need to adapt to climate change offer opportunities for a rapid growth of sustainable productivity.

To ensure competitiveness, it is important, inter alia, to coordinate the academic, industrial and public sectors as well as the civil society in the territories, to use and develop local potential and to build decision-making capacities in the regions. At the same time, the support of such clusters must be specific, in accordance with the territorial projection of smart specialisation.

The current situation is characterised by high outflow of workers attracted by better offers abroad, the lack of emphasis on the use of development potential, low decision-making powers of the regions, the lack of coordination of research, academia, local governments and businesses, a low share of national innovations, weak business support, high energy intensity and environmental unsustainability of industry and the overdependence of the national economy on foreign investment in automotive industry.

The stable economic growth in the last decade has been largely underpinned by the development of the automotive industry, accounting for 40% of industrial production (in 2016). However, this industry generates only 4% of the added value generated in Slovakia and has little impact on the advancement of research and development capacities.

Non-routine job positions, i.e. those requiring the execution of relatively complex tasks that cannot be arranged in a systematically recurring order or code, only account for 18% of jobs in Slovak industry, the least of the OECD countries. The brain drain of young educated people from the regions of eastern and central Slovakia, unable to find suitable job opportunities and living conditions in their place of residence, is at a critical level.

The level of innovation performance reflected in the Innovation Index of Slovakia (a summary indicator obtained by aggregating 25 indicators used to measure innovation performance) reached only 67% of the European average in 2019, with the worst scores obtained in financing and support (25% of the EU average), SME innovation (42% of the EU average) and intellectual assets (43% of the EU average). Slovakia's innovation performance as assessed by the European Innovation Scoreboard (EIS) has long been at a low level compared to other EU countries. In 2017 Slovakia ranked 23rd in the EU28. Innovations in Slovakia mainly focus on information and communication technologies which have attracted up to 63.3% of the total funds invested in startups in Slovakia. The digital economy in Slovakia accounted for almost 6% of total GDP in 2016, which is only slightly less than for digital champions, where it averaged 7% of GDP. Slovakia



has a unique opportunity to use funds for digital transformation under the post-pandemic Recovery Plan for Europe, bringing the level of digitisation closer to the countries of Western and Northern Europe, thus gaining an additional EUR 16 billion in GDP per year by 2025. This is, for example, almost five times the state's expenditure on education in 2018. The high added value potential of culture and creative industries is underused. Employment in culture and creative industries in 2016 constituted only 2.5% of total employment, while the EU average is 3.7%. Households spend just over 1% of their total expenditure on cultural services, accounting for only 75% of the EU average in terms of their purchasing power.

Regional economic disparities are high and the gaps are not narrowing, but widening over time. The GDP per capita in the Prešov region rose from EUR 10,872 in 2008 to EUR 13,606 in 2016. The same indicator in the Bratislava region increased from EUR 42,904 in 2008 to EUR 53,692 in 2016. With these values, Slovakia has the second highest disparity among OECD countries. The growth of labour productivity is paradoxically high in the regional economies of districts lagging behind, but this is largely due to the fact that the low-productivity workforce is being forced out of the labour market.

Energy intensity expressed as the ratio of gross domestic energy consumption and the GDP at constant prices in 2014 decreased by 52% compared to 2001. Despite this decline, which is the most significant of an EU member state during this period, Slovakia continues to be one of the most energy-intensive nations. Great emphasis will be laid on measures to motivate final energy consumers to reduce their overall consumption.

Already the vast majority of electricity (almost 80%) is produced by low-carbon technologies. However, we have one of the most energy-intensive economies in the EU and most of the energy sources are non-renewable. Moreover, our dependence on energy imports remains high. The share of renewable energy sources in final gross energy consumption in Slovakia reached 12%, while in the EU28 in 2016 it was 17.0%. The situation is critical in the transport sector, where the largest share of fuel consumption is in the final consumption of liquid fuels (97%), while the share of final consumption of electricity and other low-emission alternative fuels (CNG, LNG) is very small. The problem of energy consumption and in particular of renewable energy sources is closely related to energy poverty, which in Slovakia has become an important factor not only in terms of the quality of life, but also the quality of the environment.

The Slovak economy also suffers from high material intensity. The recycling rate accounts for less than 50% of the total amount of waste and 40% of the municipal waste. This way the economy loses an important amount of materials that could be reused.

The share of the population with access to the public water mains reached 89.25% of the total population of Slovakia. In 2019, the specific consumption per capita in the household was 78.4 l / inhabitant / day, which is below

the sanitary minimum (80 l / inhabitant / day). The share of the population connected to the sewerage system in 2019 constituted only 69.13% of the country's total. The regional connection rate is particularly low in the districts of Bytča, Krupina and Trebišov, with only 30-40% of the population connected to the sewerage system.

To improve the current situation it is necessary to:

II.1 Support the development of strong innovation-based regional economies

1. Link research, innovation and production in innovation clusters in the specialisation areas set out in the Smart Specialisation Strategy (RIS3), with an emphasis on the transfer of innovations to regional economies that efficiently and sustainably harness available human and natural resources;
2. Link academic, industrial and public sectors and civil society in regional and domain innovation clusters and their cooperation in cutting-edge international innovation-oriented research within the European Research Area (ERA), support the participation of research capacities and institutions in international schemes and programmes such as Horizon Europe;
3. Increase the added value of regional products and support the processing and use of domestic products with high added value from agriculture, forestry and mining in the domestic market;
4. Pay special attention to the transformation of the automotive industry towards low-emission transport;
5. Encourage the development of culture and creative industries, in particular in terms of increasing added value in agriculture, industry and sustainable tourism;
6. Initiate and support the refocusing of agriculture and forestry on higher added value products, in particular in relation to plant and animal production, and offer more support to ecosystem services provided by agricultural and forestry ecosystems in line with the principles of sustainable management and sustainable bioeconomy;
7. Use prevention and adaptation to climate change for the development and production of new products, technologies, processes and services in agriculture, industrial production or sustainable tourism;
8. Support technical and technological innovations that increase energy efficiency to boost the development of low-carbon energy without increasing the demand for land for biofuel production;
9. Encourage innovations to ensure the construction, maintenance and safety of critical infrastructure.



II.2 Complete the infrastructure of an innovation-based green economy

1. Actively support the business development increasing the added value of products and closing the value chains of key products. Support business education, new business models, the establishment and growth of small businesses and the coordination of comprehensive local products and regionally closed cycles;
2. Build a low-emission transport and logistics system, enhancing the economic self-sufficiency and boosting the regions' potential (while preserving the migration corridors of the country);
3. Modernise and develop digital and transport infrastructure as part of the TEN-T network and important regional connections;
4. Ensure the digitisation of the economy and society in the following areas: digital and mobile services of the state and public administration, connectivity, digital security, digital transformation of the economy and society, creation of a supportive environment and support of further education in improving digital skills of children and adults, civil servants and older citizens, innovation and knowledge centres in the regions;
5. Transform the energy sector towards decentralised production using renewable energy sources, storage capacities and smart management of production and consumption (smart grid).

II.3 Improve the sustainability and resilience of national and regional economies

1. Support the orientation of the economy towards an efficient use and reuse of the region's own resources and the development of the circular economy (maximising the efficiency of using material resources, promoting new circular business models and responsible consumer behaviour, placing emphasis on waste prevention, increasing waste sorting and recycling at a municipal level, supporting the reuse of products in line with Slovakia's waste management and waste prevention programmes and supporting the secondary raw materials market);
2. Prepare the Circularity Gap Report on the potential of circular economy development in Slovakia: <https://www.circularity-gap.world/>;
3. Prepare a roadmap for reducing the emission and energy intensity of the economy in accordance with our international commitments and the Integrated National Energy and Climate Plan for 2021-2030;

4. Increase the share of renewable energy sources and phase out coal mining and its use as an energy source;
5. Increase the share of municipalities connected to the public sewerage system in the regions lagging behind, expand and increase the hydraulic capacity of sewerage networks in agglomerations with a population equivalent (p.e.) of more than 2,000;
6. Support the construction of sewerage networks and wastewater treatment plants in agglomerations with a p.e. of up to 2,000, located in protected water management areas;
7. Support the cooperation of market and social economy actors at a local level, creating job opportunities for disadvantaged social groups, as well as the coordination of the efforts to effectively meet the local and regional demand with their products;
8. Support efforts to meet as much domestic demand as possible with regional products and services, especially in food industry, energy and services, including sustainable tourism and agriculture;
9. Promote the development of sustainable tourism, in particular nature tourism and ecotourism (for example, wildlife observation, values interpretation, etc.);
10. Encourage the development of the sharing economy, especially in renting goods and sharing services by the citizens and businesses;
11. Support the economy diversification by positioning the existing intervention instruments in such a way as to achieve an optimum mix of:
 - the sectoral structure of businesses (reduction of the disproportionate share of the automotive industry);
 - the size of the structure of businesses (small, medium, large);
 - the territorial distribution of businesses at national and regional levels; and
 - the structure of jobs offered.
12. Support the establishment of regional community funds harnessing the accumulated regional capital via investments supporting the domestic regional economy;
13. Encourage green innovations, the cooperation of Slovak and foreign higher education institutions, scientific institutions, private and third sectors and towns and municipalities. At the same time, increase the share of green investment and ensure that green public procurement constitute 70% of the total volume and value of public procurement contracts by 2030;



14. Promote environmental education, training and awareness-raising in order to ensure the sustainable use of resources and the protection of the environment;
15. Create and implement a system of effective crisis management of regional economies, including venture capital funds and guarantees in segments with potential social, health and safety impacts as well as impacts on the environment and natural resources (water, soil).

Integrated Development Programme III – Development of communities

GOAL OF THE INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME III

Developing communities and enhancing quality of life for all social groups by bringing governance closer to citizens, social inclusion, and accessible, top-quality and efficient services.

Key change

Increasing support for the development of civil society and the participation of citizens, socio-economic partners and other stakeholders in the design, implementation and oversight of public policies. Reinforcing the territorial principle as a basis for defining development policies, harmonising and integrating sectoral policies and policies of different levels of hierarchy in public administration for the benefit of the citizens, communities and their sustainable development. Optimising the system of state administration and local government based on the distribution of powers, responsibilities and resources in line with the principle of subsidiarity, partnership cooperation and synergies between individual levels and sectors of public administration in order to effectively respond to the citizens' needs.

Ensuring availability, operating effectiveness and sustainable development of the infrastructure for healthy and cohesive communities, creating conditions for a full life of the inhabitants of each region of Slovakia, regardless of their socio-economic background or disadvantage.

CONTEXT

Slovakia reveals great regional disparities regarding the quality of life of its inhabitants. Among OECD countries, Slovakia reports the fourth most significant regional differences in GDP per capita. In Bratislava region with 184% of the EU average, the GDP per capita is 3.5 times higher than in eastern Slovakia with 53% of the EU average. These disparities are also reflected in significant differences in the availability of resources to cover the needs of the population of different regions.

With respect to poverty and social exclusion, Slovakia is one of the EU member countries that has long performed below the European average (16.4% compared to 21.4% in 2019), with problems including multigenerational poverty and low social mobility of the most vulnerable groups.

There are significant differences in the availability of work as a key factor of quality of life. Although the registered unemployment rate was 5% at the end of 2019, there are marked regional differences in Slovakia. In addition, the employment rate of people with disabilities in 2018 was only 18.7% in Slovakia (Statistical Office of the SR), as was the employment rate of the low-skilled workforce (the EU28 average was 55%). Without appropriate measures, the situation will be aggravated by the expected digital and green transformation of the economy: OECD estimates that in the next 10-20 years around 10% of jobs in Slovakia will be replaced by machines and around 30% will undergo significant changes requiring further employee skills.

The low quality of public administration hinders economic development and reduces the impact of public investment. The European Quality of Government Index 2017 reveals that Slovak regions are in the bottom quarter. Per 100,000 inhabitants there are up to 54 municipalities, which ranks Slovakia 2nd among the most administratively fragmented OECD countries. Local self-governing units in Slovakia are three times smaller than the EU average, five times smaller than the OECD average, and the obligation of municipalities to provide the same services regardless of size leads to inefficiency.

Such a structure of public administration is not efficient. The lack of territorial coherence, targeting and coordination of sectoral policies together with an insufficient use of the principle of subsidiarity and the distribution of decision-making powers and resources between individual levels of public administration reduces the efficiency of the use of public resources. As much as half of all the expenditure of the municipalities with less than 250 inhabitants is spent on administration. Only the remaining half is used to provide services. On the contrary, municipalities with a population of 5 to 100 thousand can allocate up to almost 90% of their expenditure to the delivery of public services and development.

As indicated by the EU and OECD assessments, problems include low efficiency and lack of flexibility of public policies in addressing the identified challenges, issues and needs, the lack of focus on priorities resulting from challenging issues; public policies are not based on the use of regional potentials, including human and natural capital. The implementation of many development programmes suffers from lengthy administrative procedures concerning the preparation of calls and approval of individual applications, but also from the long-term absence of strategic planning, which is reflected in the poor readiness of projects addressing key issues.



Housing is essential to quality of life and as such is one of the persistent issues affecting most lower-income households, but also households entering the housing market for the first time. Slovakia has a lower number of dwellings per capita compared to the EU average. At the same time, as a result of the privatisation of the housing stock, the rental market is underdeveloped (as indicated by the 2011 Population and Housing Census, about 3% of flats are still in cooperative ownership, 3% of flats in private rental sector and less than 3% in public rental sector). The imbalances in the housing sector lead not only to a reduction in labour mobility, but also to a disproportionate indebtedness, in particular of young people and low-income social groups. Apart from affordability, there are also other factors affecting the housing issue, including social exclusion and living conditions of marginalised Roma communities.

During the privatisation process, the ability of communities to influence key technical and environmental infrastructure ensuring access to basic quality of life conditions such as access to drinking water, environmentally acceptable waste and wastewater management, energy supply, heat, etc., was diminished. The availability as well as affordability of key infrastructure became a problem.

One of the key factors related to quality of life is the availability of services, including their physical and transport accessibility. Slovak towns of all types account for about 54% of the population (the European average is up to 70%), but as much as 79% of job opportunities, which determines the high forced mobility of the population. On the other hand, the remaining 46% of the population live in municipalities, so it is necessary to focus on the availability of basic public services, thus reducing the mobility of community residents, supporting the use of local public services and providing more opportunities to spend free time in the community.

A long-term trend in population mobility is a decrease in the share of public transport in total passenger transport from 50% in 1995 to 27% in 2017 and at the same time an increase in the share of individual car transport to 73%, resulting in worse air quality and a slower flow of traffic in settlements.

Slovakia is lagging behind in the use of innovative financial instruments enabling a suitable combination of different methods of funding (e.g. grants, revolving funds) and the concurrence of different sources (state budget, local government budget, private capital). The distribution of resources and responsibilities for their management does not correspond to the distribution of powers in the areas for which the public sector is responsible at various levels of public administration.

To improve the current situation it is necessary to:

III.1. Enhance the accessibility, transparency and efficiency of public administration

1. Promote open governance and mechanisms for the participation of citizens, socio-economic partners and other stakeholders in the creation, implementation and oversight of public policies at all levels of public administration;
2. Strengthen the capacity of public administration institutions and civil society, defend and strengthen democracy in Slovakia and support the development of civil society and active citizenship;
3. The accessibility, transparency and efficiency of public administration must be seen in the context of a twenty-year experience with application of the relevant rules and regulations following its reform. It has become apparent that Slovakia needs an integrated model of public administration and meaningful decentralisation. In this context, in addition to the introduction of an integrated model of public administration and the necessary modernisation processes within local and regional governments, what is proving to be an extremely effective starting point is the need for systematic inter-municipal cooperation. Such a concept can guarantee the accessibility and efficiency of public administration, while the transparency parameters may be enhanced with the right set-up of administrative management at the level of local governments. It is necessary to optimise the operations of public administration at all levels of governance, including the national, regional and local, as well as to optimise state administration at local and regional levels. The basis for enhancing the local level is inter-municipal cooperation, its systematic support, the establishment of the shared service centres and the distribution of powers between local authorities;
4. Strengthen legislative, institutional and capacity-related aspects of integrated territorial management based on settled land ownership, targeted development strategies at regional and local levels, developed on the basis of multi-sectoral partnership (for example by using the CLLD principle wherever possible), based on integrating economic, regional and territorial development under the new Development Act, Construction Act and the reflection of the Slovakia 2030 strategy in the Operational Programme Slovakia;
5. Integrate sectoral policies and investment interventions of the public sector in accordance with the Slovakia 2030 strategy as well as the National Investment Plan;



6. Support the development of a polycentric settlement structure (functional urban regions), including the preservation of rural diversity and development;
7. Transform the public investment management system, including the elimination of a sectoral approach at all levels; bring public governance closer to citizens by building multi-level integrated development management at the national, regional and local levels, and complete their multi-source financing system using EU funds as complementary resources.
8. Increase the effectiveness and stability of investment policy, in particular through:
 - the establishment of a national system of strategic management at all levels of public administration, forecasting and crisis management;
 - intersectoral coordination and transition from operational to strategic planning and management of integrated territorial development strategies of the regions;
 - National Investment Plan;
 - a system of integrated multi-source funding of regional development, linking all financial support mechanisms, including ESI Funds;
 - a system of integrated multi-level governance of regional development at regional, subregional and local levels, using strategic planning regions; and
 - a system of programme budgeting at all levels of government.
9. Create an effective mechanism for making open public sector data and digital services available to all citizens and businesses;
10. Make efficient use of modern technologies to ensure the quality and better accessibility of public administration and services to citizens, to increase the transparency of public administration decision-making and to provide protection against cyber threats and misinformation.

III.2. Strengthen the economic sustainability of communities within towns, municipalities and regions

1. Link state sectoral policies and introduce tools for structured support of inter-municipal cooperation in the joint exercise of original powers as well the delivery of community services. This will benefit local economic policy and will allow local governments to have direct impact on a more efficient delivery of community services, and thus also of many public services aimed at enhancing the economic sustainability of territorial

communities by building strong local and regional economies based, inter alia, on the principles of the circular economy;

2. Stabilise jobs in the regions by building good-quality public technical, transport and R&D infrastructure supporting the economic value of local/regional human and natural capital and the high added value of regional products;
3. Increase the share of people in employment working from home;
4. Support the self-sufficiency of regions and the resilience of their labour markets to external shocks by closing the cycle “design – primary production – processing – distribution – consumption – reuse – recycling” within the regions;
5. Support a sharing economy, especially in transport and the sharing of common goods and services;
6. Ensure sustainable conditions for social businesses and supported employment services;
7. Remove barriers to the availability of jobs, entry and retention of disadvantaged groups in the labour market and all forms of discrimination in the workplace, and promote job mobility;
8. Increase the quality and reduce the administrative load and time-consuming aspects of processes in public administration to the level of the OECD average (e.g. for obtaining a building permit and related processes by 50%), in particular by increasing the expertise of public administration staff, improving (material and software) conditions for the exercise of public administration powers in electronic form, by introducing standardised procedures and building capacities for civic participation in public governance;
9. Ensure the formulation and implementation of regional and local adaptation strategies with civic participation and support their incorporation into development and spatial plans.

III.3. Ensure the availability and sustainability of good-quality, modern and efficient infrastructure, services and housing for a healthy and full life of communities

In the areas of social and health infrastructure

1. Eliminate a sectoral approach to social care and healthcare by creating an effective interconnected system of high-quality health and social care services ensuring the availability of prevention and the necessary support in all regions of Slovakia for all inhabitants, with special emphasis on disadvantaged groups;



2. Strengthen the role of communities in the delivery of social services by transforming institutional care to community-based care, comprising community-based mutual assistance activities, volunteering activities and programmes, nursing, social and psychological care in a natural family environment, including the creation of an appropriate model of their support from public funding;
3. Establish a network of social and healthcare facilities;
4. Provide measures to eradicate the worst forms of poverty, such as material and food deprivation, by supplying food and basic material assistance to the most deprived, hot food for the homeless, as well as by introducing new measures.

In the area of school infrastructure

1. Encourage close cooperation between secondary vocational schools and professional guilds and associations of employers from various sectors by establishing dual education training centres with the aim of reinforcing the availability of practical training, its staffing and equipment;
2. Establish vocational training centres in regions with cutting-edge facilities for socially relevant crafts, which would provide secondary and tertiary education and training in crafts;
3. Introduce central, nationally administered, transparent admission exams for secondary schools in electronic form and set a motivational level of results for students to apply for secondary comprehensive schools. Implement these conditions both in the first and second round of admission exams and follow the secondary school performance plans set in the second round;
4. By offering motivational tools to masters of vocational education, ensure that real practitioners be also involved in education, and create conditions allowing these persons to continue their professional development as teachers alongside their employment;
5. Create conditions in kindergartens and primary schools that would encourage children to have a healthy relationship with manual work and support the technical skills and talents they may have. Widespread promotion of craft occupations in the media is important to support children's interest.

In the area of technical infrastructure

1. Ensure environmentally sustainable, accessible and affordable services of public technical infrastructure, including energy supply, heat, water supply, sewerage and waste water disposal, and municipal waste collection and recovery in all regions and municipalities, taking into account their particular features when designing specific technical solutions and addressing the needs of technical infrastructure, including the specific features and needs of technical infrastructure and services for marginalised Roma communities, applying the principles of desegregation;
2. Adopt a legislative definition of key public technical infrastructure, its protection, security and public oversight;
3. Ensure the availability and affordability of very-high capacity advanced digital networks. In addition, digital infrastructure is one of the tools that can significantly contribute to the range and quality of services, for example in tourism, but also the work on the "big data" platform, which allows setting the decision-making processes in an optimum manner, checking the success of public policies and benchmarking within municipal management.

Of particular importance is the support of eGovernment in combination with cyber security and the smart agenda, which must be seen as a combination of common sense and information and communication technologies.

In the area of housing

1. Oversee the transition from ensuring the availability of housing to ensuring the availability of good-quality living conditions, including their safety and environmental, economic and social sustainability. Focus on the construction, use and renovation of buildings with low-energy consumption, using available renewable energy sources and replacing solid-fuel heating appliances, especially in detached houses where combustion leads to an increase in PM2.5 and PM10 emissions, with more environmentally friendly installations;
2. Increase the number of dwellings available per 1,000 inhabitants to match at least the EU average (395 dwellings);
3. Increase the share of rental housing (including barrier-free) in the total volume of available housing to 10% by 2030;
4. Improve the social affordability of housing by doubling the share of dwellings with regulated rent in the total volume of housing from 1.6% to 3% in 2030;



5. Create a multi-level system of supported housing for vulnerable groups of the population, including conditions for the application of the housing first principle to prevent and end homelessness;
6. Reduce the number of areas referred to as Roma settlements with substandard living conditions by 50% compared to 2018, as well as reduce the number of dwellings and people living in these settlements and address the issue of legalising the land use in these areas.

In the area of public spaces, facilities and establishments of services and retail

1. Ensure availability, security and barrier-free access to all public spaces and places such as streets, parks, squares, sports grounds, shopping centers and retail and service establishments, etc.;
2. Set and implement safety and accessibility standards for all new public and private buildings and premises;
3. Define and ensure the compliance with the highest environmental standards in all new and at least one third of existing public buildings and public spaces in the urban areas of municipalities, including the accessibility of urban green spaces;
4. Introduce effective regulation slowing down the growth of built-up areas in towns and municipalities, including industrial estates and logistics centres, by a more efficient use of their urban areas, better and more effective urban planning, support of transformation of brownfields in municipalities and in particular of unused residential as well as non-residential buildings into affordable rental housing and community facilities;
5. Ensure the development of culture infrastructure and the protection and maintenance of the Monument Fund (above all, the national cultural monuments) in good structural condition as a prerequisite for boosting economic growth, quality of life, employment and sustainable development of Slovakia, its regions, towns and municipalities.

In the area of transport infrastructure

1. Continue the development and modernisation of transport infrastructure as an essential prerequisite for creating a functional, sustainable and top-quality transport system supporting Slovakia's economic development;
2. Ensure that the state and local governments work collaboratively to provide affordable, economically and environmentally sustainable transport services to municipalities, towns and regions;

3. Ensure integrated technical and organisational solutions at the regional level aimed at improving the transport accessibility of public services and strengthening the environmental sustainability of suburban and urban mobility, including the promotion of alternative means of transport – cycling, electromobility, etc.;
4. Shift at least 20% of the load from road freight and passenger transport to the rail network and inland waterways in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, thus delivering on the commitments under the Paris Agreement and in line with the EU's strategic direction and legislation;
5. Attain a share of public passenger transport in the total volume of passengers of at least 30% in 2030 compared to a share of 27% in 2017, notably by improving its quality and motivating the public.

In the area of culture infrastructure

1. Ensure the completion, affordability, accessibility and effective working of a coordinated system of physical infrastructure for cultural and related purposes at the national, regional and local levels;
2. Incorporate the development of culture, culture infrastructure, culture and creative industries as valued public goods for communities in integrated development strategies and programmes of municipalities, towns and regions, thus boosting support for the creation, production and distribution of culture and creative goods and services;
3. Build an effective system to support the involvement of communities, including marginalised groups, in sustainable development, and the unlocking of the culture and creative potential (including cultural heritage and its protection) as a unique inexhaustible source of competitive advantage and recognisable character of a given territory, and in the provision of services with a distinctive spirit of place;
4. Encourage partnerships between culture and creative industries, local authorities, social partners and stakeholders in formal and non-formal education.



Monitoring the Strategy implementation

The implementation of the Vision and Strategy will be ensured by a comprehensive implementation mechanism. The broad scope stems from the horizontal nature of the development strategy of Slovakia based primarily on regional development and includes the principle of subsidiarity. There are several main actors, including the central government, ministries, towns and municipalities, business and civic sectors.

The priorities, goals, changes and measures set out in this document will be specified in sectoral strategic documents, in Slovakia's Territorial Development Strategy, Integrated Territorial Strategies – economic development and social development programmes of regions and municipalities, spatial plans, European Green Deal and the National Investment Plan.

The precondition for a functional implementation of Slovakia 2030 is the participation of socio-economic partners, including groups considered at risk of discrimination and social exclusion, in formulating and implementing follow-up public policies, as well as linking priorities and resources, including financial ones (as stipulated in the European Code of Conduct on Partnership, Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 240/2014).

The implementation will be regularly monitored and evaluated by monitoring selected indicators for meeting the Sustainable Development Goals as stipulated by UN Agenda 2030 (SDG) and in an annex to the document. Monitoring and evaluation, based on active and continuous communication between the government and socio-economic partners, will be ensured by the Ministry of Investments, Regional Development and Informatization as the chairing body and the Secretariat of the Government Council for Agenda 2030, in cooperation with the Value for Money Department, implementation unit and analytical and strategic units of central state administration bodies, analytical and strategic units of the regions and Partnership Councils of self-governing regions for the development and implementation of the economic development and social development programmes as Integrated Territorial Strategies (ITS). Such a system facilitates a flexible and speedy transfer of information to the relevant decision-making level in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity.

The evaluation of the implementation of Slovakia 2030 as the National Strategy for Regional Development at the national level will be based on the reporting of self-governing regions in accordance with Act No 539/2008 Coll. on the Support of Regional Development, and on the evaluation of the implementation of sectoral strategies falling within the remit of central state administration

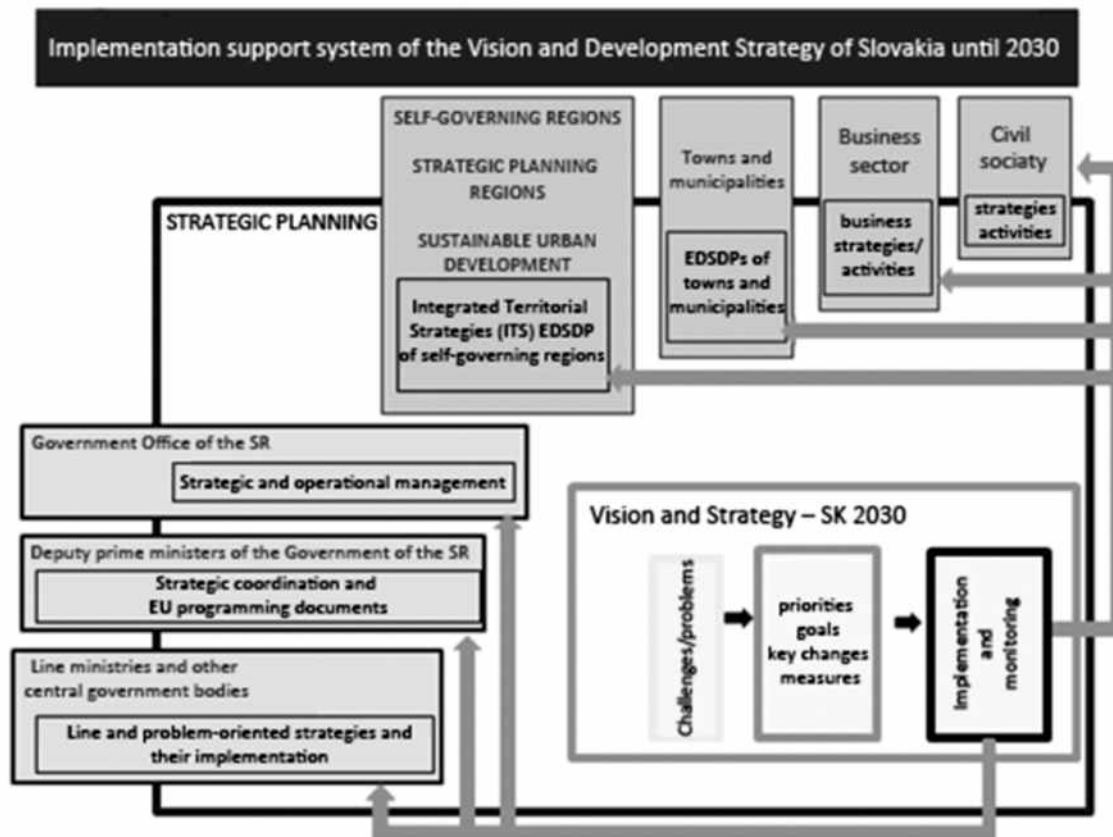


Figure 4: Implementation Support System of the Vision and Development Strategy of Slovakia until 2030.



bodies using indicators defined in the Slovakia 2030 document. The monitoring results will be part of the annual report on the implementation of the National Strategy for Regional Development, which is by law submitted by the Ministry of Investments, Regional Development and Informatization to the government once a year.

Particular attention will be paid to the monitoring and evaluation of environmental impacts, including health impacts, in accordance with the final opinion of the environmental impact assessment process. The specification of the selection of key indicators and the setting of their target values for the evaluation of the implementation of the strategy will be part of the first report on the Vision and Strategy implementation. In order to assess the progress of implementation, a composite indicator will be used, which will be based on the Social Progress Index and will be adjusted to the needs of Slovakia and defined in the revised version of this document in 2021.

Monitoring and evaluation will be supported by active and continuous communication among the central government, local governments and socio-economic partners. Such a system will make it possible to transmit information flexibly and speedily to the relevant decision-making level in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity, to assess the state of implementation and to take appropriate measures. The annual report on the status of the implementation of the strategy and fulfilment of the Vision as the National Strategy for Regional Development will be submitted to the central government.

At the political level, the Government Council for Agenda 2030 will evaluate the fulfilment of indicators, their possible updating, and approve draft measures.

Conclusion

To ensure the implementation and effective achievement of the goals of Slovakia 2030, it is necessary in particular to:

1. Ensure effective and efficient coordination of the implementation of Slovakia 2030 between all bodies of central state administration and levels of state administration and local government;
2. Ensure the coordination of the process of ensuring the fulfilment of the Slovakia 2030 objectives with the United Nations, the European Commission and other foreign partners;
3. Incorporate Slovakia 2030 into programming documents for the programming period 2021-2027, including the Operational Programme Slovakia;
4. Develop the tasks arising from the document Slovakia 2030 in accordance with the European Green Deal;
5. Develop a legislative intent of the Act on Sustainable Development of the Slovak Republic in accordance with the document Slovakia 2030, which will replace Act No 539/2008 Coll. on the Support of Regional Development and Act No 336/2015 Coll. on the Support to the Least Developed Districts and on amending certain laws;
6. Carry out an update of sectoral strategic, conceptual and legislative documents in accordance with the document Slovakia 2030, including the incorporation of the indicators of sustainable development as defined in the document;
7. Take appropriate account of the document Slovakia 2030 in new strategic, conceptual and legislative documents, including the incorporation of indicators defined in the document;
8. Give consideration to the document Slovakia 2030 in the economic development and social development programmes and in other conceptual and programme documents of local governments;
9. Develop an updated National Investment Plan by 2030;
10. Ensure monitoring and an interim evaluation of the progress towards the Slovakia 2030 goals and on their basis propose appropriate measures to the government;
11. Ensure the cooperation of local and regional government bodies in monitoring and an interim evaluation of the fulfilment of Slovakia 2030 goals.



Annex 1 – Slovakia 2030 as National Strategy for Regional Development

A. ANALYSIS OF THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC SITUATION ACROSS REGIONS, MAIN FACTORS AND ESTIMATION OF REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The outputs of the analyses of the socio-economic situation across Slovakia's regions are detailed by each priority step in the description of the individual Integrated Development Programmes. These outputs contain the identification of problems and challenges, main factors and trends relevant for the formulation of the priorities of the document Slovakia 2030 as the National Strategy for Regional Development in accordance with Act No 539/2008 Coll. and Resolution of the Government of the SR No 273/2018, of 13 June 2018.

The following areas have been identified as the key areas of challenges and problems for the national development strategy of Slovakia:

- Protection and development of natural resources
- Protection and development of human resources
- Protection and development of culture resources
- Development and transformation of the economy into an innovation-oriented economy
- Making the best possible use of internal resources and the regions' potential in efficient and resilient regional economies
- Environmental and social sustainability of the economy
- Conditions for the development and a full life of individuals, irrespective of their socio-economic background or disadvantaged position
- Quality of the environment for a healthy and full life of individuals and communities
- Principles of open governance and the protection of citizens' rights
- Efficiency and transparency of public administration and public policies
- Strategic planning and management and the efficiency of investment management
- Efficient and sustainable development funding

B. REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES AND GOALS

Based on the above analysis outputs, three regional development priorities were defined:

- Sustainable, competitive, environmentally and innovation-oriented economy of the regions
- Enhancing the quality of life and the use of natural and human capital
- Harmonisation of regional and territorial development

The three regional development priorities are reflected in three Integrated Development Programmes of the document Slovakia 2030, which are further detailed in

goals, in defining key changes, priority steps and necessary interventions to achieve the goals. In their elaboration, Slovakia 2030, being the basic implementation document of the UN Agenda 2030, in addition to the analyses outputs, relies on a broad participatory process in preparing the introductory document of the National Strategy for Regional and Territorial Development and the Draft National Priorities for the Implementation of Agenda 2030. Integrated development programmes connect Agenda 2030 with regional development and are a key tool for implementing the 2030 Agenda across the national, regional and local levels in the following structure:

1. Protection and sustainable development of natural and human resources, as well as culture potential, so as to preserve them for future generations and for further development of society;
2. Transformation of the Slovak economy by 2030 into a competitive, innovation-oriented low-carbon circular economy, which will effectively tap into education, human potential and resources and will be environmentally and socially sustainable and resilient to externalities and internalities;
3. Streamlining and bringing public administration closer to citizens by building a multi-level integrated development management at national, regional and local levels. In parallel, the aim is to effectively utilise the regions' territorial potential;
4. Improving the quality of life for all social groups in individual strategic planning regions and ensuring the availability and quality of public services, work and equal opportunities to put to use every individual's potential, regardless of their socio-economic background or disadvantaged position.

C. INSTITUTIONAL AND ORGANISATIONAL SUPPORT AND TOOLS

for the implementation of the national strategy, a system for monitoring and evaluating regional development based on a set of measurable indicators, and concrete steps and timeline for the national strategy implementation. The institutional and organisational support for the implementation of the document Slovakia 2030 as the National Strategy for Regional Development, including the setting of indicators and the implementation schedule, is detailed in the chapter on monitoring the strategy implementation and in Slovakia 2030 annex, whereby the entire process will be an integral part of the progress in delivering the goals, monitoring, and evaluation.

The key innovations in institutional and organisational arrangements for the regional development may be defined as follows:



- Setting up a network of strategic planning regions between local and regional governments on the basis of a process observing the principle of subsidiarity and partnership in accordance with the European Code of Conduct for Partnership, Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 240/2014, in an interaction between rural municipalities, towns, regions and the state, as part of a multi-level governance in regional development so that they form the most suitable territorial units for an integrated management of comprehensive territorial development based on the cooperation of all stakeholders;
- Linking the processes of creating economic development and social development programmes (EDSDP) and EU programming processes using the integration of EDSDP and integrated territorial strategies (ITS) at the level of self-governing regions, strategic planning regions and of the sustainable urban development areas;
- Setting legislative conditions for integrated development planning and management, in particular by drafting the Act on Sustainable Development, which will harmonise legal norms on integrated development of regions, towns and municipalities, especially from the perspective of the regional development and support for the least developed districts;
- Developing a new methodology for the regional development planning and management at all levels aimed at promoting sustainable integrated economic, social and environmental development in connection with the Act on Sustainable Development;
- Developing specific strategies to promote individual types of regions defined below;
- Enhancing strategic and analytical capacities at regional and local levels by expanding coordination, strategic and analytical, educational and communication capacities to promote planning, decision-making, implementation and control and evaluation at the levels of regions, strategic planning regions, towns and municipalities;
- Strengthening implementation capacities at the local level and at the level of strategic planning regions through an efficient management of the territorial structures of public administration as close as possible to the citizens in order to promote planning, decision-making, implementation, control, and evaluation at the local level and at the level of strategic planning regions;
- Territorial integration at the local and regional levels by creating legal and organisational conditions for grouping small municipalities into larger territorial units (clusters of municipalities), applying the principle of subsidiarity to streamline the enforcement of local government powers within territorial cooperation, respecting the identity of smaller municipalities, ensuring the right to promote the needs of the population of smaller municipalities in clustered municipalities through suitable political representation and a joint financial planning before and after the municipalities are clustered;
- Optimising the territorial organisation of state administration and local government to increase the efficiency and the quality of their functioning;
- Optimising the distribution of powers between individual levels of state administration and the regional and local governments, monitoring the distribution of responsibilities, powers and resources, including human resources;
- Standardisation of processes in the performance of public administration, within which standardised procedures and comparative standards for the result-driven performance of public administration will be introduced;
- Developing integrated territorial strategies and projects as basic tools for the regional development management and support;
- Developing functional structures and institutional conditions (including legislative ones) and common strategies for regional and local cross-border cooperation increasing the use of the border regions potential;
- Establishing permanent but flexible coordination platforms of socio-economic partners in regional development;
- Integrating strategic planning and programme budgeting linked at all levels of public administration;
- Increasing the efficiency and stabilisation of investment policy, in particular through incorporation of projects into integrated territorial investments and in strategic project packages, which will be included in the National Investment Plan and will pool public and private investments in public infrastructure and regional development;
- Creating regional development funds managed by self-governing regions, facilitating various modes of financing from grants to revolving loans.



D. PRIORITIES, GOALS AND TOOLS

of the regional development support by types of regions, towns and municipalities. For setting the strategic goals and priority areas of the development of individual specific territories within the Integrated Territorial Strategies of self-governing regions, the following priorities, goals and tools of the regional development support in the following specific types of strategic planning regions, or their subregions, towns and municipalities, will be essential:

1. National development centres

Delineation: Bratislava – Vienna metropolitan region, Košice-Prešov, Žilina-Martin and Banská Bystrica-Zvolen urban agglomerations.

Specific priority:

Strengthening the competitiveness, resilience and capitalisation on synergies between the Bratislava metropolitan region as part of the core region of the Central European metropolitan region Vienna – Bratislava and urban agglomerations Košice-Prešov, Žilina-Martin and Banská Bystrica-Zvolen as centres of innovation and dissemination within the ecosystem of a knowledge-based economy.

Goal:

To boost synergies between the economic development of settlement clusters in a metropolitan region and urban agglomerations as drivers of the development of a knowledge-based economy of the Central European area.

2. Urban regions and agglomerations utilising their growth potential

Delineation: Core area and the hinterland of the cities with more than 30,000 inhabitants in a core settlement, operating as regional to supra-regional economic, academic and culture centres.

Specific priority 1: Ensuring the sustainability of territorial development and harmonising the dynamics of the development of individual functional urban systems as the engine of regional development and ensuring their sustainability, with particular emphasis on:

- Improving and completing the connection between an agglomeration and nearby large settlements, improving transport between the cores of agglomerations and their hinterland;
- Efficient management of environmental issues associated with the concentration of large populations, and the adaptation of agglomerations to climate change;
- Ensuring a sufficient range of services, civic amenities and preventing the emergence and deepening of social exclusion;

- Improving the conditions for advancing businesses towards competitiveness based on knowledge and innovation within regional innovation ecosystems;
- Taking into account the increase in costs for construction, maintenance and modernisation of infrastructure in urban agglomerations.

Goal:

Mitigating and eliminating the disparities between the development of a core settlement and its environs, and harmonising the development of individual functional systems, such as housing, transport, production, services, recreation and natural ecosystems at the regional level.

Specific priority 2:

Strengthening the competitiveness, resilience and capitalisation on the synergies between the Bratislava metropolitan region and the agglomerations of Košice-Prešov, Žilina-Martin and Banská Bystrica-Zvolen as centres of origin and dissemination of innovations in the ecosystem of a knowledge-based economy.

Goal: Strengthening the synergies between the poles of the economic development of a metropolitan region as drivers of the development of the knowledge-based economy of the Central European area.

3. Economically and socially vulnerable areas, conversion and declining regions

Delineation:

Strategic planning regions with districts reporting an unemployment rate equivalent to 1.5 times the average unemployment rate in Slovakia for at least nine consecutive quarters, or strategic planning regions, towns and municipalities, providing a drop in employment of more than 30% has been reported in the past three years in a sector that accounted for more than 20% of jobs, and strategic planning regions, towns and municipalities with an above-average representation of marginalised social groups.

Specific priority:

Strengthening the internal capacities of economically weaker regions and using them to ensure sustainable dynamics of their economic and social development, the stabilisation and adaptation of skilled labour and ensuring good transport accessibility within the region and in connection with agglomerations/metropolises.

Goal:

Creating an economic and social ecosystem in regions with long-term unemployment higher than the country average, in conversion and declining regions and regions with above-average marginalised populations for an efficient and sustainable use of natural, technical and human capital as resources to maximise the added value of



manufactured products and services, and providing services to improve the quality of life of its inhabitants and to stabilise the skilled workforce in the territory.

4. Regions, towns and municipalities with the dominance of natural and culture protected areas

Delineation:

Regions, towns and municipalities in whose territories the protected areas are located, e.g. national parks, protected landscape areas, protected water management areas, nature reserves, national nature reserves, protected sites, natural monuments, protected landscape elements, protected bird areas and areas of international importance covering an area of more than 30% of the region, town or municipality or protected areas and complexes (e.g. monument zone, urban conservation area, a natural monument).

Specific priority:

Promoting comprehensive development of regions, towns and municipalities in line with the interests of protection and a sustainable and efficient use of capital.

Goal:

Promoting the development of regions, towns and municipalities based on a sustainable and efficient use of natural and culture capital, while respecting the need for and the priorities of the protection of nature and culture monuments, as well as the needs of local communities.

5. Mountainous regions and regions dominated by rural settlements

Delineation:

Strategic planning regions in mountainous areas, where the majority of the population live in municipalities with a population density below 150 inhabitants per sq. km. Included are also scattered and secluded settlements and mountain villages.

Specific priority:

Stabilising the population and the sustainable development of rural settlements based on an efficient provision of the quality of life in a rural environment attractive by its specificities offsetting its limitations due to its very nature.

Goal:

Promoting the stabilisation and development of communities in rural settlements by enhancing the unique attractiveness of the rural environment for life and work, especially in agriculture, forestry and traditional crafts, as a counterbalance to the urban environment while ensuring access to adequate quality jobs, housing and access to services in the region.

6. Regions, towns and municipalities in border and cross-border regions

Delineation:

Strategic planning regions, towns and municipalities with at least one border being the state border.

Specific priority:

Efficient capitalisation on the location potential and on the resources available in state border areas favouring sustainable development.

Goal:

Promoting development harnessing the value of a location bordering neighbouring countries, the synergies of own resources and the regional resources on the other side of the border (including demand) to boost their regional and local economies and competitiveness through a sustainable and efficient use of existing resources, ensuring cross-border transport services by public passenger transport, and in particular promoting cooperation with a view to ensuring an efficient provision of vital services (e.g. of an interconnected rescue system). Ensuring the strengthening of institutional capacity, the improvement of legal and administrative cooperation in cross-border regions, enhancing cooperation between citizens and institutions, as well as addressing specific issues related to external cooperation, such as safety, security, border management and migration. Encouraging cooperation between the regions sharing a common international border, thus providing opportunities for investments to improve the structural condition of natural and culture monuments, the access to natural and culture monuments and the protection of endangered species. Supporting investments to enhance selected elements of green infrastructure.



Annex 2 – Indicators for monitoring the implementation of Slovakia 2030

Indicators serve to monitor the implementation of the strategic sustainable development goals and at the same time to measure the effectiveness of activities/tools that ensure their implementation. The purpose of this annex is to provide a set of relevant indicators for Slovakia 2030 goals, which have the finest possible data granularity for monitoring the development across individual territorial units. It is suggested to make maximum use of the existing indicators published on the relevant websites and whose evolution can be monitored in time and in international comparison. The list of indicators was compiled under the coordination of the working group of the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic.

Draft indicators will be subject to regular reviews as part of the reports on the implementation of the national regional development strategy, in order to respond to the changing needs for measuring long-term goals. Territorial government development programmes stipulate the extent to which regional and local governments will contribute to meeting the indicators while taking account of their own limitations and possibilities.

Indicator	Definition	Unit of measurement	Data granularity	Source, database
Environmental Performance Index	Assessing eco-friendliness. The index was developed at Yale University, where it is evaluated in individual states.	Index	SR	Yale University ²⁹
Greenhouse gas emissions (GHG)	GHG emissions express the total volume of aggregated anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases in CO ₂ .	Millions of tonnes of CO ₂	SR	SHMI – Slovak Hydro-meteorological Institute; enviroportal
Emissions of pollutants	Emissions of pollutants express the amounts of basic pollutants released into the atmosphere – SO ₂ , NO _x , CO.	Tonnes	SR, region, district	SHMI, enviroportal , Statistical Office of SR (SO SR) DATAcube zp3003rr
Exposure to polluted air – fine solid particles (PM_{2.5})	Population exposure to PM _{2.5} is calculated as the average annual concentration of PM _{2.5} in ambient air that affects the population.	PM _{2.5} in µg/m ³	SR, region, district, monitoring station	SHMI, enviroportal SO SR DATAcube zp3003 – as solid emissions

Indicator	Definition	Unit of measurement	Data granularity	Source, database
Percentage of the population connected to a public sewerage network with a waste water treatment plant	Percentage of the population connected to a public sewerage network with a waste water treatment plant	%	SR, region	Ministry of Environment, Water Management Research Institute (VÚVH), SO SR DATAcube vh3001rr
Status of species and habitats of European interest	Percentage of the status of species (favourable, inadequate, bad, unknown) and habitats of European interest under Art. 17 of the EU Habitats Directive.	%	SR, bio-region	State Nature Protection enviroportal
Percentage of organic farming in total farmland	The indicator measures the percentage of land used in organic farming out of the total area of agricultural land. Agricultural land is defined as arable and permanent arable land plus permanent and temporary pastures, hop gardens, vineyards, orchards and permanent grassland.	%	SR	Eurostat [sdg_02_40]
Standardised Precipitation-Evapotranspiration Index (SPEI)	The difference between precipitation and potential evaporation compared with the long-term average in a given location.	Index from -3 (dry) to +3 (wet)	SR, 41 weather stations	SHMI SR
Share of forest area by categories of wood supply availability	The indicator measures the share of forest area available for wood supply (FAWS), forest area with restrictions on availability for wood supply (FRAWS) and forest area not available for wood supply (FNAWS).	%	SR	Forest Management Information System
Share of forest area with eco-friendly farming	Percentage of a forest area with eco-friendly farming in accordance with Act No 325/2006 Coll.	%	SR	Forest Management Information System
15-year-olds' ability in reading, mathematics and science	The International Student Assessment Program (PISA) is a three-year OECD study on the cognitive skills of 15-year-old students in OECD member countries and selected non-member countries.	PISA test scores	SR	OECD PISA



Indicator	Definition	Unit of measurement	Data granularity	Source, database
Share of the population aged 25-34 with completed ISCED 2011 education	The population with ISCED 2011 ^{3*} (tertiary) education and higher is defined as the population with the highest level of education by age group.	%	SR, breakdown by gender	Eurostat [edat_lfse_03]
Index of economic burden of persons	Number of persons in pre-productive (0-14 years) and post-productive age (65+) per 100 persons in productive age (15-64 years).	%	SR, region, district	SO SR DATAcube om7005rr
Municipal debt per capita	Indicator of municipality's financial sustainability is defined as the debt of a municipality divided by the number of its inhabitants.	EUR	SR, region, district	Ministry of Finance, DataCentrum
Adult participation in education and training	Participation in formal and non-formal education and training. The indicator determines the participation during the four weeks preceding the survey in adults aged 25 to 64.	%	SR, breakdown by gender	Eurostat [trng_lfse_01]
Percentage of persons admitted to and enrolled at universities by regional permanent residence	Share of population working/studying outside the given territorial unit in the total number of inhabitants in employment/ education residing in it.	%	SR, region, district	CVTI SR, Tr8z ^{3*}
Enrolment of children under 3 years of age in formal care	The proportion of children aged 0-2 enrolled in childcare and pre-school services.	%	SR	Eurostat [ilc_caindformal]
Employment rate for women with children under 6 years of age	Employment rate for women with at least one child aged 0 to 5 years.	%	SR, breakdown by gender	Eurostat [lfst_hheredch]
Development of revenues in creative industries	The amount of revenues of economic units doing business in the creative industries.	EUR	SR, region	Ministry of Culture, SO SR
Visitors of museums, galleries and theatres	Number of visitors of galleries, museums and theatres in a calendar year.	Number	SR, region	SO SR, DATAcube ku3003rr, ku3004rr, ku3002rr
Share of expenditure on culture services in the total household expenditure	Share of expenditure on culture services (goods and services related to individual and organised recreation and other use of leisure time) of the total household expenditure.	%	SR, region	SO SR

Indicator	Definition	Unit of measure	Data granularity	Source, database
General government expenditure on culture as a percentage of the GDP	General government expenditure on culture as a percentage of the GDP.	%	SR, region	National Edification Centre
Evolution of the structural condition of national cultural monuments	Development of the structural condition of national cultural monuments as satisfactory/ good/disturbed/desolate within restoration per year.	%	SR, region, district	Monuments Board of SR ^{3*}
3D printing and robotics	Share of companies applying 3D printing and robotics.	%	SR	Eurostat [isoc_eb_p3d]
R&D expenditure as a percentage of GDP	The total R&D expenditure as a percentage of regional GDP.	%	SR, region	Eurostat [t2020_20], SO SR Statistical Regional Yearbook
Fixed capital formation for professional and scientific activities	Volume of investments in gross fixed capital formation in professional, scientific and technical activities.	mil. EUR	SR, region	SO SR DATAcube nu3008rr
Filing applications to the European Patent Office	Number of requests for patent protection of an invention filed with the European Patent Office, regardless of whether they are granted or not.	Number per 1 million inhabitants	SR	Eurostat [sdg_09_40]
Share of private R&D spending	Share of private R&D spending including: business resources, resources of private non-profit organisations, own funds of higher education institutions, and foreign business and private non-profit resources.	%	SR, region	SO SR STATdat vt1002rs, Statistical Yearbook on Science and Technology of SR
Labour productivity from revenues for own goods and services in industry	Annual revenues for own goods and services per employee of an industrial undertaking with more than 20 employees.	EUR	SR, region, district	SO SR, DATAcube pm3001rr, data by districts are only in the Industry Yearbook
Enterprises and entrepreneurs	Number of enterprises by selected types of ownership and number of natural persons – entrepreneurs.	Number	SR, region, district, breakdown by gender	SO SR, DATAcube og3003rr, og3011rr



Indicator	Definition	Unit of measurement	Data granularity	Source, database
Total factor productivity (TFP)	Growth indicator of total factor productivity (TFP) at national or sectoral level (agriculture, industry and services).	EUR	SR	IFPMF SR, ameco/user/serie/SelectSerie.cfm
High-tech export	Share of high-tech export in the country's total export.	%	SR	Eurostat [htec_si_exp4]
Domestic material consumption	Domestic material consumption refers to the total amount of materials directly used by an economy and it represents direct material input minus the materials that are exported.	Tonnes per capita	SR	Eurostat [t2020_rh10]
Value of payments for agricultural ecosystem services	Volume of funds spent under public payment schemes in forestry and agriculture.	EUR	SR	Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture
Municipal waste recycling rate	The indicator refers to the share of recycled municipal waste in the total amount of municipal waste generated. Recycling includes material recycling and recycling of organic substances, including composting.	%	SR, region	SOSR, DATAcube zp3002rr
Municipal waste generation	Municipal waste generation per capita.	kg/per capita	SR, region, district, municipality	SOSR, DATAcube zp3002rr, Ministry of Environment Enviroportal (municipality level)
Resource productivity	The indicator quantifies the relationship between the economic growth and resource/material depletion and is calculated as the ratio of GDP (in purchasing power parity or EUR) to domestic material consumption (DMC) in kg.	PPP/kg; EUR/kg	SR	Eurostat [t2020_rh00]
Energy efficiency	The amount of economic output produced per unit of gross domestic energy consumption.	GDP per unit of total primary energy supply	SR	Eurostat [sdg_07_30]

Indicator	Definition	Unit of measurement	Data granularity	Source, database
Share of electricity generated without carbon emissions in total electricity generation	Share of electricity generated without carbon emissions in the total electricity generation is the sum of renewable sources and energy generated from nuclear sources divided by the total volume of electricity generated in the given year.	%	SR	European Environment Agency (EEA), Ministry of Economy
Municipal waste landfill rate	Share of landfilled municipal waste in the total amount of municipal waste generated.	%	SR, region	SOSR, DATAcube zp3002rr
Better Life Index	Better Life Index is designed to compare the well-being in individual countries on the basis of 11 topics identified by the OECD under material living conditions and quality of life.	Index	SR	OECD: Better Life Index
Housing affordability	Price per 1 square metre to average net household income ratio.	monthly/ m ²	SR, regions	NBS ² , SO SR, DATAcube ps3001rr
Learning results of students who do not use the language of PISA test as their main language at home	One of the variables monitored in PISA testing is the language spoken by students at home.	PISA scores	SR	OECD
Number of pupils in special classes and in special schools	Share of the number of pupils in special primary schools and in special classes in the total number of pupils in primary education.	%	SR, district	Slovak Centre of Scientific and Technical Information (CVTI SR): Statistical Yearbook - Elementary Schools
Enrolment rate of children in pre-primary education	Share of the number of children aged 3 to 5 years in kindergartens (including special classes) and in special kindergartens in the total number of children aged 3 to 5 years.	%	SR, district	CVTI SR: Statistical Yearbook - Primary Schools SOSR
Enrolment rate of children from marginalised Roma communities in pre-primary education	Share of Roma children from marginalised Roma communities in pre-primary education out of the total number of children of a given age compared to the general population.	%	SR, type of settlement	Government Plenipotentiary for Roma Communities SOSR



Indicator	Definition	Unit of measurement	Data granularity	Source, database
Percentage of early school leavers	Share of persons aged 18 to 24 who had completed at most lower secondary education (ISCED 2011) and were not in further education or training.	%	SR, region, breakdown by gender	Eurostat [sdg_04_10] Edat_ifse 16
Long-term unemployment rate	Share of job seekers kept in the register of job seekers for longer than 12 months in the total number of registered job seekers.	%	SR, region, district, breakdown by gender	Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family
Employment rate of persons with disabilities	Share of workers with disabilities in the population with disabilities aged 15 and over.	%	SR, region	SO SR
Low-skilled unemployment rate	Share of low-skilled unemployed (ISCED 2011-2) in the total number of employed persons.	%	SR, district, breakdown by gender	Eurostat [une_educ_a]
Persons at risk of poverty and social exclusion after social transfers	The at-risk-of-poverty population is defined as persons whose disposable income after social transfers represents 60% of the median income of the reference population.	%	SR, district, breakdown by gender	Eurostat [ilc_pep01], SO SR: EU SILC 2017 - Poverty and social exclusion indicators
S80/S20 ratio of income breakdown	Share of the total disposable income of households received from income breakdown by people in the top quintile (100-80%), divided by the share of those in the bottom quintile (20-0%).	%	SR, breakdown by gender	Eurostat [ilc_d11]
Gender pay gap	The difference between the average gross hourly earnings of men and women expressed as a percentage of the average gross hourly earnings of women of the average hourly earnings of men.	%	SR, district	Eurostat [sdg_05_20], SO SR STATdat [ra1003rs]
Difference in life expectancy by attained level of education	The indicator measures the difference in life expectancy between people with high and low levels of education.	Years	SR, breakdown by gender	Eurostat [demo_mlexpededu]
Unemployment rate of people aged 50-64	The indicator represents the unemployment rate of persons aged 50 to 64 as a percentage of the workforce, i.e. the total number of employed and unemployed.	%	SR, district, breakdown by gender	Eurostat [ifsa_organ] Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family

Indicator	Definition	Unit of measurement	Data granularity	Source, database
Gross pension replacement rate	Average pension as a proportion of average economy-wide earnings.	%	SR	EC: Ageing Europe Report
Inequality of income distribution: Gini coefficient	The indicator defines the relationship of the cumulative proportions of the population broken down by the amount of equivalent disposable income against cumulative proportions of their total equivalent disposable income by regions and districts of Slovakia.	Index	Region, district	SO SR, DATAcube ps2039rs
Proportion of the population having access to safe drinking water	Public water supply is expressed as a percentage of the population connected to the public water supply system.	%	SR, region, district	VÚVH, SO SR, DATAcube vh3001rr
Share of households connected to public sewerage	Percentage of the population connected to public sewerage.	%	SR, region, district	VÚVH, SO SR, DATAcube vh3001rr
Share of population unable to keep their homes adequately warm	The indicator measures the proportion of low-income population (less than 60% of the median equivalent income) who are unable to keep homes adequately warm.	%	SR, type of household	Eurostat [ilc_mdes01]
Share of households' expenditure on housing, electricity, heating and water	Net monetary expenditure of households on housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels in relation to the net monetary income of the households.	%	SR, region	SO SR Income and expenditure of private households
Subsidised rental housing	Number of rental flats acquired with state support through a special-purpose subsidy of the Ministry of Transport and Construction of SR or through a soft loan granted by the Housing Development Fund.	Number	SR, municipality	Ministry of Transport and Construction (State Housing Development Fund)
Number of housing allowance recipients	The number of the recipients of housing allowance which is one of the entitlements in the provision of assistance in material need to cover the costs associated with housing.	Number	SR	MLSAF SR (RSD MIS - Information system for the management of social benefits)



Indicator	Definition	Unit of measurement	Data granularity	Source, database
Excessive housing costs according to level of poverty	Percentage of low-income population (below 60% of the median household equivalent income) living in households where total housing costs represent more than 40% of disposable income.	%	SR, breakdown by gender	Eurostat [ilc_lvho07a]
Household crowding index in marginalised Roma communities (MRCs)	The share of overcrowded households in MRCs in the total number of households in MRCs and in comparison with the majority population measured as a percentage of households with 3 and more members per habitable room.	%	SR	Government Plenipotentiary for Roma Communities SO SR
Years of Healthy Life (HLY)	The HLY indicator measures the number of years spent free of long-term activity limitation	Years	SR, breakdown by gender	Eurostat [hlth_hlye]
Obesity rate in adults	The share of adults with excessive weight (BMI ≥ 30) posing health risks due to a high body fat percentage.	%	SR	Eurostat [sdg_02_10]
Completed alcohol-related hospital admissions	Number of completed hospital admissions for acute and chronic disorders with alcohol being the primary cause of disease per 100,000 inhabitants.	Per 100,000 population	SR, region, district, breakdown by gender	Ministry of Health, National Health Information Centre (NHIC)
Daily smokers aged 15 years and over	Percentage of persons aged 15 years and over who are daily smokers of the total number of survey population.	%	SR, breakdown by gender	Eurostat [hlth_ehis_de3]
Vaccination rate in children under one year of age	Vaccination coverage for children under one year of age for measles, diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis.	%	SR, district	OECD, Public Health Authority of SR
Avoidable mortality and preventable mortality	Avoidable mortality represents the number of deaths for specific diseases categorised in the ICD that can be avoided. The preventable mortality indicator consists of deaths that could be prevented by public health measures affecting behaviour and lifestyle, socio-economic status and environmental conditions.	Per 100,000 population	SR, breakdown by gender	Eurostat [hlth_cd_apr]

Indicator	Definition	Unit of measurement	Data granularity	Source, database
Share of public passenger transport in the total number of transported persons	The share of public passenger transport in the total number of transported persons in domestic and international transport.	%	SR, region	SO SR DATAcube do3001rr
Digital Economy and Society Index (DESI)	DESI overall index, calculated as the weighted average of the five main DESI dimensions: 1 Connectivity (25%), 2 Human Capital (25%), 3 Use of Internet Services (15%), 4 Integration of Digital Technology (20%), 5 Digital Public Services (15%).	Index	SR	European Commission, Digital Scoreboard
Share of households with broadband internet connection	Percentage of households with at least one member aged 16-74 and with a broadband internet connection (ADSL, SHDSL, cable, UMTS).	%	SR, area	Eurostat [tgs00049]
Individual level of digital skills	Indicator of digital skills performed by individuals aged 16 to 74 in the areas of: information, communication, problem solving, and software skills.	%	SR, breakdown by gender	Eurostat [isoc_sk_dsk_i]
Number of available dwellings per 1,000 inhabitants	Number of available dwellings per thousand inhabitants.	Number	SR	Population and Housing Census (SO SR)
Rule of Law	This indicator measures the extent to which individuals and firms have confidence in and abide by the rules of society; in particular, it measures the functioning and independence of the judiciary, including the police, the protection of property rights, the quality of contract enforcement, as well as the likelihood of crimes and violence.	In units of a normal distribution	SR	World Bank Worldwide Governance Indicators
Corruption perception in public sector	CPI is a composite index, a combination of 13 surveys and assessments of public sector corruption (0 = highly corrupt, 100 = very clean).	Scale 0 to 100	SR	Transparency International - Corruption Perception Index, Eurostat [sdg_16_50]



Indicator	Definition	Unit of measurement	Data granularity	Source, database
Senior civil servants reshuffles following the election of a new government	Percentage of senior civil servants reshuffles following the change of government is measured on a scale: None (0-4%), Some (5-49%), Several (50-94%), All (95-100%).	%	SR	OECD: Government at a Glance
Perception of judicial independence	Percentage of persons who rate the justice system in their country as independent.	%	SR	EC: Flash Barometer 461
Voter turnout	Percentage of the votes cast in elections by registered voters against the total number of eligible voters in the parliamentary, presidential and municipal elections.	%	SR, municipality	SO SR
OURdata Index	The OECD OURdata Index 2016 measures government efforts in promoting data availability and usability and in stimulating data re-use based on the International Open Data Charter (IODC) and on the framework developed by the OECD.	Index (0 to 1)	SR	OECD: Open Government Data

GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS

The 2030 Agenda – the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (also abbreviated as “Agenda 2030”)

GDP – gross domestic product

OECD – Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

UN – United Nations

EDSDP – Economic Development and Social Development Programme

ITS – Integrated Territorial Strategy



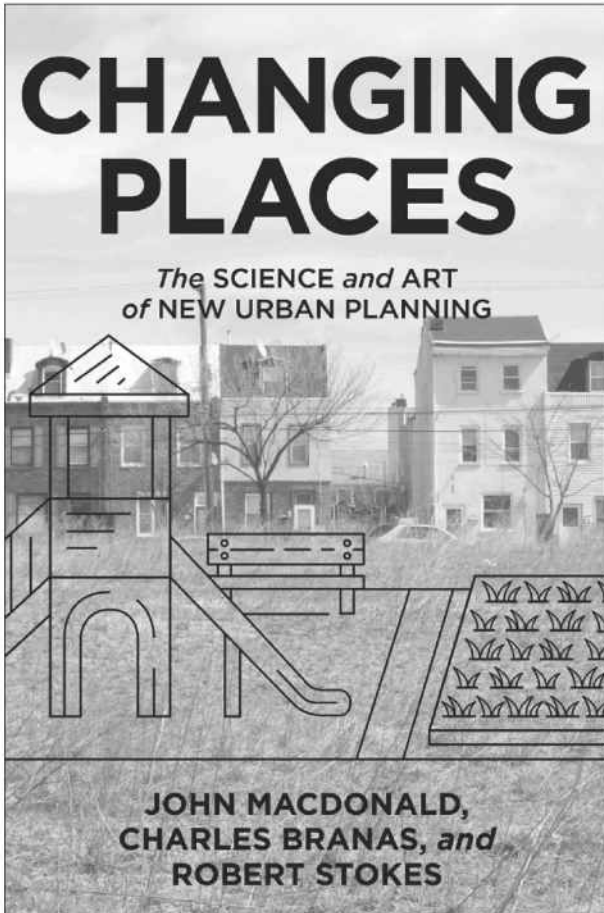
Notes:

- ¹ For more details, see Act on Social Services (in Slovak) Zákon č. 448/2008 Z. z. o sociálnych službách
- ² For more details, see “Defining and Describing Regions”, in OECD Regions at a Glance 2011, OECD Publishing, Paris.
- ³ For more details, see OECD (2020) Glossary of Statistical Terms, Social and Welfare Statistics, OECD Publishing, Paris
- ⁴ For more details, see also the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee, and the Committee of Regions “Next steps for a sustainable European future”, Strasbourg, COM (2016) 739 final
- ⁵ See: Kačmár, R. (2016) (in Slovak): “Čo je to bezpečnosť”, Slovak Security Policy Institute / Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, Slovak Republic, Bratislava
- ⁶ 17 Goals to Transform Our World. www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment. Sustainable Development Goals Knowledge Platform. <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/>.
- ⁷ COM(2018) 773 final, 28 November 2018
- ⁸ COM(2019)22, 30 January 2019
- ⁹ COM(2019) 232 final
- ¹⁰ [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/SK/TXT/?qid=1602077088199&uri=CELEX:52019DC0640R\(01\)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/SK/TXT/?qid=1602077088199&uri=CELEX:52019DC0640R(01))
- ¹¹ Meeting of the Government of the SR 2 March 2016, point 18, <https://rokovania.gov.sk/RVL/Material/12724/1>
- ¹² Resolution of the Government of the SR No 350/2017 of 24 July 2017
- ¹³ Resolution of the Government of the SR No 273/2018 of 13 June, 2018, point 15, <https://rokovania.gov.sk/RVL/Material/22985/1> 14 Programme of the Government of the SR 2020-2024 15 Eurobarometer, January 2019, quoted in the 2019 EU Justice Scoreboard, EU, pp. 44-45
- ¹⁶ Corruption Perception Index in 2019, Transparency International
- ¹⁷ State of the Environment Report – Slovak Republic 2018, Ministry of Environment and Slovak Environment Agency 18 <https://envirozataze.enviroportal.sk/Informacny-system>
- ¹⁹ Source: IEP from the Environmental Burdens Information System, October 2020
- ²⁰ Source: <https://www.enviroportal.sk/indicator/detail?id=3081>
- ²¹ Source: Forest Management Report for 2019
- ²² Source: State of the Environment Report – Slovak Republic 2019 (under preparation)
- ²³ European Innovation Scoreboard 2020, Country profiles, European Commission
- ²⁴ GDP as a regional development indicator has only limited explanatory value
- ²⁵ <https://rokovania.gov.sk/RVL/Material/23364/1>
- ²⁶ Source: Eurostat <https://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/submitViewTableAction.do>
- ²⁷ Web page <https://agenda2030.statistics.sk/Agenda2030/en/indicators/>
- ²⁸ The principles of multi-level governance are summarised in OECD document Recommendation of the OECD Council on Effective Public Investment Across Levels of Government <http://www.oecd.org/regional/regional-policy/Principles-Public-Investment.pdf>
- ²⁹ Environmental Performance Index <https://epi.envirocenter.yale.edu/epi-topline?country=Slovakia>
- ³⁰ Fields of study, National Education Classification – Národná klasifikácia vzdelania príloha <https://www.minedu.sk/18673-sk/studijne-a-ucebne-odbory-sauo/>
- ³¹ http://www.cvtisr.sk/cvti-sr-vedecka-kniznica/informacie-o-skolstve/statistiky/statistika-prijimacieho-konania-na-vysoke-skoly-sr.html?page_id=9723
- ³² <https://www.pamiatky.sk/sk/page/pamiatkovy-fond-statistiky>
- ³³ <https://www.nbs.sk/sk/statisticke-udaje/vybrane-makroekonomicke-ukazovatele/ceny-nehnutelnosti-na-byvanie/ceny-nehnutelnosti-na-byvanie-podla-krajov>



Veronika Aschenbrierová

**CHANGING PLACES:
THE SCIENCE AND ART
OF NEW URBAN PLANNING**



**Changing places:
The Science and Art of New Urban Planning**

John MacDonald
Charles Branas
Robert Stokes

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By designing or revitalizing urban spaces, also by designing architecture, the surrounding space is looked at from a different perspective on the present. Urban design is more important than ever to maximize the benefits and well-being of the community in the future. What exactly do placebased interventions mean in practice? Towards this end, *Changing Places: The Science and Art of New Urban Planning* provides a comprehensive view of urban planning, science, and explain urban interventions that can improve prosperity in declining urban areas. The authors point to an important part of the local partnership between urban planners, developers, community residents and scientists. They approach topics like transportation, housing, green spaces and services in the urban space. The book is structured into eight chapters in prevalent measure of the text and occasional pictures or graphs. The authors' view of the issue is to point out how important it is to create a space of cooperation of several entities involved in the creation of urban space in the field of urban planning, but mainly to give space to science and research. The authors come from the University of Pennsylvania and present their views as an example of several studies and observations, especially in the US cities of Philadelphia and Los Angeles.

The book clearly fulfilled its mission. The reader will get to know the whole course of placebased changes in practice, from the planning of the entire research, the selection of specific target sites to the results and the impact on monitored aims - health and safety. These two aspects play a key role throughout the publication. This book offers very detailed information about the experiments and observations that have already been carried out. It represents the real results they have brought to the place and its residents. It explains and approaches fewer examples, but they are described in too much detail and extensively, sometimes it can discourage the reader. I expected to present more examples and results. I would also welcome more pictorial examples of individual examples or achieved results of interventions.

This book may differ from the others in that it discusses and explains research and studies of place-base changes that have been conducted in multiple locations over different decades. It describes and briefly explains the history of urbanism and how various adverse effects such as crime or diseases have occurred in the urban structures. In my opinion, the book brings closer and explains the facts that are more or less repeated in other similar publications, just basing them on specific numbers and findings based on research and comparisons.



I think that the book explained the individual areas, but rather for advanced readers who are already wise to the topic and deepen their knowledge of specific facts obtained by researches. I wouldn't say it's new urban planning. Rather, it is a demonstration of specific sometimes even already known interventions in practice and their impact on the environment and residents. These can serve as inspirations not only for the application of specific changes, but also for conducting similar research in our urban space.



Milan Husar

TRAINING OF TRAINERS EVENT, ORGANIZED WITHIN THE CONNECTGREEN PROJECT



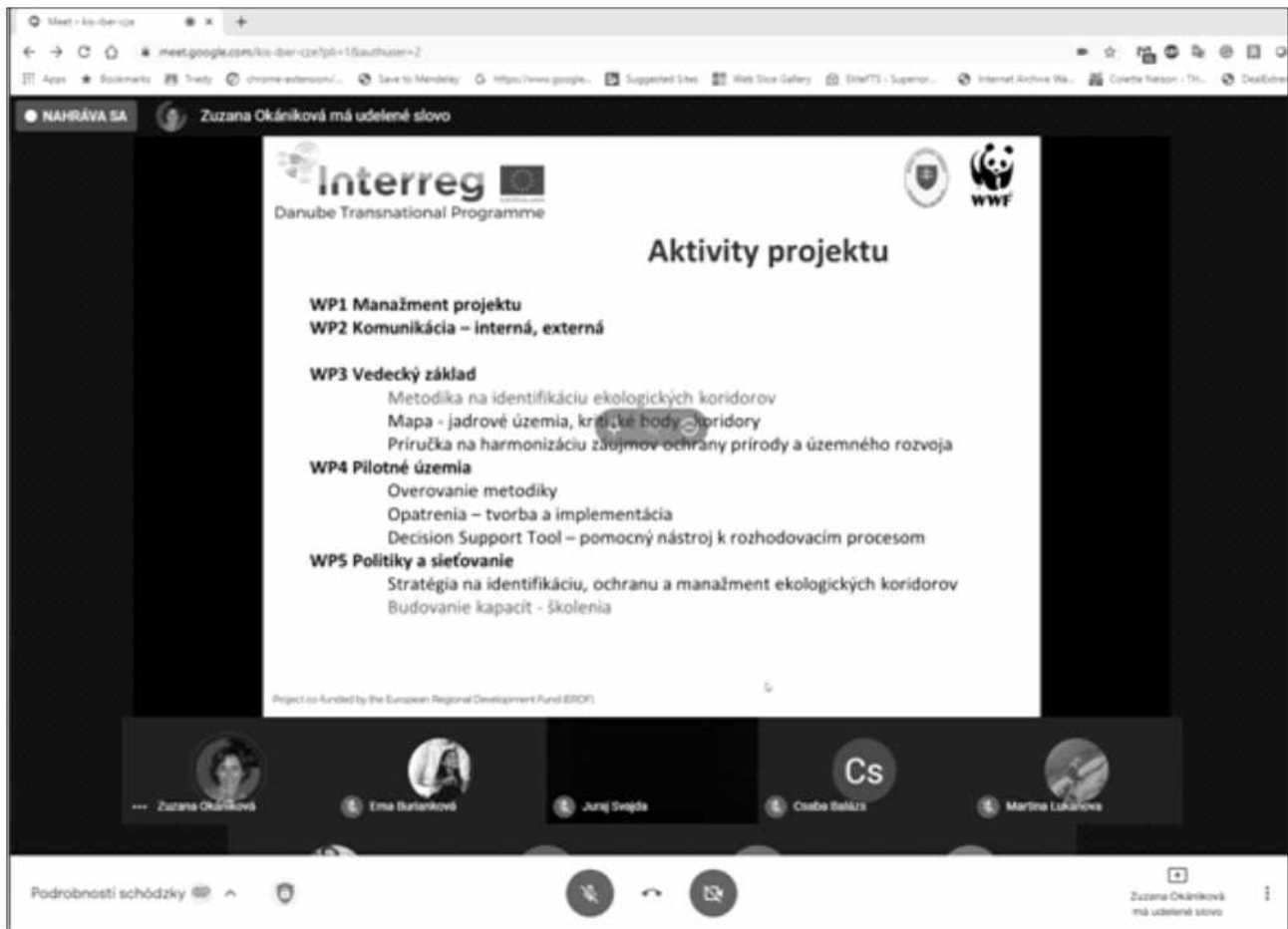
On October 7th, 2020, Spectra Centre of Excellence of the EU organized an event called 'Training of Trainers'. It was organized as one of the activities of the ongoing ConnectGREEN project ('Restoring and managing ecological corridors in mountains as the green infrastructure in the Danube basin') under the INTERREG Danube Transnational Programme. The event was scheduled under the work package 5 'Policy and network' focusing on policy making and networking of partners with stakeholders.

Training of Trainers event was organized by Spectra CE in cooperation with SNC SR and WWF Slovakia. Online event organized from Bratislava, Slovakia. The aim of the meeting was to support capacity building of professionals in the field of ecological connectivity and spatial planners and future professionals (students of spatial planning of Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava).

The agenda:

13:45-14:00	Registration to the event
14:00-14:10	Introduction and welcome <i>Spectra CE</i>
14:10-14:55	Presentation of methodology on eco-corridor identification <i>SNC SR</i>
14:55-15:40	Presentation of guidelines on harmonizing the interests between ecosystem protection and different land uses <i>Spectra CE</i>
15:40-16:00	Presentation of tools for capacity building (e-learning platform, CCIBIS, library) <i>Spectra CE</i>

In the beginning, organizers opened the event, welcomed the participants and introduced the topic of the event and the agenda. Before the meeting proceeded, Spectra provided technical support of the event, introduced the participants to the basic functionalities of the platform



(Google Meet platform was used, the meeting was recorded, participants could participate with their remarks and questions).

The first item was a presentation of the project and one of its initial outputs - methodology on eco-corridor identification which was used later on in the pilot areas to determine the eco-corridors. It was given by Zuzana Okanikova from State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic. The presentation was followed by lively discussion by the attending professionals.

In the second presentation, prof. Maros Finka presented the draft of the guidelines on harmonizing the interests between ecosystem protection and different land uses. The guidelines are aimed at providing tools to professionals (spatial planners, nature conservationists etc.) on how to incorporate eco-corridor protection to the existing planning documents and make it legally binding.

The third and final presentation was given by Spectra in which the tools for capacity building (e-learning platform, CCIBIS, library) prepared within ConnectGREEN and TransGREEN projects

Lastly, the organizers thanked the participants for their participation and their time and concluded the event. The event was attended by 39 participants from professional bodies as well as university students as future spatial planning professionals.

ConnectGREEN project is providing professionals with methodologies, guidelines and innovative tools trying to support their work in the field. The future professionals – spatial planning students have witnessed newly produced knowledge in practice and were encouraged to continue their studies and future work in the field of biodiversity protection and ecological connectivity.



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2/2020

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Slovakia 2030

VISION AND DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY OF SLOVAKIA UNTIL 2030 A LONG-TERM STRATEGY OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC

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