

## Environmental and Social Data Sheet

### Overview

Project Name:	SLOVAKIA EU FUNDS CO-FINANCING 2014-2020 (SPL)
Project Number:	2014-0464
Country:	Slovakia
Project Description:	Structural Programme Loan supporting a number of EU co-funded Operational Programmes under the Partnership Agreement of Slovakia in the 2014-2020 period.
EIA required:	Yes. This is multi-scheme SPL operation. Some of the schemes may require an EIA under Annex I or Annex II ("screened in") of the EIA Directive.
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise:	no

### Summary of Environmental and Social Assessment, including key issues and overall conclusion and recommendation

The Project, a Structural Programme Loan (SPL), will support selected thematic objectives of the Partnership Agreement (PA) of the Slovak Republic (SR) as adopted by the EU Commission, and investments from the seven national Operational Programmes (OPs): (i) OP Research and Innovation, (ii) OP Integrated Infrastructure (area of information society), (iii) OP Human Resources, (iv) OP Quality of Environment, (v) Integrated Regional OP, (vi) OP Efficient Public Administration and, (vii) OP Technical Assistance.

The Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEAs) for the Slovak PA 2014-2020, the OP Integrated Infrastructure, the OP Quality of Environment, and the Integrated Regional OP, including public consultation, have been performed in compliance with the EU SEA Directive 2001/142. The Slovak government has delivered the correspondent Non-Technical Summaries (NTSs). The remaining OPs are not subject to SEA.

The operation is designed mainly to support small and medium size investments which will primarily focus on the following sectors: research, technological development and innovation, information and communication technologies (ICT), Small Medium Enterprises (SMEs), agricultural, fishery and aquaculture, education and vocational training, sustainable energy, solid waste, wastewater and water supply. However, some large schemes (cost above EUR 50m) might also be considered in the area of information society.

Given the scope of this operation and sectors included, it is likely that some large infrastructure schemes fall under the EIA Directive, either under Annex I or Annex II. Should any scheme under this SPL fall under Annex II and be "screened in" by the competent authority, or fall under Annex I, the Promoter shall deliver the NTS of EIAs to the Bank, if applicable, before the Bank funds are allocated.

The overall net environmental and social impact of the SPL is positive, with improved environment and the Slovak citizens' quality of life.

The institutional capacity of the Promoter to manage the environmental issues is deemed satisfactory and therefore, subject to conditions mentioned above, the project is acceptable to the Bank in environmental and social terms.

## Environmental and Social Assessment

### Legal Framework

Slovakia, as an EU Member State, has harmonised its environmental legislation in line with the relevant EU Directives: EIA Directive 2011/92/EU, SEA Directive 2001/42/EC and Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC and Birds Directives 2009/147/EC.

At present the Act No. 24/2006 Coll. on environmental impact assessment and on amendments to certain acts applies, which entered into force on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2006. It regulates comprehensively the environmental impact assessment, strategic documents assessment and impact assessment of constructions, installations and other activities on the environment. In 2014, the Slovak EIA Act was amended as a result of the infringement opened by the European Commission against the Slovak Republic in 2013 (no 2013/2034). The amended Act was adopted by the Slovak Parliament and came into force in January 2015. It should be applicable not only to the projects to be prepared in 2015 but to all projects to which authorisation procedures are not completed.

### Environmental Assessment

The 2014-2020 Slovak Partnership Agreement, as a strategic document, was assessed regarding its effects on environment according to Act No. 24/2006 Coll. In addition, the OP Integrated Infrastructure, the OP Quality of Environment, and the Integrated Regional OP were also subject to SEA. A favourable opinion of the Ministry of Environment was issued for each of them, which formally completed the correspondent SEA processes. According to the EU SEA Directive 2001/142, the remaining OPs are not subject to the SEA process.

The assessment of effects of the strategic documents on environment was carried out with regard mainly to bearable charge of area, effects on population, its health and activities, soil structure, effects on air and climate conditions of an area concerned, effects on water conditions, effects on fauna, flora, its biotopes and protected areas including the ecological network of protected areas NATURA 2000.

The Structural Programme Loan is in line with the Europe 2020 Strategy. Supported schemes will make a contribution to climate change mitigation and adoption measures. In addition, investments will provide a significant contribution to reducing energy consumption in buildings and enterprises and facilitate achieving the target of 20% reduction in primary energy consumption by 2020. In the waste and water sectors, some investments are needed to make sure that EU environmental requirements are fulfilled. Significant attention is given to the territorial dimension of interventions in particular in the area of urban development and access to public services.

Effects of the protected areas on environment foreseen and identified in the SEA processes are not of such nature, that they would cause grave effect on environment of area concerned. Possible negative effects may be eliminated or alleviated by implementing effective measures, i.e.: re-assessment of the operating and usable renewable energy sources (RES) including carrying-capacity of particular regions, more detailed elaboration of measures regarding the Danube Strategy, etc.

### Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement, where required

On 7 November 2013 a public hearing on the evaluation report of the PA and the draft PA was held according to Article 17(9) of Act No 24/2006 Coll. All the OPs were also subject to public information and approved in 2014, in conjunction with the corresponding SEA processes. Relevant comments were incorporated into the PA and OPs.

### Other Environmental and Social Aspects

The individual project building permits (authorization of construction according to Act. 50/1976 Coll.) will stipulate monitoring of environmental impacts prior to, during and post construction. This legislation contains specific procedural practices that are needed before committing to the start of any construction or putting technology in use. Categories of monitoring are expected to cover flora, fauna, slope stability, surface water, ground water, noise and air quality.