MEMORANDUM

OECD DAC Peer Review 2018
Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Assistance of the Slovak Republic

Bratislava
2017
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<tr>
<td>CEDB</td>
<td>Council of Europe Development Bank</td>
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<td>COHAFA</td>
<td>Council Working party on Humanitarian Aid and Food Aid</td>
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<td>DAC</td>
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<td>Department of Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid</td>
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<td>EBRD</td>
<td>European Bank for Reconstruction and Development</td>
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<td>European Development Fund</td>
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<td>EFSD</td>
<td>European Fund for Sustainable Development</td>
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<td>EIB</td>
<td>European Investment Bank</td>
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<td>EU</td>
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<td>EUMM</td>
<td>European Union Monitoring Mission</td>
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<td>EUTF for Africa</td>
<td>EU Emergency Trust Fund for Stability and Addressing the Causes of Illegal Migration and Displace Persons in Africa</td>
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<td>GHD</td>
<td>Good Humanitarian Donorship</td>
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<td>GNI</td>
<td>Gross National Income</td>
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<td>GPEDEC</td>
<td>Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation</td>
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<td>IDA</td>
<td>International Development Association</td>
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<td>ICRC</td>
<td>International Committee of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent</td>
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<td>IFIs</td>
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<td>IOM</td>
<td>International Organisation for Migration</td>
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<td>IOs</td>
<td>International organisations</td>
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<td>LDCs</td>
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<td>Millennium Development Goals</td>
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<td>MFEA SR</td>
<td>Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic</td>
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<td>NGO</td>
<td>Non-Governmental Organisation</td>
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<td>NGDO Platform</td>
<td>Non-Governmental Development Organisation Platform</td>
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<td>ODA</td>
<td>Official Development Assistance</td>
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<td>OECD</td>
<td>Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development</td>
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<td>PCD</td>
<td>Policy Coherence for Development</td>
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<td>SAIDC</td>
<td>Slovak Agency for International Development Cooperation</td>
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<td>SIODHA</td>
<td>Section of International Organisations, Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid</td>
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<td>SDGs</td>
<td>Sustainable Development Goals</td>
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<td>TOSSD</td>
<td>Total Official Support for Sustainable Development</td>
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<td>UN</td>
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<td>UNDP</td>
<td>United Nations Development Programme</td>
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<td>UNICEF</td>
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Executive summary

The SR’s development cooperation is an integral part of the SR’s foreign policy. It reflects the SR’s foreign policy and economic priorities and is in compliance with the principles and commitments of the international development policy and the development policy of the European Union.

In 2014, Slovak development assistance has entered the second decade of its existence. The Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs SR (MF EA SR) started to provide official development assistance under the SlovakAid logo\(^1\) in 2003. In the following years institutional, legal and strategic framework of the development programme has been created. The Department of Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid (DDCHA) and the Slovak Agency for International Development Cooperation (SAIDC) were established, the Act on Official Development Assistance (2007, new Act in 2015) and two five-year medium-term strategies and annual national programmes were adopted. A number of Slovak ministries and state institutions have joined the development programme over the years and a stable base of NGOs represented by the Platform of the Non-Governmental Development Organisations was created. Several business entities have also joined the development activities. Within ten years more than 400 projects for approximately EUR 40 million were implemented in almost 20 countries.

In September 2013, the SR became a full member of the OECD Development Assistance Committee. This success can be considered a symbolic conclusion of a ten-year integration into donor community. Simultaneously, it represents a new challenge related to the building of a modern, transparent and effective SlovakAid system in the context of the Agenda 2030 and the objectives of sustainable development.

The SR was a beneficiary during the period of the preparation and approval of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) before 2000. However, it contributed to the preparation of new development goals after 2015 as a donor country. The strategic focus of the SR’s development cooperation has been adjusted to the new position, tasks and responsibility. A mid-term strategy of the SR’s development cooperation for the years 2014 - 2018 (the 3\(^\text{rd}\) development strategy of the SR) reflects new requirements placed on a Slovak development cooperation system and they arise mainly from accession process and the SR’s membership in DAC.

In 2015, the SR achieved a significant shift in the improvement of a strategic framework of the development cooperation. This effort culminated in the adoption of a new Act No. 392/2015 Coll. on Development Cooperation. The new legislation has brought the consolidation of legal framework and the expansion of the number of modalities, expecting the improvement of cooperation on international level and also with partner organisations in target countries.

Despite negative impacts caused by economic crisis in the past, the SR has succeeded in maintaining a stable level of the ODA in recent years. In relation to target values adopted at the EU level (to achieve a 0.17 % ODA/GNI share in 2010 and 0.33 % in 2015), the SR has been maintaining a 0.09 % ODA/GNI share since 2010. In 2015, a 0.1 % ODA/GNI share was achieved, while in 2016 the ODA/GNI share increased to 0.12 %. The SR is willing to gradually achieve a 0.33 % ODA/GNI share by 2020.

\(^{1}\) The term 'SlovakAid' signifies all activities falling under the Slovak official development assistance system.
fulfil its commitments depending on the development of the country’s economic situation. During the validity of the new mid-term strategy, the SR strives to gradually increase its ODA budget, especially in relation to its bilateral part.

As for the implementation of development policy, the SR applies principles of aid effectiveness adopted at international level in the form of the Paris Declaration, approved by the Accra Agenda for Action, the Concluding Document of Busan and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. The SR’s objective is to achieve a maximum impact of the development cooperation using disposable funds. The SR puts emphasis on the responsibility of partner countries for their own development and their active participation in the creation of national development strategies, the priorities of which are decisive for the set-up of the SR’s development cooperation programme. Communication with partner countries is a basis for the creation of the SR’s development policy. The SR cares about coordination and division of labour with other donors active in partner countries and in this context it supports the EU joint programming. The SR also strives to develop and support new forms of the financing of development interventions (e.g. loans with a grant element), which importantly contribute to the development of partner countries.

As for the provision of the development cooperation, the SR builds on its historic experience and a specific story of the country, which has undergone a demanding and success transformation process. It leans on its transformation experience from the building of institutions of a separate state, the development of market economy and the fulfilment of democratic principles, and also successful integration into international organisations, such as the EU, the UN, the NATO, euro zone and recent experience of a beneficiary and a new donor.
1 Global efforts for sustainable development

1.1 Efforts to support global sustainable development

1.1.1 Leadership

The SR, as a member of the EU and the NATO, confirms the continuity of pro-European and pro-Atlantic foreign policy orientation. Effective multilateralism remains a significant dimension of relations, especially in the prevention and peaceful resolution of conflicts, the protection of human rights, women’s empowerment, supporting the reform processes in the UN, and also the implementation of the Agenda 2030 and the fight against climate change, averting biodiversity loss and the degradation of ecosystems and the services thereof.

Before 2015, the SR was not a member of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals. Despite that, it was actively engaged in the discussion about the creation of a new Agenda 2030. The SR was a member of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing, where, at the UN, it was supporting the innovative sources of financing, the transparency of financing, the inclusive process of the preparation of development financing and the reform and stability of the international financial system. It has transposed its proposals for the financing of the sustainable development goals into the preparation of the SDGs also by means of joint meetings with the Open Working Group.

After the adoption of the Agenda 2030 at the international level in 2015, the SR was working to anchor it at the national level and at the EU level as well, during the Slovak Presidency of the EU Council in the second half of 2016. The main priorities in the field of the development cooperation during the Slovak Presidency of the EU Council included the Agenda 2030, the revision of the European development policy, the migration and creation of the European Fund for Sustainable Development, the expansion of the European Investment Bank’s mandate for external relations and the specific priorities of digitalisation and energy. All these priorities have been reached and confirmed by the EU Council conclusions.

Box 1: Achieving decisions of the EU Council on the EFSD

After the publication of a proposal for a Regulation of the EP and of the Council on the European Fund for Sustainable Development (EFSD) and establishing the EFSD Guarantee and the EFSD Guarantee Fund, the Slovak Presidency promptly created a Friends of the Presidency - EIP/EFSD group, within which this proposal was discussed. After two months, negotiations were successfully completed at the level of ministers of 28 EU member states. Negotiations with other institutions continued during the Malta and the Estonia Presidency and they culminated in the creation of the fund in September 2017.

The election of the Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of the SR as a Chairman of the 72nd UN General Assembly also influences the national level and strengthens the focus on the Agenda 2030 at the national level. The priorities of the 72nd Chairman of the General Assembly include peace, migration, sustainable planet, human dignity and modernisation of the UN.

Since 2019, the SR shall hold the post of chairmanship of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) for one year. Although, its presidency priorities have not been established yet, it shall strive as much as it can to connect them with the ODA of the SR. The
activities of Slovakia at the OSCE focus on the implementation of a strategic goal, which consists in the building of a single security community in the Euro-Atlantic and the Eurasian space in accordance with the conclusions of the OSCE Summit in Astana. The Slovak Republic strives to dynamise the OSCE adaptation process to new security conditions, to deal with the current issues of European security and to restore mutual confidence.

Thirdly, the SR has become a member of the UN Human Rights Council for the years 2018 - 2020. The Council membership represents a unique possibility to promote human rights on a global scale.

**Box 2: Slovak Republic’s election to the United Nations Human Rights Council (2018 – 2020)**

In October 2017, during the 72nd Session of the UN General Assembly in New York, the Slovak Republic was elected a member of the UN Human Rights Council for the period from 2018 until 2020. The Council based in Geneva is the most important human rights body of the UN system, with 47 states elected by the UN General Assembly based on a regional key. The Council discusses and adopts resolutions on the human rights situation in countries and on the human rights topics. The priorities of the Slovak Republic membership of the Council shall mainly include the fight against any forms of racism, xenophobia, the active implementation of the sustainable development goals, including supporting the rights of children, and also supporting religion and belief and religious tolerance.

**Box 3: The meeting of M. Lajčák, the Chairman of the UN General Assembly with A. Gurria, GT OECD**

At a joint meeting in December 2017, M. Lajčák, the Chairman of the UN GA, and A. Gurria, GT OECD, agreed that multilateralism was a solution for the most important global challenges, such as international terrorism, climate change and sustainable development: International peace remains its fundamental basis. M. Lajčák appreciated the strong political engagement of the OECD in the preparation of a Global Compact for Migration and the creation of a quality statistical and analytical knowledge in the field of inclusive growth, sustainable development, development aid, climate change and migration, which many resolutions of the UN with global effect are based on. He appreciated the creation of an OECD representation in the UN in 2016, which helps to further intensify cooperation in mutual topics of both organisations. The partners agreed that the nature of the OECD, as an objective partner, was a key to contributions to the international institutional system based on rules and evidence and that the consensus of its member countries was a valuable contribution to the building of credible international political compromises.

By all these activities, the SR shows its intention to become one of the important actors of global diplomacy and to effectively exercise its political influence in the promoting of the key priority of the Slovak foreign policy: to ensure peace and prosperity for all.

**1.1.2 Support for global agendas and commitments**

The government of the SR professes (Manifesto of the Government of the Slovak Republic 2016 - 2020) to the pro-active fulfilment of commitments and goals in the field of sustainable development and environmental protection adopted at the international level, especially at the level of the UN, the OECD and other international organisations. Simultaneously, it commits
itself to the implementation of European environmental legislation and the fulfilment of goals defined in a 7th General Environmental Action Plan of the Union until 2020, which constitutes a part of a long-term vision and strategy of the EU tendency in the field of environmental and climate protection until 2050.

1.1.3 Priority issues for global engagement

The Slovak Republic actively supports global partnerships and effective multilateral cooperation. Therefore, UN membership is one of the main pillars of the Slovak Republic’s foreign policy. The Slovak Republic’s priorities in the UN are based on the universal values of multilateralism, equality, transparency, respect for freedom and human rights, peace and security, social, economic and environmental development.

Slovakia has been actively engaged in operations for maintaining international peace and security. In addition to the ongoing participation in an UN peace operation in Cyprus (UNFICYP), Middle East (UNTSO) and Haiti (MINUSTAH), Slovakia, in the period from 2011 - 2012, was in charge of a “South” Regional Coordination Centre within an ALTHEA operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which is based on an UN Security Council mandate. Since 2012, the SR has been a leading country of a Coordination Centre for Liaison and Observation Teams, which supervises the monitoring of situation in the whole territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina. SR troops were also present in an ISAF peace mission in Afghanistan. In 2015, the ISAF operation was transformed to a non-combat Resolute Support (RS) operation, in which members of the SR armed forces are active focusing on the training of the Afghan armed forces. Last but not least, the Slovak Republic is also active in other regions of the world, e.g. in an EUMM mission in Georgia. In 2017, the SR sent to Iraq 25 soldiers who do not participate in combat missions. They are to provide assistance and advice in the building of capacities of the Iraqi security forces. They train instructors of the Iraqi armed forces in the field of mine clearance and military equipment repair.

The Slovak Republic’s activities in the UN also include UN capacity-building in the field of a Security Sector Reform (SSR), in which, thanks to co-presidency in a Group of the Friends of the Security Sector Reform, it plays a leading role. The SR’s goal is to support the creation of security systems and structures, which will simultaneously respect human rights and fundamental freedoms and also the principle of the rule of law and equality. Simultaneously, the SR strongly emphasises the importance of gender related aspects.

Box 4: High-Level Conference on the Role of Security Sector Reform in Sustaining Peace: Challenges and Opportunities

On 5 June 2017, the MFEA SR organised an international conference called High-Level Conference on the Role of Security Sector Reform in Sustaining Peace: Challenges and Opportunities, which, among others, was attended by the Secretary-General of the OSCE, Deputy Director-General of the European Neighbourhood Policy of the European Commission.

A precise vision of a Convention on Biological Diversity with a Vision to 2050 has also been transformed to the national level and it runs “Natural capital of the SR - biodiversity, ecosystem services and goods are, until 2050, sufficiently protected, regularly evaluated, reasonably utilised and if appropriate renewed due to their internal values and their substantial contribution to welfare and economic prosperity of the SR. Measures and policies adopted at the national level have been preceding unfavourable changes, which would be caused by the loss of the natural capital.”
The SR has been actively engaged in the field of taxes and combating illegal financial flows. The Ministry of Finance of the SR has participated in the creation of and in the full support for the activities of the OECD and the G20 and the G8 countries in a Base Erosion and Profit Sharing project (BEPS). The BEPS is a significant instrument for developing countries that rely on corporate tax revenues. On 28 January 2016, the Slovak Republic, together with other thirty countries, within a thirteenth measure of an action plan on transfer pricing, signed a document on automatic information exchange, so-called country by country (CbC) reporting.

Another goal of the government is to protect biodiversity until 2020. The goal arises from a commitment set by the EU, namely: “stop the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystems and the services thereof in the SR until 2020, restore biodiversity and ecosystems to the extent appropriate and increase our contribution to prevent the loss of biodiversity on a global scale”. Failing to meet these goals, it will not be possible to meet the goals of the Agenda 2030/SDGs at the global, EU and national level, since natural resources constitute a basis for the fulfilment of several SDGs goals.

1.2 Policy coherence for sustainable development

1.2.1 Commitment to policy coherence for sustainable development

In order to improve the quality and impact of the development cooperation, the SR puts emphasis on the principle of the coherence of development policies. By entering into force of the Lisbon Treaty (Article 208), the SR has officially committed itself to the implementation of the concept of the coherence of development policies. The SR identifies itself with the fact that development goals cannot be achieved only through a higher ODA budget, since many other policies of developed countries, especially the EU countries, have serious specific consequences upon the development of countries (e.g. trade policies, environmental policies and climate change policies, agricultural policies or finance policies).

The principle of policy coherence for development (PCD) is anchored in a 2014 - 2018 Mid-Term Strategy for Development Cooperation of the SR. In addition to the principle of effectiveness, the policy coherence for development is one of the basic principles of the SR’s development cooperation. In order to implement it, the MFEA SR uses a Coordination Committee for Development Cooperation of the SR.

2015 was a critical year for the development agenda of the international community. In September 2015, the international community approved, at the UN, a document defining a new development agenda - Agenda 2030 for sustainable development. The government of the SR reacted to this document in the Manifesto of the Government of the Slovak Republic 2016 - 2020, in which it committed itself to strengthen appropriate institutional frameworks for the national implementation of the Agenda 2030 for sustainable development.

The SR claimed allegiance to the Agenda 2030 in another document: “Starting Points of the Implementation of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development”, which was adopted by the government of the SR in March 2016. The material informs on the adoption of the Agenda 2030
as a new priority of the international community. It addresses the current activities in the implementation of sustainable development goals at the global and the international level and provides recommendations for the implementation of the Agenda 2030. Simultaneously, the material has stipulated that the Deputy Prime Minister’s Office for Investments and Informatisation of the Slovak Republic will be a coordinator of the implementation of the Agenda 2030, while the MFEA SR will be a coordinator in relation to the implementation in external environment.

Box 5: National voluntary review of the 2030 Agenda

The government of the SR wishes to participate in a voluntary evaluation of the Agenda 2030 planned for July 2018 within a UN high level political forum. During the evaluation, the SR will present a framework of the implementation of the Agenda 2030 and sustainable development goals.

In January 2017, following this document, the government of the SR adopted a Concept of the Implementation of the Agenda 2030 in the International Environment. The concept represents proposals how the Slovak Republic can contribute to the implementation of 17 sustainable development goals in the world. The concept represents a reference document in compliance with which should be other documents of the MFEA SR and other ministries (e.g. Security Strategy, Mid-Term Strategy for Development Cooperation, Foreign Policy Statement of the SR). Simultaneously, the concept will be a basis for the preparation of a Mid-Term Strategy of Development Cooperation after 2018 and a Strategy of Coherence Policies for Sustainable Development.

In July 2017, the government of the SR approved a Draft Procedure for the National Implementation of the Agenda 2030. Simultaneously, the government of the SR approved the formation of a Government Council for the Agenda 2030 as an advisory body of the government of the SR for the implementation of the Agenda 2030. Deputy Prime Minister of the SR is a chairman of the Government Council for the Agenda 2030. The Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of the SR is a vice chairman. The members are the ministers of other central state administration bodies, representatives of the association of cities and municipalities, academia, non-governmental organisations and employers’ associations. The first session of the Government Council for the Agenda 2030 was held in December 2017, during which five priority areas of the implementation of the Agenda 2030 were approved: i) sustainable economic growth in the ageing population and changing global environment, ii) sustainable development education, iii) health and quality of life, iv) sustainable settlements and countryside in the context of climate change, v) elimination of poverty and social inclusion.

Simultaneously, a participatory process was launched involving all elements of the public, during which this proposal will be discussed and which should result in a definitive list of priorities of the implementation of the Agenda 2030 (Proposal for National Priorities of the Implementation of the Agenda 2030). The proposal should be adopted by the government of the SR at the end of May 2018.

The Statistical Office of the SR, another state administration body, got involved in the process of implementation and mainly evaluation of the Agenda 2030. Under Act No. 540/2001 Coll. on State Statistics, a Statistics Board (SB) has been formed in the Statistical Office of the SR, as a permanent professional advisory body of the chairman of the office for the state statistics. Within the strengthening of the development, creation and dissemination of the state statistics
and partnership within a National Statistical System (NSS), it will, in the subsequent period, deal with a programme of state statistical surveys, the coordination of the National Statistical System and the Agenda 2030, in compliance with an approved Slovak Republic Government Resolution No. 350 of 24 July 2017 to a draft procedure for the national implementation of the Agenda 2030. The members of the board are representatives of the NSS, the Ministry of Justice, the NBS and the Ministry of Finance of the SR. In connection with one of the main topics of the SB - the Agenda 2030 negotiations, representatives of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the SR and representatives of the Deputy Prime Minister’s Office for Investments and Informatisation of the Slovak Republic have become members of the SB.

In compliance with the statutes of the board, an ESIM working group (Expert Group for Indicators and Monitoring) has been formed. Its first session took place in October 2017. The group is to propose national indicators structured around national priorities and strategic goals and simultaneously will be added to the relevant global goals of the Agenda 2030. The main precondition for identifying national indicators is to have defined measurable strategic goals and their target values. A draft national priorities is under development and the first version is expected in December 2017. The evaluation of indicators will also include the preparation of metadata, which will contain a structured characteristics of the indicator - identifier, name, definition, data on availability, comparability, data sources and processing, etc.

### 1.2.2 Priority issues for policy coherence

The SR has defined a task for itself to strengthen policy coherence for development in the Medium Term Strategy for Development Cooperation of the SR. In the document it is assumed that one of the main tasks of the MFEA SR is drafting a policy coherence strategy and to use the Coordination Committee as a platform for promoting of the unified approach of relevant ministries to the development cooperation including strengthening coherence objectives of various domestic policies with the development cooperation policy objectives.

Whereas in 2014, discussion on the policy coherence for development intensified, the MFEA SR brought it to the negotiations of the Coordination Committee of the SR, under which a Working Group for Policy Coherence for Development was formed. Within the work of the Working Group for Policy Coherence for Development, individual ministries were asked to identify cases of inconsistency of policies and proposals for improving the coherence in given areas. The Ministry of Economy identified cases falling within the competence of the EU trade policy. The following areas were identified: export of weapons to conflict areas, pro-export grants paid out to farmers in the EU, which have liquidation effects on farmers and producers in developing countries, and forest management. The Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the SR identified several areas related to the fight against climate change. The Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Transport and Construction, the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport, the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Health also reacted to the identification of possible areas. Activities performed in the field of policy coherence for development were not dealt with conceptually to such extent that would make it possible to prepare a strategy for policy coherence for development. Therefore, it would be appropriate to resume the work of the Working Group for Policy Coherence for Development under the Coordination Committee for Development Cooperation and to address this issue.

In the effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (mitigation), the government pays attention to the meeting of the goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions at least by 20% until 2020.
compared to 2005 in the context of commitments of a 2020 climatic-energy framework. As for the greenhouse gas emission reduction, it will continue to implement measures in order to fulfill commitments in the field of climate change in compliance with the Paris Agreement, successfully ratified in 2016 by the SR together with the EU. At present, preparations are underway for its implementation. In May 2018, the SR, in cooperation with the World Bank, will prepare a “2050 Low-Carbon Strategy”, which, in a cost-effective way, will identify the potential of emission reduction in individual sectors of the economy and will support long-term investments in environment-friendly low-carbon and clean technologies.

As for NGOs, NGDO Platform deals with policy coherence for development and this platform identified a case of the improvement of coherence in the field of forest management in order to fight climate change by intensifying cooperation between the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the SR, the Ministry of Environment of the SR and the MFEA SR. Another ongoing case is the import of live flowers from Kenya representing a space for improving coherence between trade policy and development policy.

**Challenges which need to be addressed as a matter of priority**

*The SR is missing a comprehensive strategy for the implementation of the principle of policy coherence for sustainable development, which would define individual mechanisms to implement this principle in practice.*

### 1.3 Global awareness

The first 2012 - 2016 National Strategy for Global Education entered into force in 2012. The strategy defined global education as an educational approach leading to the deeper understanding of diversity and inequality in the world, the causes of their existence and possibilities to solve related problems. Education should increase awareness of global issues related to each individual, the development of his critical thinking within these issues and the deeper understanding of areas and topics related to the whole world. Global education also includes a global development education (education related to the issue of developing countries and poverty in the world), environmental education, multicultural education, peace education and human rights education in the global context.

An official working group, consisting of experts from the MESRS SR and other relevant bodies and experts, was entrusted with the preparation of a National Strategy for Global Education. The implementation thereof was based on action plans adopted on an annual basis, which defined tasks for the next year and evaluated the fulfilment of tasks from the previous year. The main holders of tasks were the MESRS SR, the National Institute for Education, the Methodological-Pedagogical Centre, IUVENTA, the MFEA SR, the SAIDC and the NDGO Platform.

In the period from 2013 - 2014, GENE-Global Education Network Europe conducted a Peer Review of global education in the SR. In a National Report of the SR, GENE notes that the SR has achieved a significant progress in the field of global education. An important step consisted in the adoption of the 2012 - 2016 National Strategy for Global Education by the government of the SR and annual action plans arising from this strategy. Simultaneously, it recommended that in order to systematically and comprehensively introduce the topics of global education into the teaching at all levels it is necessary to anchor the agenda in the sector of education and to create a contact point for global education in the MESRS SR.
A Manifesto of the Government of the Slovak Republic 2016 - 2020 says that the SR government will make the system of providing government scholarships for the study at public universities in the SR for students from countries that are priority countries for the Slovak Republic in terms of development aid more effective.

In 2017, a preparation for the evaluation of development education projects started, in order to evaluate the effectiveness, relevancy, sustainability, effect and impact of the programme. The evaluation results will represent key inputs for the next set-up of the programme. Recommendations of a final evaluation report and consulting process with all relevant players will represent one of the inputs into a new National Strategy for Global Education for the next period. The strategy will, inter alia, reflect the latest development and the current development challenges, including the issues of the Agenda 2030.

The MFEA SR is aware of a high value of quality information. The MFEA SR wants, in an appropriate form, to inform the general public on its plans, intentions, changes or important decisions in the field of the foreign development cooperation of the SR. Therefore, in 2010, the MFEA SR prepared a Communication Strategy of the Official Development Aid of the SR. The goal of the Communication Strategy of the ODA of the SR is to make the credibility of the provision of the ODA of the SR to developing countries visible and strong and to acquire wide support from experts and lay public for these activities. According to the strategy of the MFEA SR, the ministry and the SAIDC prepare a plan of activities of the Communication Strategy of the ODA of the SR for the next calendar year.

The plan of activities includes the preparation of an annual report of the SAIDC, the issuance of promotional materials related to the current development topics (e.g. the Agenda 2030), events focused on increasing awareness of the development cooperation, the preparation of the appraising of volunteers in cooperation with CARDO, etc.

Increased awareness of global topics is also supported by activities of non-governmental organisations, which, by means of projects supported from the funds of the SlovakAid, the EU or own funds, inform the general public on global issues. The organisation of events, discussions, seminars, the issuance of publications and making use of the media result in a greater awareness in Slovakia.

According to a 2016 survey of the Eurobarometer, four-fifths (79 %) of the Slovak population consider aid to people in developing countries important. More than a half (54 %) of Slovaks agree with the fact that the fight against poverty in developing countries should be one of the main priorities of the EU. Overall, according to the indicators, the attitude of Slovaks is below the European average. A positive trend in supporting the development aid is among young people. Two-thirds (66 %) of Slovaks agree with the fact that the aid to developing countries contributes to the strengthening of peace and equality in the world. And the same share of the citizens of Slovakia (66 %) is of the opinion that the development aid represents an effective way of the fight against illegal migration.

Active involvement of the media in the development cooperation of the SR increases not only the awareness of the Slovak public and also the transparency of development activities. The MFEA SR regularly informs the media on the results of Slovak entities in developing countries in order to increase public support for providing the development aid. The European Year for Development 2015 was an opportunity to make the goals and activities of the development policy visible.
Challenges which need to be addressed as a matter of priority

Following the expiry of the National Strategy for Global Development Education, there is no strategic document that would address the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and SDGs in education. The SR needs to prepare new National Strategy for Global Development Education.

2 Policy vision and framework

2.1 Framework

The government of the SR does not have a top statement that would connect the development cooperation with national interests, global challenges and foreign policy orientation. Such a statement needs to drafted and adopted. However, the government is aware of the importance of the role of the development cooperation and therefore a Manifesto of the Government of the Slovak Republic 2016 - 2020 includes a need to annually increase the development aid funds in compliance with the commitments of the SR in the EU, the UN and the OECD. In this document, the government also committed itself to the creation and strengthening of appropriate institutional frameworks for the national implementation of the UN Agenda 2030 for sustainable development. At the national level, a SR Government Resolution No. 5/2017 was adopted in relation to a Concept of the Implementation of the Agenda 2030 in international environment, under which the Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of the SR, in cooperation with the Minister of Finance of the SR, will be gradually increasing the share of the official development cooperation of the SR to the level of 0.33 % of the ODA/GNI until 2030 depending on the state budget possibilities in individual years until 31 December 2030.

In the development cooperation, the key programming document is the Medium-Term Strategy for Development Cooperation of the SR 2014-2018, which lays down vision, main goals, principles, territorial and sectoral priorities. At the same time, it defines programmes, instruments and mechanisms which are to be used for reaching set goals. The Strategy is built on the European Union development cooperation strategy, the UN development cooperation strategy and takes into account results and lessons learned of the evaluation of the Medium Term Strategy of the SR 2009-2013.

A 2017 Foreign Policy Statement is another framework documents defining a vision and scope of the cooperation. According to this document, the SR will primarily support the adaptation of the UN development system to the implementation of sustainable development goals until 2030. The SR’s development cooperation is an integral part of the SR’s foreign policy. It reflects the SR’s foreign policy and economic priorities and is in compliance with the principles and commitments of the international development policy and the development policy of the European Union. As for its creation and implementation, the SR, as a full member of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC), observes rules adopted at its level and also recommendations arising from a SR accession report to the DAC. Slovakia offers a partnership cooperation to partner countries in order to contribute to the sustainable development, especially by means of reducing poverty, strengthening democracy and good governance. The SR builds on its historic experience and a specific story of the country, which has undergone a demanding and success transformation process.

2.2 Principles and guidance

2.2.1 Comprehensive approach
A 2014 - 2018 Mid-Term Strategy for Development Cooperation of the SR says that Slovakia offers development cooperation to partner countries with the aim of contributing to sustainable development, mainly via reducing poverty, strengthening democracy and good governance. SR is building on its historical experience and a specific story of the country which has gone through a difficult and successful transformation process.

Mid Term strategy also stipulates that the projects and activities of the SlovakAid will reflect cross-cutting issues, such as environmental protection/climate change/protection of nature and biodiversity, gender equality, good governance and human rights and human dignity. Their practical implementation should be specified in separate documents.

In connection with the dramatic progress of the climate change, the environmental protection has become an important issue. During the Slovak Presidency of the EU Council in 2016, the SR was, in a meaningful way, involved in the search for consensus of the international community in this field also by means of COP 22. During the presidency, attention was also paid to gender equality, especially in the context of humanitarian aid and the elimination of gender oriented violence. Since 2016, the SR has been involved in the reporting of commitments arising from an EU Gender Action Plan.

The SR is preparing a gender equality strategy, which will be completed in 2018. The SR is aware of the importance of this cross-cutting issue and is paying to it due attention. Together with the MASHAV, an Israeli development agency, the MFEA SR organised a week-long, regional, educational course called Towards the Realisation of the Full Potential: Empowerment of Women in Economic, Social and Political Realms, for participants from Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. The educational course follows cooperation within a trilateral project between the MFEA SR, the SAIDC and the Israeli Agency for International Development Cooperation (MASHAV). During the course, Slovak experts informed participants on the issue of connecting human rights and gender equality, reducing gender oriented violence, anti-discriminatory mechanisms and legislation, development interventions with gender dimension and also empowerment of women on the labour market and in the business sphere.

**Challenges which need to be addressed as a matter of priority**

*The SR needs to prepare a Gender Equality Strategy which would provide a guidance on how to implement this cross-cutting principle in the development cooperation.*

2.2.2 **Poverty reduction and leaving no-one behind**

A 2014 - 2018 Mid-Term Strategy for the Development Cooperation of the SR includes the SR’s **basic goals of the development cooperation**, namely the development of partner countries’ human potential, primarily by means of supporting education and employment and supporting democracy and good governance, including the dialogue between civic society and state institutions.

In the medium term, this tradition should be strengthened and in the long term it should be presented as a focus of the country’s foreign engagement. Therefore, in the midterm, the SR promotes the implementation of sustainable development goals in the following four key areas: people and state, prosperity, environment and partnership for development.

In the first area, Slovakia shares its experience from transformation, democratisation and the building of the rule of law. It strongly promotes the building of countries’ resilience, the
creation of stable institutions and the security sector reform, putting emphasis on women`s representation and the protection of the rights of the child. As for the second area, Slovakia promotes the creation of economic opportunities and employment as an effective instrument for the fight against poverty, the reduction of inequality, the fight against the causes of migration and the building of countries` economic and social resilience. Simultaneously, the SR supports private sector`s involvement in the fulfilment of sustainable development goals outside the territory of the SR, innovations, digitalisation, technology transfer and investment promotion. In addition to the above-mentioned key areas, Slovakia has been actively engaged in the fight against climate change and in the effort to sustainably utilise ecosystems and the services thereof. It primarily focuses on water and forest management, where there is a significant Slovak expertise making it possible to share experiences and to build partners` capacities. Besides other things, Slovakia supports the building of capacities and partnerships also in the field of sustainable energy sources and the transfer of “clean” technology, making use of the expertise of scientific community and business sector.

Validity of the mid-term strategy ends in 2018. The MFEA SR is preparing a new mid-term strategy for the period from 2019 - 2023. This document will help the SR to explicitly express its interest in achieving SDGs and to contribute to the fulfilment of the initiative of the UN Secretary General to leave no one behind.

The SR will continue to advocate cooperation with partner countries, in which it has been providing the development cooperation for a long time, however, especially in the least developed countries of Central Asia and West Africa. In this connection, a change in the focus of the development cooperation is being considered within the new mid-term strategy, so that it is directed to the least developed countries, in order to get closer to the commitment of 0.2 %. In 2018, based on this goal, allocations for projects in South Sudan and Afghanistan were increased.

2.2.3 Fragility and risks

The SR supports the opinion that without peace and stability there can be no development. In this sense, the Manifesto of the Government of the Slovak Republic 2016 – 2020 stipulates that the priority is to develop cooperation with other partners of the Slovak Republic in the international community within effective multilateralism. The SR`s international activities arise from the international law and values of European civilisation. Making use of its military, police and civilian capacities, the SR is actively involved in the operations of international crisis management in compliance with mandates approved by the National Council of the Slovak Republic. It actively supports prevention, mediation and peaceful resolution of conflicts, disarmament and arms control, and also the fight against terrorism and extremism.

In compliance with the 2017 Foreign Policy Statement of the SR, the SR supports a comprehensive approach to crisis prevention, humanitarian aid, stabilisation, peacebuilding, sustainable development, mitigation of climate change impacts, security sector reform and the role of women in peace and preventive processes and human rights. It will continue to actively participate in negotiations focused on the adoption of global compacts for refugees and migrants. The SR continues to advocate the addressing of the primary causes of migration.

Box 6: UN Security Council Resolution No. 1325 of 2000
The SR implements the UN Security Council Resolution No. 1325 of 2000 and other UN SC Resolutions, which mainly apply to peace, security and sexual violence connected with conflicts. The implementation of the above-mentioned resolutions is done by means of the fulfilment of national action plans (NAPs) that should apply mainly to the following issues: empowerment of women in leading positions and their participation in decision-making processes at the national level, aid to countries in order to empower women and their participation in decision-making processes at the regional and international level, incorporation of gender perspective into humanitarian, development, peacekeeping and other peacebuilding projects abroad, and intensification of activities to prevent gender motivated violence. At present, this agenda is governed by a Plan of Gender Equality of the Ministry of Defence of the SR of 2013 and a National Strategy of Gender Equality and a 2014 - 2019 Action Plan for Gender Equality prepared by the MLSAF SR.

In 2016, the SR continued to meet the development cooperation goals according to the goals of a 2014 - 2018 Mid-Term Strategy of Development Cooperation of the SR. Despite persistent significant poverty, the SR must deal with other challenges as well. Instability is also characteristic for the field of global security due to increased number of threats, which include organised crime, international terrorism, illegal migration and natural disasters.

The SR is addressing the problem of migration by means of contributions to trust funds, such as the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Stability and Addressing the Causes of Illegal Migration and Displace Persons in Africa (EUTF for Africa), the EU Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian Crises, the MADAD and the EU Facility for Refugees in Turkey. The SR also participates in the settlement of disputes in order to prevent them from expanding into conflicts by means of funds contributed to the trust funds of international organisations, such as the UN DPA Trust Fund in Support of Political Affairs.

In 2016, illegal migration related problems affected development policies to a significant extent. The SR`s orientation toward education of children in crisis situations has proved to be correct and the ambition is to continue it also in the next period.

### 2.3 Basis for decision making

#### 2.3.1 Country, regional and global engagements and public goods

The SR`s objective is to achieve a maximum impact of the development cooperation using disposable funds. The SR puts emphasis on the responsibility of partner countries for their own development and their active participation in the creation of national development strategies, the priorities of which are decisive for the set-up of the SR`s development cooperation programme. Communication with partner countries is a basis for the creation of the SR`s development policy. The SR cares about coordination and division of labour with other donors active in partner countries and in this context it supports the EU joint programming.

**Box 7: The selection of partner countries**

In order to make the provision of the development cooperation more effective, to reallocate a relatively limited volume of funds and to secure value for money, the MFEA SR, based on a DAC`s recommendation, has reduced the number of partner countries to 10. Embassies of the SR play an important role in the selection of the SR`s partner countries together with opinions of other relevant interested parties participating in the programming of the
development cooperation, including representatives of non-governmental development organisations.

The SR’s engagement in partner countries is defined in a 2014 - 2018 Mid-Term Strategy. Priority partner countries for development cooperation are selected on the basis of foreign policy priorities, interest of the SR in such countries as well as on degree of their development and inclusion into integration groupings. This applies in particular for countries of the Western Balkans, who are in the process of accession to the EU. Development cooperation to those countries has been phased out. For taking informed decision, into account were also taken inputs from experts, relevant ministries and civil society.

Strategic documents have been prepared for programme countries (Afghanistan, Kenya, Moldova). The SR has concluded agreements on development cooperation with the government of Kenya and the government of Moldova. The first intergovernmental agreement with the Republic of Kenya entered into force in 2013 for the period of three years, the second one was concluded in 2017 with a clause of automatic renewal in case neither party announces the termination thereof. An intergovernmental agreement on development cooperation with Moldova was signed in October 2013.

The SR, as an EU member state and a member of a wider international community, has been declaring for a long time a continuing obligation to support political processes, good governance and democratisation of Afghanistan. The goal of a 2014 - 2018 Strategy of the SR for Development Cooperation of the SR with the Afghan Islamic Republic is to move the cooperation to a qualitatively higher level, consisting in a programme and strategy oriented approach based on the analysis of the needs of Afghan society and comparative advantages and experience of the SR in defined sectors. The strategy is based on a 2008 - 2013 ANDS - Afghan National Development Strategy, which is a basic document for the implementation of a strategy for reducing poverty in Afghanistan.

A 2014 - 2018 Strategy for Development Cooperation with the Republic of Kenya is based on a Vision 2030 - National Development Strategy of Kenya published in 2008, the main objective of which is to “transform Kenya to an industrialised, middle-income country, which, until 2030, will ensure a high quality of life for all citizens in a clean and safe environment”. The strategy builds on experience and relations built during more than a ten-year cooperation between the Slovak Republic and the Republic of Kenya. It has been prepared on the basis of consultations with the representatives of the Kenyan Government and also Kenyan and Slovak non-governmental organisations. The preparation was significantly influenced by the 1st Slovak Development Forum in Nairobi, held in November 2012.

A 2014 - 2018 Strategy of the SR for Development Cooperation with the Republic of Moldova is based on the analysis of Moldavian development needs, consultations with relevant governmental and non-governmental entities and communication with donor organisations in Moldova. The Strategy of the SR for Development Cooperation with the Republic of Moldova was also based on the evaluation of four selected projects implemented in Moldova from 2009 - 2012. The evaluation was conducted by an external entity at the end of 2013. A significant factor for the effective implementation of the strategy consists in the presence of the Embassy of the SR in Chisinau and the establishment of a development diplomat position based on a 2014 - 2018 Mid-Term Strategy for Development Cooperation of the SR.
According to the mid-term strategy, project countries are as follows: Albania, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kosovo and Ukraine. South Sudan is a country with extraordinary humanitarian and development needs. In the context of migration crisis, this category has been extended by Syria and neighbouring countries of the Near and Middle East, within a 2016 and 2017 Bilateral Development Cooperation Programme of the SR.

2.3.2 Partnership approach

The 2014 - 2018 Mid-Term strategy for Development Cooperation defines the following players of the development cooperation: state administration and self-government, non-governmental development organisations, academia, private sector, the National Council of the SR, members of the European Parliament for the SR and the media. A Coordination Committee for Providing Official Development Aid is in charge of the coordination of governmental and non-governmental players.

Non-governmental organisations grouped together in the NGDO Platform are the key partners of the MFSA SR. In the preparation and implementation of development policy. Mutual relationship is anchored in a Memorandum of Understanding signed by the MFSA SR and the NGDO Platform in 2010. The partnership functions on a regular consulting basis. The NGDO Platform is involved in the commenting on key documents prepared by the MFSA SR. The cooperation also works at the level of raising public awareness of global issues. To illustrate this, one could mention the coordination of a 2015 European Year of Development or events organised in the previous year called Development Day at the Occasion of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty.

The application of new modalities of the development cooperation implementation was one of the recommendations within a 2011 OECD Special Peer Review and a Mid Term Review (2015). Multi-annual framework contracts with the key NGOs and other partners are mentioned as primary contracts. The MFSA SR and the SAIDC examine possibilities to conclude framework contracts and prepare conditions for the set-up of a system for such cooperation.

Academia plays an important role in global education, the implementation of a National Strategy for Global Education and in a Programme for Providing Government Scholarships.

Cooperation with the National Council of the SR (primarily with Foreign Committee, Committee for European Affairs and Committee for Finance and Budget) and Slovak members of the European Parliament is an integral part of the SR’s development policy, mainly in terms of acquiring political and financial support for the SR’s development cooperation. Members of both parliaments are also key opinion leaders. Therefore, the MFSA SR concentrates on increasing their awareness of the SR’s activities in the field of the development cooperation and increasing their engagement in the preparation and tendency of the development policy. Cooperation during negotiation on a draft regulation to the formation of the European Fund for Sustainable Development during the Slovak Presidency of the EU Council was a positive example of cooperation with a member of the European Parliament. A Slovak MEP became a rapporteur on the draft.

Box 8: Cooperation with members of the EP

Cooperation during negotiation on a draft regulation to the formation of the European Fund for Sustainable Development during the Slovak Presidency of the EU Council was a positive
example of cooperation with members of the European Parliament. E. Kukan, a Slovak MEP, became a rapporteur on the draft and thanks to him it was possible to complete a legislative process related to this instrument in a very short time.

Private sector is an equally important partner of the MFEA SR. This sector includes entrepreneurs grouped together in a Platform of Entrepreneurs for Foreign Development Cooperation. The goal of the platform is to disseminate information on the importance of the foreign development cooperation and to share knowledge and experience between entrepreneurs interested in the foreign development cooperation. The importance of cooperation with private sector will be growing in connection with the SR’s intention to support synergies and complementarity between the official development aid and private investments.

Entrepreneurship is a key factor of development and therefore the involvement of private sector is a necessary condition for successful development activities. This applies equally to traditional donors and the Slovak ODA. Therefore, the natural interest of the MFEA SR is to look for a synergy between the development goals of the Slovak ODA and the business goals of Slovak companies, especially small and medium-sized enterprises, in developing countries. To strengthen the socio-economic development of local population (jobs, capacity building, availability of basic goods and services) is an important condition of the development activities of Slovak entities. A Business Partnership Programme further supports the expansion of the existing activities of private sector in partner countries, putting emphasis on connecting them with the SR’s development interventions. A direct support for export is excluded from the programme.

Sectoral priorities arise from a Concept of Involving Business Entities into Development Cooperation of the SR, approved by the MFEA SR in October 2012. Following the recommendations of a DAC independent report of 2011, the government of the SR, in its manifesto, committed itself to support higher effectiveness, flexibility and transparency of providing the ODA, in order to create collaboration in supporting the SR’s economic activities. The meeting of this goal was based on the creation of a transparent mechanism that contributed to a more effective involvement of business entities, especially small and medium-sized enterprises, in an official development assistance programme under the auspices of the MFEA SR. The MFEA SR/ DDCHA participated in several consultations with the OECD/DAC, the ADA - Austrian Development Agency, the GIZ (Germany), the ČRA (the Czech Republic) and other donors. Simultaneously, the DDCHA, by means of Embassies of the SR and permanent missions (PMs), conducted a survey of the approach of the EU member states to this issue. Knowledge and ideas acquired from the consultations and surveys have been used in this concept.

The Business Partnership Programme is evaluated by the MFEA SR on an annual basis as a part of a report on providing the ODA for the previous year (approved by the SR government). Results of the development of private sector in partner countries and the number of established business partnerships and the number of business entities, established in these countries, are an evaluation criterion.

Within the 2014-2018 Mid-Term Strategy for Development Cooperation, the MF SR has committed itself to create a so-called contact point for business sector (Private Sector Liaison Officer, PSLO). Based on this commitment, a Rozvojmajstri programme was launched in 2015, the goal of which is to help Slovak companies and experts to participate in the projects of intergovernmental organisations and international financial institutions, such as the European
Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the World Bank Group and various UN agencies. By this activity, Slovakia also reacts to international efforts to increase the financing of development projects from private sources.

The Rozvojmajstri programme has been implemented by Aspiro, a consulting company, which has won a UNDP international tender. The Rozvojmajstri programme is focused on targeted training courses and consultancy for identified companies that showed interest in participating in the projects of international organisations and financial institutions in the developing world and that have realistic assumptions to succeed on these markets. Simultaneously, the programme has been actively building contacts with representatives of the above institutions and connects them with potential participants in public tenders. The Rozvojmajstri programme will also contribute to the launching of a new initiative of the MF SR and the UNDP “Resource Mobilisation Facility”. RMF aims at catalysing projects based on demand from UNDP country offices and potentially other relevant organisations, while providing necessary funds and expertise to kick-start the development of projects through feasibility studies. It will also facilitate possible partnerships with the aim to leverage financing from private sector, IFIs, as well as other institutions or agencies.

The MF SR has been striving for a long time to support the participation of Slovak business sector in the development cooperation in the sense of “doing good by doing business”. Preferential export credits are a new mechanism, which is to simplify the penetration and operation of Slovak entrepreneurs on markets in the developing world. The scheme of preferential export credits is implemented in cooperation with the EXIMBANK SR in compliance with the OECD international rules for preferential export credits. The scheme is characterised by the provision of a so-called grant element for the insurance of export credits with a maturity period longer than 2 years in favour of the buyer of Slovak goods and services (a public debtor from a developing country and with a low income, entitled to receive preferential credits) in the form of interest discounts, forgiveness of a part of principal or extension of repayment period. The preferential credit on the part of a low-income developing country will increase solvency. A final phase of negotiations between the EXIMBANKA SR and private sector partners on the implementation of pilot projects within the scheme took place in the second half of 2017.

The community of non-governmental development organisations is also involved in the evaluation of the development cooperation. The NGDO Platform annually publishes a national evaluation report AidWatch, the goal of which is to provide an analysis of the provision of the ODA for the previous year and to bring recommendations for further improvement of the ODA. National reports evaluate the volume and quality of the aid, the ratio of bilateral and multilateral aid, territorial and sectoral priorities of the Slovak ODA, they compare progress with the previous year, the ranking of Slovakia within new member states (EU-13), etc. The NGDO Platform has been issuing the national report AidWatch since 2011 and also participates in the preparation of a European report AidWatch issued by the CONCORD.

Challenges which need to be addressed in the near future:

The SR plans to launch a pilot project of a framework agreement with selected NGOs in 2018. The SR needs to elaborate a policy to effectively involve the private sector in development cooperation (to be drafted by the MFEA SR, the MF SR and the EXIMBANKA SR).

2.3.3 Multilateral cooperation
The SR, as a responsible member of the international community, considers the multilateral cooperation an effective instrument of the inclusive development of partner countries. Primary goals of cooperation with international organisations include support for the Agenda 2030 and cooperation in the addressing of their internal arrangement so that their work is more effective and focused on achieving results. Emphasis is also put on the effective utilisation of financial contributions. It is necessary to deal with the change in the ratio between the volume of mandatory and voluntary contributions, since at present the voluntary contributions amount to less than 0.22% of the total multilateral ODA of the SR. In the case of international financial institutions, the SR will support institutional changes leading to a stronger representation of the developing countries in the management bodies of these institutions. Also in the next period, a large part of the volume of development cooperation funds (>70%) will be used for supporting international organisations and their development programmes also in connection with commitments adopted under the Convention on Biodiversity and the Paris Agreement, containing a commitment of contracting parties to mobilise USD 100 bil. annually until 2020.

The UNDP is one of the key partners of the cooperation. The SR and the UNDP cooperate by means of a project Slovak Republic – UNDP Partnership for Results in the International Development Cooperation focused on supporting projects in Moldova, addressing energy efficiency in Ukraine, strengthening capacities in the field of public finances in the Western Balkan countries and the Commonwealth of Independent States and building capacities of Slovak institutions involved in the ODA. A new cooperation between the MFEA SR and the UNDP, based on newly defined goals, will commence in 2018. The goal of the cooperation between the MF SR and the UNDP, by means of a project Governance and Financial Management During the Transitional Period, using publicly available data and information and alternative financial instruments, will be to create conditions for sustainable economic growth and governance transparency. The project funds will be provided to partner countries from Europe and Central Asia. In addition, it cooperates with other IOs, mainly organisations of the UN system, such as the UNHCR, the UNICEF, the UNDPKO, the UN Women or the OCHA. Recently, the SR has been actively cooperating with the IOM and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in addressing the migration crisis and related humanitarian issues.

The SR, as an EU member since 2004, provides an annual development contribution to the common EU budget, consisting of a percentage share of the total SR’s contributions to the EU budget. Thus, the SR participates in the financing of activities of the EU development cooperation. Simultaneously, the SR contributes to the European Development Fund (EDF), which supports development in the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries. The SR pays more than 80% of its multilateral official development aid to the EU budget and the EDF.

The framework of the multilateral cooperation has not been finished yet, despite the fact that the SR, in its 2014 - 2018 Mid-Term Strategy of Development Aid, committed itself to prepare a strategy for multilateral development cooperation.

Challenges which need to be addressed in the near future:
A Strategy for Multilateral Development Cooperation needs to be prepared, which would define priorities, goals and instruments by which the development cooperation should be governed. Criteria for the selection of cooperation with international organisations should be defined and a relationship with the MOPAN should be proposed.
3 Financing for development

3.1 Overall ODA volume

3.1.1 ODA targets

The implementation of the 2014 - 2018 Mid-Term Strategy for Development Cooperation of the SR is based on the volume of disposable appropriations allocated to the ODA in the state budget. The SR is determined to gradually fulfil the defined target values depending on the development of the country’s economic situation and related need for consolidation of public finances. The SR’s goal is not only to increase the quantity of the official development aid provided, but also the quality and effectiveness by adopting reform measures within the mechanism of providing the aid. A mid-term goal consists in the effort to gradually increase its development cooperation to the level of 0.33 % of the ODA/GNI until 2030.

3.1.2 ODA trends and plans to meet targets

In 2016, the SR achieved 0.12 % of the ODA/GNI. This result was mainly achieved by higher financial contributions to international organisations and trust funds of the EU in connection with addressing the migration crisis. These contributions were dealt with on an ad hoc basis and thus the increase is not associated with agreed increase plan. The MFEA SR strives to increase the bilateral development cooperation budget. Verbally, the MF SR and the MFEA SR have agreed on an annual 10 % increase in the bilateral development aid. This trend was reflected in a 2018 budget, in which EUR 7,214 mil. have been allocated. The overall 2018 estimated bilateral development aid, including aid from other ministries, amounts to EUR 15,055 mil., in 2019 it amounts to EUR 15,324 mil. and in 2020 it amounts to EUR 15,328 mil.

Chart No. 1: The development of ODA/GNI share from 2009 - 2016

Despite the effort of the MFEA SR, the SR is still missing a clear political opinion related to the fulfilment of this commitment. A significant progress forward is the adoption of a SR Government Resolution No. 5/2017 in relation to a Concept of the Implementation of the Agenda 2030 in international environment, under which the Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of the SR, in cooperation with the Minister of Finance of the SR, will be gradually increasing the share of the official development cooperation of the SR to the level of 0.33 % of
the ODA/GNI until 2030 depending on the state budget possibilities in individual years until 31 December 2030.

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<td>2008</td>
<td>91.85</td>
<td>75.40</td>
<td>73.71</td>
<td>86.02</td>
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<td>19.83</td>
<td>19.94</td>
<td>21.43</td>
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<td>16.17</td>
<td>16.38</td>
<td>17.20</td>
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<td>Multilateral ODA</td>
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<td>55.57</td>
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<td>69.86</td>
<td>66.83</td>
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In mil. USD  
Source: OECD

### 3.1.3 ODA reporting and forward looking information

The record keeping and reporting related to the SR’s development flows are important in terms of the building of information database necessary for the long-term planning of the development cooperation and for increasing its quality, effectiveness and transparency. The need for a higher quality collection of data on the development flows has increased due to the SR’s accession to the DAC and also due to commitments in the field of the transparency and provision of data on the ODA provided. The MFEA SR is a national coordinator for the official development aid, ensuring the collection of statistical information from central bodies of the state administration and for the preparation of summary reports on the utilisation of state resources to implement the ODA in compliance with the DAC rules.

The SR is the first country of the EU12 with an information system for statistical reporting of the ODA in compliance with the DAC guidelines (CRS++ system). A project called Creating a System of Reporting of Development Cooperation of the Slovak Republic was initiated by the Ministry of Finance of the SR in 2010. The project took into account the importance of a comprehensive record keeping and evaluation of the aid provided in order to increase the efficiency of the development activities, to make coordination with other donors more effective and to make accountability of the ODA funds provided toward tax payers clearer. The information system was put into operation on 1 January 2014. It is connected to a Budget Information System (BIS). The MF SR cooperates with the MFEA SR and the SAIDC or other relevant ministries in order to finish and improve this information system.

The above-mentioned system enables the SR to send to the OECD data on the development flows for the previous year in the requested detailed structure. Data from DEV system were published for the first time in the autumn of 2015 at website [www.slovakdev.sk](http://www.slovakdev.sk), which presents the data on the development aid provided by the SR in a clear and graphically interesting form.

The SR makes use of a three-year programme budgeting, which also includes the data on the development cooperation, and the annual tendency of the development cooperation also includes information on the indicative reallocation of funds to the next three years.

### 3.2 Bilateral ODA allocations

Activities of the bilateral development cooperation of individual departments in 2016 were based on the 2014 - 2018 Mid-Term Strategy for Development Cooperation of the SR. A 2016 - 2018 Public Budget, adopted by a SR National Council Resolution No. 2123 of
20 November 2015, was another binding document determining the amount of funds for the bilateral development cooperation.

In 2016, the SR provided an overall development aid in the amount of USD 106.01 mil., of which USD 25.70 mil. for the bilateral development aid and USD 80.31 mil. for the multilateral development aid. The largest amount of funds was provided to unspecified countries (USD 15.31 mil.), which was associated with the provision of humanitarian and post-humanitarian aid to countries affected by the Syrian conflict and in connection with the migration crisis caused by this armed conflict. As for individual countries, a more significant aid was provided to Ukraine in the amount of USD 1.62 mil. due to humanitarian situation and the need to address it.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table No.: Bilateral ODA</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bilateral ODA %</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2008</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>2009</strong></td>
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<td><strong>2010</strong></td>
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</table>

In 2018, the development cooperation focuses on increasing the budget in the total amount of EUR 7,214 mil. for the bilateral aid under the auspices of the MFEA SR. The focus indicates that a 2019 - 2020 budget will amount to EUR 7,214 mil. or EUR 7,314 mil.. The largest volume of the bilateral development aid is intended for Kenya and Moldova. This budget stated in the starting points of the 2018 - 2020 public budget reflects the annual ten-percent increase in the bilateral development aid of the MFEA SR.

In addition to six ministries, some other ministries and other central body of the state administration also participated in the bilateral development cooperation in the form of ad hoc activities, for instance sharing experience with a partner from the developing countries, study programmes of Slovak experts in a partner country, etc.

### 3.2.1 Geographic allocations

A Programme of Development Interventions is a key programme of the bilateral cooperation of the SR with three programme countries of the SlovakAid - Kenya, Afghanistan and Moldova. Cooperation with the above-mentioned countries is based on a long-term strategic partnership and is characterised by a higher volume of funds. The MFEA SR has prepared a development cooperation strategy, so-called CSP, for each programme country, which specifies goals, priorities and modality of the bilateral development cooperation. Goals of the programme consist in the development of human potential of partner countries especially by means of supporting education and employment, supporting democracy and good governance, including a dialogue between civil society and state institutions. The Programme of Development Interventions and a Programme of Sharing Transformation Experience of the SR are utilised for cooperation with project countries, which include Albania, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kosovo and Ukraine. South Sudan continues to be considered a country with extraordinary humanitarian and development needs. In 2016, Syria and its neighbouring countries of the broader Middle East joined South Sudan in reaction to the migration crisis.
South Sudan and Afghanistan belong to the least developed countries (LDCs) supported by the SR.

Some programmes can also be implemented in countries outside the above territorial priorities (e.g. Government Scholarship Programme, Programme for the Secondment of Development Workers and Civil Experts to Developing Countries and Business Partnership Programme). As for individual countries, the aid in 2016 was more significantly increased for Ukraine (USD 1.62 mil.) due to the provision of humanitarian aid. The volume of aid for Moldova (USD 0.46 mil.) increased due to the increase in the volume of funds intended for the programme country (originally, Moldova was just a project country). On the contrary, Afghanistan, despite the fact that it is one of the programme countries, receives lower volume of the financial aid. This difference is caused by the worsening security situation in the country.

Table No.: Geographical distribution of the bilateral ODA

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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>5.3</td>
<td>3.46</td>
<td>3.45</td>
<td>4.76</td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>4.52</td>
<td>5.49</td>
<td>6.95</td>
<td>5.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>25.82</td>
<td>0.24</td>
<td>2.03</td>
<td>2.38</td>
<td>3.04</td>
<td>2.9</td>
<td>1.94</td>
<td>1.59</td>
<td>1.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia</td>
<td>2.97</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>1.77</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>1.79</td>
<td>1.43</td>
<td>2.08</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In mil. USD

Source: OECD

A 2018 Bilateral Development Cooperation Programme of the SR with an increased budget (EUR 7,214 mil.) for the bilateral development cooperation, includes an allocation for the Programme of Development Interventions, sharing of experience, capacity and partnership building, including humanitarian aid, in the amount of EUR 4,408 mil. Of this volume, the largest part is intended for Kenya (EUR 0.84 mil.), Eastern Partnership countries (EUR 0.6 mil.), South Sudan (EUR 0.6 mil.) and Syria and neighbouring countries (EUR 0.6 mil.). In order to better utilise various development cooperation instruments, not only project interventions, the MFEA SR has allocated for instrument - order EUR 460,000.00. This instrument should be mainly used to stimulate the interest of business sector and its involvement in the development cooperation.

**Afghanistan**

The SR’s development aid to Afghanistan includes, in addition to bilateral projects, a wider spectrum of modalities. It also includes the annual financing of scholarships in public universities in the SR. In the previous years, the SR was providing Afghanistan with two scholarships every year, in 2013 the number of them increased to 3. Since 2014, the SR has been regularly providing Afghanistan with 6 scholarships (5 for master courses and 1 for doctoral studies). Reacting to the current situation in the country and the need for a fast post-conflict reconstruction, the SR provided in 2013 an extraordinary contribution to an Afghan National Solidarity Programme (the World Bank) in the amount of EUR 1 mil. In the previous year, the SR forgave Afghanistan a debt in the amount of almost EUR 3 mil., sent two experts to a civil part of a German Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) in Kunduz province, provided Afghanistan with contribution to eliminate polio (EUR 40,000.00), material humanitarian aid of EUR 100,000.00, etc.

A 2014 - 2018 SR Strategy for Development Cooperation with Afghanistan has been prepared, defining three main areas of the SR’s development cooperation in Afghanistan - education, agriculture and security sector reform. Not one new development project was launched in 2015 due to the worsening security situation. Only government scholarships were granted and thanks
to a micro-grant we helped Afghan children - refugees located in Iran, in the form of courses, to integrate into society and life by acquiring habits and education.

The absence of an Embassy of the SR in Afghanistan and the security situation make it impossible to conduct regular monitoring and evaluation of the ODA SR projects in this country. Despite that, the Embassy of the SR in Tehran, in cooperation with the SAIDC, will try to conduct the regular monitoring so that each project is implemented within this programme, monitored at least once during the implementation period, as long as financial conditions and capacities make it possible. The inspection of the implementation of project activities and the effective use of funds will be performed by the SAIDC in compliance with internal rules related to the rules and procedures for the application for, approval and use of grants/financial contributions, including the determination of a method of settlement under the applicable legislation of the SR.

Moldova
The development aid in Moldova was also implemented by means of small financial contributions (up to EUR 5,000.00) provided by the Embassy of the SR in Moldova. Small grants are usually used to buy equipment and to carry out small reconstructions of educational establishments, to implement projects in social field for vulnerable population groups, to carry out small investment activities in order to improve general infrastructure, etc. A CETIR programme is another development cooperation instrument used in Moldova. This programme of the MFEA SR is implemented by means of study visits of the officials of the state administration of the Republic of Moldova to Slovakia, and also Slovak experts’ visit to Moldova.

A 2014 - 2018 SR Strategy for Development Cooperation with the Republic of Moldova is to support the country in the building of a stable, functioning, democratic state and to improve living conditions of its citizens within two thematic priorities - Good Governance and Water and Sanitation. The SR Strategy for Development Cooperation with the Republic of Moldova was also based on the evaluation of four selected projects implemented in Moldova from 2009 - 2012.

Some of the main activities include projects, such as “Transparent, Financially Healthy and Competitive Self-Governments in Moldova”, or a project of human rights education in schools called “One World”. Other projects, such as “The Building of Self-Government Capacities and Civil Society in Gaugazia Region”, follow the previous common activities of umbrella organisations of local self-governments in Moldova and the SR. A project called “Improving Sanitation and Hygienic Conditions in Hincesti Region” is to improve the functionality of a waste water sanitation system and a water protection inspection activity in Moldova. In 2015, in cooperation with the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Chisinau, a trilateral development project in Moldova was launched. The project was focused on water and sanitation in educational establishments in districts of Causeni and Leov. Activity also continued within CETIR projects and micro-grants focused, besides other things, on the building of capacities of emergency rescue service.

The presence of the Embassy of the SR in Chisinau and the establishment of a position of a development diplomat are an important factor for effective implementation of the strategy. The exercise of this position mainly consists in the managing of a project cycle directly in the beneficiary country. In the case of Moldova, it was a pilot utilisation of this position which should later be established in all three programme countries. Moldova is a part of the
Programme of Government Scholarships of the SR, by means of which 2 to 3 new scholarships are granted every year. In a 2014/2015 academic year, this number increased to 6.

In 2016, a mid-term evaluation was conducted in order to assess the success of the SR in the implementation of the strategy in 2014 and 2015. Independent experts were preparing an evaluation report with recommendations and potential proposals for correction. After the implementation of the programme strategy in 2018 is completed, a final evaluation will be conducted in order to objectively assess the impacts of the SR’s development cooperation with Moldova, mainly in terms of final beneficiaries.

Cooperation with the Czech Development Agency in the field of water and sanitation has been agreed. This project has been implemented in cooperation with a local non-governmental organisation (ADRA Moldova). So-called Result and Resource Framework has been prepared for Moldova in cooperation with the UNDP. The framework serves as a basic framework instrument for the implementation of aid strategy for this country. At present, cooperation with a German GIZ organisation has been developing, creating an opportunity to participate in a joint EU member states programming.

**Kenya**

The development cooperation with Kenya for the years 2014 to 2018 has four main goals - to improve the health of the Kenyan people, to reduce the unemployment level of young people, to reduce poverty and to strengthen food safety and to contribute to the strengthening of democratic political system, rule of law, good governance and implementation of reforms. In order to achieve these goals, a wide spectrum of Mid-Term Strategy programmes, projects, micro-grants, voluntary programme and government scholarships have been used. The implementation of several projects approved in the previous period continued, e.g. a project called “The Operation of Health Centre, Agriculture and Farming as an Instrument to Increase Economic and Food Self-Sufficiency of Community Centre on Rusinga Island”. Also, the implementation of projects focused on acquiring practical occupational skills in disadvantaged communities continued. In 2015, a grant was awarded to a project called “Economic Strengthening of the Position of Small Farmers in Busia Region Through the Cultivation of Sesame and Access to Markets”, or a project called “Supporting Production and Marketing of Fair Trade Oil from Oil Plants: Building Economic Independence of Small Farmers in Kenya”.

The presence of the Embassy of the SR in Nairobi is a precondition for a better coordination with governmental institutions, local partners and other donors active in this country. Bilateral projects are a main modality of the implementation of the SR’s development cooperation in Kenya. From 2004 until 2012, the MFEA SR financed 33 bilateral development projects with a budget of almost EUR 6 mil.

The meeting of goals of the SR’s development cooperation strategy is annually evaluated by the MFEA SR as a part of the focus of the bilateral ODA for the relevant year. The data and information necessary to monitor progress in priority areas of this strategy are collected from the Kenyan government’s sources (e.g. national monitoring and evaluation systems, annual reports on progress in the implementation of MTPs, etc.) and also from own sources (narrative reports from projects, monitoring results, etc.).

In 2016, a mid-term evaluation was conducted in order to assess the success of the SR in the implementation of the strategy in 2014 and 2015. Independent experts prepared an evaluation report with recommendations and potential proposals for correction. After the implementation
of the programme strategy in 2018 is completed, a final evaluation will be conducted in order to objectively assess the impacts of the SR’s development cooperation with Kenya, mainly in terms of final beneficiaries. In order to strengthen control at the project level, the Embassy of the SR in Nairobi, in cooperation with the SAIDC, conducts the regular monitoring so that each project implemented within this programme is monitored at least once during the implementation period, as long as financial conditions and capacities make it possible.

3.2.2 Thematic allocations

Sectoral priorities of the development cooperation of the SR mainly arise from the needs of partner countries or global trends of the development cooperation. Seven priorities defined by the 2014 - 2018 Mid-Term Strategy for Development Cooperation of the SR (education, health care, good governance, agriculture and forest management, water and sanitation, energy, creation of market environment) are timeless and based on the current experience they do not have to be modified. Activities performed within these priorities, especially health care, agriculture and water and sanitation, represent a real value added of the SR’s development cooperation, they have proved their worth, and therefore the SR will preferentially perform the programme and project cooperation in 2017 in this direction.

According to the Mid-Term Strategy, cross-cutting issues include four areas, which should be reflected in activities supported by the SlovakAid: environmental protection/climate change, gender equality, good governance, human rights and human dignity. Practical implementation of the cross-cutting issues will be specified in a separate document.

Table No.: Distribution of bilateral ODA by sector

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Social Infrastructure &amp; Services</td>
<td>6.92</td>
<td>7.42</td>
<td>10.48</td>
<td>10.62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>3.59</td>
<td>4.08</td>
<td>4.12</td>
<td>4.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>0.19</td>
<td>0.44</td>
<td>1.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government &amp; Civil Society</td>
<td>2.77</td>
<td>2.77</td>
<td>5.02</td>
<td>4.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Social Infrastructure &amp; Services</td>
<td>0.23</td>
<td>0.08</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>0.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic Infrastructure &amp; Services</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>0.18</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>0.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Production Sectors</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>0.68</td>
<td>0.67</td>
<td>0.54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multisector/Crosscutting</td>
<td>0.35</td>
<td>0.08</td>
<td>1.17</td>
<td>1.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humanitarian Aid</td>
<td>0.39</td>
<td>0.78</td>
<td>2.46</td>
<td>1.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unallocated/Unspecified</td>
<td>3.22</td>
<td>5.44</td>
<td>3.92</td>
<td>10.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total ODA</td>
<td>11.77</td>
<td>14.58</td>
<td>18.9</td>
<td>27.26</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In mil. USD Source: OECD

3.3 Multilateral ODA allocations

The multilateral development aid is perceived as an instrument to support those developing countries and sectors in which it is not effective for the SR to operate on a bilateral basis. Annual aid in the form of multilateral contributions accounts for more than 70 % of the volume of Slovak ODA. 10 ministries (MFEA SR, MI SR, MF SR, MEN SR, MESRS SR, MH SR, MLSAF SR, ME SR, MARD SR, MTCRD SR) and 3 other central bodies of the state administration (Nuclear Regulatory Authority of the SR, Industrial Property Office of the SR,
Slovak Office for Standards, Metrology and Testing), which provide contributions to more than 50 international organisations, are involved in the multilateral aid by means of the state budget (Programme 097, Chapter General Treasury Administration and State Financial Assets). Within the framework of mandatory contributions to the EU budget, the EDF, multilateral development organisations and international financial institutions, the SR puts emphasis on the effective utilisation thereof.

In 2016, the SR provided an overall development aid in the amount of USD 106.13 mil., of which USD 80.31 mil. for the multilateral development aid. The largest part consisted of aid provided by means of the EU in the amount of USD 70.34 mil.

Also in the upcoming years, the multilateral development aid will constitute a significant part of the development cooperation. As for the transparency and predictability of the multilateral development cooperation, the situation is more complicated. The amount primarily depends on a contribution paid to the common EU budget, which is difficult to predict for the next years, and a contribution to the EDF.

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total ODA</strong></td>
<td>91.85</td>
<td>75.40</td>
<td>73.71</td>
<td>86.02</td>
<td>79.68</td>
<td>86.04</td>
<td>83.21</td>
<td>84.91</td>
<td>106.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Multilateral ODA %</strong></td>
<td>51.03</td>
<td>55.37</td>
<td>53.77</td>
<td>64.59</td>
<td>60.73</td>
<td>69.86</td>
<td>66.83</td>
<td>67.71</td>
<td>80.31</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In mil. USD  
Source: OECD

### 3.4 Financing for development

#### 3.4.1 Financing for development

The SR has been actively involved in the issue of development financing. It participated in the 3rd International Conference on Development Financing in Addis Ababa, where it supported the creation of a tax initiative Addis Tax Initiative and joined this initiative at the end of 2015. Holding the opinion that every country is responsible for its development, the SR strives to support the creation of a suitable environment for the mobilisation of domestic sources, which the expansion of tax basis and effective tax administration indisputably contribute to.

Since the 3rd International Conference on Development Financing in Addis Ababa, the SR has been supporting OECD cooperation with the international community in the preparation of a new statistical measure - Total Official Support for Sustainable Development (TOSSD) - in order to monitor all funds provided by official bilateral and multilateral institutions to support the SDG. The SR participates in the forming of the creation of the new statistical measure, which should demonstrate and quantitatively specify the donor’s overall effort to support partner countries. Within the process of the preparation of the TOSSD, it is of the opinion that this measure should not contain data on export credits.

As for sustainable development, primarily in connection with the Agenda 2030, it is necessary to ensure mobilisation of all financial instruments and sources. One of them is a blended finance, which focuses on the activity of development funds with a mixed structure of public and private investors/shareholders or financial instruments that combine investments of various
origin into big investment projects connecting public and private interest. The SR monitors the issue of the blended finance in the OECD and contributed to the adoption of principles and definition of the blended development finance at the session of DAC HLM 2017. It has been building on the experience at the EU level, where, during its Presidency of the EU Council, it advocated the adoption of a common position on the European Sustainable Development Fund (ESDF), which combines grant financing with financing by private investors and financial institutions.

3.4.2 ODA as a catalyst

The SR strives to utilise the development aid as an incentive for attracting private capital to the development cooperation. Simultaneously, through the development aid, it strives to create suitable conditions in partner countries for the development of private enterprise.

In this sense, the MFEA SR, in cooperation with the EXIMBANKA SR, has created an instrument that, within a trade-related tied aid scheme, ensures the evening up of interest differentials and determines loan maturity extension.

In compliance with Act on Development Cooperation, published in Bulletin of Acts under number 392/2015 of 18 November 2015, the EXIMBANKA SR can support preferential export credits for public foreign buyer of Slovak goods and services, with a maturity longer than two years in the country which, according to international rules, is entitled to receive preferential credit, and simultaneously, the project as such meets the requirements of the OECD international rules for preferential export credits. The amount of a contribution for the forgiveness of a part of credit is determined by the MF SR in consultation with the MFEA SR so that the conditions of international rules are met and the level of minimum preferential credit, ranging in dependence on the country from 35 % to 50 %, is achieved. These contributions are covered from the state budget expenses and simultaneously are recognised in the OECD as a ODA.

3.4.3 Tracking and reporting beyond ODA flows

The ODA is not the only source of finance to support the development of partner countries. Other forms of supporting the developing countries (so-called other official flows), emigrants’ remittances (remittances), private sector development investments, public collections and non-governmental sector initiatives have indisputably equally significant influence on increasing the level and quality of life in partner countries as the ODA. The SR, in cooperation with other players of the SR’s development cooperation, aims to monitor all development flows from the SR intended to support the development and tries to map them in detail. Within a global development agenda, instruments of innovative financing of sustainable development come to the fore.

The EXIMBANKA SR, as the only direct instrument of the state to support export, simultaneously provides official export credits, guarantees and insurance thereof, in compliance with applicable OECD rules related to the obligation to report all transactions of state export-credit agencies with a maturity longer than 2 years, which simultaneously are in compliance with the provisions of OECD Arrangement on Officially Supported Export Credits. These financial flows are not statistically recognised by the SR as other official flows in a CRS++ system.
4 Structure and systems

4.1 Authority, mandate and co-ordination

4.1.1 Authority and Leadership

Since 2003, Slovak development agenda has come a long way and has become an effective instrument and integral part of the Slovak Republic’s foreign policy. The MFEA SR has succeeded in the building of an institutional, legal and strategic framework of development aid.

In 2007, the SR adopted Act No. 617/2007 Coll. on Official Development Aid, creating a legal basis for a Slovak development aid system. Based on the experience gained from providing development aid, it adopted a new Act No. 392 on Development Cooperation and on Amendment to Certain Acts in 2015. The act defines basic principles and goals together with the role of the MFEA SR, the Ministry of Finance and other key entities in the field of the development cooperation. The act also defines basic terms, principles and starting points of the development cooperation.

Under Act No. 392/2015 Coll. on Development Cooperation and on Amendment to Certain Acts, the MFAE SR, Department of Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid of Section of International Organisations, Development cooperation and Humanitarian Aid is a main coordinator for providing the official development aid. A Coordination Committee for Development Cooperation of the SR is a basic instrument of the ministry for coordination of the Slovak development aid. In 2007, the MFEA SR established a Slovak Agency for International Development Cooperation (SAIDC), which, under its statutes, has acquired competency of administrative and contracting units of a Trust Fund (ACU TF) and a Bratislava - Belgrade Fund (ACU BBF), which had been in charge of the implementation of project cycles within the official development aid before the agency was established. Also, other governmental entities participate in the SR’s development cooperation, e.g. the Ministry of Interior of the SR and the Migration Office of the MI SR, the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the SR, the Ministry of Finance of the SR, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the SR and the Nuclear Regulatory Authority of the SR, which get involved in the provision of the official bilateral and multilateral development aid. Non-governmental organisations, private sector or academic institutions participate in the implementation of official activities of the SR or perform their own activities in the developing countries.

In 2014, a Project Commission of Official Development Aid of the SR for the Evaluation of Applications for Grants for Official Development Aid was formed by Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of the SR, as an advisory body in compliance with special regulations.

4.1.2 Coordination

A Coordination Committee for Providing Official Development Aid of the SR is in charge of the coordination of governmental and non-governmental players. In March 2014, the statute of a Coordination Committee for Development Cooperation of the SR was updated in the form of a minister’s decision cancelling the statute of the Coordination Committee from 2002. The new statute makes it possible to form specialised sub-committees for special activities associated with the implementation of the development cooperation of the SR. The CC consists of the
officials of selected ministries, the representatives of the Platform of Non-Governmental Development Organisations, the Platform of Entrepreneurs for Foreign Development Cooperation, the officials of the Foreign Committee of the National Council of the SR, the National Agency for the Development of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises, the Federation of Employers’ Associations of the Slovak Republic, the Slovak Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Association of Cities and Municipalities of Slovakia. The Coordination Committee is an advisory body of the Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of the SR.

**Box 9: Coordination Committee**

Coordination Committee is an independent, initiative and advisory body for development cooperation, directly reporting to the by the Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of the SR and fulfils the role of his expert advisory body. State secretary of the MFEA SR is a chairman of the committee. Sessions are held as necessary based on a decision of the chairman of the committee. The committee can form specialised sub-committees for special activities associated with the implementation of the development cooperation of the SR.

The Coordination Committee primarily ensures coordination in the preparation of strategic and conceptual documents of the development cooperation, provides recommendations to the minister in relation to the current issues of the development cooperation, ensures the coherence of goals of other sectoral policies with the development cooperation goals and supports the exchange of experience and information between the committee members. The Coordination Committee meets as necessary based on a decision of the committee chairman, based on the current experience at least once a year.

Coordination also takes place at the working level in other formats based on the current needs. In the case of humanitarian crises, coordination takes place between the Ministry of Interior and the MFEA SR. As for budgetary issues, coordination takes place between the MF SR and the MFEA SR.

Since 2014, discussion on the coherence of development policies has intensified at the ministerial level. This topic is regularly discussed at the meetings of the Coordination Committee for Development Cooperation. Based on a decision of the CC, a working group for policy coherence for development has been formed. Its first meeting was held in November 2014. Its nominated members are representatives of 8 departments: MESRS SR, MD SR, MF SR, MEN SR, MI SR, MARD SR, MLSAF SR, ME SR, GO SR and NGDO Platform.

One of the task of the working group is to prepare a Strategy for Policy Coherence for Development. With regard to the complexity of this task and the adoption of the Agenda 2030, the meeting of the WG in January 2016 focused on the possibilities of the implementation of the Agenda 2030, the part of which is policy coherence for development mentioned in the 18th goal. The original concept of the policy coherence for development should be expanded to a concept of policy coherence for sustainable development.

The principle of policy coherence for development was legally anchored in 2015 in the form of the adoption of Act No. 392/2015 Coll. on Development Cooperation, which, in Paragraph 3, specifies principles and starting points for the development cooperation, i.e. a principle of effective development cooperation and a principle of reconciliation of policies of the Slovak Republic with the development cooperation policy.
According to the Mi-Term Strategy, a Strategy for Policy Coherence for Development should be prepared in 2016. The strategy was supposed to be approved by the government. The strategy has not been prepared yet, however, involvement of departments in the work of the Coordination Committee has intensified, which is a suitable prerequisite to continue the work in the field of policy coherence for development and to intensify the work of the working group formed for this purpose. This issue was also discussed during the Slovak Presidency of the EU Council in the second half of 2016.

4.2 Systems

4.2.1 Policy/programme approval mechanism

Department of Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid (DDCHA) of the ministry is in charge of the forming of an institutional framework of development cooperation and the preparation of conceptual materials on the policy and strategy of the development cooperation of the SR, the implementation of sustainable development agenda in the international environment (Agenda 2030) and the harmonisation and coherence thereof at the national level. It is primarily responsible for defining the development policy and policies of the provision of humanitarian aid, as an important instrument of the SR`s foreign policy. It participates in the decision on the selection of applicants for grants and prepares proposals for financial contributions, which are under direct decision-making competence of the Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of the SR. Simultaneously, it is in charge of the evaluation of a SR`s development cooperation system, programming documents and development cooperation projects.

The five year Mid-Term Strategy for Development Cooperation of the SR is a basic programming document of the development cooperation. In addition to the visions, goals and principles of the SlovakAid, basic programmes, instruments used within programmes, the strategy also defines the territorial and sectoral priorities of the SlovakAid and management mechanism. This strategic, key documents determines the direction of the development cooperation in the medium term and takes into account goals of the Slovak Republic, as a member of the EU, the UN, the OECD and the IFIs. The document has been prepared in cooperation with all relevant ministries, other central bodies of the state administration and all interested parties. The document is approved by the SR government.

Embassies of the SR in priority countries play a key role in the identification and formulation and implementation of development cooperation projects. They are a contact point of the MFSA SR, the government and other institutions of partner countries. Representatives of the SR in international financial institutions and their regional representative offices almost all around the world are another source of identifying development projects.

The process of preparation of strategic and conceptual documents is inclusive and open to development cooperation players. Non-governmental organisations, entrepreneurs, academia and members of parliament are involved in consultative processes related to the preparation of these documents.

4.2.2 Quality assurance

The SR has introduced a development cooperation quality control system. The establishment of a Supervisory Board, as the highest control body of the SAIDC, is currently the most
significant part. The SAIDC Supervisory Board approves reports on the results of the inspection of the financing and implementation of development projects of the ODA of the SR, and reports on findings in relation to ex-ante financial control and audit of accounting documents, implementers’ final reports on the progress of the implementation of development projects of the ODA of the SR and monitoring and evaluation reports on development projects of the ODA of the SR prepared by the agency and evaluations of development projects of the ODA of the SR prepared by external evaluators. Good practice, experience with monitoring, evaluation and financial control are slowly becoming a basis of the programming of the SR’s development cooperation and they influence the quality of the cooperation provided. Director of the SAIDC is responsible for the implementation of the Supervisory Board’s resolutions.

Under a contract concluded between the MFEA SR and the SAIDC, the SAIDC submits to the Section of International Organisations and Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid the information on the performance of the contract, the evaluation thereof and on problems that occurred during the performance of the contract. The SAIDC also prepares a report on its activities.

4.2.3 Transparency

In compliance with the standards of the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI), a presentation layer of an information system for reporting the Slovak Republic’s development cooperation has been prepared, providing the public with available data on the Slovak development cooperation. Data in IATI format are published at www.slovakdev.sk. Data can be downloaded from the website in a csv format.

4.2.4 Procurement, contracting and agreement making

In 2007, the MFEA SR established a Slovak Agency for International Development Cooperation (SAIDC), which, under its statutes, has acquired competency of administrative and contracting units of a Trust Fund (ACU TF) and a Bratislava - Belgrade Fund (ACU BBF), which had been in charge of the implementation of project cycles within the official development aid before the agency was established. Authority of the SAIDC, as a budgetary organisation of the MFEA SR, is stipulated by § 5 of Act No. 392/2015 Coll. on Development Cooperation and on Amendment to Certain Acts. In cooperation with the MFEA SR, the agency implements the development cooperation, including humanitarian aid, public awareness, development education and capacity building. The SAIDC is in charge of all activities associated with the management and administration of a project cycle. This primarily applies to the announcement of calls for submission of applications for grants, the evaluation of the applications submitted, the preparation of the meetings of a Slovak Aid Project Commission, the conclusion and administration of contracts with project implementer, the financial management and control of projects, the monitoring and evaluation thereof. The SAIDC also provides support to non-governmental organisations, business sector and other interested parties in relation to the implementation of projects in order to involve them in the development programmes and projects. The agency also ensures the communication of ideas and mission of the official development aid toward experts and lay public.

Based on a mid-term strategy and national programme for the relevant financial year, it announces grant calls and evaluates submitted projects. The selection of projects depends on the resulting evaluation of the Project Commission consisting of the representatives of the MFEA SR. The commission can invite independent experts. The SAIDC signs a contract with
the owner of approved project and it also monitors and controls the project. A Slovak Development Aid Project Commission has been formed to evaluate submitted development aid projects.

Contractual relationship between the MFEA SR and the SAIDC is described in a contract concluded under Slovak Republic Government Resolution No. 1370/2002/B1 of 18 December 2002 and under Act No. 523/2004 Coll. on Budgetary Rules of Public Administration between the MFEA SR, as a guarantor, and the SAIDC, as a directly managed budgetary organisation. The contract includes the rights and duties of contracting parties and they are defined as follows - the MFEA SR manages and methodologically regulates the SAIDC, is in charge of the financing of the subject matter of activity under Article III of the contract, approves the volume of funds stated in Article V within the scope and deadlines arising from relevant legislation, resolutions of the SR government and decisions of Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of the SR. The contract stipulates a deadline for the preparation of an Annual Report and a public report on activity.

The SAIDC is also in charge of the fulfilment of tasks arising from Act No. 617/2007 Coll. on Official Development Aid and on Amendment to Act No. 575/2001 Coll. on the Organisation of the Government Activity and the Organisation of Central State Administration, as amended, other generally binding legal regulations, foundation charter and internal normative acts, it also submits a proposal for the allocation /by economic classification/ of the volume of funds intended for the activity of the SAIDC in compliance with approved budget of the MFEA SR and respects the budget stated in the contract, while complying with individual limits stated in a table “SAIDC Budget - Expenses” in Article V.

The Slovak Development Cooperation Project Commission is a part of a contracting system. In addition to the evaluation of applications under special rule of § 10b of Act No. 617/2007 Coll., the commission approves procedural issues of the meetings of the commission and recommendations for the commission chairman. Members of the commission are: Director General of Section of International Organisations, Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid (SIODHA), Director General of Section of Economic Cooperation (SEC), Director of Department of Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid (DDCHA), Director of Slovak Agency for International Development Cooperation, Director of the 3rd Territorial Department (3 TEO), Director of the 4th Territorial Department (4 TEO), Director of the 6th Territorial Department (6 TEO), Director of the 7th Territorial Department (7 TEO), representative of minister’s office (MO), representative of state secretary’s office 1 (SSO1).

4.2.5 Risk management

The SR has a system of internal and external control and audit. The Supreme Audit Office of the SR and the Government Audit Office of the MR SR conduct independent control and audit of activities of central bodies of the state administration and bodies subordinated to them. The office audits the management of appropriations entered in the budgets approved by the National Council of the Slovak Republic or the Slovak Republic government under the law. At the MFEA SR, Department of General Inspection, which inspects the management of funds, performs inspection activities. In accordance with a plan, it inspects the payment of funds from the SAIDC budget used to provide bilateral development cooperation and whether they are in compliance with activities proposed in programming documents of the Slovak development cooperation. Internal Audit Department helps to fulfil tasks, goals and intentions of the ministry by means of an independent, objective, evaluation and consultancy activity focused on the
improvement of management and control processes. Based on a systematic, methodological approach, it helps to improve the effectiveness of financial management and the management of risks arising from the ministry’s activity. By means of financial control and audit, the MFSA SR ensures the economic spending of funds, transparency and legitimacy of development cooperation programmes.

In compliance with recommendations of the *OECD Public Governance Review of the Slovak Republic 2015*, the SR has prepared a training anti-corruption programme for public officials. The programme includes an interactive on-line platform providing an electronic education in the field of the fight against corruption. The programme was developed together with the National Crime Agency of the Ministry of Interior of the SR.

The Slovak Republic considers transparent provision of the official development aid of the Slovak Republic one of the key conditions for its effective functioning. Therefore, the SAIDC has adopted measures that are to contribute to the transparent functioning of the agency and the fight against corruption. According to the statute of the SAIDC, Supervisory Board is a basic instrument of control and supervision of the ministry in relation to the work of the agency. Its consists of three members appointed by Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of the SR. In compliance with a Strategic Plan for the Fight Against Corruption in the Slovak Republic and based on the recommendations of the *OECD Recommendation of the Council for Development Co-operation Actors on Managing the Risk of Corruption* (2016) the SAIDC has developed an Action Plan for Measures, Activities and Instruments to Combat Corruption in the SR. The goal of the plan is to identify areas of possible corruption and adopt measures to minimize possibilities of corrupt behaviour, annually adopt the action plan to combat corruption and subsequently evaluate it. According to the plan, for instance, the SAIDC employees participate in seminars dedicated to corruption and the fight against corruption. An anti-corruption clause, which, when not performed, leads to the termination of the concluded contract, is a part of contracts of providing grants concluded between the SAIDC and the implementer of projects.

In the case of justified suspicion that a crime of receiving bribe, bribery or indirect corruption was committed in connection with the activity of the Slovak Agency for International Cooperation, the agency employees, its contractors or partner organisation, such conduct can be reported to the agency by means of the Internet (also anonymously).

### 4.2.6 Innovation and adaptation

The SR, ministries, organisations and employees thereof are aware of the importance of innovations in the preparation and implementation of development cooperation. They acquire their knowledge and skills by working in working groups at the level of international organisations, or by being directly present in the field and by confrontation with partners and final beneficiaries. The SR, however, just like in other cases, has not yet included an innovation dimension, necessary for the reflection of changes in the development environment, in its documents creating a development cooperation framework. New programming period will make it possible, in a new 2019 - 2023 Strategy for Development Cooperation, to create and anchor an internal system of incentives that are necessary for the active utilisation of innovations necessary for the effective provision of the development cooperation.

### 4.3 Capabilities throughout the system
4.3.1 Staffing levels, composition and location

The long-term goal of the MFEA SR is to gradually build a team of development workers and diplomats of the SlovakAid who are experienced in the field of development policy, project management and the implementation of projects in the developing countries. The MFEA SR plans to achieve this goal by creating a stable system of rotation of diplomats and development workers between the MFEA SR, the agency (SAIDC) and the Embassies of the SR in the relevant developing countries or permanent missions in international organisations. To achieve this goal is also one of the recommendations of the DAC. The above-mentioned model will be perspectively implemented in programme countries. At the Department of Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid, there are at present 8 experts, including the manager of the department.

In 2015, mechanism of the work of the development diplomats in programme countries (Kenya, Moldova) was fully established and contributed to a more effective cooperation and to the monitoring of the development projects. At present, the SR has development diplomats at two Embassies of the SR in Nairobi and Chisinau. Based on sufficient experience with the work of the development diplomats in selected countries, it is necessary to deal with a further progress in the use of this form of increasing personnel capacity of the development cooperation. Georgia seems to be the most suitable country for another development diplomat.

As of 31 December 2016, the SAIDC had 12 employees and 7 persons worked under agreement on work outside employment relationship. Necessary services were outsourced: cleaning, OHS, software maintenance, clearance of expenditure, training for volunteers, etc. In 2018, the SAIDC wants to strengthen its capacities by 3 systematised jobs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of staff</th>
<th>Ministry of Foreign Affairs staff working on development cooperation (Bratislava)</th>
<th>Slovak Agency for International Development Cooperation (SAIDC) - Bratislava</th>
<th>Other ministries and state authorities (Bratislava)</th>
<th>Development diplomats (Nairobi, Chisinau)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5 Delivery modalities and partnerships, globally, regionally and at the country level

5.1 Partnering

5.1.1 Relevance to development needs

When establishing partnerships, the SR is building on the current needs of partner countries, while it monitors global agenda and processes at the international level. Since 2015, the
Agenda 2030 is decisive and in the field of effectiveness it is the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. Based on historical and geographical context, the Visegrad Four (V4) countries are natural partners for the development of cooperation. The SR, as an EU member, also monitors possibilities to get involved in bilateral or trilateral cooperation with other EU member states. Simultaneously, it establishes partnerships within its work in international organisations.

The SR participates in the common EU programming in Kenya trying to reduce fragmentation of the development cooperation, increase the share of a Programme Based Approach and the use of the partner country’s national systems.

**Box 10: Slovak Development Forum in Kenya**

In November 2012, the MFEA SR organised in Nairobi, the capital of Kenya, an event called Slovak Development Forum attended by the state secretary of the MFEA SR (P. Burian). The goal of the event was to evaluate the current development activities of the SR in Kenya and to define a way forward of the Slovak development cooperation in this country. Simultaneously, the forum provided Slovak business entities with a comprehensive view of involvement in the development aid and possibilities to establish themselves on the Kenyan market. The event provided Slovak participants with a space for bilateral meetings and also opportunity for non-formal discussions, visits to selected projects financed from the funds of the official development aid of the SR and discussions with their implementers. Partners of Slovak non-governmental organisations and business entities during the development forum consisted of representatives of donor countries, international organisations and prominent officials of Kenyan institutions and organisations focused on supporting the development and economic cooperation.

Since a strategy for Kenya (Country Strategy Paper) ends in 2018, the MFEA SR plans to organise a similar forum in the first quarter of 2018.

### 5.1.2 Predictability and flexibility in programming and budgeting

Development cooperation expenditure of the MFEA SR is annually budgeted in a inter-ministerial programme 05T. State budget expenditure for the implementation of the SR government programmes, in chapters of relevant central bodies of the state administration. The MF SR expenditure is primarily budgeted in chapter General Treasury Administration and State Financial Assets.

The SR has introduced a three-year programme budgeting based on the planning of tasks and activities of the Slovak Republic government in connection with its priorities and allocation of disposable sources to the programmes, emphasising the results and effectiveness of the spending of appropriations. The budgeting includes a budget for the next year, with a perspective for the next two years. Based on this principle, each focus of the development cooperation includes an indicative re-allocation of funds for bilateral development cooperation, including the funds of individual ministries involved in the provision of the development cooperation.

Since 2014, the MFEA SR, in cooperation with the SAIDC, has been trying to set up the ODA budget based on the real “cash flow” and not on the basis of contracted volumes so that the funds are used in the relevant financial year. Non-contracted funds can be transferred to the
next financial year and subsequently used. It is possible under Act on Financial Rules of the Public Administration⁴.

5.1.3 Joint approaches

In compliance with a 2014 - 2018 Mid-Term Strategy, the SR supports partnerships with various interested parties, which, by means of programme approach, support the ownership of the results of partner countries. For instance, the SR, in the case of a programme development country of Kenya, proceeds according to an EU Joint Cooperation Strategy in Support of Kenya’s Medium-term Plan 2014 – 2017, which is the first joint strategic programme of the EU for Kenya. In 2015, by means of the Embassy of the SR, consultations commenced with a Council of Governors, an institution set up by law, which consists of all 47 governors of Kenyan counties. They together identified the main issues of cooperation that is primarily focused on the sharing of experience with the decentralisation of the public administration and the building of civil society.

In 2016, the Slovak Republic strived to deepen international cooperation and to develop activities with other donors, primarily with Visegrad Four countries and other partners. The SR has ambitions to create real preconditions for participating in the EU programming activities and in a so-called delegated cooperation with the EDF. The SR continue to develop its programme cooperation with the UNDP.

Box 11: V4 joint project in Kenya

The SR has acquired EUR 2 mil. from the EU Trust Fund for a pilot project of the V4 countries in Kenya. Within this project, the SR is a leading member state and an implementer of the project. The SAIDC is a chief project manager. The intention of a 4-year V4 project is to sustainably improve socio-economic situation of 15,000 small farmers and to create new jobs by means of the production of cashew nuts and sesame in the north-east part of Kenya (Kilifi, Lamu and Kwale provinces). The first part of the project will take place in 2018.

By a decision of the SR government in 2015, the Slovak Republic has become a member of a EUTF for Africa, to which it paid a voluntary financial contribution in the amount of EUR 600,000.00. Based on an agreement of the V4 member countries on the accumulation of funds in the trust fund and on the formation of a so-called group of donors, the V4 countries have contributed to the trust fund EUR 3.14 mil. in total. Based on this, they could participate in the approval of programmes financed from this fund with a joint voting right. Within this project, the SR is a leading member state and an implementer of the project. The pilot joint project of the SR and the V4 countries financed from the trust fund in the volume of EUR 2 mil. is a project in Kenya, the first phase of which will start in 2018 (an initiative of the Embassy of the SR in Nairobi). The approval of the V4 initiative within the EUTF for Africa represents a successful completion of the long-term effort of the MFEA SR focused on the introduction of new forms of the development cooperation implemented by the SR. The joint V4 project follows a development project financed by the SlovakAid. Simultaneously, the SR provided an additional extraordinary contribution to the EUTF for Africa in the value of EUR 1 mil. and by

means of an open cooperation, the V4 countries are planning to contribute to the EUTF for Africa additional EUR 35 mil. primarily intended for Libya.

**Box 12: The Slovak Republic’s engagement in the EU joint programming in development cooperation**

In the years from 2017 to 2020 the SR will contribute EUR 2.5 mil. to the joint programming. The SR is a part of the joint programming of a project within agriculture, which is fully in compliance with the SR strategy for development cooperation with the Republic of Kenya.

The SR has got involved in the EU joint programming in compliance with a 2014 - 2017 EU Strategy for Joint Cooperation to Support Mid-Term Plan for Kenya. By respecting the principle of “division of labour”, the SR wants to contribute to a more effective bilateral development cooperation, reduced fragmentation of the development aid, reduced costs and the strengthening of coherence, transparency and visibility of the development cooperation.

As for development projects, the SR cooperates with the USA by means of an Emerging Donors Challenge Program (EDCP), which co-finances the projects of Slovak NGOs financially supported by the SlovakAid. The projects are focused on sharing transformation experience of the SR in Moldova, Kosovo, Macedonia and Ukraine and the USA contributed USD 470,000.00 to these projects in the form of a financial support. Topics of the development projects consist of increased transparency and sustainability of capacities of self-governments and the development thereof, energy sector reform, the fight against corruption, strengthening the capacities of civil society and its involvement in public policy, supporting European integration, etc.

In 2016, during the Slovak Presidency of the EU Council, in cooperation with the World Bank and the Netherlands, a coordination meeting of EU++ donors was organised in Bratislava focusing on the 18th replenishment of sources of the International Development Association (IDA), contributing to the successful progress and completion of negotiations about the IDA 18. In communication with the IDA, the MF SR decided that the contribution would be used for issues such as governance and institutions, climate change, job creation and transformation. The contribution will be used for countries to which the SR provided development, e.g. Tajikistan, Mongolia, Vietnam and for migration countries and transitive countries, including the MENA region.

In cooperation with the International Finance Corporation (IFC), the implementation of the Trust Fund for Cooperation Between the SR and the IFC for the financing of consulting services focused on the acceleration of sustainable economic growth by means of supporting and strengthening private sector on the developing markets continue. The fund has approved two programmes: Programme for Financing Energy Efficiency Projects in the Countries of Western Balkan, Belarus and Kyrgyzstan and Programme for Food Safety in Vietnam. In 2017, the IFC also conducted a successful mapping of Slovak companies with a potential to expand on the markets of partner countries. Similar mapping was conducted by the IFC in the V4 countries. The V4 countries have agreed that they will jointly proceed in communication with the IFC management in order to acquire permanent IFC’s support for the development of business opportunities for the V4 companies on these markets.
In 2016, the MF SR and the International Investment Bank have established a Common Fund for Technical Assistance following the example of similar EBOR funds, while the IIB will co-finance a part of assets, contributing its own funds to the common initiative. The fund is to finance technical assistance projects in Cuba, Mongolia and Vietnam. The fund is focused on consultancy in the field of economic and social development and project preparation and monitoring. At present, two projects are being implemented in Vietnam in the field of energy efficiency and agriculture and one project in Mongolia in the field of legislation focused on the fight against money laundering and terrorist financing.

A fund partially tied to Slovak entities is another instrument created as a continuation of a bilateral Fund of Technical Cooperation Between the SR and the EBRD. It is focused on energy efficiency, i.e. the field in which Slovak entrepreneurs have long been active and competitive.

In December 2016, the MF SR, in cooperation with the Council of Europe Development Bank (CEDB), established a Fund for Supporting Inclusive Growth. The fund is focused on financing economic and social transformation, sustainable development and environmental sustainability in eligible countries. Initiatives within cooperation with the CEDB contribute to the significant visibility of the SR as a member country and as a donor not only within the CEDB, but also within the Council of Europe. The exclusivity consists in the financing and implementation of projects with a high social impact, such as projects addressing emergency situations, e.g. migration and refugee crisis. In addition, in December 2015, the MF SR contributed to a multilateral Fund for Supporting Migrants and Refugees within the CEDB.

In 2017, the MF SR contributed to the EIB Initiative Fund for Economic Resilience in southern neighbourhood and the Western Balkan countries in connection with the refugee and migration crisis. The SR was the first country that expressed interest in contributing to the fund. The EIB initiative is focused on the fast mobilisation of additional financing to support economic growth, stability and achieving the SDGs in the European Union neighbourhood. Based on this initiative, the EIB will be able to accelerate the implementation of projects and to provide additional financial and technical assistance for projects that would otherwise be difficult to implement with regard to a highly risky nature of investments.

In 2016, in cooperation with the World Bank, the MF SR signed with the World Bank a new contract following a Learning, Leadership and Innovation (LLI) initiative. The new cooperation is focused on creating an e-learning programme to share Slovak expertise in the field of public financial management. By this, the MF SR wants to strengthen the introduction of innovations into its development activities, which, besides other things, will also strengthen the visibility and usability of Slovak know-how within the framework of a wider global expert community.

**Box 13: Public Finance for Development Programme**

A Public Finance for Development Programme, implemented by the MF SR, is an example of the **programme approach** to the provision of development cooperation. The programme is focused on the implementation of programme budgeting and the monitoring and evaluation of programme budgets. The programme has been implemented in cooperation with the UNDP Regional Centre in Istanbul within a project Partnership of the Slovak Republic and the UNDP for Results in the International Development Cooperation.

Within the Public Finance for Development Programme (http://publicfinance.undp.sk), the MF SR has been, on a long-term and targeted basis, strengthening professional capacities of the
public administration in partner countries in the field of public financial management. The programme was a part of the project Partnership of the Slovak Republic and the UNDP for Results in the International Development Cooperation and in 2016 the MF SR contributed USD 500,000.00 (EUR 447,307.21) to its activity. In Moldova, the programme supports the implementation of programme budgeting and the monitoring and evaluation of programme budgets. Activities in 2016 implemented in favour of the MF, Moldova, selected regions and self-governments, created preconditions for the development of a specialised educational system of programme budgeting.

Since 2016, the MF SR has been cooperating with the UNDP in the implementation of a project Transformative Governance and Finance Facility (TGFF). The project focuses on searching for innovative ways to increase public sector effectiveness using open data and pilot projects of an alternative financing of development activities. Thanks to Slovak support, an Alternative Finance Lab (AltFinLab) was formed within the UNDP, by which Slovakia has become a driving force of a financial innovations agenda within the UNDP. Continuation of the cooperation (TGFF-II) is scheduled for the years 2018 to 2020.

5.1.4 Accountability and Transparency

As for the implementation of development policy, the SR applies a principle of aid effectiveness. A 2014 - 2018 Mid-Term Strategy refers to commitments taken at international level in the form of the Paris Declaration, the Akkra Action Agenda and the Busan Final Document. As for the preparation of a new mid-term strategy, this field will be expanded by commitments from the 2015 Addis Ababa Action Agenda. As of 1 January 2014, the SR launched an information system for statistical reporting of the ODA in compliance with the DAC guidelines (CRS++ system). The SR has taken steps to disclose data in an IATI standard.

5.1.5 Tied Aid

The SR is aware of the requirement and also the necessity and effectiveness of untying the development aid. In compliance with OECD recommendations to untie the development aid, the SR tried several times to prepare a plan of untying the development aid. However, it failed to be implemented in practice also thanks to the comments of entities involved in the implementation of the development aid. Since 2015, when a new act on development aid entered into force, the act stipulates, based on an agreement with NGOs, that a grant can also be provided to a legal entity established under the law of a foreign country, if an act on the state budget for the relevant financial year includes approved state budget expenditure for grants related to bilateral development cooperation in the amount of at least EUR 15 mil.

In the LDCs and other priority countries, projects are almost exclusively implemented by non-governmental development organisations applying for grants. They procure and buy services and goods directly in the partner country on its open market, i.e. they are not exclusively of Slovak origin. In this sense, in terms of untying the development aid, funds go to a final beneficiary by means of the NGOs.
Within the SR`s multilateral cooperation, we can see a deviation from tied to untied funds. Tied funds (e.g. with the EBRD) were, at the beginning of the development of its portfolio, used by the SR as a donor in order to create preferential conditions for Slovak entities, which were able to familiarise themselves with the rules and procedures of procurement in the IFIs. At present, the MF SR has only one tied fund for Slovak entities in cooperation with the IIB. Unlike other funds, the IIB co-finances projects and, making use of Slovak expertise, creates a synergy effect in countries outside traditional markets of other IFIs (e.g. Cuba).

5.2 Country level engagement

5.2.1 Mutual accountability and ownership

Based on the requirements of partner countries, in the case of programme countries, cooperation is based on Country Strategy Papers, which are based on national strategic documents of partner countries, e.g. a “Moldova 2020: Seven Solutions for Economic Growth and Poverty Reduction”, adopted by law in July 2012, is a basic mid-term strategic document of Moldova. The SR has prepared strategic documents for Afghanistan, Moldova and Kenya. The SR has signed agreements with Kenya and Moldova on development cooperation, which ensure that the provision of the development aid is aligned with the needs of partner countries.

5.2.2 Effectiveness

Act on Development Cooperation of 2015 states that effectiveness is a basic principle of providing development cooperation. Mid-Term Strategy for Development Cooperation of the SR develops this premise in terms that the SR, in the implementation of the development policy, applies principles of aid effectiveness adopted at international level, materialised in the Paris Declaration and confirmed by the Akkra Action Agenda and the Busan Final Document during the fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness. The SR strives to contribute to the development aid effectiveness and it also supports the GPEDC internationally. It also took part in a GPEDC 2016 monitoring round.

According to a 2016 GPEDC Progress Report, in the field of transparency and disclosure of information on the development cooperation, the SR was awarded as “Fair” in relation to CRS++ and “Excellent” for an OECD Survey on Forward Spending Plan. The report includes no evaluation of the SR in relation to the disclosure of data in an IATI open standard, since the information on the website slovakdev.sk was published later.

5.2.3 Responsiveness and inclusiveness

When programming, the SR takes into account a specific context of individual partner countries and therefore it makes use of the existing development cooperation instruments. Countries with specific humanitarian needs have a special status in the programming of the country. As for 2014 - 2018 Mid-Term Strategy, this category includes South Sudan. As for migration crisis, Syria and the neighbouring countries of the wider Middle East were included in a plan for 2016, 2017 and 2018 in connection with the migration crisis. This decision was preceded by extensive consultations with non-governmental organisations, which mapped their monitoring capacities in this region. As for the creation of new CSPs, the SR plans, based on a good practice example from a development forum in Nairobi in 2012, to organise workshop meetings in Kenya and Moldova with the involvement of all relevant players.
6 Results, evaluation and learning

6.1 Management for development results

6.1.1 Results oriented policies and strategies

Mid-term strategy defines basic requirements for the evaluation of development cooperation, policies and programmes. The monitoring and evaluation of the activities of the SR’s development cooperation are an integral part of a SR’s development cooperation system. Regular monitoring provides continuing information on the fulfilment of the development cooperation projects and the comparison thereof with pre-defined goals and conditions. Individual bilateral projects are monitored by Embassies of the SR, in cooperation with the SAIDC and the DDCHA, or other institutions financing the projects.

According to the organisational rules of the MFEA SR, the Department of Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid is in charge of the evaluation of the development cooperation programmes and projects. By evaluating the projects and the SR development cooperation system, they were participating in the achieving of results in the practical implementation of projects and the fulfilment of policies and the meeting of strategic goals of the SR’s development cooperation.

The SAIDC administers and manages a programme of the implementation of development activities financed by the ODA of the SR and the SAIDC is obligated to exercise continuous control. Under Act on Foreign Service (No. 151/2010) “The diplomatic mission also provides assistance in the preparation and implementation of development programs and development projects supported by the Slovak Official Development Assistance” (Part 2, Paragraph 7, Point 2). Embassies of the SR can participate in monitoring or collaborate with the SAIDC and the DDCHA in the implementation of monitoring roads to the places of the implementation of activities. As for the monitoring of development activities, the DDCHA cooperates with the SAIDC and Embassies of the SR, especially in the monitoring of roads in partner countries. Beneficiaries of the funds provided by the ODA of the SR are responsible for the implementation of development activities and the outputs thereof. Under the provisions of the contract with the SAIDC, they carry out monitoring, provide requested information on the outputs and development of the situation and on the effectiveness of the implementation of the development cooperation.

6.1.2 Approach to results measurement

Regular monitoring provides continuing information on the fulfilment of the development cooperation projects and the comparison thereof with pre-defined goals and conditions. The purpose of the monitoring is to ensure the continuous meeting of goals of activities under contracted terms and conditions. Individual bilateral projects are monitored by Embassies of the SR, in cooperation with the SAIDC and the DDCHA, or other institutions financing the projects.

Monitoring results are recorded in a monitoring report and they serve as a basis for the SAIDC and the MFEA SR to internally show the progress and results of activities within the development cooperation and also to effectively manage and eventually modify activities during implementation. The monitoring also takes into account changing conditions during
implementation of the activity. The SAIDC, ROs of the SR in partner countries, the DDCHA and beneficiaries of the ODA of the SR are participants in the monitoring.

On 8 November 2012, the MFEA SR approved a document - Measures for Improving the Selection of Projects of the SR Development Cooperation. The document emphasised that RO in a beneficiary country was a key element of not only the selection, but also the evaluation of projects and therefore it must constitute its standard part.

In compliance with recommendations of the DAC, the MFEA SR prepared, by the end of 2014, a Strategy for the Monitoring and Evaluation of Bilateral Development Cooperation of the SR, together with a methodological guidance for the implementation thereof. During the preparation of the document, it was building on the current experience with the implementation of independent, external evaluations in cooperation with the UNDP from 2011 until 2013. Since 2014, the MFEA SR, within a 05T0A programme, has been annually allocating funds for the evaluation of the SR’s development activities. In 2017 it is EUR 15,000.00 and in 2018 the budget will be increased to EUR 150,000.00. In addition, the MFEA SR wishes to closely cooperate with the Ministry of Finance and other ministries in order to ensure the timely and accurate provision of the ODA.

Information on Official Development Aid is another document annually prepared by the MFEA SR, which summarises the official development aid provided by the Slovak Republic for the previous year. It contains information on bilateral and multilateral aid provided by individual ministries and state institutions. The SR government approves and publishes these reports.

The evaluation of a Programme of Development Interventions is based on strategic documents of the cooperation of the SR with three programme countries (CSPs). The MFEA SR annually evaluates the fulfilment of goals defined in these strategies and it is a part of the information on the provision of the ODA for the previous year. The data and information necessary to monitor progress in priority areas are based on government sources of partner countries, narrative reports from SlovakAid projects and programmes, monitoring results, etc. Final evaluation will take place in 2018. Activities performed in South Sudan are assessed on the basis of independent evaluations.

6.1.3 Use of resulting information

In compliance with a Strategy of Evaluation and Monitoring of the Development Cooperation of the SR, the evaluation of three strategies for programme countries of Afghanistan, Kenya and Moldova (CSP) will take place in 2018. Simultaneously, a 2014 - 2018 Mid-Term Strategy of the SR will be evaluated. Evaluation results will be used to create new CSP and a new SR’s mid-term strategy for the development cooperation for the next period. This should help to improve the process of the programming of the development cooperation. Global and development education projects will also be evaluated in 2018. The findings will be used during the creation of a strategy for global education.

6.2 Evaluation system

6.2.1 Evaluation policy and evaluation function
Evaluation is focused on a systematic and objective assessment of an ongoing or a completed development project, programme or activity, the implementation and results thereof. Its primary purpose is to identify to what extent they are implemented in compliance with defined goals and indicators. The evaluation also gives answer to how a development activity corresponds to the needs of partner countries, what are its impacts on target groups and to what extent the SR’s development cooperation activities are relevant, effective, efficient and sustainable.

In compliance with Act No. 392/2015, the MFEA SR is responsible for the evaluation of the development cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, central bodies of the state administration and territorial self-government bodies.

In October 2014, the MFEA SR adopted a Strategy for the Monitoring and Evaluation of Bilateral Development Cooperation of the SR. This strategy represents a basic, framework document that defines the principles of monitoring and evaluation of development activities implemented within the following 8 principal programmes of the SR’s bilateral development cooperation (Programme of Development Interventions, Programme of Sharing Transformation Experience, Business Partnership Programme, Humanitarian Aid Programme, Government Scholarship Programme, Programme of the Secondment of Development Workers and Civil Experts to Developing Countries, Programme of Development Education and Public Awareness in the SR and Capacity Building Programme). The strategy is based on quality standards approved by the DAC in 2010. The main goal of this strategy is to anchor the monitoring and evaluation in a project cycle as key instruments necessary to increase effectiveness of the SR’s development cooperation.

Box 14: Rules for the monitoring and assessment of development cooperation of the SR
The MFEA SR/the SAIDC, in cooperation with the UNDP, have prepared a Handbook for Evaluation of SR’s Development Cooperation Projects, which supplements the Strategy for the Monitoring and Evaluation of Bilateral Development Cooperation of the SR. The handbook has been prepared on the basis of the DAC’s recommendations focusing on the professionalisation of evaluation function and support for evaluation culture. The handbook also contains forms prepared by an UN Evaluation Group and they are in compliance with OECD/DAC norms and standards.

The evaluation is a part of several projects implemented in cooperation with the IOs and the IFIs and is conducted according to an agreed set-up of a specific programme or project. The ongoing evaluation of a Project of the Partnership of the SR and the UNDP for Results in International Development Cooperation is one example.

6.2.2 Independence of evaluations

A mid-term strategy together with the Strategy for the Monitoring and Evaluation of Bilateral Development Cooperation stipulates that the evaluation is to be independent and also must respect other evaluation principles. It also stipulates that the DDCHA is responsible for the preparation of an external evaluation.

The MFEA SR/the DDCHA is in charge of the evaluation. It is primarily conducted in the case of financially more demanding development activities in partner countries of the SR’s development cooperation. The selection of the SR’s development activities to be evaluated is based on the sectoral and geographic priorities of the SR and primarily focuses on activities the
results of which can have a significant impact on further tendency of the SR’s development cooperation.

The evaluation is scheduled on the basis of an annual evaluation plan prepared by the MFEA SR/the DDCHA in cooperation with the SAIDC and relevant Embassies of the SR of the SR. It is also initiated - ad hoc - based on the recommendations of the SAIDC or an Embassy of the SR in a partner country of the ODA of the SR. The evaluation of the SR’s bilateral development cooperation is conducted by external entities with relevant experience in the field of development cooperation evaluation. In the case of common initiatives with the IOs and the IFIs, the evaluation is conducted by these institutions by means of independent external evaluators. The evaluation of a Public Finance for Development Programme is conducted by the MF SR in cooperation with the UNDP from a budget intended for the implementation of the programme.

6.2.3 Planning and budgeting for the evaluation of development assistance activities

An evaluation budget is determined for the relevant year. In 2017, it amounted to EUR 20,000.00, and 2018 draft budget is planned in the amount of EUR 150,000.00. A thematic Evaluation of SlovakAid Projects in the Field of Development Education approved and implemented in the period from 2014 - 2016 is being prepared. Estimated value of the order is EUR 10,000.00 and it will focus on the evaluation of projects in the total amount of EUR 303,656.42. Simultaneously, the evaluation of three programming documents of the ODA of the SR and mid-term strategy of the ODA of the SR will take place.

6.2.4 Evaluation partnerships and strengthening capacity

The MFEA SR regularly conducts a Comprehensive Evaluation of Effectiveness of the Slovak Republic’s Membership of International Organisations and related financial aspects. Within the evaluation, it evaluates the amount of membership contributions, the importance and benefit of the SR in international organisations (political and economic benefit, the SR’s return in the form of implemented projects or the use/provision of technical assistance, the fulfilment of professional plans and goals, possibilities to make use of Slovak experts), possibilities to present the SR (economic results, possibilities for companies to participate in the agenda and projects of the IOs), reserves (in which areas and to what extent, or proposals to withdraw from an international organisation with substantiation), possibilities for Slovak citizens (employment, study stay, the level of the current representation of Slovak citizens) and the SR candidacy (proposals and promotion of candidatures, presidency or other executive functions emphasising the benefit for the SR). In total, 130 organisations are evaluated, of which approximately 50 organisations with development mandate. One of the results of the evaluation was a proposal to terminate the SR’s membership of the UNIDO in 2016.

In 2014, the MF SR and the UNDP organised an independent evaluation of the implementation of a 2009 - 2013 Public Finance for Development Programme. The first phase of Rozvojmajstri project was evaluated in 2016. The UNDP and the MF SR used it to re-evaluate the set-up of common activities in the engagement of entrepreneurs in the development cooperation, the result of which is a progressive set-up of a “private finance” component of a Public and Private Finance for Development. The above project, as a whole, takes into account an interim evaluation in 2018 (with the impact on the release of further funds of a donor on its results) and a final evaluation in 2020.
6.3 Institutional learning

6.3.1 Learning from and using evaluation findings

The Evaluation Guidelines of the Slovak Official Development Assistance stipulates that evaluation requires an explicit acknowledgement and response from SlovakAid management (generally from the SIODHA Director General, exceptionally from the MF EA Management Board/Minister) regarding intended follow-up to the evaluation results.

An integral part of the management response is the Evaluation Follow-up Plan (EFP). It responds to evaluation recommendations by providing a list of follow-up actions identifying when, how and by whom the recommendations made in the report will be implemented. The EFP shall be updated regularly as a result of the monitoring of the implementation of the accepted recommendations and agreed actions. It shall be done at least once a year. The results shall be also summarised in the “Informative Note on Evaluation Results” to be a part of the Annual Report on Slovak ODA. Since entry into force of these guidelines at the beginning of 2016, this provision however has not been used. The year 2018, following evaluation of the global education programme, CSPs, mid-term strategy and projects in Kenya, Afghanistan and Moldova may provide an opportunity to create a plan and incorporate evaluation results into future activities.

By the same token guidelines stipulate that lessons learned from evaluation should be used for the benefit of next programme cycle and be supported by organisation of a workshop on evaluation results in the middle and at the end of the midterm strategy implementation. The workshop results shall support the design of the following midterm strategy. It is planned that separate workshops take place after each evaluation allowing discussion on evaluation findings. Results should feed into drafting of the midterm strategy. It is also expected the workshop as part of the midterm strategy 2019-2023 drafting process could take place in the second half of 2018.

6.3.2 Knowledge management

The MF EA SR makes the information on development cooperation available. This also applies to evaluation reports from Slovak development aid projects. Reports can be downloaded from an SAIDC website. In compliance with Act No. 211/2000 Coll. on Free Access to Information, older reports are available upon request.

In order to increase knowledge on the evaluation of development cooperation, employees of the FMEA SR, the SAIDC and other relevant bodies of the state administration engaged in the development cooperation, participate in training courses and workshops organised by expert guarantors in the SR and abroad. The Slovak Evaluation Company, which has been providing training courses to acquire skills in the systematic access to the evaluation since 2007, is also involved in the education programme in 2017, it organised a European Program for Development Evaluation Training – EPDET 2017. By participating in the meetings of the DAC and the EVALNET, the SR wants to contribute to the information sharing, building good practice, but primarily it is interested in acquiring necessary information and knowledge on the evaluation, which it could transform into its evaluation system and to ensure the enhancement of the quality of the programming and implementation.
The quality of evaluation depends on the preparation of Terms of Reference for the announcement of calls for evaluation. The DDCHA cooperates with a Public Procurement Department and a Department of Legal Services and Contracts of the MFEA SR.

7 Humanitarian assistance

7.1 Strategic framework

7.1.1 Humanitarian policy and strategic framework

Under Act No. 392/2015 Coll. on Official Development Aid of the Slovak Republic, humanitarian aid is defined as a gesture of solidarity with people in need, the essence of which is help, support, life-saving, human dignity and the mitigation of the suffering of people in the cases of natural disasters, human-made crises, hunger and malnutrition or in similar emergency situations, and also preventive and emergency programmes, especially in particularly risky areas.

The humanitarian aid is an integral part of development cooperation, however, it is governed by different specifics, given by the need to flexibly and promptly react to the current requirements of countries affected by humanitarian crises. The SR provides humanitarian aid based on the Mechanism for Providing Slovak Humanitarian Aid Abroad, approved by the government of the Slovak Republic in April 2006. It stipulates that it could be provided either in the form of rescue operations, in kind humanitarian aid, rescue operations, basic healthcare, advisory and expert counselling, assistance to internally displaced people and migrants or in form of financial contributions. In compliance with the Mechanism financial humanitarian aid is granted on the basis of a decision of the by the Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of the SR, while providing other forms of humanitarian aid depend on the proposal of the Coordination Meeting and approval of the Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of the SR.

Humanitarian aid is also provided in compliance with the principles of Good Humanitarian Donorship and European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid, to which it signed up to in 2007. The humanitarian aid is implemented according to the needs of the international community and therefore no sectoral and territorial priorities have been defined for this programme.

| Box 15: The SR’s commitments at the World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul on 23 and 24 May 2016 |
| Leaders of more than 80 UN member countries met to set up a new system for humanitarian assistance – in which an unprecedented increase in the number of people reliant on help, as well as constantly growing deficit of funds have emerged. At the summit, the Slovak President A. Kiska presented a plan of the Slovak Government to double humanitarian assistance and to make the assistance system more efficient. On behalf of the Slovak Republic, he expressed support for the key commitments of the Istanbul summit. |
| Within the fulfilment of one of the SR’s commitments declared at the World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul, in close cooperation with the MF SR, an amendment to Act on Income Tax |
was adopted in the field of material humanitarian aid, which, with the effect from 1 January 2017, brought a tax advantage for providers of material intended for humanitarian aid of the SR from abroad from among commercial entities. The legislation does not exclude any commodities; however, as for the selection of them, the MI SR plays the main role under a valid Mechanism of Providing Humanitarian Aid of the Slovak Republic Abroad. The MI SR will conclude a contract of gift for such commodities the need of which comes from specified humanitarian needs of individual countries undergoing humanitarian crisis. In general, it is about clothing, hygienic articles, medicines, bandages, toys, household goods, non-perishable food, packaged water, appliances suitable for refugee camps, batteries, etc.

Another measure that is to support the expansion of the number of humanitarian aid providers in the form of tax advantage, exemption of supplies of goods within humanitarian aid from VAT, was included in the current amendment to Act on VAT, which will enter into effect on 1 January 2018. The provision of the act makes it possible not to apply VAT to goods and services that will be exported within humanitarian aid outside the EU into third countries.

**Challenges which need to be addressed as a matter of priority**

The humanitarian aid being an integral part of development cooperation entails many forms, including the provision of the in-kind humanitarian aid. Humanitarian aid is governed by a Mechanism for Providing Humanitarian Aid of the SR Abroad, adopted in April 2006. The SR needs to update the document to create a strategic framework that would allow for rapid response to humanitarian crises and efficient delivery of the humanitarian aid.

**7.1.2 Coherence between humanitarian aid and development cooperation in crisis context**

Possibility to follow up humanitarian activities with development aid is another aspect of deciding on the provision of humanitarian aid. In terms of statistical reporting, the humanitarian aid falls under official development aid of the SR. The humanitarian aid is provided as a reaction to emergency events which mostly cannot be foreseen and is usually short-term. The development aid has a certain long-term intention in the field of social and economic infrastructure, in the field of the environment and in the field of forming state administration and self-government. Unlike the development aid, which is of a conceptual and long-term nature, the goal of the humanitarian aid is to quickly and effectively address the current issues related to emergency situations. In the case of the humanitarian aid it is assumed that it is temporary and will last for the period of direct threat. Aid to refugees in the territory of the SR and aid within the EU are a special types of the humanitarian aid.

It was the migration crisis which highlighted the need for a closer connection between development activities and the humanitarian aid. Besides the logical respecting of distinctions between both types of the activity, the SR focuses on the content and time synchronisation of our activities in territories and situation, where applicable. The Slovak Republic has become a member of the GHD initiative and within this framework it is convinced of the importance of

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4 Act No. 595/2003 Coll. on Income Tax
principles mainly of Articles 8 and 9, which emphasise the need for connection between the development and the humanitarian aid.

The SR tries to react to the changing development context and the overlap of the development and the humanitarian needs. During the Slovak Presidency of the EU Council in 2016, it initiated a joint meeting of CODEV and COHAFa working groups, which represented a shift toward a greater coherence between the development and the humanitarian aid. A better connection between the development and the humanitarian aid should also be anchored in a new mid-term strategy for the development cooperation and its instruments should be adapted to it.

7.1.3 Overall humanitarian budget and trends

The financing of humanitarian aid is ensured by means of a budgetary programme 05T (official development aid). The Ministry of Interior (programme 05T03) and the MEFA SR (programme 05T0A) are in charge of funds. At the WHS the Slovak President A. Kiska presented a plan of the Slovak Government to double humanitarian assistance since 2017. This commitment was approved by the government in May 2016. On top of that governmental decision says that SR will strive to better deal with humanitarian - development nexus and regularly allocate more financial means on humanitarian and development projects. In this regard no specific plan however, has been drafted so far.

For 2018, the MFEA SR allocated EUR 1.8 mil. to the humanitarian aid and humanitarian projects. Additional funds for this purpose are allocated from the SR government reserve on ad hoc basis for the implementation of the humanitarian aid or in the form of donating state assets for this purpose. Besides such allocated funds, voluntary contributions for specific programmes of international humanitarian organisations on behalf of the SR government are annually allocated.

7.2 Effective programme design

7.2.1 Criteria for who, what and where to fund

In 2015, the MFEA SR provided humanitarian aid and the MI SR provided material aid in the total amount of USD 2.46 mil. Compared to 2014, it is a two and a half fold increase, especially due to aid for Ukraine. Financial aid was provided by means of financial contributions to international and local foreign organisations or state institutions. In 2015, there was no “humanitarian donations” modality, which would make it possible to provide funds to Slovak humanitarian organisations as well. In 2016, the Slovak Republic implemented and provided material humanitarian aid abroad 8 times, of which 3 times to Greece affected by migration crisis. In compliance with a Mechanism for Providing Humanitarian Aid of the SR Abroad, financial humanitarian aid is granted on the basis of a decision of the Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of the SR. In 2016, the SR provided the humanitarian aid in the amount of USD 1,33 mil..

7.2.2 Approach towards localising the response and affected communities participation
The Slovak Republic supports the provision of humanitarian aid in terms of the urgent need of beneficiaries and also in terms of the effort to maximise the efficiency and effectiveness of the funds used.

In addition, in the areas of long-term conflicts, e.g. the Middle East, the Slovak Republic attempts to support activities leading to the restoration of livelihood of internally displaced persons and the adaptation of refugees and local communities in displaced areas. As for development cooperation priority countries, the SR supports connection between the humanitarian and the development activities under specific conditions of individual countries, which is also reflected in a 2014 - 2018 Mid-Term Strategy for Development Cooperation of the SR.

7.3 Effective delivery, partnerships and instruments

7.3.1 Tools available for protracted crises and recovery

Mechanism for Providing Slovak Humanitarian Aid Abroad, says that humanitarian aid does not consist only in the immediate dealing with emergency situations, but also in preventive and emergency programmes especially applied in risky areas. Material humanitarian aid can be implemented only on the basis of conclusions of a Coordination Meeting with the participation of the MFEA SR and the MI SR (or other interested ministries and organisations) and after favourable opinion of both ministers. The provision of the material humanitarian aid is conditioned by sufficient humanitarian supplies which should be supplemented in connection to their utilisation in the provision of the humanitarian aid.

In 2016, Syria and its neighbouring countries of the wider Middle East were newly included in territorial priorities of the Slovak development cooperation. With regard to the dramatic development of the situation in Syria and surrounding countries and related needs, in financial terms (in 2016, the SR contributed more than EUR 8.6 mil. to various activities) it became the most important activity of the SR's development cooperation. Very restricted level of formal connections with official Syrian authorities and institutions resulted in the fact that primary humanitarian activities take place outside the territory of Syria and by means of the EU structures and mechanisms and other international organisations.

In 2016, the SAIDC, in compliance with the focus of the SR’s bilateral development cooperation, based on a 2014 - 2018 Mid-Term Strategy for Development Cooperation, announced in April 2016 a call for the submission of applications for grants intended for the SR’s humanitarian aid projects in connection with the migration and refugee crisis in 2016. The main goal of the call was to expand the current humanitarian activities of Slovak organisations and to contribute to the improvement of migrants’ conditions on migration routes to the EU and the improvement of living conditions of refugee communities in the countries of the wider Middle East bordering with Syria. In 2017, a call for the submission of humanitarian aid was announced again, and this proven scheme will also continue in the future in other countries.

7.3.2 Rapid response tools and mechanisms

Preventive and emergency programmes especially in particularly risky areas are also considered a humanitarian aid. These include the establishment of an effective institutional aid, the strengthening of early warning systems and other measures to protect the population. In 2016,
Syria, the Middle East and Ukraine were identified as risky areas. The total value of Slovak aid for Syrian hospitals amounted to EUR 195,220.05 and reached the weight of 8,466.96 kg.

7.3.3 Partnership with the humanitarian community

The Slovak Republic regularly evaluates global and European strategies and makes use of the findings of evaluation mechanisms of the UN (Global Humanitarian Programming Cycle) and the DG ECHO (Global Vulnerability Index, Index Forgotten Crises, Food Insecurity Index). The planning and implementation of Slovak humanitarian aid is consulted with relevant target countries and also with international community, primarily by means of Embassies of the SR and permanent missions of the UN in Geneva and New York in compliance with GHD principles.

7.3.4 Coordination with other donors, the UN and local systems

The Slovak Republic participates in the coordination of humanitarian cooperation with other donors at global, European and local level. Regular cooperation has been established primarily with the UN, e.g. the UNICEF, the UNHCR, the IOM, ICRC and others.

Within the EU, the SR actively participates in the coordination of humanitarian aid, strategies and policies by participating in relevant working groups. During the SK PRES 2016, the SR was in charge of the management of working groups for development cooperation (CODEV), humanitarian and food aid (COHIFA) and for the Africa, Caribbean and Pacific area (ACP).

7.4 Organisation fit for purpose

7.4.1 Coordination across government

Mechanism for Providing Slovak Humanitarian Aid Abroad, approved by the government of the Slovak Republic in April 2006, is a basic document for providing humanitarian aid. The mechanism defines the humanitarian aid as an aid provided on an ad-hoc basis, as a reaction to emergency events and its goal is to quickly and effectively help people in crisis situation. The humanitarian aid is usually short-term, temporary and lasts until the end of direct threat or until people achieve a certain degree of autonomy.

The mechanism also establishes the rules for providing humanitarian aid abroad. The definition of the need for aid and the way of providing the aid are proposed by a Coordination Board convened by the Office of Civil Protection of the Ministry of Interior after consultations with the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the SR. The meeting will be attended by representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Finance, the Administration of State Material Reserves, the Platform of Non-Governmental Development Organisations, the Slovak Red Cross and possibly representatives of other state administration bodies and other interested parties. Based on a Coordination Meeting’s recommendation, the Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of the SR approves the provision of humanitarian aid.

The humanitarian aid is provided in the form of a rescue, material and technical assistance, financial contributions, financial support for humanitarian projects of Slovak humanitarian organisations.
Material humanitarian aid is provided by a Section of Integrated Rescue System and Civil Protection of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic. The MI SR is in charge of activities associated with the humanitarian aid also by means of a Crisis Management Section. At the EU level, the aid is provided by a Section of the European Commission for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO - European Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection), which supports projects focused on prevention and assistance in threatened areas.

Partners of the provision of the humanitarian aid are the MFEA SR and the MI SR, Slovak humanitarian organisations, UN system agencies (the UNHCR, the UNICEF, etc.), organisations of the ICRC or IOM.

### 7.4.2 Approach to civil-military coordination

The Ministry of Defence of the SR, or military components in general, are not standard providers of humanitarian aid. At present, however, many humanitarian situations are of a “complex crisis” nature, where cooperation of all players in the area is necessary. The MD SR can provide activities and means that can be used to strengthen a humanitarian action. They are primarily - information exchange, provision and transport of material for the needs of humanitarian aid, provision of technology, transport and other assistance to humanitarian workers, building and reconstruction of infrastructure for humanitarian needs, humanitarian mine clearance.

In 2016, the MD SR was in charge of a bilateral development cooperation in the form of sending civil experts into crisis management activities outside the territory of the SR with a budget of € 307,376.00 (a sub-programme 0AU06) and implementing humanitarian and development activities within the competence of the SR Armed Forces in the crisis regions of the world with a budget of € 10,000.00 (a sub-programme 05T0B).

### 7.4.3 Humanitarian staff and system

The Ministry of Interior is in charge of technical side of assistance by means of the Office of Civil Protection and other departments. At the Office of Civil Protection of the MI SR, a National Management and Coordination Centre was established, which is a national contact point receiving applications for providing humanitarian aid. The ministry has a fighter squadron, rescue teams and humanitarian material warehouses.

The MFEA SR, making use of the network of diplomatic missions of the SR in New York and Geneva, is in charge of several activities - the monitoring of the situation in affected country and crisis regions, communicates with aid coordinator, local authorities in beneficiary country, the EU, the UN, the NATO and with other humanitarian organisations and partners. Further, it provides consular assistance to the citizens of the SR and the EU, financial contributions to organisations providing humanitarian aid, it is also in charge of the financing of humanitarian and post-humanitarian projects in countries affected by a widespread or long-term crisis. The MFEA SR participates in the delivery of Slovak humanitarian aid and coordinates the implementation of the aid in the country receiving the aid.

The implementation of humanitarian aid requires cooperation of other state administration bodies as well. This mainly applies to the provision of humanitarian material, finances, experts and various services according to the needs arising from emergency situation. They are primarily the Ministry of Finance of the SR, the Ministry of Agriculture of the SR, the Ministry of Health of the SR, the Administration of State Material Reserves of the SR, etc.
7.5 Results, learning and accountability

7.5.1 Monitoring own performance and the impact of programmes

A Humanitarian Aid Programme is evaluated by the MFEA SR on an annual basis as a part of a report on providing the ODA for the previous year (approved by the SR government). Effectiveness, efficiency and rapidity of providing humanitarian aid are an evaluation criterion.

An organisation, contractually bound to implement a humanitarian project, continuously informs the MFEA SR on the status of the fulfilment of the humanitarian action. At the end of the humanitarian action, the aid implementer will provide the MFEA SR with a final report on the completed humanitarian action. The final report contains the amount of the aid and the total funds spent, aid type, information on aid beneficiaries and other relevant information. The implementer will also provide data in an abbreviated form using a form in Appendix 2.

The MFEA SR can organise an independent audit of the whole project or an evaluation of the humanitarian action (so-called evaluation) in terms of effectiveness, directness and overall contribution of the aid provided.

7.5.2 Communicating results

Publicity or media presentation is also a part of the mechanism of providing humanitarian aid of the SR. A press release is issued for each humanitarian action together with possible photographic evidence. The utilisation of a standardised SlovakAid logo since 2003 also helps the promotion of Slovakia. An appointed humanitarian action coordinator is responsible for the publicity and media presentation of the humanitarian aid in Slovakia. Immediately after the implementation of the humanitarian action, its coordinator or implementer (if it is a Slovak organisation) is obligated to complete a questionnaire “Report on Implemented Humanitarian Aid” and to submit it to the MFEA SR.

Basic information on the SR’s humanitarian aid and the SR’s development cooperation is published at official website on development aid of the MFEA SR. In order to publish more detailed information, the MFEA SR has created a website http://www.slovakdev.sk/sk, which includes official information on the official development aid of the SR and also Slovak humanitarian aid abroad. Also, the MFEA SR regularly provides data and information on provided humanitarian aid to international humanitarian and development organisations - the ECHO, the OCHA, the DAC.
Appendices

Appendix No.1  The organisational structure of the MFEA SR
ŠTAT1  State Secretary 1  
ŠTAT2  State Secretary 2  
KAŠT1  Office of the State Secretary1  
KAŠT2  Office of the State Secretary2  
KAMI  Office of the Minister  
GTSU  General Secretary of Service Office  
VAUD  Internal Audit Department  
KAGT  Office of the General Secretary of Service Office  
LEGO  Legislative-Legal Department  
POLS  Political Section  
SEZA  Section of European Affairs  
SHSP  Section of Economic Cooperation  
SMOP  Section of International Organisations, Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid  
SEMI  Section of the Minister  
SMPK  International-Legal, Consular and Crisis Management Section  
OSUR  Personal Office  
SEVS  Section of Economy and General Administration  
SBPI  Section of the Security of the Processing and Transfer of Information  
SZBP  Department of Common Foreign and Security Policy  
EUPO1  Department of European Policies 1  
RED1  Department of the Management of European Diplomacy 1  
OSNO  Department of the UN and International Organisations  
DIPL  Diplomatic Protocol  
MEPO  Department of International Law  
ORLZ  Department of Human Resources Development  
FINO  Financial Department  
OIKT  Department of the Operation and Security of Information and Communication Technologies  
OBEP  Department of Security Policy  
EUPO2  Department of European Policies 2  
RED2  Department of the Management of Economic Diplomacy 2  
OKOZ  Department of Disarmament and the Fight Against Terrorism  
ANAP  Department of Analyses and Planning  
KONZ  Consular Department  
OPMU  Department of Personnel and Wage Policy for Headquarters  
EIMO  Department of Economic Information and Assets  
OBAR  Department of Security, Classified Information, Archive and Registry  
3TEO  Department of the States of Eastern Europe, Southern Caucasus and Central Asia  
OZVIZI  Department of General Affairs and Relations with EU Institutions  
OMEO  Department of International Economic Organisations  
OBSE  Department of the SR Presidency in the OSCE  
TLAČ  Press Department  
OLPR  Human Rights Department  
OPMZ  Department of Personnel and Wage Policy for Abroad  
INSL  Department of Investments, Real Estate and Services  
ESAP  Department of the Computerisation of Services and Processes  
4TEO  Department of the States of South-East Europe and Turkey  
2TEO  Second Territorial European Department
POCE  Business Centre Department
ORPO  Department of Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid
OVDI  Public Diplomacy Department
OKRM  Crisis Management Department
OPVK  Department of Diplomatic Preparation, Education and Library
ODVO  Public Procurement Department
5TEO  Department of the States of North and South America
OPEU  Department of EU Law
OGOP  Department of Global Policies
OKUD  Department of Cultural Diplomacy
6TEO  Department of Asia and Pacific
GEIN  General Inspection Department
7TEO  Department of the Wider Middle East and Africa
SAMRS  Slovak Agency for International Development Cooperation
USZZ  Office for Slovaks Living Abroad
SSDZ  Administration of Diplomatic Corps Services
SUZA  Administration of Special Purpose Facilities
Appendix No. The organisational structure of the DDCHA

**Department of Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid**

**Director**

**Assistant**

**Bilateral Development Cooperation**

- Development projects and other instruments of development cooperation
  - Bilateral cooperation with project countries, grants administration, programme documents drafting (Medium Term Strategy)
  - 1 official

- Development projects and other instruments of development cooperation
  - Bilateral cooperation with programme countries and countries with humanitarian and development needs, grants administration, bilateral development cooperation agreements, CSP, EU TF for Africa, joint programming, government scholarships, monitoring and evaluation
  - 1 official

- Private sector cooperation
  - Involvement of and collaboration with private sector in development cooperation, cooperation with MF SR/EXIMBANKA, micro grants administration, CETIR -Integration and reforms experience transfer
  - 1 official

**Multilateral Development Cooperation**

- EU Agenda
  - EU Council Working Groups CODEV, COHAF, ACP, FAC, FAC/DEV, DF, joint programming, gender issues, monitoring and evaluation
  - 1 official

- UN Agenda, other IO
  - UNDP, OECD, 2. UN Committee, ECOSOC, cooperation with UNDP and other international organisations, ODA statistics, GPEDC
  - 1 official

- A 2030
  - A2030 implementation, cooperation with Council of the Government for A2030, cooperation with other state administration bodies on A2030, programme documents drafting, cooperation with private sector
  - 1 official

**Humanitarian Aid**

- Financial and material humanitarian aid
  - Financial contributions, financial and material humanitarian aid, coordination with MI SR, ECHO and UNOCHA, humanitarian aid legislation, migration, cooperation with private sector in humanitarian aid, volunteers
  - 1 official
Appendix No. The organisational structure of the SAIDC

- **Riaditeľ SAMRS**  
  Director of SAIDC

- **Organizačný úsek**  
  Organisation Section

- **Finančný manažment**  
  Financial Management

- **Projektový manažment**  
  Project Management

- **Asistent**  
  Assistant

- **Finančný manažér**  
  Financial Manager

- **Projektový manažér**  
  Project Manager

- **Personalista a ekonom**  
  Personnel Officer and Economist

- **Účtovník a mzdár**  
  Accountant and Wage Officer
Appendix No. A list of external and internal evaluations of the SR’s development cooperation

External evaluations:
Evaluation Report - Evaluation of Three Projects of Development Aid of the Czech and Slovak Republic in Bosnia and Herzegovina, 28 September 2011, D&D Consulting (probably Gombitová)
Evaluation Report – Evaluation of 3 Development Projects of the Slovak Republic in Kenya and Sudan, 6 February 2012, IBS Slovakia SR

Results and resource framework for the strategy of the Slovak Republic for Development Cooperation with the Republic of Moldova for 2014-2018 (UNDP project)

Internal evaluations
The monitoring of projects in the Republic of Georgia, 9 - 13 June 2012
The results of the monitoring of projects and micro-grants of representative offices of the SR in Bucharest, in Moldova (24 - 27 April 2012)
Report from a business trip abroad - The monitoring of projects in Mongolia, 19 - 26 May 2012
Report from a business trip abroad - The monitoring of projects in the Republic of South Sudan, 9 - 13 February 2012
Appendix No.: A list of documents creating a legal system of the SR’s development cooperation

Legal system of the SR’s development cooperation is primarily included in the following acts and regulations:

- Act No. 392/2015 Coll. on Development Cooperation and on Amendment to Certain Acts
- Act No. 545/2010 Coll. on Providing Grants by the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic and on Amendment to Act No. 617/2007 Coll. on Official Development Aid and on Amendment to Act No. 575/2001 Coll. on the Organisation of Activity of the Government and Central State Administration Bodies, as amended.
- MFEA SR Measure No. 600.237/2016-ORPO of 23 March 2016, establishing details for the provision of development cooperation grants (138/2016 Coll.)
- MFEA SR Measure No. 600.238/2016-ORPO of 23 March 2016, establishing details for the provision of financial contribution for development cooperation (139/2016 Coll.)
- MFEA SR Measure No. 600.239/2016-ORPO of 23 March 2016, establishing details for awarding a contract of development cooperation (140/2016 Coll.)

Further documents forming the strategic and legislative framework of the SR’s development aid:

- Guideline No. 37/2016 of 21 April 2016 establishing the rules for providing financial contributions within development cooperation to Embassies of the SR
- Programme of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic for the Secondment of Volunteers to the Developing Countries within Official Development Aid, approved in June 2014 by the management of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic
- Concept of Involving Business Entities into Development Cooperation of the SR, approved on 4 October 2012 by the management of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic

Strategies:

- 2014 - 2018 Strategy for Development Cooperation with the Republic of Moldova
- 2014 - 2018 Strategy of the SR for Development Cooperation with the Afghan Islamic Republic