



# The Slovak Republic

## Local Social Inclusion Partnerships

### Framework and setting

**Geographic scale** 27 Partnerships are established in five regions of Slovakia (Banská Bystrica, Košice, Prešov, Nitra, Žilina). The average population of the regions covered is 3,000,000.

**Policy framework** The Local Social Inclusion Partnerships (LSIPs) are created in the framework of the Social Development Fund (SDF). The SDF is an organisation funded by the state and constituted by the “Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family” of the Slovak Republic. LSIPs are independent local associations comprising representatives of the community and individuals. LSIPs nominate their steering committee members. Social Inclusion Action Plans are prepared as part of the LSIPs. They include micro projects, which focus on the employment of groups affected by and/or at risk of social exclusion. Based on the partnership and community principles, these micro projects are evaluated by LSIPs Boards.

### Partnerships at work

**Rationale** The high unemployment rate of socially excluded groups and the ambition to assure higher employment influenced the creation of LSIPs. LSIPs provide a platform for citizens and local communities to jointly make efforts to find solutions to their problems and concerns.

**Objectives** The main objectives of LSIPs are to ensure the social inclusion of marginalised groups and communities in respective territories and to achieve higher employment of these groups. The LSIPs are based on four key priorities: to stimulate economic activities, to promote equal opportunities and eliminate social exclusion, to seek new innovative approaches in order to engage communities and to contribute to a better coordination of government activities (local and national), and of public, private and non-profit (voluntary) organisations.

**Functions** The functions of the partnerships are:

- \_ creating and maintaining co-operation of all stakeholders at local level related to employment and social inclusion;
- \_ improving the integration and coordination of activities leading to social inclusion and increasing the rate of employment;
- \_ defining strategies for the economic and social development of the respective territories;
- \_ developing and implementing programmes/projects and securing their sustainability;
- \_ establishing mechanisms for project assessment and recommendation;
- \_ evaluating the results of the projects and their impact on the strategy;
- \_ assistance in project monitoring; and
- \_ providing information and publicity on small-scale (micro) projects in territories.

**Policy areas** Labour market policy and social policy

**Policy tools/ Instruments** The main activities include counselling services provided to target groups, the preparation of individual employment plans providing assistance in accessing the labour market, supporting the development of local services in the area of employment and job creation, activities focusing on high quality leisure time for children and young people from families at risk of social exclusion, the preparation of employment plans at the local and regional level, incentive and motivational programmes, targeted and tailor-made training activities including on-the-job training, activities to support the social economy, development of employment plans and support for self-employed people, including tailor-made plans according to the needs of individuals, preparation of marketing plans for communities, preparation and implementation of training programmes aimed at the re-inclusion of specific target groups, preparation of employment action plans or employment strategies at the local and regional levels and other activities to mobilise and stimulate target groups.

- Timeframe** The partnerships started to operate in 2004/2005 and are financed for the period of a maximum of two years.
- Partners** The LSIPs must include the representatives of four different sectors: the public administration, business sector (entrepreneurs), civil society (e.g. NGOs, schools, church) and representatives from socially deprived areas. The target groups include the long-term unemployed, people from segregated Roma settlements, people with income under the poverty line, groups of children and young people at risk, geographically isolated groups, migrants, victims of criminal offences, alcohol/drug addicts, elderly people in need, former prisoners, homeless people, people with mental and physical disabilities).
- Contracts** The informal partnerships are facing a phase of “institutionalisation” (as NGOs, non-profit organisations).
- Legal status** None
- Sources of Financing** Partnerships are financed from the European Social Fund through the Social Development Fund.
- Results** Indicated results achieved by 31 December 2004:
- \_ number of people employed in the sector of the social economy: 225;
  - \_ number of trainers trained: 60;
  - \_ number of unemployed people participating in training and educational activities as part of project activities: 765;
  - \_ number of Roma people participating in training and educational activities as part of project activities: 458; and
  - \_ 24 action plans for employment on local and micro regional area.

## Partnerships' highlight

- Programme/Project** Project of the Local Social Inclusion Partnership in the region of Stredný Gemer
- Timeframe** 2005 – 2006
- Objectives** Increasing the rate of employment in Rožňava region (Stredný Gemer)
- Activities** The activities include:
- \_ establishing a job mediation agency in Rožňava with four branch local offices;
  - \_ organising re-qualification seamstress courses for unemployed women from the segregated settlement of Slavošovce;
  - \_ setting up four sheltered workshops with the aim to manufacture various products and support to people returning to the labour market;
  - \_ supporting business incubators;
  - \_ facilitation to re-establish the tradition of hand-made wicker products (workshops on various crafts); and
  - \_ production of biomass.
- Results** Not specified yet

## Contacts

### Partnership co-ordination on national / sub-regional level

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### Partnership co-ordinators on regional / local level

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