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Long-term Objective of the State S&T Policy up to 2015

Dlhodobý zámer štátnej vednej a technickej politiky do roku 2015

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Overview	<p>Slovak Government passed the Long-term Objective of the State S&T Policy up to 2015 via the Government Resolution No 766/2007 of 12th September 2007. The Objective was prepared by the Ministry of Education and based on the 172/2005 'Law on Organisation of State Support to Research and Development'. The Law requires 'preparing long-term Objective of the science and technology development up to 2015'.</p> <p>The Ministry was helped by an Expert Committee comprising experts from central government ministries and regional governments, Universities, Slovak Academy of Sciences, professional associations and industry unions. The Objective became basic strategy for development of the Slovak R&D system up to 2015 and replaced the State Science and Technology Policy Concept for 2000-2005.</p> <p>Giving overlap between the S&T and R&D policies in Slovakia, the Objective is of major importance for development of applied research and innovations.</p>
Main issues addressed	<p>The Objective sets three broad targets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Higher involvement of the S&T in development of Slovakia and more intensive participation by S&T in solving economic and social problems in Slovakia. - Better conditions for S&T development inside Slovakia and also for Slovakia's activities within the European Research Area. - Setting targets for S&T development in the further mentioned areas (1) – (10) <p>Particular policy areas are specified in 10 chapters:</p> <p>(1) <i>S&T Policy coordination</i>. The Objective set that the Slovak Government Council for Science and Technology would become responsible for preparing both S&T and innovations policies. Special S&T management units should also be established with central government ministries and regional governments. The Technology Foresight exercise should be used for preparation and evaluation of the S&T policies.</p> <p>(2) <i>R&D infrastructure</i>. Subchapter on human resources emphasises importance of regional middle school systems, and science and engineering courses on Universities. International mobility of Slovak scientists within the ERA, return migration by R&D workers and attracting foreign talents to Slovakia also are considered priorities. Subchapter on technical infrastructure sets targets in infrastructure modernising and establishing new centres of excellence.</p> <p>(3) <i>Systemic priorities of R&D</i>. The Objective aims at synergy effects arising from combination of various financial resources (State Budget, Structural Funds, and FP7 of the EU). Financial resources should be used for direct and indirect assistance to R&D and in preference channelled to applied research. There is a continuation with former R&D policies.</p> <p>(4) <i>Thematic priorities</i> include: health, new materials and technologies,</p>

biotechnologies, ICT, social infrastructure, energy, civilisation challenges, culture and art heritage, defence, environment and efficient use of domestic raw materials.

(5) *Support to S&T.* This chapter defines direct and indirect S&T policy tools. It sets a clear target of 1.8% share by GERD in GDP by 2015 (Table 1). Some 2/3 of total GERD should be provided by business sector. European money should be another important resource for the Slovak R&D system. Expenditure on S&T should be given a special chapter in the State Budget Law. The 172/2005 Law states that the Objective's targets are implemented via the National R&D Programmes, which in fact, are chapters of the State Budget and provide institutional and project finance for Slovak R&D system. The Objective envisages important changes in structure of public support to R&D. Institutional finance accounted for about one half of total support in 2007. By 2015 institutional support should decrease to one third, while the project finance should generate some two thirds of the total outlays on R&D by the State Budget. Institutional support to Universities and Slovak Academy of Science, and project finance channelled via the State R&D programmes, RDA grants and horizontal programmes remain major forms for direct assistance to R&D in Slovakia till 2015 (Table 1). Indirect assistance should consist of tax incentives, but these must be consulted with the Ministry of Finance first.

(6) *Framework model of organisation of financing Slovak science and technology up to 2010* includes description of public grant agencies, State R&D Programmes, and institutional and project finance flows in research system.

(7) *International cooperation in R&D.* Priorities in this area include Slovakia's membership in most important R&D organisations and initiatives in the World and participation on the FP7 of the EU.

(8) *R&D evaluation.* Performance of the Slovak R&D system should be evaluated on annual basis. The Objective envisages individual and complex indicators for evaluation of the R&D system. Individual indicators include input-output data and impact assessment. Complex indicators should be generated via weighted aggregation of individual ones and target investments in knowledge, S&T activities and innovation performance. Impact assessment, benchmarking and evaluation should employ databases and methodologies prepared by renowned organisations, e.g. Eurostat, World Economic Forum, Institute for Management and Development, London Business School, etc. Evaluation methodology will be prepared also for individual R&D organisations in Slovakia. Complete list of indicators is contained in Annex 3 of the Objective.

(9) *Popularising R&D.* The Objective aims to raise public awareness on S&T and remove communication barriers among R&D organisations, public administration, business and broader public. Two major policy tools are foreseen: (a) financial support to popularising results of the R&D grants and (b) establishing National Centre for Popularising S&T among Public.

(10) *Monitoring State S&T Policies.* All S&T policy targets and tools set by the Objective should be monitored and, if needed, adjusted. Progress Report on the Objective implementation should be prepared every five years.

Table: Projection of expenditure on research and development in Slovakia

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
<i>Projection of gross expenditure on R&D, in percent of GDP ¹</i>									
Total, of which:	0.680	0.820	0.960	1.100	1.240	1.380	1.520	1.660	1.800
State Budget	0.390	0.412	0.434	0.456	0.478	0.500	0.522	0.544	0.566
enterprises	0.250	0.36	0.470	0.580	0.690	0.800	0.910	1.020	1.130
foreign	0.040	0.048	0.056	0.064	0.072	0.080	0.088	0.096	0.104
<i>Contribution to GERD by the Structural funds, in percent of GDP</i>									
Total, of which	0.38	0.34	0.31	0.26	0.27	0.28	0.34	x	X
ERDF	0.32	0.29	0.26	0.22	0.23	0.24	0.29	x	X
National ²	0.06	0.05	0.05	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.05	x	X

Expenditure on R&D by the State Budget, in mil. EUR ³									
Total, of which	205,9	235,3	264,7	297,1	330,6	365,6	402,4	441,2	481,2
1. Institutional finance	123,5	133,8	142,4	150,3	157,1	162,4	165,9	168,2	168,5
1a Universities	64,7	70,3	74,7	78,8	82,4	85,0	86,8	87,9	88,2
1b Academy of Science	44,1	47,6	50,6	53,5	55,9	57,9	59,4	60,3	60,3
1c Other industry research	14,7	15,9	17,1	17,9	18,8	19,4	19,7	20,0	20,0
2. Project finance	82,4	101,5	122,4	146,2	173,5	203,2	236,5	272,9	312,6
2a Oper. Programme R&D	14,7	15,3	18,2	22,1	25,9	30,6	35,6	40,9	47,1
2b SRDP	14,7	35,6	42,9	51,2<>					

Policy priorities	1.1.1 Strategy policy documents (official documents, policy consultation papers, green or white papers, Operational Programmes of Structural Funds); 2.1.2 Public Research Organisations; 2.1.4 Research Infrastructures; 3.2.2 Career development (e.g. long-term contracts for university researchers)
Main audience	Research community; Policy makers
Policy context	<p>Slovakia ranks to the poorest R&D and innovation performers in the EU-27. Till 2004 innovations and R&D had not even been recognised development priorities. Since 2004 Slovak Government adopted a new position on importance of R&D and innovations for long-term development of the country and prepared several documents on building knowledge-based economy. About one third of assistance provided under the Structural Funds should go into the education, innovations and R&D in period 2007-2013.</p> <p>There is a number of new R&D and innovation policy measures to be introduced once the Operational Programmes Education, Research & Development, and Competitiveness and Economic growth enter into force. The Programmes are implemented under the National Reference Framework for the period 2007-2013 and supported by the Community means.</p> <p>The Operational Programme Research & Development (OPRD) alone accounts for some 1.2 billion Euros. Implementation of the OPRD is subject to preparation and implementation of appropriate long-term strategies. In 2007 Slovak Government passed the Innovation Strategy and the Long-term Objective of the State S&T Policy up to 2015. The later document replaced the 'Concept of the State-Governed Scientific and Technical Policy up to the Year 2005' and became a basic S&T strategy for Slovakia in period 2007-2013.</p>
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