

Annex 5 Non-technical summary of the provided information given in the Report on the Assessment of the Strategic Document and Final Position of MEnv SR Concerning SEA of the Strategic Document

A. Non-technical summary of the provided information given in the Report on the Assessment of the Strategic Document

Basic information about the procurer:

Name: Ministerstvo výstavby a regionálneho rozvoja SR
(Ministry of Construction and Regional Development of the Slovak Republic)

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Basic information about the Strategic Document

Title: Operational Programme Bratislava Region (2007-2013)

Territory: Bratislava Region

Concerned municipalities: All municipalities located in the Bratislava Region

Approving authority: European Commission
Government of the Slovak Republic

Content and the main objectives of the Strategic Document and its relation to other strategic documents

The Operational Program Bratislava Region (hereinafter “the OPBR”) constitutes a programming document of the Slovak Republic for withdrawal of assistance from the European Regional Development Fund of the European Union for selected areas of the infrastructure and knowledge-based economy of the Bratislava Region for 2007-2013.

The OPBR is connected to the objectives and priorities of the National Strategic Reference Framework 2007-2013 (hereinafter “the NSRF”) being the main strategic programming document of the Slovak Republic for the Cohesion and Regional Policies. The OPBR implements and develops the priority 1 of the NSRF Infrastructure and Regional Accessibility, and priority 2 Knowledge-based Economy, namely through the NSRF specific priority 1.1 Regional Infrastructure, 1.2 Environmental Infrastructure and Protection of the Environment,

2.1 Information Society, and 2.4 Support of Competitiveness of Enterprises and Services Mainly through Innovations.

The content of the Strategic Document is following:

- Executive summary
- Preparation of the Operational Programme
- Current situation in the Bratislava Region
- Strategy of the Operational Programme
- Priority axes and measures
- Horizontal priorities
- Compliance of the strategy with the policies, documents, and objectives
- Financial plan
- Implementation system
- Annexes

The global objective was defined based on analyses and SWOT analysis which is included in the form of key disparities and development factors of the Bratislava Region: Till 2013 to increase significantly the competitiveness and performance of the Bratislava Region as a development centre of European significance". The global objective shall be implemented through the following three priority axes and horizontal priorities:

Priority axis 1 Infrastructure

This priority axis is aimed at enhancing the competitiveness of the Bratislava Region by improving quality and level of the elementary and secondary education system, improving the environmental infrastructure, regeneration of settlements, and by improving the road network quality while respecting the sustainable development.

Measure 1.1 Renewal and Development of the School Infrastructure

The basic objective of this measure is to address the unsatisfactory conditions of elementary and secondary schools and to modernize their internal equipment in connection with improvement of the quality and/or modification of curricula.

Measure 1.2 Support of Investment in Environmental Protection

The basic objective of this measure is to support the environmental infrastructure development in the field of flood protection and nature and landscape protection.

Measure 1.3 Modernization and Development of the 2nd and 3rd Class Roads

The basic objective of this measure is to improve the region's road network quality, to eliminate critical traffic accident localities and to improve permeability of node points on the 2nd and 3rd class roads which will significantly contribute to higher safety of road traffic.

Measure 1.4 Regeneration of Settlements

The basic objective of this measure is to enhance competitiveness and innovation capacity of the Bratislava Region urban settlements.

Priority axis 2 Innovation and informatisation

This priority axis is aimed at enhancing the innovation potential of the region by creating conditions that will stimulate innovation processes, development of IT services (informatisation)

in public administration and spread of information technology in all spheres of the society. This is the only way how to ensure a permanent competitiveness growth.

Measure 2.1 Innovations and Technological Transfers

The basic objective of this measure is to improve significantly all types of innovations in the business sector, to support introduction of progressive technologies and thus to ensure long-term competitiveness of SMEs and a high productivity growth.

Measure 2.2 Informatisation of Society

The basic objective of this measure is to create a modern public administration providing flexible, easily accessible, and effective public services to citizens and to ensure development and digitalization of libraries, archives, museums, galleries, and other specialized memory and heritage stock institutions.

Priority axis 3 Technical Assistance

The objective of this priority axis is to ensure the OPBR implementation in accordance with requirements of management, implementation, audit, monitoring, evaluation of the operational program and requirements for administrative structures responsible for the operational programme implementation.

Horizontal priorities

Each intervention within the OPBR will, in line with the National Strategic Reference Framework of the Slovak Republic, respect four horizontal priorities:

- *Marginalized Roma communities*
- *Equal Opportunities*
- *Sustainable Development*
- *Information Society*

Environmental objectives including health objectives

In the process of setting out the environmental objectives and priorities, we identified the relevant applicable international, national and regional documents which either support the interests of environmental protection or support promotion of sustainable development.

Based on the assessment of these documents (taking in consideration the focus of the OPBR priority axis), the following aspects come from - the essential environmental priorities, objectives and their implementation mechanisms which should be respected by the OPBR in its proposed measures:

1. Climate change and clean energy - to limit the climate change and expenses connected with elimination of its negative impacts on society and the environment. One of the measures is to increase the quota of energy produced from the renewable energy resources as well.
2. Nature and biodiversity - to ensure protection, conservation, renewal and development of natural systems functioning, natural biotopes and wildlife, to stop the loss of biodiversity and to achieve favorable condition of the nature and landscape; to provide

protection and regeneration of the natural environment and landscape by completion of the infrastructure for nature and land protection.

3. Quality of the environment, health and life - in the urban and the rural environment it is necessary to decrease pollutions of the environment and its elements, to decrease health risks, to support healthy lifestyles, to increase housing standards, access to services, culture, recreational zones, etc.
4. Sustainable utilization of natural resources – to improve utilisation and management of natural resources, to avoid their overuse and to recognize the value of ecosystems services, to ensure that the use of the renewable and non-renewable resources does not exceed environment carrying capacity, to decrease the volume of waste produced and to increase its re-using.
5. Complex territory protection against floods - it is necessary to provide flood protection by building or by reconstructing barrage and streams regulation in connection with the integrated plans for river basin management. It is necessary to propose such measures which cover the territory of the whole river basin in relation to the settlement structures, nature protection, recreation, and agriculture and forest management.
6. Sustainable transport – to ensure that the transport systems will satisfy the economic, social, environmental society needs while minimising their unfavorable impacts on economy, society and environment; to reach a balance between the individual transport and the public transport and to expand sustainable forms of transport, such as public transport or biking.
7. Urban renewal, regeneration of the territory and revitalization of the cultural heritage stock- to humanize and to modernize housing blocks with the built infrastructure and to revitalize the central urban zones, to revitalize the industrial areas which are not used and to renew the public areas, to preserve historical cultural heritage.
8. Upbringing, education and awareness towards the sustainable development - the success in reversing of the unsustainable trends will depend to the considerable extent on high-quality life-long education and learning (formal,non-formal,informal), including education aimed at the issues such as sustainable use of energy and transport systems, models of sustainable production and consumption, health, responsible global citizenship etc.
9. Ecological innovations and research in the field of sustainable development - represent any form of innovation aiming at significant and proven progress towards achieving the sustainable development through decreasing impacts on environment or leading to more effective and responsible utilisation of natural resources, including energy. The research in the field of sustainable development should support interdisciplinary and profile approaches including social and natural sciences and to bridge the gap between science, policymaking and its execution.
10. Integrated approach to management of the environment, better mechanisms and principles of proper management and international cooperation - implementation of environmental management, introduction of “green schools”, application of local Agenda 21 into practice, improving access to the information about the environment and human health, improving flow of information on the environment, etc. To achieve progress in international and cross-border cooperation in the field of the environment and

ecological innovations so that the environmental policies and measures support each other.

Basic data on the most important effects of the strategic document including health

The expected effects of the OPBR on the environment will be direct and indirect, synergic and cumulative, with the positive or negative character. Whereas the whole draft OPBR follows the objectives focused on decreasing the negative impacts on the environment and inhabitants' health, strengthening of nature protection and biodiversity, supporting activities covering flood protection, improving transport situation, regeneration of settlements and building *knowledge based society*, the positive impacts - direct, indirect, synergic and cumulative, significantly prevail.

a) Inputs requirements

The proposed plans and measures of the OPBR (mainly new roundabouts, removal of critical and frequent accident localities on the 2nd and 3rd class roads, repairs of bridges and flood protection measures, etc.) will require a temporary or constant land takeoff. It will concern the developed areas, agricultural land, forests, in specific cases it might eventually include a land takeoff the areas of ecological stability territorial system. New plans and measures of the OPBR will also have other requirements on inputs (e.g. raw materials, energy resources and labor force). Whereas these projects are of a smaller scale, the impact should not be significant.

b) Data on outputs

Implementation of the proposed investment objectives and measures of the OPBR and the connected measures realised in the Bratislava Region within related operational programmes will represent mostly positive outputs: better conditions for education will be created, the infrastructure for knowledge-based economy will be strengthened, labor force qualification will enhance, the current transport system will be improved, the risk of accident on the roads and the risk of floods will decrease, the trend for development and introduction of new technologies into businesses will get stronger, etc. The proposed plans and measures of the OPBR will deliver notable savings in energy and material resources.

Implementation of the proposed investment objectives and measures (mainly building of the new roundabouts, reconstruction of the 2nd and 3rd class regional roads, repairs of bridges, construction of the selected environmental infrastructure facilities, technical renewal of the housing stock, etc.) might also lead to a local pollution of the environment (e.g. air pollution, increase of the noise load, terrain refurbishment, eventually another interference with landscape), either during their building process or operation. Whereas these projects are of a smaller scale, the impacts should not be significant.

c) Data on direct, indirect, synergic and cumulative impacts on the environment

Within the OPBR, the smaller investment projects are proposed, focused (except for constructing of new roundabouts and repairing/building barrage against floods) primarily on reconstruction of already existing buildings and areas. It concerns mainly the school buildings and the 2nd and 3rd class regional roads, predominantly in developed areas of municipalities and towns. Their implementation will have positive or negative impacts; direct, indirect and cumulative impacts on the environment, namely on the local and regional level.

However, the assumed impacts and their extent can not be specified at this stage. Every proposed activity which is subject to the Act 24 /2006 Coll. on the environmental impacts assessment, will be assessed according to this Act.

Mainly the positive direct, indirect and/or synergic and cumulative impacts on the environment can be expected during the implementation of objectives and measures co-financed from the OPBR.

We suppose that locally temporary or constant negative impacts on the biodiversity, fauna and flora (e.g. with increasing fragmentation of biotopes or forming barrier effects within construction of roundabouts), public health, soil, water, air, ground environment can happen. Suggested activities may cause negative visual impacts on the landscape scenery, changes in land-use, eventually they can increase a number of inhabitants exposed to excessive traffic noise. The most significant impacts can be expected during building up the flood protection measures since there might be a collision of interests in the field of the nature and landscape protection.

It is expected that implementation of the OPBR will mainly lead to significant positive impacts on the quality of life and health of inhabitants, particularly through completion of the education and the transport infrastructures, the infrastructure of environment and transfer of new technologies into enterprises.

The negative impacts can be characterized as temporary (during the implementation of a project) and on the other hand positive impacts as constant.

d) Expected cross-border impacts

Taking into account the location of the region, we assume that during the implementation of the selected activities, some cross-border impacts can take place. It mainly relates to the flood protection measures (reconstruction of barrage and streams regulations), where the potential impacts may occur, which may fade out in the territory of Austria. All the projects which relate to the proposed measures, will be assessed from the perspective of their impacts on the environment (see table No.2). According to the Act 24/2006 Coll, the flood protection objects are assessed without limits.

In connection with the proposed environmental measures (such as preparation of management programmes for NATURA 2000, programmes for retrieval of critically endangered species, building cross-border educational tracks, etc.), we may expect significant positive impacts, which can have also a cross-border dimension. We recommend consulting the planned activities with the authorities and interested organisations of the neighbouring countries (Austria and Hungary) in order to strengthen expected positive impacts.

Proposed measures to prevent, eliminate, minimize and compensate impacts on the environment and health

Most of the measures represent specific activities, contributing to fulfilling measures of the OPBR and by increasing direction towards objectives of the sustainable development. In order to strengthen their positive effects, we recommend:

- In the project selection process, to monitor closely the sustainability of the supported activity (the test of “sustainability” may be used),

- In the project selection process, to monitor the balance of environmental, social and economic impacts,
- In the project selection process, to monitor the balance of local and regional impacts of projects, considering cross-border impacts,
- In the project selection process, to monitor the financial feasibility of an activity,
- In the project selection process, to monitor co-financing of an activity from other resources,
- To ensure transparency including access to information during the calls for proposals, selection and contracting as well as monitoring and evaluation of projects, measures and priority axis and the operational program as a whole, respecting the principles of economic competition protection,
- To increase efficiency and to simplify administrative part of the preparation and implementation of the projects so that they are accessible to a wider range of potential project promoters from municipalities without any specific requirements regarding their financial technical, human resources capacities under current objective projects selection and control management,
- To increase participation of inhabitants in the preparation of projects and to create conditions for dialogue between the experts, project promoters, local self-government and the public,
- To ensure implementation of the environmental impacts assessment on the level of specifying actions for individual activities according to the Act 24/2006 Coll., so that the technical and technological optimising is provided for, their localization, selection of the best technologies available as well as the balance of the environmental, social and economical aspects,
- It is necessary to preserve the principles of nature and landscape protection,
- To monitor the possibility to follow the standard applicable technical, technological, administrative and safety rules connected to the proposed activity, including anti-fire precautions.

Proposal for monitoring of environmental impacts including impacts on health

The main objective of monitoring is the regular monitoring on accomplishment of objectives (set for the National Strategic Reference Framework (NSRF), Operational Programme and projects, using the measurable indicators.

Outputs from monitoring provide the MA with inputs for decision making in order to improve implementation of the operational programme, for purpose of annual and final reporting about the programme as well as basis for decisions of the Monitoring Committees (e.g. with eventual revision of OP).

The process of monitoring is based on the structured model of management on the level of the NSRF, the OP and on the project level. All the entities, involved in the management of the SF and the CF using the financial resources, perform monitoring and evaluation according the defined tasks and competences.

Monitoring will be performed in two ways - based on the system of indicators and based on the categories of the SF interventions.

a) Monitoring based on the system of indicators

The objectives of the NSRF and individual operational programmes are defined and consequently quantified during the programming process through the system of physical and financial indicators (National System of Indicators for NSRF). Indicators are obligatory for all the subjects and will be a part of ITMS. Accomplishment of defined indicators represents the most important instrument for monitoring and evaluation of objectives of the operational programmes and the NSRF.

Monitoring starts on the lowest level - on project level. The project is the basic unit for the purposes of monitoring, which is analyzed through relevant data. In the contract for assistance from Structural funds, the final beneficiary agrees to provide data for the project monitoring and reporting. Physical as well as financial indicators from the final beneficiary are transferred to the ITMS via monitoring sheets and aggregated to the higher levels - measure, priority axis, operational programme and the NSRF.

b) Monitoring based on categories of assistance from SF

Under Article 9 of the General Regulation and Annex II of the Implementation Regulation, the expenditures from SF are monitored according to the following categories:

- Priority theme
- Form of financing
- Type of territory
- Economic activity
- Location of assistance.

Annex 5B**B. Final Position of MEnv SR Concerning SEA of the Strategic Document****Operational Programme Bratislava Region 2007-2013****POSITION**

(Code: 8165/2006-7.3/ml)

Issued by the Ministry of Environment of the SR according to Act 24/2006 Coll. on the assessment of impacts on the environment and on amendment and supplementing to some acts

I. BASIC DATA ON THE PROCURER**1. Name**

Ministry of Construction and Regional Development of the SR

2. Identification no.

317 51 067

3. Address of seat

Prievozská 2/B, 825 25 Bratislava 26

4. Name, surname, address, phone number and other contact data of the authorised representative of the Procurer

Authorised representative of the Procurer:

Ing. Renáta Pečová, Director of the Assistance Management Section for the Bratislava Region,

Ing. arch. Viera Filová, Head of the Assistance Programmes Management Dept. for the Bratislava Region

II. BASIC DATA ON THE STRATEGIC DOCUMENT**1. Name**

Operational Programme Bratislava Region 2007-2013

2. Character

The Operational Programme Bratislava Region 2007-2013 (only as “the OPBR”) represents a programme document of the Slovak Republic for withdrawal of assistance from the European Regional Development Fund (only as “the ERDF”) of the European Union for the selected fields of infrastructure and knowledge-based economy of the Bratislava Region for 2007-2013. From the geographical view, the impacts of the all OPBR measures will effect all the territory of the Bratislava Region.

3. Main objectives

The Slovak Republic within the National Strategic Reference Framework 2007-2013 (only as “the NSRF”) has defined the vision to implement entire convergence of the SR economy to the EU-15 average through sustainable development. The OPBR links up to the objectives and priorities of the NSRF as the basic strategic programme document of the SR for the field of Cohesion and Regional Policy. The OPBR implements and closer works out the strategic priorities of the NSRF no. 1: Infrastructure and Regional Accessibility and no. 2: Knowledge-Based Economy, specifically through the specific priorities: 1.1 Regional Infrastructure, 1.2 Environmental Infrastructure and Protection of the Environment, 2.1 Informatisation of Society and 2.4 Support of Competitiveness of Enterprises and Services mainly through Innovations.

The Global Objective is defined based on the analyses, SWOT analysis, key disparities and development factors of the Bratislava Region, and its wording is following: Till 2013 to increase significantly competitiveness and performance of the Bratislava Region as the centre of development of European significance.

The Global Objective is implemented through the following three priority axes:

Priority axis 1: Infrastructure

Priority axis 2: Innovation and Informatisation

Priority axis 3: Technical Assistance

4. Brief description of the content of the Strategic Document

Document is divided into three basic sections. The analytic, strategic and implementation sections. Analytical section describes context of the interventions, using regional analysis structured by the priorities according to the selected themes and sectors.

The interventions' logic of the programme issues from the regional analysis of the region and from analysis and experience from the previous programme periods based which there were identified the main strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of development of the Bratislava Region. Through the interventions there are supported the projects so that the development factors (strengths and opportunities) to eliminate or mitigate the identified disparities (weaknesses and threats) of the targeted region were used.

The strategic section of the programme identifies the objectives, priorities, their financial resources and measurable indicators.

The strategy is based on the following three Priority Axes:

Priority Axis 1 Infrastructure

The objective of the priority axis is to increase competitiveness of the Bratislava Region through increasing of the quality and level of the elementary and secondary schools, improving infrastructure of the environment, regeneration of settlements and increasing of the quality of road network while respecting sustainable development.

Measure 1.1 Renovation and Development of School Infrastructure

The basic objective of this measure is solution of non-satisfactory conditions of the elementary and secondary schools and modernisation of their internal equipment in connection to the increasing of the quality and/or change in the contents of education.

This involves decreasing energy consumption of the school facilities like e.g. renovation of building roofs, weatherisation of buildings, renovation of insulations, exchange of windows, reconstruction of energy distributions, change in the fuels utilised and exchange of the heating equipment to more environmentally friendly etc. From the view of renovation of material and

technical provisions, from this measures the following activities will be financed: equipment of classrooms of vocational schools by modern technical tools for increasing the quality of educational process.

Defining concrete groups of activities which will be supported:

1. *Support of renewal and reconstruction of the existing school facilities for the purposes to improve energy efficiency and barrier-less of the buildings of elementary and secondary schools.*
2. *Support of modernisation of the internal equipment of the school facilities in links to increasing the quality of and/or change in the contents of educational process at the elementary and secondary schools.*

Measure 1.2 Support of Investments into Protection of the Environment

The basic objective of the measure is to support development of the environmental infrastructure in the field of anti-flood protection and protection of the nature and country.

There will be financed the following activities aimed at reconstruction of protection dams, arrangement of water streams, support of elaboration of documentation of preservation on the protected localities and their implementation, support of elaboration of rescuing programmes of endangered flora and faun species, monitoring species and biotopes, renovation of the equipment of protection of the nature and country, entry areas of caves, technical infrastructure, support of developing information centres, learning tracks, expositions and other forms of promotion.

Defining of the concrete groups of activities that will be supported:

1. *Support of activities for ensuring protection against floods.*
2. *Programmes of preservation for the protected localities, including NATURA 2000 sites and programmes for rescuing critically endangered fauna and flora species.*
3. *Infrastructure of protection of the nature and country.*
4. *Information and promotion activities for the field of protection of the nature and country.*

Measure 1.3 Modernisation and Development of the 2nd and 3rd Class Roads

The basic objective of the measure is to increase the quality of the road network of the region, removing critical accident localities and increasing permeability of the nodes at the 2nd and 3rd class roads, contributing so to the significant extent to increasing safety of the traffic operation.

The following activities will be financed from the measure No. 1.3 Modernisation and Development of the 2nd and 3rd Class Roads: improvement of the traffic situation and higher safety of citizens, removal of critical and accident localities on the 2nd and 3rd class roads, repairs of bridge buildings, developing circleroundabouts, devices for slowing down speed, redeveloping collision sections on roads for ensuring safety and smoothness of traffic contributing so to achievement of the quality road network providing transport serviceability of the Bratislava Region.

Defining the concrete groups of activities that will be supported:

1. *Measures for removing critical accident localities.*
2. *Measures for ensuring safety and smoothness of traffic.*

Measure 1.4 Regeneration of Settlements

The basic objective of the measure is to increase competitiveness and innovative capacity of urban settlements of the Bratislava Region.

The following activities will be financed from the measure no. 1.4 Regeneration of Settlements: the investment activities aimed at revitalisation of urban settlements as the basic cores of settlement of the regions. Moreover, supported is also implementation of the complex projects of regeneration of settlements and their residential zones, projects of ecological and sustainable urban public transport, implementation of establishing parks and landscaping of public greenery, projects of renewal and reconstruction of monument buildings, projects of renovation and regeneration of historic parks. Through reconstruction, adaptation and valorisation of housing stock and public concourses including completion of the necessary technical infrastructure the reached achievement will be a revitalisation of core areas of the Bratislava Region that are the innovation growth poles what will reinforce the development potential, maintain and renew cultural heritage of urban settlements and significantly help in reinforce their environmental and cultural particularities as well as increase their attractiveness.

The measure Regeneration of Settlements will also finance the non-investment activities like the preparation and elaboration of territorial-planning documentation and plans of economic and social development (ESDP), the preparation of projects of regeneration and revitalisation of settlements (including social programmes as their integral parts) as the inevitable strategic instruments for implementation of the investment activities of the measure.

Defining the concrete groups of activities that will besupported:

- 1. Elaboration of ESDP and territorial planning documentations.*
- 2. Elaboration and implementation of the complex projects of regeneration of sections of settlements and their zones.*
- 3. Arrangement of public concourses, exceptfor the complex projects of regeneration.*
- 4. Conservation and renovation of cultural heritage.*

Priority axis 2: Innovation and Informatisation

The objective of the priority axis is to increase the innovative potential of the region, establishing conditions stimulating innovative processes and development of informatisation of public administration and penetration of information technologies into all the spheres of life of society. Only in this way is possible to ensure sustainable growth of competitiveness.

This priority axis aims at solution of the issues of the Bratislava Region that are comparable with other SR regions. They concern predominantly the low number and quality of innovations in the business sphere, non-sufficient quality of public information infrastructure and non-sufficient interconnection between the research and development infrastructure withthe private sector.

Measure 2.1 Innovation and Technological Transfers

The basic objective of the measure is to increase significantly the all types of innovations in the entrepreneurial sphere, supporting introduction of progressive technologies and through it ensuring long-term competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises (SME) and high growth of productivity.

The supported projects are, in particular, the demand-aimed projects but national projects also come into consideration. Support is for all the types of innovations in the entrepreneurial sphere. Through improvement of flat services contributing to development of competitiveness and economic growth long-term competitiveness of SME and high growth of productivity is ensured.

Defining of the concrete groups of activities that will be supported:

1. *Support of establishing and introduction of innovations and technological transfers.*
2. *Support of introduction and use of progressive technologies.*
3. *Protection of intellectual property.*

Measure 2.2 Informatisation of Society

The basic objective of the measure is to establish modern public administration, providing flexible, easily accessible effective public services for citizens and the provision of development and digitalisation of libraries, archives, museums and galleries and other specialised memory and heritage stock institutions.

It is necessary in the programme period 2007-2013 to improve accessibility of the broad-band Internet, developing and sustainable advancing quality of public services citizens and entrepreneurs through introduction of information-communication technologies (ICT) with an aim that informatisation of society sufficiently effective stimulates social and economic processes of economy, increasing effectiveness of use of the existing and future development factors and positive effecting the quality of life of citizens.

Defining of the concrete groups of measures that are supported:

1. *Optimising and development of the infrastructure of information systems of public administration.*
2. *Introduction of extended public e-services at the regional and local levels.*
3. *Development of integrated servicing points.*
4. *Support of establishing of useful digital content at the regional and local levels.*
5. *Support of accessibility of the broadband Internet.*

Priority axis 3 Technical Assistance

The goal of this priority axis is to ensure implementation of the OPBR in accordance with demands for the management, implementation, control, monitoring, evaluation of the operational programme and the administrative structures responsible for implementation of the operational programme.

Technical Assistance is the specific priority axis of OPBR of which the purpose is to support implementation of other priority axes and activities given in the operation programme. Technical Assistance aims at support of the effective management and promotion of the operational programme as well as support of evaluation of the priority axes and projects.

It will be also used for the activities linked to the management, monitoring, control, analysis, providing information, including promotion, evaluation and exchanging experience.

It will be implemented in the following fields:

- *Salary provision of the employees participating in the programming, management, implementation, evaluation and monitoring of the OPBR.*
- *Technical provision of the programming, management, implementation, evaluation and monitoring.*

- *Establishing the monitoring systems using information technologies.*
- *Information activities and publicity for the OPBR.*
- *Programming and preparation of documents for the further programme periods.*

The implementation section aims at setting out the whole system of implementation of individual measures and their separate implementation conditions.

Relationship to other Strategic Documents

The OPBR links up to the goals and priorities of the National Strategic Reference Framework 2007-2013 as the basic strategic programming document of the SR for the field of Cohesion and Regional Policies. The OPBR implements and elaborates to the details the strategic priorities of the NSRF no. 1: Infrastructure and Regional Accessibility, and no. 2: Knowledge-Based Economy, and specifically through the specific priorities 1.1 Regional Infrastructure, 1.2 Environmental Infrastructure and Protection of the Environment, 2.1: Informatisation of Society, and 2.4 Support of Competitiveness of Enterprises and Services Mainly through Innovations.

a) The EU Strategic Documents and policies

- Lisbon and Göteborg Strategies
- European Sustainable Development Strategy Communication from the Commission: A Sustainable Europe for a Better World: A European Union Strategy for Sustainable Development, Brussels, 15 May 2001, COM (2001) 264 final. 17 p. Review of the EU Sustainable Development Strategy (EU SDS) - Renewed Strategy, Council of EU (adopted at sessions of the European Council on 14 to 16 June 2006)
- The 6th EU Environmental Action Programme Our Future, Our Choice (6th EAP), adopted for the period 2002-2012
- EC legislation in the field of Cohesion policy
- EC legislation in the field of the rules on economic competition
- Legislation in the field of public procurement
- Legislation in the field of preservation of the environment
- Legislation in the field of the rules on equality of opportunities, gender equality and non-discrimination

b) Strategic documents and policies of the SR

- National Strategic Reference Framework 2007-2013 (adopted through the SR Government Resolution No. 105/2006)
- Slovak Competitiveness Development Strategy till 2010 (adopted through the SR Government Resolution No. 140/2005) and Slovakia Competitiveness Strategy till 2010, Action Plans (adopted through the SR Government Resolution No. 557/2005)
- Slovakia National Sustainable Development Strategy (adopted through the SR Government Resolution No. 978/2001 and Resolution of the National Council of the SR 1989/2002) and Action Plan of Sustainable Development of the SR for 2005-2010 (adopted through the SR Government Resolution No. 574/2005)
- SR National Reform Programme for 2006-2008 (adopted through the SR Government Resolution No. 797/2005)
- Community Support Framework for 2004-2006 for Slovakia, final version of this document adopted by the Minister of Construction and Regional Development on 18 December 2003. The Official Decision of the European Commission C(2004)2001, adopting the CSF for Slovakia published on 18 June 2004
- Slovakia Territorial Development Perspective 2001 (STDP) adopted through the SR Government Resolution No. 1033/2001)

- SR National Education and Upbringing Programme - Millennium Project (MEd SR, 2004)
 - Slovakia National Biodiversity Protection Strategy (adopted through the SR Government Resolution No. 231/1997 and National Council of the SR Resolution No. 676/1997) and Updated Action Plan for Implementation of the Slovakia National Biodiversity Protection Strategy 2003-2010 (adopted through the SR Government Resolution No. 1209/2002)
 - Nature and Country Protection Perspective (adopted through the SR Government Resolution No. 471/2006)
- c) Strategic documents and policies of the Bratislava Self-Governing Region
- Development Strategy of the Bratislava Self-Governing Region (adopted by the Authority of the Bratislava Self-governing Region through Resolution No. 36/2003), Regional Development Section of the Bratislava Self-Governing Region, Bratislava 2003
 - Single Programming Document NUTS level 2 Bratislava Objective 2 for 2004-2006
 - Territorial Planning Scheme of the Bratislava Self-Governing Region and its changes and supplements (1998, 2003)
 - Current Conditions and Long-term Development Perspective of the Secondary Schools in the Establishers' Competences of the Bratislava Self-Governing Region, Authority of the Bratislava Self-Governing Region, Bratislava, 2003
 - Draft Perspective of Preservation of the Environment of the Bratislava Region, Slovak Environment Agency Banská Bystrica, Environment Regional Office Bratislava, 2006
 - Groundwork documentation for the provision of financing, renovation, reconstruction and maintenance of the roads and bridges in the territory of the Bratislava Self-Governing Region for 2005-2007, Regional Roads, 2005, Regional Innovation Strategy of the Bratislava Self-Governing Region, Bratislava Information Centre, Bratislava, 2005.

III. DESCRIPTION OF THE COURSE OF THE PREPARATION AND ASSESSMENT OF IMPACTS AND IMPACTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT OF THE STRATEGIC DOCUMENT

1. Material and time schedule of the preparation and assessment of impacts on the environment of the Strategic Document

The Ministry of Construction and Regional Development of the SR in cooperation with the Ministry of Environment of the SR ensured assessment of the effect of the Strategic Document. Assessment was implemented according to Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 June 2001 on the assessment of effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment (only as "Directive on SEA) and according to Act 24/2006 Coll. on the assessment of impacts on the environment and an amendment and supplementing so some act (only as "the Act").

Time schedule of the elaboration of documents:

- Operational Programme Bratislava Region 2007-2013 (draft) - December 2006
- Notification of the Strategic Document - August 2006
- Report on the assessment - December 2006
- Public discussion of the Report on the Assessment and draft Strategic Document OPBR - January 2007
- Final Position - February 2007

2. Authority competent to accept Strategic Document

The MCRD SR

3. Type of acceptance, decision

Approval by the MCRD SR

4. Elaboration of the Report on the Assessment

In December 2006, the company Consulting Associates, s. r. o., (a limited company seated at Uránová no. 2, 821 02 Bratislava) elaborated the Report on the Assessment of the Strategic Document OPBR.

5. Positions to the Report on the Assessment and their evaluation

In the course of assessing the Strategic Document, the MEnv SR obtained 25 positions in writing to the Report on the Assessment and to the draft Strategic Document from the following entities:

1. Ministry of Economy of the SR
2. Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the SR
3. Ministry of Defence of the SR, Tangible Asset Administration Office
4. Ministry of Culture of the SR
5. Ministry of Agriculture of the SR
6. Ministry of Interior Affairs of the SR
7. Ministry of Education of the SR
8. Ministry of Healthcare of the SR
9. Presidium of the Fire-Fighter and Rescue Corps
10. MEnv SR, environmental policy and foreign affairs section
11. MEnv SR, environmental programmes and projects section
12. MEnv SR, floods management and protection against floods dept.
13. MEnv SR, geology and natural resources section
14. MEnv SR, quality of the environment section, protection of the atmosphere department
15. MEnv SR, environmental risks management dept.
16. MEnv SR, protection of the nature and country section
17. Regional Office of Road Transport and Land Communications Bratislava
18. Regional Office of the Environment, protection of the nature and country dept., Bratislava
19. Slovak Environment Agency Banská Bystrica
20. Slovak Water Management Enterprise, development and ecology dept.
21. Magistrate of SR Capital Bratislava
22. Ministry of Environment, Hungary
23. Municipality Chorvátsky Grob
24. Bratislava Regional Protection Association, Bratislava
25. Society for Sustainable Development

No above mentioned entity was against approval of the Strategic Document OPBR. Comments arising from the submitted positions were in the course of assessment evaluated and the relevant comments were included into the draft OPBR.

6. Public discussion of the Report on the Assessment and the Strategic Document

The public discussion took place on 10 January 2007 at the Ministry of Construction and Regional Development of the SR in attendance of the mayors of the municipalities of the Bratislava Region, concerned authorities and organisations.

The attendants were informed at the beginning on the individual priority axes of the operational programme, its other objectives and steps of its approval.

Following, the Report on the Assessment and its results were presented. During discussion, questions were raised as well as comments, more aimed at the content of draft Strategic Document than to the Report of the Assessment of effects on the environment.

IV. OVERALL ASSESSMENT OF OBJECTIVES OF THE STRATEGIC DOCUMENT

Based on the assessment of the Operational Programme Bratislava Region 2007-2013, it is possible to state that its intentions give the assumptions and establish the conditions for a change required for the provision of sustainable development (SD), whereas:

1. Through the proposed priorities, objectives and concrete pilot projects, it supports a change in the recent unsustainable behaviour of citizens and entire society, in particular, in the field of protection of the rational use of waters, protection of the atmosphere, ozone layer, development of use of the renewable energy resources and regeneration of the natural environment and country.
2. Through the organisation of implementation of the OPBR, institutional conditions and openness for the public, it establishes conditions for application of the principles and criteria of SD at all the levels and in all the spheres of society.
3. Through proposing and implementing the process of monitoring, it ensures effective control mechanisms, motivates and supports observance of the ethical and moral principles.
4. Through the allocation and defining conditions for acquiring financial resources for individual activities, it motivates the citizen to responsibility for the quality of her/his life, the quality of life other members of community, where she/he lives, her/his municipalities, region, state, world and to the responsibility for respecting the rights of future generations.
5. It contains the effective instruments for enforcing of the positive changes and establishes conditions for the provision of SD, especially through the following:
 - Aiming of the priorities at the long-term objectives of development of entire society (so not only at selected interest groups) without negative environmental and social consequences,
 - Defining the mechanisms ensuring and controlling effectiveness of the allocated resources.
6. It anticipates establishing such capacity (institutional) provision that safeguards successful implementation of the environmental, social and economic goals of SD based on the principle of subsidiarity.
7. It suggests the priorities, objectives and supported activities in accordance with the superior strategic objectives defined in the European and national strategic documents and is in

- accordance with the objective of the optimising of long-term effects on the social, cultural, economic and environmental aspects.
8. It issues from the detailed analyses of the problematic situation on the level of the Bratislava Region.
 9. With its priorities it is balanced in terms of regeneration and recovery activities as well as in the perspective preventive activities, respecting in all the proposed activities the principle of increased precaution.
 10. Through its character it indirectly contributes to development of the democratic institutional instruments of management, through its transparency of the managing and monitoring institutions guarantees the access to information as from the side of media as well as from the side of the population, guaranteeing the equal rights of participation of all the citizens in the supported activities, regardless to their national, social, religion or other relevance, orientation and gender.
 11. The dominant application of the solidarity principle between generations and within the generations is followed through the aiming, as well as via the individual priority axes. Defining the target regions reflects the principle of solidarity between the regions.
 12. Though it is not directly aimed at the fields of human rights, through its organisational provision supports establishing the conditions for observing application of human rights, predominantly the right for life, right for equal access to education, services and jobs.

V. OVERALL ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPACTS OF THE STRATEGIC DOCUMENT ON THE PROTECTED BIRD SANCTUARIES, AREAS OF THE EUROPEAN SIGNIFICANCE OR NATURA 2000 SITES

Based on the results of the process of assessment it can be stated that the implementation and approval of the OPBR has not any significant effect on the proposed protected bird sanctuaries, the areas of European significance or the European system NATURA 2000.

Description of the impacts is possible only at the theoretical level, whereas in this stage we do not know the localities of implementation of the individual activities. From the point of view of the possible supported activities, it can be stated that except electromagnetic radiation effects there are no direct negative impacts in the given areas. Whereas the given territory is located predominantly in the free country, outside the settlements, it can be anticipated that the effect of implementation of the OPBR will not concern these areas because the separate priorities are bound to the settlements.

Indirect negative impacts can occur while not following the legislation regulations, predominantly in relation to the production and wastes from the facilities of the Bratislava Region, what the OPBR does not solve. Rather, indirect positive impacts can prevail there in relation to the increased interest of the citizens in the issue of the environment in the Bratislava Region what can result in an increasing public awareness on the issue of the protected localities.

In coordination with the OP Environment, this document can contribute to the completion of complex information systems of territorial management, including the protected areas, preparation and implementation of cross-border preservation programmes of the territory and cooperation in completion of the NATURA 2000 protected sites based on the comments of the European Commission and new knowledge.

VI. CONCLUSIONS

1. Result of the process of assessing the impacts on the environment of the Strategic Document

Based on the results of the process of assessment of the impacts on the environment of the OPBR according to provisions of the act, considering the conditions of use of the territory and load capacity of the natural environment, importance of the anticipated effects of the OPBR on the environment, protected areas and health of the population, from the view of their probability, cumulative effects, their extent and duration, with aiming predominantly at compliance with other strategic documents on the cross-border, national, regional and local levels, the level of processing the notification, positions to the notification, extent of the assessment and time schedule, the level of processing of Report on the Assessment, the result of public discussions and consultations and under the current condition of knowledge

it is recommended

to approve the Strategic Document titled: **Operational Programme Bratislava Region 2007-2013**, under the observation of the conditions given in section VI. "Consultation", clause 3 "Recommendations for re-elaboration, completion, arrangement of draft Strategic Document" of this Position with it that if the separate projects supported from the OPBR are subject to the process of assessment of effects on the environment according to Act, it shall be required to conduct their assessment of effects on the environment according to Act prior to approval them according to the specific regulations.

2. Recommended variant

It is recommended to approve the Operational Programme Bratislava Region 2007-2013, in the version being assessed according to Act and in the course of assessment adjusted from the view of the effects on the environment.

3. Recommendations for re-elaboration, completion, arrangement of the draft Strategic Document

Based on the result of the process of assessment of effects on the environment of the OPBR, the notification, the positions to the notification, extent of the assessment and time schedule, Report on the Assessment, public discussion and consultation, it implies that it is not required any re-elaboration, completion, arrangement of the draft Strategic Document. However, it is required to include into the OPBR a monitoring activity of the environmental indicators and the subsequent measures for ensuring the environmental optimality of the implementation of the Strategic Document as follows:

1. To ensure consistent implementation of the assessment of effects on the environment at the level of individual projects according to Act so that optimising of the selected solution is ensured together with their localisations, selection of environmental technologies, time and material subsequence of the individual implementation steps, as well as balance of the environmental, social and economic aspects of the projects implemented.

2. In selecting projects and in the course of implementing them, to follow consistently the aspect of sustainability of the supported activities and balance of the short-time and long-term impacts.
3. In selecting projects to follow balance of the local, regional and national effects of the projects.
4. To ensure transparency, including access to information in the whole process through announcing calls, selection and allocation of resources as well as monitoring and evaluation of the projects, individual priority axes and the programme while respecting protection of competition.
5. To include the environmental criteria into the overall system of evaluation and selection of projects.
6. To include into the overall system of evaluation and selection of projects the criteria respecting the protected areas and species according to Act 543/2002 Coll. on the protection of the nature and country as amended.
7. To carry out the system of environmental assessment of the projects with monitoring the effects of the implementation of the OPBR.
8. To ensure sufficient information for the applicants on the environmental issue and possible links of the submitted projects to the environment.
9. To increase effectiveness and to simplify administration of the preparation and implementation of the projects so they are accessible to the broader circle of addressees of assistance from the diverse regions, municipalities without specific requirements for their financial, technical and personnel capacities while simultaneously ensuring objectiveness of the selection and consistency of control.

4. Substantiation of the position to the assessment of effects on the environment of the Strategic Document

The position is elaborated according to Act based on the notification, the positions to the notification, extent of the assessment and time schedule, Report on the Assessment and the draft of the OPBR, public discussions and consultations.

In assessing the groundwork documentation and elaborating the position, it was proceeded according to the provisions of Act and the requirements of Directive SEA.

In recommending to approve the OPBR, there were considered the environmental, social and economic impacts on the cross-border, national, regional and local levels, as well as impacts on the rock environment, relief, mineral raw materials, geodynamic and geomorphologic phenomena, soil, local climate, atmosphere, surface and underground waters, noise conditions and other physical and biologic characteristics (e.g., vibrations, radioactive and electromagnetic radiations, light-technical conditions, heat and smell), on the gene pool, biodiversity, biota, ecologic stability, protected trees, protected areas according to Act 543/2002 Coll. on the protection of the nature and country as amended, country, its structure and use, scenery of the country, territorial system of ecological stability, population and its health, waste management, health risks, social and economic impacts and coherences, impairment of well-being and quality of life and their vulnerability, urban complex and use of land, culture and historic monuments, palaeontological and archaeological sites, structure of settlements, architecture of building, cultural values of intangible character, agricultural and industrial production, forestry, transport, buildings, activities, infrastructure, services, recreation and tourism.

It comes from the assessment of effects on the environment of the OPBR that the OPBR in the version assessed from the view of effects on the environment is acceptable from the view of overall (negative as well as positive, cumulative) effects on the environment.

With the assumption of implementation of the recommendations and consistent monitoring it is possible to minimise the prevailing part of anticipated as well as actually existing negative effect of the OPBR implementation.

The Report on the Assessment has specified, described, evaluated and quantified all the significant effects of the OPBR on the environment and health of the population. The most significant effects of the OPBR on the environment reflect in the solutions of transport, rate of built up, treatment of waste waters and waste management. This is due to the fact that the Bratislava Region is significantly urbanised with the large concentration of the population and production enterprises. According to the sustainable development strategy, the effects of the OPBR are specified in the economic, social and environmental fields and their potential effects and their possible impacts assessed on the environment and health of the population in case of implementation of the OPBR.

The trend of improving the environment in links to the implementation of the OPBR is intensified with the growing time. Implementation of the OPBR demonstrates through the moderate improvement of the conditions of the environment in the long-term time horizon.

The current status of legislation covers the all non-favourable effects of the OPBR on the environment. Legislation as such, and the commenced trend of its becoming strict, effects actively on the reduction of all the negative effects on the environment and health of the population.

5. Proposal for monitoring

Pre every OP within three months since its approval by the European Commission a **Monitoring Committee** should be established. The goal of the MC is to achieve effectiveness, efficiency and quality of the implementation of the programme. The main tasks of the MC in accordance with Article 65 of General Regulation are the following:

- to approve the criteria of selecting projects (within six months since the approval of the OP) and their possible revision,
- to consider and to approve proposals for amendment and supplementing to the content of the operational programme,
- to examine regularly the results of the implementation of the programme, predominantly achievement of goals of the operational programme and evaluations,
- to consider and to approve annual and final reports on the implementation of the programme prior submitting them to the EC,
- to receive information on the annual control report, or its section related to the OP and on the all important comments that the EC can rise after reviewing it,
- to be able to propose anytime the MA any revision or reviewing the OP that could enable to reach the goals of the respective fund or to improve management of the OP, including financial management.

The Monitoring Committee from the view of monitoring and assessment of effects on the implementation of the Operational Programme must ensure following:

- a) proposal and approval of the criteria for selecting projects and assessment of progress and rate of achievement of objectives of the projects implementing the Operational Programme so that the long-term, synergic effects of implementation of the projects in observing the principle of effectiveness, including environmental effects are evaluated;
- b) regularly evaluate progress in achieving concrete goals of the operational programme as a whole and its dividing into the priority axes;
- c) monitoring the impacts on the environment.

The Procurer of the Strategic Document is obliged according to Act on the assessment of effects on the environment, to ensure monitoring and assessment of the effects of the adopted OPBR on the environment, or to use for this purpose the existing monitoring so to prevent duplicity of monitoring. Monitoring and assessment of the effects of the OPBR on the environment vests in the systematic monitoring and assessment of its effects, evaluation of its effectiveness, provision of professional comparison of anticipated effects given in the Report on the Assessment and the actual conditions.

If the Procurer finds out that the actual impacts of the OPBR on the environment, assessed according to Act, are worse than it is given in the Report on the Assessment, it is obliged to ensure measures for their mitigation and concurrently to ensure amendment, supplementing or re-elaboration of the OPBR.

From the view of the monitoring and assessment of the effects of implementation of the OPBR, its priority axes, selection and implementation of concrete projects supported from the OPBR, it is required to ensure the following:

- proposal and approval of the criteria for selecting projects and assessment of progress and rate of achievement of goals of the projects implementing the Strategic Document so that, in particular, the long-term, synergic, cumulative impacts of implementation of the projects are evaluated, while observing the principles of sustainable development, including environmental impacts,
- processing and publishing of the monitoring reports, as well as results of monitoring and interim effects of the implementation of the OPBR,
- connecting of the system of monitoring to the system of selection and evaluation of projects with using environmental criteria.

VII. CERTIFICATION OF CORRECTNESS OF THADATA

1. Processors of the position

Ministry of Environment of the SR
Dept. of assessment of impacts on the environment
Ing. Milan Luciak

2. Certification of correctness of the data

Ing. Viera Husková
Department Director

Dept. of assessment of impacts on the environment
Ministry of Environment of the SR

3. Place and time of issuing the position

Bratislava on 26 February 2007

Annex 5C

C. Position paper of Ministry of environment of SR on the recent version of the Operational Programme Bratislava Region



MINISTRY OF ENVIROMENT
OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC

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Ministry of Construction
and Regional Development of the
Slovak Republic
Regional Development Support
Agency
Prievozská 2/B
825 25 B r a t i s l a v a

Your letter No. /as of

Our No.
1442/07-3.4/ml

Prepared by
Ing. Luciak

Bratislava
18. 10. 2007

Subject: Recent version of the Operational Programme the Bratislava Region – statement

We received the letter from October 1 , 2007 based on which you asked for our statement concerning reviewing the current version of the „**Operational Programme the Bratislava Region**“ and its impacts on the enviroment in accordance with Act No. 24/2006 Coll. On reviewing the impacts on enviroment and on the changes and amendments of some acts (hereinafter „act“). „The Operational Programme the Bratislava Region“ has been reviewed from the point of view of the impacts on enviroment in accordance to Act in the year of 2007 and the possitive statement No. 8165/2006-7.3/ml from February 26, 2007 has been issued.

Within this letter it is stated that some changes have been executed in the current version as follows:

- the activities focused on the antiflood protection have been eliminated because they will be financed by the Cohesion Fund within the Operational Programme Enviroment.

- from the Priority axis 1 „Infrastructure“ some activities from the Measure 1.2 *Investments into the environment protection support* have been transferred to the Priority axis 2 „Knowledge-based Economy“, Measure 2.1 *Innovations and technological transfers*;
- the activities focused on atmosphere and ozone zone protection have been included;
- the activities focused on interventions into the protected localities including NATURA 2000 have been transferred into the Priority axis 1 „Infrastructure“, Measure 1.1 *Regeneration of the Settlements*
- the activities focused on reducing the negative impacts of the regional public transport on environment have been transferred

Modifications represent increasing the positive impacts on environment. Concerning the modifications supplementing the atmosphere protection brings the positive contributions to the environment protection as well as the activities focused on construction of equipment producing energy from the renewable sources, mainly the small water power stations, equipment for use of biomass, biogas and etc.

Modifications in the Priority axis 1 „Infrastructure“ will help to preserve and renovate nature heritage, preserve the natural status of the country, species and biotopes and will lead to the general improvement of the environmental and cultural values of the territory.

Based on the consistent study of the mentioned reports /transfers/ and taking into account the expected impacts on environment it is possible to conclude that the modifications which were done are not so crucial in content of „the Operational Programme the Bratislava Region“ that it will be necessary to make a new reviewing according to the Act and therefore the current version „ **The Operational Programme the Bratislava region**“ is not a subject of reviewing in accordance to the Act.

Sincerely yours

Ing. Oleg Havasi
Director of the Department
of Reviewing the Impacts
on Environment

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