

Annex 4 Working Group for Preparation of the OPBR

List of members of the Working Group for Preparation of the OPBR

No.	Organisation/institution	Number of representatives
1.	Ministry of Construction and Regional Development of the SR	4
2.	Ministry of Transport, Posts and Telecommunications of the SR	1
3.	Ministry of Environment of the SR	1
4.	Ministry of Economy of the SR	1
5.	Ministry of Finance of the SR	2
6.	Ministry of Education of the SR	1
7.	Bratislava Self-Governing Region	2
8.	Slovakia Towns and Municipalities Association	1
9.	Slovak Commercial and Industrial Chamber	1
10.	SR Capital Bratislava	2
11.	Community of Sustainable Life in the SR Development	1
12.	Republic Union of Employers	1
Total		18

Overview of the meetings of the Working Group for preparation of the OPBR

6 June 2006

- Subject of the meeting was to establish WG and to present the conditions of processing document. The WG members were informed on the way of cooperation with the MA for the OPBR. All comments and proposals of the members could be raised either in writing or orally directly during the meeting. In addition, the representatives of the *ex ante* evaluator and those who processed SEA, representing there a time schedule of the given evaluations participated in the WG meetings. Based on the SR Government Resolution No. 457/2006, the priority axis 2 Knowledge-based Economy was shifted to the OP Knowledge-based Economy from the OPBR but the WG members did not agree with it in principle. Representatives of the MA for the OPBR presented the need to reconsider the OP in accordance with the valid SR Government Resolution and to set out a demarcation line between assistance from the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund. The WG members were called for submitting proposals for options of support from the OPBR.
- After the meeting of the WG, the processors of the OPBR communicated with the WG members personally in the course of processing the analytic section of the document. By 15 June 2006, when the inter-resort commenting proceedings to the OPBR started, no groundwork documents were delivered to the MA for the OPBR that would effect the proposed aiming of the priority axis Infrastructure. The BSR expressed its disagreement with exclusion of the priority axis Knowledge-based Economy from the OPBR. Document passed through the inter-resort commenting proceedings. The WG members, the addressed entities and the public had the options to raise their comments to the documents till 20 June 2006. The OPBR was modified based on the submitted comments.

26 June 2006

- The meeting was held after termination of the inter-resort commenting proceedings. The WG members were familiarised with the OPBR document which should have been submitted to the session of the SR Government by 30 June 2006¹. Concurrently, the WG members were called for, if they had some comments to the document which they had not applied during the inter-resort commenting proceedings, to complete the document except for the principal amendment that could effect a change in the priority axis aiming. Till 30 June 2006, no comments were submitted to the MA for the OPBR concerning the submitted document. The OPBR was submitted to the SR Government session without conflicts.

27 July 2006

- Subject of the meeting were the amendments to the OPBR, arising from the prepared updating of the NSRF. The representatives of the MA for the OPBR presented the efforts of the MCRD SR aimed at including the priority axis 2 Knowledge-Based Economy back into the OPBR and to increase financial allocations for the OPBR with which the WG members agreed.
- The representative of the ME SR responded to the call for submitting groundwork documents to the priority axis 2 Knowledge-based Economy, delivering the groundwork documents concerning the support of SME. These documents were included into the OPBR. The Magistrate of SR Capital Bratislava delivered the groundwork documents on modernisation and development of the 2nd and 3rd class roads related to the analyses of the current situation and concrete proposals for solving the issues. The given groundwork documents were included into the OPBR² as well. In the course of processing a new version of the OPBR, the groundwork documents of the MEd SR and the MEnv SR were used related to the state of R & D and state of the environment of the SR. In the course of processing the measure Development of Environmental Infrastructure, the processors of the OPBR and the MA for the OPBR closely cooperated with the MEnv SR in determining demarcation lines between support from the ERDF and the CR, whereas the OPBK supports only such fields of support for the environment that cannot be supported from the ERDF within the OP Environment.

15 November 2006

- Based on the updating NSRF, the OPBR was re-elaborated. Subject of the meeting was the presentation of version of OPBR which was submitted to the inter-resort commenting proceedings (the OP comprised of three priority axes; financial allocation from the ERDF represented EUR 82 mill.; in the course of the inter-resort commenting proceedings, this amount was increased to EUR 87 mill.). The WG members presented their comments directly at the meeting. Comments related to the concrete data in the document which were afterwards included by the processors of the OPBK. The WG members were called for submitting comments to this document.
- In the course of the inter-resort commenting proceedings, other comments were submitted to the MA for the OPBR by the WG members, addressed entities and other organisations. The relevant comments were included into the document. The conflict proceedings took place covering the comments of essential character. Comments submitted after deadline of termination of the inter-resort commenting proceedings were not taken into consideration³. The document was submitted for the Government session without conflicts

¹ Document comprised of one thematic priority axis Infrastructure and one horizontal priority axis Technical Assistance.

² The measure Modernisation and Development of the 2nd and 3rd Class Roads was removed from the OPBR based on the non-formal technical consultations with the EC held in January 2007.

³ See Directive of the SR Government for submission of documents for the Government discussion.

on the stated term. Overview of the inter-resort commenting proceedings to the given document is published on website of the SRGO.

5 February 2007

- Subject of the meeting was the information on the results of technical consultations with the EC to the draft OPBR, approved on 6 December 2006 through the SR Government Resolution No. 1013/2006, submitted to the EC in December 2006. Based on the interim position of the EC to the document, the representatives of the MA for the OPBR highlighted the groups of activities which from the view of the EC are not eligible for co-financing from the ERDF (school infrastructure, modernisation and development of the 2nd and 3rd class roads). The WG members did not agree with the removal of given activities from the OPBK, they pointed out on the unsatisfactory technical conditions of school buildings and the risk of increase of accidents and reduction of permeability of the main transport nodes. The members were called for that if they have arguments on substantiality of these activities, then they should submit them or to submit groundwork documents to the aim of the MA for the OPBR for including activities focused on support of public transport into the OPBR. The MA for the OPBR informed the WG members on necessity to re-elaborate the OP in the course of February 2007 so that it could be send to the EC in accordance with the General Regulation till 6 March 2007⁴. The WG members were informed on the deadline of submission of their comments by 9 February 2007.
- Till the approved deadline, no groundwork documents were submitted to the MA for the OPBR. In the course of February, the groundwork documents from the Magistrate of SR Capital Bratislava and from the company Bratislavská integrovaná doprava, s.r.o. which had been delivered during February 2007, they were included into the new group of activities Regional and Urban Public Transport. The comments of the Society for Sustainable Life in the Slovak Republic related to the cycle tracks were included into the section Regeneration of Settlements within arrangements of public concourses. The comments from the BSR, delivered to the MA for the OPBR on 1 March 2007, were not included into the OPBR with respect to the character and term of delivery.

13 March 2007

- Subject of the meeting was a presentation of changes which were included into the final version of the OPBR comparing to draft document which was adopted and approved by the Government in 2006. The WG members were interested in the way of implementing the OPBR which was not clearly described in the document. The WG members pointed out that the documents should concretely give the competences with that the MA for the OPBR counts for the BSR⁵. No duties were implied for the MA for the OPBR from the meeting, neither for the WG members.

22 May 2007

- Subject of the meeting was an information on comments to the OPBR document sent by the EC on 30 April 2007. The WG members were informed on the terms of meetings to the individual measures of the OPBR. The purpose of such meetings is to set out the highest priorities of support among the OPBR, determining demarcation lines between operational programmes and defining the territorial, thematic and financial concentration of contributions.

⁴ Based on the time schedule of submission of OP to the SFC 2007, elaborated by the CCA, the term for submission of the OPBR was set on 2 March 2007.

⁵ In the time of submission of the document to the EC, the MA for the OPBR counted with cooperation of the BSR in evaluation and approval of projects and participation of the BSR in the selection commissions and in Monitoring Committee.

- After the WG meeting, another meeting took place with the WG members and the relevant resorts to the particular topics. Based on these meetings and delivered groundwork documents, the operational programme was re-elaborated to the current version⁶.

25 May 2007

- Subject of the first of the given working meetings on 25 May 2007 was the solution of the issue of financing the Regional Innovation Centre (“the RIC”) in the Bratislava Region based on the common consensus of the representative of concerned Ministries, Authority of the BSR, and the MA for the OPBR within the second priority axis Innovations and Informatisation. With respect to the proposal of the representatives of the MA for the OPBR, Authority of the BSR and the ME SR to finance/implement the RIC through the OP Research and Development, the representatives of the MEd SR promised to inform on the given issue the Minister of this resort. Following, the Minister of Education expressed through his letter the doubts about possible support for the RIC in the BSR from the OPRD. The given issue is now supported by the European Commission what has the favourable impact on its solution in favour of the RIC in the BSR financed from the OPRD.

28 May 2007

- The second meeting took place aimed at the measure 1.1 Regeneration of Settlements of the priority axis Infrastructure, specifically aimed at the complex renovation of settlements. The representatives of the MA for the OPBR, the Authority of the BSR, the CCA, the Magistrate of SR Capital Bratislava and the Slovakia Towns and Municipalities Association attended this meeting. The goal was to identify the most problematic areas in the town of Bratislava and its urban parts as well as other towns of the BSR meeting the criteria and characteristics that will be defined in accordance with the EC Regulations. Based on the groundwork documents sent by the participants for elaborating the criteria, the above mentioned localities within the target territory will be defined later on.

29 May 2007

- The third meeting took place attended by the representatives of the MA for the OPBR with the BSR, the MF SR and the SR Government Office with an aim to set out demarcation lines between the OP Informatisation of Society and the OPBR as well as to consider options of using the JEREMIE fund in financing projects within the measure 2.2 Informatisation of Society of the OPBR. The demarcation lines were interim set out between the OPIS and the OPBR but it is required to organize another meeting for their final correction. As the MA for the OPBR as well the MA for the IS allocated the financial resources for guaranteed funds and venture capital funds for support of the projects within the initiative JEREMIE. As input for the analytical part of the OP, we received the data from the SRGO.

30 May 2007

- Another meeting with the representatives of the concerned resorts and the Authority of the BSR took place. The MA for the OPBR in cooperation with the MEnv SR discussed the financing and appointed the eligible beneficiaries for the measure 1.2 Environment and Protection of Nature of the OPBR, and set out the clear demarcation lines with the OP Environment. Following, the MEnv SR provided groundwork documents for the processing a concerned section of the OPBR.

⁶ The following submitted their groundwork documents: BSR, Magistrate of SR Capital Bratislava, MEnv SR, BIC, s.r.o.,

31 May 2007

- The representatives of the concerned resorts, the CCA, the Authority of the BSR, SR Capital Bratislava, as well as the company Bratislavská integrovaná doprava s.r.o. met for the last time to complete the OPBR; specifically the measure 1.3 Regional and Urban Transport of the OPBR. At this meeting, demarcation lines were set out preliminarily between the OP Transport, the OP Environment and the OPBR and their precise setting will be resolved at following meetings. The participants discussed also the issue of the way of implementation of this measure within the priority axis Infrastructure. The priority activities for the Authority of the BSR and the Magistrate of SR Capital Bratislava were taken in to consideration in re-elaboration of the subject theme in the OPBR.

June and July 2007

- Further bilateral meetings took place with the representatives of individual resorts and involved parties participated according to partnership with the goal to redefine limitation and final completion of supported activities of separate measure of priority axes and demarcation lines between the operational programmes. These meetings took place also for the purpose to harmonise the needs of the BSR with the Magistrate of SR Capital Bratislava - within the limits of the EC Regulations for withdrawal of assistance from the Structural Funds - the ERDF.