



Slovakia and Structural Funds

Developed by

Lenka Kamenicka
Regional Manager
Business Research and Development
External Funding



- ➔ **Accession into EU – the challenge for Slovak Republic**
- ➔ **Structural Funds - the opportunity for Slovak Republic**
- ➔ **Overview of “Best practices” from EU 15 Countries**
- ➔ **How to be “the best” between EU 10**

Accession into EU – the challenge for Slovak Republic



→ To become part of EU this is **NOT** only about “Money”

➤ *Pre-accession funds, Structural Funds, Cohesion Funds, Community Initiatives, ...*

→ This is the **Challenge and Opportunity** for each Accession Country.

Why?



→ it means to fulfill agreed conditions between EU and Slovakia before the Accession date

➤ ***it means to prepare people to handle :***

- new administrative processes & procedures
- to understand EU Community Law and its implications
- to speak foreign languages
- to be able to compete on EU single market
- to be “mobile” within EU single market

➤ ***it means for state to have enough money to co-finance the projects***

➤ ***it means to be able to cope with constant “Change” on EU market***

➔ On the other hand – How can Accession country benefit from EU membership ?

➤ *Structural Funds, Cohesion Funds, Community Initiatives, ...*

- *Can finance priority areas agreed between EU and Slovakia*
- *Can develop Regions to the EU level*
- *Can develop Regions in Slovakia to the comparable level*
- *Can support Innovative Trends and results transfer into Businesses*
- *Can empower Regions*
- *Can empower Citizens*
- *Can transfer “Best practices” from EU 15 countries*
- *Can support transparent processes within state administration*
- *Can speed-up education of whole population*
- *Can support country attractiveness for foreign investments and tourism*
- *Can support functioning Public Private partnership*

→ Today exists **opportunity**

→ How to **catch** this opportunity ?

→ How to **be the best** from Accession Countries ?

- *Timing is crucial – all 10 new Member States chasing the same opportunity, similar investment.*
- *Priorities for EU investment from country to country replicate similar themes (e.g. stimulation of Competitiveness, Development of Regions, tourism, inward investment,....).*
- *Financing is crucial and can often lead to bottlenecks, innovative solutions need to developed, maximize private investment is crucial.*

→ **Conclusion - Slovakia will have to be up and running and ahead of the competition **in time****

→ **HOW** to do it?

- **INNOVATION** to learn from the experiences in the EU 15 over 20 years of Structural funds support - success and failure to draw from
- to complement Structural Funds
- **MAXIMIZE private investment**
 - new Regulations under way e.g. to support CAP reform in all EU 25 – re-shift of Structural Funds to support Farmers,
 - to support spending of Structural Funds on Information and Communications technologies – spread up Broadband
- To concentrate on priorities and make them a Success

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→ Learn from the experiences in the EU 15 over 20 years of Structural funds support means

➤ to learn from by EU recognized **“best practices”**

Projects

- *Leverage a partnership with the EU 15 implementing best practice solutions across EU*
- *To cooperate on projects with a knowledge partners transferring know how from EU 15 and by doing so to maximize the impact of structural funds*

→ **BUSINESS PARK, SCIENCE PARK, TECHNOLOGY CENTRE**

- *Campus Arvika, Sweden,*
- *NOVI Science Park, Denmark*
- *Technology Center Eisenstadt, Austria*
- *The Adelphi Training and Employment Center, United Kingdom*
- *Science and Technology Park in Heraklion, Greece*
- *Technology Park of Andalusia and Zamudio, Spain*
- *National Conference Center, Ireland*

→ **What they offer**

- *Office services, Outsourcing services, Conference services, Videoconferencing services, Exploitation of innovative ideas and their commercialisation (with Funding), Provide investment for resident companies and start-ups, Training services, Organizes Conferences, Provide Information, ...*

→ **Who are residents**

- *SME's, Start-ups, Consulting firms, Leading companies from the IT & Communication Sector, Universities, R&D companies*



→ **E-LEARNING CENTRE/CAMPUS, TRAINING CENTRE**

- *C2K Centre for Innovation, Northern Ireland*
- *University of the Highlands and Islands, United Kingdom*
- *Project Kontur, Sweden*
- *University-Enterprise of Region Murcia, Spain*



→ **What they offer**

- *Virtual classroom through country for primary, secondary schools, Universities, teachers, Classroom with high-tech equipment and content, Specialised training services, Distance learning and training, Multimedia learning, Live-long Training, Videoconferencing, Problem solving services, Various information sources for reports, investigations, surveys, researches, Support of business development by advice and training,*

→ **How it is organized**

- *Individual Centre or multiple Connected Campuses*

→ LOCAL ADMINISTRATION ON-LINE - Example

➤ *Project Averio, Portugal*

→ What is the purpose

➤ *To connect Administrative divisions and Create Internet centres of Municipalities in order to provide various kind of Local Administration services on-line – e.g. local information, telemedicine, health centres, clinic services,*



→ **NATIONAL TOURISM PROJECT - Example**

➤ *National Tourism Strategy, Ireland*

→ **What was covered**

➤ *Tourism Development Strategy for East Belfast & Borough of Coleraine, Business Enhancement Plan for the Tourism Sector in the Derry City, Audit of Overseas Marketing Expenditure for Ireland’s Tourism & Overseas Tourism Marketing Initiative, Evaluation of Classification of Tourist Accommodation, Feasibility study for Cruise Tourism in Dublin, Hotel/Visitor Attraction Development, Tourism Training Program for Community Leaders, Passenger Trend Analysis for Air & Sea Routes to / From Ireland.*



→ **FARM ADVISORY SYSTEM EXAMPLES**

- *Agroffice solution, Austria*
- *Proagria solution, Finland*



→ **What services are provided to farmers**

- *Planning of cultivation and harvesting, Economical calculation models to boost revenues/margins, Collect information on different parts of the arable land, Business planning & accounting at farms, Weather Forecast, EU Subsidy Claims, Various documentation, GPS localization with map, other advisory services.*

How to be “the best” between EU 10



NDP strategic objective

To ensure such GDP growth that the Slovak Republic by 2006 would achieve a level exceeding 50 % of the GDP per capita average in the EU countries

Specific objectives

To increase competitiveness of industry and services

To develop human resources and increase their adaptability

To increase efficiency of agricultural production and quality of life in rural areas

To support balanced regional development

Priorities

Growth of competitiveness of industry and services

Employment growth based on qualified and flexible workforce

Multifunctional agriculture and rural development

Development of transport, environmental and local infrastructures

Operational programmes

Human Resources
OP

Industry and Services
OP

Basic Infrastructure
OP

Agriculture And Rural Development
OP

How to be “the best” between EU 10



→ Priority - Growth of Competitiveness of Industry and Services

➤ *To build Business Parks in Regions*

→ Priority – Employment growth based on qualified and flexible workforce

➤ *To create e-Learning concept, e-Learning Campuses*

→ Priority – Multifunctional agriculture and rural development

➤ *To build Farm Advisory system at Regional, National level*

→ Development of transport, environmental and local infrastructure

➤ *To construct and refurbish tourism infrastructure, create tourism products and Marketing strategy for promotion, Create Tourism Information System and Databases using New technologies and Internet*

→ HEWLETT PACKARD (HP) as you probably do not know

➤ *HP has the Government and Public Affairs office in Brussels*



- Contributing towards Policy management and Political positioning by ongoing review of EU procurement legislation

- Privacy law, Environmental protection, Copyright levies

➤ *Leadership in EU Trade Associations (EICTA, ...)*

→ HP is contributing towards European Research Area

➤ *Examples of Research and Technology Development Projects financed under Fifth Framework Programs*

- Learning in a Mobile Environment – **MobiLearn**
- Mobile Health Care - **MobiHealth**
- Computer-Aided Solutions to Secure Electronic Commerce Transactions - **Casenet**

How to be “the best” between EU 10



- HP as knowledge partner
- HP as networking partner
- HP as local partner
- HP as potential co-financer

→ **LOOKING FORWARD FOR THE COOPERATION !!!**



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