Poverty Report, Slovakia
"Poverty Report 2023 - Slovakia"

The fact that Slovakia is the second poorest country in the EU after Bulgaria must be a wake-up call, not a reason for our politicians to be confused.

Although the concept of purchasing power parity has several imperfections, they are not the cause of biased comparison between countries.

In the second decade of the century, the growth dynamics in SK slowed down compared to comparable countries, and the average GDP growth rate in the years 2011-2021 reached 2.1%, while the entire region of Central Europe and the Baltics grew by 2.9%. With a salary of 500 euros per month, the average Bulgarian can only afford 59% of what the average EU resident can afford. This was shown by the latest Eurostat statistics on the comparison of GDP per capita even after taking prices into account. However, Slovakia appeared right behind the Balkans in the ranking. This has fallen quite sharply in recent years. While in 2011 it was the third strongest economy in the Central and Eastern European region after Slovenia and the Czech Republic, in 2022 it fell to the second weakest rank. The approach of the Slovak economy to the EU average has therefore slowed significantly since 2011.

Decrease in purchasing power

According to the data of the EU Statistical Office, our gross domestic product per capita in purchasing power parity reached 78% of the EU average in 2011, the highest this indicator was in 2015, when it represented a level of 78%. However, the latest estimate by Eurostat showed that in 2022 we fell to 67%. Slovakia was therefore overtaken by all three Baltic countries, neighboring Hungary and Poland, and even Romania, Croatia and Greece. Only Bulgaria is worse than us.

Finlord company analyst Boris Tomčiak recently stated for HN that Slovakia’s economic lagging in the last 10 years was mainly caused by a lack of investment in business development or infrastructure. "An example is non-deliverable highways and expressways. The expenses of the old-age insurance fund, from which SP pays old-age and early retirement pensions, amounted to 7.3 billion euros last year.

Expenditures of SP for paying pensions increased by 254 million euros, with the largest increase in old-age pensions (SITA Financie.sk). While in 2021 the insurance company spent 8.02 billion euros on pension payments, last year it was 8.27 billion euros. This follows from the SP report for 2022.

Retirement pensions increased by 8 thousand year-on-year. Disability pensions were paid out by SP 3.3 thousand less year-on-year.

Minimum pensions were unfrozen from July, the amount was determined in the old way.
Minimum pension increased in October 2023 by 15 - 30 euros.

Social insurance granted almost 100,000 pensions last year, old-age pensions had the largest increase (SITA financie.sk). Compared to 2011, there was an increase of 1.4 thousand newly granted pensions.

The Social Insurance Company spent 14.4 million euros more on its activities last year than the year before. The insurance company's capital expenditures last year amounted to almost 6.7 million euros.

Sociálna poisťovňa/Social Insurance reported 616 million euros more income compared to the annual plan. The debts of the hospitals towards the Social Insurance Company reached 217 million euros (SITA zdravotnictvo.sk). An increase in receivables due to non-payment of monthly contributions was registered by the SP at seven medical facilities under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Health.

487,000 pensioners are below the poverty line.

After inflation is taken into account, according to the Union of Pensioners, any pensioner who has less than approximately EUR 490 per month is at risk of poverty. They calculated that there are more than 600,000 of them in Slovakia, including disabled pensioners and homeless seniors.

The pensioners are asking for another, extraordinary valorization this year. Even if there will be no further valorization of pensions this year, many will still receive more money. The new law unfreezed minimum pensions in July, which have not changed since 2020.

"On the one hand, we had an 11.8% increase in all pensions, i.e. old-age, disability and widow's pensions, on the other hand, pension inflation reached 17% at the end of 2022. We
are still at the level of 366,000 old-age pensions paid below the poverty line, which is every the third senior out of the 1.1 million seniors in Slovakia" said Martin Halás from IVRA.

"For the severely disabled, it is more than 85%, that means 210,000 disabled pensioners are paid below the poverty line. In addition, we still have more than 70,000 people who have not met the eligibility requirements, but are seniors, that is, people over 62 who do not receive old-age pensions", added Halás.

All those affected are over 600,000, concluded the IVRA representative in response to the postponement, or last year’s non-acceptance of the required special valuation and non-freezing of minimum pensions.

Half a euro per day - on 28 February 2023, the chairman of the Pensioners' Union of Slovakia, Mr. Michal Kotian at a joint press conference with the Institute for Socio-Economic Risk Research (IVRA).

Pensioners below the poverty line are left with about 50 cents a day after paying bills and medicine!

There are roughly 487,000 people living on a pension that is below the poverty line. These are those who have a lower pension than 423 euros, Kotian said. "We recalculated how much such a pensioner earns per day. If he pays e.g. medicine, heat, apartment, water, electricity, so he has about 50 cents left for the day", he calculated.

Minimum pensions were unfrozen from July and they will increase according to the rate of inflation according to the newly approved law. If pension inflation exceeds 5%. This amendment will be effective from 1.1. 2024. The aim is to enable an automatic response to an extraordinary increase in consumer prices in relation to recipients of pension benefits. The intention is to more accurately take inflation into account for the proper annual valuation of pensions.

The second change in the amendment is that pensions can be increased at any time during the year if the price increase for pensioners' households exceeds 5% from the immediately preceding pension increase. In that case, the Statistical Office (ŠÚ) of the Slovak Republic will immediately notify the Social Insurance Company of the detected pension inflation. The insurance company should start paying higher pensions two months after the announcement. Pension increases on January 1st will always be against the benefit paid on January 1st of the previous year, not the benefit increased during the year.

Pensions were unfrozen this year. Thus, the linking of the minimum pension to the amount of the subsistence minimum was re-introduced into the law. This change was effective from the beginning of July this year.

Very important is mental health of seniors. Many of them are depressed from various reasons, for example solitude, no or weak contact with their children, grand-children, family members. Other side
as told us 80 years teacher in pension: "we live in EU in dignity, comfortable life. It can't be compared with ancient socialistic time, when there was no basic food, during winter time only carrot, parsley, potatoes, onion in the shop. No oranges, no bananas, no other forest fruits, exotic fruits, vegetables. We had to wait hours during winter time outside shop to be open, because food, meat, bread, milk was limited. People today need humility." If EU and national government will be not focused more at strengthening of physical and mental health, on mental training, mental hygiene, depressions, suicides, fears, aggression will increase.

The current crisis is also reflected in the negative change in the personal monthly income of Slovaks. Its decrease compared to the beginning of last year was declared in November by almost a third of respondents aged 18-60. This follows from a survey by the Focus agency, which it prepared for mBank.

7% of respondents lost all or almost all of their income, 9% of respondents lost most of it and 15% said that they lost a smaller part of their personal monthly income. On the contrary, the income of approximately half of Slovaks did not change. Less than a fifth achieved an even higher income last year. The results of the survey showed that the personal monthly income decreased especially for people who come from low-income households. As the sociologist and director of the Focus agency Martin Slosiarik added, the current crisis is hitting those households that had deeper pockets before it. According to him, these are often people who have a lower education and work in less qualified professions, which is also related to their lower personal income.

"These households so often get into a carousel of financial problems, from which they can hardly get out without help," states Slosiarik.

The financial reserve is a big problem

According to him, the good news is that, compared to the previous ones, the reduction of personal monthly income has a decreasing tendency. Conversely, increasing personal monthly income gradually increases. The survey also showed that almost a third of Slovaks have no financial reserves. However, the percentage of Slovaks who currently have saved funds has slightly increased compared to the previous survey.

60% of Slovaks changed their financial behavior during the past year. Most often, by limiting their expenses. More than a third of those surveyed in November said they started spending less money compared to the beginning of the year. Another 18% started saving regularly and 12% had to reach into their savings. 8% of respondents started investing in funds, 4% canceled some type of insurance and 3% took out new life or non-life insurance.

A representative quantitative survey by the Focus agency for mBank was conducted in November 2022 among the online population of the Slovak Republic between the ages of 18 and 60. The sample was 920 respondents.
Energy crisis

Households have advantageous conditions compared to Europe.

Households have increased energy costs by up to 16% compared to last year. They were all protected. There was no difference between those who could handle a certain increase and households that are at risk and would really need help. However, there was a lack of a motivational factor in reducing energy consumption, claims analyst Andrej Lednár from Prvá Energetická in an interview with Pravda daily. (journalist Tomáš Bakoš, 13 January 2023)

The increase in energy prices significantly affected 44% of Slovaks, who try to compensate for it by limiting side expenses, especially on entertainment and various leisure activities. 45% of Slovak households make efforts to reduce consumption and use alternative resources.

The survey, which was carried out by the agency Stem/Mark for the company Kruk Czech and Slovak Republic, also showed that every tenth Slovak household has not yet been affected by the increase in electricity and gas prices.

For comparison

Butter is a sensitive product for consumers. Its increase in price will be felt by every household, as many dishes are made from it. In January 2023, according to the European Statistical Office, the year-on-year price increase was highest in Hungary - by up to 77%. In Slovakia by more than 20% in one year, reports Dominika Cillíková, Pravda daily, 28/02/2023. The price of butter in Austria is around 3.09 euros. On sale 2.39 euros. Outside of Slovakia, the price of butter varies by country. It depends on whether the food is on sale or not. Somewhere the price is below two euros in Ireland and Poland as well. On the contrary, in Austria, Malta and Greece, it is apparently difficult to find a price below two euros for a lump of butter. The price of butter in the EU rose the most in Hungary, followed by Sweden, Slovenia, Austria, and Belgium. At least in Switzerland. Source Eurostat.

Some chains have put a ceiling on food prices. "It is a marketing tool of the competition, aimed at supporting the sale of almost exclusively foreign foods" - said Jana Kuklová, spokeswoman for the Slovak COOP Jednota network. Butter in Bill dropped from 3.99 euros in a discount to 1.95 euros. On the other hand, Slovak Koliba butter is not subject to any promotion and costs 2.89 euros. Billa butter is sold for 3.09 euros and Liptov Slovak butter for 3.99 euros. From Slovak suppliers, butter is priced from 1.69 euros to 1.99 euros in the Slovak Jednota Coop network. Under the brand Traditional quality. In Kaufland, Czech Lactos butter is offered for 2.39 euros. Other butter For the love of traditions fell from 3.09 euros by 35% to 2 euros. According to the Slovak Statistical Office, the consumption of butter in Slovakia is growing.

Tesco offers its 250g butter with a discount of 1.99 euros. In the shelf next to it
According to the Statistical Office, the average price of semi-skimmed milk in November 2022 was 1.07 euros. Full fat 1.27 euros.

Another wave of price increases awaits bread and rolls.

In this case, it is not a reason on a global scale, but a political decision. "From June 1st came, the Labor Code into effect, which significantly increased the labour costs of bakers, which of course they reflected in sales prices. So, the price of baked goods should increase in the coming months" - said Martin Krajičovič, chairman of the Slovak Alliance of Modern Trade (SAMO), which unites retail chains such as Kaufland, Tesco, Billu and Lidl.

From June 1st there was significant increase in surcharges for work at night, on holidays and weekends. Here you have to remember that up to 80% of our work is done in these hours" - added Lapšanský, chairman of the board of the Slovak Union of Bakers, Confectioners and Pasta Makers. At the same time, he added that the prices of baked goods will rise by approximately 10%.

According to the January data of the Statistical Office, the price of a kg of bread increased by 28% year-on-year to the current 2.17 euros. BREAD - the prices raised do 2.4 euros. A bagel (40g) exceeded the 12-cent mark.

Vegetables are already significantly more expensive. Tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers or onions. Several negative trends have been encountered on world markets. "The reason for the price increase is the turbulent situation on the markets, which was caused by the weather and a lower harvest, e.g. in Spain. There were catastrophic floods in Pakistan, in the countries of Central Asia they lost crops due to severe frosts, in the countries of North Africa there was a significant drought," explained Jana Holéciová, spokesperson of the Slovak Chamber of Agriculture and Food.

However, high prices were partly due to the end of the season and the emptying of warehouses or restrictions on the export of vegetables.

Traders hoped that situation will improve with the arrival of spring, when production from our latitudes will start arriving on the market in larger quantities.

However, Slovak farmers are more sceptical. According to them, even the arrival of spring does not automatically mean a reduction in prices. "we are not very optimistic, because if there is a shortage of vegetables in the whole world, then we cannot expect that even with the arrival of the new harvest, prices will drop rapidly." thinks Holéciová.

Experts believe that compared to last year, food prices will not rise so significantly. However, the market can be affected by unpredictable situations. "This will primarily be influenced by external political and security factors, which influenced the development of energy, fuel and commodity prices," concluded Krajičovič.
A pension higher than the average salary? A reality for thousands of pensioners in our country.

Retirement pension above the level of the average salary in Slovakia, i.e. above the amount of EUR 1,133

Survey data, which was collected between 5 and 16 February. 23 are alarming. So much so that the September elections cannot turn out well in terms of the victory of pro-Western, pro-European and pro-Ukrainian parties. Of course, despair is not a productive emotion, but it’s always better to know bad news sooner rather than later.

Linguists may have to deal with a new phenomenon. Not only do we become numb, we even become more pessimistic, (become more pessimistic) friends.

Until recently, optimists could claim that the proverbial glass is more half-full than half-empty in Slovakia – the country was divided into two roughly equal parts on important issues. After the publication of an extensive survey as part of the Reviv EU project funded by the Union, which was carried out in Slovakia by the Bratislava Policy Institute (BPI) and the STEM agency, this is no longer the case either. The imaginary glass is approximately ¾ empty.

**Roma communities**

907 million euros went to help Roma communities. Better living conditions or housing.

Field social work and community services contributed in 150 marginalized Roma communities to better coping with life and social events, greater independence and learning new things." This was stated at a press conference in the High Tatras by Roma representative Ján Hero, stating that at the so-called soft projects implemented by the Office of the Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for Roma communities totaled 64.4 million euros in the ending 7-year program period. In the next few years, approximately 907 million euro will go to solving the Roma issue from EU funds.

"In addition to the benefit for marginalized Roma communities, there was an identifiable benefit for all residents of the municipalities or cities where the project activities were carried out. We also implement unique and innovative projects. With the national project Inclusion in Kindergartens, we increased the schooling of Roma children and created a bridge between school and family through parental assistants, who until then did not support each other," pointed out Hero. He added that the national project Support for settlement of property relations under Roma dwellings managed to settle and transfer land in 19 municipalities. More than 50 municipalities have decided to apply for simple land unions, thus confirming their interest in the comprehensive settlement of land in the entire settlement", added Hero.
According to him, almost 7,000 people were employed and 3,000 people were relieved of debt within the framework of one of the national projects. A new Atlas of Roma communities was also created, which includes 825 municipalities in Slovakia.

*Roma communities increased participation during main election in Slovakia, what is great. There participated cca 80% - 90 % because of experiencing good changes in their settlements, moving forward step-by-step (approach to water, cleaning, reconstruction, warming houses, benefits for children, etc.). It means during last social government OĽANO and friends which has 1st ROMA MEP Mr. Polak, and which helped increase the life of the poorest groups, as seniors (Twice increased old-age pension, 13th pension, great increase of child benefits, which helped especially single families, families with more children. Etc.) They elected OĽANO and friends. Such way we can better use Euro-funding for Roma Community with cooperation, their help, too.*

**Investment projects**

In the new program period, more than 907 million will be allocated from European funds to individual departments for a comprehensive solution to this issue. euro

"We want to connect investment projects and also work with the Roma and non-Roma communities. The goal is to find 60 municipalities where we would follow the comprehensive approach and use investment and non-investment measures," added Hero.

"It's also about cooperation with the council, if the mayor doesn't have the support of the deputies, he can't do anything himself. All projects, both soft and investment, must be used, because failure to solve the Roma issue will catch up with everyone," stated Florián Giňa, the mayor of the village of Jarovnice in the Sabinov district, who has been working in the village for the 4th election term.

He added that in the last 7 years, among other things, they managed to increase employment. While only a few dozen people worked in the settlement before, now 700 to 1,000 locals work, depending on the season. SOURCE TASR

**Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions**

A wave of resistance has risen in the region against the Drahovce Wind Park. SPP plans to build a wind park near Piešťany for more than 63 million euros as part of its energy resource diversification strategy. A wave of resistance rose against this intention. It resulted in a petition signed by more than a thousand people. In addition to other serious impacts, the inhabitants are worried about the deterioration of the quality and change of character of the environment, but also about their health, not only their own. Conservationists have reservations. After all, on the one hand, they are building artificial bird islands, and on the other, they have to agree to huge propellers that will crush the birds in flight. Are residents also worried about what happens after the end of the life of construction objects? They are
afraid that they will not end up buried in the arable soil in the place where they served. All these essentials should be treated in the project.

What did Chinese President Xia's visit to Moscow bring?

The visit was more about symbolism - the formation of a new alliance against the West. You came to Moscow as a "big brother" who has the upper hand over the Russian "friend" and can dictate the terms of the alliance.

Putin, on the other hand, could show that despite his status as an outcast, he still has someone he can turn to.

So far, it has not promised any lethal weapons or confirmed the plan with a new gas pipeline through Siberia. Through it, 50 billion cubic meters of gas per year could flow to China via Mongolia. Beijing can be satisfied. Its trade with Russia has grown by 30% since the war and is estimated to exceed $200 billion this year. This is how China became stronger in the multipolar world, an open conflict with the West was not declared.

Without broader insight to the world situation as G 20 motto explained: One World - One Human Family - One Common Future and without understanding how important is psych-hygiene, mental training to change negativity, animosity, fighting, fear into positivity, self-cultivation, compassion and empathy with others, we will miss the chance to live in dignity without wars in Ukraine, in Middle East, in holy Jerusalem, Palestine and other places on our planet.

Priority Democracy – attachment no.1

Priorities Democracy

The European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN) in its publication Breaking Barriers to Guide Change (2011) states that "current forms of representative democracy do not provide citizens with sufficient control or influence in the political decision-making process. Growing inequalities and polarization have concentrated the power to make decisions in the hands of a narrow circle of people, which led to the decline of democracy." This reflected:

- in the increase of poverty and social exclusion
- in tension, in growing conflicts
- in the rise of low forms of nationalism
- in spreading racism

According to EAPN, the loss of democracy is a key factor in the existence of today's economic, social and political crisis. This is also why it is necessary to revive the original forms of democracy and develop new practices of participatory democracy. According to the EAPN, participation is a vital part of the journey out of crisis and towards a better society.

In 2023, the most common mantra was repeated in Slovakia - how to prevent the demise of democracy and the rule of law in Slovakia after the parliamentary elections on September 30, 2023, during the long-term government crisis, the following early elections and the official government. Every day, all the media, mass media, televisions, newspapers, radio, discussion forums, round tables repeated this mantra.
We are after the elections and the situation has escalated, because the party SMER-SD, headed by ex-prime minister Fico, who was commissioned to form the government, won the most votes. The government is for/pro Putin. Mrs. the President of the Slovak Republic, Z. Čaputová, facing lies and hatred towards her, which threatens her life and her family. He is also accused of him before election of many corruption scandals, as he appointed people to the highest positions, some of whom are convicted and sitting in prison (about 20 persons in high state positions). The number of accused is increasing, about 100, paragraph 363, accused high-ranking officials and oligarchs. The ex-prime minister and the ex-minister of the interior received section 363, cancellation, from the attorney general.

According to EAPN, it is necessary to revive such participation that consciously aims to ensure a more equitable sustainable use of resources so that everyone has access to a good life. It means that it is necessary to reactivate those entities that have great experience in defending social rights, especially members of trade unions.

It should be noted that the Confederation of Trade Unions of Slovakia, which had signed a cooperation agreement with Smer - SD (Social Democracy), canceled this agreement 3 years ago, during the advent of a non-corrupt government, which untied the hands of the police, prosecutor's office, and judges. T. no. Smer-SD is the winner of the elections and its chairman, former 3-time prime minister, is forming his 4th government....

Even before the formation and approval of this new government, the European Social Democracy suspended the membership of Smer-SD, as well as Hlas-SD, which (as it turns out), after the departure of leading members, former ministers from Smer-SD and the founding of the new political party Hlas-SD, only part of the former Smer.

Since after receiving billions of euros from the Plan of Recovery and Resilience, 7 billion must be saved in the next few years to prevent Slovakia from collapsing, today the question is "How?". The incumbent government proposes this scenario in the form of a lego puzzle, so that the new government can arrange the parts of the lego that suit it.

*See attachment no. 1*
Odor showed a hundred austerity measures: There is higher VAT, smaller family allowances and sugar tax (+ list)
Marianna Onuferová

- Odor's government presented almost a hundred measures from which the next government can draw up a consolidation package.
- Among them is higher VAT, higher taxation of alcohol, sweetened beverages, cars or second and other real estate.
- There are also various options for saving on social benefits, but also on the operation of the state.
- At the end of the article there is a list of all measures, including their expected impact on the budget.

On Wednesday, the government of Ľudovít Ódor published a hundred consolidation measures for more than 9 billion euros. Of these, the biggest benefit for the budget would be an increase in VAT from 20 to 22 percent and a reduction in some social benefits. Also on the list is an increase in other taxes, tolls for truckers and the re-introduction of concession fees.

Ódor finally introduced the measures a few days after the elections, apparently because they are unpopular. However, they can help the incoming government draw up a budget for the next three years so that the growth of our country's debt at least stops.

Even on Wednesday, the Prime Minister emphasized that the new government can arrange a consolidation package according to its own preferences. He compares it to Lego bricks, which he also took to the press conference as a visual aid. The 5.0% figure put together from Lego means that this percentage of GDP needs to be saved in the next three years to stop the growth of debt.

However, it is important that the state starts saving already next year. If he did nothing, the country's debt would gradually increase from the current 60 to 70 percent of GDP in the next three years.

The financial markets would also take this into account in the risk premiums of our bonds, and Slovakia would borrow money to repay old obligations and new debts at an increasingly expensive price. We would already have a problem next year. The state would have to borrow more than 10 billion euros from investors, which is a large amount, and that would not be easy.

In order for the debt not to grow further, according to the Ministry of Finance, the state should save more than 6 billion euros (the aforementioned 5 percent of GDP) in the next three years. The budget deficit would have to be reduced to 2 percent of GDP, this year it will reach 6.5 percent. "It is very difficult to expect that this can be achieved only by reducing expenses," says Juraj Šuchta, director of the Department of Fiscal Analysis and Forecasts at the Financial Policy Institute. According to government economists, it should be a combination of income and expenditure measures, ideally accompanied by reforms that support economic growth.

For each of the hundreds of measures, the Ministry has prepared a detailed description of why it should be done, how much it would bring to the budget, which population group it
affects, how quickly it can be implemented and what problems may arise. The measures concern the majority of budget items, i.e. taxes, levies, social expenditures, state subsidies, employment in public administration, state operations. In specific measures, the future government can change the parameters.

Higher VAT and a new tax on sugar

According to the Ministry of Finance, major consolidation without raising taxes is almost impossible, and it is better to focus on indirect taxes, which are less likely to threaten economic growth. "It is very difficult to put together a consolidation package without resorting to VAT," says Šuchta.

An increase in VAT would bring the most money to the budget. If it were to increase by one percentage point, i.e. to 21 percent, it would bring an extra half a billion to the budget, if it were to increase to 22 percent, the budget would get an extra billion. According to the ministry, there is room for this because we have the lowest basic VAT rate in the region. Most recently, Radič’s government increased the VAT from 19 to 20 percent, with the understanding that when the deficit drops significantly, the VAT will be reduced. But that didn't happen.

The consolidation menu also includes the cancellation of various reduced VAT rates, which would also bring hundreds of millions of euros to the budget. For example, if the reduced VAT rate on food was canceled and at the same time the state would compensate people with low incomes, about 400 million euros would be added to the budget annually. The government proposes to increase taxes in the first year, if the future cabinet decides to do so, only from July.

Among the measures is also higher taxation of so-called negative externalities. For example, taxes on tobacco and non-tobacco products, beer and wine by 30 percent. However, the Ministry warns that it should not be exaggerated compared to the surrounding countries, so that it does not encourage shopping tourism. Among the proposals is a higher taxation of gambling, as well as a new tax on sugary drinks. A rate of 0.40 euros per liter of drink is being considered, it would be taxed from the limit of 7 grams of sugar per 100 milliliters of content. For syrups, the proposed rate is 2.40 euros per liter.

Greener taxation of passenger cars is also on the list, i.e. more CO2 emissions and vehicle weight would be taken into account in the registration fee and motor vehicle taxes, and the tax would also be extended to natural persons.

Higher real estate taxation

The government also sees potential in higher taxation of property, especially real estate, but also, for example, in the introduction of inheritance tax on property over a million euros. Real estate in Slovakia is taxed significantly lower than the EU average. If taxes were to be increased three to four times and matched the average of the Union, the budget would receive about one billion more. According to the Ódor government, the goal could be a gradual transition to ad valorem taxation, but for that a proper price map is needed. It comes into consideration from 2026 at the earliest.

Among the proposals is also higher taxation of owners of more than one property. For the second and subsequent properties, they would pay an increased rate from the hypothetical rent. The Ministry of Finance admits that the introduction of this measure would be difficult. The consolidation menu also includes an increase in train fares by 15 percent per year, the annual highway stamp to 70 euros, the re-introduction of concession fees, the charging of visits to the doctor, the valorization of administrative and court fees.
The list also includes the cancellation of one national holiday, Slovakia has 15 of them, which is the most in the EU. If one were to be abolished, the budget would get an extra 150 million euros per year, according to estimates.

The proposal also includes a higher tax for banks. They would be taxed more on interest gains, i.e. the difference between interest on deposits and loans.

**What they propose for income tax**

A few measures also concern income taxation. Among them is a proposal to introduce a third rate of personal income tax of 35 percent, which would tax annual income above 80,000 euros per year, but it could also be adjusted differently.

Another of the measures is the cancellation of the reduced rate at the level of 15 percent, which is used by companies with a smaller turnover and self-employed people. In the consolidation currency, the cancellation of any property depreciation period, tax loss deduction, etc. is considered.

There is also a reduction in flat-rate expenses for self-employed people. The proposal introduces gradually decreasing flat-rate expenses, the current 60 percent would remain for income up to 10,000 euros, for income from 10,000 to 15,000 it would be 40 percent, up to 20,000 20 percent and from 20,000 to 30 thousand 10 percent. For income from 30,000 to 49,790 euros (threshold for VAT registration), flat-rate expenses would amount to 10,000 euros.

Among the proposals is an increase in the tax rate on dividends from 7 to 15 percent, the reintroduction of tax licenses, the abolition of the non-taxable part of the spouse's tax base and others. These are measures that would bring tens of millions of euros to the budget.

**Leaner employment in public administration**

The government notes that a lot has been invested in digitization over the past decades, but the number of officials has increased. The cost of people in public administration constitutes almost a quarter of total public expenditure.

The largest, 12 billion item, is wages. Therefore, the proposal includes a reduction of labor costs compared to the budget by approximately one billion euros by 2026. However, it is not possible to save much on the dismissal of officials and it cannot be done so quickly. Reducing the number of employees in ministries and other central bodies by 10 percent would save 25 to 50 million euros per year. But first, audits must be done in organizations.

The state would gain significantly more if the growth of wages in the public administration slowed down, it would be hundreds of millions of euros. However, government economists advise not to do it across the board in such a case, but to reward results and protect certain professions (teachers, nurses). Wages in the public administration have recently grown more than in the private sector.

There is also room for savings in the operation of local governments. Municipalities with up to 250 inhabitants spend more than half of all expenses on administration and not on services to citizens. Larger municipalities spend only ten percent of their expenses on administration. If small municipalities were to join together or combine the execution of their agenda, hundreds of millions of euros would be freed up.

The state also knows how to save on its operations. Tens of millions of euros can be obtained by reducing the costs of IT operation, but also by abolishing some offices, for example the Office for the Regulation of Gambling Games, or by merging them.

You can save on benefits and subsidies
On the spending side, the greatest scope for savings is in targeting social spending to the most vulnerable people. In other words, don't give the same doses across the board. The consolidation menu includes a possible reduction of social benefits by more than 2.3 billion euros by 2026.

One of the measures is the adjustment of the tax bonus for children. The new tax bonus would, on the one hand, remove the upper limit, making it accessible to low-income groups as well. However, the income test would return as a motivating factor for work. On the other hand, the tax bonus would gradually decrease depending on the amount of income, which would increase its addressability. It would be possible from 2025 at the earliest, and the budget would receive two hundred million a year.

If the parental pension were to be reduced or abolished, the saving would be around 300 million euros per year. A similar saving would be achieved by abolishing the 13th pension, even more by reducing the child allowance by half (from 60 to 30 euros) for households outside of financial need. The list of measures also includes shortening the period of receipt of parental allowance until the child is two years old or shortening the maternal second guardian (mostly the father) at the same time as the income. There is also a limitation of subsidies for school lunches and many others.

Cancellation of trains for free
The proposal also includes a reduction of subsidies compared to the budgeted values by approximately 300 million euros until 2026. Among the measures is the cancellation of recreational vouchers and free trains for students and pensioners. Their cancellation would bring a few tens of millions of euros.

The list also includes the cancellation of concessions to farmers for the purchase of diesel. The state does not monitor the effects of this measure, and according to the Ministry of Finance, green diesel directs money where it is already going through other programs.

**List of all consolidation measures (lego blocks)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measure / savings or additional resources in millions euro</th>
<th>2024</th>
<th>2025</th>
<th>2026</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Higher taxation of negative externalities</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase in taxation of tobacco products by 40 cents and taxation of tobacco-free products</td>
<td>53,111,152</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase in taxation of alcohol (wine and still wine, beer)</td>
<td>24 48 48</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase in gambling taxation (35% levy for odds bets and internet casino)</td>
<td>17 40 46</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction of tax on sweetened beverages</td>
<td>0 240 240</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction of tax for outdoor advertising</td>
<td>0 10 10</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cancellation of exemption from consumption taxes on electricity, coal and gas</td>
<td>0 58 58</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consideration of CO2 in car taxation approximately according to the EU average of 0,151,459</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase of the minimum tax rate on diesel and gasoline by 5%</td>
<td>37 73 74</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toll increase for trucks depending on CO2 emissions</td>
<td>98,203,210</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extension of road network charging for trucks (also in urban areas)</td>
<td>28 59 64</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adjustment and introduction of other environmental taxes and fees</td>
<td>52,187,189</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>309 1180 1550</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An increase in income less harmful to the economy</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase of the basic VAT rate by 2 p. b.</td>
<td>518 1075 1097</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cancellation of most reduced VAT rates (+ compensatory measures)</td>
<td>249,716,747</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Taxation of buildings according to floor area and gradual transition to ad valorem taxation 0 146 500
Cancellation of tax relief from the sale of real estate after 5 years 0 144 144
Higher taxation of owners of more than 2 properties 0 0 20
Fees for visits to specialist doctors (5 euros) and general doctors (1 euro) 96 192 192
Reintroduction of concession fees without exceptions 0 206 222
Increase in the prices of highway stamps by 20% 27 28 30
Increase in train fares by 15% 32 33 35
Increase of administrative fees and fines by 40% 23 45 45
Increase of regulated activities in SVP 0 24 24
Increasing the fee for maintaining emergency oil reserves by 1 cent 33 33 33
Reduction of ŽSR discounts for freight carriers by 50% 11 11 11
Cancellation of one public holiday 0 150 155
Total 989 2803 3256
Increasing the efficiency, fairness and simplicity of the tax and levy system
Reintroduction of inheritance and gift tax 0 0 100
Smart bank tax (taxation of temporary interest gains) 70 40 30
Reintroduction of tax licenses 0 110 110
Increase in dividend tax to 15% 14 31 32
Introduction of the third tax rate from DPFO: 35% 0 90 90
Reduction of flat-rate expenses of self-employed persons 0 72 72
Introduction of the annual settlement of social contributions 0 112 105
Payment of sickness benefits taking into account annual income 50,106,111
Better targeting of control activity during PN 10 20 20 download
Cancellation of tax relief for spouse 0 40 39
**Cancellation of tax assignment for legal entities 0 53 56**
Cancellation of benefits for micro-taxpayers 0 32 32
Adjustment of taxation of capital income of natural persons 0 33 33
Cancellation of other tax expenses 0 31 31
Total 144,769,860
Downsizing of employment in public administration
Reduction of the number of employees in local government (except teachers) by 10% 0 0 187
Reduction of the number of employees in the 5 largest state-owned enterprises by 10% 25 59 92
Reduction of the number of employees in ministries and other central bodies by 10% 0 25 50
Reduction of the number of financial administration employees by 10% 0 15 30
Lower valuation of wages in public administration (0% in 2024, 3% in 2025 and 2026) 56,249,347
One-year freezing of the salary machine for health workers in half 0,176,188
Reduction of contributions to III. pillar in public administration for half of 17 40 40
Reduction of severance pay in the long-service pension system by half 8 17 17
Reduction of severance pay in public administration by half 8 16 16
Total 114,597,968
Streamlining operations
Optimization of IT costs 24 50 53
Savings on FTE and material for IT projects 20 40 40
Centralization of energy purchases in the state administration 0 0 10
Streamlining the insurance of state property 10 20 20
Abolition of the separate Office for Gambling Regulation 0 6 6
Cancellation of the stabilization agreement with SAV 11 11 11
Reduction of toll collection costs 27 27 27
Optimizing the operation of selected institutions (accommodation facilities, merger of ŠVPS and RÚVZ, merger of ombudsmen) 0 16 16
Increase in the proportion of students who graduate from higher education after a bachelor's degree 0 14 28
Total 92,184,211
Targeting social spending
Cancellation of parental pension 149,334,362
Cancellation of 13th pensions 310 310 310
Decreasing tax bonus with income growth 0,273,274
Halving the child allowance for households outside of financial need 198,399,403
Halving the pregnancy benefit for households outside of financial need 10 23 26
Halving the allowance upon the birth of a child for households outside of financial need 11 21 21
Return of the allowance for free lunches to the state before May 2023 182 182 182
Reduction of the period of receipt of parental allowance until the child is 2 years old 249 267 267
Reduction of the ceiling for the maximum amount of sickness benefits to 1.5 times the average wage 50 55 58
Deducting the maternity leave of the second guardian at the same time as income 8 17 19
Gradual decrease of the unemployment benefit with the duration of the benefit 32 32 32
Reduction of care allowance for pension benefit recipients 41 83 84
Reassessment of degrees of dependence on the care of others 39 81 82
Abolition of exemption from additional payments for medicines 20 40 40
Cancellation of 50% of small unaddressed social benefits 82,165,165
Reduction of health insurance company benefits by two thirds 20 40 40
Total 1401 2322 2365
Reduction of inefficient subsidies
Cancellation of support for reducing the final price of electricity for businesses 40 40 40
Cancellation of free trains for students and pensioners 33 34 34
Commercialization of night railway transport and the line Košice / Prešov – Prague 14 26 27
Reduction of state aid and national support of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications of the Slovak Republic 36 36 36
Cancellation of concessions to farmers for the purchase of diesel 32 32 32
Cancellation of recreation vouchers 0 35 35
Cancellation Slovakia Travel 13 26 26
Reduction of support provided from the subsidy system of the Ministry of the Slovak Republic 18 18 18
Cancellation of education vouchers (from September 2024) 6 18 18
Cancellation of subsidies for the construction and renovation of housing stock 18 20 20
Suspension of the land development project for already approved territories 33 55 22
Cancellation of other selected subsidies 7 13 13
Cancellation of 50% of small transfers outside the public sector 0 23 23
Measures in pensions

- Adjusting the setting of early retirement after 40 years of service: unifying the reduction of early retirement at the level of 0.5% for every 30 days started and increasing the limit of years of service (currently 40 years) according to the increase in retirement age; the impact on the indicator of long-term sustainability is $-0.43$ p. b. GDP (in this case the negative sign means improvement).
- Cancellation of the first valuation of pensions when they are granted (from 2025); improvement of sustainability: $-0.12$ p. b. GDP.
- Unification of the retirement age for men and women; improvement of sustainability: $-0.21$ p. b. GDP.
- Correction of linking the retirement age to the average life expectancy; improvement of sustainability: $-0.17$ p. b. GDP.
- Reduction of the compensation rate in the service system; improvement of sustainability: $-0.03$ p. b. GDP.
- Adjusting the pension calculation from the Social Insurance Company for long-service pensioners; sustainability improvement: $-0.01$ p. b. GDP.

Slovak Anti-Poverty Network is member of Council of the Slovak Government for Non-Governmental Non-Profit Organizations

POLICY PAPER

DEVELOPMENT OF CIVIL SOCIETY - SITUATION ANALYSIS AND PROPOSED SOLUTIONS

Situation analysis (intended for NGOs, not for political parties)

The Slovak Republic has a well-developed basic legislative framework regulating the registration, activity, support and control of non-governmental non-profit organizations (NGOs). Within the broader V4 region, civil society in Slovakia managed to maintain a high level of government support for citizen participation and open governance in an intensive dialogue with the government (see e.g. Program Statement of the Government of the Slovak Republic for the years 2020 - 2024), institutional support for communication between the state and NGOs (e.g. Government Plenipotentiary for the Development of Civil Society, or the Government Council for Non-Governmental Non-Profit Organizations) or support for the system enabling tax allocation in favor of MNOs.

However, civil society in Slovakia is still under pressure. Attacks against the civil sector, which we knew in the past mainly from the environment of political extremism and conspiratorial media, have significantly intensified in the last two years and have become an integral part of the communication of several parliamentary and non-parliamentary political parties.
Based on long-term monitoring of the activities and communication of politicians attacking the civil sector, extremist groups and conspiracy media, we are convinced that the discrediting campaign against non-governmental non-profit organizations will intensify. We expect not only an increase in expressions of hatred towards MNOs (in the communication framework, e.g.: traitors, foreign agents, liberal extremists, welcomers of migrants, LGBTI supporters, etc.), but also specific proposals for changes to the current legislative framework that regulates the operation of MNOs. These efforts will most likely aim to:

● Divide the civil sector
Conspiracy media, but unfortunately also representatives of political parties, have been dividing the sector into good and bad non-governmental organizations for a long time. Those MNOs that "do not get involved in politics" and are dedicated to charity, social issues, healthcare and partially also to the protection and creation of the environment are portrayed as good. On the contrary, those MNOs that are dedicated to the creation of public policies and legislation and enter critically into the public and political debate are portrayed as bad. In this way, specifically mentioned in the negative are NGOs dedicated to human rights, minorities, the fight against corruption, but also the building of the rule of law, or the anchoring of the Slovak Republic within the EU and NATO. One of the dividing lines between "good and bad" MNOs that extremists and populists are likely to try to exploit is based on funding. They will portray as good those MNOs that will be financed purely from donations from individuals from the Slovak Republic, and they will mark as bad those MNOs that will have funding from abroad, EU sources, embassies or large corporations.

● Limit NGO funding
Part of the extremist forces make no secret of this and enforce a direct ban on the financing and co-financing of MNOs from abroad, or even from public sources (e.g. pre-election billboards of the Republika party "not a cent for non-governments!" or "not a cent for Soros's non-governments"). We expect that any attempts at changes in the financing of MNOs will be presented as an effort to increase the transparency of MNOs, or as an effort to "streamline" the use of public finances or European funds.

Stigmatize the sector

We expect the continuation of legislative activities to introduce the labeling of foreign-funded MNOs as so-called foreign agents. Some extremists also try to stigmatize the sector as "warmongers", or "army lobbyists" (Globsec, SSPI, Stratpol, SFPA, etc.), or as supporters of LGBTI (Pride, Inakost, Saplinq), migration and Islam (League for Human rights, Open Society Foundation and others).

● Limit the ability to act and the influence of civil society organizations
Unfortunately, in the past election period, the opportunity for active citizens to participate in participation processes has deteriorated, both at the level of the Government of the Slovak Republic, especially through the frequent circumvention of legislative processes through parliamentary bills, and also at the very basic, community level, for example, by speeding up construction processes through the omission of public participation in construction or spatial planning procedures. We therefore expect pressure to re-evaluate the policies of open governance, citizen participation, increasing administrative burden and bureaucratic obstacles (e.g. the law on limiting NGO lobbying, which has been announced several times, or the measures announced by extremists to ban the operation of NGOs in schools).
Unfortunately, we also expect direct pressure to abolish the Office of the Government Plenipotentiary for the Development of Civil Society or the Government Council for MNOs. According to the Hungarian model, we expect a policy of deterrence, discredit and intimidation, such as e.g. direct suppression of NGOs or criminalization of their leaders.

**Policy paper - full version for political parties**

PROPOSAL OF THE CHAMBER OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS TO IMPROVE AN ENVIRONMENT SUITABLE FOR ACTIVE CITIZENS AND THEIR ORGANIZATIONS IN SLOVAKIA

We, the representatives of the Chamber of Non-Governmental Non-Profit Organizations at the Council of the Government of the Slovak Republic for Non-Governmental Non-Profit Organizations, are addressing you, the representatives of political parties who are fundamental actors in the administration and development of our society, so that if you are to form the Government of the Slovak Republic and its program statement they thought of civil society as one of the pillars of our democratic system and specifically addressed the role of non-governmental non-profit organizations (NGOs) in our society. Specifically - to pay your attention to the quality of the legal, fiscal, but also the value environment in which we carry out our activities, bring proposals to improve this environment and prevent attempts to devastate it.

Therefore, we suggest that in the program statement of the government of which you will be a member, you propose strategies and steps of the Government of the Slovak Republic aimed at strengthening the conditions for the development of an active civil society in Slovakia in accordance with the Concept for the Development of Civil Society in Slovakia for the years 2022 - 2030.

Our vision of civil society is an OPEN AND PARTICIPATIVE SOCIETY.
A society open to the active and modern dissemination of public information, enabling citizens to enter into the processes of creating public policies and to assert their right to justice in them.

Therefore, we ask to keep:
- basic principles of the law on free access to information;
- open governance (the Slovak Government will continue the activities of the Open Governance Initiative);
- public participation in the creation of public policies and legislation;
- partnership dialogue between the Slovak Government and the civil sector.

We recommend:
- that you do not bypass the processes established by the legislative rules of the Government of the Slovak Republic and laws on the creation of legal regulations when presenting legislative intentions;
- that you invite active citizens to the creation of public policies as well as legislative proposals in a timely manner and in a meaningful way for citizens within the framework of departmental councils and other participation mechanisms;
• to re-open the opportunity for active citizens to submit and apply comments preserving or improving the quality of life of their residents in decision-making processes at the regional and local level.

Our vision of relations in civil society is COOPERATION and MUTUAL RESPECT between public authorities and non-governmental non-profit organizations. We stand for dialogue with public authorities and a reasonable agreement while maintaining the possibility of fulfilling our visions in the provision of public services in our areas of operation. Let’s open a discussion together, the goal of which will be an agreement on the provision of services in the social and health area, in the areas of education, use of free time, development of spiritual and cultural life, but also in the area of preserving human or civil rights, environmental protection, control of the rules of the functioning of society, justice or transparency.

We want to continue and better communicate with representatives of the public administration. Therefore, we ask to keep:
• The Government Council for Non-Governmental Non-Profit Organizations as an advisory body of the Slovak Government and its Chamber of MNOs as an element of formal representation of civil society institutions.

We recommend:
• State in the program statement of the Government of the Slovak Republic its ambition to strengthen civil society as one of the pillars of democracy, recognize the contribution of service and advocacy activities of MNOs to our society, improve the legislative and financial environment for the implementation of activities and the development of organizations of active citizens in participation.
• Ensure adequate representation of departments and institutions of public administration at the meetings of the Government Council of the Slovak Republic for MNOs.
• Introduce and support communication mechanisms of existing platforms with public authorities at all levels of public administration, for example through departmental councils.
• In the communication of the Office of the Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for the Development of Civil Society, place greater emphasis on the support of active citizenship, public participation in the creation of legislation and public policies, or the fight against hoaxes and conspiracies.
• On the part of the Government of the Slovak Republic as well as the Office of the Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic, clearly and publicly reject the rhetoric about the harmfulness of "political" non-governmental organizations.
We want to participate in the creation and review of laws that form the legislative framework for the establishment and functioning of non-governmental non-profit organizations. Therefore, we ask to keep:

• Act on the Register of Non-Governmental Non-Profit Organizations (Act No. 346/2018 Coll.);
• Act on Association of Citizens (Act 83/1990 Coll.);
• Foundations Act (Act No. 34/2002 Coll. z);
• Act on non-investment funds (Act No. 147/1997 Coll.);
• Act on non-profit organizations providing generally beneficial services (Act No. 213/1997 Coll.);

We recommend:

• Open a discussion on the Act on the Conditions of Activities of Organizations with an International Element (Act No. 116/1985 Coll.), whether this legal form from 1985 still makes sense at all, since most branches of international organizations are today registered as OZ and not under of this Act;
• Open a discussion on the Act on the Rules of Procedure of the National Assembly of the Slovak Republic (Act No. 350/1996 Coll.) with the aim of enabling the public to transparently comment on parliamentary drafts;
• Open a discussion on the return of participation mechanisms to construction processes and EIA processes;
• Allow entry into the register of NGOs also for organizations in Slovakia with a special legal form meeting all the characteristics of an NGO (Slovak Red Cross, Slovak Catholic Charity, etc.) so that they have the same status as other NGOs in legal regulations, also allow their constituents to enter the register NGO, accept their legal form in subsidy, grant schemes of public financial resources, and others.
• Reject legislative proposals reducing the quality of conditions for the functioning of MNOs in comparison with similar institutions from the business sector or the public administration sector;
• Reject legislative proposals stigmatizing certain groups of MNOs in society, such as draft laws for a blanket ban on foreign and foreign-funded MNOs and on labeling NGOs as foreign agents or lobbyists.

We want to participate in the creation and commenting of laws and regulations that form the fiscal framework for the functioning of non-governmental non-profit organizations. Therefore, we ask to keep:

• Existing mechanisms of indirect financial support of the state for MNOs, in particular non-taxation of donations provided in areas of public benefit, allocation of the tax share of natural and legal persons and charitable advertising.
• Activities leading to the creation of a charity lottery project.

We recommend:

• In the field of direct support of NGOs from public sources, supplement the existing subsidy schemes with:
  o quantifying the impact of civil society activities in terms of value for money that its organizations implement;
  o new proposals for financing services provided by NGOs from public sources with the aim of equalizing their clients;
We want to support and develop volunteerism and donation in our society as expressions of basic solidarity and belonging.
We recommend:
• Expand from today’s declared support of volunteering in the field of fire and rescue systems to support volunteering in all basic areas of NGO activity, as defined by the MNO Register Act.
• Support volunteering through fiscal instruments at various levels.

Policy paper – abbreviated version for political parties

PROPOSAL OF THE CHAMBER OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS TO IMPROVE AN ENVIRONMENT SUITABLE FOR ACTIVE CITIZENS AND THEIR ORGANIZATIONS IN SLOVAKIA

We, the representatives of the Chamber of Non-Governmental Non-Profit Organizations at the Council of the Government of the Slovak Republic for Non-Governmental Non-Profit Organizations, are addressing you, the representatives of political parties who are fundamental actors in the administration and development of our society, so that if you are to form the Government of the Slovak Republic and its program statement they thought about the role of non-governmental non-profit organizations (NGOs) in our society and paid attention to the quality of the environment in which we carry out our activities, brought proposals to improve this environment and prevented attempts to devastate it.

Therefore, we suggest that in the program statement of the government of which you will be a member, you propose strategies and steps of the Government of the Slovak Republic aimed at strengthening the conditions for the development of an active civil society in Slovakia in accordance with the Concept for the Development of Civil Society in Slovakia for the years 2022 - 2030.

Our vision of civil society is an OPEN AND PARTICIPATIVE SOCIETY. A society open to the active and modern dissemination of public information, enabling citizens to enter into the processes of creating public policies and to assert their right to justice in them.

Therefore, we ask to preserve the basic principles of the Act on Free Access to Information, open governance, public participation in the creation of public policies and legislation, and dialogue between the Government of the Slovak Republic and the civil sector.
We recommend that you do not bypass participatory processes when presenting legislative intentions, invite active citizens to the creation of public policies and allow them to submit and exercise comments that preserve or improve their quality of life.

Our vision of relations in civil society is COOPERATION and MUTUAL RESPECT between public authorities and non-governmental non-profit organizations. We stand for dialogue with public authorities and a reasonable agreement while maintaining the possibility of fulfilling our visions in the provision of public services in our areas of operation.

We want to continue and better communicate with representatives of the public administration. Therefore, we ask to maintain the Government Council for Non-Governmental Non-Profit Organizations as an advisory body of the Government of the Slovak Republic and its Chamber of MNOs, the Office of the Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for the Development of Civil Society and the role of MNO platforms in cooperation with departments, regional and local self-government.

We recommend stating in the program statement of the Government of the Slovak Republic its ambition to strengthen civil society as one of the pillars of democracy, to recognize the contribution of service and advocacy activities of MNOs to our society, in participation to improve the legislative and financial environment for the implementation of activities and development of MNOs, in communication to place greater emphasis on support active citizenship, public participation in the creation of legislation and public policies, or the fight against hoaxes and conspiracies and to clearly publicly reject the rhetoric about the harmfulness of "political" non-governmental organizations.

We want to participate in the creation and review of laws that form the legislative framework for the establishment and functioning of non-governmental non-profit organizations. That is why we ask to preserve the legal regulations governing the basic conditions of registration and operation of individual forms of MNO.

We recommend opening a discussion on the Act on the conditions of activities of organizations with an international element, the Act on the rules of procedure of the National Assembly of the Slovak Republic, on the return of participation mechanisms to construction processes and to EIA processes, and to reject legislative proposals that reduce the quality of conditions for the operation of MNOs and stigmatize some groups of MNOs.

We want to participate in the creation and commenting of laws and regulations that form the fiscal framework for the functioning of non-governmental non-profit organizations. Therefore, we ask to preserve the existing mechanisms of indirect financial support of the state for MNOs, in particular the non-taxation of donations provided in areas of public benefit, the allocation of the tax share of natural and legal persons and charitable advertising.

We recommend: in the area of direct support of MNOs from public sources, supplement the existing subsidy schemes with new proposals that will enable:
- quantifying the impact of civil society activities in terms of value for money,
- financing of services provided by MNOs from public sources with the aim of equalizing their clients,
- expanding the possibility of multi-year support for civil society activities,
- expanding the use of autonomous financing of civil society activities through public funds,
- adaptation of the rules for the provision of financing from the European structural and investment funds in order to increase the possibilities of financing civil society activities from them;
- increasing the possibility of supporting the development of civil society capacities and infrastructure.

We want to support and develop volunteerism and donation in our society as expressions of basic solidarity and belonging.
We recommend expanding from today's declared support for volunteering in the field of fire and rescue systems to supporting volunteering in all basic areas of activity of MNOs, as defined by the Act on the Register of MNOs.

Appendix
Departmental councils are created in order to improve and make cooperation between civil society and the government and ministries work. In some ministries, although cooperation still works, representatives of non-profit organizations, e.g. "Greens" have a contact person at the Ministry of the Environment, but it is about personal positive contact. In order for cooperation in policy-making to improve and start in other departments as well, it is necessary not to rely on good personal contact, but to involve more experts and activists in cooperation, project preparation, policy preparation, their implementation and control. It will be possible in 2024?

RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNMENT COUNCIL OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC
FOR NON-GOVERNMENTAL NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS
no. 9
of September 26, 2023

to the proposal in the Program Statement of the Government

Council of the Government of the Slovak Republic for non-governmental non-profit organizations
A) takes note proposed points for the future program statement of the government by the Chamber for MNOs:

1. The Slovak government considers the civil sector to be one of the important pillars of our democratic system. The government advocates a policy of open governance, transparency, support for civic participation and volunteering, as well as further development of civil society in Slovakia;

2. The Government will continue to implement the Civil Society Development Concept, adopt a new Action Plan for the years 2024-2028;

3. The government will continue to implement the Action Plan of the Initiative for Open Governance and implement the new conclusions of the Summit for Democracy;

4. The Government will strengthen the position of the Government Council for MNO as a permanent advisory body of the Government of the Slovak Republic and expand the powers of the Government Plenipotentiary within the legislative process;

5. The Government will amend the Rules of Public Involvement in the Creation of Public Policies, which will strengthen public participation and introduce new standards for its involvement in the creation of legislative and non-legislative materials and will strengthen the participatory creation of public policies of individual departments through the USV ROS participatory unit;

6. The government will maintain and improve the allocation mechanism of 2%, replace the annual registration process at the notary with a free process in authorized state institutions;

7. The government will introduce Services in the public interest as a new legislative term that will enable the financing of these services through third parties;

8. The government will streamline and debureaucratize its financial mechanisms for supporting the non-profit sector;

9. The government will strengthen the position of departmental councils and platforms represented in the Chamber of the Council of Government for MNOs and increase the possibilities of supporting the development of civil society capacities and infrastructure;

10. The government will strengthen the position of volunteering by implementing a new subsidy scheme to support volunteering;

11. The government will prepare a new subsidy program to support food and non-food aid at the national level, which will ensure the nationwide redistribution of surpluses for low-income groups of the population;
12. The government will ensure the effective implementation of programs to combat hybrid threats and hoaxes, which are directed against civil society and non-profit organizations;

13. The government will support new projects and mechanisms from the Slovakia Program, which will simplify the involvement of non-profit organizations in drawing structural funds in the current programming period.

B) recommends
submit this proposal to the SR government as part of the recommendations to the PVV

C) entrusts
government representative for the development of civil society to submit the mentioned proposals to the PVV as part of the proposals of the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic

Minutes
from the 35th session of the Council of the Government of the Slovak Republic for Non-Governmental Non-Profits

organizations,

which took place on September 26, 2023 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. in Hotel Bôrik in Bratislava.

Participation in the meeting of the Government Council of the Slovak Republic for non-governmental non-profit organizations (hereinafter referred to as the "Government Council MNO"):
 Out of 39 members with the right to vote, 36 were present, of which:
o for the Chamber of Public Administration 18 present, 17 – quorum
o for the Chamber for non-governmental non-profit organizations present 23 - quorum
22

 2 invited guests + 1 accompanying person
 11 employees of the Office of the Plenipotentiary of the Slovak Government for the Development of Civil Society (hereinafter "ÚSV ROS")
The program:
1. Opening – the Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic entrusted with the management of the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic and Chairman of the Government Council of the Slovak Republic for Non-Governmental Non-Profits organizations
2. Priority areas – MNO proposal as a basis for the government's new program statement
Slovak Republic
4. Strategic communication of the government (information)
5. Proposal for the establishment of departmental councils
7. Creation of space for the involvement of the Slovak civil sector in the reconstruction of Ukraine
8. Information from the financial intelligence unit of the Presidium of the Police Force about the questionnaire survey of non-governmental non-profit organizations for the annual evaluation of Slovenská Republic by the permanent monitoring body of the Council of Europe MONEYVAL
9. Conclusion

Summary of the discussion within individual points:

1. Opening
Filip Vagač - Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for the development of civil society (hereinafter referred to as "the plenipotentiary") opened the meeting of the NGO Government Council. He welcomed the present Prime Minister, the authorized Minister of the Interior of the Slovak Republic and the chairman of the MNO Government Council in one person, Ľudovít Ődor. He handed him a publication from the conference We unite for democracy, which took place on June 13, 2023 in Nova Cvernovka, at which he could not participate in urgent work duties.

Subsequently, Ľudovít Ődor took over the opening speech. He mentioned that he is currently in the midst of a climax election campaign before the upcoming parliamentary elections, non-governmental non-profit organizations NGOs are not among the most popular institutions in public discourse. He considered it necessary to participate in this Council of the Government of the Slovak Republic for MNOs and express support to representatives of non-governmental organizations non-profit organizations. In many cases NGO in providing some activities and services they replace the state and it would be a shame not to have good relations and not to seek common solutions to problems. As it is this is also stated in the Government’s Program Statement, this government declares itself to support the West and the North Atlantic orientation of Slovakia, as well as the support of civil society. On Wednesday (27.9.2023)

the government will have two materials, the OGP Action Plan for 2023-2026 and the Cooperation Management System and partnerships with representatives of civil society in the implementation and monitoring of funds program period 2021 – 2027. He believes that other developed materials related to the involvement the public in the creation of public policies and the legislative regulation of services in the public interest they will get to the point where they will be discussed at the government.

Ľudovít Ődor further mentioned that the end of the pre-election campaign is approaching, the direct actors of which are representatives of civil society also often became involved, although not of their own volition. Civil society it is increasingly becoming a part of hybrid war, propaganda and hate speech, which negatively they also affect the work of NGOs. He appreciated the involvement of several organizations in various campaigns, which they explain, especially to young people, why it makes sense to vote even in times of skepticism and disappointment. Once among the campaigns is also the campaign "I don’t want to stay here", which also fits into one of the prime minister's personal priorities
and that is to offer young people the prospect of staying in Slovakia. Who else but the young generation has to be the future for this country. The last area he would like to mention is referrals to the new government that will emerge from the elections. They will include priorities for the next period. They could be supplemented be about recommendations and priorities for the next period resulting from the discussion of NGO representatives. How he pointed out, good ideas always come together. He thanked for the cooperation and will continue to listen to suggestions representatives of NGO. After the elections, there will be more space for good solutions and topics.

Filip Vagač thanked Ľudovít Ódor for his speech.

He also asked Marcel Zajac, the vice-chairman of the RV NGO, to present a draft of recommendations, about which was discussed by the MNO Chamber as a topic for the government's next program statement.

2. Priority areas – NGO proposal as a basis for the government's new program statement Slovak Republic Marcel Zajac appreciated the participation of Ľudovít Ódor at this meeting of the RV NGO. He confirmed the negative perception NGO company. He cited not personal antipathy as the reason, but ignorance about the functioning of NGO and what activities they perform. Representatives of the NGO Chamber took advantage of the opportunity meeting of the Board of Directors of the NGO to present the topic of what could be part of the government's next program statement. They do for the reason that political struggle should not be an obstacle to mandatory governance.

MNOs have shown over the last 30 years that they are part of a mandatory system of public affairs, and therefore they submit recommendations for the government's new program statement. The presented document was created participative within the MNO Chamber, the process of which was attended by 26 platforms of organizations from all generally beneficial areas. It consists of 13 points, which have their own priority.

1. The Government of the Slovak Republic considers the civil sector to be one of the important pillars of our democracy establishment. The government adheres to the policy of open governance, transparency, support civic participation and volunteering, as well as the further development of civil society on Slovakia;
2. The government will continue to implement the Civil Society Development Concept, will adopt new Action Plan for 2026-2028;
3. The government will continue to implement the Action Plan of the Initiative for Open Governance and implements the new conclusions of the Summit for Democracy;
4. The Government will strengthen the position of the Government Council for MNO as a permanent advisory body of the Government of the Slovak Republic and expand the powers of the Government Plenipotentiary within the legislative process;
5. The Government amends the Rules of Public Involvement in the creation of public policies, which will strengthen them public participation and will introduce new standards for its involvement in the creation of legislative and non-legislative materials and will strengthen the participatory creation of individual public policies departments through the USV ROS participatory unit;
6. The government will maintain and improve the allocation mechanism of 2%, the annual registration process at the notary replaced by a free process in authorized state institutions;
7. The Government will introduce Services in the public interest as a new legislative term that will enable financing these services through third parties;
8. The government will streamline and debureaucratize its financial mechanisms for supporting the non-profit sector;
9. The Government will strengthen the position of departmental councils and platforms represented in the Chamber of the Council of Government for MNO and will increase the possibilities of supporting the development of civil society capacities and infrastructure;
10. The government will strengthen the position of volunteerism by implementing a new subsidy scheme for support volunteering;
11. The government will prepare a new subsidy program to support food and non-food aid for national level, which will ensure the national re-distribution of surpluses for low-income population groups;
12. The government will ensure the effective implementation of programs to combat hybrid threats and hoaxes, which are directed against civil society and non-profit organizations;
13. The government will support new programs from OP Slovakia, which will simplify the involvement of non-profits organizations to draw structural funds in the current programming period.

Filip Vagač apologized to Ľudovíť Ódor, who will have to leave due to work obligations meeting of the RV NGO earlier.

Ľudovíť Ódor added the social area to the list presented by Marcel Zajac innovations. The state administration often looks for solutions, especially in the social field, and not all solutions come desired results. Many problems are already solved by NGO and it would be advisable not to constantly invent something new, but apply proven procedures from NGOs, scale social innovations to established activities.

Approval of priority areas.

Filip Vagač opened the discussion of representatives of the state administration on the presented 13 points.

Ján Hero, the representative of the Government of the Slovak Republic for the RK, asked a question about the last point, about the change of new ones programs in the operating program. The operating program is already written and defined, it should be sooner discussing projects and mechanisms.

Modification of point no. 13. The Government will support new projects and mechanisms from the Slovakia Program, which will simplify the involvement of non-profit organizations in drawing structural funds in the present programming period.

Voting on the resolution of the NGO Government Council:

Council of the Government of the Slovak Republic for non-governmental non-profit organizations:
A) takes note of:
proposed points for the future program statement of the government by the Chamber for NGOs
B) recommends:
submit this proposal to the SR government as part of the recommendations to the PVV
C) authorizes:
the government representative for the development of civil society to submit the mentioned proposals to the PVV within proposals of the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic.

Voting result:

39 votes FOR
0 votes AGAINST
The MNO Government Council adopted resolution no. 9. dated 26/09/2023 on the draft program statement of the government SR.

Lucia Lacika presented the creation of an action plan, which was attended by representatives of MNO and the state administration.

She appreciated the cooperation with MZVaEZ SR. The priorities from the Summit for Democracy became part of Action of the OGP plan, linking these two similar deductible initiatives national priorities. The priorities will be approved by the SR government on September 27, 2023 in the following wording:

1. Civil participation mechanisms as an innovative form of participation (ÚSV ROS)
2. Supporting partnership between government and civil society in informal value education for democracy, human rights and citizenship (MŠVVaŠ SR + MIRRI SR + ÚSV ROS)
3. Support of media freedom and protection of journalists (MK SR + ÚSV ROS)
4. Ensuring the registration of data on the end users of the benefits of commercial companies in one register (MS SR)
5. Improvement of internal systems for reporting anti-social activities and protection notifiers of central state administration bodies (ÚOO)
6. Increasing the impact of open data by supporting activities for its use and reuse by relevant actors (MIRRI SR + ÚSV ROS)
7. Measuring government openness through the Participatory and Open Government Index (ÚSV ROS) The submitted material went through the entire legislative process without contradictions. To the submitted there were no questions or comments from representatives of the RV MNO regarding the material.

Voting on the resolution of the Council of the Government of the Slovak Republic for non-governmental non-profit organizations:
A) approves:
   draft Action Plan of the Initiative for Open Government for the years 2024-2026
B) recommends to the Government of the Slovak Republic:
to approve the Action Plan of the Initiative for Open Governance for 2024-2026

Voting result:
39 votes FOR
0 votes AGAINST
0 votes ABSENT


4. Strategic communication of the government (information)
Filip Vagač reported on the Government’s Strategic Communication. In 2021, the document Increase was adopted resistance of Slovakia against hybrid threats by building public administration capacities, part of the project there was also a non-profit sector. As part of this project, four separate departments were created. At the Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic the Department for Strategic Communication was established, the Center for the Fight Against the Slovak Republic was established at the Ministry of the Interior hybrid threats, the Department for Hybrid and Strategic Threats was established at the Ministry of Defense of the Slovak Republic communication and at the MZVaEZ, the Department of Strategic Communication, Department for Hybrid was established
threats and building resilience. It is a supra-departmental cooperation of three departments, the Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic and the Police Force of the Slovak Republic. The Concept of Strategic Communication was adopted in June 2023, which was presented at a conference in September 2023. Developed by the Center for Combating Hybrid Threats an in-depth analysis of the vulnerability of the state administration. In the future, it is planned to develop a similar analysis for the whole company. E-learning is organized on hybrid threats for state administration and many others events. Information is available on the website hybridnehrozby.sk.

Marcel Zajac pointed out that many NGOs deal with the topic of hybrid threats, but are not part of it Chambers of NGO. However, they actively participate with the relevant departments. He encouraged the representatives to continue participation.

5. Proposal for the establishment of departmental councils
At the previous meeting of the Government Council, the item on departmental councils was part of the agenda. From at the last session, meetings were held at several departments that were willing to cooperate in the creation of departmental councils. Approval of the statute also took place. If the creation of these is approved departmental councils, communication with the NGO Chamber about the nomination of representatives will follow. Several state secretaries supported the establishment of departmental councils. An interdepartmental council (Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic, MoD of the Slovak Republic, Central Committee of the Slovak Republic) was established by combining several departments, this segment is not represented in the MNO Chamber and would become by a separate departmental council.

Marcel Zajac added that, as the Chamber of MNOs, they have already approved representatives from their ranks to the department board Ministry of the Environment (MOE). As a result, the statute of the department board of the MoE can be prepared.

Some departmental advice was requested by the platforms. For example, the 4 joined together for the environment environmental platforms. Representatives of the Chamber requested further departmental advice. They thought, that a departmental council combined from two ministries - the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic - could function and the Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic. As a Chamber of MNOs, they lack a departmental council at the Ministry of Finance SR (MF SR) and also the departmental council at the Ministry of Health. It is the departmental council of the Ministry of finance is considered key because it covers support, whether financial or non-financial, of the whole sector. In the past, the RV MNO had two working groups, one was financial and the other was legislative. On the ground of the RV MNO does not have the space to think strategically and offer proposals and solutions. These proposals are implemented in the aforementioned working groups. Several meetings took place at the Department of Finance, but despite these meetings, the departmental council was not formed. The task of the RV MNO is not only voting on resolutions, but also the preparation of materials, which the space within the RV MNO does not allow sufficiently.

The representative of the Slovak Ministry of Finance - Samuel Jurčo - confirmed several meetings of the Slovak Ministry of Finance, the representative of the government and representatives of the MNO Chamber, which was based on the initiative of the state secretary. After the meetings they gained the feeling that the current level of communication is sufficient and problem-free, therefore they do not perceive how
the necessary establishment of a departmental council. They did not even register any reservations from the MNO or the Chamber at the level of communication that would have to be removed.

Milada Dobrotková - proposes the creation of an interdepartmental council of the Ministry of Health in the future (MoH SR) and Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs and Family SR (MPSVR SR) from a security point of view of health services in social services classifications. Tied with the trend and elevated interested in providing home nursing care. This interdepartmental cooperation is already needed for years.

Marcel Zajac - perceives the cooperation with the Ministry of the Slovak Republic to date as unsystematic and just the creation of a departmental council would bring a systemic element to communication. It would not be communication based on acquaintances, but systematically. The diversity of the discussion would be guaranteed precisely by the creation of a departmental council.

Ján Hero - on the topic of marginalized Roma communities, the creation of departmental councils is welcome interdepartmental council. ÚSV RK had the task of creating platforms also between public administration bodies at early care for children up to 6 years of age (departments of the Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic, the Ministry of Education and Culture of the Slovak Republic, the Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic).

Samuel Jurčo added that, at the end of the day, the Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic welcomes the idea of creating a departmental council and the conditions clearly specified rules on the functioning of the department board. The MF SR will monitor how the already approved ones work department councils and, if everything goes without problems, they will agree to the establishment of a departmental council in the clear specified rules.

Marcela Dobešová - for all her years of working in the non-profit sector, she is primarily interested in Institutional stability of the non-profit sector. This whole topic rests and falls on the MF SR. All financial transfers, whether subsidized, are only pending, which is not a desirable phenomenon from the point of view of the fight against corruption. The Ministry of Finance decides how the financial management rules will work from the point of view controls. He demands the reform of public finances, so that the funds are not for the expenditure system, but for up to date. The transformation of public services, in which MNOs also participate, should be aimed at citizens, not organizations. As long as the departmental board of the Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic is not established, it makes no sense for others to be established departmental councils.

Filip Vagač clarified that this meeting of the RV MNO is more of an institutional step, not content. He welcomed that the MF SR wants to continue communication and prepare further steps in the direction to the establishment of the Departmental Council.

Marcel Zajac - representatives of the MNO have boarded the moving train on this topic. As part of the sectoral discussion with ÚSV ROS, the idea of departmental councils arose. They signaled their interest in a departmental council with the Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic and nominated experts in this field to the department board. It calls for emergence, status creation and composition of this departmental council. They had the task of nominating representatives from their sector for other areas as well. Calls to communication and steps to move this process forward.

Voting on the resolution of the Council of the Government of the Slovak Republic for non-governmental non-profit organizations:

A) Establishes departmental councils on the basis of Article 7a of the Statute of the Government Council for MNOs:
1. Departmental Council of the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic
2. Departmental Council of the Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic
3. Departmental Council of the Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic
5. Departmental Council of the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic
6. Interdepartmental Council for building MNO resilience and combating hybrid threats

The composition and activity will be regulated by the Statute of the given departmental council, which will be adopted at the first meeting of the departmental council advice.

Voting result:
- 38 votes FOR
- 0 votes AGAINST
- 1 vote ABSENT – Peter Papšo (MŠVVŠ SR)

The Government Council of the MNO adopted Resolution No. 11 of 26 September 2023 on the proposal for the establishment of departmental councils.

Filip Vagač - wanted to provide space for informing NGO representatives with this point in the program on the fulfillment of tasks C.4 and C.1. All departments except the Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic sent information on deducting the tasks of the resolution from the Action Plan.

7. Creation of space for the involvement of the Slovak civil sector in the reconstruction of Ukraine
Filip Vagač stated that this point was included at the request of the Umbrella Platform.

Juraj Jando stated that in the program statement of the government, the Government of the Slovak Republic committed to creating space for the involvement of Slovak organizations to help restore Ukraine. She was in the Czech Republic adopted strategy on this issue. How did the SR government approach this? Filip Vagač read the opinion sent by State Secretary Petr Mišík from the Ministry of the Economy, Trade and Industry of the Slovak Republic. Within development cooperation uses the subsidy provision tool, calls are implemented by SAMRS. To the challenge both NGOs and Slovak business entities apply. Since the beginning of the Russian aggression, 9 have been approved projects with a total value of 2.7 million euros, which are implemented by Slovak MNOs in cooperation with partners. Beyond the scope of humanitarian challenges, 5 projects were supported in the total amount of 456 thousand euros only for Ukraine. MZVaEZ will continue to use the provision tool depending on current budget possibilities. Through ÚSV ROS, the program was implemented – 12 million euros through EU Care for emigrants from Ukraine who live in Slovakia. There are resources redistributed through a consortium of foundations and the funds will be used up almost entirely.
Michal Kišša – with EU Care, for the first time in Slovakia, public resources are redistributed by someone other than the state institution. ÚSV ROS and the Government Office of the
Slovak Republic mediated financial assistance from the Taiwanese government for reconstruction of Ukraine and aid to Slovak MNOs in the amount of 4 million euros. Peter Mišík stated that MZVaEZ will continue to use tools for aid and recovery of Ukraine. Aid to Ukraine is coordinated by the Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic and the Council of Advisors of the Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic.

8. Information from the financial intelligence unit of the Presidium of the Police Force about the questionnaire survey of non-governmental non-profit organizations for the annual evaluation of Slovak Republic by the permanent monitoring body of the Council of Europe MONEYVAL

Bystrík Antalík reported on the request of the PPZ SR intelligence unit. The Slovak Republic is regularly evaluated by the permanent monitoring committee of the Council of Europe MONEYVAL, which evaluates measures against money laundering and terrorist financing. Financial intelligence unit PPZ SR asked ÚSV ROS for cooperation in filling out a questionnaire with 19 questions.

Bystrík Antalík asked about the cooperation of MNOs in filling out an anonymous questionnaire, which focuses primarily on sources and ways of financing NGOs. Michal Kišša asked which organizations this questionnaire refers to.

Bystrík Antalík replied that this questionnaire is voluntary and intended for all MNOs. Juraj Ližák noted that organizations dedicated to youth are probably not a suitable target group for money laundering.

Filip Vagač clarified that there was very little return of the questionnaire in the last evaluation. In our country are not well-named sources of funding, so the financial intelligence unit is interested in collecting more data.

Michal Kišša asked if this collected data is relevant. Isn't data just collected for data's sake? The Pontis Foundation will not send out questionnaires to their grantees just because the state wants to collect some data.

Filip Vagač ended the discussion on this topic and stated that representatives of the MNO Chamber will receive a questionnaire on this topic and on the basis of this questionnaire, they will decide on the next steps.

9. Conclusion

Branislav Mamojka - informed that their organization is changing its name to the Slovak Forum of Persons with disability. Other information related to the conditions for the disabled in election premises. It is listed on the website of the Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities a questionnaire on barrier-free premises during elections. He asked for the cooperation of all those involved in the completion of the elections on 30.9.2023.


At the end, Filip Vagač thanked all the representatives for their participation and informed about the next meeting of the RV MNO, which will be held on December 5, 2023.

In Bratislava, on October 3, 2023

The entry was prepared by: Lucia Švecová and Adriana Tomaníková

Approved by: Filip Vagač
Civil society

Motto: "Democracy is vulnerable and we cannot take it for granted".

According to Fintan Farrell, former president of EAPN: "Democracy has been threatened by inequality when we have allowed 1% of the world's adults to own more than half of global utility wealth. Creating a society based on the equality of its members must be at the heart and priority of our 21st century. Empowerment participation is the basis of the effort to build such a society". The lack of participation obviously increases distrust towards the EU, the government, government institutions. It obviously increases social tension, negative attitude and negative moods, negative expectations. It is then a vicious circle. Participation is necessary, it is not about decoration. But how to ensure participation in today's 3 "P" times? In a polarized, fractious society? As 13-year-old Martin from Piešťany stated: "people hurt each other in politics". Some governments were more interested in working with the civil sector than others. During the government of I. Radičová, the position of government adviser for the non-profit sector was created. Until then, governments argued that this is why they do not cooperate with non-profit non-governmental organizations, because there are many of them, tens of thousands, small, medium, larger, large, and they have no one to deal with... The function of the plenipotentiary is not sufficient organizational support for continuous participation in the preparation, implementation and evaluation of political measures. Not to mention the possibilities of regional and local participation of the affected groups in the creation of decisions that concern them. For example in commissions or committees of labor and social affairs offices that decide on optional benefits in local government commissions that decide on the allocation of social housing. An important source of the negative view of participation over the past decade is the cost it entails. These costs (from the cost of making information available, cultivating the skills to work with it, infrastructure costs, travel, subsistence and other costs) are considered administrative costs, which are the number one enemy of all governments. This situation continues to this day.

What to do?

More attention should be paid to:
involving civil society and the professional public, especially organizations representing weakened, vulnerable groups, in the process of assessing prepared policies (strategic documents, ordinary laws) 
the legislative process to be more open to discussion: to publicly discuss legislative intentions and so that the work of expert commissions does not have a closed regime: no higher legal standards need to be changed for this. 
organizational and institutional provision of evaluation of the social impacts of all political decisions - both continuously and ex ante. 
strengthening the position of those actors who will defend social and environmental aspects in the creation of political decisions.
It is necessary to learn, to develop a culture of mutual learning. We must put pressure on the government and ministries to create organizational conditions and opportunities for public debate and public participation in policy-making, including social protection and social inclusion policy.
We consider the assessment of the social impacts of the upcoming legislation to be a very important step to protect residents from deterioration their living conditions. According to the valid methodology, the assessment of social impacts should guarantee that "the presented materials will not lead to a deterioration of the population's standard of living, especially for those population groups that are at risk of poverty and social exclusion."
Later, the government established the Government Council for the Non-Governmental Sector. Our SAPN became a member of this Government Council in 2020 and we also participated in the creation of the Action Plan for the years 2020-23, on the vision until 2027. Item no. we have prepared and approved this paper in the Chamber of Non-Profit Organizations and the Government Council for the Non-Profit Sector, as well as in the official government, for the future government that will emerge from the elections on 9/30/2023.
See Appendix No. 2
In 2023, we supported and developed various forms of dialogue with citizens, various forms of participation and consultation, debate (see the Strassburg Marathon video link, debates with women - the same as in PEP) within the PEP meeting. Also in the preparation of joint projects within the EAPN national networks (EAPN Lithuania, EAPN Germany, EAPN Czech Republic, 5 States - ...Roland. Within the framework of G 20 in co-organization with the Slovak-Indian Friendship Society (annex 3 - whatsup), aimed at raising visibility links of integrated spirituality and social justice (Integrating spirituality and social justice) - Attachment No. 4. sent by whatsapp. We met and discussed with MEP Štefanec, photo from Košice. Also with the member of the Slovak National Council, Romana Tabak (whatup photo - attachment no. 5. These are important technologies for the visibility of poverty, social justice, equality of people, nations, races, religions, administration of public affairs. This is how civil society can harmonize relations in society, avoid polarization and is social harmony, peace and long-term sustainability dear to us.
With a member of the Slovak Parliament, Mrs. Romana Tabak

Leader of Roma community in Myjava town, Mrs P. Herakova (first from right)

Event with Ambassador of India (G20)
UNITED CONSCIOUSNESS
CONCLAVE
2023
Spirituality, Holistic Living and Democracy
Find Your Happiness Here and Now

15-16-17 December 2023
Ujjain, M.P., INDIA

Venue: Kalidasa Sanskrit Akademi, Ujjain, M.P., INDIA
UNITED CONSCIOUSNESS CONCLAVE 2023
15-16-17 December 2023
Venue: Kalidasa Sanskrit Akademi
UJJAIN, M.P., INDIA

TOPIC:
Integrating spirituality and social justice

16 December, Saturday
09.20-09.40 IST