



PHOTO ARCHIVE INTEGRA FOUNDATION, ADRA AND PONTIS FOUNDATION

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

10 YEARS OF
SlovakAid

A VISION OF DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION
FOR A CHANGING WORLD



ABOUT THE CONFERENCE:

The two day conference will be held on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of SlovakAid. Its aim is to stimulate a professional dialogue between the governmental, non-governmental, academic and private sectors and media on lessons learnt and future orientation of Slovakia's development cooperation program. It will facilitate an opportunity for experts from Slovakia and abroad to search for innovative ideas and new prospects for the Slovak development agenda with an emphasis on formulation of challenges and possibilities for the Slovak Presidency of the EU Council in 2016.

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

 **OCTOBER 16, 2013**

Discussion panels for diplomats, professional public and media (8:30 - 16:30)

Venue: Congress Hall, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic

8:30 REGISTRATION

9:00 OPENING ADDRESS

H. E. Miroslav Lajčák, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic • **H. E. Andris Piebalgs**, European Commissioner for Development

DISCUSSION PANEL 1:

SLOVAKIA AND WESTERN BALKANS: SHARING TRANSITION EXPERIENCE

The states of the Western Balkans are a long-term priority of Slovak foreign policy and development cooperation. A great number of projects that have been implemented during the last 10 years prove that partnerships of Slovak and Balkan entities have been mutually beneficial. Slovakia has focused its assistance on civil-society building, integration to the EU and international organizations, utilization of pre-accession financial instruments in order to implement reforms, regional development and infrastructure. These are some questions the panel will address: How do partners from the Western Balkans countries evaluate Slovak transformation and integration know-how? Which experience from the accession and post-accession process are still substantial? Is geographic, cultural, and historical proximity of Slovakia and the Western Balkans a competitive advantage in comparison to other donors? On the other hand, what has Slovakia learnt in 10 years from partnership with the Western Balkans? What strategic goals does it set for the next 10 years of development cooperation with this region?

MODERATOR: Mr. Pavol Demeš, German Marshall Fund of the U.S.

SPEAKERS: H. E. Miroslav Lajčák, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic • **H.E. Vujica Lazović**, Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Policy and Financial System and Minister for Information Society and Telecommunications, Government of Montenegro • **H. E. Jovan Andonovski**, State Secretary for European Affairs, Government of the Republic of Macedonia • **Ms. Sonja Licht**, President of the Belgrade Fund for Political Excellence

10:30 COFFEE BREAK**11:00 DISCUSSION PANEL 2:****SLOVAK-AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION: PAST AND FUTURE**

Defined by its geographic area and population Slovakia belongs to smaller countries and resources allocated for development assistance are relatively modest. Despite this, a few of African countries are on the list of recipient countries of Slovak ODA. Slovak NGOs, private companies as well as academic institutions have been active and successful in Sub-Saharan African countries. With financial support of SlovakAid, they have run projects targeting education, healthcare, and rural development in Kenya, South Sudan and other countries. In November 2012, a Development Forum in Nairobi, organized by the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic as well as Kenyan partners gathering NGOs and business entities from Slovakia and Kenya, took place. Poll results confirm support of Slovak public for aiming the development assistance at solving problems in Africa. These are some questions the panel will address: Why is cooperation with partners in Africa important for both sides? How will historical experience influence the vision of Slovak ODA in Sub-Saharan Africa? What is the development assistance potential of Slovak governmental, non-governmental, and business entities in Africa? What is a perception of the EU and OECD representatives on the potential of new EU Member States as donors?

MODERATOR: Mr. Maroš Čaučík, eRko Christian Children Communities Movement

SPEAKERS: H. E. Andris Piebalgs, European Commissioner for Development • **H. E. Amina C. Mohamed**, Cabinet Secretary for Foreign Affairs and International Trade of the Republic of Kenya • **Mr. Peter Burian**, State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic • **Mr. Serge Tomasi**, Deputy Director of OECD Development Co-operation Directorate

12:30 PRESS CONFERENCE

H. E. Miroslav Lajčák, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic • **H. E. Andris Piebalgs**, European Commissioner for Development • **H. E. Natalia Gherman**, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Moldova • **H.E. Vujica Lazović**, Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Policy and Financial System and Minister for Information Society and Telecommunications, Government of Montenegro • **H. E. Amina C. Mohamed**, Cabinet Secretary for Foreign Affairs and International Trade of the Republic of Kenya • **H. E. Jovan Andonovski**, State Secretary for European Affairs, Government of the Republic of Macedonia

13:00 LUNCH**14:30 DISCUSSION PANEL 3:****SHARED VALUES AND COOPERATION WITH THE EASTERN PARTNERSHIP COUNTRIES**

Governmental and non-governmental representatives from the Eastern Partnership countries and Slovakia will briefly review Slovak experience sharing in the region, shortly before the November

Vilnius summit. In case of Moldova, they will focus on partnership of the two countries and on the importance of experience of Slovak experts from both governmental and non-governmental sectors in the process of political and economic integration into the European Union. With regard to Belarus, they will concentrate on a broader context of implementation of Slovak ODA projects. The panelists will also address the issues of coordination with local governmental and non-governmental actors, representatives of international donor community, and utilization of capacities of the Slovak Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs (i.a. microgrant program of Slovak Embassies, Centre for Transfer of Experience from Integration and Reforms) to achieve a greater impact of Slovak ODA in target countries.

MODERATOR: Mr. Peter Hulényi, Director of the Department of Humanitarian and Development Aid, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic

SPEAKERS: H. E. Nathalia Gherman, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Moldova • **Mr. Lubomír Reháč**, Political Director of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic • **Ms. Olga Stuzhinskaya**, Founder of the Office for a Democratic Belarus • **Mr. Alexander Duleba**, Director of Slovak Foreign Policy Association

16:00 GLASS OF WINE

Book Launch Ceremony – a commemorative publication issued on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of SlovakAid and **Awards** – granted to the foremost contributors to the development of partner countries of Slovak ODA

OCTOBER 17, 2013

Venue: Palugyay Palace, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic

The second day of the conference will provide discussion space for field practitioners, experts, academics and journalists.

9:00 REGISTRATION AND MORNING COFFEE

9:30 OPENING REMARKS

Mr. Vazil Hudák, State Secretary of the Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic • **Mr. Peter Burian**, State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic • **Ms. Lenka Surotchak**, Director of the Pontis Foundation

10:00 – 12:00 DISCUSSION PANELS 1 - 3.

DISCUSSION PANEL 1

WESTERN BALKANS AND EASTERN PARTNERSHIP: ARE PRACTICAL POLICIES OF DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION MOST EFFECTIVE?

The panel will discuss policies and tools of how Central European countries share their unique transformation and integration experience, with a focus on the countries of the Western Balkans and

Eastern Europe. Public policy being an important instrument of transfer of experience, the panel will try to suggest an answer if the Slovak ODA assigns adequate significance to it. It will also look into a role of civil society organizations in delivering development aid, offering a Polish example. Further the panel will analyse if the Visegrad group countries are able to influence and shape European development policy.

MODERATOR: Ms. Stanislava Benická, Slovak Agency for International Development Cooperation

SPEAKERS: Mr. Balázs Jarábik, Pact, Central European Policy Institute • **Ms. Karla Wursterová**, International Visegrad Fund • **Mr. Simon Lightfoot**, University of Leeds • **Ms. Katarzyna Zalas-Kamińska**, University of Wrocław

DISCUSSION PANEL 2

DEMOCRACY IN THE SOUTHERN NEIGHBOURHOOD: STATE OF PLAY. TRANSITION PROCESS IN TUNISIA AND EGYPT.

The countries of the Southern Neighbourhood are undergoing an unprecedented political and socio-economic transformation. Slovakia has reflected these processes by directing its ODA to support and add value to the democratic transition in the region. The panel will discuss the state of play of the ongoing transition in Egypt and Tunisia, the role of various actors in implementing the changes, the opportunities for Slovakia and the international community in sustaining the gains of the democratization process.

MODERATOR: Ms. Tatiana Žilková, Pontis Foundation

SPEAKERS: Mr. Shareef Ghoneim, Egyptian NGO Support Center • **Mr. Djordje Todorovič**, International Republican Institute Tunisia • **Ms. Nicole Rowsell**, National Democratic Institute Tunisia

DISCUSSION PANEL 3

EU AID PROGRAMS AND DEMOCRACY ASSISTANCE - A PARADIGM SHIFT?

In the last two decades, the European Union became fully aware of its potential as a global player with a responsibility for defending human rights and assisting in democracy, peace, stability building and thus contributing to overall prosperity growth and development. And yet after successful rounds of enlargement, further results become more difficult to achieve and more elusive in nature. For these reasons the ambition of a global player must be soon saturated with substantial results, failing of which might have irreversible consequences. The panel will look into the priorities and structure drafted for the new EU Instruments within the Multiannual Financial Framework 2014 - 2020 from the practical viewpoint of implementers and recipients.

MODERATOR: Ms. Miriam Lexmann, International Republican Institute

SPEAKERS: Ms. Andrea Ostheimer, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung • **Ms. Sandra Ceciarini**, Council of European Municipalities and Regions • **Mr. Alexander Jovanovski**, European Policy Institute

12:00 LUNCH

13:00 – 15:00 DISCUSSION PANELS 4 - 6.

DISCUSSION PANEL 4

WESTERN BALKANS AND THE FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE

Slovakia's official development assistance reflects priorities of the Slovak foreign policy whilst accentuating specific approaches taking into account the Western Balkan regional differences. Technical assistance to current and future EU candidate countries as part of the ODA is a priority for Slovakia. The panelists will offer their view on the role of Slovak ODA in Serbia and whether time has come for Slovakia to move its interest away from Serbia. The panel will also deal with future opportunities for development assistance in Kosovo region. The panel will discuss if the Slovak experience with regional policy and Instrument of Pre-Accession component III is relevant and transferrable to Albania.

MODERATOR: Ms. Andrea Cox, Pontis Foundation

SPEAKERS: Mr. Bashkim Rrahmonaj and **Ms. Majlinda Belegu**, Public University "Haxhi Zeka" Peja Kosovo • **Ms. Jana Radakovic**, Institute for Territorial Economic Development, Belgrade, Republic of Serbia • **Mr. Dorian Jano**, European Movement Albania • **Mr. Dmitry Mariassin**, UNDP

DISCUSSION PANEL 5

GLOBAL CSR: WHAT CONTRIBUTION CAN BUSINESS MAKE TO DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS?

Ongoing global economic challenges have shifted attention to the private sector as an increasingly important factor in development cooperation. Nowadays, almost every company has a corporate social responsibility strategy. But there is a need for greater transparency of business operations in developing countries. At the same time, a new breed of companies called social enterprises incorporate social and environmental dimensions at the very core of their business. This panel will examine practical tools and policies that could increase the engagement of private sector in environmentally and socially beneficial areas in developing countries.

MODERATOR: Mr. Jakub Šimek, Pontis Foundation

SPEAKERS: Mr. Allan Bussard, Integra Foundation • **Ms. Olga Memedovic**, UNIDO • **Mr. Jochen Steinhilber**, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung • **Mr. Georg Schoen**, Ashoka

DISCUSSION PANEL 6

GLOBAL UNIVERSITY: WHAT ROLE DOES EDUCATION PLAY IN INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT?

The discussion panel is dedicated to all who are interested in the debate about the role of university education in raising solidarity society and active engagement in solving developmental problems in Southern countries. Global (development) education is a powerful tool which brings about change in understanding how inequalities between North and South are relevant to our society and may influence the life of each one of us living in a rather prosperous environment. Universities play a key

role not only as institutions which bring knowledge about poverty, human rights violation, gender inequality, environmental degradation and other global issues, they are a key actor in bringing up the young activist generation. Since only global awareness together with competences and inspiration towards solving developmental problems make changes in the developing societies possible.

MODERATOR: Mr. Michal Cenker, Pontis Foundation

SPEAKERS: Mr. Dušan Ondrušek, PDCS • **Mr. Cezary Kościelniak**, Adam Mickiewicz University Poznan • **Ms. Zuzana Fialová**, Slovak NGDO Platform • **Mr. Juraj Jančovič**, Trnava University

15:00 COFFEE BREAK

15:30 CONCLUSIONS OF PANEL DISCUSSIONS

16:00 CEREMONY WITH WINNERS OF THE ESSAY CONTEST

Recognition for completing internships at Permanent Mission of the Slovak Republic to UN in Geneva, Vienna and Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic. Diplomas will be granted by Peter Hulényi, Director of the Department of Humanitarian and Development Aid, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic.

ORGANIZERS:

