

platform  
culture central europe

# How Central Europe Helps the World

© UN Photo / Tim McKulka

Cultural life in the heart of Europe



## 2015 European Year for Development

### Austria



### Czech Republic

Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
of the Czech Republic

### Hungary



MINISTRY OF  
FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE  
OF HUNGARY

### Republic of Poland



Ministry  
of Foreign Affairs  
Republic of Poland

### Slovak Republic



### Slovenia



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA  
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

# our world our dignity our future



Platform Culture - Central Europe (PCCE) is a close regional cooperation between the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia, Austria and Slovenia – established in 2001.

The aim of PCCE is to raising awareness about the vibrant cultural life and the common cultural heritage in Central Europe by organising common projects, notably in countries neighbouring the European Union.

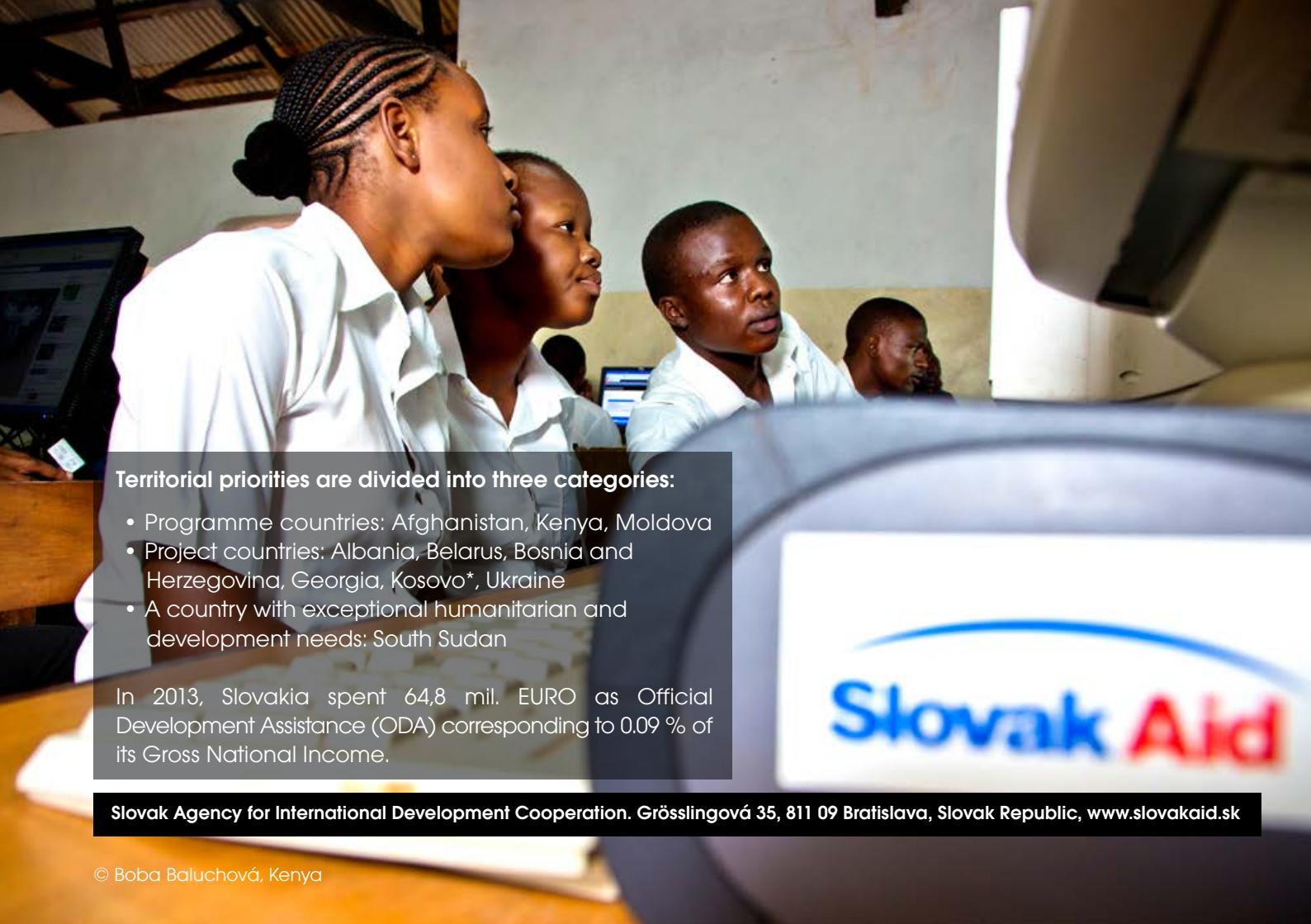
Recent presentations have been organised in non-EU countries: the Central European Documentary Festival was held in Chisinau, the Design Exhibition in Tbilisi, an event dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of the First World War in Sarajevo, and an exhibition of glass and porcelain in Baku in November 2014. The first half of 2015 is dedicated to the development assistance in PCCE countries at the occasion of current European Year of Development declared by European Union.

Official Development Assistance of the Slovak Republic is an intrinsic instrument of Slovak foreign policy, which to a large extent shapes Slovakia's relations with aid recipients and relevant international organisations. Having committed itself to the fulfilment of the MDGs, Slovakia shares the responsibility for global development and poverty reduction endeavours in developing countries, aiming to promote their sustainable development.

The mechanism of providing development assistance was established in 2003 by creating the institutional, legal, and strategic framework for the Slovak development programming. Since 2003, the Slovak Republic has been engaged in bilateral development assistance programmes and projects carried out in the developing countries, in addition to providing multilateral assistance and humanitarian aid. Simultaneously, since 2004, as a member state of the European Union, Slovakia has been engaged in the funding of development activities carried out by the European Commission.

The key national institutions involved in ODA are: the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic and the Slovak Agency for International Development Cooperation – responsible for contracting and administering bilateral programmes and development projects in the recipient countries.





#### **Territorial priorities are divided into three categories:**

- Programme countries: Afghanistan, Kenya, Moldova
- Project countries: Albania, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kosovo\*, Ukraine
- A country with exceptional humanitarian and development needs: South Sudan

In 2013, Slovakia spent 64.8 mil. EURO as Official Development Assistance (ODA) corresponding to 0.09 % of its Gross National Income.

**Slovak Aid**

**Slovak Agency for International Development Cooperation. Grösslingová 35, 811 09 Bratislava, Slovak Republic, [www.slovakaid.sk](http://www.slovakaid.sk)**



By supporting sustainable development in its partner countries, Austria contributes to poverty reduction, peacekeeping, environmental protection and resource conservation worldwide. Long-term programmes and projects provide help towards self-help.

As the operational unit of Austrian Development Cooperation, the Austrian Development Agency (ADA) executes bilateral development programmes and projects on behalf of the Federal Government. In 2013, it allocated EUR 93,6 million in funding (including third-party/ external funds). It cooperates here with public institutions, CSOs and enterprises. Numerous other actors, such as the Oesterreichische Entwicklungsbank (OeEB), also support the objectives of Austrian Development Cooperation.

In keeping with the international trend of placing more emphasis on regional strategies, Austrian Development Cooperation concentrates on key regions in Africa, Asia, South-Eastern and Eastern Europe as well as the Caribbean. Austria is, however, also engaged in other regions with cofinancing for CSO programmes and projects and support for business partnerships.

Austrian Development Cooperation is represented by local offices in the priority countries. These are attached to diplomatic missions and are run by ADA. They ensure that activities meet local needs and are coordinated with all the development partners and other donors.

Austrian Development Cooperation is primarily engaged in areas where it can draw on its proven know-how and long-standing experience: water supply and sanitation, renewable

energy, climate protection, agriculture and forestry, private sector and development, human security and human rights and rule of law. All programmes and projects attach special importance to involving women in decision-making and they are also geared to the needs of children and persons with disabilities.



© ADA / Frank Helmrich, Austria



© ADA / Stefan Pleger, Uganda



The Czech Development Agency (CzDA) is an implementing body of the Czech Republic Development Cooperation primarily focused on the design and execution of bilateral development projects. CzDA has been in operation since 2008 and reports to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Development cooperation has become an important component of Czech foreign policy. The main tasks of CzDA are to identify, formulate, implement and monitor projects in priority partner countries, to award grants to NGOs and to conduct professional training for Czech development cooperation staff.

Businesses, as well as other non-state entities, can take part in CzDA tenders to become contractors for Czech bilateral development cooperation projects potentially bringing necessary experience and references for successful participation in tenders of larger donors, e.g. the European Commission.

Priority countries of Czech development cooperation are divided into three categories: programme countries with specific programmes of cooperation (Afghanistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ethiopia, Moldova, Mongolia), project countries with single cooperation projects (Cambodia, Georgia, Kosovo, Palestine, Serbia) and so called "phase-out" countries in which Czech development cooperation is gradually ending (e.g. Yemen, Vietnam, Zambia).

Bilateral development cooperation is provided in the following forms: technical cooperation, cooperation in the fields of economic and social infrastructure, financial cooperation, debt relief for developing countries, assistance for refugees in the Czech Republic, the granting of government scholarships, development guidance, development cooperation training

and awareness, development research and the building of the capacities of non-governmental organisations active in development cooperation.

In 2014, the Czech Republic spent 209 mil. USD as Official Development Assistance (ODA) corresponding to 0,11 of its Gross National Income.



© Czech Development Agency, Ethiopia



© Czech Development Agency, Palestine



MINISTRY OF  
FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE  
OF HUNGARY

International development is an integral part of Hungary's foreign policy and external relations. The new strategy for international development cooperation (IDC) has been adopted in 2014 and as a follow-up, a new act on IDC will enter into force in 2015, setting out the framework for this policy area.

The main objectives are to support developing countries' efforts to alleviate poverty and inequality, promote peace and stability, sustainable development, democracy, respect for human rights and the rule of law. Hungary is committed to the new set of internationally agreed development goals for the post-2015 period and strives to take an active role in the efforts of the international donor community, in accordance with its capacities and comparative advantages. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary is responsible for the formulation, coordination and implementation of the international development and humanitarian policy, but other line ministries and civil society organisations also play a key role in its implementation.

In 2014, Hungary spent HUF 36.4 billion (approximately USD 156,4 million) as Official Development Assistance (ODA) corresponding to 0.12% of its Gross National Income. The majority is allocated through multilateral channels, and is used for core and voluntary contributions to international organisations and funds. Although ODA eligible countries of the Western Balkans and Eastern Europe are still priority areas for Hungarian development cooperation, it also seeks to foster its activities in a wider scope. The majority of bilateral projects take the form of technical assistance, mostly aimed at strengthening democratic institutions, civil

society and sharing experience gained in the course of political and economic transition, and during EU-accession.



Humanitarian aid in Philippines given by Budapest Waterworks



Education of children coming from socially disadvantaged background, implemented by Hungarian Interchurch Aid, Transcarpathia, Ukraine



At the beginning of the 1990s, during the transformation period, Poland was one of the countries which benefited from the support of other countries and international institutions in the framework of development cooperation. In 2004, Poland joined the EU and changed its status to a donor of development assistance. This was possible thanks to successful economic reforms and political transformation.

The objective of Poland's development cooperation is to create conditions for the sustainable development of partner countries. This is achieved mainly by promoting and consolidating democracy and respect for human rights, supporting the creation of modern and efficient state institutions, and by promoting sustainable social and economic development. Poland is also involved in actions which contribute to reducing poverty and improving health conditions, as well as raising the level of education and professional qualifications of the population of partner countries.

For the years 2012-2015 two cross-cutting thematic areas have been selected, democracy and human rights, as well as political and economic transformation. The Polish experience of successful transition is of interest to countries that have embarked on a similar development path.

The geographical priorities are divided into two groups. The first group consists of Eastern Partnership countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine). Poland strives to assist our neighbours to the East in reducing the economic and political distance between them and the EU. The second group comprises priority countries, which are characterised by high poverty levels or ongoing transformation. These are selected countries of Africa, Asia and the Middle East (including countries of East Africa, North Africa, Afghanistan, Kirgizstan, Tajikistan as well as Palestine).

Polish expenses for development assistance have gradually increased. In 2014, the amount spent for development cooperation was USD 437.08 million, which accounted for 0.08% of the GNI. Approximately 82% of this amount was spent on multilateral assistance in the EU, UN and EDF framework. The remaining sum was distributed through bilateral channels, such as public institutions, diplomatic missions and NGO's.



Wojciech Niewiński, Uganda, Project 841, 2014



A APPW Bialorus training KSAP



our world  
our dignity  
our future

# EYD2015

[europa.eu/eyd2015](http://europa.eu/eyd2015)

2015 is a special year for development. It is the first ever European Year to deal with the European Union's external action and Europe's role in the world.

For development organisations all over Europe it is an unparalleled opportunity to showcase Europe's commitment to eradicating poverty worldwide and to inspire more Europeans to get engaged and involved in development.

2015 is also the year in which the Millennium Development Goals that the world agreed to reach in 2000, and in which the international community will agree on the future global framework for poverty eradication and sustainable development.



**2015** European Year for Development



2015 European Year for Development



**The EU and its Member States together are the most generous donors of official development aid in the world.**

Together, the European Union and its Member States are the world's largest aid donor. In 2013 they provided more than half of public aid or "official development assistance" as defined by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). Together, they spent €6.5 billion in 2013 on helping countries across the world in their fight against poverty.