

INEKO

Institute for Economic and Social Reforms

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November, 2013

To whom it may concern.

I am writing on behalf of the Institute for Economic and Social Reforms ("INEKO") to request funding to further our research and policy initiatives in the Slovak Republic and in less developed countries.

INEKO is a non-governmental organization founded in 1999 in Bratislava, Slovakia. INEKO conducts economic research, publicizes the results widely in the press and to political decision makers, and works with government officials and political leaders to implement policy changes to increase the welfare of Slovak citizens.

Currently the staff of INEKO includes five policy experts. Among them, Eugen Jurzyca acts as a Senior Policy Consultant specializing in economic reforms and education. Mr. Jurzyca is a former Slovak Minister of Education, founder of INEKO, former Member of the Slovak Central Bank Board, and a former advisor to several ministers, the OECD, and the World Bank. Among other achievements, he completed a six month post-graduate economics and public policy program at Georgetown University in Washington, DC and was awarded the Order of Ludovit Stur by the President of Slovakia.

INEKO Director Peter Goliaš has worked as an advisor to several ministers in Slovakia including the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Education. Since 2010, he has been a regular co-author of the Annual National Reports on Pensions, Health Care and Long-Term Care in Slovakia prepared for the European Commission. He also is a member of the Executive Board at the Slovak Association of Economic Analysts.

INEKO has deep experience in analyzing the roots of social and economic problems (particularly with regard to tax systems, pensions, health care, labor markets, and education), preparing and proposing pragmatic and effective solutions while supporting in public debates the necessary, but often unpopular, changes. **All INEKO activities are results-oriented (as opposed to process-oriented), promote evidence-based public policy decisions, and demonstrate how transparency as an antidote to crucial societal failures really works.** Among other activities, we are operating internet portals aimed at:

- informing students and their parents about the results achieved by school students and graduates;
- informing the public about the financial health of all municipalities in Slovakia;
- informing the public about measures needed to stabilize Slovakia's public finances; and
- monitoring and commenting on health care reforms prepared or adopted in Slovakia.

INEKO also has experience in exporting reform know-how to other countries. Our experts implemented or participated in projects supporting economic and social reforms in Ukraine, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Moldova. Mr. Jurzyca also accepted an invitation from Paul Bremer, former Administrator of the Coalition Provisional Authority of Iraq, to participate in the 2003 Conference on Economic Reconstruction of Iraq.

Attached, please find more information about the most important problems facing the Slovak Republic and about INEKO's critical role in ensuring continued progress as well as practical information on how to support our work.

We would be pleased to further discuss with you our initiatives, achievements, and qualifications. We can do this via the internet or by telephone or video calls.

Very truly yours,



Peter Goliaš
INEKO Director

ATTACHEMENT: INEKO FUNDRAISING REQUEST

Slovakia: Developmental progress, remaining challenges, and how INEKO can help

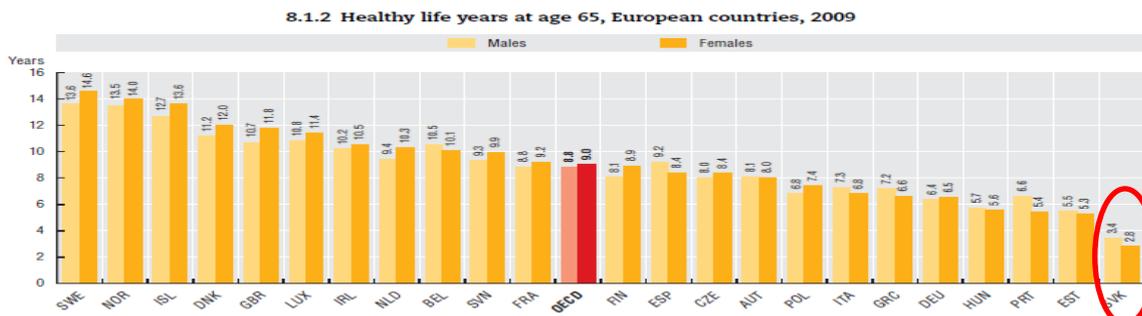
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This document summarizes the most important problems facing the Slovak Republic (formerly part of Czechoslovakia) as a young democracy still struggling in its pursuit of equality, justice, and liberty for all Slovaks and INEKO's critical role in ensuring continued progress. INEKO (www.ineko.sk) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan think tank and is one of the few remaining NGOs (non-governmental organizations) committed to helping Slovakia become a more transparent and prosperous nation.

KEY PROBLEMS:

CORRUPTION: (Slovakia ranks 62 out of 174 on Transparency International's Corruption Perception Index 2012; it ranks 138 out of 148 in the World Economic Forum Report 2013-2014, based on responses to the question: "In your country, how common is diversion of public funds to companies, individuals, or groups due to corruption?")

LOWEST NUMBER OF HEALTHY LIFE YEARS at the age 65 in OECD countries:



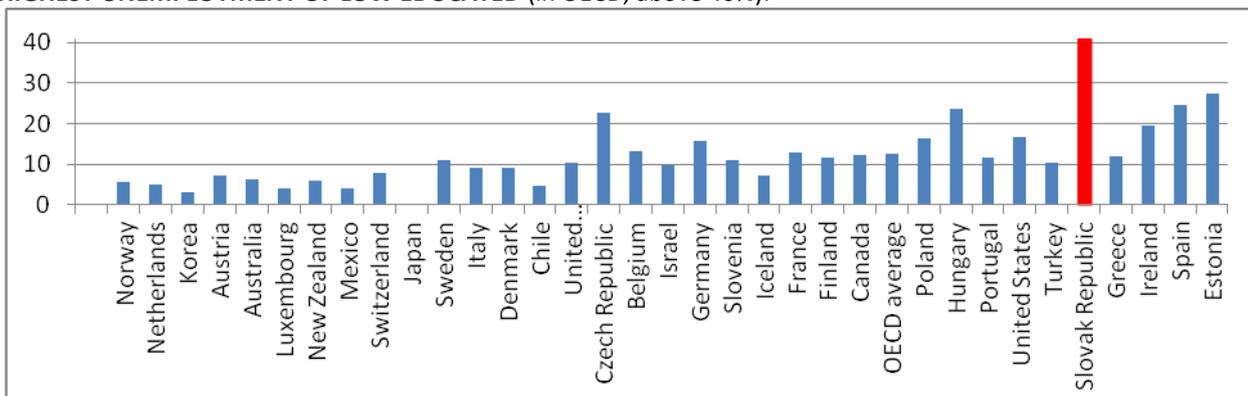
Source: OECD, Health at a Glance, 2011

HIGH LONG-TERM UNEMPLOYMENT: (highest in OECD, more than 60% of unemployed)



Source: OECD Factbook 2013: Economic, Environmental and Social Statistics

HIGHEST UNEMPLOYMENT OF LOW EDUCATED (in OECD, above 40%):



Source: OECD, Education at a Glance 2012

ABOUT INEKO:

INEKO has extensive experience in analyzing the root of these problems, and preparing and proposing pragmatic and effective solutions while supporting in public debates the necessary, but often unpopular, required changes. All INEKO activities **are results-oriented (as opposed to process-oriented)**, promote **evidence-based public policy decisions** and demonstrate how **transparency as an antidote to crucial societal failures really works**.

For example, one recent INEKO project entailed an [analysis of public procurement in large state hospitals](#) which demonstrated that the number of competing key suppliers to Slovak hospitals is on average four times lower than in the Czech Republic. In fact, our study found that for two-thirds of the monetary amounts purchased in public tenders from 2009-2012, there was only one bidder. The transfers of significant public monies to state hospitals with monopoly power were found to be distributed against the interest of society and those rejecting corrupt and crony practices. Currently, INEKO is launching an innovative consumer portal, where anyone can find easily understandable information on the quality, costs and efficiency of individual health care providers. The database will be updated regularly to enhance competition and consumer welfare within Slovakia's state-driven healthcare system. This project aims to increase pressure on providers to improve quality and efficiency and to **improve the situation of those with limited access to needed health care due to a lack of information**.

INEKO also operates a [special website](#) aimed at informing students and their parents about the results achieved by school students and graduates. Each year INEKO publishes 30 parameters for all primary and secondary schools in Slovakia. The portal includes information on standardized test results and tracks the success of graduates once they leave their schools. Users can also identify the schools with the most severe problems and the "patronage schools" those schools in nearby neighborhoods, which can provide know-how and share best practices to the schools in need. INEKO plans to expand the portal in the future by using social networks to better track graduates and add additional performance measures to provide users with a more comprehensive evaluation of schools.

Another INEKO web activity is a [special portal on the level and type of public debts accumulated by local municipalities](#). The portal collects and publishes data on the financial health of all of Slovakia's 2,928 municipalities plus eight "higher regional government entities" (VÚC) in Slovakia for the years 2008 - 2012. The aim is to empower the public with information about the financial health of municipalities and to raise awareness to those areas in need of better fiscal management. INEKO plans to update the online database regularly so that the public can monitor their government's progress.

Recently we have launched a [portal informing the public about measures needed to stabilize Slovak public finances](#) enabling any visitor to choose among various policy and fiscal options and thereby calculate the short-term and long-term impacts.

Taking into account the spirit of the activities described above (anti-corruption, better information and increased transparency in the areas influenced by strong domestic lobbies), it is very important that INEKO's funding come from non-partisan donors with the common goal of ensuring a brighter future for Slovakia. **International contributors are essential** to INEKO's credibility and to fulfilling its mission in an unbiased and transparent way.

INEKO is a non-governmental non-profit organization established in 1999. Currently the staff of INEKO consists of [five policy experts and one finance manager](#):

- Eugen Jurzyca, Senior Policy Consultant, Economic reforms and Education, former Slovak Minister of Education, founder of INEKO, former Member of the Slovak Central Bank Board, former Advisor to several ministers, OECD, and the World Bank;
- Peter Goliaš, INEKO Director, Senior Policy Analyst, Economic reforms, Health Care, Education, Municipalities, Advisor to two Ministers of Education, including the current one;
- Dušan Zachar, Senior Policy Analyst, Health Care, Economic reforms;
- Matej Tunega, Peter Klátik, Policy Analysts, Education, Health Care, Municipalities;
- Rastislav Kováčik, Finance manager.

The key projects INEKO has been working on: [Consolidation of Slovak Public Finances \(Google English translation\)](#), [Central Government Audit](#), [HESO Project - Evaluation of Economic and Social Measures](#), [Analysis of Pension, Tax and Labor Market Reforms](#), [Transfer of Slovak Economic Reform Know-How to Ukraine](#), [Financial Health of Municipalities](#), Monitoring of [Elementary and High Schools](#), [Transparency Monitoring in Health Care](#) (Slovak only), [Support of the Sustainability of Public Finances](#) (Slovak only), [Slovak Press Watch](#) (Slovak only), [i-Health.sk: Monitoring the Health Care Reforms](#) (Slovak only).

Key supporters of INEKO have been: the Ford Foundation, the Open Society Institute, the German Marshall Fund, the US Embassy, the Center for International Private Enterprise (CIPE), the International Center for Economic Growth (ICEG), the US Aid, the United Nations Development Programme, the British Know How Fund (UK Embassy), etc.

HOW TO SUPPORT US:

Please, click here for more information: <http://www.ineko.sk/about/how-to-support-us>

For details and legal contracts, please, contact Peter Goliaš at golias@ineko.sk.

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