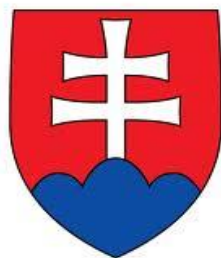


Migration policy of the Slovak Republic

Perspective until the year 2020



*“Due to the fact that migration
will objectively affect our future,
we must affect migration“*

Introduction

Migration is a historical social phenomenon that significantly influences policy, economy, social aspects, and safety of countries and modifies the composition of the population in individual countries. On one hand, it may be a source of conflicts, on the other hand it may contribute to development, but still, it is a phenomenon that influences the future of individual countries and thus also the development of humankind. Therefore migration requires a systemic approach and qualified control. It should not be politicized but countries cannot be afraid of adopting adequate political decisions within its control. Due to the fact that migration will objectively affect our future, we must affect migration.

The Migration policy of the Slovak Republic with a perspective until the year 2020 (hereinafter only “migration policy”) is a basic document and forms the basis for development of a modern and purposeful policy of the Government of the Slovak Republic in the area of migration. It is an unequivocal manifestation of the readiness and willingness to participate in the harmonization of migration policies of individual states within the European Union and a manifestation of solidarity with the basic principles and the manner of functioning of the EU within the management of individual migration processes.

Objective and principles of the migration policy

The objective of the migration policy is, in compliance with the national interests of the Slovak Republic,

to create adequate conditions especially within the area of legal migration, while taking into account the priorities, needs, and abilities as concerns receiving of migrants, including their integration within the society,

to strengthen the effectiveness of border control as concerns the movement of persons and the fight against illegal migration,

to contribute to the adoption of the unified European asylum system, and

to participate in the development of global partnerships with countries of origin and transit in order to strengthen the coactions created between migration and development and thus to contribute to an increase in the quality of the life of inhabitants of the Slovak Republic.

Within fulfilment of objectives of the migration policy the principles of active participation in the tasks of the European Union in the area of border control, immigration and asylum, shall be reasonably applied along with compliance with the constitution, laws, sovereignty, regulation of migration, compliance with human rights and freedoms, flexibility and ban on discrimination.

Implementation of the migration policy is based on a coordinated procedure of state authorities, local state administration bodies, and self-governments and it assumes a wide involvement of non-governmental and other organisations developing activities in this area.

Migration policy in the context of the Slovak Republic's membership of the EU

The Slovak Republic is a member of international organisations and groupings that pay due attention to migration issues (EU, UN, OSCE, OECD, IOM, ILO, ICMPD, Council of Europe, etc.). **From the international point of view, the political and legal framework of the European Union has been, and it will remain also in future, the determining basis for the Slovak Republic in respect of the migration policy due to the reasons given by the character of the EU membership.**

In terms of the European Union, migration and asylum issues represent a dynamic agenda subject to an increasing extent of harmonization. The European Union has been purposefully working on the development of a common policy in the area of immigration and asylum since 1999 when its authority in this area was univocally accepted by the Treaty Establishing the European Community.

During the last few years, the European Union has adopted several new strategic documents that determine the Union's policy in this area and are to be taken into account when forming the migration policy of the Slovak Republic and within its implementation. It primarily means **the Treaty on the European Union, European Pact on Migration and Asylum, Stockholm Programme, and Global Approach to Migration.**

Due to the time framework of the migration policy (the year 2020) it is obvious that the said strategic documents will be revised or replaced by new ones sooner or later. Their contents cannot be foreseen now. **It is in the interest of the Slovak Republic that its representatives actively participate in discussions and preparatory work so that the future documents reflect the real requirements and priorities of the Slovak Republic.**

The serious effect of the migration policy within the context of events taking place in the European Union inevitably requires the commencement of **preparation of experts** for the future EU presidency of the Slovak Republic in the second half of the year 2016.

1. Legal migration

Controlled economic migration is primarily determined by the needs of the Slovak Republic. The current demographic development shows that the Slovak labour market and the system of social security are significantly dependent on the inflow of human capital from abroad. Therefore in the following years the economic migration must be based on the active and flexible control of receiving of aliens who decide to come to our country. The economic migration control must resolutely react to the challenges brought by the global competition for talents and this especially through an active search and creation of preconditions for their arrival in Slovakia. Therefore the Slovak Republic will adopt policies aimed at an active support for economic migrants and employment of migrants from third countries in compliance with the needs of the national economy and labour market with an emphasis on receiving and employment of highly qualified employees, scientific workers, and other qualified migrants as necessary. Within this process, the creation of an attractive environment for foreigners, who are needed for the development of our economy, is the key in compliance with the concept document entitled Minerva 2.0 – Slovakia into the first league.

The basic criterion applicable to the acceptance of foreigners within the controlled economic migration is their potential for the development of the Slovak economy and society while preferring those migrants who have the qualifications and competencies necessary to satisfy the lasting demand for shortage professions on the national labour market with an emphasis on culturally related countries.

For these purposes it will be necessary to improve and make the collection and processing of data concerning the labour market more efficient and to create lists of shortage professions that will be regularly updated.

When receiving aliens within the controlled economic migration, so called ethical recruitment of workers, especially from the foreign countries and areas where Slovaks live, represents an important criterion in order to revitalize the life of these people in compliance with the concept of the care of the Slovaks living abroad approved by the Government of the Slovak Republic.

The adopted measures will be interconnected with the strategic documents in the area of migration at the European Union level and this especially means **the Stockholm Programme**, which factors in the adoption of a **Common migration policy of the EU** in future with an emphasis on the transparency of the system, reduction of administrative demandingness, strengthening of the responsibilities of participating parties, labour-law protection of migrants, and strengthening of integration measures within the context of future development of the national economy and demographic development.

While taking into account the current needs in the area of legal migration within the European Union and following an analysis of the requirements of the national economy and labour market, it is necessary to purposefully develop activities in the area of residence eligibility, employment of migrants, business activities, education of migrants, and provision of health care to migrants. Relevant bodies of the state administration are responsible for individual areas to the extent of their competencies.

In order to ensure a specific direction and to elaborate the migration policy deeper in this area, it is necessary to focus especially on:

- a) making the process of visa and residence permit issue more efficient through an improvement of coordination of the activities among representative offices and relevant departments of the Aliens Police Office, while making use of the information and communication technologies and continuously improving the language skills of the officers working with the Aliens Police Office, who have a direct contact with aliens,
- b) creation of economic immigration rules through the definition of so called “Slovak card” (a modification of the EU Blue Card) for qualified and highly qualified immigrants and implementation of the point system that will serve as a flexible tool for determination of priorities within receiving of individual categories of immigrants,
- c) execution of regular analyses of the needs of the national economy and the economic contribution of individual groups of economic migrants (according to the purpose of residence), based on which the adoption of regulatory and control measures will be considered along with the measures aimed at the motivation of the aliens who represent an asset for the Slovak economy in order to make them work in the Slovak Republic with the aim to ensure the balance on the labour market and within the entire scope of economic migration,
- d) updating of the legislative and work preconditions creating more flexible forms of entry and residence of migrants in respect of studies and economic activities of both current and newly defined groups of economic migrants,
- e) updating of the preconditions creating the legal framework allowing entry of migrants to the labour market, participation in seasonal work, temporary and circulating migration, short-term employment forms, etc.,
- f) support for receiving of economic migrants and employment of migrants from third countries in compliance with the needs of the national economy and labour market with an emphasis on receiving and employment of highly qualified employees, scientific workers, and other qualified migrants,
- g) resolving of “au-pair” issues due to a special character of the combination of work and studies and to control compliance with this status, including the social assurance for these persons,
- h) defining of the rights and obligations of migrants, including the social assurance for them and the access of individual groups of migrants to health care and the labour market so that migrants are able to achieve, as soon as possible, a full-bodied status within the society,
- i) a new definition of the issues associated with recognition of achieved education and qualifications and prevention of the phenomenon of so called “brain waste” (wasting or lack of full appreciation of education, qualifications, expertise, and skills) along with extension of powers of the institutions in charge due to increased requirements, interconnection of responsibilities for the area of qualification on the part of employers or relevant state administration bodies,
- j) the control of submitted documents, detection of forged documents, and active involvement of the Office for Slovaks Living Abroad and consular offices of the Slovak Republic in this process,

- k) extension of the activities of the Centre for Recognition of Documents on Education at the Ministry of Education, Science, Research, and Sport of the Slovak Republic,
- l) creation and implementation of the housing policy for intrastate mobility in order to ensure suitable accommodation for migrants,
- m) improvement and making the collection and processing of the data about the labour market more efficient and available to the expert public and citizens, insurance of interconnection of the residence registration database with the registration database of tax authorities, social insurance and health insurance agencies, and bureaus for labour, social issues and family,
- n) thorough execution of control of migrants, focusing on prevention of their illegal residence, employment or business activities, and application of equal terms and conditions of work, including wages and social assurance in order to safeguard protection of migrants,
- o) creation of information and consultancy centres for migrants and this also in the countries of their origin in order to improve their access to the information about the entry and residence, and living and working conditions through immigration portals, internet (multilingual) sites of involved departments, and an active involvement of the Office for Slovaks Living Abroad and consular offices of the Slovak Republic in these issues.

The integration policy, as a part of the global approach to migration, is one of the main priorities of the EU agenda. Integration of immigrants within the society of the receiving country is a continuous, long-term, and dynamic mutual process that includes both the aliens staying in the receiving country legally and inhabitants and it also means the general set-up of the legal framework of the host society. The active character of integration policies emphasises the need for mutual respect and reciprocal recognition of rights and obligations of both groups. The Slovak Republic deems foreigners communities to be an integral part of the society and appreciates their contribution in the areas of economy, culture, education, and social issues.

The Slovak Republic inclines to an integration model based on the full acceptance by migrants of the current situation in the Slovak Republic. The practical implementation of integration activities is carried out in compliance with the Concept of Foreigner Integration in the Slovak Republic under the auspices of the Ministry of Labour, Social affairs, and Family of the Slovak Republic. This strategic document is based on the Migration Policy Concept of the Slovak Republic approved by the resolution of the Government of the Slovak Republic no. 11 of 12 January 2005 and its currency will have to be reviewed in compliance with the intentions and aims of the new migration policy. The basic principle will involve providing for efficient integration of aliens in the society, which will eliminate their marginalization and increase their individual motivation to become integrated.

The aim of the integration policy is to propose and execute the integration measures preventing the risk of occurrence of economically, socially, and culturally divided society and creation of closed migrant communities. Integration measures must lead to the existence of coordinated and mutually interconnected tools and measures that will enable aliens to become a part of the labour market, learn the language of the receiving country, and have an access to education, health care, social services, and housing, to have their specific cultural features recognized, to obtain a legal status, and will enable them to participate in the civic and political life and to obtain the citizenship of the Slovak Republic.

In the area of integration, the migration policy focuses especially on the following:

- a) implementation of application of so called integration mainstreaming (taking into account the specific characteristics of the legal status of women, minors, handicapped people, aliens with granted international protection, and migrants – seniors) within the preparation and creation legislation, creation of departmental policies, legal regulations within the context of the effect of these measures on the area of integration of migrants,
- b) an increased emphasis on human rights and tolerance and the fight against discrimination and intolerance through the creation of a coordinated communication strategy that includes both the current and new activities focusing on an increase in the awareness of the public, comprehensive cooperation with public service media and initiation of broad discussions as concerns both the contribution and negative impacts of integration of aliens,
- c) determination of a mechanism of comprehensive monitoring of compliance with indicators of migrant integration; amendments to the procedures of data collection for all relevant institutions so that these data are mutually available, comparable and compatible,
- d) creation of conditions for implementation of the integration policy on the regional and local levels through relevant entities and this especially as concerns

- higher territorial units, towns, and villages; definition of the possibilities for cooperation in respect of their competencies and responsibilities,
- e) involvement into the integration process of members of individual migrant associations and communities at both local and regional levels,
 - f) improvement in the coordination and mutual interconnection of entities/organisations participating in the integration of migrants,
 - g) ensurances of provision of information to migrants in their countries of origin before their arrival (information centres, brochures, leaflets, web sites),
 - h) simplification of the mechanism of recognition of professional qualifications for the purposes of performance of occupations and academic purposes in respect of asylum seekers, aliens with granted subsidiary protection, and displaced persons,
 - i) ensurance of the possibility to learn Slovak language and education for migrants as concerns the social and cultural orientation; implementation of a unified methodology for verification of the knowledge of Slovak language for low-qualified migrants,
 - j) reconsidering of amendments to the procedure applicable to naturalization and obtaining of the citizenship of the Slovak Republic so that the process of integration may be speeded up and the processes leading to the permanent residence permit granting and the possibility to obtain Slovak citizenship become simpler and more transparent,
 - k) extension of the possibilities and forms of funding in respect of integration measures with an emphasis on the efficient use of the financial means from the funds of the European Union and other alternative non-budgetary sources.

3. Emigration of qualified labour force

Along with some positive elements, the development of the society has also brought some negative features that involve mainly the emigration of qualified labour force as concerns both the category of people with tertiary education and the category of shortage worker professions. The Slovak Republic was not sufficiently prepared for this phenomenon, which meant that the labour market lost the qualified labour force. Currently, there is neither a concept of migration of citizens of the Slovak Republic to other countries and back to Slovakia nor any programs for the integration of returning workers within the Slovak labour market and this problem has surfaced especially during the current financial and economic crisis.

To improve the situation in this area it is necessary:

- a) to prepare a concept of migration of citizens of the Slovak Republic to other countries and back to Slovakia,
- b) to resolve immediately one of the most serious negative impacts of the emigration of citizens of the Slovak Republic to foreign countries and especially the emigration of highly qualified labour force,
- c) to prepare programs for integration of the persons returning from abroad, enabling the more efficient use of their acquired knowledge, experience, language skills, and professional contacts and making the process of family, social, economic, and cultural re-integration easier for them,
- d) to increase the quality of cooperation and the level of awareness among all relevant entities so that they are able to consistently fulfil their tasks in practice in favour of emigrant communities,
- e) to initiate an intensive discussion within the Slovak political scene between experts and the public about various attributes, forms, causes, consequences, and challenges of emigration from the Slovak Republic and about the life of our emigrants abroad.

The Slovak Republic, in compliance with its international commitments, efficiently fights against all forms of illegal migration, while taking into account the human rights aspects associated with this phenomenon. Resolving of the issues associated with illegal migration forms is a self-contained part of the migration policy and it includes a set of measures of both preventive and repressive character. The extent to which suitable conditions will be created and regulatory processes coped with plays an important role in this area.

Measures aimed at the fight against illegal migration are to be adopted due to its international character, high importance, and latency, in cooperation with the EU member states, transit countries, and countries of origin of migrants and this as concerns both the area of prevention and the area of repression.

The return and re-integration policy forms an integral part of migration regulation. Its implementation is carried out in compliance with the legislation and recommendations of the European Union in this area with emphasis on transparency and humanity. The Slovak Republic will continue preferring execution of assisted voluntary returns of aliens to the countries of their origin to their forced returns. At the same time, Slovakia will pay attention to the consistent enforcement of judicial and administrative expulsions.

As concerns the area of illegal migration, returns, and human trafficking the migration policy contains especially the following:

- a) development of cooperation, in the interest of the fight against illegal migration, with the EU member states and countries of origin and transit within a global approach towards migration,
- b) adoption of legislative, organisational, and administrative measures preventing illegal migration as concerns the control and sanctions applicable to illegal employment of migrants,
- c) adoption of measures aimed at an increase in the security and protection of documents and implementation of technical means revealing their alteration and forging,
- d) execution of security reviews in respect of aliens (visa applicants) aimed at the verification of invitations or residence permit granting.

As concerns the return policy, the Slovak Republic prefers the possibility to carry out **assisted voluntary returns**, provided that the character of any given case and purpose of proceedings allow it, to **forced returns**. Within the practical execution of voluntary returns state administration bodies cooperate with non-governmental and international organisations and especially with the International Organisation for Migration (hereinafter referred to as “IOM”).

The Slovak Republic applies repressive measures, in the form of forced returns, as concerns the migrants who violate the country’s legal order. Forced return is applied when all means serving to make a migrant respect a decision of an administrative body or judicial body and to really leave the territory of the Slovak Republic have been exhausted. Deprivation of a migrant of personal freedom for a period of time determined by law in order to execute the expulsion is to be resolved in compliance with the requirements resulting from international treaties, law of the European Union, and the legal order of the Slovak Republic.

Readmission treaties at the level of the European Union or bilateral treaties that the Slovak Republic enters into with selected transit countries or countries of origin of migrants represent an important regulation tool in this area.

Depending on the development of the migration situation, it is necessary to enter into new or revise the current readmission treaties and their implementation protocols, to strengthen the cooperation with representative offices of third countries the citizens of which are subject to expulsion the most frequently or with representatives of the countries in case of which the problems with execution of expulsions last, and to ensure an efficient system for control of compliance with return assistance on the part of receiving countries, including the possibility to enforce a refund of the funds expended in this connection.

Within the fight against illegal migration the activities aimed at the **fight against human trafficking and smuggling of migrants**, which are executed within the context of the National Program of Fight against Human Trafficking for the years 2011-2014 adopted by resolution of the Government of the Slovak Republic no. 96 of 16 February 2011, play an important role.

Activities in this area shall focus on:

- a) strengthening of control mechanisms for control of monitoring of employment agencies offering jobs abroad, granting of licences, and regulation of performance of these activities,
- b) more efficient international cooperation of law enforcement bodies through deepening of the cooperation with other state and international institutions in the area of information exchange and settlement of letters rogatory,
- c) increase in the general awareness through information campaigns concerning illegal work, smuggling of migrants, human trafficking, possible risks of work related migration, and possibilities of assistance,
- d) reintegration of victims of human trafficking into the society with the aim to minimize the risk of becoming a victim of such criminal acts again,
- e) identification of children – victims of human trafficking, especially potential minor victims of human trafficking during transit.

5. Protection of borders

In the Slovak Republic protection of borders is carried out in compliance with “Schengen Acquis” and it includes activities that should prevent illegal crossing of Slovakia’s external land and air borders. Protection of borders must not prevent entitled persons from having an access to the existing forms of international protection (**asylum and subsidiary protection**).

The migration policy includes especially the following tasks related to the protection of borders:

- a) definition of national plans for management of border control in the Slovak Republic,
- b) implementation and further development of a technical security system used within the control of external land and air borders of the Slovak Republic,
- c) application of modern technologies that guarantee interoperability of systems and allow efficient integrated control of the external borders of the European Union with the emphasis on the implementation of electronic registration of entries and exits associated with the simplified procedure applicable to the citizens of the European Union,
- d) strengthening of cooperation with other member states of the European Union and cooperation with the European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Borders of the Member States of the European Union (hereinafter referred to as “FRONTEX”) within its coordination tasks in the area of management of the external borders of the European Union and within ensurance of professional preparation of and equipment for the officers commissioned with the management of migration flows in the countries of origin and/or transit,
- e) issue of biometric visas through the visa information system and strengthening of the cooperation among consular offices of the European Union member states,
- f) ensurance of professional preparation of officers performing the control of external borders and this in the area of rights and obligations of aliens in respect of international protection,
- g) adoption of measures allowing the implementation and performance of control of movement of persons through the internal borders between individual members states of the European Union based on the current development of the migration situation.

6. International protection, migration, and development

The Slovak Republic fully supports all activities aimed at the adoption of a Common asylum system of the European Union, making use of the best experience of individual member states. At the same time, this system respects the right of each member state to decide independently on the terms and conditions of provision of international protection to aliens. The migration policy of the Slovak Republic complies with the traditional pillars of the asylum policy and, at the same time, it also supports new forms of provision of protection in reaction to new initiatives of the international community.

As concerns the international protection of aliens, the Slovak Republic provides the protection in the form of **asylum and subsidiary protection**.

Beyond the framework of this protection and provision of a temporary protection/shelter, the Slovak Republic joined the activities of the European Union connected with resettlement of aliens from third countries through transfers and this based on trilateral treaties between the government, Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, and IOM. Also in connection with migration burden-sharing with the EU countries, the Slovak Republic implements aid programs aimed to relocation of aliens with international protection from the most burdened countries.

Within this context the migration policy contains, as to asylum, the following:

- a) provision of protection under the Geneva Convention of 1951 relating to the Status of Refugees and New York Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees,
- b) provision of international protection in compliance with the laws of the European Union (so called “Qualification Directive”) – aliens who have been granted subsidiary protection,
- c) provision of temporary protection/temporary shelter – de facto refugee,
- d) support for further development of the internal control mechanism and ensurance of quality of asylum proceedings,
- e) responsibility within the integration of aliens with granted asylum and subsidiary protection, who will be granted a long-term residence permit,
- f) active engagement in international processes aimed at the migration burden-sharing (relocation, resettlement activities).

In Europe where there are no internal borders, it is practically impossible for member states to implement migration policies separately. At the same time, the strengthening of the cooperation and interconnecting of migration policies with other policies, especially the development policy and employment policy, have been increasingly accented and promoted along with the continuous incorporation of migration into the external policy of the European Union.

Optimization of the interconnection between migration and development forms one of the basic components of migration issues. The Stockholm Programme emphasizes the need to take further steps in order to maximize, in compliance with the global approach to migration, the positive and to minimize the negative effects of migration on the development.

From the point of view of the migration policy, the strengthening of ties or coactions as concerns migration and development still represents a great challenge. In this connection systematic attention paid to and elaboration of this phenomenon, factoring in the terms and conditions of the current situation as to migration, seem to be the most important steps.

The Slovak Republic carries out bilateral development projects and programs and thus focuses on an improvement of the economic and social situation of third country inhabitants. The aid focuses on several areas, inter alia, on the policy of employment and education for inhabitants of receiving countries. The interconnection between migration and development should not automatically focus only on the aspect of development aid that represents only one of the tools supporting reduction of unwanted migration. As concerns the Slovak Republic there is space for activities and work of several entities at the level of state administration and third sector.

For a specific direction and deeper elaboration of the migration policy in this area it is necessary:

- a) to increase, in a systematic way, the coherency between the migration policy and development policy defined in the strategic materials concerning the official development aid provided by the Slovak Republic and to incorporate more deeply the migration issue within the development policy in respect of the countries with given priority,
- b) to purposefully direct the development aid to the countries with given priority within the development aid provided by the Slovak Republic, and in justified cases also to other countries relevant in terms of migration flows into the Slovak Republic / European Union and to prepare, for this purpose, their regular analyses,
- c) to make use of the potential of temporary and circular migration as well as the return policy within the elimination of illegal migration and outflow of highly qualified and qualified labour force while contributing to the development of third countries.

7. Institutions

The institutions engaged in the migration policy should be perceived at two levels – international and national.

From the international point of view, they include the bodies and organisations of the UN and other international organisations and especially structures of the European Union (Parliament, Council, Commission, Committees, EASO - European Asylum Support Office, FRONTEX, EUROPOL, etc.)

On the national level, these include the bodies and institutions having the contact with migration (ministries, higher territorial units, self-governments of towns and villages, trade unions, associations, religious group, academic, non-governmental organisations, etc.). In order to fulfil the principles and aims of the migration policy it will be necessary to review also the legal regulations applicable to this area.

Despite the existence of international and national structures ensuring the implementation of the migration policy, currently there is no unified interdepartmental body allowing fulfilment of the tasks related to the full-scale implementation of the migration policy of the Slovak Republic from one centre, while pursuing the fulfilment of international treaties and commitments in the area of international protection of aliens. Therefore the creation of the Immigration and Naturalization Office (hereinafter referred to as “INO”) represents a task that is to be fulfilled in future. Within the performance of state administration activities, INO will ensure especially full-scale activities related to the legal entry of aliens to our territory, granting of residence permits, execution of first instance proceedings concerning international protection, integration into the society, and the possibility to apply for citizenship of the Slovak Republic. In addition to that INO will regularly evaluate the implementation of the migration policy (i.e. identification of barriers to arrival of legal migrants, integration related problems, etc.) and based on these analyses it will, in cooperation with all involved departments and organisations, review the implementation of the migration policy so that it reflects, to the greatest possible extent, the changing situation in the area of migration. In connection with the establishment of INO it will be necessary to use the possibilities and space within the activities nowadays performed by the Steering Committee for Migration and Integration of Foreigners (hereinafter referred to as the “Steering Committee”) in order to discuss specific measures related to this process, i.e.:

- a) establishment of the secretariat of the Steering Committee and definition of the requirements of INO as concerns its competencies, organisational structure, staff, finance, and material and technical equipment,
- b) establishment of INO as an independent office within the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic through a merger of the ministry’s organisational units or their parts participating in the implementation of the migration policy of the Slovak Republic,
- c) transfer of relevant competencies to the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic from other departments participating in the fulfilment of the tasks of the migration policy, including a relevant number of positions for civil servants and employees performing the work of public concern and this until the year 2013.

Conclusion

Migration is objectively a part of our everyday life. Even without our efforts its importance continuously increases and if we work on it purposefully, it may bring benefits for the society. If we underestimate or ignore it, it may cause problems in the political, economic, and social life of our country.

The existence of migration must be accented by all political entities and it must become an integral part of activities performed by individual departments.

Therefore the migration policy, as a tool for migration regulation, is to be elaborated within action plans that will be adopted by all involved entities to the extent of their competencies and these entities shall continuously update them in coordination with the Steering Committee and its expert work groups and in close cooperation with the vice-chairman of the Slovak Government for Human Rights and Ethnic Minorities, competent plenipotentiaries of the Government of the Slovak Republic, and relevant committees of the Council of the Government of the Slovak Republic for Human Rights, Ethnic Minorities, and Gender Equality.

List of abbreviations:

EASO	European Asylum Support Office
EU	European Union
EUROPOL	European Police Office
FRONTEX	European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Borders of the Member States of the European Union
ICMPD	Integration Centre for Migration Policy Development
ILO	International Labour Organisation
INO	Immigration and Naturalization Office
IOM	International Organisation for Migration
OSCE	Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
UN	United Nations
HTU	Higher Territorial Unit