



ANNUAL REPORT 2007

RESEARCH CENTER OF THE SLOVAK FOREIGN POLICY ASSOCIATION
non-profit organization

Introduction

The overall mission of the Research Center of the Slovak Foreign Policy Association, n.o. (further in text – RC SFPA) is to contribute to public discourse and education in the field of international relations and foreign policy of the Slovak Republic through elaboration of analyses, publishing activities and organization of expert events of RC SFPA, as every foreign policy think-tank, has the ambition to contribute to public awareness, improve foreign policy decision making and improve foreign policy planning in the Slovak Republic via its analyses. In its expert, publishing and organizational activities, RC SFPA focuses on crucial topics of Slovak foreign policy. The results of activities in 2007 proved its mission.

1. Annual Report on Activities in 2007

The Research Center of the Slovak Foreign Policy Association, non-profit organization, organized 29 projects in 2007 of which 27 specialist events were organized at home and abroad, published 11 periodical and 3 non-periodical publications, implemented 15 research projects whose outputs were studies on the assigned subject and 4 policy briefs. The list of the published publications is listed in part 1.3 of this report and a review of the other projects, including their outcomes is listed in part 2 of the report. The overview of the RC SFPA activities in the 2nd part is structured according to five main research programs of the RC SFPA: European studies, International security, Central and southeastern Europe, Eastern Europe, Economic and development policy.

The main commitment of the RC SFPA activities is to contribute to the public debate and education about international relations and foreign policy of the Slovak Republic through working out analyses, publishing publications and organizing specialist events. This report documents the way how RC SFPA performs its commitments with regards to the statute of the organization. Parts 1.1. – 1.3. of this report include a brief evaluation of the RC SFPA activities according to main types of outcomes: specialist events, research activity and publication activity, including a brief evaluation of the priority outcomes and comparison of the activity results with the previous period.

1.1. Expert Events

RC SFPA organized 27 specialist events in 2007 of which 8 were international conferences, 3 domestic conferences, 12 international workshops and 4 specialist seminars.

We consider the following 4 conferences as the main outcomes in 2007:

“Climate Security – New Challenge of Foreign Policy” (Bratislava, Primate’s Palace, 23rd January 2007), which we co-organized in cooperation with the Embassy of the United Kingdom in Slovakia. Top experts on climate change problems from United Kingdom, Slovakia and other countries attended the conference, including personal participation of the Slovak ministers of Economy and Environment. We consider the conference as an important

contribution to identify the significance of combating climate changes in the foreign policy agenda per conditions of Slovakia.

“Continuities and Changes of the Slovak Foreign Policy”, the 8th year of the evaluation conference of foreign policy of the Slovak Republic (Bratislava, Congress Hall of the MFA, 2nd April 2007). The conference takes place annually and serves as a reflection of Slovak foreign policy, results of the previous year and a discussion about new objections. The Chairman of the National Council Pavol Paška, member of the EC for Slovakia Ján Figel', Minister of Foreign Affairs Ján Kubiš, deputies of the Slovak National Council, primarily members of the foreign and European committee of the Slovak National Council and a wide expert community attended the conference and addressed their contributions. The conference was accompanied by exceptional media attention and was an important contribution to the public debate in Slovakia about foreign policy.

“EU Enlargement: Next Steps”, (Bratislava, Congress Hall of the MFA, 11- 12 October 2007). The conference was the main event on the topic of further EU enlargement in an international context. Leading experts from EU countries, including V4, five experts from Turkey and six experts from countries of the western Balkans attended the conference. A remarkable enrichment was the performance of the President of the Ukraine Viktor Juščenko, who included his appearance at the conference in his program of his official visit to Slovakia on 11th October 2007.

“Common Energy Policy of EU and Energy Security of Slovakia” (Bratislava, Congress Hall of the Slovak MFA, 14-15th November 2007). We organized the conference in cooperation with the EC Representation in the Slovak Republic, Slovak Republic MFA and another ten partners, primarily business subjects. The occasion was unique in the sense that it was the only one of its kind in the second half of 2007 – time allocated for public debate and marking up the proposal of the Slovak Republic energy security strategy, which was worked out by the Commission of the Slovak Ministry of Economy - which enabled an evaluation of the proposal of the Slovak national strategy in the context of the common energy policy of the EU development. Leading representatives of the Slovak Ministry of Agriculture, Slovak MFA, guests from EU member countries and primarily delegates from the Slovak business sector took the floor at the conference.

The following three projects within whose frameworks we organized numerous international specialist events at home and abroad deserve particular mention.

“Slovak – Hungarian European Forum”. We evaluate the Slovak – Hungarian European Forum project as the first initiative of a strategic character coming from Slovakia with the goal to establish a regular dialogue with the Hungarian side, first and foremost about European themes. The main aim of the project is to contribute in the form of expert discussions to find ways of how to meet the common interests of Slovakia and Hungary from European, regional and bilateral contexts. In 2007 we arranged 3 events under this project (2 in Bratislava: 27th February 2007 and 4th December 2007 and one event took place in Budapest: 27th September 2007 – for more information see part 2 of this report). The event in Budapest was unique primarily in the context of the actual worsening of bilateral relations on an official level after meetings of the parliamentary foreign committees in both countries were cancelled. We are grateful that at the first event organized in Budapest by a Slovak think tank we could welcome members of parliament from both countries and that the event contributed

to improving bilateral relations. This is the commitment and meaning of the whole project, which we also consider to be one of the priorities in our activities in the upcoming period.

“Finding Common Grounds 2: Turkey and V4 Civil Society Dialogue” – the aim of this project is to support the exchange of experiences and information from the process of democratic transition and accession process to the EU between representatives of non-governmental organizations and state administration in Slovakia and Turkey. The project comprises a series of workshops and public appearances at universities and other public forums in Slovakia and Turkey. It is the first project of its kind between Slovakia and Turkey. Within the project in 2007 we organized two events (Bratislava 10th October 2007 and a two day event in Istanbul 19-20th November 2007 – for more information see part 2 of this report). The event in Istanbul was unique in three respects: 1) it was the first that was organized by a Slovak think tank in Turkey, 2) it was attended by representatives of influential Turkish think tanks, including representatives of the Turkish MFA who are concerned with the relations with EU and are preparing the communication strategy of Turkey about EU; what pleased us was that they expressed interest in the SFPA experiences when organizing the National convention about EU as a platform for public debate about questions stemming from the accession process of Turkey to EU. 3) Five Slovak journalists attended the Istanbul workshop and made contacts with Turkish colleagues. This project also belongs among the priority activities in the next period.

Within the projects that meaningfully contributed to the number and quality of specialized events also belongs the project **“Forum for Europe”**, supported by the program INTEREG, within which in 2007 we organized 4 Austrian-Slovak conferences on themes that related to the institutional reform of the EU and Austrian – Slovak cross border cooperation. The project **“Strengthening Central European Contribution to the Eastern Dimension of the EU’s CFSP”**, within which we co-organized 3 international workshops in Brussels, Washington D.C. and Berlin on topics related to the policy of EU towards countries of the Eastern Europe also belong in the category of important projects as well as the project **“Helping Ukraine in increasing public awareness about NATO: experiences of Slovakia”** (Common project of the Institute for Public questions and Center for European and north Atlantic relations, n.f. supported by the grant scheme of the MFA). Within the project we co-organized three events in Ukraine in Odea, Simferopoli and Kiev (more info about the listed projects – see part 2 of this report).

From the point of view of the number, quality and reach of the specialist events on public discussion about priority themes of the foreign policy at home and abroad, the year 2007 was a step forward in comparison with the previous period. This fact is important mainly against the background fact that in 2007 RC SFPA together with the parent organization SFPA did not organize events within the National convention project on EU in Slovakia. For keeping up with this positive trend, long term partnerships with the EC Representation in Slovakia, Friedrich Ebert foundation, German Marshall Fund of the U.S., Slovak MFA and cooperation with business subjects – the potential for this cooperation was shown mainly at the November energy conference - is important. These are the partners that have good long-term experience when it comes to organizing specialist events in cooperation with RC SFPA.

1.2. Research Activities

In 2007 RC SFPA carried out 14 projects, part of which was also the realization of research targets, i.e. their outputs were studies and analyses on the given themes. The following outcomes of the research activities of the RC SFPA in 2007 deserve special mention:

“Slovak Foreign Policy in a Changing World” – study, which we carried out in cooperation with the Department of strategic planning of Slovak MFA and Institute ASA as the requirement of the Slovak MFA. On the basis of analyzing global trends, the study identifies mid-term priorities of Slovak foreign policy.

“Export Control System Assessments – In-Country Assessments: Argentina, Georgia, Slovakia” – A study worked out as requested by the MFA of United States of America. A comparative analysis of the legislation arrangement, institutional securing and evaluation of the functioning of the control system of weapon exports from Argentina, Slovakia and Georgia.

“The EU’s Eastern Policy: Central European Contribution. In a Search for new approach” – study worked out within the project **“Strengthening Central European Contribution to the Eastern Dimension of the EU’s CFSP”**, which we realized in cooperation with our Visegrad partners and was supported by the GMF and IVF. The study includes a proposal of new tools for the European Neighborhood Policy centered on countries of Eastern Europe. After publishing the study, we received an individual offer from the Friedrich Ebert foundation to realize a separate international research project on this topic in the next period.

“EU 25/27 Watch” – regular monitoring and analysis of main themes of the European policy within the framework of Slovakia. The main coordinator of the project is Institut für Europäische Politik (Berlin). RC SFPA is one of the 25 partners in the remaining 25 countries of the EU.

Within the grant scheme of the Slovak MFA in 2007 we realized 6 research projects on the given themes. Another two research projects within the grant scheme of MFA will be finished by the end of February 2008. On behalf of the contact with the International Organization for Migration we began to realize in 2007 research about residents of Belarus, Moldavia and Ukraine on the Slovak labor market. In cooperation with the Friedrich Ebert foundation we are realizing a research on the theme “influence of European integration on the discourse and politics of Slovakia towards the Roma population”. RC SFPA is a partner in an international project headed by the Institute for Public Questions (Warsaw) within which a study was carried out on the basis of a field research and monitoring the functioning of the Slovak-Ukraine border as the international external border of EU.

1.3. Publication Activities

In 2007, we also continued with publishing the yearbook of the Slovak foreign policy in both Slovak and English, specialist quarterly International Issues and Slovak Foreign Policy Affairs and the scientific-popular bi-monthly *Zahraničná politika*.

With the aim of making the journal *Zahraničná politika* more popular and make it accessible to a wider Slovak public, we created its web version and registered it on RC SFPA internet

domain: www.zahranicnapolitika.sk. From February 2007, Pavol Szalai has been employed as the new editor of the journal *Zahranická politika*.

1.1.1 Yearbook of the Slovak Republic foreign affairs

Editor: Peter Brezáni

Characteristic: The publication captures the most important events and themes of the Slovak foreign policy in the previous year. In 2007, we published the eighth yearbook of SR foreign policy in both Slovak and English. The circulation of the Slovak version is 400 pieces. Its addressees are representatives of the executive and legislative, the most important academic and specialized working places of the relevant faculties and universities in Slovakia, specialized think tanks and civic associations in Slovakia. The English version circulation is 400 pieces. Its main readers are embassies of key European and overseas countries in Slovakia, the most important academic and specialized working places of relevant faculties and universities abroad, specialized think tanks and civic organizations in Europe, representatives of companies and international institutions officiating in Slovakia and their top managers.

Ročenka zahraničnej politiky Slovenskej republiky 2006. (Bratislava: Výskumné centrum Slovenskej spoločnosti pre zahraničnú politiku, n.o., 2007).

Yearbook of Foreign Policy of the Slovak Republic 2006. (Bratislava: Research Centre of the Slovak Foreign Policy Association, 2007).

1.1.2. International Issues & Slovak Foreign Policy Affairs

Editors: Tomáš Strážay, Peter Brezáni

Characteristics: Academic quarterly publication about international relations and foreign policy of Slovak Republic in English. Published since 2006 on the basis of a quarterly publication *International Questions*, published in Slovak since 1990 and a revue *Slovak Foreign policy affairs* published in English since 200. The oldest Slovak academic journal in the area of international relations and security.

The journal is published with a circulation of 500 pieces. In 2007, the journal was published with the support of the Slovak Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other partners. The addressees the journal are representatives of the executive and legislative, the most important academic and specialized working places of relevant faculties and universities in Slovakia, representative offices of Slovakia abroad, embassies of key European overseas countries in Slovakia, representatives of companies and financial institutions officiating in Slovakia and their top managers, specialized think tanks abroad, civic association in Europe and abroad.

Vol. XVI, No. 1/2007: *Strategic Framework for the EU's Eastern Policy*

Vol. XVI, No. 2/2007: *Domestic Politics in the Central European Foreign Policies*

Vol. XVI, No. 3/2007: *Asian Certain Uncertainties*

Vol. XVI, No. 4/2007: *Energy Security: Challenges and Prospects*

1.1.3. Zahraničná politika

Editor-in-Chief: Lucia Najšlová

Editor: Pavol Szalai

Characteristic: Popular-academic journal about international relations and foreign policy, published 6 times a year in Slovak, since 2004 with periodical supplement Strategic studies (prepared in cooperation with Center for strategic studies) and since 2006 with supplement *Europeana* (prepared in cooperation with Faculty of social and economic sciences, Comenius University in Bratislava). *Zahraničná politika* links to *Listy SFPA* published since 2007. The circulation is 800 pieces. In 2007 the magazine was published with the support of the Slovak MFA and other partners. The subscribers are members of the Slovak Foreign Policy Association, employees of the organs of state administration, municipality, academic workers (universities, think tanks, some departments of Slovak Academy), representatives of media and non-governmental organizations which are concerned with foreign policy and connected themes, libraries and representation of the diplomatic corps. In 2007 the server www.zahranicnapolitika.sk was established the aim of which is to contribute to the popularization of foreign policy and stimulate interest among a wider public towards topics that go beyond Slovak borders. We widened our donor partnerships with the embassy of the Spanish Kingdom in Slovakia which will financially support publication of texts concerning topics about EU- Latin America relations in the next year.

Vol. XI, No. 1/2007: *Klimatické zmeny (Climate Changes)*

Vol. XI, No. 2/2007: *Outsideri (Outsiders)*

Vol. XI, No. 3/2007: *Európska politika susedstva (European Neighborhood Policy)*

Vol. XI, No. 4/2007: *Ako odmítnať západný Balkán?(How to Sweep the Western Balkans?)*

Vol. XI, No. 5/2007: *Čínske pravidlá hry (Chinese Rules of the Game)*

Vol. XI, No. 6/2007: *Medvedí príbeh (Bear Story)*

1.1.4. Other Publications

Duleba, A. *The EU's Eastern Policy: Central European Contribution. In a Search for New Approach.* (Prague Security Studies Institute (Prague), Center for International Relations (Warsaw), Research Center of the Slovak Foreign Policy Association (Bratislava), Center for EU Enlargement Studies (Budapest), 2007).

Bilčík, V., Világi, A. *Slovakia and the Limits of European Integration. A Study for the Project Forum for Europe (vol. I).* Studien des Instituts fuer den Donauraum un Mitteleuropa, No. 3, September 2007 (59 s.). Publishers: IDM & SFPA.

Benč, V. (ed.) *Slovensko-ukrajinská cezhraničná spolupráca: analýza problémov a stratégia rozvoja.* (Prešov, Bratislava, Užhorod: Research center of the Slovak Foreign Policy Association, n.o., Regional department of the National Institute for strategic studies in Uzgorod, 2006).

2. RC SFPA ECONOMY

Profit and Loss Account, 31. 12. 2007 (in thousands of SKK)

	Costs	
501	Consumption of Material	23
502	Energy Consumption	48
512	Travelling	604
513	Representation costs	173
518	Other services	4499
521	Salaries	7
538	Other Taxes	4
545	Exchange Rate Losses	172
546	Donations	162
549	Another Other Costs	21
	Costs Total	5713
	Revenues	
602	Revenue from the Sales of Services	942
644	Interests	1
645	Exchange Rate Profits	9
649	Another Other Revenues	26
662	Received Allowance from Other Organisations	659
691	Operation Subsidies	4062
	Revenues Total	5699
	Total	-14

Balance Sheet, 31. 12. 2007 (in thousands of SKK)

	Assets	
014	Valuable Rights	1134
018	Small Intangible Fixed Assets	23
028	Small Tangible Fixed Assets	220
029	Other Tangible Fixed Assets	612
314	Operational Advanced Payments	89
311	Customers	608
336	Accounting with Social Security Institutions	26
378	Other Liabilities	719
211	Cashier Desk	11
221	Bank Accounts	687
381	Future Expenses	65
	Assets Total	4194

	Liabilities	
901	Registered Capital	2855
932	Retained Earnings and Outstanding Loss of Past Period	22
963	Profit and Loss Account	-14
323	Short-Term Reserves	48
956	Social Security	3
321	Suppliers	313
331	Employers	22
379	Other Liabilities	199
241	Short Term Financial Assistance	105
384	Future Incomes	641
	Liabilities Total	4194

3. RC SFPA Staff

In 2007, 10 people worked in the Research Center of the Slovak Foreign Policy Association.

Vladimír Benč, Head of the *Economic Policy and Development Assistance* research program, (benc@sfpa.sk)

Vladimír Bilčík, Head of the *European Studies* research program, (bilcik@sfpa.sk)

Peter Brezáni, Editor: *International Issues & Slovak Foreign Policy Affairs*; Editor: *Yearbook of the Foreign Policy of the SR*; analyst, program *Economic Policy and Development Assistance* (brezani@sfpa.sk)

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Lucia Najšlová, Editor-in-Chief: Zahraničná politika; analyst, *European Studies* research program (najslova@sfpa.sk)

Ivo Samson, Head of the *International Security* research program, (samson@sfpa.sk)

Tomáš Strážay, Head of the *Central and Southeastern Europe* research program; Editor: *International Issues & Slovak Foreign Policy Affairs*, (strazay@sfpa.sk)

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Aneta Világi, analyst, *European Studies* research program (vilagi@sfpa.sk)

4. Board of Directors RC SFPA

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Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic (ex offo)

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Chair of the SFPA Board of Directors

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Office Director of The German Marshall Fund of the U.S. for Central and Eastern Europe

Ján FIGEL
Member of the European Commission

Rudolf CHMEL
Literary scholar, former Slovak ambassador

Marianna ORAVCOVÁ
Director of the Slovak MFA Department of Analyses and Planning (ex offo)

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