

**Priority Assistance Project to Help the Slovak Republic Combat Nuclear Smuggling:
Project #1. Improving Slovakia's Regulatory Infrastructure**

Project Purpose	To help Slovakia develop its nuclear regulatory system so that it has comprehensive control over its radioactive sources, in accordance with International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) guidelines.
Recipient	The Nuclear Regulatory Authority of the Slovak Republic (UJD) and the Public Health Authorities
Need	Slovakia has a strong regulatory system for protection of nuclear materials, but its regulatory system for protection of radioactive materials could be enhanced by the creation of a single central agency responsible for control and security of radioactive materials as recommended by IAEA and EU best practices. The Nuclear Regulatory Authority of the Slovak Republic (UJD) is responsible for regulating all nuclear materials in Slovakia and radioactive waste from nuclear facilities, while the Public Health Authority is responsible for the safety and surveillance of radioactive sources, including institutional radioactive waste and medical sources. UJD and the Public Health Authority share the responsibility for radioactive waste management (depending on whether it was produced by a nuclear power plant). It is unclear which agency has responsibility to seek out and secure orphaned sources. Both the UJD and Public Health Authority would need additional resources to expand their role in protecting radioactive materials.
Project Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that the designated agency can maintain the existing registry of radioactive sources in Slovakia. • Assist Slovakia in carrying out a comprehensive review of its laws and regulations related to the accounting and control of radioactive and nuclear material. This review should ensure that the designated agency has appropriate legal authorities to carry out its duties and should clarify the designated agency's responsibilities vis-a-vis other regulatory bodies in Slovakia. • Develop a national strategy for long-term radioactive waste management. • Conduct periodic reviews to ensure compliance with current IAEA and EU guidelines and best practices. • Provide training and equipment to new personnel hired by the designated agency.
Project Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The national registry of nuclear and radioactive materials is updated and maintained. • Laws and regulations related to the accounting and control of nuclear and radioactive material meet international standards. • Slovakia's regulatory infrastructure conforms with the IAEA Code of Conduct and meets other IAEA guidelines.
Project Status	Seeking international donors.

For questions, contact Michael Stafford, U.S. Department of State, staffordmi@state.gov, 202-647-0258, or go to: <http://www.nsoi-state.net>.

Priority Assistance Project to Help the Slovak Republic Combat Nuclear Smuggling:
Project #2. Developing a Repository for Long-term Storage of Slovakia's Radioactive Sources

Project Purpose	To develop a long-term repository for Slovakia's orphan and disused sources
Recipient	Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic/National Nuclear Fund
Need	Slovak law currently requires the manufacturer of radioactive materials to take back these sources after the end of their useful life. Most sources used in Slovakia are imported and then exported to their country of origin for permanent disposal. Because of this, Slovakia lacks a repository to store orphan or disused radioactive sources. When such sources are found, they are often stored temporarily on the premises of one of the private companies licensed to handle radioactive materials, but Slovakia lacks a viable long-term solution to this problem.
Project Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a long-term, central storage facility for radioactive material. Such a facility could be co-located with the Bohunice or Mochovce nuclear power plant to minimize the burden of maintaining a completely separate physical security system. • Provide a small number of specialized containers, handling equipment, and protective gear for the new facility's personnel.
Project Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secure, long-term storage for Slovakia's orphan and disused radioactive sources
Project Status	Seeking international donors.

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**Priority Assistance Project to Help the Slovak Republic Combat Nuclear Smuggling:
Project #3. Searching For and Securing Disused or Orphan Sources**

Project Purpose	To identify vulnerable, orphan, or disused radioactive sources and transport them to secure storage.
Recipient	Public Health Authorities
Need	Unregistered and improperly stored radioactive sources that are no longer in use may exist at medical clinics, hospitals, and industrial enterprises, and additional sources may be abandoned at unknown locations, which could be dangerous if smugglers discover these sources before they are secured. Slovakia has not yet received training or equipment to conduct search-and-secure missions. Search-and-secure missions are currently conducted on a case-by-case basis by an ad hoc group of experts from relevant Slovak state agencies.
Project Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fund search-and-secure training for relevant Slovak officials. • Help identify locations at high risk for orphan sources. • Fund missions to search for radioactive sources proactively and secure them. This funding would likely apply to local salaries, transportation costs, and travel, as well as administrative support for developing an effective search plan. Participation by outside experts may also be needed. • Place any discovered disused sources into secure storage in conformity with International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and Slovak security standards and recommendations. • If necessary, provide specialized containers, a specialized truck, and personal protective gear to help Public Health Authorities staff safely transport high-activity sources to a secure storage facility.
Project Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Public Health Authorities are fully equipped, trained, and funded to carry out search-and-secure missions. • Search missions are conducted regularly and are integrated into the regulatory infrastructure. • In the long-term, all significant radioactive sources are identified and placed under regulatory control or removed to a secure storage facility.
Project Status	Seeking international donors.

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Priority Assistance Project to Help the Slovak Republic Combat Nuclear Smuggling:
Project #4. Securing Highly Radioactive Sources at Vulnerable Facilities

Project Purpose	Remove or secure vulnerable, highly radioactive materials before they can be stolen and trafficked.
Recipient	Public Health Authorities
Need	The Department of Energy’s Global Threat Reduction Initiative (GTRI) funded physical security upgrades at St Elizabeth’s Hospital in Slovakia, and will fund upgrades at five additional facilities with vulnerable, highly radioactive sources. GTRI has identified several other sites that meet the GTRI criteria and will work with the Public Health Authorities to provide upgrades at these facilities. Additional facilities with vulnerable, highly radioactive sources may also be discovered during the course of search-and-secure missions.
Project Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fund the removal of any disused, highly radioactive sources to secure storage. • Upgrade physical security systems at facilities where vulnerable sources are still in use.
Project Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highly radioactive materials consolidated and secured.
Project Status	The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) funded physical security upgrades at one facility, and plans to fund upgrades at five additional facilities. In the future, additional donors may be needed to complete this project.

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**Priority Assistance Project to Help the Slovak Republic Combat Nuclear Smuggling:
Project #5. Improving Radiation Detection and other Equipment at Ports of Entry and other
Priority Locations**

Project Purpose	To provide appropriate radiation detection equipment and other equipment at ports of entry (POEs) and other priority locations.
Recipient	Customs Administration of the Slovak Republic; Ministry of Transport, Construction, and Regional Development of the Slovak Republic
Need	Slovakia has worked with U.S. and international partners, including the Department of Energy’s Second Line of Defense (SLD) program, to create a sophisticated network of radiation portal monitors (RPMs) at its ports of entry (POEs). Slovakia has equipped all of the current POEs on the border with Ukraine, but it could use assistance to improve radiation detection at other POEs and priority locations.
Project Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate with Slovak and U.S. experts to develop a list of priority POEs to receive recommended radiation detection equipment and ensure that any equipment provided is compatible with existing equipment. A typical border checkpoint should be equipped with one or more stationary RPMs, handheld radiation detection equipment for secondary inspections, and related communications equipment. Border personnel should be provided with training on the use and maintenance of any equipment provided, as well as support for regular calibration of radiation detection equipment. The Slovak government indicated that Slovakia’s four international airports, the Bratislava and Komarno river ports, the planned Cierna-Solomonovo border crossing, and post offices were key priorities for new equipment. • Provide assistance to link radiation monitors and video data to Slovakia’s national communications center to provide a record of all traffic and cargo crossing the borders.
Project Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expanded, sustainable capacity of the Customs Administration to detect illegally trafficked nuclear and radioactive materials and other contraband.
Project Status	The U.S. Department of Energy’s Second Line of Defense (SLD) program is funding part of this project, but additional donors may be needed. Prospective donors should coordinate with SLD to ensure their efforts are complementary and the equipment provided is compatible.

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**Priority Assistance Project to Help the Slovak Republic Combat Nuclear Smuggling:
Project #6. Improving Monitoring of Slovakia's Green Borders**

Project Purpose	To increase monitoring of areas between established ports of entry (POE) to detect illicit trafficking through these areas.
Recipient	Ministry of Interior
Need	As security at POEs improves, smugglers are more likely to exploit the green border areas, the open land areas between these POEs. Slovakia has a fairly sophisticated system for remote monitoring of its green border areas, but it needs some limited upgrades to maximize the impact of this system. The Slovakia-Ukraine border is roughly 98.5 km and is covered by closed circuit television (CCTV) cameras that allow Border Police officers to identify an intrusion. The camera feeds are monitored 24 hours a day from a central management control room at the Operations Center of the Sobrance Border Police Directorate Headquarters. These cameras are supplemented by mobile patrols with specially equipped vans capable of detecting radiation. However, the cameras are unable to pan, tilt, or zoom.
Project Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upgrade cameras on Slovakia's eastern border so that they are able to pan, tilt, and zoom. • Connect all cameras to the Operations Center of the Sobrance Border Police Directorate Headquarters.
Project Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular, sustained monitoring of green border areas. • Increased interdiction of smuggling along the green borders. • Cross-border traffic forced to points of entry where detection of nuclear and radioactive materials or other illicit goods is more likely.
Project Status	Seeking international donors

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**Priority Assistance Project to Help the Slovak Republic Combat Nuclear Smuggling:
Project #7. Exercising a National Response Plan**

Project Purpose	To exercise a national response plan that conforms to IAEA and other relevant international standards and identifies the roles and responsibilities of relevant agencies in responding to any illicit trafficking incident.
Recipient	Various agencies
Need	Successful responses to nuclear smuggling incidents require expertise that often resides in different ministries, including those responsible for nuclear regulation, intelligence, law enforcement, and prosecution. In order to manage the response to a smuggling event from its detection to successful prosecution, a formal national response plan is essential. In 2009, Slovakia developed a National Response Plan to react to seizures of nuclear and radioactive material. Slovakia could use international assistance developing exercises to test this national response plan.
Project Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organize exercises and training, as well as technical exchanges, to ensure effective execution of the response plan that specifies the roles and responsibilities of each agency involved in responding to illicit trafficking incidents and in refining standard operating procedures for responding to illicit trafficking incidents in line with the IAEA guidance.
Project Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National response plan that clearly identifies the roles of each agency in responding to various smuggling incidents. • Improved coordination among Slovak agencies and with their international counterparts. • A regular program of exercises implemented.
Project Status	The U.S. Preventing Nuclear Smuggling Program (PNSP) is planning to fund this project.

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**Priority Assistance Project to Help the Slovak Republic Combat Nuclear Smuggling:
Project #8. Reviewing the Legal Authorities to Prosecute Nuclear Smuggling**

Project Purpose	To ensure that Slovakia’s legal code gives relevant legal personnel the authority to prosecute all cases of nuclear smuggling and to enforce appropriate sentences.
Recipient	Office of the General Prosecutor
Need	Since most incidents of nuclear smuggling are opportunistic, profit-driven crimes, strong legal authorities and strict sentences are essential to deter such crimes. While Slovakia has generally strong laws to prosecute nuclear smuggling cases, the Slovak Criminal Code does not provide the authority to prosecute nuclear smuggling scams, in which individuals try to sell non-radioactive materials while claiming they are dangerous nuclear or radioactive materials. These scams take up valuable law enforcement resources and may create the impression that there is a black market for nuclear materials in Slovakia. Prosecuting scam incidents will dissuade individuals from engaging in these activities. The Slovak Police Presidium would like to modify the Slovak Criminal Code in order to enable the prosecution of persons who attempt to conduct a scam sale.
Project Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sponsor a legal workshop during which legal and law enforcement experts consult Slovak officials to review Slovakia’s criminal code, identify any loopholes in the code regarding nuclear smuggling scenarios, develop needed recommendations to close those loopholes, share experiences in dealing with nuclear smuggling cases, and discuss how Slovakia would investigate and prosecute such cases. Law enforcement personnel would have an opportunity to discuss how they would respond to and investigate various cases of nuclear smuggling, and prosecutors would be able to discuss how the relevant statutes apply to each of the cases. • If gaps are identified, support the efforts of legal experts to assist Slovak officials in developing proposed revisions to existing laws or new laws to ensure that all types of nuclear smuggling cases can be prosecuted.
Project Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure Slovak laws are sufficient to prosecute all types of cases of nuclear smuggling. • To prosecute all types of nuclear smuggling cases in Slovakia, including scams. • To decrease the number of nuclear smuggling scams, thereby decreasing the amount of time spent by law enforcement agencies investigating fraudulent cases.
Project Status	The U.S. Preventing Nuclear Smuggling Program (PNSP) is planning to fund this project.

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**Priority Assistance Project to Help the Slovak Republic Combat Nuclear Smuggling:
Project #9. Expanding Slovakia's Counter Nuclear Smuggling Capabilities**

Project Purpose	To improve the capability to detect radioactive materials trafficked within Slovakia's borders.
Recipient	Police Presidium's CBRN team
Need	Law enforcement and intelligence investigations are one of the most effective ways to detect nuclear smuggling incidents and break up smuggling groups. Because of the technical nature of the nuclear materials involved, law enforcement officials without specialized training and equipment may not be particularly effective against this threat. Given the sensitive and international nature of many nuclear smuggling cases, effective investigation also requires patience and cooperation between law enforcement and intelligence personnel in several countries. In 2011, the Slovak Police Presidium created a specialized group of police experts with the capability to secure chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) materials and protect public safety in the event of a hazardous materials release. This group's role and capabilities could be expanded to include detecting and investigating nuclear smuggling activity, securing and analyzing seized nuclear and radiological materials, and obtaining evidence to prosecute smugglers of such materials. Any expansion of this group's role and capabilities would be done in coordination with the Police Presidium's Environmental Working Group, which has experience investigating nuclear smuggling cases and obtaining evidence to prosecute smugglers.
Project Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide Slovakia's CBRN team with appropriate portable radiation detection equipment, surveillance gear, and specialized training to develop specialized counter nuclear smuggling capabilities. • Exchange best practices and serve as a focal point to share information with their international counterparts.
Project Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training that provides investigators with sufficient background and knowledge to identify potential smuggling activities. • Investigative personnel equipped with radiation detection equipment and given appropriate training. • Indigenous ability to investigate cases of nuclear and radiological smuggling. • Ability to quickly respond to incidents of nuclear and radiological smuggling. • Periodic checkpoints established along major transit corridors within Slovakia. • Establishment of an additional element of security to detect and interdict nuclear smuggling through Slovakia.
Project Status	The United States is planning to fund this project.

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**Priority Assistance Project to Help the Slovak Republic Combat Nuclear Smuggling:
Project #10. Expanding Nuclear Forensics Capabilities**

Project Purpose	To improve Slovakia’s nuclear forensics capabilities, particularly by increasing its participation in the International Technical Working Group (ITWG) on Nuclear Forensics.
Recipient	Relevant technical experts and law enforcement officials determined by the Government of Slovakia.
Need	Successful responses to nuclear smuggling incidents require integration of advanced technical analysis with efforts of law enforcement investigators and prosecutors. Nuclear forensics plays a critical role throughout this process - in identifying the material, tracing its origin and pathway, and supporting prosecution. One way that countries can improve their nuclear forensic capabilities is through participation in the International Technical Working Group (ITWG) on Nuclear Forensics. The ITWG meets annually, encourages forensic scientists and law enforcement bodies to participate, and conducts nuclear forensic exercises using actual material. Since 2005, Slovakia has consistently participated in the ITWG, but now lacks the financial resources to continue sending participants. The Government of Slovakia also noted that some laboratories may need additional equipment to perform some types of forensics analysis.
Project Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sponsor a Slovak scientist and law enforcement representative to participate in ITWG activities. This would include attendance at annual ITWG meetings, participation in the multi-country technical nuclear forensics exercises, and participation in ITWG working groups for one year. • Provide additional equipment according to Slovakia’s needs, which may include laboratory equipment to expand national forensics capabilities. Before a donor invests in new equipment, we recommend that Slovakia determine which capabilities will be needed indigenously and which tests can be outsourced to international partners.
Project Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expanded forensics capabilities of Slovakia’s scientific community. • Improved cooperation between Slovak technical experts and law enforcement community. • Improved contacts and cooperation between Slovak scientists and other scientists in the international nuclear forensics community. • Improved contacts and cooperation between the Slovak law enforcement community and its international counterparts. • Closer adherence to the international best practices on nuclear forensics reflected in the IAEA Nuclear Forensics Support Reference Manual (2006).
Project Status	Seeking international donors.

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