



PHOTO ARCHIVE INTEGRA FOUNDATION, ADRA AND PONTIS FOUNDATION

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

10 YEARS OF  
**Slovak Aid**

A VISION OF DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION  
FOR A CHANGING WORLD



## ABOUT THE CONFERENCE:

The two day conference will be held on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of SlovakAid. Its aim is to stimulate a professional dialogue between the governmental, non-governmental, academic and private sectors and media on lessons learnt and future orientation of Slovakia's development cooperation program. It will facilitate an opportunity for experts from Slovakia and abroad to search for innovative ideas and new prospects for the Slovak development agenda with an emphasis on formulation of challenges and possibilities for the Slovak Presidency of the EU Council in 2016.

## CONFERENCE PROGRAM

 **OCTOBER 16, 2013**

Discussion panels for diplomats, professional public and media (8:30 - 16:30)

Venue: Congress Hall, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic

**8:30** REGISTRATION

**9:00** OPENING ADDRESS

**H. E. Miroslav Lajčák**, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic • **H. E. Andris Piebalgs**, European Commissioner for Development

### DISCUSSION PANEL 1:

#### SLOVAKIA AND WESTERN BALKANS: SHARING TRANSITION EXPERIENCE

The states of the Western Balkans are a long-term priority of Slovak foreign policy and development cooperation. A great number of projects that have been implemented during the last 10 years prove that partnerships of Slovak and Balkan entities have been mutually beneficial. Slovakia has focused its assistance on civil-society building, integration to the EU and international organizations, utilization of pre-accession financial instruments in order to implement reforms, regional development and infrastructure. These are some questions the panel will address: How do partners from the Western Balkans countries evaluate Slovak transformation and integration know-how? Which experience from the accession and post-accession process are still substantial? Is geographic, cultural, and historical proximity of Slovakia and the Western Balkans a competitive advantage in comparison to other donors? On the other hand, what has Slovakia learnt in 10 years from partnership with the Western Balkans? What strategic goals does it set for the next 10 years of development cooperation with this region?

**MODERATOR: Mr. Pavol Demeš**, German Marshall Fund of the U.S.

**SPEAKERS: H. E. Miroslav Lajčák**, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic • **H.E. Vujica Lazović**, Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Policy and Financial System and Minister for Information Society and Telecommunications, Government of Montenegro  
**H. E. Jovan Andonovski**, State Secretary for European Affairs, Government of the Republic of Macedonia • **Ms. Sonja Licht**, President of the Belgrade Fund for Political Excellence

**10.30** COFFEE BREAK

**11:00** DISCUSSION PANEL 2:

#### SLOVAK-AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION: PAST AND FUTURE

Defined by its geographic area and population Slovakia belongs to smaller countries and resources allocated for development assistance are relatively modest. Despite this, a few of African countries are on the list of recipient countries of Slovak ODA. Slovak NGOs, private companies as well as academic

institutions have been active and successful in Sub-Saharan African countries. With financial support of SlovakAid, they have run projects targeting education, healthcare, and rural development in Kenya, South Sudan and other countries. In November 2012, a Development Forum in Nairobi, organized by the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic as well as Kenyan partners gathering NGOs and business entities from Slovakia and Kenya, took place. Poll results confirm support of Slovak public for aiming the development assistance at solving problems in Africa. These are some questions the panel will address: Why is cooperation with partners in Africa important for both sides? How will historical experience influence the vision of Slovak ODA in Sub-Saharan Africa? What is the development assistance potential of Slovak governmental, non-governmental, and business entities in Africa? What is a perception of the EU and OECD representatives on the potential of new EU Member States as donors?

**MODERATOR: Mr. Maroš Čaučík**, eRko Christian Children Communities Movement

**SPEAKERS: H. E. Andris Piebalgs**, European Commissioner for Development • **H. E. Amina C. Mohamed**, Cabinet Secretary for Foreign Affairs and International Trade of the Republic of Kenya • **Mr. Peter Burian**, State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic • **OECD Representative (TBC)**

## 12:30 PRESS CONFERENCE

**H. E. Miroslav Lajčák**, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic • **H. E. Andris Piebalgs**, European Commissioner for Development • **H. E. Natalia Gherman**, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Moldova • **H.E. Vujica Lazović**, Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Policy and Financial System and Minister for Information Society and Telecommunications, Government of Montenegro • **H. E. Amina C. Mohamed**, Cabinet Secretary for Foreign Affairs and International Trade of the Republic of Kenya • **H. E. Jovan Andonovski**, State Secretary for European Affairs, Government of the Republic of Macedonia

## 13:00 LUNCH

## 14:30 DISCUSSION PANEL 3:

### SHARED VALUES AND COOPERATION WITH THE EASTERN PARTNERSHIP COUNTRIES

Governmental and non-governmental representatives from the Eastern Partnership countries and Slovakia will briefly review Slovak experience sharing in the region, shortly before the November Vilnius summit. In case of Moldova, they will focus on partnership of the two countries and on the importance of experience of Slovak experts from both governmental and non-governmental sectors in the process of political and economic integration into the European Union. With regard to Belarus, they will concentrate on a broader context of implementation of Slovak ODA projects. The panelists will also address the issues of coordination with local governmental and non-governmental actors, representatives of international donor community, and utilization of capacities of the Slovak Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs (i.e. microgrant program of Slovak Embassies, Centre for Transfer of Experience from Integration and Reforms) to achieve a greater impact of Slovak ODA in target countries.

**MODERATOR: Peter Hulényi**, Director of the Department of Humanitarian and Development Aid, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic

**SPEAKERS: H. E. Natalia Gherman**, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Moldova • **Mr. Ľubomír Reháč**, Political Director of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic • **Ms. Olga Stuzhinskaya**, Founder of the Office for a Democratic Belarus • **Mr. Alexander Duleba**, Director of Slovak Foreign Policy Association

**16:00 GLASS OF WINE**

**Book Launch Ceremony** – a commemorative publication issued on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of SlovakAid and **Awards** – granted to the foremost contributors to the development of partner countries of Slovak ODA


**OCTOBER 17, 2013**

Venue: Palugyay Palace, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic

The second day of the conference will provide discussion space for field practitioners, experts, academics and journalists. Panelists will be announced in September.

**9:00 REGISTRATION AND MORNING COFFEE****9:30 OPENING REMARKS**

**Vazil Hudák**, State Secretary of the Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic (TBC)

**Peter Burian**, State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic (TBC)

**Lenka Surotchak**, Director of the Pontis Foundation

**10:00 DISCUSSION PANELS I.**

**DISCUSSION PANEL A.** Sharing transition experience in the Western Balkans and Eastern European countries

**DISCUSSION PANEL B.** The future direction of the European development policy considering the new financial framework

**DISCUSSION PANEL C.** Responsibility for implementation of democratic principles in countries of the Southern Neighbourhood

**12:00 LUNCH****13:00 DISCUSSION PANELS II.**

**DISCUSSION PANEL D.** The role of the private sector in the development

**DISCUSSION PANEL E.** How to solve social and health problems in countries of the Global South

**DISCUSSION PANEL F.** Global education as a tool for global solidarity in an unequal and changing world

**15:00 COFFEE BREAK****15:30 EVALUATION OF THE DISCUSSION PANELS****16:00 CEREMONY WITH WINNERS OF THE ESSAY CONTEST**

Recognition for completing internships at Permanent Mission of the Slovak Republic to UN in Geneva, Vienna and Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic. Diplomas will be granted by Peter Hulényi, Director of the Department of Humanitarian and Development Aid, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic.

## ORGANIZERS:

