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V4 Countries and Development Cooperation: (Re)Emerging Donors in (Re)United Europe and the Role of UNDP**

Over the past decade and half, the V4 countries have made a considerable progress in their economic and democratic reform processes. They have one of the highest per-capita GDP

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levels and living standards among the transition countries. All these countries enjoy the EU, NATO, WTO and OECD membership. These countries are also gradually becoming net contributors vis-à-vis UNDP. The Czech Republic (since January 2001) has already become a net contributor.¹ The others are expected to become net contributors in the not-so-distant future, possibly with UNDP's termination of the core funding for these countries at the end of 2005. The status of the EU accession countries as recipients of development assistance is therefore changing to that of providers of development assistance.

The Role of the V4 countries in Development Cooperation

The V4 countries can play a crucial role in the development processes. The V4 countries are relatively success stories in transition from a centralised (Soviet type of totalitarian rule) social system to liberal-democratic (EU compatible) ones.

Their governments, private and non-governmental sector have accumulated a wealth of best practices and lessons learned during the transition process. Import and adaptation of these practices is extremely important and relevant for the "new EU neighbours", South-Eastern Europe and CIS countries. Reversing the unfavourable development trends in these regions is a concern shared by the international community and accentuated in the new EC wider Europe - neighbourhood policy. This underscores the V4 countries' comparative advantages as providers of transition-related development assistance to post-communist countries, namely to those that are aspiring to become EU members by sharing also the EU accession process experience.

In the past several years, the demand for expertise and transition experience in developing countries has been gradually increasing. As former recipient countries that have successfully navigated the transition process, the V4 countries are in a unique position to provide expert knowledge to the development community. Their socialist experience blended with the remnants of democratic tradition that has been melted into the fresh liberal democracies steadily backed by the prospects of EU and NATO memberships makes them the best positioned to share this historical experience in a relevant and applicable way.

What are the most relevant and demanded areas of support requested by recipient countries in concrete terms? In the democratic governance

area it is especially sharing of experience with building up the democratic institutions and their efficient performance such as parliaments, regional governments, local governments, decentralisation processes as such, ombudsman, supreme court and last but not least the EU accession process. In the area of environment, the most frequent areas of cooperation are the development of strategies for sustainable development, energy efficiency, remediation of old ecological burdens after Soviet troops and old industries. Socio-economic agenda comprises mostly privatisation issues, monetary policies during transition period and development of small and medium sized enterprises (SME). Quite significant areas of cooperation have also been health, especially HIV/AIDS and education, namely through the schemes of scholarships for students from the recipient countries that have survived from the socialist times.

Recent Trends and Developments in the V4 countries' ODA Policies

All V4 countries have recently made considerable progress in developing their development cooperation frameworks and in establishing transparent and efficient ODA delivery mechanism, including the project cycle management guidelines and practices. The Ministries of Foreign Affairs (MFAs) in all these countries have assumed greater role in the national development cooperation agendas and thus in integrating them more closely into their respective foreign policy frameworks.² The ODA budgets in all these countries have been increased and further continuous annual increase is anticipated.³

Nevertheless, it should be noted that the budgets are relatively modest compared to other EU member states, lagging far behind the European Union pledges in Monterrey to reach an average ODA/GNI target of 0.39% by 2006 and subsequent national level commitments to at least 0.33% by the same date. This minimum threshold was set at such level because some EU member states are already well ahead of the 0.39% target. E.g. the Czech Republic, a V4 country with the highest ODA/GNI ratio, reached 0.1% in 2003. The Slovak Republic, a V4 country with the second highest ODA/GNI ratio, plans to reach almost 0.092% in 2006.

In order to use the limited financial resources most effectively and strategically, the V4 countries have recently formulated their development cooperation strategies, national ODA programmes, policy concept notes

and studies elaborating their comparative advantages as donors in the global development cooperation arena. Attempts have been also made to focus the sectoral and thematic priorities of national ODA activities on fewer target priority countries and to concentrate on such thematic priorities that would enable them to capitalize upon national advantages and more programmatic approach. In some countries, the territorial and thematic priorities have been newly defined. For the list of the V4 countries' territorial and sectoral priorities see *Table 1* that is based on the current national strategies for development cooperation.

Table 1. *Indicative list of V4 countries' ODA/OA (Official Assistance) territorial and sectoral/thematic priorities*

V4 Country	Target Recipient Countries	Sectoral/thematic priorities
Czech Republic	<p><i>Long term:</i> Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moldavia, Mongolia, Serbia and Montenegro, Vietnam, Yemen, Zambia</p> <p><i>Mid term:</i> Afghanistan, Iraq</p> <p>Ongoing projects in many more developing countries</p>	Environment and sustainable development, agriculture and rural development, industrial development, health care, education, migration
Hungary	<p><i>Strategic partner countries:</i> Bosnia and Herzegovina, Palestinian National Authority, Serbia and Montenegro, Vietnam,</p> <p><i>Other partner countries:</i> China, Kyrgyzstan, Macedonia, Moldavia, Mongolia, Ukraine</p> <p><i>Least developed countries: (LDCs):</i> Cambodia, Ethiopia, Laos, Yemen</p> <p><i>Under international commitment:</i> Afghanistan, Iraq</p>	Transfer of experience in political system changes, education, technical training, information technology, agriculture, health, infrastructure planning and environment protection

Poland	<p><i>According to the strategy:</i> Selected countries a) with which Poland maintains a significant level of political, cultural and economic relations; b) that are under transformation in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe; c) with large population of Polish origin and fitting under category a) and/or b)</p> <p><i>According to the ongoing ODA/OA projects:</i> Afghanistan, Angola, Georgia, Iraq, Moldova; small projects for Africa (Cameroon, Congo, Kenya, Rwanda, Senegal); NGO projects co-financed by MFA (Belarus, Moldova, Ukraine, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Balkans etc.)</p>	<p>Systemic transformation Reforming state institutions Reforming economic system Education and scholarships Knowledge transfer and human resources development Local government Technical consulting Economic analysis Investment projects</p>
Slovak Republic	<p><i>Programme country:</i> Serbia and Montenegro</p> <p><i>Project countries:</i> Afghanistan, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Macedonia, Mongolia, Mozambique, Sudan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan</p> <p>Belarus, Ukraine (OA)</p>	<p>Building democratic institutions Creating market environment Development of infrastructure including social infrastructure and cultural landscape Protection of the environment and natural resource conservation Agriculture EU accession processes Regional development</p>

The above table nicely shows the concentrated focus of all V4 countries on South-Eastern Europe and on their Eastern neighbours, where they can offer both the transition and EU accession related experience. Geopolitical and security interests play certainly their role as well. The V4 countries will be most probably able to capitalise upon their strategic “bridging” and/or “buffering” (depending on political winds) geographical and cultural position and to act as mediators and implementing partners of the new European neighbourhood and pre-accession policies.

European Commission's (EC) recent policy statements clearly declare that the opportunity offered by the 2004 enlargement should be used for enhancing relations with the new neighbours on the basis of shared values (democracy, rule of law, human rights). EC stresses its duty not only towards the citizens of the member states but also towards its present and future neighbours to ensure continuous social cohesion and economic dynamism. It is determined to avoid drawing the new dividing lines in Europe and to promote stability and prosperity within and beyond the new EU borders. Such an EC policy creates quite unambiguously the new opportunity space for the growing role of the V4 countries in these processes.

There are at least two more interesting aspects of the V4 countries' territorial priorities. First, these new donors build to some extent on their previous, socialist ODA experience and resume cooperation with some of their previous partner countries (Angola, Mongolia, Mozambique, Vietnam). Second, most of the V4 countries' territorial priorities are pretty complementary to those of the European Community resulting from the *Cotonou Agreement* signed in 2000 with the ACP countries (African, Caribbean and Pacific group of states). The new member states have joined the *Cotonou Agreement* through an automatic clause (Article 6, paragraph 4) in the *Accession Treaty*, including substantial financial commitments in the near future.

Development Education and Public Awareness

Hand in hand with the implementation of the ODA policies goes a growing concern of all V4 countries about the level of public support to and knowledge about development cooperation. Public opinion polls focused on the issues of development cooperation and investigating the level of public support to ODA activities have recently been or are soon to be conducted in all V4 countries. These surveys will serve as a point of reference and a baseline for following these politically sensitive issues and for development of the national ODA communication strategies and development education programmes. The first development education projects and development awareness raising campaigns are already being implemented in all V4 countries.

Country Sketches

1. Czech Republic

Institutional Set-up

ODA budget is divided among the line ministries under the coordination of the MFA. MFA in cooperation with the *Development Centre* (DC) screens and appraises the proposed projects and proposes the selection of the best projects to the government for final approval.

Tendencies

Increased coordination role of the MFA that is professionally supported by the DC

On-site monitoring and evaluation of the selected ODA projects;

New NGO support mechanism;

Development awareness projects focused on media and decision-makers two development education projects;

Country Strategy Papers being drafted for the priority recipient countries;

New law on public tenders – new ODA projects subject to public tendering;

Trust Fund with UNDP entered a new qualitative phase and the annual contribution was increased.

Next Steps

New ODA projects in conformity with the territorial priorities, based on the programmatic approach and better fitting the needs of the recipient countries;

Establishment of the new institutional framework for the Czech ODA including launching of the ODA agency;

Formulation and adoption of the law on development cooperation;

Application of the multi-year financing framework for ODA activities.

2. Hungary

Institutional Set-up

Development cooperation responsibilities and competences delegated to the MFA in 2003. Minister of Foreign Affairs chairs and convenes the *Development Cooperation Interdepartmental Committee* primarily respon-

sible for determining the partner countries and target thematic areas. MFA has its own *Development Cooperation Committee* for harmonising the ODA programme with foreign policy, economic and security objectives. The *Interdepartmental Expert Group* of delegated representatives from the line ministries harmonises Hungarian ODA activities, the ongoing projects of the line ministries are to be continued. The *Civil Advisory Board* is chaired by the former president and aims to encourage participation of all potential stakeholders in ODA programme. HUNIDA (*Hungarian International Development Assistance* - NGO) was subcontracted by the MFA to perform project cycle management functions on behalf of the MFA.

Tendencies

First development cooperation framework agreement signed with the Palestine National Authority, Vietnam and Bosnia and Herzegovina to come soon;

Debt-settlement and *Development Cooperation Agreement* to be signed with Ethiopia in the fall of 2004;

Consultation mechanism with NGOs put in place;

Second call for project proposals by the end of 2004;

Trust Fund with UNDP established and made operational.

Next Steps

Increasing the capacities for management and handling the growing number of projects that are being implemented;

Formulation of the legislative framework (law or government decree) on development cooperation including multi-year planning and financing, financial predictability, flexible implementation structure and ensuring the coordinating role of the MFA;

Reduce the number of partner countries;

Writing *Country Strategy Papers*;

Strengthened public awareness and support for DC.

3. Poland

Institutional Set-up

Line ministries have their own ODA activities and report to the MFA ex-post. The main players are the *Ministry of Finance* and the *Ministry of Edu-*

tion. ODA unit at the MFA has been strengthened and manages its own portfolio of ODA projects. Law on development cooperation was drafted and the establishment of a *Polish Bureau for Development Cooperation* and of a special bank account “*Development Cooperation of Poland*” is envisaged, as well as the multi-annual programming and funding framework and the management guidelines for the implementation of Polish ODA.

Tendencies

- Approval of the *Law on Development Cooperation*;
- Increased training of the MFA staff;
- Public opinion poll conducted in cooperation with CIDA;
- Public awareness campaign launched in October 2004 in cooperation with UNDP.

Next Steps

- Implementation of the new *Law on Development Cooperation*, namely setting up the *Development Cooperation Bureau*, account, coordination and implementation mechanism;
- Further strengthening of the ODA unit at the MFA;
- More focused programming based on *Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers* (PRSPs);
- Results based and project cycle management introduced;
- Active use of effective aid instruments and trilateral projects.

4. Slovak Republic

Institutional Set-up

According to the governmental resolution adopted in 2002, the MFA acts as a coordinator of the ODA provided by the Slovak Republic. *Coordination Committee for Development Assistance* was established in order to ensure active participation of the line ministries in the Slovak ODA. Following the *National ODA Programme*, the *Memorandum of Understanding* was signed between the Government of the Slovak Republic and the *United Nations Development Programme* (UNDP) in 2003. It sets the general conditions for cooperation of both parties in the area of providing the ODA. *Slovak-UNDP Trust Fund* (TF) was established as a delivery mechanism for the Slovak ODA to the 12 priority project countries. *Administrative and Contracting Unit*

(ACU) was established as an implementing body of the TF that is operating within the UNDP RC in Bratislava. It is foreseen that ACU will be transformed into the Slovak ODA agency within next 2 - 3 years.

Special *Bratislava – Belgrade Fund* was established for the only programme priority country Serbia and Montenegro. This fund is administered by the *Slovak Foundation for the Support of Civic Activities* that won the public tender. Both implementing entities use the same project cycle management guidelines and project approval system developed by UNDP in cooperation with CIDA and MFA for the Slovak ODA. MFA has the strategic decision making role in both ODA Funds through the majority in their *Steering Committees* (SC), all ODA disbursements have to be approved by the SC.

Tendencies

Public opinion poll is being conducted in cooperation with CIDA;

Development education projects are mostly implemented by NGOs that are contracted by ACU/UNDP;

Civil society strengthening projects are implemented in Belarus and Ukraine through the TF with UNDP;

Slovak experts and observers selected and contracted by ACU/UNDP (Uzbekistan, Afghanistan, Ukraine and Belarus);

3rd call for the Slovak ODA project proposals already announced.

Next Steps

Formulation of the law on development cooperation and of parameters of transformation and functioning of ACU/UNDP into the Slovak ODA agency;

Possible modification of the list of priority countries;

Drafting the *Country Strategy Papers* for the priority countries as a basis for a more focused programmatic approach;

First monitoring and evaluation missions to the ongoing projects.

The Role of UNDP in Supporting the Capacity Building for Development Cooperation in V4 Countries and in Establishment of the Efficient ODA Delivery Mechanisms

After series of regional workshops for emerging donor countries during 1998-2002, *UNDP RBEC Regional Centre* (RC) in Bratislava launched the

Emerging Donor Initiative (EDI) as an integral part of the regional programme managed by the RC.

In general, UNDP uses the term “Emerging Donors” for the new member states of the EU plus Bulgaria, Romania, Russia and Turkey.

EDI aims to facilitate cooperation between emerging donors and both traditional donors and recipient countries, thus helping emerging donors most effectively assume their new role as strategic partners in the global partnership for development (Millennium Development Goal 8).

The goal of EDI is threefold:

- to strengthen capacities in emerging donor countries to effectively deliver development assistance;
- to promote development cooperation between emerging donor countries and recipient countries, with special focus on Southeast European and CIS countries;
- to enhance the role of UNDP, and the UN system overall, as a major partner for and facilitator of East-East and East-South development cooperation.

The EDI is executed by *UNDP’s Regional Centre* (RC) in Bratislava, and it is coordinated with national activities in those countries where UNDP country offices – or important UN presences in the area of development cooperation – are present. The initiative’s inclusion in UNDP’s regional programming allows emerging donors to leverage their ODA resources through multilateral partnerships with UNDP, with one another, as well as with traditional donors.

UNDP EDI works in close cooperation with the Canadian ODACE project that focuses on promotion of national capacities for development cooperation in V-4 countries with overlap to Baltic countries and Slovenia and on launching trilateral development cooperation projects in recipient countries.

What Does the EDI Offer to Emerging Donor Countries?

EDI is helping Emerging Donors in several key areas. It facilitates establishment of appropriate institutional infrastructure and ODA delivery mechanisms. It provided staff training for development cooperation and promotes career opportunities for national specialists within the UN system.

It helps to export best practices and lessons learned to other post-communist and developing countries. It promotes multilateral development cooperation partnerships and regional cooperation. It raises the public awareness about development cooperation.

Working together with UNDP can also bring further comparative advantages such as transparency of procedures and strict adherence to UNDP rules and regulations; standard UNDP monitoring, reporting and evaluation procedures; flexible execution modalities and coordination with other donors; sound programme approach, effectiveness and leveraging of resources and last but not least the access to UNDP's global infrastructure of country offices and project activities.

The First Results of EDI and Examples of Successful Cooperation

UNDP has been supporting promotion of national capacities for development cooperation, preparation of development cooperation frameworks and establishment of ODA delivery mechanisms in the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary and Latvia, most recently also in Russia and Lithuania. Launch of similar activities is currently being discussed with Slovenia.

In order to promote national expertise and to establish transparent and programmatically sound ODA delivery mechanisms, UNDP RC Bratislava signed *Trust Fund* agreements with Slovakia, Hungary and the Czech Republic.

Slovak-UNDP Trust Fund (TF) ***(2.4 mil. USD in 2003; 3.0 mil. USD in 2004)***

UNDP as a key multilateral partner in the area of Slovak official development assistance (ODA) is helping Slovakia to become an effective donor country and serves as a strategic partner in implementing Slovak ODA. The Slovak Ministry of Foreign Affairs and UNDP have established the *Slovak-UNDP Trust Fund (TF)* as one component of the *Slovak National ODA Programme* in 2003. In order to support Slovak national capacity building and delivery mechanism in the field of ODA, the *Administrative and Contracting Unit (ACU)* was established within the TF in November 2003, under the leadership and supervision of the *Trust Fund Steering Committee (TFSC)*.

The TF is executed and implemented directly by the UNDP RC in Bratislava. It operates as a separate project, managed by TFSC while making full use of the *UNDP Regional Support Centre's* administrative and financial capacities. The role of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic is strategic management and decision-making in ACU's activities. It is foreseen that the ACU will be transformed into a *Slovak Development Agency* within a 2-3 year period.

The main tasks of ACU include:

- performing the project cycle management functions, including public tendering, contracting, reporting, monitoring and evaluation, in all target recipient countries for Slovak ODA;
- maintaining regular contact with the proponents of Slovak ODA projects, reviewing the ODA project proposals and ensuring the standard quality of these proposals;
- preparing background analytical materials, reports and consolidated ODA projects proposals for the MFA, *Emerging Donor Unit* and the *TF Steering Committee*;
- organising trainings and workshops for the implementing agencies of the Slovak ODA;
- arranging for participation of Slovak experts in UNDP projects in the priority recipient countries;
- organising workshops and study tours to Slovakia for the participants from recipient countries;
- in close cooperation with MFA and UNDP, providing regular information to media;
- development and maintenance of a database of companies and experts involved in Slovak ODA;
- establishment and maintenance of the Slovak ODA archive;
- networking with other ODA agencies in donor countries;
- proposing new and innovative projects and initiatives to be funded by the Slovak ODA;
- participation in the country programme formulation process (country strategy papers).

UNDP RC Bratislava has established close cooperation with the *Canadian International Development Agency* (CIDA), especially in terms of launching trilateral projects, trainings and advisory services. Contribution

agreement in the amount of 1,250,000 USD was signed in June 2004 between the *Government of Canada* and UNDP. Through the Slovak-UNDP TF, CIDA is co-financing 50% of the cost of selected Slovak ODA projects and participate in their monitoring and evaluation.

***Hungarian Trust Fund
(1 mil. USD for a 2.5 year period)***

The objective is to enhance development cooperation between Hungary and its priority recipient countries in line with the *Hungarian Policy for International Development Cooperation*. Special attention is paid to development cooperation projects in Serbia and Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina. The funding also contributes to the strengthening of Hungarian national capacities for development cooperation. UNDP provides policy expertise and makes the full use of the regional programmes and of the network of country offices in support of the project activities.

Effective export of Hungarian transition experience and know-how is implemented through the following three major types of activities:

- formulation of development cooperation projects to be implemented by Hungarian NGOs, companies and institutions in cooperation with UNDP;
- selection of development cooperation projects proposed by Hungarian NGOs, companies and institutions;
- recruitment of Hungarian experts, NGOs, companies and institutions to be involved in UNDP programmes and projects, based upon requests from both UNDP country offices and regional programmes.

Other main outputs of the Hungarian-UNDP TF include:

- establishment and maintenance of expert database;
- trainings organised in Hungary for recipient countries both bilaterally and on a regional scale;
- organisation of consultancy missions and exporting Hungarian services to recipient countries;
- building development cooperation networks and twinning arrangements;
- administrative, analytical and policy support to the implementation of Hungarian development cooperation activities.

Czech TF – the Second Phase

In December 2003, the Government of the Czech Republic entrusted the *UNDP Regional Centre* in Bratislava, with management of the *Czech Official Development Assistance* (ODA) amounting to USD 400,000 under the *Czech-UNDP Trust Fund* focusing on promotion of the Czech expertise and transition experience. It is a follow up to the *Czech-UNDP Trust Fund* managed by Bratislava, *Regional Centre, Country Support Team*, under national execution in years 2000 – 2003 in the amount of 1,050,000 USD.

The next annual replenishment of the Czech TF is planned at around 600,000 USD.

The objective of the second Czech-UNDP TF is to:

- enhance development cooperation between the Czech Republic as an emerging donor and recipient countries with special focus on SE Europe and CIS;
- establish and effectively use development cooperation support mechanisms;
- share transitional experience and best practices through development cooperation partnership activities.

As the second Czech-UNDP TF was established also to build technical capacities of the Czech entities to effectively participate in the *Official Development Assistance*, only services supplied by the Czech NGOs, institutions, companies and individual consultants are eligible for financing under this TF and based on the agreement between UNDP and the *Government of the Czech Republic*, no contractor may receive contracts at a value exceeding 25% of the overall budget of the Fund.

Trilateral Projects – Opportunity Space for Experience Sharing and Donor Coordination

Delivery mechanisms that have been set up by UNDP and ED governments provide an opportunity space for coordinated multi-donor cooperation, coordination and synergies. Good ongoing example is already Canadian CIDA as mentioned in the Slovak TF section. Other EU donors have shown preliminary interest in similar arrangements with UNDP and ED countries such as Austria and some Scandinavian countries.

Interested partners can step in not only in the funding, implementation and evaluation stages as in the Canadian case but also already in the formulation stage. Such approach would bring even more experience sharing and bigger impact. Recipient countries would also clearly benefit from increased donor coordination, especially by the reduced number of smaller scale interventions.

Table 2. *Comparative advantages of trilateral project partners*

Traditional Donors	Emerging Donors	UNDP
Long term experience	Transition experience	Transparent procedures
Lessons learned	EU accession experience	Sound programmatic approach
Available funding	Lower cost of consultants	Network of country offices
Developed implementation schemes and procedures	Russian language knowledge	Regional programmes managed from Bratislava
EU perspective	Cultural patterns	already making use of ED expertise

Conclusions

All V4 countries have made a considerable progress in the field of development cooperation during the past few years, namely at the level of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs that have started to play the key role among the national ODA stakeholders. National ODA programmes are becoming more and more coordinated by the MFAs and thus closely linked to the foreign policies of the V4 countries. Development cooperation is gradually coming to the forefront of the political agendas and it is usually being backed from the ministers'/deputy ministers' level. There are quite good reasons for this changed attitude towards ODA: the budgets will increase, the national ODA constituencies will grow and the pool of stakeholders will broaden, and in fact, development cooperation will remain one of the few political and policy areas where the V4 countries will be able to make a real difference and to pursue their own foreign policy agendas (even within the framework of the donor coordination and EU harmonization).

Besides the internal, national specific challenges resulting from the different approaches, phases of ODA implementation, institutional set ups and historical legacies, there is one very important issue that is common to all V4 countries and that is, no surprise, related to the role of these countries in EU development cooperation. It is not only about the level of contributions to the EDF (*European Development Fund*) and to the EU budget (the development cooperation part of it), it is even more about the possibilities to influence the EU development policies and to become active and full-fledged participants of the EU external aid system. This is a challenge not only for the governments, but for other ODA stakeholders such as non-governmental development organisations (NGDOs), private sector, consultants, academia etc. It is of crucial importance for the V4 countries that they soon find the ways how to actively participate in EU ODA activities so that they can show to the domestic constituencies that EU related development cooperation is not just about money transfers. The great efforts and high speed of setting up own bilateral and multilateral ODA programme portfolios and delivery mechanisms clearly shows that the V4 countries are determined to pursue their development cooperation agendas.

UNDP and some other donors such as CIDA have been assisting the V4 countries and the other emerging donor countries already for some years. UNDP, namely through the national capacity building projects for development cooperation, was able to assist the MFAs in policy analysis, strategy formulation, development of project cycle management guidelines and procedures, public awareness raising and to create small teams of national development cooperation professionals capable of assuming the newly arising tasks related to ODA formulation and implementation. As a second stage, UNDP has assisted 3 of V4 countries in setting up the delivery mechanisms for their ODA, either pivotal in the national context such as the *Slovak Trust Fund*, or as a complementary mechanism to the national bilateral ODA portfolios (the Czech Republic and Hungary). Further cooperation is foreseen in higher accent on inclusion of experts and young professionals from the V4 countries in UNDP programmes and projects at the regional and national levels.

Notes:

¹ A country becomes a net contributor vis-à-vis UNDP when its per-capita GNP exceeds US\$ 4,700 (measured at purchasing power parity exchange rates, as calculated by the World Bank).

² Responsibilities for development cooperation activities in V4 countries are typically spread across a number of different government ministries instead of being vested in a single ODA centre.

³ Part of this increase can be attributed to the improved OECD/DAC reporting standards introduced namely by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and its ODACE (Official Development Assistance in Central Europe) project aiming to support the V4 countries' capacities for development cooperation and to launch trilateral ODA projects with them.

Resumé:

Daniel Hanšpach: Krajiny V4 a rozvojová spolupráca

Krajiny Vyšehradskej štvorky (V4) – Česká republika, Maďarsko, Poľsko a Slovensko – sa za uplynulých 15 rokov úspešne transformovali na demokratické štáty s trhovou ekonomikou a v máji 2004 sa stali členmi Európskej únie (EÚ). Všetky tieto štáty boli počas socializmu v rokoch 1960 – 1980 relatívne významnými donormi, v 90. rokoch sa stali prijímateľmi pomoci a v súčasnosti sa opäť stávajú členom donorskej komunity. V tejto súvislosti je dôležité spomenúť aj konkrétne oblasti podpory, ktoré prijímateľské krajiny považujú za relevantné a v ktorých požadujú pomoc. V oblasti demokratického vládnutia ide o budovanie demokratických inštitúcií, t. j. parlament, regionálna a miestna správa, decentralizačný proces všeobecne, ombudsman, najvyšší súd a jeho efektívne fungovanie, prístupový proces do EÚ atď. V oblasti životného prostredia sú najčastejšími oblasťami spolupráce rozvoj stratégií pre trvalo udržateľný rozvoj, energetická efektívnosť či odstránenie starých ekologických prekážok. Socio-ekonomická agenda pozostáva prevažne z otázok privatizácie, monej politiky v priebehu tranzície a rozvoja malých a stredných podnikov. Pomerne významnými oblasťami spolupráce sú zdravotníctvo (najmä HIV/AIDS) a vzdelávanie, a to najmä prostredníctvom poskytovania štipendií študentom z prijímateľských krajín, ktoré sú pozostatkom z čias komunizmu.

Vyšehradská štvorka dosiahla v ostatnom čase dosť výrazný pokrok v rozvoji rámca rozvojovej spolupráce a vo vytváraní transparentného a efektívneho distribučného mechanizmu oficiálnej rozvojovej pomoci. Na druhej strane je nutné zdôrazniť, že rozpočty týchto krajín sú v porovnaní s ostatnými členskými krajinami EÚ skromnejšie. Aby boli tieto limitované prostriedky využité efektívne a strategicky, krajiny V4 nedávno sformulovali svoje stratégie rozvojovej spolupráce, národné programy oficiálnej roz-

vojovej pomoci (Official Development Aid – ODA), koncepty a štúdie svojich komparatívnych výhod ako donorov v globálnom prostredí rozvojovej spolupráce. Krajiny V4 budú s najväčšou pravdepodobnosťou zužitkovať svoju strategickú „premostovaciu“, resp. „nárazníkovú“ geografickú a kultúrnu pozíciu pri nových susedoch EÚ. V rámci teritoriálnych priorít týchto krajín sú zaujímavé minimálne dva body. Po prvé, títo noví donori budujú do určitej miery na svojich predchádzajúcich socialistických skúsenostiach s rozvojovou pomocou a pokračujú v spolupráci s bývalými partnermi. Po druhé, väčšina teritoriálnych priorít krajín V4 je komplementárna s prioritami Európskych spoločenstiev (ES). Je to dôsledok automatického prístupu k *Dohode z Cotonou*, ktorú ES podpísali s krajinami Afriky, Karibiku a Pacifiku v roku 2000.

Významnú úlohu pri budovaní kapacít na rozvojovú spoluprácu a pri vytváraní efektívneho mechanizmu poskytovania ODA v krajinách V4 zohráva UNDP. Po sérii regionálnych workshopov pre budúcu donorskú komunitu v rokoch 1998 – 2002 v Bratislave spustil Regionálny úrad UNDP pre Európu a Spoločenstvo nezávislých štátov (SNŠ) *Iniciatívu nových donorov* (Emerging Donor Initiative – EDI) ako integrálnu súčasť regionálneho programu Regionálneho centra. Cieľom EDI je posilniť v nových donorských krajinách kapacity na efektívnejšie poskytovanie rozvojovej pomoci; podporovať rozvojovú spoluprácu medzi novými donormi a prijímateľmi, najmä krajinami juhovýchodnej Európy a SNŠ; a posilniť úlohu UNDP a systému OSN ako celku ako hlavného partnera, ktorý bude napomáhať rozvojovej spolupráci v smere východ – východ a východ – juh. Ďalšia spolupráca bude pozostávať zo zvýšeného dôrazu na inklúziu expertov a mladých profesionálov z krajín V4 v programoch UNDP a projektoch na regionálnej a národnej úrovni.