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**SLOVAK  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
INSPECTORATE**

REPORT

National Peer Review Initiative (NPRI)

on

**Development the Department of Technological  
Innovations of the Slovak Environmental  
Inspectorate**

NPRI IMPEL Project VI WG 9

Period 2022 – March 2023



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Report on Slovakia NPRI 2022 – Feb. 2023

## Table of contents

<b>The NPRI Project Team, the Slovakia NPRI Team .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Foreword.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Aim and scope of the NPRI .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Project management .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>The Department of Technological Innovations .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<i>Institution and Territorial Organization .....</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Technical equipment:.....</i>	<i>4</i>
<b>The project.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<i>The challenges of the project .....</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>The current stage of the project .....</i>	<i>4</i>
To determine the stakeholders through a stakeholder analysis .....	4
Organization of an internal stakeholder meeting .....	5
<i>Collaboration with other institutions.....</i>	<i>5</i>
Slovak Academy of Science.....	5
Czech Environmental Inspectorate .....	5
<i>Next steps and activities in the project.....</i>	<i>5</i>
<b>Discussions and exchanges with NPRI Project team .....</b>	<b>6</b>



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European Union Network for the Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law



Report on  
Slovakia NPRI  
2022 – Feb. 2023

## The NPRI Project Team, the Slovakia NPRI Team

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The Slovak NPRI Team:

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Marek Jánoš  
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Boris Sabol



## Foreword

The NPRI project aims to develop the capacities and capabilities of one or more authorities within a country that work in the area of Environmental Protection, and to develop the capabilities of performing *peer reviews* as instrument to improve their performances.

In the first years of the project (2019 - 2021), the NPRI project team has developed a rationale and a handbook with guidelines. It was envisaged that the project team would also have the role of supporting initial efforts to carry out peer reviews in countries willing to implement the tool.

This report briefly describes the experience developed in Slovakia in the period 2022 and the first months of 2023, based on the initiative of the Slovak Environmental Inspectorate, which was willing to use NPRI to develop its Department of Technological Innovations to provide innovative tools to support the implementation of tasks by the Inspectorate itself and, potentially, by other organisations. Many stakeholders are involved in this initiative because it was clear that a systemic approach to the issue was needed, as the new Department is a “service” to support internal and external bodies, and because the use of new technologies poses challenges both on the technical side and on the legal and jurisdictional side.

The proposal of the Slovak Environmental Inspectorate to conduct a National Peer Review on this topic was accepted with great interest and commitment by the IMPEL NPRI Project team, as it highlights the potential of Peer Reviews also at the management level within an organization or network of organizations acting in the environmental field.

The ongoing Slovak experience is *de facto* an example that will be used to expand the scope of Peer Reviews to be reported in the IMPEL NPRI Guideline, as an evolution and update of its first edition. The use of NPRI in this field assumes a particular value at a period in the history of Environmental Authorities all over Europe, because of the strong need for innovation posed by the rapid changes in the needs, of society in terms of environmental protection, and because of the great availability of innovative tools, mainly in the technological and IT field.

IMPEL’s cooperation with Slovak authorities, in the case described in this report, is in any case largely aimed at the implementation of the peer reviews at national level, and all the technical and legislative aspects, national or EU, dealt with in this report have been managed by the Slovak authorities participating in the peer review.

It is also foreseen that on the basis of the needs arising in the course of the post-peer review process, Slovak Authorities will evaluate whether further IMPEL specialised support could be requested, i.e. from the Cross Cutting Expert Team, or from other IMPEL Expert Teams.



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European Union Network for the  
Implementation and Enforcement  
of Environmental Law



Report on  
Slovakia NPRI  
2022 – Feb. 2023

The NPRI approach is also considered important also from this point of view, as it can at best focus the nation's need and opportunities to optimise further specialised support, from IMPEL or other relevant organizations.

The final legacy of the peer review, the progress of which is described in this report, is the methodological experience gained by the Slovak Environmental Inspectorate, which will enable this organization to carry out peer reviews to improve its performance also in other areas and on other topics.

## Aim and scope of the NPRI

The aim of the Slovak Environmental Inspectorate is to perform environmental inspections in order to ensure full implementation of environmental legislation and issues integrated permits.

The scope of the Peer Review is to develop the Department of Technological Innovations of the Slovak Environmental Inspectorate and to provide innovative tools to support the implementation of tasks by the Inspectorate and potentially other organisations.

## Project management

The project is managed by the Strategic committee, whose members are:

General Director of the Slovak Environmental Inspectorate – Ján Jenčo,

Head of the Department of Technological Innovations – Michal Kortiš,

Head of the Department of Recovery and Resilience Plan – Daša Šuleková.

Part of the Slovak NPRI Team are employees of the Department of Technological Innovations – Marek Jánoš Juraj Burda and Boris Sabol, who have technical roles in the project.

Supporting roles with administrative support have employees of the Department of Recovery and Resilience Plan – Zuzana Bienská and Enikő Oroszlányová.

## The Department of Technological Innovations

### Institution and Territorial Organization

- New department established in June 2022
- Development and recruiting staff which are distributed between the head office (Bratislava) and regional inspectorates (Žilina, Banská Bystrica, Košice)
- 3 employees at the moment in headquarters in Bratislava (1 with UAV license) and 1 employee is located in regional inspectorate Košice (eastern Slovakia)
- The final plan is to have 7 - 8 employees all around Slovakia

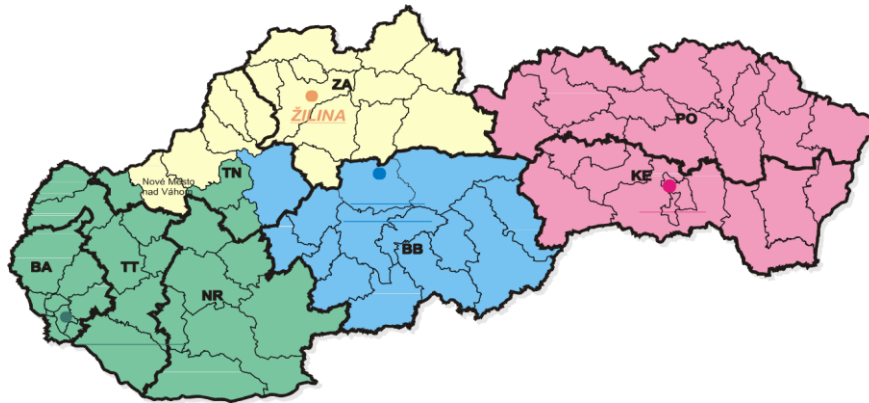


Figure 1: territorial organization for the Department Technological Innovation

### Technical equipment:

#### Now:

- drone Mavic 2 Pro
- hunting cameras
- GNSS survey devices

#### Near Future:

- professional inspection drone Mavic 3T Enterprise (RTK module, infrared camera) with the respective software
- Vanta XRF Spectrometres
- Trainings (GIS, UAV)

## The project

### The challenges of the project

- Determining the priorities of both the organisation and the inspectors, balance their needs to align the development of technical and innovative resources with the needs of the organization.
- Creating a need among stakeholders, as there may be a tendency to stick to the more traditional approach.
- Difficulties may arise in the subsequent use of the collected information.
- Obstacles may arise in financing the purchase of new technological devices.

### The current stage of the project

To determine the stakeholders through a stakeholder analysis

#### Internal stakeholders:

- Inspectors and main inspectors of the Slovak Environmental Inspectorate
- Directors of the regional inspectorates

#### External stakeholders:

- Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic
- Public

#### Stakeholders with specific information:

- Czech Environmental Inspectorate



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European Union Network for the Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law



Report on  
Slovakia NPRI  
2022 – Feb. 2023

- Slovak Academy of Science



Figure 2: Institutional Stakeholders in the NPRI

#### Organization of an internal stakeholder meeting

- Organized on April 19th
- Presenting the possibilities of the new Department of Technological Innovations to the internal stakeholders - inspectors, main inspectors and directors of the regional inspectorates.
- Defining legislative possibilities and obstacles to the performance of the department activities.
- Discussing their needs to align the development of technical and innovative resources.

#### Collaboration with other institutions

##### Slovak Academy of Science

- In the beginning of March a meeting took place between the Department of Technological Innovations and the Slovak Academy of Science on the project called "Land cover change monitoring for identification of Potential Illegal Activities in Slovakia".
- The project aims to identify potential illegal activities with the support of remote sensing techniques (earth observations provided by ESA satellites).
- A follow-up meeting took place in April with the participation of colleagues from other departments.

##### Czech Environmental Inspectorate

- Cooperation between the two inspectorates has been developed for a long time, as there are no language barriers.
- They have longer experience in using new technologies and devices, which were presented to the Department in 2022.
- A meeting was held in March with the Czech Environmental Inspectorate on the creation of cooperation in the use of drones.
- The Czech Environmental Inspectorate offered various options for courses and training.

#### Next steps and activities in the project

The following steps and activities are planned to be carried out under the project:

- Determination of the stakeholders through a stakeholder analysis.
- Organization of an internal stakeholder meeting with the aim of discussing needs for innovative resources and support.



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Implementation and Enforcement  
of Environmental Law



Report on  
Slovakia NPRI  
2022 – Feb. 2023

- Development of an assessment framework to assess the ambitions, legal, financial and practical possibilities of technical resources to be developed, procured and deployed.
- Development and testing of a questionnaire to gain insights regarding the need and desired use of innovative resources by the stakeholders, then analysis of the outcomes.
- Preparation of a reference document describing the organization's goals and visions and a description of the current and planned state of technical equipment.
- Conducting a SWOT analysis regarding the technical resources that the organization is to develop and deploy based on its roles and responsibilities.

## Discussions and exchanges with NPRI Project team

The expression of interest to actively participate in the NPRI project with the aim to study, on a shared basis, the development of a Department of Technological Innovation dates back to June 2022. Since then, the Slovak Environmental Inspectorate and IMPEL NPRI project team have had many contacts, in teleconferences of the NPRI project team meetings, in specific teleconferences, and *in person*, in country visits, where it was possible to increase the knowledge regarding NPRI procedures, in particular by witnessing the ongoing activities in other countries implementing NPRI, in particular:

- Lisbon Meeting: 18 – 19 October 2022







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Implementation and Enforcement  
of Environmental Law



Report on  
Slovakia NPRI  
2022 – Feb. 2023

- Oradea (Ro) meeting: 06 – 09 February 2023

