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Federal Department of Foreign Affairs FDFA

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC
Cooperation with Eastern Europe

CH-3003 Bern, DEZA, KKU

**A Post
National Coordination Unit**

Mr. Ivan Ivančín
Director of the Department of Management and
Implementation of Swiss Financial Mechanism
Government Office of the Slovak Republic
Námestie slobody 1
813 70 Bratislava
Slovak Republic

Your reference: 12648/2011/ORISFM

Our reference: 7F-07867.01/ SQP

Berne, 19 January 2012

**Subject: Swiss Contribution to the Enlarged EU – Cooperation Programme with Slovakia
Decision Letter on Final Project Proposal**

Project Name: Slovak Paradise Tourism cluster

Project N°: 7F-07867.01

Dear Mr. Ivančín

The Final Project Proposal mentioned above and submitted by the NCU on 31st October 2011 has been considered by Switzerland. I have the pleasure to inform you that the project has been:

**Approved subject to conditions
Approved Swiss grant: CHF 1'198'000.-**

The total eligible costs of the project, as mutually agreed between the NCU and SDC, have been decreased by CHF 29'986 (1 EUR = 1.25 CHF). The basis for this budget change is the NCU's letter dated 30.11.2011 as well as subsequent clarifications in respect of the project budget.

You are kindly requested to take into account the conditions expressed below, before proceeding with the finalization of the Project Agreement according to the "Procedures of Project Financing Requests" as fixed in the Annex 2 of the Framework Agreement, section 2. The conditions mentioned below have been formulated taking into account the comments, suggestions and recommendations submitted by the NCU.

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Condition	Indicator of fulfilment	date / period
<p>1. <u>Legal changes</u></p> <p>As a legally recognised structure based on Act no. 91/2010, the establishment of the Tourism cluster of NP Slovenský raj will permit to obtain state subsidies. However, there have been legislative changes which have entered into force in December 2011. Therefore, the Executing Agency is requested to make sure that the legal form and organisation of the established cluster will take these changes into account and will allow it to obtain State subsidies.</p>	<p>Required information is provided before signing the Project Agreement.</p>	<p>Before signature of the Project Agreement.</p>
<p>2. <u>Educational activities</u></p> <p>The new tourism cluster will organise a series of training events for different target groups, including public authorities, private entrepreneurs, Roma beneficiaries, tourist guides and pupils. However, detailed information about target groups of individual trainings, selection of participants, exact contents of trainings, used materials, etc. is missing. The Executing Agency is therefore requested to submit the final detailed training proposal to the NCU for non-objection before the start of the educational activities.</p> <p>In addition, the Executing Agency is asked to clarify if it is possible to institutionalize the training measures which are planned. This means that the content of the trainings should – if possible – also be integrated into existing curricula (of local schools, professional schools, tourism institutes, universities, etc.) in order to assure that the beneficial effects of the trainings are not limited to the duration of the project only, but that they are maintained in the long term.</p>	<p>Required information is provided before the start of the educational activities.</p>	<p>Before the start of the educational activities.</p>
<p>3. <u>Documentation for reconstruction of entrance areas</u></p> <p>Within the project, it is planned to elaborate documentations for the revitalisation/reconstruction of the entrance areas to the Dobsinska Ice Cave and the Slovensky raj national park. However, as the revitalisation activities themselves are not part of the project, the Executing Agency is requested to specify the financial resources with which the entrance areas will be reconstructed. If no such funds are available, the costs for the elaboration of the respective documentation cannot be considered as eligible and would need to be removed from the project budget.</p>	<p>Required information is provided before signing the Project Agreement.</p>	<p>Before signature of the Project Agreement.</p>
<p>4. <u>Responsibilities of the Executing Agency</u></p> <p>The relationship between the Executing Agency and the Micro-region Slovensky raj – Sever, as well as with the town of Dobsina and the future "Slovensky raj – Cluster of tourism NP Slovak Paradise" needs to be clarified. It should be avoided that the Obec Stratena only acts as an intermediate body. Therefore, the specific tasks and responsibilities of the Executing Agency shall be specified and an organisational scheme provided.</p> <p>In addition, the composition and tasks of the advisory body of the new cluster shall be specified. It is recommended to include experienced local experts on tourism clusters in this advisory body.</p>	<p>Required information is provided before signing the Project Agreement.</p>	<p>Before signature of the Project Agreement.</p>

The fulfillment of the conditions is a prerequisite to the signature of the Project Agreement.

Yours sincerely,

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC



Kurt Kunz
Ambassador, Assistant Director-General

Copies:
Swiss Contribution Office Prague
Swiss Embassy in Bratislava