



COMMUNICATION

firmed it would be providing technical assistance to the Bank of Albania / Banka e Shqipërisë, involving a review of the bank's human resources and communication requirements.

In 2013 the Slovak central bank continued its long-standing provision of technical assistance to the National Bank of Ukraine / Національний банк України. Two specialist events were held in Bratislava, related in one case to international relations and in the other to the development of a documentation centre and library.

NBS cooperation with the National Bank of the Republic of Belarus (NBRB) / Нацыянальны банк

Рэспублікі Беларусь also continued in 2013. As part of NBS technical assistance, experts from the bank gave lectures at educational events in Belarus on the subjects of on-site supervision and human resources management. NBRB representatives visited NBS in 2013 during the Slovak central bank's Visitor Day.

Cooperation increased with central banks of countries of the EU's Eastern Partnership, resulting in a pilot project with the Central Bank of Armenia (CBA). CBA representatives made a study visit to NBS in June, which focused on the area of statistics.

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Národná banka Slovenska regularly publishes information on monetary developments in the euro area, on key indicators of Slovak and other European economies, and on activities of banks and all other participants in the Slovak financial market. Information, reports and analyses presented by NBS are a basis not only for many decisions by the Slovak Government and Parliament, but also support the work of the media, economic research institutes, and educational institutions. NBS is constantly striving to develop, modernise and improve the quality of its communication tools. Emphasising openness and transparency, the central bank aims to respond as effectively as possible to the demand for information and to address target groups with maximum efficiency, so as to maintain its high standing in the eyes of the Slovak public.

A central pillar of NBS communication policy is participation in the Eurosystem's joint communications procedures, which primarily involves regular provision of information about monetary developments in the euro area and real-time communication of monetary-policy decisions.

In 2013 NBS celebrated the 20th anniversary of its establishment. Among the events held to mark this occasion were two scientific conferences: *Twenty Years of Transition – Experiences and Challenges*, in May, and *The History of Central Banking in Slovakia* in November. On the occasion of the

latter, NBS published a book bearing the same title as the conference. In 2013 the NBS Governor's Award Competition for outstanding dissertations or doctoral theses in the field of economics was held for the first time and attracted 20 entries. In the first half of the year NBS ran a competition for primary schoolchildren entitled *Povieme to farbičkami* (We say it with crayons), subheaded *Čo vieme o Národnej banke Slovenska* (What we know about Národná banka Slovenska), with participation from schools from across Slovakia. As part of its anniversary celebrations, NBS also held a Open Day, hosted the ECB's travelling exhibition *New Face of the Euro*, and produced a publication on commemorative and collector euro coins and a publication on banknotes and coins of the former Slovak koruna currency.

During 2013 NBS provided extensive information to the public about the new Europa series of euro banknotes, including all key facts regarding the appearance and new security features of the first banknote of the series, the €5 denomination. The new banknote was officially put into circulation in Bratislava on 2 May 2013. In addition, NBS informed the public about new rules for SEPA credit transfers and direct debits and about the end of the redemption period for Slovak koruna coins.⁴⁶

NBS also communicates directly with members of the public by e-mail. In 2013 it dealt with 3,362

⁴⁶ For further details see Chapter 3, Issuing activity and currency circulation.



enquiries and comments from the public concerning various matters, including 64 requests for information under the Freedom of Information Act (No 211/2000 Coll.).

NBS PUBLICATIONS

NBS regularly publishes specialist publications providing information on, and analysis of, its main fields of activity. These publications include the Annual Report, Financial Stability Report, Analysis of the Slovak Financial Sector, Monthly Bulletin, Medium-Term Forecast, and Statistical Bulletin⁴⁷. In 2013 NBS launched periodical Analytical Reports on selected issues and Flash Reports on selected macroeconomic indicators, which are valued for their up to date information. NBS also published analyses and working papers on current economic issues. In line with the principles of the Eurosystem/ESCB's multilingual communication system, NBS was involved in the preparation of Slovak language versions of official ECB publications.⁴⁸

The majority of NBS official publications are issued only in electronic form. To make its information as easy to access as possible, NBS publishes the Annual Report also in ePub format and uses QR codes in its information materials.

The Biatec journal continued to play an important role in NBS communication activities, providing specialist articles in the area of banking, finance and economics. Through Biatic, the central bank interrelates with authors and readers from the banking and financial sector, academia, and the educational sector. Written in Slovak with English-language summaries of selected articles, Biatic is published ten times per year and the full text is available on the NBS website.⁴⁹

NBS WEBSITE

The NBS website is a crucial tool for external communication, informing the public about the tasks and activities of NBS and of the Eurosystem as a whole. To mark NBS's 20th anniversary, the website included a separate page that highlighted the most important events in the bank's history since 1993, with an accompanying photo gallery. In the Financial Market Supervision section of the website, a new subsection was added showing the operative parts of decisions to grant authorisations and impose sanctions, and including a range of search options. The Monetary



and Financial Statistics section was expanded to include a presentation of selected graphical statistics for the euro area. As for the number of visits to the NBS website, its moderate rising tendency continued in 2013 with a daily average of around 17,400.

NBS OPEN DAY

NBS held an Open Day on 25 May 2013 at which around 5,000 members of the public took the opportunity to tour the bank's headquarters. They were shown among other things a gold bar, a million euro in banknotes, and counterfeit banknotes recovered from circulation, and they could ask the bank's experts how to check banknotes for authenticity. Other highlights of the tour included visits to the meeting room of the NBS Bank Board and the office of the NBS Governor, a meeting with the Governor, Jozef Makúch, a meeting with ECB staff members who provided information about the Eurosystem, and the award ceremony of the NBS drawing competition *We say it with crayons* for primary schoolchildren. All children at the *Open Day* were given a special visitor's pass on which they could collect stamps at designated points on the tour. At the end, after collecting all the stamps, they were rewarded with a present. Throughout the day people visiting the bank could exchange Slovak koruna and damaged euro banknotes for euro. Slovak koruna banknotes worth SKK 72,622 in total were exchanged, while 32 people returned damaged euro banknotes worth €1,156.91. As many as 250 visitors asked to exchange money for one or more €5 banknotes of the second series.

LECTURES, EXHIBITIONS AND COMPETITIONS

During 2013 NBS hosted lectures attended by almost 2,650 people, mainly schoolchildren and university students. In cooperation with the Eu-

⁴⁷ <http://www.nbs.sk/en/publications-issued-by-the-nbs/nbs-publications>

⁴⁸ <http://www.nbs.sk/en/publications-issued-by-the-nbs/ecb-publications>

⁴⁹ <http://www.nbs.sk/en/publications-issued-by-the-nbs/journal-biatec>



European Central Bank, NBS organised an expert seminar entitled *Monetary policy of the ECB and its implementation framework*.

The ECB's travelling exhibition *New Face of the Euro* came to NBS headquarters in Bratislava in 2013. The opening ceremony was held on 24 May, led by Harm Metselaar, Head of the ECB's Currency Management Division, and Viliam Ostrožlík, Executive Director of the NBS's Cash Management Department.

NBS's travelling exhibition *The Euro – Our Currency* was installed at the bank's headquarters during its Open Day in 2013 and it was also displayed at the OECD's headquarters in Paris.

The second annual running of *Generation Euro*, a Eurosystem educational competition for secondary schoolchildren, was completed in April 2013, and the winners received their prizes at the ECB's headquarters in Frankfurt am Main. The competition attracted above-average participation from secondary schools in Slovakia, indicating their strong interest in raising students' awareness of central banking issues. NBS and other euro area NCBs will continue their involvement in this project. The third running of the competition began in October 2013 with lectures for participating teachers.⁵⁰

NBS ARCHIVES

The Archives of Národná banka Slovenska administers 4,900 shelf metres of archival documents, most of which came from NBS's predecessor institutions. The oldest of its fonds comprises materials of Bratislavská sporiteľňa, a former savings bank established in 1841. The Archives focuses on processing and inventorying the fonds of former central and commercial banks, adding

to the archival collections, and providing archival services to the general public.⁵¹

In 2013, to mark the 20th anniversary of NBS, the Archives produced a collective monograph entitled *The History of Central Banking in Slovakia*. It is the first publication to describe how the financial sector in the territory of what is now Slovakia has developed from the 19th century to the present day. In producing this work, the Archives drew mainly on its own sources and reference library, which include rare historical publications and periodicals, and it also cooperated with archivists at the Czech and Austrian central banks as well as with academic institutions in Slovakia and abroad. The book was published on the eve of an eponymous scientific conference organised by NBS in cooperation with the Institute of History of the Slovak Academy of Sciences.

In 2013 the Archives continued its cooperation with the European Association for Banking and Financial History (EABH) and with the ECB's Information Management Services Division. This cooperation focuses on research and on the creation of information databases in the area of European banking and financing.

Also in 2013 the Archives addressed requests by natural and legal persons for information on various properties, details of old deposits, loans and accounts, and biographical information on significant figures in the history of the Slovak financial sector. The Archives received 29 research visits, 46 external written requests and 85 internal requests, as well as many telephone and e-mail enquiries. The majority of researchers who accessed the Archives' reference library did so on the basis of search requests.

DOCUMENTATION CENTRE

The NBS's Documentation Centre (DC) provides a full range of library services – documentation, retrieval, lending, consultation, and electronic – to NBS staff members and interns as well as to the general public. The DC's specialised collections offer a range of publications and information related to central and commercial banking, financial supervision, monetary policy, issuance policy, payment systems, and financial management.

In 2013 the DC added more than 3,500 documents to its online catalogue and responded to

⁵⁰ www.generaciaeuro.sk

⁵¹ <http://www.nbs.sk/en/publications-issued-by-the-nbs/nbs-archive/archive-use-by-public>



3,900 search requests and other electronic requests for information.

An integral part of the DC's work involves contact with the public through the provision of advisory, search request and library services⁵². In this way the DC contributes to financial education of the general public.

During the year, cooperation with the libraries of the ECB and BIS continued, and, in the framework of technical assistance, a working seminar for the library of National Bank of Ukraine / Національний банк України/ was prepared.

THE NBS MUSEUM OF COINS AND MEDALS IN KREMNICA⁵³

Visitors to the Museum of Coins and Medals (MCM) in 2013 enjoyed the museum's permanent exhibition *Two Faces of Money* that display some of the most interesting artefacts from the history of money and medal-making in Slovakia, and other exhibition at the Town Castle showing pieces of art and artefacts. The *Two Faces of Money* exhibition was expanded in 2013 to include a new section entitled *Banknote and Coin Processing Equipment for Slovak Currency*, showing equipment used by NBS between 1993 and 2008. This part of the exhibition was first opened to the public during the Night of Museums event on 18 May 2013. On 3 April 2013 the MCM opened a new long-term exhibition called *The Charm of Stoneware Gardens*, installed at the Burgher's House. The exhibition features more than 800 products of the Kremnica Stoneware Factory, which operated from 1815 to 1956 and exported worldwide thanks to the high quality and artistic originality of its output.

In 2013, in addition to its permanent and long-term exhibitions, the MCM put on 11 variously-themed occasional exhibitions listed below.

- *From the Danube, Vltava and Vistula – Medalists and Their Works (Od Dunaja, Vltavy a Visly – Medailéri a ich diela)* – The 11th annual cycle of this international medal exhibition featured the work of eight medallists from Visegrad Four countries. The exhibition premiered in Wrocław (Poland) before coming to Kremnica and then Budapest.
- *Silvia Bartová – Cross-section (Priečny rez)* – An intimate exhibition by a young jewellery artist who studied at the Private School of

Applied Arts in Kremnica and Prešov University.

- *The Land Slovakia XI (Zem Slovensko XI.)* – A collective exhibition by members of the Visual Artists Association of Central Slovakia (Združenie výtvarných umelcov stredného Slovenska).
- *Students of Professor Rudolf Pribiš on the 100th Anniversary of His Birth (Žiaci profesora Rudolfa Pribiša k 100. výročiu narodenia)* – This included a memorial exhibition of works by Professor Pribiš.
- *Caricaturists (Karikaturisti)* – Held as part of the regular European Festival of Humour and Satire – Kremnica Gags, this exhibition featured works by caricaturists nominated for the festival's Golden Gander Award.
- *Milan and Marek Ormandík* – A selection of sculptures and paintings by father (Milan) and son (Marek) artists from Kremnica.
- *Ján Homola – Poézia v dreve ukrytá (Poetry hidden in wood)* – An exhibition of woodcarvings by Ján Homola.

The following were held alongside the *Two Faces of Money* exhibition.

- *Phaleristics for all (Faleristika pre každého)* – An exhibition put on in cooperation with the Slovak Phaleristics Society (Slovenská faleristická spoločnosť).
- *Revealing / International Symposium of Jewellery Art 2013 (Odkrývanie/ Medzinárodné sympóziu umeleckého šperku 2013)* – An exhibition of works produced at the 18th annual running of this symposium.
- *This Isn't Jewellery! (Toto nie je šperk!)* – Part of an international project for secondary art schools, this exhibition was held in cooperation with the Private School of Applied Arts in Kremnica.
- *12th International Symposium of Medals in Kremnica 2013* – An exhibition of the medals produced at the town's symposium of the year.

The MCM also cooperated on two external exhibitions: *Sixteen Spiš Towns from 1412 to 1876* held at the Ľubovňa Museum in Stará Ľubovňa and the Eastern Slovakia Museum in Košice; and *The Beauty of Tiles* at the Central Slovakia Museum in Banská Bystrica.

Some of the exhibitions were held along with educational programmes and creative workshops for various target groups. In addition, throughout the year, the MCM ran several educational programmes

⁵² <http://www.nbs.sk/en/publications-issued-by-the-nbs/nbs-library>
⁵³ <http://www.muzeumkremnica.sk>



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for school groups, covering various topics related to the history of money, mining and minting in Slovakia and to regional and cultural education.

On 18 May 2013 the MCM again took part in the international museum event Night of Museums. In the summer it organised a series of family events: *Picnic at the Castle*, *Picnic in the Museum*, and *Summer Night of the Muses*. Also during the summer a series of creative workshops for children were held at the MCM's Gallery. As part of the Europe-wide initiative 'European Cultural Heritage Days', the MCM commemorated the Arrival of Constantine and Methodius to the territory of present-day Slovakia with the programme *Messages* and with choir performances under the name *Old Slavonic Choral Singing*. The

MCM also organised eight concerts in 2013, with most of them held at St Catherine's Church.

In autumn the MCM held its *12th International Symposium of Medals*, a four-week event in which invited participants made designs for struck and cast medals. The medals produced on the basis of these designs were added to the MCM's collection. The medallists at this symposium were Vladimír Durbák (Slovakia), George Cuhaj (United States), Hugo Maciel (Portugal), Miroslav Kovářík (Czech Republic) and László Zagyva (Hungary).

Last year the various exhibitions and events of the NBS Museum of Coins and Medals in Kremnica attracted more than 38,000 visitors from Slovakia and abroad.

9 LEGISLATION

In 2013 Národná banka Slovenska continued to exercise its competences in the drafting of legislation (including the transposition of relevant EU laws), in accordance with Act No 566/1992 on Národná banka Slovenska as amended (the NBS Act). Under Article 30(1) of the NBS Act, the central bank submits draft laws on currency circulation to the Slovak Government. Under Article 30(2) of the NBS Act, draft laws concerning payment systems, payment services or the financial market (including the banking sector and NBS activities) are jointly submitted by NBS and the Slovak Finance Ministry to the Slovak Government. Also within its legislative competences, NBS drafts and issues secondary legislation in the form of NBS regulations and decrees. Its authority to issue generally binding legislation is based on Article 56(2) of the Constitution of the Slovak Republic, according to which NBS may issue such legislation where authorised by statutory law to do so.

AMENDMENTS MADE IN 2013 TO LAWS ON MATTERS FALLING WITHIN THE COMPETENCE OF NÁRODNÁ BANKA SLOVENSKA

Act No 483/2001 Coll. on banks (including amendments to certain laws), as amended, was

amended in 2013 by Act No 132/2013 Coll. and Act No 352/2013 Coll.

Act No 566/2001 Coll. on securities and investment services (including amendments to certain laws) (the Securities Act), as amended, was amended in 2013 by Act No 132/2013 Coll., Act No 206/2013 Coll. and Act No 352/2013 Coll.

Act No 492/2009 Coll. on payment services (including amendments to certain laws), as amended, was amended in 2013 by Act No 352/2013 Coll.

Act No 747/2004 Coll. on financial market supervision (including amendments to certain laws), as amended, was amended in 2013 by Act No 132/2013 Coll. and Act No 352/2013 Coll.

Act No 8/2008 Coll. on insurance (including amendments to certain laws), as amended, was amended in 2013 by Act No 32/2013 Coll., Act No 132/2013 Coll. and Act No 352/2013 Coll.

Act No 203/2011 Coll. on collective investment, as amended, was amended in 2013 by Act No 206/2013 Coll. and Act No 352/2013 Coll.

Act No 43/2004 Coll. on the old-age pension saving scheme (including amendments to certain