



7.4 TECHNICAL COOPERATION

In 2015 Národná banka Slovenska provided technical assistance to the Belarusian central bank, in the areas of financial market supervision, cash circulation and commemorative coins.

As part of the European Commission's Technical Assistance and Information Exchange (TAIEX) programme, officials from Montenegro visited NBS to learn about the anti-money laundering measures implemented in Slovakia.

8 COMMUNICATION

Národná banka Slovenska works to develop, modernise and enhance its communication tools, so as to be as effective as possible in meeting the demand for information and in addressing target groups. In this regard, the bank places great importance on openness and transparency and aims to maintain its high standing in the eyes of the Slovak public. The data, reports and analyses published by NBS are an important source of information for economists, research and educational institutions, and the media.

A central pillar of NBS communication policy is participation in the Eurosystem's joint communications procedures, which primarily involves regular provision of information on monetary developments and monetary policy decisions in the euro area and on the Single Supervisory Mechanism (SSM). The bank also publishes information on developments in the Slovak and European economies and on the banking sector and other segments of the financial market, as well as details of their impact on financial stability in Slovakia.

Other issues that featured prominently in the bank's communication with the general public during 2015 included: the issuance of a new €20 banknote⁴⁶ as part of the second series of euro banknotes (entitled 'Europa'); financial consumer protection, the licensing process for creditors, and the supervision of creditors (non-bank entities).

NBS communication also involves dealing directly with the public by e-mail. In 2015 the bank's specialist departments answered a total of 3,604 e-mails from members of the public, of which 48 were requests for information under the Freedom of Information Act (No 211/2000 Coll.).

PUBLICATIONS

NBS regularly issues publications that provide information and analyses concerning the bank's main fields of activity. Among these texts are the Annual Report, Financial Stability Report, Analysis of the Slovak Financial Sector, Monthly Bulletin, Medium-Term Forecast, and Statistical Bulletin. The Report on the International Economy and the Report on the Slovak Economy started to be released as separate quarterly publications in 2015, after previously being published each quarter as annexes to the Monthly Bulletin⁴⁷.

The bank's regular Analytical Reports on selected issues and Flash Reports on specific macroeconomic indicators are valued for their up to date information. A total of 12 Analytical Reports and 141 Flash Reports were published in 2015. In 2015 the NBS macroeconomic database was enhanced to provide the public with a broad range of macroeconomic time series data in a tabular form. The bank also addresses current economic issues through analyses and working papers⁴⁸. In line with the principles of the Eurosystem/ESCB's multilingual communication system, NBS participates in the drafting of Slovak language versions of the ECB's official publications⁴⁹.

Official publications of NBS are issued in electronic form only. To make its information as easy to access as possible, NBS also produces ePUB versions of its key publications and includes QR codes in its information materials.

The bank's Biatec journal plays an important role in communication activities, providing specialist articles in the area of banking, finance and economics. Through Biatec, NBS interacts with authors and readers from the banking and financial sector, academia, and the educational sector.

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

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

⁴⁸ Available online at <http://www.nbs.sk/en/publications-issued-by-the-nbs/research-publications>

⁴⁹ Available online at <http://www.nbs.sk/en/publications-issued-by-the-nbs/ecb-publications>



Written in Slovak with English-language summaries of selected articles, *Biatic* was published ten times per year and the full text is available on the NBS website⁵⁰.

WEBSITE

In the 2015 the Financial Market Supervision section of NBS's website underwent a complete redesign, including the addition of new subsections for the Resolution Council and for financial consumer protection, as well as a separate search module for national legislation and EU legal acts. The whole website was modified so as to be easier to navigate from mobile devices. The rising trend in the website's traffic continued in 2015, with the average daily number of visits exceeding 22,000.

PRESENTATIONS, EXHIBITIONS AND COMPETITIONS

For school and university students from both Slovakia and abroad, NBS organises presentations focused mainly on the central bank's role in the Eurosystem. In September 2015 these activities were expanded to include workshops on improving financial literacy. Altogether, more than 2,850 students visited such events in 2015. In addition, NBS hosts research seminars which are attended by Slovak and foreign researchers presenting the results of their work.

Visitors to the bank may also enjoy its permanent exhibition entitled *Od slovenskej koruny k euro (From the Slovak koruna to the euro)*, which is targeted mainly at primary and secondary school students and so provides a natural accompaniment to the presentations. The exhibition explains the background and process of Slovakia's integration into the euro area, the lifecycle of banknotes and coins, and the importance of being able to distinguish the security features of the euro currency. The exhibition was seen by more than 2,000 students in 2015.

The fourth annual edition of the Generation Euro Students' Award, a Eurosystem educational competition for secondary school students, was completed in May 2015 when the winners of the national competitions received their awards at the ECB's headquarters in Frankfurt am Main. The winners of the Slovak competition were from the Grösslingová Gymnasium in Bratislava and their award was presented by the ECB's President, Mario Draghi, and NBS's Governor, Jozef Makúch. The competition again attracted a high level of

participation from schools in Slovakia (the second highest among the countries taking part), which showed the strong interest in raising students' awareness of central banking issues. The fifth Generation Euro Students' Award competition was launched in October 2015, with presentations for participating teachers and students. A new feature of the 2015/2016 competition is the inclusion of NBS educational videos on specialist subjects, which significantly facilitate the work of participating students and teachers⁵¹.

The third annual edition of the NBS Governor's Award for outstanding dissertations or doctoral theses in the field of economics was held in 2015.

NBS OPEN DAY

NBS held an Open Day on 26 September 2015 at which around 5,000 members of the public took the opportunity to tour the bank's headquarters. Prominent themes of the event included the introduction of the new €20 banknote and its security features, and financial consumer protection. One highlight was when the NBS Deputy Governor, Ján Tóth, presented a prize to the winner of the online competition *Spoznaj novú bankovku 20 € (Know the €20 banknote)*.

NBS ARCHIVES

The NBS Archives⁵² are specialist public archives that serve not only the bank's organisational units, but also historians, economists, architects and students, and provide information to national and local government authorities. The Archives have 199 fonds and collections, containing documents from most of the financial institutions that operated in the territory of what is now Slovakia within the period from 1842 until the establishment of Národná banka Slovenska in 1993.

The NBS Archives Section cooperates with archives from across Europe and its staff attend regular meetings of the European Association for Banking and Financial History (EABH) as well as meetings at ECB's Information Management Services Division. In this way they gain experience in addressing the various current challenges in the field of registry and archive management. At the EABH annual meeting, held under the title *"Inflation. Money. Output"*, staff from the NBS Archives Section gave a presentation on the

⁵⁰ Available on line at <http://www.nbs.sk/en/publications-issued-by-the-nbs/journal-biatic>

⁵¹ Further details are available at www.generaciaeuro.sk

⁵² Further details are available at <http://www.nbs.sk/sk/publikacie/archiv-nbs/vyuzitie-archivu-verejnostou>



evolution and activities of the first institution in Slovakia to focus on economic research.

In 2015 the Archives Section received 17 research visits and 124 written information requests and research enquiries (77 were from within the bank and 47 were external). The external requests and enquiries were largely concerned with obtaining information about properties, while the researchers who examined the archival documents were mostly focused on technical plans and designs of buildings, on information about loans, and on details of specific people from the past.

DOCUMENTATION CENTRE

The Documentation Centre (DC)⁵³ of NBS is responsible for the bank's library and information activities. It provides documentary, research and consultation services, mainly in the fields of central and commercial banking, financial supervision, and monetary policy, and mostly to NBS staff members, interns and other people with a professional interest in its materials.

In late 2015 the DC implemented a new library information system called Advanced Rapid Library (ARL). It supports the automatic management of library catalogues and collections in a network environment, as well as allowing not only the processing of bibliographical information, but also work with multimedia, pictorial and audio documents.

DC staff members participated in a meeting of ESCB libraries and archives under the name "Successful Change in Information Management Services" and presented the results of the implementation of a new NBS library-information system.

THE NBS MUSEUM OF COINS AND MEDALS IN KREMNICA

The Museum of Coins and Medals (MCM) in Kremnica⁵⁴ is one of the oldest museum institutions in

Slovakia. In 2015 the Museum marked the 125th anniversary of its establishment as the only specialised numismatic museum in Slovakia.

Most of the events organised by the Museum include educational programmes and creative workshops for various target groups. The Museum runs several school-group programmes related to the history of money, mining and minting in Slovakia and to regional and cultural education. Naturally, in 2015, the Museum also organised programmes related to the anniversary of its founding.

An exhibition featuring almost 150 items associated with the Habsburg coronations in Bratislava could be viewed in the Museum's Galleries from 25 March to 26 June 2015. Entitled *Coronatus Posonii... Bratislava coronation medals and tokens (1563–1830)*, the exhibition included period commemorative medals and tokens that had been scattered before the people lining the route of the coronation procession. The exhibits included not only items taken from the MCM's collections, but many others loaned by the Hungarian National Museum in Budapest, the SNM Museum of History in Bratislava, the Bratislava City Museum, the Budapest History Museum, and the Hungarian Numismatic Society. The exhibition attracted more than 1,600 visitors.

In April 2015 the Museum hosted a colloquium for participants in *Third Generation Museums*, a national project aimed at enhancing the professional skills of museum staff.

There were a series of events commemorating the Museum's anniversary in 2015, including, for music lovers, a spring concert held at St Catherine's Church in Kremnica. The anniversary also featured prominently in the *Night of the Museums* annual event, which was held on 16 May 2015 at

⁵³ Further details are available at <http://www.nbs.sk/en/publications-issued-by-the-nbs/nbs-library>
⁵⁴ Further details are available at www.muzeumkremnica.sk



the site of the Museum's *Two Faces of Money* exhibition. The theme was continued at the Museum's summer events, including *Picnic at the Castle*, *Museum Stories*, and *Summer Nights of the Muses*.

The anniversary commemorations culminated with *Kremnica Museum Day* on 18 September 2015. This included the presentation of a new illustrated book entitled *Národná banka Slovenska – Museum of Coins and Medals in Kremnica: 1890–2015*, and a celebratory concert at St Catherine's Church, situated in the grounds of the Town Castle in Kremnica.

To mark the anniversary, the Museum issued a commemorative medal and produced a documentary film on its 125-year history, which may be viewed on the Museum's website.

The Museum's *XIII International Symposium of Medals* was held between 12 October 2015 and 8 November 2015. A selection of medals produced at the previous symposiums, going back to the first in 1988, is on display at the permanent exhibition *Two Faces of Money – Money and Medal-Making in the History of Slovakia*.

The following exhibitions of artwork were held at the Museum's Galleries in Kremnica in the second half of 2015:

- **László Szlávic junior – Za hranicami medailérvstva...** (*Medal-making without limits...*) A selection of varied works by this leading Hungarian medallist and sculptor.
- **Karikaturisti** (*Caricaturists*) 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.

- **20 rokov jabloneckej medailérskej školy** – (*20 years of the Jablonec medal-making school*) A selection of works produced by students, former students and teachers of the Medal and Coin Department at the High School of Applied Arts in Jablonec nad Nisou (Czech Republic). The exhibition marked the 20th anniversary of the school's establishment.
- **Vladimír Durbák – Dialóg a Dialógy** (*Dialogue and dialogues*) A selection of works from sculptor Vladimír Durbák's extensive oeuvre.
- **XIII. Medzinárodné sympóziu medailí Kremnica 2015** (*International Symposium of Medals in Kremnica*) An exhibition of medals struck and cast at the 13 edition of this international symposium for medallists.
- **Textilná tvorba 2015** (*Textile creations 2015*) The 6th edition of this Slovakia-wide competitive exhibition for non-professional textile artworks showcased more than 200 items by more than 77 participants.

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

- **21. Medzinárodné sympóziu umeleckého šperku Kremnica 2015** (*21st International Symposium of Jewellery Art*) An exhibition of jewellery artworks created by nine artists participating in the symposium.
- **125 rokov kremnického múzea** (*125 years of the Kremnica Museum*) An exhibition dedicated to the 125th anniversary of the Museum included several notable items from the early years of its collections.

More than 43,000 people, from Slovakia and abroad, visited the various exhibitions and events held by the NBS Museum of Coins and Medals in 2015.

9 LEGISLATION

In 2015 Národná banka Slovenska continued to exercise its competences in the drafting of legislation (including the transposition of relevant EU laws) in accordance with Article 30 of 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), 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 as part of its legislative competences,