

POLICY STATEMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC

November 2002

II.3.D. Culture

The Government considers the protection and development of cultural heritage, support for contemporary artistic production, as well as the development of culture in general as an important investment in the moral, intellectual, social and economic development of the society. The Government will prepare and adopt a state cultural policy concept.

The right of access to cultural values is one of the essential rights of all people. The Government will therefore complete and implement a package of legislative and economic measures to preserve and support culture in the plurality of opinion and its institutional and economic plurality and in the professional, non-professional, state, as well as non-state sphere, including the culture of national minorities, ethnic and opinion groups.

On the basis of mutual dialogue, respect and effort to ensure general welfare of the society, the Government will continue to co-operate with churches and religious communities. The Government will create a transparent system for the financing of churches and religious communities.

The Government will pay attention to the position of Slovak communities abroad and support cultural projects for their development.

Economic and institutional instruments

The Government will complete the public administration reform in the field of culture and carry out an audit of the Ministry of Culture and organisations under its competence.

By means of both direct and indirect support, the Government will create a stable and transparent system for the financing of cultural and artistic activities suitable for the various types of institutions and entities engaged in these activities, while the key criterion for the provision of support will be the quality of individual projects.

Protection of cultural heritage and intellectual property

The Government will create realistic conditions for the restoration, utilisation and presentation of immovable and movable heritage, with emphasis on cultural heritage localities. It will prepare a national programme for the restoration of cultural heritage called "Let's renew our home".

The Government will improve the registration, protection and accessibility of collections in museums and galleries.

The Government will implement the objectives of the UNESCO's Convention Concerning the Protection of Traditional and Folk Culture.

The Government will ensure the implementation of the Strategy for the Development of Slovak Librarianship.

The Government will create conditions for the thorough protection of intellectual property and related rights.

Media policy

Using legislative instruments, the Government will propose solutions for the financially and politically independent operation of media institutions providing services in the public interest. They will include the reinforcement of the self-governing principle of management and powers of elected and supervisory bodies of Slovak Television (STV) and Slovak Radio (SRo), as well as address the issue of the ineffective management, operation and increasing debts of these public institutions. The Government will prepare laws on STV and SRo, which will enact the establishment of a separate editorial office for Hungarian broadcasts on STV and SRo and extension of the broadcasting time, and introduce special broadcasts in Rusyn on SRo.

The Government will prepare a new media act. It will propose a system for the transparent financing of the media domain.

The Government will create legislative and economic conditions to protect and enable access to the audiovisual heritage, in accordance with the relevant international treaties.

The Government will prepare a concept of legislative measures and an economic strategy for the digitalisation of television and radio broadcasting.

Promotion of Slovak culture abroad

The Government will prepare and implement a strategy for the presentation of Slovak culture and arts abroad as a part of Slovakia's integration efforts. Based on agreements on cultural co-operation and other international commitments, it will ensure the presentation of foreign cultures in Slovakia.

The Government will support and foster active participation of the Slovak Republic in international governmental and non-governmental organisations operating in the areas of culture and art, as well as the implementation of international cultural projects in the territory of Slovakia and abroad, as an important part of presentation of the nation and state.

Source: www.government.gov.sk