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EDUCATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS IN CONTAMINATED SITES MANAGEMENT IN SLOVAKIA

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The project entitled 'Education and public awareness as a support in contaminated sites remediation in Slovakia' (the Awareness Project) is the latest in a series of Slovak Environment Agency (SEA) projects that address contaminated sites (CS).

The Awareness Project's primary activity is to inform the public about and promote the issue of contaminated sites, including its remediation. The target groups of the project's educational and promotional activities are chiefly the staff of public and state administration, owners of contaminated sites, experts on contaminated sites from practice and scientific research institutions, qualified professionals in the field of CS and professionals in environmental education. Educational and promotional events focused on contaminated sites were held throughout all eight of Slovakia's regions.

IMPLEMENTED ACTIVITIES

The activities of the Awareness Project were generally defined as informing the public about and promoting the issue of contaminated sites. The project was implemented in part by certain activities within the State Programme for the Remediation of Contaminated Sites for 2010–2015. As part of Project Awareness, the following activities were implemented through a package of 2 conference and 6 professional seminars focused on CS.

The project's package of publications focused on CS has included 2 pamphlets for professionals and the general public, 3 publications for the school programme *Enviróza* (*Envirosis*), conference proceedings of both conferences (available electronically at <http://contaminated-sites.sazp.sk/>), the publication *Management of Contaminated sites in Slovakia* and a 120-page environmental magazine

A school programme (competition) focused on the mapping of selected contaminated sites entitled *Enviróza* uses an innovative outdoor game – based on the the rules of geocaching – to acquaint the young generation with the issue of contaminated sites. Specifically, it is focused on the mapping of selected contaminated sites – waste disposal sites, dunghills, fuell stations, industrial areas and mineral extraction (mining) areas – which contaminate the local environment. The programme is aimed towards pupils at the second level of primary school and in secondary school, as well as their teachers. The 2014/2015 edition of the outdoor game was launched with a modified methodology. More information on the game is available at www.enviroza.sk.

EnviroQuestions 2013/2014, a mail-in environmental knowledge challenge, announced in February 2014, was the 9th edition of the environmental knowledge challenge for pupils at the second level of primary school.

The 30-minute film entitled *Contaminated sites in Slovakia* is devoted to the current state of efforts to address CS in Slovakia. Six video spots warn viewers of the health and environmental risks of CS, each focusing on one of the most common environmental pollutants related to CS: 1: arsenic, 2: mercury, 3: benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene and xylenes, 4: polychlorinated biphenyls, 5: chlorinated aliphatic hydrocarbons – dichloroethene, trichloroethene, tetrachloroethene and vinyl chloride, 6: pesticides.

BASIC INFORMATION ON THE PROJECT 'EDUCATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS AS A SUPPORT IN CONTAMINATED SITES REMEDIATION IN SLOVAKIA'

Source of funding: the Cohesion Fund of the European Union within the Operational Programme 'Environment' (2007–2013)
Duration: June 2012 to August 2015
Main objective: Raising the general public's awareness concerning the issue of addressing contaminated sites, including its remediation
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