The National Convention on the European Union
The Slovak Republic

Kristina Mikulova
Head of Development Cooperation
Country at a Crossroads

- East or West?
- “Black Hole in the Heart of Europe”
- EU and NATO Conditionality
- Peer Pressure from the Neighbourhood
- Electoral revolution in 1998
- Coalition of pro-reform forces

⇒ ⇒ A decade of reform
The “How“?

National platform for dialogue

- Political will to forge a national consensus: “What is to be done?”
- Climbing out of an economic slump
- Catching up with neighbours en route to the EU
- Adopting the acquis communautaire
- Joining the OECD

→→ Fast-track twin reform and EU accession process
The “What“?

National Convention on the EU

• Multi-stakeholder approach
• Public-private chairmanship
• Government (national/local, private sector, civil society, academia, media, citizenry)
• Moderated by a leading NGO, SPFA
• Legislative and policy output

→→ Direct channel from citizen to prime minister
The "What"?

THE NATIONAL CONVENTION ON THE EU IN SLOVAKIA

STRUCTURE
Chairmanship (ex officio)
- Deputy Prime Minister
- Chair of the European Affairs Committee NC SR
- Head of the Association of Towns and Municipalities

EVENTS
- Plenary Sessions
  - Twice a year
- Strategic issues Assessment of WGs

OUTPUTS
- Policy Recommendations on SR’s national position
- WGs Sessions
  - Each WG 4-6 times a year

RECIPIENTS
- Members of Parliament
- Government
- Courts
- Regional and local government
- Media
- CSOs
- Public

WORKING GROUPS
- WG I. Economic Policy and Business
- WG II. Agriculture and Rural Development
- WG III. Transport and Environment
- WG IV. Regional Policy and Development
- WG V. Justice and Home Affairs
- WG VI. Common Foreign and Security Policy
- WG VII. Institutional Reforms
- WG VIII. Science, Education and Culture
- WG IX. Language Policy within the EU

Members
“Now what”?

**NARRATIVE**

“Return to Europe”
“Catching Up”
“From Laggard to Leader”

**RESONANCE**

**POLITICAL COMMITMENT**

Consensus across political spectrum
Leadership
“Taboo topics” in campaigns

**EMPOWERMENT**

**ACCOUNTABILITY**

Bottom-up approach
Technical expertise
Administrative capacity

Structured dialogue
Visible results
Mutual stakeholder monitoring

**TRUST**

“TRANSITION KNOW-HOW”
So “What“?

A Way of Doing Things

- **At home**: tailoring PPD model – scaling up and down – to address mezzo- and micro-challenges
- **Abroad**: sharing “grand challenge” PPD model with others, such as Albania, Ukraine, Moldova, Serbia

**Lesson learned**: sustainability

- difficult to succeed without high stakes – grand challenges easier to tackle?
- circumstances that empower champions are impossible to replicate
- linkage and leverage: strength of ‘weak ties’