

## SLOVAKIA

Restructuring and  
developing physical  
potential and  
promoting innovation

### Location

Paňovce

### Programming period

2007 - 2013

### Axis / Priority

Axis 1 – Improving the competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sector

### Measure

M121 - Modernisation of agricultural holdings

### Funding (EUR)

Total budget 486 073

EAFRD 181 152

National/region 60 384

Private 241 537

### Project duration

2014 – 2015

### Project promoter

Polnohospodarske druzstvo  
Paňovce

### Contact

Stanislav Rakos

[rakos@vskmineral.sk](mailto:rakos@vskmineral.sk)

tel. +421 905 901 766

### Website

[www.pdpanovce.sk](http://www.pdpanovce.sk)

The Slovakian agricultural cooperative Paňovce used EAFRD support to upgrade its dairy facilities and equipment, raising welfare standards and improving production.

## Summary

Slovakian dairy cooperative Paňovce wanted to upgrade its cow shed, which was in a very poor condition without adequate ventilation or insulation. Other facilities such as electrical and feeding equipment were also substandard. The poor conditions led to low animal welfare and an unsatisfactory work environment.



The Slovakian agricultural cooperative Paňovce used EAFRD support to rebuild its cow shed with modern technologies, more space for the dairy cows and better living conditions. An environmentally-friendly manure processor was also constructed.

## Results

The farm reduced its costs while raising the quality of its production.

Animal welfare and hygiene standards were improved including more space for the cattle, greater comfort during feeding and proper access to water.

Better ventilation has made the climate in the cow shed more comfortable in summer, ensuring higher milk yields.

The creation of a safe storage and processing space for manure limits harmful impacts on the environment.

As the project was very successful, the owners decided to make a short movie about its realization – on their own cost. The film participated at the international film festival Agrofilm 2016 in October 2016 among 114 movies from 26 countries.

## Lessons & Recommendations

- ❑ The project needed more time. The limited time factor meant the preparation phase was vital.
- ❑ Knowledge of the technologies and pricing is key to ensure use of the highest quality products at the lowest price.
- ❑ Procurement procedures must be done by experts to avoid legal problems later.
- ❑ It is important to consider the dimensions of the construction to enable use of every day machinery.

## Context

Slovakian farm Paňovce was transformed from a socialist cooperative into a co-partner cooperative in July 1994. The cooperative farms on 770 ha, with 30 employees, focusing both on plant and animal production. Before the project, facilities such as the cow shed were in a very poor condition without adequate ventilation and insulation. The electrical system was also in disrepair and the feeding technology was obsolete without an option to provide differentiated animal feeding. Winter microclimate in the original cowshed, due to uninsulated roof and precipitated moisture, did not meet the recommendations for cattle rearing at all. Welfare of animals was very low. The farm was not able to meet the requirements for effective and hygienic production of raw milk anymore. At the same time, the working environment for employees was too bad. The poor conditions led to low animal welfare and a substandard working environment for the employees.

## Objectives

The project aimed to upgrade the old cowshed to improve hygiene and the welfare of the cattle, leading to improved dairy production and higher sales. The initiative also sought to limit the farm's environmental impact and safety risks for animal or human health, products, etc.

## Activities

1. Launch of preparatory works, completion of technical documentation and procurement procedures.
2. The original project sought to modernize the existing cowshed. However, it was deemed necessary to remove the original steel skeleton.
3. The cowshed was reconstructed to high welfare standards and equipped with modern technologies, offering space for 160 dairy cows and four rows of resting boxes.
4. Behind the cowshed, they built an insulated storage space for processing manure.
5. A digital gas station pump was also modified to suit the needs of the cooperative.



## Additional sources of information

n/a