

# AUDITING SDG4 IN SLOVAKIA

SUPREME AUDIT OFFICE OF THE  
SLOVAK REPUBLIC



Jana Juriová  
Head of Strategy and Analysis  
Department  
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# Contents

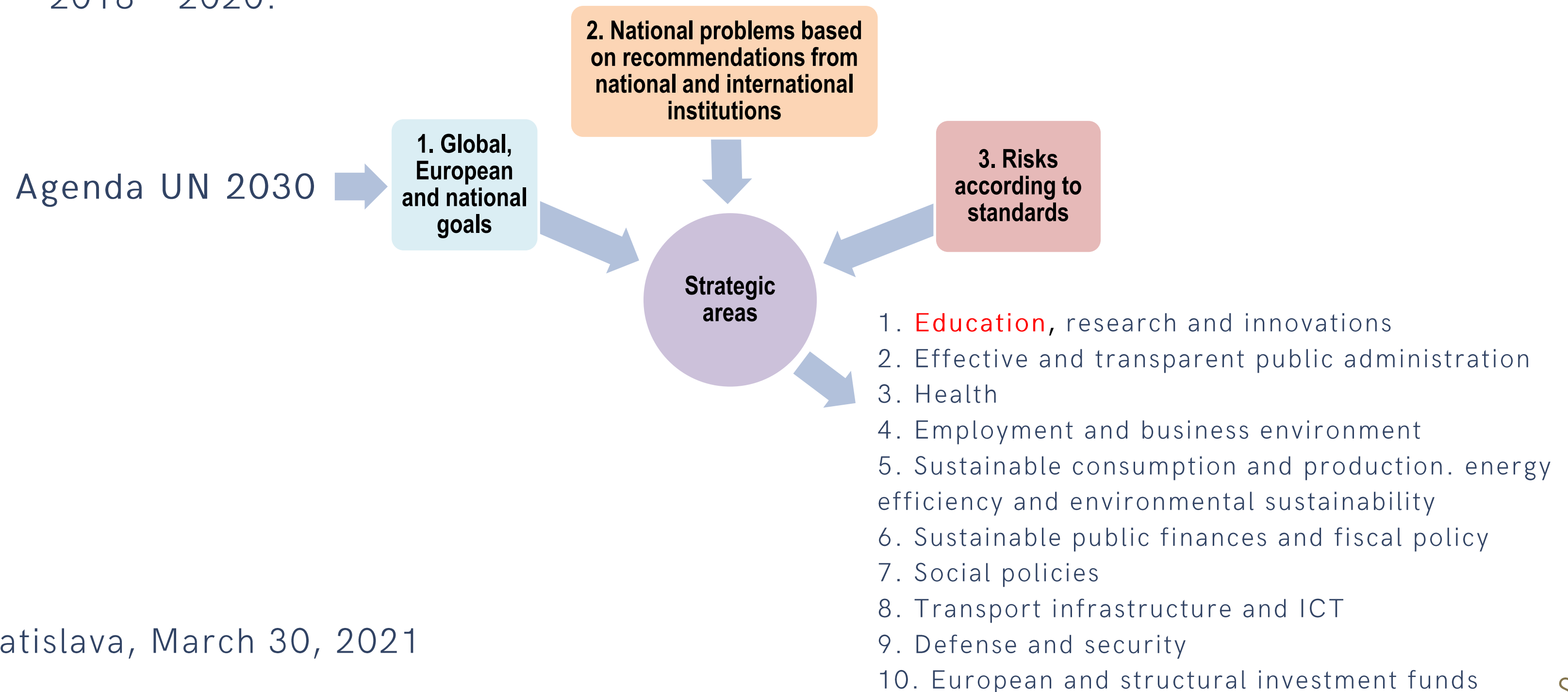


SDG4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

1. strategic planning (strategic priorities, annual priorities)
2. analyses, statements
3. audits

# Strategic planning 2018 - 2020

Starting point was to define EDUCATION as one of the strategic priorities for 2018 - 2020:



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# Priorities for 2018 - 2020

Selected based on (i) the highest amount of financial expenditures for particular areas, (ii) international comparison based on indicators - the most lagging areas of SR behind EU average.

## 2018

- Health
- Education, research and innovations
- Transport infrastructure and ICT
- Sustainable public finances and fiscal policy
- Sustainable consumption and production. energy efficiency and environmental sustainability
- Effective and transparent public administration
- European funds

## 2019

- Education, research and innovations
- Transport infrastructure and ICT
- European funds

## 2020

- Education, research and innovations
- Transport infrastructure and ICT
- Health

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SAO SR

# Education, research and innovations as one of the priorities of audit activities for 2018 - 2020

- about 4.6 % of GDP per year for this public policy area
- lagging in PISA indicators in year 2018:

Goal 4.1: Ensure quality primary and secondary education



Outcome indicators	SR	EU28 average	Index SR against EU
Performance in reading	458	482	95.0
Performance in mathematics	486	489	99.4
Performance in science	464	484	95.9

# Analyses, statements in 2018 - 2020

## Year 2018:

- Statement to the proposal of state budget for 2019
- Statement to the proposal of state final account for 2017

## Year 2019:

- analytical commentary „Are the teachers motivated to provide quality performance? (remuneration of pedagogical staff in primary schools)“
- Statement to the proposal of state budget for 2020
- Statement to the proposal of state final account for 2018

## Year 2020:

- analytical commentary „Count on a poor quality textbook (Textbooks for elementary schools - findings and recommendations)“
- Statement to the proposal of state budget for 2021

# 2020: Textbooks for elementary schools

The SAO SR prepared a questionnaire and sent it to a statistically representative sample of elementary schools. The survey was conducted during April–May 2020.

Some of the key findings of the survey:

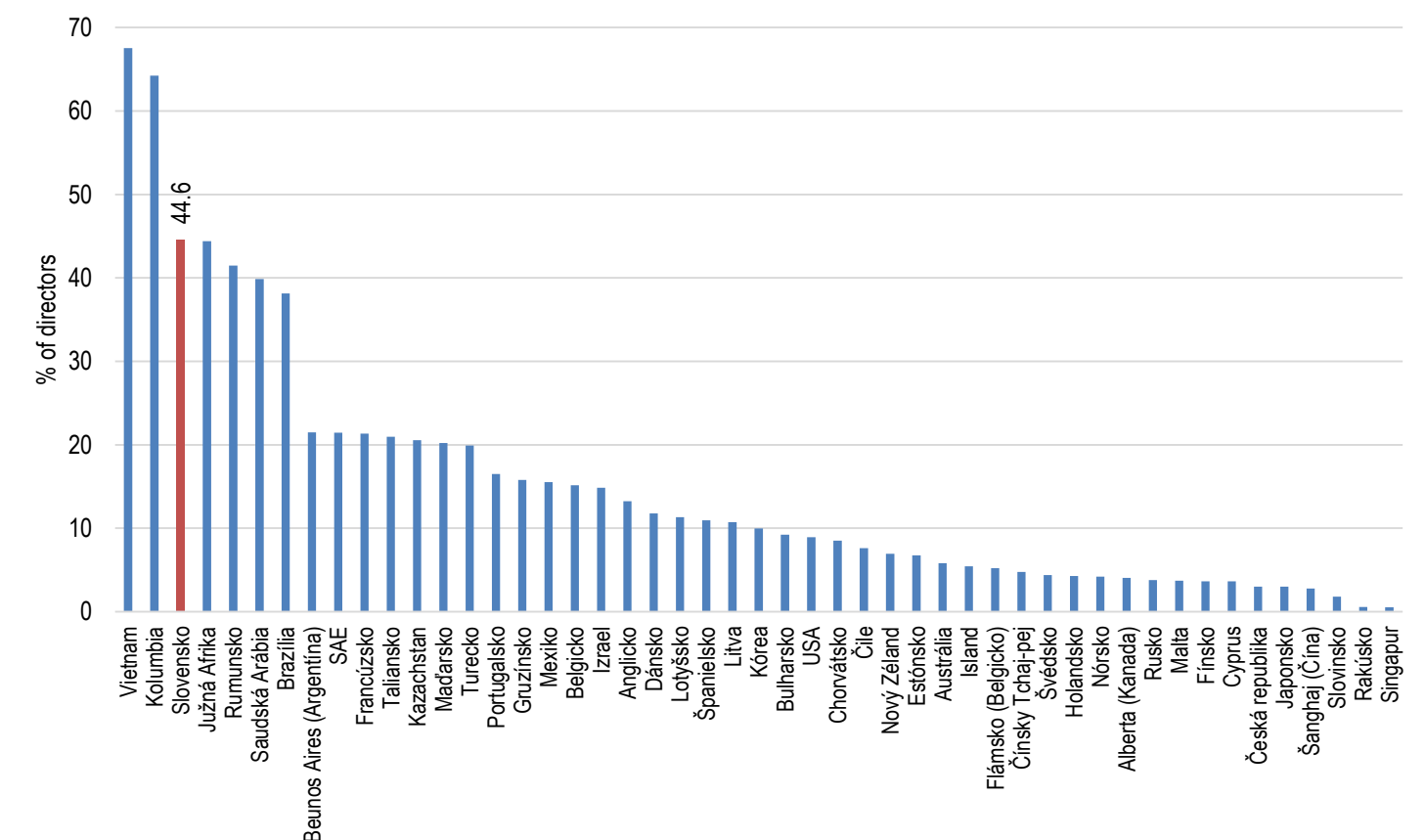
- ❑ More than 3/4 of the addressed schools considered the textbooks for mathematics as unsatisfactory and often unsystematically written.
- ❑ Besides mathematics, also textbooks for some other subjects were highly criticized, namely those for Slovak language and literature, informatics and geography.
- ❑ Almost 75% of schools are aware of textbooks that are available on market and are of higher quality in comparison to textbooks provided by the Ministry of Education.
- ❑ Only 13% of schools agreed with the current system, in which the Ministry of Education selects and distributes textbooks to schools. Over 70% of schools would prefer a system that allows them to choose textbooks freely.



In summer 2020, the Ministry of Education changed its approach to the textbooks provision system. The new system allows schools to choose textbooks from much wider variety of available alternatives since the 2020/2021.

Slovakia achieved poor results regarding the quality of textbooks for elementary schools both in TALIS 2013 and TALIS 2018 surveys.

44.6% of directors at elementary schools answered in 2018 that they have insufficient or inappropriate textbooks:



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# Audits in 2018 - 2020

4.1. Ensure complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes

Year 2018:

- Budgetary organizations in the education

Year 2019:

- Electronization of education
- Higher territorial units - creators and implementers of selected public policies - education and health
- Heat for schools

Year 2020:

- Rapid audit at the Ministry of Education for the Statement to the proposal of state final account - textbooks for elementary schools

4.2. Ensure access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education

Year 2020:

- Expanding the capacities of preschool facilities

4.3. Ensure equal access to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university

Year 2018:

- Budgetary organizations in the education

Year 2019:

- Electronization of education
- Higher territorial units - creators and implementers of selected public policies - education and health
- Heat for schools



# Expanding the capacities of preschool facilities

Year 2020

In 2018 Slovakia had the 3rd lowest share of children in kindergartens from 4 years until compulsory entry into schools from all EU countries: EU28 - 95.3%, SR - 82.2%.

SAO SR audited projects of expanding capacities of preschool facilities in the region Košice that was the region with only 70% of 5-year old children in these facilities.

Eleven projects were found to have failed to comply with contractual conditions and applicable legislation. Most shortcomings were identified in the control of public procurement. Their number and administrative complexity threatened the fulfillment of time schedules.

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# Audits and analyses in 2021

4.1. Ensure complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes

- Efficiency and effectiveness of secondary education in the field of healthcare

4.2. Ensure access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education

- Availability of pre-primary education for children from socially disadvantaged background (especially marginalized Roma communities) at the municipal level

4.3. Ensure equal access to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university

- Efficiency and effectiveness of secondary education in the field of healthcare
- analysis „Efficiency of dual education“

# THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

[jana.juriova@nku.gov.sk](mailto:jana.juriova@nku.gov.sk)

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