

## **Modern IT-supported central civil registration system for Afghanistan – Training programme**

**Ljubljana, 16 March 2015**

- On behalf of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia I would like to warmly welcome the participants at the training relating to a modern IT-supported central civil registration system for Afghanistan.
- At the outset, allow me to thank the organizers, the International Centre for Promotion of Enterprises (ICPE) and its partners, for making this training possible.
- The decision to support the project was adopted in accordance with the Framework programme of international development cooperation and humanitarian aid of the Republic of Slovenia for the period 2013–15, which is one of the key documents regarding Slovenia's development cooperation.
- On 3 January 2013, the Slovenian Government adopted an amended strategy for Afghanistan. The document is aimed at guaranteeing Slovenia an effective participation in the efforts of the international community for the period from 2013 to the end of 2017.
- Since 2008, in the area of post-conflict rehabilitation and development cooperation Slovenia has been providing funds for Afghanistan through EU assistance mechanisms. Furthermore, it has implemented bilateral projects in a range of areas, from reintegration of Afghan refugees upon their return from Iran to food assistance and solar energy in agriculture. Special attention was devoted to children and women.
- Lately, Slovenia financed a two-year NGO project of psycho-social rehabilitation for minor delinquents, girls, in juvenile correction institutions in Herat. Slovenia is also sponsoring two scholarships for postgraduate students in construction engineering at the Ljubljana University.
- Slovenian Ministry of Foreign Affairs shares the concerns of the international community for stabilisation in and reconstruction of Afghanistan and supports this process also through projects of post-conflict assistance such as the ICPE project.
- In the recent years, the Ministry has collaborated with the ICPE on several projects in Afghanistan. The first project carried out jointly by the ICPE and MFA in 2012 was a professional training in the field of energy. In December 2013, the second project was carried out, providing training in the area of personal status and migration.
- This year's training programme relating to a modern IT-supported central civil registration system aims at highlighting the importance of capacity building, IT support and responsible management of personal status systems. It

represents an upgrade of the training for Afghanistan civil servants carried out in 2013.

- Based on what Afghanistan needs, the project, which will importantly contribute to the efforts of the international community to stabilize the situation in the country, was selected predominantly for its quality and because it ensures the sustainability of the outcome.
- The introduction and further development of the central civil registration system and the management of the personal status of people are extremely important issues and among the preconditions for the exercise of fundamental social, economic and political rights of the population. They are especially important for the developing countries that do not have sufficiently developed public administrations. The system provides an overview of the demographic trends in the population, of reliable public records used for the issuing of identity documents, of the security control in the country, of national borders, etc. This is the more important in the context of today's legal and illegal migration in the world. We all know very well that the real development is based on freedom and movement of ideas, knowledge and, consequently, people, capital and services.
- At the moment, the issue of central civil registration may seem far from what should be the ultimate goal of development cooperation, namely stability, peace and prosperity for all. However, one has to consider the registration of births, the issuing of personal documents and other procedures as the basis for the creation of adequate mechanisms aimed not only at social and family policy, but also gender equality, health care and school system.
- The objective of this training is to offer the representatives of the Afghan Government the opportunity to get acquainted with the best practices of Slovenian and EU public administrations.
- For Slovenia, on the other hand, the project brings the opportunity to share our expertise and verified solutions that give very good results. This also means that with its experience and know-how and despite the rather limited resources for the international development cooperation and humanitarian aid our country can be an important partner in the development field.
- On behalf of the Slovenian Ministry of Foreign Affairs I wish you a successful event and a pleasant stay in Slovenia to all participants from Afghanistan.