

How can EU Funds really support accessibility between 2021-2027?

Ako môžu eurofondy naozaj podporiť prístupnosť v období 2021-2027

26. 1 2026



Lesson learned

- public sector **often lack awareness about the actual inaccessibility**
 - **No need for improvement**
- lack of **educational programmes about universal design for experts**
 - **Ignorance**
- lack of **functional control mechanism**
 - **Unsatisfactory outcomes (investments)**

Lesson learned with EU funds

- **European Commission expectations/rules for cohesion policies are important**
 - In many cases their initiated changes in Slovakia (for example process of transition from institutional to community-based care)
- **The European Commission must demand compliance with its own rules**
 - Especially if member states does not have functional control mechanism
 - Public investment

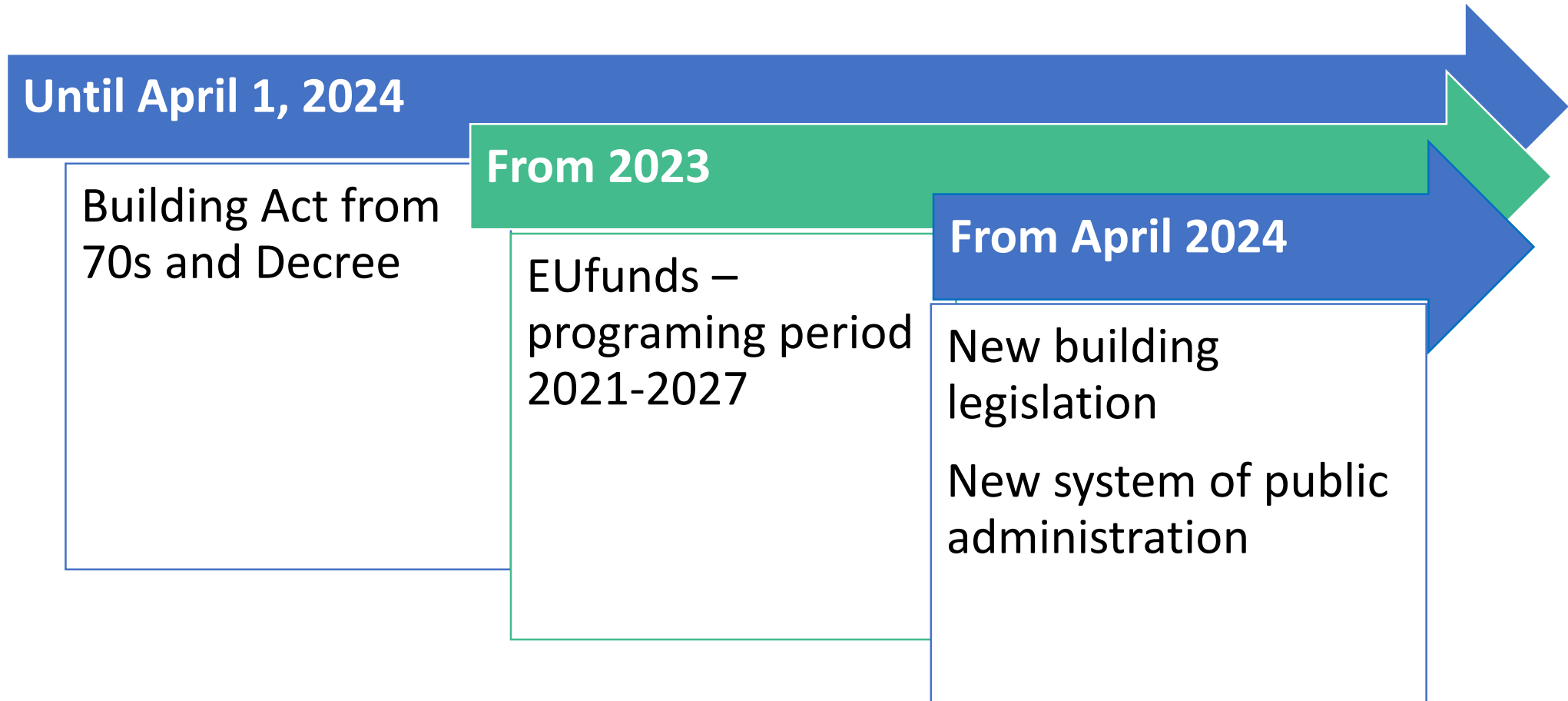


New programming period 2021-27

Implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities as a **enabling horizontal condition**

- prepare **guidelines** on universal design for Member states
- require accessibility as an **exclusionary eligibility condition** explicitly stated in each call
- encourage Member states to **involve experts** on universal design to support applicants to consult their proposals and projects
- encourage Member states to have **evaluators trained in universal design**

SVK case: „Interregnum“ in legislation



SVK case: Experience from ESIF 2014-2020

Gestor of horizontal principles / Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family

<https://horizontalneprincipy.gov.sk/>

- **Interim Expert Evaluation**
- From 2018
- Approx. 350 large investment project (CF, ERDF) – 3.5 mld. EUR
 - 200 infrastructure projects
 - 150 ITC projects
- Approx. 90 000 € - price of the expert work
- **Thousand of other projects in other OPs without expert evaluation or control**

SVK case: Fulfilment of the enabling condition

Gestor of horizontal principles / Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family

- mechanism to ensure compliance with the Horizontal principles and Enabling conditions
- Horizontal principles should be implemented as a **disqualification criteria** in process of evaluation of project proposals (specific evaluation criteria).

<https://horizontalneprincipy.gov.sk/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Zakladny-mechanizmus-uplatnovania-HP-v-PO-2021-2027.pdf?csrt=5498430060486706320>

SVK case: Our offer to public authority

Design of criteria, evaluation process and methodological support

- **Required exclusion criteria** for accessibility (Art. 9) - relating to buildings and construction
- **Improving evaluation process** – special annex on addressing accessibility
- **Methodological support for applicants' projects** - checklists, advice centres, online training,.....

Green deal

is important for our future,
but also is **Design for All**

for 10-30% of people - **a necessity**
for 50% of people - **a convenient aid**
for 100% of people - **more comfort**

soc2a

Thank you for your attention

maria machajdikova

www.socia.sk