

1. Name of the party

Slovak Republic

2. Please provide the names and locations of existing centres of excellence for sustainable cooling and testing centres for energy efficiency in your country or region

At present, the Slovak Republic does not have a formally designated centre of excellence for sustainable cooling or a dedicated national testing centre for energy efficiency specifically established under the implementation framework of the Kigali Amendment.

However, relevant professional and technical capacities exist in Slovakia, in particular through the Slovak Association for Cooling, Air Conditioning and Heat Pumps / Slovenský zväz pre chladenie, klimatizáciu a tepelné čerpadlá (SZ CHKT) and the associated Certification Body for Cooling, Air Conditioning and Heat Pumps / Certifikačný orgán pre chladenie, klimatizáciu a tepelné čerpadlá (CO CHKT), located in Šamorín, Slovak Republic. SZ CHKT provides training, examinations and certification activities in the field of fluorinated greenhouse gases and refrigeration, air-conditioning and heat pump technologies.

These bodies are not formally designated as centres of excellence for sustainable cooling, but they represent an important part of the existing national professional infrastructure supporting safe, qualified and legally compliant handling of refrigerants, including activities relevant to the transition towards climate-friendly alternatives.

3. Are there plans to set up a centres of excellence for sustainable cooling and/or testing centres for energy efficiency in your country/region? If yes, please provide more information on these ongoing efforts

At this stage, the Slovak Republic has not formally adopted a specific plan to establish a dedicated centre of excellence for sustainable cooling or a dedicated testing centre for energy efficiency in relation to the implementation of the Kigali Amendment.

Nevertheless, Slovakia continues to support the development of professional capacities in the refrigeration, air-conditioning and heat pump sector through the existing certification and training system. This includes training and examination activities related to fluorinated greenhouse gases and, increasingly, the need to address alternative refrigerants and new technical requirements stemming from updated EU legislation.

Future development of such capacities may be considered in the context of the implementation of Regulation (EU) 2024/573 on fluorinated greenhouse gases, the transition to lower-GWP and natural refrigerants, and the need to ensure sufficient technical knowledge, safety awareness and professional competence in the sector.

4. Please describe policies implemented in your country/region that support the setting up and operations of such centers of excellence for sustainable cooling and testing centers for energy efficiency

Although Slovakia does not currently have a formally designated centre of excellence for sustainable cooling, several policy and regulatory measures support the development of professional and technical capacities relevant to sustainable cooling and the implementation of the Kigali Amendment.

At EU level, Slovakia implements the requirements of Regulation (EU) 2024/573 on fluorinated greenhouse gases, which strengthens the framework for the phase-down of hydrofluorocarbons, leakage prevention, certification, training and the transition to alternatives. The Regulation is directly applicable in all EU Member States and provides an important legal basis for improving competence and environmental performance in the refrigeration, air-conditioning and heat pump sector.

At national level, professional competence, certification and related obligations are currently supported by the national legal framework for fluorinated greenhouse gases and ozone-depleting substances. The existing system includes training, examinations and certification for persons and companies handling fluorinated greenhouse gases. SZ CHKT/CO CHKT provides certification and training activities for F-gases under the applicable Slovak legal framework.

These policies and activities contribute to the safe handling of refrigerants, prevention of emissions, support for proper installation and servicing practices, and preparation of the sector for the wider use of lower-GWP and alternative refrigerants.

5. Please describe activities and specific functions of the existing/planned centres of excellence for sustainable cooling and testing centres for energy efficiency

Since Slovakia does not currently have a formally designated centre of excellence for sustainable cooling, the following information relates to existing professional and technical capacities that support similar objectives.

The Slovak Association for Cooling, Air Conditioning and Heat Pumps and the associated certification body provide, in particular:

- training and professional preparation for persons working with refrigeration, air-conditioning and heat pump equipment;
- examinations and certification related to fluorinated greenhouse gases;
- certification of companies handling fluorinated greenhouse gases;
- professional information and guidance for the refrigeration, air-conditioning and heat pump sector;
- support for compliance with national and EU requirements related to fluorinated greenhouse gases;
- activities contributing to safe handling of refrigerants, leakage prevention and proper servicing practices;

- support for professional awareness regarding new technical and regulatory requirements, including alternative refrigerants.

SZ CHKT also publishes information on training, examinations, certification and reporting related to F-gases, heat pumps and products containing F-gases.

These functions are relevant to the implementation of the Kigali Amendment because they help ensure that technicians and companies have the knowledge and qualifications necessary for the responsible management of refrigerants and for the transition to more climate-friendly cooling technologies.

6. Please share key lessons learned, including best practices and challenges encountered in establishing or operating the centres of excellence for sustainable cooling and testing centres for energy efficiency

The Slovak experience shows that a functioning system of training, examinations and certification is essential for the effective implementation of obligations related to fluorinated greenhouse gases and the transition towards sustainable cooling.

Key lessons learned include:

- professional competence of technicians and companies is a critical condition for reducing refrigerant emissions and ensuring safe operation of equipment;
- regular updating of training content is necessary, especially in view of new EU legislation, lower-GWP refrigerants, natural refrigerants and related safety requirements;
- cooperation between public authorities, professional associations and the private sector is important for practical implementation;
- certification and training systems can also serve as a useful channel for disseminating information on new legal and technical requirements;
- the transition to alternative refrigerants requires not only legal obligations, but also practical training, safety awareness and sufficient technical capacity in the market.

The main challenges include ensuring that training and certification systems keep pace with rapidly developing EU requirements, supporting sufficient capacity for technicians across the country, and strengthening expertise related to alternative refrigerants and energy-efficient technologies.

7. Please provide any supporting documentation (e.g. policy documents, reports, website links etc).

Relevant supporting information includes:

- Regulation (EU) 2024/573 on fluorinated greenhouse gases;
- national legal framework on fluorinated greenhouse gases and ozone-depleting substances;
- information on training, examinations and certification provided by the Slovak Association for Cooling, Air Conditioning and Heat Pumps / SZ CHKT and the Certification Body for Cooling, Air Conditioning and Heat Pumps / CO CHKT;

- SZ CHKT website: information on F-gas certification, training, examinations, reporting and professional activities in the refrigeration, air-conditioning and heat pump sector.

8. Any other information

Slovakia considers the development of professional competence in the refrigeration, air-conditioning and heat pump sector to be an important practical element of the implementation of the Kigali Amendment.

Although there is currently no formally designated centre of excellence for sustainable cooling in Slovakia, existing professional structures, especially SZ CHKT/CO CHKT, contribute to the objectives of the Kigali Amendment by supporting training, certification, awareness and compliance in the sector. Further development of these capacities may be relevant in the context of the implementation of Regulation (EU) 2024/573 and the wider transition towards low-GWP and energy-efficient cooling solutions.