



THE OFFICE OF THE PLENIPOTENTIARY
OF THE SLOVAK GOVERNMENT
FOR THE DEVELOPMENT
OF THE CIVIL SOCIETY

SEMI-ANNUAL EVALUATION OF ACTIVITIES

International Year of Volunteers for Sustainable Development 2026 (IVY 2026)

Slovak Republic

Monitored period: 1st January - 30th June 2026



INTERNATIONAL
VOLUNTEER YEAR 2026

List of Abbreviations

ASSR – Association of the Samaritans of the Slovakian Republic

CSS – Social Services Centre

DCO – Voluntary Civil Protection

IVY 2026 – International Year of Volunteers for Sustainable Development 2026

MH SR – Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic

MK SR – Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic

MPSVR SR – Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic

MSVVaM SR – Ministry of Education, Research, Development and Youth of the Slovak Republic

MV SR – Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic

MZ SR – Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic

MZVEZ SR – Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic

NR SR – National Council of the Slovak Republic

UN – United Nations Organization

PDCO – Platform of Volunteer Centres and Organizations

SAMRS – Slovak Agency for International Development Cooperation

SK8 – Self-governing Regions of Slovakia

STVR – Slovak Television and Radio

TASR – Press Agency of the Slovak Republic

UNV – United Nations Volunteers

UPVVL SR – Office of the Deputy Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic for the Recovery Plan and Knowledge Economy

ZMOS – Association of Towns and Communities of Slovakia

1. Introduction and Methodology

This document presents a summary semi-annual evaluation of activities carried out in Slovakia within the framework of the International Year of Volunteers for Sustainable Development 2026 (IVY 2026) for the period from January to June 2026. This evaluation is primarily based on the Implementation Plan for Activities of the International Year of Volunteers for Sustainable Development 2026 in Slovakia and recommendations from the United Nations Volunteers Secretariat (UNV).

The evaluation draws upon materials provided up to June 30, 2026, by members of the National Commission and other involved stakeholders: state administration departments, self-governing regions, regional volunteer centres, non-governmental non-profit organizations, academia, the business sector, and media. It is structured across three implementation levels: national, regional, and local, which corresponds to the UN recommendation to monitor and present activities across various levels.

Data sources used: records of reported activities by members of the National Commission and partners; IVY 2026 Activity Implementation Plan; Roadmap for IVY 2026 implementation at the country level (UNV); interim media communication reports from the Press Agency of the SR, Slovak Television and Radio, and interim reports from members of the National Commission for IVY 2026.

Notice: activity tracking is ongoing and may not be exhaustive – several organizations report their activities and volunteer numbers retroactively or in summary. The listed numbers therefore represent the minimum recorded level of involvement, not necessarily the final total.

2. Governance Framework of IVY 2026 in Slovakia

According to UN guidelines for international years (UN General Assembly resolution A/78/127, in accordance with the annex to ECOSOC resolution 1980/67), it is recommended to designate national focal points at the national level and establish a National Commission or similar mechanism to ensure the preparation, implementation, and evaluation of the international year.

2.1 National Focal Point and National Commission

The national focal point for IVY 2026 in Slovakia is the Office of the Government Plenipotentiary of the Slovak Republic for the Development of Civil Society. One of the focal point's tasks was establishing the National Commission for the International Year of Volunteers for Sustainable Development 2026, which brings together representatives of 25 institutions across six sectors. Based on UN recommendations, a wide range of actors was involved in the year's preparation, including state administration, civil society, volunteer-involving organizations, academia, media, and the private sector.

Sector of the National Commission	Number of institutions	Representatives (institutions)
State administration	8	MZVaEZ SR, MPSVR SR, UPVVL SR, MSVVaM SR, MH SR, MV SR, MK SR, MZ SR
Self-governments	3	ZMOS, Cities Union of Slovakia, SK8
Business sector	4	Kaufland, dm-drogerie markt, Slovenská sporiteľňa foundation, AmCham
Academia	2	Matej Bel University, Presov University
Non-governmental organizations and Civil society organizations	6	DCO, Ambrela, PDCO, Slovak Catholic Charity, ASSR, Slovak Red Cross
Media	2	STVR, TASR

The composition of the commission also fulfils the UN recommendation to involve actors experienced in domestic and international volunteering, for instance through the Samaritan Association of the SR, which operates in international civil protection projects and humanitarian missions, or through Slovakia's participation in UN regional forums in Geneva and New York (Chapter 4.1).

2.2 Types of Activities according to UN Recommendation

- UNV recommends that National Commissions plan and present activities in three categories. The Slovak National Commission profiled itself across all three during the first half of 2026:
- Promotional activities – Volunteer Week; Our City; Heart on a Palm; National Forum of Voluntary Rescuers; TASR media campaign "Volunteers 26" and STVR news coverage; web presentations on participating institutions' websites.
- Programmatic activities – operation of the national volunteering database "Dobrobáza"; initiative "I love my town; I love my region" (Prešov Self-Governing Region); conceptual proposals by DCO for a financial mechanism and benefit system for volunteers; educational and training activities by ASSR and regional volunteer centres.
- Evaluative activities – nationwide survey "Volunteering and Local Self-Government 2026"; mapping of volunteering in Prešov region via the RISK app; compilation of the Slovak summary of the IAVE Insights Paper "Call to Action for the Future of Volunteering".

3. Implementation of the IVY 2026 National Plan of Activities

3.1 Specific Goal 1 - Social Dimension of Volunteering

The Activity Implementation Plan defines seven nationwide flagship (core) activities set by the National Commission for IVY 2026 to emphasize the social dimension of volunteering. Progress report for the 1st half of 2026:

Flagship activity (Specific Goal 1)	Status as of June 30, 2026	Note
Volunteer Week (implemented by PDCO)	Successfully implemented	18–24th May, 2026; nationwide activity, coordinated by PDCO and regional volunteer centres (9,450 volunteers, 24,267 hours, over 160 thousand euros estimated economic value)
Our City (implemented by Pontis)	First round implemented	5th June, 2026; nationwide activity, 205 companies involved, 196 organizations, over 5,700 volunteers, 780 volunteer coordinators
Heart on a Palm in regions and nationwide (implemented by PDCO)	Under implementation	National Heart on a Palm 2025 awards, Presov, March 25, 2026 – 10 awardees, media covered by STVR. Regional awards for 2026 will take place in November and December 2026
Engaged School Award (implemented by PDCO and MSVVaM)	In application phase	Programs are applying for National Awards until 12th July, 2026.
IVY Activity Calendar, Dobrobáza (implemented by PDCO)	Continuously in operation	In the period from 1st Jan – 30th Jun, 2026: 5,546 participants / 102 activities in the IVY Activity Calendar; 71 volunteers / 110 volunteer opportunities in Dobrobáza; 9,450 volunteers / 526 volunteer opportunities during Volunteer Week

Flagship activity (Specific Goal 1)	Status as of June 30, 2026	Note
National Forum of Voluntary Rescuers (implemented by DCO)	Implemented (1st edition)	DCO – 13 rescue organizations, first event of its kind in Slovakia
4th edition of Voluntary Rescuers Symposium (implemented by DCO)	Planned	Event will take place on 26th September, 2026

Notice: Individual activities may overlap; they can be systemic as well as programmatic.

3.2 Specific Goal 2 - Systemic Measures

The Activity Plan contains 18 systemic measures focused on various aspects of volunteering and recognition of volunteering experience. Concrete steps taken as of June 30, 2026:

č.	Systemic measure (Specific Goal 2, abbreviated text)	Status / note as of 30th June 2026
1	Granting accreditations in the field of volunteering	Fulfilled (17 accreditations granted, 148 accreditations total), next accreditation round planned for August 2026
2	Analysing the possibilities of implementing co-financing of projects from public and private sources through volunteer work and preparing proposals for the systemic anchoring of this option and methodologies for practical implementation	Under development (proposal is in the strategic document of ÚSV ROS: Action Plan for Open Government in Slovakia 2026–2028), task must be fulfilled by December 31, 2027
3	Analysing the possibilities of anchoring volunteer centres as a key element of volunteering infrastructure in legislative materials	Implementation not started
4	Developing a strategy for the development of education for volunteering in non-formal education and school educational institutions and preparing it for approval as a strategic document.	Under development, task is being prepared within an interministerial working group of MSVVaM
5	Analysing barriers to the development of volunteering in the healthcare sector and preparing proposals for legislative or non-legislative measures to remove them	Under development, MZ SR has a baseline document containing examples of good practice and programs, description of benefits for patients, as well as for volunteers in healthcare facilities
6	Incorporating paid leave for the performance of volunteer activities into collective agreements at the level of state administration, regional and local self-government, and the corporate sector	Fulfilled, time off work for volunteer activities was introduced by MSVVaM, MV SR, SAMRS (MZVaEZ)
7	Activation of volunteer networks of older volunteers aged 55+ – “Seniors Helping Seniors” (preventive safety programs, education on modern issues aimed at improving the quality of life of seniors), in line with the Programme Slovakia: support for volunteer centres, training of coordinators to work with seniors, and raising awareness of volunteers aged 55+ and for clients aged 55+	Under development
8	Continuing support for social innovations in volunteering	Unfulfilled (financial resources were not allocated due to public finance consolidation)
9	Promoting the introduction of a financial mechanism to support long term volunteer programs	Implementation not started
10	Proposing a system for releasing volunteers from work and reimbursing their wages to employers in cases of deployment during crises or when they are part of / experts / members of a team or module deployed for humanitarian assistance domestically or abroad	Implementation not started

č.	Systemic measure (Specific Goal 2, abbreviated text)	Status / note as of 30th June 2026
11	Proposing a national system of non-financial rewards/benefits for volunteers (health insurance, pension, paid leave, admission to schools for young people or scholarships, vaccination, etc.) as one of the motivational elements of volunteering	Implementation not started
12	Increasing knowledge about the state and trends in volunteering based on volunteering research – publication of popularized research outputs and implementation of webinars for volunteer coordinators	Under development, questionnaire distributed among cities and municipalities. Return rate from 158 municipalities and cities, recommendations prepared
13	Supporting the recognition of volunteering as a form of non-formal education – development of recommendations for universities in Slovakia	Under development, proposal prepared, implementation planned for 2027 at the earliest
14	Analysing the possibility of waiving the fee for criminal record extracts for volunteers working with youth and, in cooperation with responsible stakeholders, preparing proposals for systemic anchoring of this option and methodologies for practical implementation	Under development, two implementation paths prepared: Legislative (currently not possible) and Technical (in progress)
15	Opening a discussion on 10 days of leave for volunteers organizing summer camps (e.g. based on the legal regulation in the Czech Republic)	Under development, active communication ongoing with Youth Council of Slovakia, using Czech legal framework as a model (since 2021 their measure costs ~110m CZK for 8,500 applicants)
16	Establishing a working group composed of experts from local governments engaged in volunteering within cities to bring examples of good practice and jointly define legislative and other barriers to volunteering, as well as options for supporting the development of volunteering at the local level (e.g. establishing contact points for volunteering information, cooperation with relevant volunteer centres, approval of local tax reliefs for volunteers, etc.)	Under development, Union of Towns and Cities of Slovakia in cooperation with PDCO, ÚSV ROS, and ZMOS conducted a survey, results published in "Volunteering and Local Self-Government 2026" report
17	Operation and promotion of Dobrobáza – the national volunteering database as a platform for connecting people interested in volunteering with organizations seeking volunteers, including placing a link to the database on the websites of public institutions	Fulfilled – ongoing implementation, as of June 30, 2026: 71 volunteers / 110 volunteer opportunities in Dobrobáza; 9,450 volunteers / 526 volunteer opportunities during Volunteer Week
18	Preparing a proposal for a legislative amendment confirming the status of volunteering as a form of preparation for employment	Implementation not started

4. Activities by Implementation Level

The following overview contains reported activities at the national, regional, and local levels. Given the volume of activities collected from National Commission members for IVY 2026 (241 reported activities), this represents a representative selection.

4.1 National Level

The national level mainly involves ministries and central state administration bodies, nationwide non-governmental non-profit organizations, and media. Their activities are generally of a coordination, legislative, methodological, or media nature, establishing the framework for regional and local implementation.

Actor	Scope of activities	Key numbers
Office of the Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for the Development of Civil Society	Coordination of the National Commission, Volunteer Week (internal office involvement)	11 volunteers
Ministry of Education, Research, Development and Youth of the Slovak Republic	Volunteer Week	31 employees involved
Slovak Agency for International Development Cooperation	Creation of platform for international development volunteering "savan.sk"	6 ambassadors, 8 organizations dedicated to preparing and sending international volunteers to low-income countries (primarily under SlovakAid brand)
Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic	Ministerial Blood Drop	35 employees donated
Office of the Deputy Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic for the Recovery Plan and Knowledge Economy	Slovak Representation at HLPF Regional Forum – Geneva (April 21–22) and New York (July 7–15, 2026)	Presentation of IVY 2026 at the international level
Platform of Volunteer Centres and Organizations	Operation of national volunteering database "Dobrobáza", IVY Activity Calendar, coordination of Volunteer Week	5,546 participants / 102 activities in IVY Activity Calendar* 71 volunteers / 110 volunteer opportunities in Dobrobáza 9,450 volunteers / 526 volunteer opportunities during Volunteer Week
ZMOS	Communication with local governments, Municipal Newspaper, inclusion of IVY 2026 in ZMOS Council, preparation, coordination, and distribution of "Volunteering and Local Self-Government 2026" questionnaire survey, local government working group	Informing towns and municipalities across Slovakia, nationwide data collection from member towns
Cities Union of Slovakia	Preparation, coordination, and distribution of "Volunteering and Local Self-Government 2026" questionnaire survey, local government working group	Nationwide data collection from member towns
Voluntary Civil Protection	Legislative proposal, partner program, grant scheme, National Forum of Voluntary Rescuers, firefighter training, Krízový spravodaj magazine	162 retrained voluntary firefighters from 17 brigades; 13 organizations at National Forum
Association of the Samaritans of the Slovakian Republic	School demonstrations, medical assistance, training, international projects, repatriation flights	423 volunteer involvements across 7 activity categories
Slovak Catholic Charity	Volunteering workshops, "Hands to Work" action during Volunteer Week	86 workshop participants
TASR, STVR	Media coverage of IVY 2026 (detailed in Chapter 6)	89+ news items and 28-part series by TASR; 48 media outputs by STVR
Slovak Red Cross	Initial volunteer training, awareness in public transport (ZSSK), fight against disinformation, supportive mental health supervision, first aid workshops, and inclusive activities for children.	132 trained volunteers; 41 volunteers in supervision system; 20 participants in disinformation webinars; Awareness campaign on EX trains on BA – KE route.

4.2 Regional Level

The regional level is represented by self-governing regions and their volunteer centres, which coordinate activities within their territories, collect data from local organizations, and connect national initiatives (e.g., Volunteer Week) with local actors. The most comprehensive and systematic records for the 1st half of 2026 were submitted by the Košice, Trnava, and Prešov Self-Governing Regions.

Region / Regional Centre	Key activities	Key numbers
Košice Self-Governing Region (KSK)	Volunteer Tea, Galup, supervision of volunteer activities, cleaning of Ružín water reservoir, Foundation Day, County Days, and others (18 activities)	≈ 477 volunteers, 2,800+ hours worked
Trnava Self-Governing Region (TTSK)/ Volunteer Centre of TTSK	VOLUNTEER-breakfast, consultations with applicants, lectures at secondary schools, Volunteer Week (65 activities), corporate workshops	1,000+ volunteers in Volunteer Week
Prešov Self-Governing Region / Prešov Volunteer Centre	Working group (6 meetings since January), mapping volunteering via RISK app, "I love my town, I love my region" initiative, Regional and Local Self-Government Day, mobile blood drop, ceremonial recognition of coordinators	276 local governments at Regional Self-Government Day; 7 towns in "I love my town" initiative; 50 + 58 thanked organizations and coordinators; 24 blood donors
Bratislava Self-Governing Region (BSK)	Coordination through Social Affairs Department, DofE program, BSK Youth Parliament, Bratislava Regional Grant Scheme for Youth, dozens of activities in social service facilities	13 involved facilities (detailed in Chapter 4.3)

4.3 Local Level

At the local level, most direct volunteer contact occurred with recipients of social, community, and environmental activities, primarily through social service facilities, schools, municipalities, and corporate volunteering programs. These consist of dozens of smaller, yet numerous activities; below is a selection of the most prominent.

Organization / Location	Activity	Number of volunteers
DSS for children and adults KAMPINO (Bratislava)	Garden revitalization	58 volunteers
Centre for social services ROSA	Our City (Pontis Foundation)	57 volunteers
DSS KAMPINO	April Umbrella of Poetry with Daniel Hevier (Panta Rhei)	53 volunteers
CSS prof. K. Matulaya	Assistance in gardens, maintenance of premises, sports games for county facilities	43 volunteers
Dm markt (multiple towns and municipalities)	Eco garden, Green Yard, educational activities with schools and kindergartens, long-term cooperation with NOÚ, Our City	Dozens of local activities, usually 4–27 volunteers per activity
7 towns of Prešov Region (Bardejov, Humenné, Snina, Levoča, Prešov, Sabinov, Svidník)	I love my town, I love my region – two-week volunteer activity of students during graduation exam weeks	Secondary schools across seven district towns involved (6,693 volunteers)
Ecocentre Čunovo	Auxiliary technical work during a public event	2 volunteers
ASSR - local events across Slovakia	Activity demonstrations for kindergartens and primary schools, sports and family days (e.g., Kežmarok, Stará Ľubovňa, Lomnička, Veľké Ripňany, etc.)	Dozens of events, usually 1–6 volunteers per event

Organization / Location	Activity	Number of volunteers
Slovak Red Cross	RESC Nové Zámky – Production of creative therapeutic aids for children during Volunteer Week	12 volunteers

Note: In Bratislava Self-Governing Region, 13 social service facilities reported activities (CSS MEREMA, CSS Rača, CSS Javorinská, CSS Sibírka, DSS INTEGRA, CSS prof. K. Matulaya, DSS Báhoň, CSS Pod Karpatmi, DSS a ZSS Kaštieľ, DSS KAMPINO, ZSS Pod hradom, GAUDEAMUS, ZSS ROSA) with dozens of individual volunteer activities throughout the half-year.

5. Highlights of the 1st Half of 2026

A selection of activities that, due to their scope, character, or media reach, go beyond standard frameworks and deserve individual highlighting in presenting National Commission results:

- **First National Forum of Voluntary Rescuers in Slovakia** – DCO organized a meeting of 13 rescue organizations; this is the first event of its character in the SR.
- **394 field deployments**, representing **11,316 person-hours** of volunteer work by Voluntary Civil Protection.
- **International Presentation of IVY 2026** – Slovakia presented the Year of Volunteering in February at the European Parliament in Brussels, at the HLPF Regional Forum in Geneva (April), and in New York (July 2026).
- **National Volunteering Database Dobrobáza** connects prospective volunteers with organizations seeking volunteers. The existence and functionality of Dobrobáza helped ensure the successful execution of the nationwide Volunteer Week campaign. This edition recorded a record participation of 9,450 volunteers.
- **5,546 participants / 102 activities** registered through the IVY 2026 Activity Calendar.
- **9,450 volunteers / 526 volunteer opportunities** during Volunteer Week across Slovakia.
- **Repatriation flights and international missions of ASSR** – 7 volunteers of the Samaritan Association participated in repatriation flights in cooperation with the Ministry of Interior of the SR and the EU Civil Protection Mechanism (ERCC/DG ECHO).
- **STVR broadcast a 5-part report series** on volunteering in Uganda and a standalone report on volunteers from the NGO Deti Afriky operating in Tanzania.
- **First nationwide survey on volunteering in local self-governments** – Union of Towns and Cities of Slovakia, in cooperation with PDCO, ZMOS, and ÚSV ROS, published the "Volunteering and Local Self-Government 2026" report.
- **TASR launched the unified brand "Volunteers 26"** across its entire agency service and published over 89 news items along with a 28-part series of regional reports.
- **"I love my town, I love my region"** – a new two-week PSK initiative involved secondary school students from seven district towns during graduation exam weeks.

6. Media Communication – TASR and STVR

TASR and STVR are members of the National Commission for IVY 2026 and provided main public media communication for the Year of Volunteering during the 1st half of 2026.

Ambassadors and prominent personalities also supported media promotion:

- **Danka Hrbeková**, Olympic athlete, promoted IVY 2026 on her social media channels and encouraged young people to join Volunteer Week.
- **Richard Raši**, Chairman of the NR SR, supported IVY 2026 and Volunteer Week.
- **Róbert Zsembera**, State Secretary of MSVVaM, supported IVY 2026 and promoted the IVY 2026 Activity Calendar.

6.1 TASR

The Press Agency of the Slovak Republic joined IVY 2026 activities as early as late 2025 and introduced the unified label "Volunteers 26" (in titles and keywords using the tag -IVY26-) across its agency wire service for all related reports.

- **89+ text items** in domestic news service, including an interview with Government Plenipotentiary Simona Zacharová.
- **28-part series of regional reports** on volunteer activities highlighting examples of good practice.
- **210 photos and 94 audio recordings**, including photo distribution to partner media outlets in Czechia, Hungary, Serbia, and Romania.
- **Applications and websites:** Calendar (event overview for media), mobile app TASR PRO, dedicated section on teraz.sk, as well as coverage on skolske.sk and obce.tasr.sk.
- **TASR TV** produced a studio interview with Government Plenipotentiary Simona Zacharová and, after July 10, 2026, prepared a program reviewing 1st half-year volunteering activities.

TASR encourages participating organizations to actively share event announcements and invitations directly with domred@tasr.sk – release through agency services expands the impact of Year of Volunteering activities.

6.2 STVR

Slovak Television and Radio covered volunteering across news, current affairs, and radio broadcasting. During the monitored period, it registered 48 individual media outputs:

Output category	Number (Jan – Jun 2026)	Example
News items and reports	24	Report series on volunteering in Uganda, Heart on a Palm 2025
Topics with guests (studio interviews)	11	Government Plenipotentiary S. Zacharová on Aktuálne :24
Read news items	11	"Volunteer Week launches May 18"
Live broadcast / event	1	Voluntary Firefighters of the Year poll
Radio (Rádio Slovensko)	1	International Year of Volunteering
Total	48	

Notable outputs include a five-part series on volunteering in Uganda, coverage of the national Heart on a Palm 2025 awards ceremony in Prešov, and a studio interview with Government Plenipotentiary Simona Zacharová on Aktuálne: 24.

7. Highlight Media Outputs for the 1st Half of 2026

A selection of media outputs that, due to their scope, character, or reach, stand out for special emphasis:

- **TASR published a 28-part regional report series** showcasing volunteer activities across various social spheres as examples of good practice benefiting society and communities.

- **Interviews with the Government Plenipotentiary for the Development of Civil Society** on Aktuálne 24 (STVR), Analýzy 24 (TV Joj), and a studio interview at TASR. All interviews promoted IVY 2026 and Volunteer Week.
- **Interview with Alžbeta Brozmanová Gregorová** on Dámsky klub (STVR) promoting Volunteer Week.
- **Chairman of NR SR Richard Raši** supported IVY 2026 and Volunteer Week on his social media channels.
- **Róbert Zsembera**, State Secretary of MSVVaM SR, alongside the Government Plenipotentiary for Civil Society Development, supported IVY 2026 and promoted the IVY 2026 Activity Calendar on social media.
- **Danka Hrbeková**, Olympic athlete, promoted IVY 2026 on her social media channels and urged youth involvement in Volunteer Week.

8. Key Figures for the 1st Half of 2026

- **25 institutions** in the National Commission across 6 sectors
- **5,546 participants** in 102 activities registered through the IVY 2026 Activity Calendar
- **≈ 477 volunteers / 2,800+ hours** in Košice Self-Governing Region
- **1,000+ volunteers** in Volunteer Week in Trnava Region (65 activities)
- **423 volunteer involvements** by ASSR across 7 activity categories
- **276 local governments** participating in PSK Regional and Local Self-Government Day
- **162 retrained voluntary firefighters** from 17 brigades (DCO)
- **13 rescue organizations** at the 1st National Forum of Voluntary Rescuers
- **89+ news items** and a **28-part report series** by TASR "Volunteers 26"
- **48 media outputs** by STVR (news, public affairs, radio)
- **9,450 participating volunteers** during Volunteer Week in Slovakia
- **132 volunteers** completed initial training with the Slovak Red Cross

Note: The listed figures represent recorded engagement levels and are not necessarily final or complete – see notice in Chapter 1.