

Assessment EMA - Offer by Slovakia - Bratislava		
Criterion/Specific issue	Information provided in the Offer	Commission assessment
1) The assurance that the agency can be set up on site and take up its functions at the date of the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the Union <i>This criterion concerns in particular the availability of appropriate office premises in time for the Agency to be able to take up its functions at the new location at the withdrawal date. This should include the necessary logistics and sufficient space for offices, meeting rooms and off-site archiving, high-performing telecommunication and data storage networks as well as appropriate physical and IT security standards.</i>		
1.1 Necessary logistics and sufficient space (a total of 27,000 m <sup>2</sup> of office space) for...	"While selecting a site for the new headquarters of the European Medicines Agency, different parts of Bratislava were considered in detail. In the end, an area in the northwestern part of the city called „Patrónka“ was identified as an ideal location for the new HQ [...] Subsequently, Westend Plaza was identified as the office building which meets all the prerequisites." (p. 24) "This building will ensure business continuity and long-term efficient operations of the Agency. Westend Plaza is a new office development currently under construction [...] KEY POINTS - 36,000 m2 of leasable area (exceeding EMA requirements creating space for future growth) - 1,100 parking spots; barrier-free building - Turn-key finish solution - EMA as a single tenant option... - 300-seat auditorium; fully flexible conf. rooms - Sufficient storage facilities in the building " (p. 46)  [confidential]	The offer indicates the availability of a proposed building, <i>Westend Plaza</i> , [confidential].
1.1.1 ...offices, to host 890 members of staff. EMA has 18,500 m <sup>2</sup> in offices and open-plan with capacity for 1,300 office work stations and adequate internal meeting rooms	[confidential]	The offer indicates [confidential].
1.1.2 ...meeting rooms, a total of 6,000 m <sup>2</sup> . These meeting rooms should have internet 4G connection, audio and video conference facilities, broadcasting and recording equipment and a voting system per seat. EMA has:	[confidential]	The offer indicates [confidential].
1.1.2.1 five rooms with 70-120 seats	[confidential]	The offer indicates [confidential].
1.1.2.2 two rooms with 35 seats	[confidential]	The offer indicates [confidential].
1.1.2.3 ten rooms with 4-24 seats	[confidential]	The offer indicates [confidential].

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1.1.3 ...one enclosed lounge of 500 m <sup>2</sup> and another lounge for 50 persons, both lounges with desk/work stations and storage facilities	[confidential]	The offer indicates [confidential] .
1.1.4 ...an auditorium for around 300 people	"- 300-seat auditorium" (p. 46) [confidential]	The offer indicates the availability of an auditorium for 300 people.
1.1.5 ...a 250 m <sup>2</sup> reception area, with disability access as well as with adequate security structure in the vicinity	[confidential]	The offer indicates [confidential] .
1.1.6 ...archiving facilities:		
1.1.6.1 EMA's off-site archive is 600 m <sup>2</sup> and 9m high		The offer does not provide information on the availability of off-site archives.
1.1.6.2 On site, EMA has an archive room of approx. 30 m <sup>2</sup> as well as on-floor filing rooms on floors 1 and 5-10 of 5 m <sup>2</sup> each	[confidential]	The offer indicates [confidential] .
1.2 Appropriate physical security standards		
1.2.1 Access control systems	[confidential]	The offer indicates [confidential] .
1.2.2 Closed Circuit Television (CCTV)	[confidential]	The offer indicates [confidential] .
1.3 Appropriate IT systems and security standards		
1.3.1 Centralised Uninterruptible Power Supply	[confidential]	The offer indicates [confidential] .
1.3.2 WiFi throughout the premises	[confidential]	The offer indicates [confidential] .
1.3.3 Technical rooms, main and secondary equipment rooms, IT build and IT store rooms	[confidential]	The offer indicates [confidential] .
1.3.4 A telecommunications network with high capacity digital network and with high-speed connectivity	[confidential]	The offer indicates [confidential] .
1.3.5 High-performing data storage networks		The offer does not provide information on the availability of data storage networks.
1.3.6 A main and a backup data centre for disaster recovery, both to be accessible from EMA premises via a fast high volume internet or fibre connection. Security and operational IT standards apply		The offer does not provide information on the availability of data centres.
1.4 Availability	"The offices will become available in 4Q 2018, i.e. long before the Agency officially starts operations in Slovakia. This means there is sufficient time for the transition to the new HQ eliminating the need for a provisional solution." (p. 5)  "The proposed building is already under construction and will be finished at least 3 months before the assumed withdrawal date. This means there is sufficient time for the transition to the new HQ eliminating the need for a provisional solution [...] Construction works on this building started in 2015, The structure will be ready for fit out in Q2 2018 and put to use in Q4 2018 (most likely in November 2018, latest by 1 January 2019)." (p. 48)	The offer indicates the availability of the building from Q4/2018.

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<b>1.5 Other</b>	<p>"Another factor we took into account when selecting this site was its location close to international schools (kindergartens, primary and secondary schools). The proposed building is just a few minutes' drive from 3 top international schools in Bratislava and there is a private nursery directly in the business complex. There are also diverse amenities such as restaurants, shops, healthcare facilities and recreation areas ." (p. 24)</p> <p>"About 200m from the proposed site is an important public transport stop providing bus and trolleybus connections across all Bratislava and regional inter-city bus connections. Two terminals located on both sides of the street are connected via a pedestrian underpass ensuring safety of the passengers. There is a semi-automatic ramp for the disabled at both exits from the underpass. Currently, there are 16 bus and trolleybus city connections at this terminal (including a night bus service) and about half a dozen regional connections. All key points of interest in Bratislava are therefore easily accessible ." (p. 25)</p> <p>"Locating the new EMA HQ at the proposed location could lead to potential synergies in life sciences and biomedicine. This location is a pre-eminent scientific hub and is home to several world-class institutions. Their premises are visited by the same type of foreign visitors (scholars, scientists, etc.) that EMA receives, demonstrating the suitability and good connectivity of this location ." (p. 27)</p>	<p>The offer provides additional information on the proposed building, in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the proximity to international schools</li> <li>- the presence of restaurants, shops, healthcare facilities and recreation areas</li> <li>- the proximity to bus stop and transportation connections</li> <li>- the proposed building being a scientific hub to several institutions.</li> </ul>
<b>GENERAL ASSESSMENT OF CRITERION 1</b>		<p>The offer indicates the availability of a proposed building, <i>Westend Plaza [confidential]</i> . The offer indicates that the building fulfils EMA requirements covering the offices/workstations, meeting rooms with conference facilities, lounges, auditorium, reception area with security, on-site archives (off-site archives not mentioned), physical security standards and IT systems and security standards (data storage network and data centres not mentioned). According to the offer, the building would be available from Q4/2018.</p>
<p><b>2) The accessibility of the location</b>  <i>This criterion concerns the availability, frequency and duration of flight connections from the capitals of all EU Member States to the airports close to the location, the availability, frequency and duration of public transportation connections from these airports to the location, as well as the quality and quantity of accommodation facilities. In particular, the criterion implies the capacity to allow for the continuation of the volume and intensity of current meeting activities of the Agency.</i></p>		
<p><b>2.1 Flight connections from the capitals of all EU Member States to the airports close to the location</b></p>	<p>"The Slovak capital [...] is in the catchment area of 3 international airports (Bratislava, Vienna and Budapest), serving a total of 35 million passengers annually ." (p. 12)</p>	

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<b>2.1.1 Availability</b>	<p><i>"Bratislava and Vienna airports have direct flight connections to all EU capitals, in addition to EEA countries (Norway, Iceland), Switzerland and other major European cities. Most capitals can be reached in less than 2 hours ." (p. 13)</i></p> <p>A table lists availability, frequency and duration of direct flights from Bratislava and Vienna airports to EU and EEA capitals (p. 15): Availability: - Vienna Airport: All EU capitals - Bratislava Airport: 13 EU capitals</p>	The offer indicates the availability of direct flights to all EU capitals from Vienna Airport and to 13 capitals from Bratislava Airport.
<b>2.1.2 Frequency</b>	<p>See 2.1.2</p> <p>A table lists availability, frequency (time period not indicated) and duration of direct flights from Bratislava and Vienna airports to EU and EEA capitals (p. 15). Frequency of direct flight to EU capitals: - Vienna Airport: from 7 to Dublin/Vilnius to 86 to Berlin - Bratislava Airport: from 2 to Athens/Madrid/Paris to 9 to London and 7 to Dublin</p>	The offer indicates the frequency of direct flights to all capitals, ranging from 7 to 86 flights [per week] from Vienna Airport and ranging from 2 to 9 flights [per week] from Bratislava Airport.
<b>2.1.3 Duration</b>	<p>See 2.1.2</p> <p>A table lists availability, frequency and duration of direct flights from Bratislava and Vienna airports to EU and EEA capitals (p. 15). Duration of direct flights to EU capitals: - Vienna Airport: from 45 min to Ljubljana to 3h35min to Lisbon - Bratislava Airport: from 1h to Prague to 2h55min to Dublin</p>	The offer indicates in a detailed way the duration of direct flights to all capitals, ranging from 45 min to 3h35min from Vienna Airport and ranging from 1h to 2h55min from Bratislava Airport.
<b>2.2 Public transportation connections from these airports to the location</b>	<p><i>"Bratislava and Vienna are actually among the closest capital cities in the world (the closest among EU member states). With a mere 64 km between them, they form part of the Vienna-Bratislava metropolitan region. Both cities belong to the Schengen area and use the euro, further facilitating easy movement between the capitals ." (p. 11)</i></p> <p><i>"Bratislava is a significant international highway node with direct access to Vienna, Budapest, Prague and many other locations in Europe and Slovakia. This would allow EMA visitors from many European countries to travel to the Agency's proposed new headquarters by road as well as quickly reach nearby international airports, which are also directly accessible via the highway system ." (p. 11)</i></p> <p><i>"When traveling to the proposed EMA seat from Bratislava airport or Vienna airport, various inexpensive means of transport are available (cars, taxis, buses as well as trains). The fastest option is to drive by car or taxi. " (p. 19)</i></p>	
<b>2.2.1 Availability</b>	<p><i>"When traveling to the proposed EMA seat from Bratislava airport or Vienna airport, various inexpensive means of transport are available (cars, taxis, buses as well as trains) ." (p. 19)</i></p> <p><i>"There is a direct connection between the proposed site and Bratislava main bus station (the most common destination for people traveling from Vienna airport to Bratislava by bus)." (p. 19)</i></p> <p><i>"The proposed site can be reached from Bratislava airport by bus in above 30 minutes (buses leave around every 10 minutes). Getting to the new HQ from Vienna airport requires one change, and the journey takes around 1h30min. There is a direct connection between the proposed site and Bratislava main bus station (the most common destination for people traveling from Vienna airport to Bratislava by bus)." (p. 19)</i></p>	The offer indicates the availability of public transportation connections from the proposed location of the Agency to the Bratislava and Vienna airports (buses and trains).

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2.2.2 Frequency	<i>"The proposed site can be reached from Bratislava airport by bus in above 30 minutes (buses leave around every 10 minutes)." (p. 19)</i>	The offer indicates the frequency of public transport connections to the proposed location of the Agency from Bratislava airport as being every 10 minutes. The offer does not provide information on the frequency of connections from Vienna airport.
2.2.3 Duration	See 2.2.1	The offer indicates the duration of public transport connections to the proposed location of the Agency from Bratislava airport as being 30 minutes and from Vienna airport as being around 1h30min.
2.3 Accommodation facilities	<i>"The Slovak capital is ready to accommodate the high number of visitors to the European Medicines Agency in various hotel facilities. The Bratislava hotel market is sufficiently large for the Agency's needs. 30,000 hotel nights (booked by EMA and its visitors in 2015) represent just 2% of the total number of overnight stays in Bratislava in 2015. Total capacity of Bratislava hotels is around 12,800 beds. The current occupancy rate of beds is just 36.3% (2015), so EMA visitors could easily be catered for by the existing market capacity even with a daily peak capacity requirement of 350 rooms. On average, about 8,000 hotel beds are unoccupied on any given day." (p. 22)</i>	
2.3.1 Quality	<i>"There are around 75 hotels in Bratislava (108 in Bratislava region), in addition to other facilities like guesthouses. Different types of hotels are available with a broad range of amenities and different price options. 36 hotels have five and four-star ratings, and there are also many affordable options for price-conscious travellers (e.g. 26 three-star hotels)." (p. 22)</i>	The offer indicates in a general way the availability of accommodation from 5-star hotels to affordable options, including 3-star hotels, as well as guesthouses.
2.3.2 Quantity (daily peak hotel capacity needed of 350 rooms)	See 2.3 <i>"Since Vienna is only 60 km from Bratislava, Vienna hotels can be considered as an alternative option to Bratislava hotel or conference facilities." (p. 22)</i>	The offer indicates the availability of 12,800 hotel beds in Bratislava and of possibly relevant additional capacity in Vienna.
2.4 Other	A table lists available direct flights to other major European destinations from Vienna and Bratislava Airports (p. 15)  <i>"Bratislava is also easily accessible from countries which currently have the largest number of employees at EMA (France, Italy, Spain have more than 10% shares), thus increasing the city's attractiveness and contributing to smoother transition from London. An overview of direct flights to second-tier cities in those countries can be seen in the table below. In the future, this factor will increase the Agency's ability to attract qualified staff from across the EU." (p. 18)</i>  <i>"Bratislava has excellent rail connections with the rest of Europe, there are numerous and frequent direct services between Bratislava and other EU capitals [...] As a second option, travellers to EMA can use train connections to Vienna and then continue to Bratislava." (p. 20) A table lists direct railway connections from Bratislava to 5 selected EU capitals. (p. 20)</i>	The offer provides additional information on: - direct flights to second-tier cities in France, Italy and Spain to reflect on the geographical distribution of current EMA staff - train connections from Bratislava and Vienna to EU capitals.
<b>GENERAL ASSESSMENT OF CRITERION 2</b>		The offer indicates the availability of direct flights to all EU capitals from Vienna Airport and to 13 capitals from Bratislava Airport, with a frequency ranging from 7 to 86 flights per week from Vienna Airport and ranging from 2 to 9 flights per week from Bratislava Airport, and with a duration ranging from 45min. to 3h35min. from Vienna Airport, and ranging from 1h to 2h55min from Bratislava Airport. The offer indicates the availability of public transportation connections between the proposed location and the Bratislava and Vienna airports, with a frequency from Bratislava airport of every 10 minutes (no information is provided on the frequency from Vienna Airport), and a duration from Bratislava airport of 30 minutes and from Vienna airport of around 1h30min. The offer indicates the availability of 12,800 hotel beds in Bratislava and of possibly relevant additional capacity in Vienna, ranging from 5-star hotels to affordable options, including 3-star hotels, as well as of guesthouses.

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<p><b>3) The existence of adequate education facilities for the children of agency staff</b>  <i>This criterion concerns the availability of multi-lingual, European-oriented schooling that can meet the needs for education facilities for the children of the current staff as well as the capacity to meet also the future education needs.</i></p>		
<p><b>3.1 Availability of multi-lingual, European-oriented schooling that can meet the needs for education facilities for the children of the current staff as well as the future education needs. As of September 2016, EMA's 890 members of staff have 648 children aged 0 to 18, of which...</b></p>	<p><i>"Bratislava offers a wide range of schooling facilities for expatriate children ranging from preschools through primary and secondary education. These schools offer various recognized international curricula in English. There are also schools teaching in German and French. At various schools, international curricula can be found alongside Slovak curricula...The Slovak Government will consider setting up a European school or an accredited European school to provide education for the children of EMA staff. Such a school could be opened before the Agency is relocated to Bratislava ."</i> (p. 38, repeated at p. 49)</p> <p>Detailed information is provided on QSI International School of Bratislava, British International School Bratislava, Cambridge International School Bratislava, English International School of Bratislava, Galileo School, École Francaise de Bratislava and Deutsche Schule Bratislava (p. 41-42).</p> <p>A list of public and private bilingual schools and foreign-language nurseries is provided (p. 43):  English: Grammar schools: 4, secondary schools: 1, primary schools: 3, nursery &amp; primary schools: 1; nurseries: 6 (total: 15)  French: Grammar schools: 1. German: Grammar schools: 1; secondary schools: 1 (total: 2)  Italian: Grammar schools: 1. Spanish: Grammar schools: 1. Bulgarian: Primary &amp; grammar schools: 1</p> <p><i>"As Bratislava is within commuting distance of Vienna, Austrian international schools would also be an available option for EMA employees. There are 350 public nurseries and day-care centres in Vienna with a total capacity of 86,000. In addition to 700 public schools, nine international schools in Vienna have a total capacity of 5,702 places, of which 732 are currently free (French: 366, English: 350, Swedish: 16) ."</i> (p. 44)</p> <p>A list of international schools in Vienna is provided (p. 44)</p>	
<p><b>3.1.1 ... 117 in nursery/day care; 96 in pre-school; 231 in primary school;</b></p>	<p><i>"Capacity at nurseries and primary schools is growing steadily and would be able to accommodate the needs of the Agency's staff."</i> (p.38)</p> <p><i>"Capacity at nurseries is continuously growing, and these offer about 22,000 places in the Bratislava region and approximately 14,000 in Bratislava. This represents approx. 5% annual growth indicating this is a highly flexible market which will also be able to accommodate children of the Agency's staff. The city has more than 140 public and private nurseries offering state-of-the-art learning programs focusing on educational, emotional and physical development. In addition to several public nursery classes teaching in foreign languages (German, French), there are also 5 international private nurseries offering English, German and French tuition and Montessori programmes ."</i> (p.39)</p> <p><i>"Capacity at primary schools in Bratislava is steadily growing at a similar rate with about 45,000 school places in the Bratislava region, of which around 30,000 are in Bratislava. Primary school tuition is provided by 6 international schools in a number of foreign languages. Most of these schools also provide secondary education, so often there is no need to transfer to a different school ."</i> (p.39)</p>	<p>The offer indicates the existence of nurseries in Bratislava with teaching in Slovak, English, German and French, without indicating the capacity in the European languages or the number of available places.</p> <p>The offer also indicates the existence of primary schools in Slovak, English, German, French and Bulgarian. The offer does not provide information on the capacity and number of available places.</p>

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3.1.2 ... 149 in second level;	<p>"For children of EMA staff, there are 6 international private high schools teaching international curricula. Most of these schools cater to the needs of expats' children and offer internationally recognized study programs and diplomas, such as IB, AP, MYP programmes, German Abitur, etc. Their graduates often attend prestigious American, British or other European universities.</p> <p>There are also many options for expatriate children to attend bilingual secondary education with programs in English, German, French, Spanish, Russian, Italian and Bulgarian. Some bilingual schools are ranked among the best schools in Slovakia. Bilingual grammar schools in Bratislava offer more than 3,000 places for students (incl. 8-year grammar schools).</p> <p>There is also an additional option to attend international schools in Vienna. In total, there are 9 international schools (capacity of 5,700). For children from German-speaking background, there is the option to attend school facilities in neighbouring Austrian municipalities close to Bratislava ." (p. 40)</p> <p>See 3.1</p>	<p>The offer indicates in a detailed way the existence of secondary schools in Bratislava with programmes in Slovak, English, German, French, Spanish, Italian and Bulgarian and of international schools in Vienna with a total capacity of more than 3,000 places. Information on the number of available places is not provided.</p> <p>The offer indicates that Slovakia will consider setting up a European school or an accredited European school to provide education for the children of EMA staff.</p>
3.1.3 ... 55 in third level/university		<p>The offer does not provide information on the existence of universities/third level education providing programmes in European languages.</p>
3.2 Other	<p>"The Slovak education system provides consistent, high-quality education at all levels of the school system. Education options include state-funded public schools, private schools, church schools and schools offering international curricula. Public schools in Slovakia provide primary and secondary education free of charge. State-run higher education is also free for fulltime students, provided that the standard length of study is not exceeded ." (p. 49)</p>	<p>The offer also indicates that public schools in Slovakia provide primary and secondary education free of charge.</p>
<b>GENERAL ASSESSMENT OF CRITERION 3</b>		<p>The offer indicates in a detailed way the existence of nurseries in Bratislava with teaching in Slovak, English, German and French, without specifying the capacity in the different European languages or the number of available places.</p> <p>The offer indicates in a detailed way the existence of primary schools with teaching in Slovak, English, German, French and Bulgarian, without specifying the capacity in the different European languages or the number of available places.</p> <p>The offer indicates in a detailed way the existence of secondary schools in Bratislava with programmes in Slovak, English, German, French, Spanish, Italian and Bulgarian and of international schools in Vienna with a total capacity of more than 3,000 places. The offer does not specify the number of available places. The offer indicates that Slovakia will consider setting up a European school or an accredited European school to provide education for the children of EMA staff.</p> <p>The offer does not provide information on the existence of universities/third level education providing programmes in European languages.</p> <p>The offer indicates as additional information that public schools in Slovakia provide primary and secondary education free of charge.</p>
<b>4) Appropriate access to the labour market, social security and medical care for both children and spouses</b> <i>This criterion concerns the capacity to meet the needs of the children and spouses of the current as well as of future staff for social security and medical care as well as the availability to offer job opportunities for these.</i>		

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<b>4.1 Capacity to meet the needs of the children and spouses of the current as well as of future staff as regards...</b>		
<b>4.1.1 ... social security</b>		The offer does not provide information on the access to social security for children and spouses of EMA staff.
<b>4.1.2 ... medical care</b>	<p><i>"Slovakia has a modern, reliable and extensive healthcare system. The network is characterized by unlimited access to all levels of care and free choice of providers. Slovak healthcare facilities are typically used also by expats living in Slovakia, since doctors and dentists in Bratislava generally have a good command of English and the quality is comparable to their home countries.</i></p> <p><i>The Slovak health care system is based on universal coverage and compulsory health contributions paid to a health insurance company of the employee's choice.</i></p> <p><i>Bratislava has a high concentration of hospitals. There are 18 hospitals and 21 separate clinics including 9 private medical centres. There are approximately 4,000 hospital beds catered to by more than 1,300 highly skilled doctors. Bratislava is also home to the largest hospital in Slovakia - the University Hospital in Bratislava, which comprises five hospitals providing about 57% of all hospital beds in Bratislava. There are around 1,400 doctors, including those providing outpatient care. One of the constituent hospitals (L. Dérer hospital at Kramáre) is located just 1.5 km from the proposed location ."</i> (p.34)</p>	The offer provides detailed information on the medical care system of Slovakia and indicates the existence of 4,000 hospital beds and more than 1,000 doctors in Bratislava. The offer does not provide specific information on the access for children and spouses of EMA staff to medical care.
<b>4.2 Job opportunities for children and spouses of current and future staff</b>	<p><i>"Bratislava offers diverse career prospects for spouses and partners of EMA employees whether they speak the local language or not. The Slovak job market is fully open to all EU (and EEA) member states who do not require any further authorization to work here. As part of Slovakia's relocation package, we will provide dedicated assistance for partners of EMA staff in identifying relevant job opportunities.</i></p> <p><i>In May 2017, the Central Labour Office recorded approx. 10,700 job openings in Bratislava. However, the actual number was higher as the registration of open positions is not obligatory. According to publicly available data from the largest job portal in Slovakia (Profesia.sk), there are thousands of positions which could be potentially suitable for family members of EMA staff. In July 2017, this portal registered about 3,000 positions for English speakers, about 600 for German speakers and up to 100 French speaking positions.</i></p> <p><i>Many multinational companies with branches in Bratislava employ foreigners without Slovak language skills. This diverse group of employers ranges from manufacturing (automotive, chemical or electronics industry) to service centres and information technology.</i></p> <p><i>Additional job opportunities are offered by numerous professional services companies (big four companies, international law firms and consultancy companies). As the capital and political centre of Slovakia, Bratislava also provides attractive job opportunities at foreign embassies and at many non-governmental organizations in their local branches.</i></p> <p><i>Job opportunities for expats are abundant in shared services &amp; business process outsourcing centres which are one of the most important sectors in Slovakia... Currently, there are more than 60 such centres in Slovakia (mostly in Bratislava) employing more than 30,000 employees, 13% of which are foreign nationals. By definition, these centres require multilingual competences. All employees must speak English and 57% speak English plus at least one other core language (such as German, French, Italian, or Spanish).</i></p> <p><i>[...] Information technology is another major sector in Slovakia which provides opportunities also for foreign language professionals [...]"</i> (p. 30)</p>	The offer provides general information on job opportunities in Bratislava and indicates the availability in July 2017 of 3,000 registered positions for English speakers, about 600 registered positions for German speakers and up to 100 registered positions for French speakers. The offer indicates that Slovakia intends to provide assistance to partners of EMA staff to identify relevant job opportunities.
<b>4.3 Other</b>		



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<b>GENERAL ASSESSMENT OF CRITERION 4</b>		<p>The offer does not provide information on the access to social security and medical care for children and spouses of EMA staff.</p> <p>The offer provides detailed information on the medical care system of Slovakia and indicates the existence of 4,000 hospital beds and more than 1,000 doctors in Bratislava.</p> <p>The offer provides general information on job opportunities in Bratislava and indicates the availability in July 2017 of 3,000 registered positions for English speakers, about 600 registered positions for German speakers and up to 100 registered positions for French speakers.</p> <p>The offer indicates that Slovakia intends to provide assistance to partners of EMA staff to identify relevant job opportunities.</p>
<p><b>5) Business continuity</b>  <i>This criterion is relevant given the critical nature of the services provided by the Agencies and the need therefore to ensure continued functionality at the existing high level. The criterion relates to the timeframe required to fulfil the four criteria above. It concerns amongst other things the ability to allow the Agencies to maintain and attract highly qualified staff from the relevant sectors, notably in case not all current staff should choose to relocate. Furthermore, it concerns the capacity to ensure a smooth transition to the new locations and hence to guarantee the business continuity of the Agencies which should remain operational during the transition.</i></p>		
<p><b>5.1 Timeframe required to fulfil the four criteria above</b></p>	See a)	<p>The offer indicates a relocation plan timeline covering the construction process and custom designed fit out of the building as well as the relocation of EMA, starting with preparatory steps in Q3/2017 and ending with a grand opening of EMA in Slovakia in January 2019.</p>
<p><b>5.2 Ability to allow EMA to maintain and attract highly qualified staff from the relevant sectors</b></p>	<p><i>"[...] Bratislava is an ideal place to live offering work for highly-qualified international talent...[it]offers world-class international schools, a modern healthcare system, diverse housing options and extensive job opportunities for partners of EMA staff. As a city with a very high quality of life, it is an attractive prospect for relocation for current EMA employees. This fact will also bolster the Agency's future ability to attract qualified staff from across the EU ." (p. 6)</i></p> <p><i>"Slovakia plans to ensure knowledge retention by motivating current staff to relocate to Bratislava, and by engaging the Slovak State Institute for Drug Control during the transition. In addition, we provide information on the qualified labour force available in the fields relevant to the Agency's mission that could be recruited as temporary staff during or after the relocation ." (p. 49)</i></p> <p><i>"Slovakia has 15 healthcare and life sciences oriented faculties with more than 28,000 students and around 9,500 graduates. The most commonly represented study fields among them are medicine, pharmacy, public health, veterinary and natural sciences. Administrative and technical staff is also easily available on the Slovak market. Only in Bratislava, there are almost 40,000 students and 14,000 graduates in relevant study fields (Economics, Finances, IT, etc.). Given the considerably lower average salaries in Slovakia compared to existing EU agencies, it is clear that administrative staff and experts would be able to temporarily cover the Agency's needs. Slovakia proposes to provide appropriate assistance in this matter ." (p. 50)</i></p>	<p>The offer indicates Slovakia's intention to ensure EMA ability to retain current staff by providing relocation assistance, benefits and special conditions.</p> <p>The offer, furthermore, points to the quality of life, which according to the offer should enable EMA to attract qualified staff from across the EU.</p> <p>The offer provides general information on the lower average salaries in Slovakia, which, according to the offer, would allow EMA to recruit temporary staff, and for which Slovakia would be ready to offer assistance, without specifying the nature of this assistance.</p>

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<b>5.3 Smooth transition to the new locations - EMA can remain operational during the transition</b>	<p>"In order to facilitate smooth relocation of the Agency, Slovakia offers to set up a dedicated expert team that will be working in partnership with EMA to support the transition process. In addition, we propose to provide temporary premises to EMA's transition staff ." (p. 48)</p> <p>"As part of our proposal, Slovakia plans to make substantial investments into the State Institute for Drug Control (SIDC). Additional personnel and technical equipment will increase SIDC's capacity and expertise... Capacity-increasing measures will be implemented also at the Institute for State Control of Veterinary Biologicals and Medicaments (ISCVBM). Relevant institutes of the Slovak Academy of Sciences (Institute of Experimental Pharmacology and Toxicology and Biomedicine Centre) will also be strengthened to provide support to EMA by complementing the activities of Slovak regulators.</p> <p>The Slovak Ministry of Health has already initiated negotiations with other V4 countries aimed at strengthening cooperation and building dedicated support framework between their respective regulatory authorities. By setting up a network of operational assistance these agencies will be ready to provide further support to EMA during transition. Slovakia proposes to coordinate these activities in close partnership with EMA to find the most appropriate form of cooperation that will ensure business continuity of the Agency ." (p. 50)</p>	<p>The offer indicates Slovakia's intention to set up an expert team to support EMA in the transition process and to provide temporary premises to EMA's transition staff.</p> <p>The offer indicates Slovakia's intention to provide additional resources to its national institutes to provide support to EMA by complementing the activities of Slovak regulators as well as to set up a network of regulatory authorities to provide support during the transition for the purpose of ensuring EMA's business continuity.</p>
<b>5.4 Other</b>	<p>"Locating the new HQ in the proposed area could lead to potential synergies as regards life sciences and biomedicine. The location is a pre-eminent scientific hub with several world-class institutions and a strong innovation base. Right next to the offered building is the largest R&amp;D campus in Slovakia which includes the newly opened state-of-the-art University Science Park for Biomedicine... Slovakia also has a world-class IT sector, which will provide many opportunities for future technological innovations such as growing EMA's electronic services. " (p. 6)</p> <p>"In order to unburden current EMA staff during the relocation process, Slovakia proposes to provide individualized support programme with the following key components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- London-based help desk to provide information and assistance on moving, housing, international schools, healthcare system and job prospects in Bratislava.</li> <li>- Pre-move visit to Bratislava.</li> <li>- Arrangement of moving services for EMA families. Contribution to moving costs.</li> <li>- Bratislava-based transition consultancy to provide individually tailored assistance to the employees and their family members with immigration and permitting procedures, house-hunting, booking of international schools, healthcare and insurance advisory, introduction to expat communities, etc.</li> <li>- Specialized HR advisory to investigate career opportunities for family members and personally guide them through the job-hunting process.</li> <li>- Framework arrangements with top healthcare facilities, international schools, etc., to provide discounts and other benefits.</li> <li>- Slovak language and culture courses for staff and families. Comprehensive multilanguage guides.</li> <li>- Other financial allowances (temporary housing, rental car, premium healthcare, tuition, etc.). " (p. 49)</li> </ul>	<p>The offer indicates that the proposed locations could lead to potential synergies as regards life sciences, biomedicine and IT.</p> <p>The offer indicates Slovakia's intention to provide individualised support programmes to inform and assist EMA staff and their families in the preparation of the move and with the integration process and to offer financial allowances to EMA staff and families.</p>

Criterion/Specific issue	Information provided in the Offer	Commission assessment
<p><b>GENERAL ASSESSMENT OF CRITERION 5</b></p>		<p>The offer indicates a relocation plan timeline covering the construction process and custom designed fit out of the building as well as the relocation of EMA, starting with preparatory steps in Q3/2017 and ending with a grand opening of EMA in Slovakia in January 2019.</p> <p>The offer indicates Slovakia's intention to ensure knowledge retention by motivating current staff to relocate to Bratislava by providing relocation assistance, benefits and special conditions. The offer furthermore points to the quality of life, which according to the offer should enable EMA to attract qualified staff from across the EU.</p> <p>The offer also provides general information on the lower average salaries in Slovakia, which according to the offer would allow EMA to recruit temporary staff, and for which Slovakia would be ready to offer assistance.</p> <p>The offer indicates Slovakia's intention to set up an expert team to support EMA in the transition process and to provide temporary premises to EMA's transition staff.</p> <p>The offer indicates Slovakia's intention to provide additional resources to its national institutes to provide support to EMA by complementing the activities of Slovak regulators as well as to set up a network of regulatory authorities to provide support during the transition for the purpose of ensuring EMA's business continuity. The offer argues that the proposed locations could lead to potential synergies as regards life sciences, biomedicine and IT.</p> <p>The offer indicates Slovakia's intention to provide individualised support programmes and financial assistance to EMA staff and their families in relation to preparation of the move and integration in Bratislava.</p>
<p><b>6) Geographical spread</b>  <i>This criterion relates to the agreed desirability of geographical spread of the agencies' seats, and to the objective set in December 2003 by the representatives of the Member States, meeting at Head of State or Government level and confirmed in 2008</i></p>	<p><i>"Slovakia is one of the few EU members which do not host an HQ of a European agency, therefore we strongly believe that the upcoming decision will follow these pre-agreed and publicly committed principles... Compared to the other countries which do not host an agency, Slovakia is one of only two Eurozone members and the only member of the Schengen area which significantly eases access for foreign travellers... The location of the Agency in a newer member state would increase the visibility of the EU across the whole eastern part of the EU. It would also be viewed as a vote of confidence in new member states, increasing their motivation to become more active members of the EU and leading to stronger EU cohesion ."</i> (p.7)</p>	<p><b>Slovakia is not hosting any EU decentralised agency.</b></p>
<p><b>Specific issues</b></p>		
<p><b>a) The Member State's plan for...</b></p>		

Criterion/Specific issue	Information provided in the Offer	Commission assessment
... when would the relocation take place	<p>"RELOCATION PLAN  <i>In line with the ongoing construction process, Slovakia prepared a relocation plan to ensure that the transition itself will be carried out without any major disruptions to the Agency's operations (please refer to the table below).</i>  <b>DEDICATED RELOCATION TEAM AND TEMPORARY PREMISES</b>  <i>In order to facilitate smooth relocation of the Agency, Slovakia offers to set up a dedicated expert team that will be working in partnership with EMA to support the transition process. In addition, we propose to provide temporary premises to EMA's transition staff ."</i> (p. 48)</p> <p>A relocation timeline is provided on the elements: Construction process, custom designed fit out, relocation of EMA. For the relocation process, preparatory steps are scheduled from Q3/2017 to Q3/2018, with the moving in scheduled for Q4/2018. A grand opening is scheduled for Q1/2019. (p. 48)</p> <p>[confidential]</p> <p>☒</p>	The offer indicates, in a detailed way, a relocation plan according to which relocation is scheduled for Q4/2018, with the plan setting out preparatory steps from Q3/2017 onwards.
... how would the relocation take place	See Section a)	The offer indicates, in a detailed way, a relocation plan according to which relocation is scheduled for Q4/2018, with the plan setting out preparatory steps from Q3/2017 onwards.
How would this plan ensure that the Agency remains operational?	See Sections 5.3 and a)	The offer indicates Slovakia's intention to set up an expert team to support EMA in the transition process and to provide temporary premises to EMA's transition staff. The offer also indicates Slovakia's intentions to provide additional resources to its national institutes to provide support to EMA by complementing the activities of Slovak regulators as well as to set up a network of regulatory authorities to provide support during the transition for the purpose of ensuring EMA's business continuity.
GENERAL CONCLUSION ON a)		<b>The offer indicates in a detailed way a relocation plan according to which relocation is scheduled for Q4/2018, with the plan setting out preparatory steps from Q3/2017 onwards. The offer indicates Slovakia's intention to set up an expert team to support EMA in the transition process, to provide temporary premises to EMA's transition staff, to provide additional resources to its national institutes to provide support to EMA by complementing the activities of Slovak regulators as well as to set up a network of regulatory authorities to provide support during the transition for the purpose of ensuring EMA's business continuity.</b>
b) The premises that would be offered to be rented or put at the disposal of the Agency indicated in the offer, including temporary premises	"To ensure problem-free relocation of EMA, Slovakia offers a custom-designed office building which meets all technical and accessibility requirements and will be completed in time for relocation. Slovakia plans to provide financial and other assistance during the transition process to further unburden the Agency ." (p. 46)	The offer indicates the availability by Q4/2018 of a proposed building, <i>Westend Plaza</i> .
How would these premises meet the specific needs of the Agency?		The offer indicates that the proposed building meets all EMA's requirements, without providing information on some technical aspects.
GENERAL CONCLUSION ON b)		<b>The offer indicates <i>Westend Plaza</i> , which according to the offer meets all EMA's requirements, without providing information on some technical aspects.</b>

Criterion/Specific issue	Information provided in the Offer	Commission assessment
c) The financial terms for the Agency's use of these premises	[confidential]	The offer indicates, in a detailed way, the financial terms for EMA's use of the proposed building, [confidential].
Would the Member State pay the rent for a given period or indefinitely?	<p>"Financial and lease terms are covered in Annex 3. For special conditions offered please refer also to Annex 4. The main components of the proposal are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- rent-free period for 2 years,</li> <li>- state to cover moving and fit out costs,</li> <li>- state to cover operations and maintenance costs for the rent-free period ." (p. 46)</li> </ul> <p>[confidential]</p>	The offer indicates, in a detailed way, Slovakia's intention to grant EMA a rent-free period of 2 years and to cover fit out costs.
GENERAL CONCLUSION on c)		<p>The offer indicates, in a detailed way, the financial terms for EMA's use of the proposed building, [confidential].</p> <p>The offer indicates, in a detailed way, Slovakia's intention to grant EMA a rent-free period of 2 year and to cover fit out costs.</p>
d) The terms concerning maintenance of the building	See c) 2 [confidential]	The offer indicates Slovakia's intention to cover maintenance and operations costs for the rent-free period (2 years).
The terms concerning upgrading the building or future extensions of the building	[confidential]	The offer indicates the possibility for EMA to expand at the proposed premises, without indicating the financial terms. The offer, however, indicates [confidential].
GENERAL CONCLUSION on d)		The offer indicates, in a detailed way, Slovakia's intention to cover maintenance and operations costs for the rent-free period (2 years). The offer indicates the possibility for EMA to expand at the proposed premises, without indicating the financial terms. The offer, however, indicates [confidential].
e) Any special conditions offered with regard to all costs and dedicated infrastructures	[confidential]	The offer indicates [confidential].

Criterion/Specific issue	Information provided in the Offer	Commission assessment
f) Any benefits that would be granted to the Agency and/or its staff (in addition to those following from Protocol No 7 on the privileges and immunities of the European Union)	<p>"Slovakia intends to provide attractive financial and other assistance to the Agency and its staff ." (p. 5)</p> <p>"Full privileges and immunities under Protocol No. 7 to the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU will be applicable to EMA and its staff. Slovakia will commit to them in the headquarters agreement and will consider also additional privileges and immunities comparable to the most favourable conditions enjoyed by existing EU agencies ." (p. 49)</p> <p>[confidential]</p>	The offer indicates, in a detailed way, Slovakia's intention to provide additional financial support to EMA staff and their families, [confidential] .
Member State's commitment to confirm the conditions offered in a headquarters agreement with EMA	<p>"The state will therefore enter into HQ agreement which will be concluded before relocation starts ." (p. 5)</p> <p>"Slovakia will enter into a headquarters agreement with EMA on terms comparative to the existing EU agencies in line with EU's Guidelines for headquarters agreements. The agreement will be concluded before the Agency starts its operational phase ." (p. 46)</p>	The offer indicates Slovakia's readiness to enter into a headquarters agreement.
OTHER POSSIBLY RELEVANT ISSUES MENTIONED IN THE OFFER		
Eurozone members + easy access for foreign travellers	"Compared to the other countries which do not host an agency, Slovakia is one of only two Eurozone members and the only member of the Schengen area which significantly eases access for foreign travellers." (p. 7)	
Increased visibility of the EU across the eastern part of the EU	"The location of the Agency in a newer member state would increase the visibility of the EU across the whole eastern part of the EU. It would also be viewed as a vote of confidence in new member states, increasing their motivation to become more active members of the EU and leading to stronger EU cohesion ." (p. 7)	
Housing	"As part of the relocation package, Slovakia will provide dedicated assistance to EMA staff to find suitable accommodation ." (p. 35)	