INTRODUCTION
Recently umbilical cord blood has gained a significant position as a source of hematopoietic stem cells for transplantation. In order to provide high quality cord blood units (CBU) for patients, continuous cord blood banking and international cooperation is inevitable.

CORD BLOOD BANKING IN SLOVAKIA
In 1995 and 1999 directed cord blood banking for siblings and public cord blood banking began respectively in Slovak Republic at Department of Hematology and Blood Transfusion and at Eurocord-Slovakia.

Currently Eurocord-Slovakia acts as non-government processing facility for both, public and family cord blood banking. Processing facility operates based on the license from Ministry of Health of Slovak Republic and GMP principles.

Eurocord-Slovakia practices comply with international guidelines for donor selection, testing, recovery, processing, storage and criteria for CBU release and shipment. International cooperation is enhanced by the membership in NetCord and WMDA and our commitment to quality improvement.

SUPPORT AND STRATEGY
Public cord blood banking in Slovakia is lacking any direct financial support from public resources (government, healthcare). However in 2007 project: Extension of Slovak Cord Blood Registry was launched. This Project is supported by Financial Mechanisms EEA, Norwegian Financial Mechanisms and by Slovak Republic Government and co-financed by Eurocord-Slovakia.

PUBLIC REGISTRY IN FIGURES
The Project implementation has a great impact on registry development and in particular on amount collected cord blood and quality of testing.

Eurocord-Slovakia has processed cord blood from more than 4000 voluntary donors so far. Since the beginning of 2008 there has been an increase in the volume of collected CB and an increase in TNC count in cryopreserved CBUs. The median TNC increased from 129x10^7 to 169x10^7.

Currently 937 CBUs are available for transplantation in registry inventory. HLA-typing is provided by EFI accredited laboratory.

Eurocord-Slovakia has provided cord blood for unrelated transplantation for 6 patients - median TNC 225x10^7.

Thank you for reading our poster