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**COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION**

**of 19.5.2022**

**amending Implementing Decision C(2014) 9982 approving certain elements of the "Operational Programme for the Implementation of the EU Cohesion Policy in the period 2014-2020" for support from the European Regional Development Fund, the Cohesion Fund, the European Social Fund and the specific allocation for the Youth Employment Initiative under the Investment for growth and jobs goal in Slovenia**

**CCI 2014SI16MAOP001**

(ONLY THE ENGLISH TEXT IS AUTHENTIC)

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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 laying down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006<sup>1</sup>, and in particular Article 96(10) thereof,

Having consulted the ESF Committee,

Whereas:

- (1) By Commission Implementing Decision C(2014) 9982, as last amended by Commission Implementing Decision C(2021) 5043, certain elements of the "Operational Programme for the Implementation of the EU Cohesion Policy in the period 2014-2020" for support from the European Regional Development Fund ('ERDF'), the Cohesion Fund, the European Social Fund ('ESF') and the specific allocation for the Youth Employment Initiative ('YEI') under the Investment for growth and jobs goal in Slovenia were approved.
- (2) On 26 April 2022 Slovenia submitted, through the electronic data exchange system of the Commission, a request for an amendment to this operational programme. The request was accompanied by a revised operational programme, in which Slovenia proposed an amendment to the elements of the operational programme referred to in points (a), (b)(i), (iii) and (iv) and (d) of the first subparagraph of Article 96(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, all subject to Implementing Decision C(2014) 9982.
- (3) The amendment to the operational programme consists mainly in allocating the REACT-EU resources made available to Slovenia as external assigned revenues in

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 320.

accordance with Article 3(1) of Council Regulation (EU) 2020/2094<sup>2</sup> under the new thematic objective "Fostering crisis repair in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and its social consequences and preparing a green, digital and resilient recovery of the economy" and should cover the year 2022. The ERDF REACT-EU resources are allocated to priority axis 15 "Promoting crisis response in the frame of REACT-EU" to support small and medium-sized enterprises and the digitalisation of education. The amendment to the operational programme consists in addition in the modification of the relevant output indicators and the modification of actions to be supported under priority axis 15.

- (4) The amendment to the operational programme also consists in the modification of the expected results for the specific objective under priority axis 16 "Promoting crisis response in the frame of REACT-EU" supported by the ESF REACT-EU.
- (5) In accordance with Article 30(1) and with the sixth subparagraph of Article 92b(9) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, the request for the amendment to the operational programme is duly justified by the need to quickly deploy the REACT-EU resources for crisis repair in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and its social consequences and to prepare a green, digital and resilient recovery of the economy within the current programming period, as well as by the need to ensure a better use of the available REACT-EU funding. The request for the amendment to the operational programme sets out the expected impact of the changes to the programme on fostering crisis repair in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and its social consequences and preparing a green, digital and resilient recovery of the economy in accordance with the second subparagraph of Article 92b(8) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013. It is consistent with Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Regulations (EU) No 1301/2013<sup>3</sup> and (EU) No 1304/2013<sup>4</sup> of the European Parliament and of the Council.
- (6) In accordance with point (e) of Article 110(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, the monitoring committee by written procedure on 26 April 2022 examined and approved the proposal for the amendment to the operational programme, taking into account the text of the revised operational programme and its financing plan.
- (7) The Commission assessed the revised operational programme and did not make observations pursuant to the second sentence of the first subparagraph of Article 30(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013. Nevertheless, Slovenia provided supplementary information and submitted a modified version of the revised operational programme on 5 May 2022.
- (8) The amended elements of the revised operational programme subject to the Commission's approval under Article 96(10) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 should therefore be approved.
- (9) Implementing Decision C(2014) 9982 should therefore be amended accordingly,

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<sup>2</sup> Council Regulation (EU) 2020/2094 of 14 December 2020 establishing a European Union Recovery Instrument to support the recovery in the aftermath of the COVID-19 crisis (OJ L 433I, 22.12.2020, p. 23).

<sup>3</sup> Regulation (EU) No 1301/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on the European Regional Development Fund and on specific provisions concerning the Investment for growth and jobs goal and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1080/2006 (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 289).

<sup>4</sup> Regulation (EU) No 1304/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on the European Social Fund and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1081/2006 (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 470).

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

*Article 1*

Implementing Decision C(2014) 9982 is amended as follows:

1. in Article 1, the introductory sentence is replaced by the following:

"The following elements of the "Operational Programme for the Implementation of the EU Cohesion Policy in the period 2014-2020" for joint support from the ERDF, the Cohesion Fund, the ESF and the specific allocation for the YEI under the Investment for growth and jobs goal in Slovenia for the period from 1 January 2014 to 31 December 2020 and benefitting from the REACT-EU resources for 2021 and 2022, submitted in its final version on 11 December 2014, as last amended by the revised operational programme submitted in its final version on 5 May 2022, are hereby approved:";
2. in Article 4, paragraph 2 is replaced by the following:

"2. The total financial appropriation for the operational programme is set at EUR 3 336 871 135, to be financed from:

(a) the following specific budget lines in accordance with the nomenclature of the General Budget of the European Union for 2014:

13 03 60: EUR 907 392 844 (ERDF – Less developed regions);

13 03 62: EUR 509 292 519 (ERDF – More developed regions);

13 04 60: EUR 914 046 895 (Cohesion Fund);

04 02 60: EUR 379 473 557 (ESF – Less developed regions);

04 02 62: EUR 339 296 038 (ESF – More developed regions);

04 02 64: EUR 18 423 072 (Youth Employment Initiative);

(b) the following REACT-EU resources made available to Slovenia in accordance with Article 3(1) of Regulation (EU) 2020/2094 on the following specific budget lines in accordance with the nomenclature of the General Budget of the European Union for 2022:

05 02 05 01: EUR 255 741 210 (ERDF REACT-EU);

07 02 05 01: EUR 13 205 000 (ESF REACT-EU).";
3. Annex I is replaced by the text set out in Annex I to this Decision;
4. Annex II is replaced by the text set out in Annex II to this Decision.

*Article 2*

This Decision is addressed to the Republic of Slovenia.

Done at Brussels, 19.5.2022

*For the Commission*

*Elisa FERREIRA*

*Member of the Commission*

