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# Operational Programme for the Implementation of the EU Cohesion Policy 2014-2020

# 2014 2020





# Operational Programme for the Implementation of the EU Cohesion Policy 2014-2020

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## Contents

<b>1.</b>	<b>STRATEGY FOR THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME TO THE EU STRATEGY FOR SMART, SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH AND TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND TERRITORIAL COHESION .....</b>	<b>20</b>
1.1	Strategy for the contribution of the operational programme to the EU strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth .....	20
1.1.1	<i>Description of the strategy for the contribution of the operational programme to the EU strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth .....</i>	<i>20</i>
1.2	Justification for the selection of thematic objectives and corresponding investment priorities in terms of the Partnership Agreement based on the identification of regional and, where applicable, national needs including those identified by the relevant Council recommendations .....	41
1.3	Justification of the financial allocation .....	48
<b>2.</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION OF THE PRIORITY AXES .....</b>	<b>62</b>
2.1.	International competitiveness of research, innovation and technological development in line with smart specialisation for enhanced competitiveness and greening of the economy .....	62
2.1.1	<i>Explanation for the establishment of a priority axis covering more than one category of region or more than one thematic objective or more than one Fund.....</i>	<i>62</i>
2.1.2	<i>Fund, category of region and basis for Union support calculation.....</i>	<i>63</i>
2.1.3	<i>Enhancing research and innovation (R&amp;I) infrastructure and capacities to develop R&amp;I excellence, and promoting centres of competence, in particular those of European interest.....</i>	<i>63</i>
2.1.4	<i>Promoting business investment in R&amp;I, developing links and synergies between enterprises, research and development centres and the higher education sector, in particular promoting investment in product and service development, technology transfer, social innovation, eco-innovation, public service applications, demand stimulation, networking, clusters and open innovation through smart specialisation, and supporting technological and applied research, pilot lines, early product validation actions, advanced manufacturing capabilities and first production, in particular in key enabling technologies and diffusion of general purpose technologies .....</i>	<i>67</i>
2.1.5	<i>Social innovation, transnational cooperation and contribution to thematic objectives 1-7 .....</i>	<i>72</i>
2.1.6	<i>Performance framework .....</i>	<i>73</i>
2.1.7	<i>Categories of intervention.....</i>	<i>74</i>
2.1.8	<i>Where appropriate, a summary of the planned use of technical assistance including actions to reinforce the administrative capacity of authorities involved in the management and control of programmes.....</i>	<i>75</i>
2.2	Enhancing access to, and use and quality of, information and communication technologies .....	75
2.2.1	<i>Explanation for the establishment of a priority axis covering more than one category of region or more than one thematic objective or more than one Fund.....</i>	<i>75</i>
2.2.2	<i>Fund, category of region and basis for Union support calculation.....</i>	<i>75</i>
2.2.3	<i>Extending broadband deployment and the roll-out of high-speed networks and supporting the adoption of emerging technologies and networks for the digital economy .....</i>	<i>76</i>

2.2.4	<i>Strengthening ICT applications for e-government, e-learning, e- inclusion, e-culture and e-health.....</i>	78
2.2.5	<i>Social innovation, transnational cooperation and contribution to thematic objectives 1–7.....</i>	82
2.2.6	<i>Performance framework.....</i>	82
2.2.7	<i>Categories of intervention .....</i>	82
2.2.8	<i>Where appropriate, a summary of the planned use of technical assistance including, where necessary, actions to reinforce the administrative capacity of authorities involved in management and control of the programmes.....</i>	83
<b>2.3</b>	<b><i>Dynamic and competitive entrepreneurship for green economic growth.....</i></b>	<b>83</b>
2.3.1	<i>Explanation for the establishment of a priority axis covering more than one category of region or more than one thematic objective or more than one Fund.....</i>	83
2.3.2	<i>Fund, category of region and basis for Union support calculation .....</i>	83
2.2.3	<i>Promoting entrepreneurship, in particular by facilitating the economic exploitation of new ideas and fostering the creation of new firms, including through business incubators .....</i>	83
2.3.4	<i>Developing and implementing new business models for SMEs, in particular with regard to internationalisation .....</i>	90
2.3.5	<i>Social innovation, transnational cooperation and contribution to thematic objectives 1–7.....</i>	93
2.3.6	<i>Performance framework.....</i>	93
2.3.7	<i>Categories of intervention.....</i>	94
2.3.8	<i>Where appropriate, a summary of the planned use of technical assistance including, where necessary, actions to reinforce the administrative capacity of authorities involved in management and control of the programmes.....</i>	95
<b>2.4</b>	<b><i>Sustainable consumption and production of energy and smart grids .....</i></b>	<b>95</b>
2.4.1	<i>Explanation for the establishment of a priority axis covering more than one category of region or more than one thematic objective or more than one Fund.....</i>	95
2.4.2	<i>Fund, category of region and basis for Union support calculation.....</i>	96
2.4.3	<i>Supporting energy efficiency, smart energy management and renewable energy use in public infrastructure, including in public buildings, and in the housing sector; .....</i>	96
2.4.4	<i>Promoting the production and distribution of energy derived from renewable sources .....</i>	101
2.4.5	<i>Development and use of intelligent low- and medium-voltage distribution systems.....</i>	104
2.4.6	<i>Promoting low-carbon strategies for all types of territories, in particular for urban areas, including the promotion of sustainable multimodal urban mobility and adequate mitigation and adaptation measures.....</i>	107
2.4.7	<i>Social innovation, transnational cooperation and contribution to thematic objectives 1-7 .....</i>	110
2.4.8	<i>Performance framework.....</i>	111
2.4.9	<i>Categories of intervention.....</i>	112
2.4.10	<i>Summary of the planned use of technical assistance including, where necessary, actions to reinforce the administrative capacity of authorities involved in the management and control of the programmes and beneficiaries (where appropriate).....</i>	113

<b>2.5</b>	<b>Climate change adaptation .....</b>	<b>113</b>
2.5.1	<i>Explanation for the establishment of a priority axis covering more than one category of region or more than one thematic objective or more than one Fund.....</i>	<i>113</i>
2.5.2	<i>Fund, category of region and Fund, category of region and basis for Union support calculation .....</i>	<i>113</i>
2.5.3	<i>Supporting investments for adaptation to climate change, including ecosystem-based approaches ....</i>	<i>114</i>
2.5.4	<i>Social innovation, transnational cooperation and contribution to thematic objectives 1-7 .....</i>	<i>119</i>
2.5.5	<i>Performance framework.....</i>	<i>120</i>
2.5.6	<i>Categories of intervention.....</i>	<i>120</i>
2.5.7	<i>Where appropriate, a summary of the planned use of technical assistance including, where necessary, actions to reinforce the administrative capacity of authorities involved in management and control of the programmes.....</i>	<i>121</i>
<b>2.6</b>	<b>Improvements of the environment and biodiversity status.....</b>	<b>121</b>
2.6.1	<i>Explanation for the establishment of a priority axis covering more than one category of region or more than one thematic objective or more than one Fund.....</i>	<i>121</i>
2.6.2	<i>Fund, category of region and basis for Union support calculation.....</i>	<i>121</i>
2.6.3	<i>Investing in the water sector to meet the requirements of the Union's environmental acquis and to address needs identified by the Member States for investment that goes beyond those requirements.....</i>	<i>122</i>
2.6.4	<i>Protecting and restoring biodiversity and soil and promoting ecosystem services, including through Natura 2000, and green infrastructure .....</i>	<i>127</i>
2.6.5	<i>Taking action to improve the urban environment, to revitalise cities, regenerate and decontaminate brownfield sites (including conversion areas), reduce air pollution and promote noise-reduction measures.....</i>	<i>131</i>
2.6.6	<i>Social innovations, transnational cooperation .....</i>	<i>136</i>
	<i>and contribution to thematic objectives 1–7.....</i>	<i>136</i>
2.6.7	<i>Performance framework.....</i>	<i>136</i>
2.6.8	<i>Categories of intervention.....</i>	<i>137</i>
2.6.9	<i>Where appropriate, a summary of the planned use of technical assistance including, where necessary, actions to reinforce the administrative capacity of authorities involved in management and control of the programmes and beneficiaries.....</i>	<i>138</i>
<b>2.7</b>	<b>Infrastructure development and promotion of sustainable mobility .....</b>	<b>138</b>
2.7.1	<i>Explanation for the establishment of a priority axis covering more than one category of region or more than one thematic objective or more than one Fund.....</i>	<i>138</i>
2.7.2	<i>Fund, category of region and basis for Union support calculation.....</i>	<i>139</i>
2.7.3	<i>Developing comprehensive, high-quality and interoperable railway system.....</i>	<i>139</i>
2.7.4	<i>Enhancing regional mobility by connecting secondary and tertiary traffic nodes to TEN-T infrastructure, including multimodal nodes .....</i>	<i>143</i>
2.7.5	<i>Supporting a multimodal Single European Transport Area by investing in the TEN-T (CF) .....</i>	<i>147</i>
2.7.6	<i>Social innovation, transnational cooperation and contribution to thematic 1–7.....</i>	<i>151</i>

2.7.7	<i>Performance framework</i> .....	151
2.7.8	<i>Categories of intervention</i> .....	152
2.7.9	<i>Where appropriate, a summary of the planned use of technical assistance including, where necessary, actions to reinforce the administrative capacity of authorities involved in management and control of the programmes and beneficiaries</i> .....	152
<b>2.8</b>	<b>Promoting employment and supporting transnational labour mobility</b> .....	<b>152</b>
2.8.1	<i>Explanation for the establishment of a priority axis covering more than one category of region or more than one thematic objective or more than one Fund</i> .....	152
2.8.2	<i>Fund, category of region, basis for Union support calculation</i> .....	153
2.8.3	<i>Access to employment for job-seekers and inactive people, including the long-term unemployed and people far from the labour market, including through local employment initiatives and support for labour mobility</i> .....	153
2.8.4	<i>Sustainable integration into the labour market of young people, in particular those not in employment, education or training, including young people at risk of social exclusion and young people from marginalised communities, including through implementation of the Youth Guarantee</i> .....	162
2.8.5	<i>Active and healthy ageing</i> .....	168
2.8.6	<i>Social innovation, transnational cooperation and contribution to thematic objectives 1–7</i> .....	172
2.8.7	<i>Performance framework</i> .....	173
2.8.8	<i>Categories of intervention</i> .....	174
2.8.9	<i>Summary of the planned use of technical assistance including, where necessary, actions to reinforce the administrative capacity of authorities involved in the management and control of the programmes and beneficiaries (where appropriate)</i> .....	174
<b>2.9</b>	<b>Social inclusion and poverty reduction</b> .....	<b>175</b>
2.9.1	<i>Explanation for the establishment of a priority axis covering more than one category of region or more than one thematic objective or more than one Fund</i> .....	175
2.9.2	<i>Fund, category of region and basis for Union support calculation</i> .....	175
2.9.3	<i>Active inclusion, including with a view to promoting equal opportunities and active participation, and improving employability</i> .....	176
2.9.4	<i>Enhancing access to affordable, sustainable and high-quality services, including health care and social services of general interest</i> .....	183
2.9.5	<i>Investing in health and social infrastructure that contributes to national, regional and local development, reducing inequalities in terms of health status, promoting social inclusion through improved access to social, cultural and recreational services and the transition from institutional to community-based services</i> .....	187
2.9.6	<i>Promoting social entrepreneurship and vocational integration in social enterprises and the social and solidarity economy in order to facilitate access to employment</i> .....	189
2.9.7	<i>Investment under CLLD strategies</i> .....	192
2.9.8	<i>Social innovation, transnational cooperation and contribution to thematic objectives 1–7</i> .....	195
2.9.9	<i>Performance framework</i> .....	196



2.9.10	<i>Categories of intervention</i> .....	198
2.9.11	<i>Summary of the planned use of technical assistance including, where necessary, actions to reinforce the administrative capacity of authorities involved in the management and control of the programmes and beneficiaries (where appropriate)</i> .....	199
<b>2.10</b>	<b>Knowledge, skills and lifelong learning to enhance employability</b> .....	<b>199</b>
2.10.1	<i>Explanation for the establishment of a priority axis covering more than one category of region or more than one thematic objective or more than one Fund</i> .....	199
2.10.2	<i>Fund, category of region and basis for Union support calculation</i> .....	200
2.10.3	<i>Enhancing equal access to lifelong learning for all age groups in formal, non-formal and informal settings, upgrading the knowledge, skills and competences of the workforce, and promoting flexible learning pathways including through career guidance and validation of acquired competences</i> .....	200
2.10.4	<i>Improving the labour market relevance of education and training systems, facilitating the transition from education to work, and strengthening vocational education and training (VET) systems and their quality, including through mechanisms for skills anticipation, adaptation of curricula and the establishment and development of work-based learning systems, including dual learning systems and apprenticeship schemes</i> .....	211
2.10.5	<i>Investing in skills, education and lifelong learning by developing education and training infrastructure</i> .....	216
2.10.6	<i>Social innovations, transnational cooperation and contribution to thematic objectives 1–7</i> .....	218
2.10.7	<i>Performance framework</i> .....	219
2.10.8	<i>Categories of intervention</i> .....	220
2.10.9	<i>Where appropriate, a summary of the planned use of technical assistance including, where necessary, actions to reinforce the administrative capacity of authorities involved in management and control of the programmes</i> .....	221
<b>2.11</b>	<b>Rule of law, enhancing institutional capacity, efficient public administration and capacity building of NGOs and social partners</b> .....	<b>221</b>
2.11.1	<i>Explanation for the establishment of a priority axis covering more than one category of region or more than one thematic objective or more than one Fund</i> .....	221
2.11.2	<i>Fund, category of region and basis for Union support calculation</i> .....	222
2.11.3	<i>Investment in institutional capacity and in the efficiency of public administrations and public services at the national, regional and local levels with a view to reforms, better regulation and good governance</i> .....	222
2.11.4	<i>Capacity building for all stakeholders delivering education, lifelong learning, training and employment and social policies, including through sectoral and territorial pacts to mobilise for reform at the national, regional and local levels</i> .....	232
2.11.5	<i>Social innovation, transnational cooperation and contribution to thematic objectives 1–7</i> .....	237
2.11.6	<i>Performance framework</i> .....	238
2.11.7	<i>Categories of intervention</i> .....	239
2.11.8	<i>Where appropriate, a summary of the planned use of technical assistance including, where necessary, actions to reinforce the administrative capacity of authorities involved in management and control of the programmes</i> .....	239

<b>2.12</b>	<b>Technical assistance – CF .....</b>	<b>239</b>
2.12.1	<i>Explanation for the establishment of a priority axis covering more than one category of region .....</i>	239
2.12.2	<i>Fund and category of region .....</i>	239
2.12.3	<i>Specific objectives and expected results .....</i>	239
2.12.4	<i>Result indicators.....</i>	241
2.12.5	<i>Categories of intervention.....</i>	246
<b>2.13</b>	<b>Technical assistance – ERDF.....</b>	<b>246</b>
2.13.1	<i>Explanation for the establishment of a priority axis covering more than one category of region .....</i>	246
2.13.2	<i>Fund and category of region .....</i>	247
2.13.3	<i>Specific objectives and expected results .....</i>	247
2.13.4	<i>Result indicators.....</i>	247
2.13.5	<i>Categories of intervention.....</i>	249
<b>2.14</b>	<b>Technical assistance – ESF .....</b>	<b>249</b>
2.14.1	<i>Explanation for the establishment of a priority axis covering more than one category of region .....</i>	249
2.14.2	<i>Fund and category of region .....</i>	250
2.14.3	<i>Specific objectives and expected results .....</i>	250
2.14.4	<i>Result indicators.....</i>	251
2.14.5	<i>Categories of intervention.....</i>	254
<b>3.</b>	<b>THE FINANCING PLAN OF THE OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME .....</b>	<b>258</b>
3.1	The total financial appropriation envisaged for support for each of the Funds and the amounts relating to the performance reserve.....	258
3.2	Total financial appropriation of support from each of the Funds and national co-financing (in EUR) .....	260
<b>4.</b>	<b>INTEGRATED APPROACH TO TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT .....</b>	<b>268</b>
4.1	Community-led local development actions .....	269
4.2	Integrated action for sustainable urban development .....	271
4.3	Integrated territorial investments .....	272
4.4	Arrangements for interregional and transnational actions within the operational programme, with beneficiaries located in at least one other Member State .....	272
4.5	Where Member States and regions participate in macro-regional strategies and sea-basin strategies, subject to the needs of the programme area as identified by the Member State, the contribution of the planned interventions to such strategies .....	273
<b>5.</b>	<b>THE SPECIFIC NEEDS OF GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS MOST AFFECTED BY POVERTY OR TARGET GROUPS AT HIGHEST RISK OF DISCRIMINATION OR SOCIAL EXCLUSION.....</b>	<b>278</b>

<b>6.</b>	<b>SPECIFIC NEEDS OF GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS WHICH SUFFER FROM SEVERE AND PERMANENT NATURAL OR DEMOGRAPHIC HANDICAPS .....</b>	<b>279</b>
<b>7.</b>	<b>AUTHORITIES AND BODIES RESPONSIBLE FOR MANAGEMENT, CONTROL AND AUDIT AND THE ROLE OF RELEVANT PARTNERS .....</b>	<b>280</b>
7.1	Identification of the relevant authorities and bodies .....	280
7.2	Involvement of relevant partners .....	281
7.2.1	<i>The actions taken to involve the relevant partners in the preparation of the operational programme, and the role of the partners in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the operational programme .....</i>	<i>281</i>
7.2.2	<i>Global grants .....</i>	<i>284</i>
7.2.3	<i>Earmarking for capacity building .....</i>	<i>284</i>
<b>8.</b>	<b>COORDINATION BETWEEN THE FUNDS THE EAFRD, THE EMFF AND THE OTHER UNION AND NATIONAL FUNDING INSTRUMENTS, AND WITH THE EIB .....</b>	<b>288</b>
<b>9.</b>	<b>EX-ANTE CONDITIONALITIES .....</b>	<b>296</b>
9.1	Ex-ante conditionalities .....	296
9.2	A description of the actions to fulfil the ex-ante conditionalities, the responsible bodies and a timetable for such actions.....	296
<b>10.</b>	<b>REDUCTION OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE BURDEN FOR BENEFICIARIES .....</b>	<b>297</b>
<b>11.</b>	<b>HORIZONTAL PRINCIPLES .....</b>	<b>298</b>
11.1	Sustainable development .....	298
11.2	Equal opportunities and non-discrimination .....	300
11.3	Equality between men and women .....	301
<b>12.</b>	<b>SEPARATE ELEMENTS .....</b>	<b>306</b>
12.1	List of major projects for which implementation is planned during the programming period .....	306
12.2	Performance framework of the operational programme .....	308
12.3	List of relevant partners involved in drawing up the operational programme.....	312
12.4	Indicative projects of the concessionaire at the Koper freight port (CEF Tender) for the achievement of the objective “Removing bottlenecks in the TEN-T Network and ensuring TEN-T standards along the network” .....	312

Table 1: Slovenia's contribution to meeting the Europe 2020 strategy targets .....	21
Table 2: Synthetic overview of the justification for selection of thematic objectives and investment priorities.....	41
Table 3: Overview of the investment strategy of the OP.....	51
Table 4: Specific result indicators .....	64
Table 5: Output indicators .....	67
Table 6: Specific result indicators .....	68
Table 7: Output indicators .....	72
Table 8: Specific result indicators.....	76
Table 9: Output indicators .....	78
Table 10: Specific result indicators .....	79
Table 11: Output indicators .....	81
Table 12: Specific result indicators, specific objective 1 .....	84
Table 13: Specific result indicators, specific objective 2 .....	86
Table 14: Output indicators .....	89
Table 15: Specific result indicators .....	90
Table 16: Output indicators .....	93
Table 17: Specific result indicators, specific objective 1 .....	97
Table 18: Specific result indicators, specific objective 2 .....	97
Table 19: Output indicators .....	100
Table 20: Output indicators .....	101
Table 21: Output indicators .....	103
Table 22: Result indicators .....	105
Table 23: Output indicators .....	106
Table 24: Specific result indicators .....	107
Table 25: Output indicators .....	110
Table 26: Specific result indicators .....	115
Table 27: Output indicators .....	119
Table 28: Specific result indicators, specific objective 1 .....	122
Table 29: Specific result indicators, specific objective 2 .....	123
Table 30: Specific result indicators, specific objective 3.....	124
Table 31: Output indicators .....	127
Table 32: Specific result indicators .....	128
Table 33: Output indicators .....	131
Table 34: Specific result indicators, specific objective 1 .....	132
Table 35: Specific result indicators, specific objective 2 .....	133
Table 36: Output indicators .....	135
Table 37: Specific result indicators .....	140
Table 38: Output indicators .....	142
Table 39: Specific result indicators .....	143
Table 40: Output indicators .....	147
Table 41: Specific result indicators.....	148
Table 42: Output indicators .....	151
Table 43: Specific result indicators, specific objective 1 .....	155
Table 44: Specific result indicators, specific objective 2.....	156

Table 45: Specific result indicators, specific objective 3 .....	157
Table 46: Output indicators .....	161
Table 47: Specific result indicators, specific objective 1.....	163
Table 48: Specific result indicators, specific objective 2.....	164
Table 49: Output indicators, specific objective 1.....	168
Table 50: Output indicators, specific objective 2 .....	168
Table 51: Specific result indicators .....	170
Table 52: Output indicators .....	172
Table 54: Specific result indicators, specific objective 2 .....	178
Table 55: Specific result indicators, specific objective 3 .....	179
Table 56: Output indicators .....	182
Table 57: Specific result indicators .....	184
Table 58: Output indicators .....	187
Table 59: Specific result indicators .....	188
Table 60: Output indicators .....	189
Table 61: Specific results indicators .....	191
Table 62: Output indicators .....	192
Table 63: Specific result indicators .....	193
Table 64: Output indicators .....	195
Table 65: Specific result indicators, specific objective 1.....	201
Table 66: Specific result indicators, specific objective 2.....	203
Table 67: Specific result, specific objective 3 .....	205
Table 68: Output indicators, specific objective 1.....	210
Table 69: Output indicators, specific objective 2 .....	210
Table 70: Output indicators, specific objective 3 .....	211
Table 71: Specific result indicators, specific objective 1 .....	213
Table 72: Specific result indicators, specific objective 2 .....	214
Table 73: Output indicators .....	215
Table 74: Specific result indicators .....	217
Table 75: Output indicators .....	218
Table 76: Specific result indicators, specific objective 1.....	224
Table 77: Specific result indicators, Specific objective 2 .....	225
Table 78: Specific result indicators, specific objective 3 .....	227
Table 79: Specific result indicators, specific objective 4.....	228
Table 80: Output indicators .....	232
Table 81: Specific result indicators, specific objective 1.....	234
Table 82: Specific result indicators, specific objective 2 .....	235
Table 83: Output indicators .....	237
Table 84: Specific result indicators, specific objective 1 .....	241
Table 86: Output indicators, specific objective 1.....	245
Table 88: Specific result indicators, specific objective 1 .....	247
Table 89: Specific result indicators, specific objective 2.....	248
Table 90: Output indicators, specific objective 1 .....	248
Table 91: Output indicators, specific objective 2.....	249

Table 92: Specific result indicators, specific objective 1 .....	251
Table 93: Specific result indicators, specific objective 2 .....	251
Table 94: Specific result indicators, specific objective 3.....	251
Table 95: Output indicators, specific objective 1 .....	253
Table 96: Output indicators, specific objective 2 .....	253
Table 97: Output indicators, specific objective 3.....	253
Table 98: The total financial appropriation envisaged for support for each of the Funds and the amounts relating to the performance reserve .....	259
Table 99: Financial plan of the operational programme .....	260
Table 100: Youth Employment Initiative (YEI) – ESF allocation and allocation dedicated to YEI .....	262
Table 101: Breakdown of the financial plan by priority axis, Fund, category of region and thematic objective.....	263
Table 102: Indicative amount of support to be used for climate change objectives .....	264
Table 103: Indicative amount of ERDF support for sustainable .....	272
urban development for integrated actions.....	272
Table 104: List of major projects .....	307
Table 105: Performance framework for funds and categories of region (collective table).....	308



## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

<b>AEP</b>	active employment policy
<b>NEEAP</b>	National Energy Efficiency Action Plan
<b>GDP</b>	Gross domestic product
<b>GVA</b>	Gross value added
<b>GHG</b>	greenhouse gas
<b>GERD</b>	Gross domestic expenditure on R&D
<b>CLLD</b>	Community-Led Local Development
<b>CNVOS</b>	Network of Slovenian non-governmental organisations
<b>CPP</b>	Commission Position Paper
<b>CSR</b>	Country Specific Recommendations
<b>ITI</b>	Integrated territorial investments
<b>DAE</b>	Digital Agenda for Europe
<b>EE</b>	energy efficiency
<b>EIA</b>	environmental impact assessment
<b>EIB</b>	European Investment Bank
<b>EIT</b>	European Institute of Innovation and Technology
<b>EC</b>	European Commission
<b>EAFRD</b>	European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development
<b>ESFRI</b>	European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures
<b>ESI Funds</b>	European Structural and Investment Funds
<b>EMFF</b>	European maritime and fisheries Fund
<b>ERDF</b>	European Regional Development Fund
<b>ESC</b>	Economic and Social Council
<b>ESF</b>	European Social Fund
<b>ERA</b>	European Research Area
<b>ETC</b>	European Territorial Co-operation
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>EURES</b>	European Employment Services
<b>EUSAIR</b>	European Union Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region
<b>EUSDR</b>	European Union Strategy for the Danube Region
<b>EGTC</b>	European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation
<b>ICT</b>	Information and communication technologies
<b>CEF</b>	Connecting Europe Facility
<b>DRI</b>	Development Risk Index
<b>PPT</b>	Public passenger transport
<b>PRO</b>	Public research organisations
<b>KET</b>	Key Enabling Technologies
<b>CF</b>	Cohesion Fund
<b>LIFE</b>	Financial Instrument for the Environment
<b>LLL</b>	lifelong learning
<b>MDDSZ</b>	Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities



<b>MF</b>	Ministry of Finance
<b>MGRT</b>	Ministry of Economic Development and Technology
<b>MIZŠ</b>	Ministry of Education, Science, and Sport
<b>MJU</b>	Ministry of Public Administration
<b>MP</b>	Ministry of Justice
<b>MKO</b>	Ministry of Agriculture and the Environment
<b>MNZ</b>	Ministry of the Interior
<b>SMEs</b>	Small and medium-sized enterprises
<b>MzI</b>	Ministry of Infrastructure
<b>RIDP</b>	Research-Infrastructure Development Plan 2011–2020
<b>NER 300</b>	New Entrants' Reserve 300 programme
<b>NDP</b>	National Development Programme
<b>NUTS</b>	Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics
<b>NGOs</b>	Non-governmental organisations
<b>OECD</b>	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
<b>OP</b>	Operational Programme for the Implementation of the EU Cohesion Policy in the 2014–2020 period
<b>OPHRD</b>	Operational Programme for Human Resources Development
<b>APSFRR</b>	Areas of potential significant flood risk
<b>MA</b>	Managing Authority
<b>RES</b>	Renewable energy sources
<b>TFEU</b>	Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union
<b>CA</b>	Certifying authority
<b>RDP</b>	Rural Development Programme
<b>PA</b>	Partnership Agreement
<b>IB</b>	Intermediate Body
<b>AA</b>	Audit authority
<b>RDA</b>	Regional development agency
<b>RDI</b>	Research, development and innovations
<b>SID</b>	Slovenian Export and Development Bank
<b>CSF</b>	Common Strategic Framework
<b>SDSS</b>	Spatial Development Strategy of Slovenia
<b>SSS</b>	Smart Specialisation Strategy
<b>SUS</b>	sustainable urban strategies
<b>SVRK</b>	Government Office for Development and European Cohesion Policy
<b>SORS</b>	Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia
<b>FDI</b>	Foreign Direct Investments
<b>TA</b>	Technical assistance
<b>TEN-T</b>	Trans-European Transport Networks
<b>TFEU</b>	Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union
<b>IMAD</b>	Institute of Macroeconomic Analysis and Development
<b>UNP</b>	Budget Supervision Office of the Republic of Slovenia
<b>EE</b>	Energy efficiency





1.

STRATEGY FOR THE CONTRIBUTION OF  
THE OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME TO THE  
EU STRATEGY FOR SMART, SUSTAINABLE  
AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH AND TO THE  
ACHIEVEMENT OF ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND  
TERRITORIAL COHESION

## **1. STRATEGY FOR THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME TO THE EU STRATEGY FOR SMART, SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH AND TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND TERRITORIAL COHESION**

### **1.1 Strategy for the contribution of the operational programme to the EU strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth**

#### ***1.1.1 Description of the strategy for the contribution of the operational programme to the EU strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth***

A set of measures to receive support from the European Investment and Structural Funds (ESI Funds) was narrowed down in the process of drafting the Operational Programme (OP). The measures were designed taking into account the Europe 2020 Strategy targets, Council Recommendation on Slovenia's National Reform Programme, the 2014-2015 National Reform Programmes and Position of the Commission Services on the Development of Partnership Agreement and Programmes in Slovenia for the Period 2014-2020. The relevant national strategic documents and the development disparities that exist between both cohesion regions were also taken on board.

The analysis of Slovenia's progress towards the 2020 national targets reveals certain gaps, especially in terms of boosting growth of employment rates, reducing the number of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion, strengthening efforts in the area of research and development and promoting energy efficiency.

**Table 1: Slovenia's contribution to meeting the Europe 2020 strategy targets**

Europe 2020 smart growth targets	Current situation in Slovenia	National 2020 targets (NRP)
Total public and private investment in research and development amounting to 3% of EU GDP	2.636% (2012)	3%
20% greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction compared to 1990	Emissions in non-ETS sectors 11.5% (2012)	GHG emissions in non-ETS sectors (transport, agriculture, waste removal, households and services) may increase by 4% compared to 2005
20% of energy from renewables in gross final energy consumption	21.5% in 2013	Increase the share of renewables in gross final energy consumption to 25%
20% increase in energy efficiency	Mid-term target for 2012 achieved: 5.7% savings in energy end-use under Directive 2006/32/EC on energy end-use efficiency	Reach the 9% energy savings target by 2016 in accordance with Directive 2006/32/EC and increase energy efficiency by 20% by 2020 in accordance with Directive 2012/27/EC
75% of the population aged 20–64 should be employed	67.2% (2013)	75%
Reducing the number of people in or at risk of poverty or social exclusion by at least 20 million in the EU	410,000 (2013)	decrease by 40,000 compared to 2008 (360,000)
Reducing early school leaving to less than 10%	4.34% (2013)	5% (2011: 4.2%)
At least 40% of 30–34 year olds completing tertiary or equivalent education	40.1% (2013)	40%

The OP investment strategy and the selection of thematic objectives build on the analysis of needs, disparities and growth potentials that are discussed in detail in the Partnership Agreement (PA) and on the lessons learned in the 2007-2013 period. The lessons are mentioned in this chapter and in the section on justification of individual priority axes.

Slovenia's development context puts prosperity at the heart of the agenda, and this is being realised through the following strategic objectives<sup>1</sup>:

- finding the way to economic recovery and breaking the trend of Slovenia's distancing from the average EU development level;
- ensuring prosperity for all citizens;
- putting a decisive stop to passive, cyclical changes by transforming them into lasting structural improvements.

Fulfilment of the above objectives rides on macroeconomic stability, structural reforms and investment in

development. ESI Funds support will be the pivotal development funding in Slovenia in the 2014-2020 period, and will be ring-fenced for those areas that allow improvements and progress towards the Europe 2020 Strategy targets. Coordination of development policy implementation will be enhanced.

The OP, the document that will play a decisive role in mobilising investment in economic development, will become a platform or a springboard for encouraging notably private investment, while making every effort to help remove certain barriers and bottlenecks that now deter private investment. These incentives will contribute greatly to reducing the risks private investors currently face.

OP implementation will be linked to European territorial cooperation (ETC) programmes and three macro-regional strategies<sup>2,3,4</sup> where Slovenia is involved along with other countries.

1 2014-2015 National Reform Programme

2 EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR)

3 EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian region (EUSAIR)

4 EU Strategy for the Alpine Region (EUSAR)

• **ENHANCING COMPETITIVENESS OF THE ECONOMY FOR GREEN GROWTH AND CREATION OF JOBS AND IMPROVING THE BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT**

The competitiveness of the Slovenian economy is lagging behind the EU average. The productivity of the manufacturing sector in gross added value (GVA) per person in 2012 came close to the level achieved at the onset of the crisis; however, growth was based on the reduced number of workers. The gap is largest in terms of technological complexity of activities<sup>5</sup>, where Slovenia even lags behind the average held by newcomers to the EU, its technological complexity of activities being distinctly low.

Slovenia is aware that efforts should be made to intensify investment in research and development (R&D) in service activities, as it lags behind most OECD countries, even though it managed to increase the share of service activities in expenditure on R&D from 5.7% to 26.2% between 2003 and 2011.<sup>6</sup> Further growth of investment in R&D in the service sector is important for strengthening the innovation performance of services, which lags behind manufacturing activities more than in most other EU Member States.<sup>7</sup> Non-technological innovation is particularly important in this respect (new business models, user-centred innovation, societal innovation, innovation in the area of creative and cultural industries with emphasis on design-management).

An important factor that ultimately compromises the competitiveness of the Slovenian economy is the few and inadequate links between the economy and knowledge institutions. Slovenia is on the right track to reach the Europe 2020 targets set in the area of investment in research, development and innovation (RDI). Despite many advantages in the Slovenian system of research and innovation, which alongside other investment includes relatively high corporate R&D investment (accounting for 61.2% of GERD in 2012), the country still faces

numerous challenges. These include, *inter alia*, a high degree of fragmentation and poor cooperation between actors in the development and innovation area for efficient knowledge transfer and subsequent use of knowledge, an inefficient knowledge triangle and, above all, the fact that investment and research and innovation activities are far too little concentrated on those areas where Slovenia boasts comparative advantages.

A comparison of innovation systems across the EU groups Slovenia among the “innovation followers” and reveals that the country’s innovation performance slightly declined in the last year. Despite strengthening certain innovation performance factors during the crisis<sup>8</sup>, the progress made in certain areas is too slow (intellectual property, transfer of knowledge to firms, efficient use of ICT in firms or the public sector) or is even falling behind (innovation activity), which is reflected in below-average added value per person employed. While certain innovation policy measures do show good results (patents and scientific publications), worse results have been recorded in terms of applying new knowledge for product and service development, which is reflected in the small share of new products and services in total revenue generated in domestic and foreign markets. Investments in non-technological innovation have also declined considerably<sup>9</sup>. As regards eco-innovation, Slovenia does not lag behind in terms of the scope of investment but rather falls short of achieving the targeted results<sup>10</sup>, given that there are no system-wide incentives targeting eco-innovation that would provide for complementarities with general incentives for RDI and entrepreneurship.

Expenditure in 2012<sup>11</sup> reveals that the figures for the regional GDP share spent on RDI speak in favour

5 [http://www.umar.gov.si/fileadmin/user\\_upload/publikacije/pr/2014/POR\\_2014.pdf](http://www.umar.gov.si/fileadmin/user_upload/publikacije/pr/2014/POR_2014.pdf)

6 OECD STI Scoreboard 2013

7 [http://www.umar.gov.si/fileadmin/user\\_upload/publikacije/pr/2014/POR\\_2014.pdf](http://www.umar.gov.si/fileadmin/user_upload/publikacije/pr/2014/POR_2014.pdf)

8 The combination of technological investment and human capital investment will enjoy cross-financing when needs are identified at the project level. The entire thematic area of support for human capital is covered by thematic objective 10.

9 [http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/innovation/files/ius-2013\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/innovation/files/ius-2013_en.pdf)

10 [http://www.eco-innovation.eu/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=485&Itemid=73](http://www.eco-innovation.eu/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=485&Itemid=73)

11 [http://pxweb.stat.si/pxweb/Dialog/varval.asp?ma=2372410S&ti=&path=../Database/Ekonomsko/23\\_raziskovanje\\_razvoj/04\\_izbrani\\_kazalniki/10\\_23724\\_kaz\\_raz\\_razv\\_dej/&lang=2](http://pxweb.stat.si/pxweb/Dialog/varval.asp?ma=2372410S&ti=&path=../Database/Ekonomsko/23_raziskovanje_razvoj/04_izbrani_kazalniki/10_23724_kaz_raz_razv_dej/&lang=2)

of the cohesion region of Zahodna Slovenija (Western Slovenia), while it is the other way round when it comes to percentage of GERD performed by the business enterprise sector<sup>12</sup>. The percentage of GERD financed by national sources is higher in the cohesion region of Zahodna Slovenija, which could also partially be attributed to the fact that the number of researchers is significantly higher in this region (75.5%) than in the cohesion region of Vzhodna Slovenija (Eastern Slovenia).

Immediate action to increase the added value of enterprises should be taken by the country to render the entire Slovenian economy more competitive, particularly through (i) enhancing innovation activities of enterprises and supporting integration of service activities in manufacturing processes and (ii) integrating enterprises into global supply chains, particularly with the help of foreign direct investment (FDI). Hence, investment under **priority axis 1** will target improvement of infrastructure for research and innovation and enhancement of capacities for excellence in this area in accordance with the Smart Specialisation Strategy<sup>13</sup>. Slovenia's past investment in RDI created a relatively good R&D environment. Specific attention in the current programming period should be given to focusing on more efficient use of the existing research infrastructure and, where relevant, to construct new infrastructure. Also, knowledge should be fully harnessed to provide support for innovation development processes in the economy and public sector for the development of technologies, processes, products and services boasting market potential. The primary source of funding for basic research will be secured through national funds, while the ESI Funds will support strengthening the links and new synergies created in the innovation system and enhancement of the collaboration between the economy and knowledge institutions in the

areas defined by the Smart Specialisation Strategy. This will bring together excellence, competences and capacities forming a critical mass for a breakthrough on a global scale. Innovation and competence in enterprises will receive full support, and innovative public procurement will be tested in addition to innovation development and testing in practice. This will help increase the number of innovation-active enterprises.

Special attention will be given to investment in measures seeking to boost the innovation potential of SMEs. These account for the majority of enterprises in Slovenia. In this respect, a combination of technological and non-technological innovation will play a significant role, as the SMEs are increasingly propelled by non-technological factors, e.g. creativity, design-management and new organisation processes and business models.

The key obstacle to growth and development of enterprises in Slovenia lurks in the obstructed access to finance. The relatively low level of internationalisation of enterprises is also a cause for concern. Large enterprises generate the bulk of their revenue in international markets, while micro enterprises, which account for 90% of the Slovenian economy, derive only about 10% of their revenue from foreign markets.

The number of enterprises in both regions is more or less the same, but the added value is higher in the cohesion region of Zahodna Slovenija.<sup>14</sup> GVA at basic prices picked up slightly in the cohesion region of Vzhodna Slovenija in the period 2009-2011 (44%, cohesion region of Zahodna Slovenija 56%).<sup>15</sup> Disparities between the two regions are manifested in the structure of activities. Capital-intensive activities are characteristic of the cohesion region of Zahodna Slovenija, and so

<sup>12</sup> Gross domestic expenditure on R&D

<sup>13</sup> Until the Smart Specialisation strategy is approved, the draft of the document of 29 August 2014 will be used as the basis for the OP implementation. The draft is a result of the relative consensus reached between the stakeholders and serves as the basis for continuing the process of entrepreneurial discovery and further concentration. In accordance with the abovementioned draft the entrepreneurial discovery process identified the following areas as a priority: (1) SI\_industry 4.0: Smart Factories; (2) Smart buildings and homes; (3) Smart cities and communities; (4) Smart use of resources; (5) Health.

<sup>14</sup> [http://pxweb.stat.si/pxweb/Dialog/varval.asp?ma=1418806S&ti=Podjetja+po+kohezijskih+in+statisti%20E8nih+regijah%2C+Slovenija%2C+letno&path=../Database/Ekonomsko/14\\_poslovni\\_subjekti/01\\_14188\\_podjetja/&lang=2](http://pxweb.stat.si/pxweb/Dialog/varval.asp?ma=1418806S&ti=Podjetja+po+kohezijskih+in+statisti%20E8nih+regijah%2C+Slovenija%2C+letno&path=../Database/Ekonomsko/14_poslovni_subjekti/01_14188_podjetja/&lang=2)

<sup>15</sup> [http://pxweb.stat.si/pxweb/Dialog/varval.asp?ma=0309202S&ti=Regionalna+bruto+dodana+vrednost+po+dejavnostih+v+osnovnih+cenah%2C+teko%20E8e+cene%2C+Slovenija%2C+letno&path=../Database/Ekonomsko/03\\_nacionalni\\_racuni/30\\_03092\\_regionalni\\_rac/&lang=2](http://pxweb.stat.si/pxweb/Dialog/varval.asp?ma=0309202S&ti=Regionalna+bruto+dodana+vrednost+po+dejavnostih+v+osnovnih+cenah%2C+teko%20E8e+cene%2C+Slovenija%2C+letno&path=../Database/Ekonomsko/03_nacionalni_racuni/30_03092_regionalni_rac/&lang=2)



is a relatively low added value per employee, whereas labour-intensive activities and production activity with relatively low added value are predominant in the cohesion region of Vzhodna Slovenija. SMEs in the cohesion region of Vzhodna Slovenija should be put at the forefront and measures should be tailored especially for them, in terms of the content, scope and form of funding, given that they have different needs from enterprises in the cohesion region of Zahodna Slovenija.

If Slovenia wishes to boost economic competitiveness, it should make efforts to step up the productivity and competitiveness of existing enterprises, and to encourage the creation of new innovative enterprises with an emphasis on high-tech enterprises active in the areas defined in the Smart Specialisation Strategy. Innovative and emerging enterprises conceal enormous untapped potential. Also, enterprises should be provided with support in all stages of their lifecycle, through a combination of various forms of incentives. The ESI Funds under **priority axis 3** will thus be ring-fenced for designing a comprehensive set of measures to render access to finance easier and to facilitate doing business with a view to creating better conditions for the growth and development of enterprises. The gap analysis which is being undertaken will show which of the existing financial instruments should be kept in the future and which new ones should be introduced. The analysis will also help determine the required amounts and allocations in this area. The measures will be designed to provide support for entrepreneurship, particularly by facilitating the commercial use of new ideas and promoting the creation of new enterprises, including business incubators. The main challenge in both cohesion regions is to upgrade and adjust the existing supportive environment that will, considering the relevant needs of each of the two regions, contribute to stepping up their entrepreneurial activity. This will allow the enterprises to access new or better and connected services that will be tailored to the relevant key growth stages of enterprises, while special attention will be given to cross-cutting themes that may provide further impetus for their growth (ICT, energy efficiency, resource efficiency etc.). Development and implementation of

new business models for SMEs, particularly for their internationalisation, will be promoted. Strengthening of the SMEs' competences and resources, deployment of advanced business models and development of partnerships will help the SMEs to position themselves in the global market and retain their position. According to national and foreign research, the competitiveness of enterprises is significantly affected by the promotion of design-management and branding (of individual locations, too); hence, this area will receive the necessary support in line with the Smart Specialisation Strategy.

Structural deficiencies and administrative barriers in the area of spatial planning and construction significantly hinder the growth and development of enterprises. Support under **priority axis 2** under the project e-Space (eProstor) will be provided for appropriate IT solutions and administrative processes in order to increase the transparency and efficiency of spatial management and construction, which will speed up the investment cycle.

The generally low level of trust in the rule of law and justice system institutions severely undermines economic competition and slows down economic development. The competitiveness of enterprises has also been compromised due to admittedly poor results in the area of commercial dispute resolution and on account of lengthy and inefficient insolvency procedures. Bankruptcy procedures and compulsory composition procedures are complicated and cumbersome, and unfriendly for the business environment, especially SMEs and micro enterprises. Inefficient public administration (including the justice system) and corruption are additional obstacles to attaining enhanced competitiveness and economic growth.

Slovenia should first and foremost witness improvements in the legislative environment, enhanced implementation of measures for free movement of services (removal of disproportionate obstacles, liberalisation of regulated professions etc.),<sup>16</sup> adopt measures seeking to

<sup>16</sup> Council Recommendation on Slovenia's 2014 National Reform Programme and delivering a Council opinion on Slovenia's 2014 Stability Programme (Recommendation No 7).



bring down corruption and improve the transparency and quality of the public administration.<sup>17</sup> The key challenge in this context is to improve the efficiency of the public administration by gradually decreasing public resources. This could be sustained by putting in place a comprehensive system for monitoring quality, measurable targets and performance by means of process indicators. Investment under **priority axis 11** will seek to augment institutional capacity and improve the efficiency of public administration and public services at the national, regional and local level to ensure the much-needed reforms and good governance and to improve legislation. Support for improved handling of various judicial and administrative proceedings, guarantees of safety, availability and usability of archival materials, improved efficiency of the public administration and reduced corruption will contribute to lively economic activity and enhanced competitiveness of enterprises, especially of SMEs. That said, we expect the business environment to become much more attractive to foreign investors.

The crisis put enormous strain on the social dialogue, one of the pillars of the European social model; hence, its core structures should be reinforced, while efficient social dialogue should contribute to pulling the country out of the crisis. NGOs can play an important role in this sense, but they have still not managed to develop to their fullest potentials as regards policy making and implementation and innovation of public services. The existing capacities of the sector will have to be upgraded and new ones created, while their qualifications and professionalism should be upgraded and coordination of their work improved.

- **ENHANCING LABOUR MARKET INTEGRATION THROUGH EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

The crisis and numerous problems of the Slovenian economy have been manifested in the deteriorated situation in the labour market in the past few years.

Unemployment soared to record highs due to many lost jobs on the one hand and lack of jobs on the other, coupled with a marked fall in employment rates. The share of young unemployed persons, first job seekers and long-term unemployed has increased, while older workers and low-skilled workers are being gradually crowded out as they lose their competitive edge in the labour market.

Slovenia has therefore set itself the priority target of increasing employment as set out in the Europe 2020 Strategy (75% of 20-64 year olds employed). Slovenia scored above the EU average as regards employment rates in the 2000-2011 period, but the employment rate fell below the EU average in 2011 after the economic and financial crisis hit, the fall culminating in 2013 when the employment rate reached a mere 67.2% (a fall of 5.8 percentage points against 2008) with the employment rate for women standing at 63% and for men at 71.2%. Current trends do not show any signs of progress in terms of getting closer to the Europe 2020 Strategy targets, as gradual improvements are expected as late as beyond 2015.

Such a situation calls for radical measures designed to facilitate access to employment for the identified labour market groups with simultaneous investment in their human capital. Good links between the measures in the labour market and the education sphere, especially in the area of access to lifelong learning (LLL) and reduction of labour market disparities will be pivotal in this context. The under-average productivity, measured in added value per employee, the economic structure and other factors score low values due to an inappropriate set of capacities and competences. These measures will receive support under **priority axes 8 and 10**.

The situation in both cohesion regions differs considerably; the region of Vzhodna Slovenija is faced with much bigger challenges. The employment rate in the region stands at merely 65% (4.7 percentage points lower than in the cohesion region of Zahodna Slovenija), and the same goes for unemployment – according to the labour force survey the 2013 unemployment rate in the region of Vzhodna Slovenija stood at 11.4% (2.7

<sup>17</sup> Council Recommendation on Slovenia's 2014 National Reform Programme and delivering a Council opinion on Slovenia's 2014 Stability Programme (Recommendation No 8).

percentage points higher than in Zahodna Slovenija). The unemployment rate for men in the cohesion region of Vzhodna Slovenija in 2013 stood at 10.5% (8.3% in Zahodna Slovenija) and for women at 12.6 % (9.2% in Zahodna Slovenija). There were more unemployed men than women in both cohesion regions at the end of 2013 according to the Employment Service of Slovenia (ESS) data (50.5% in the region of Vzhodna Slovenija and 54.4% in the region of Zahodna Slovenija). Older unemployed and highly-educated individuals are more numerous in the cohesion region of Zahodna Slovenija. The decrease in the employment rates and soaring unemployment rates were associated with low labour force participation rates for workers over 50 years of age, low employment rates of less educated workers and a persistent increase in long-term unemployment.

The unemployment rate among the 15-24 age group stood at 21.6% in 2013 (EU 23.5%); the rate was higher in the cohesion region of Vzhodna Slovenija at 26.5% (16.4% in the cohesion region of Zahodna Slovenija). A cause for concern is the high unemployment figures among 25-29 year olds, which are above the EU average and have risen by as many as 10.9 percentage points since 2008. The cohort's 2013 unemployment rate stood at 17.4% (EU 14.5%, the Zahodna Slovenija region 17.6%, the Vzhodna Slovenija region 17.3%). What is even more worrying is the persistent increase in the number of unemployed individuals with completed tertiary education – 6.2% (EU 6.5%). The biggest gender gap is recorded for the 25-29 cohorts with a university degree, as women account for as much as 76.4% of the registered unemployed.

Long-term unemployment is on the increase, with the long-term unemployment rate in 2013 standing at 5.2% (EU 5.1%), the share of long-term unemployed persons aged over 55 at 7.0 % (EU 7.7 %) and of persons aged over 50 at 8.7 % (EU 7.8 %). The employment rate of older workers picked up slightly in the last year (by 0.6 percentage points), mostly as a result of the pension system reform's effects. Nevertheless, the country is at the tail-end of the EU scale as regards the employment rate of workers over 55 years of age, having reached

33.5% in 2013 (EU 50.2%). The share of the employed population between 20 and 64 years should increase in Slovenia, with particular attention given to older workers. These workers are, more often than not, less educated than other workers, and are often far from LLL education and training activities, especially those that have jobs in SMEs.

In order to get back on the right track to reach the Europe 2020 Strategy target (75% employment rate), the country needs to provide incentives for employment of the unemployed and the inactive, particularly of identified target groups. European Social Fund (ESF) support will enhance the labour market measures that are now supported by the national funds. **Priority axis 8** will seek to improve the access of the unemployed, especially of the relevant target groups, to quality employment through appropriate active labour market policy measures (ALMP) that will target a particular group of the unemployed, and through further improvements and development of new ESS services and services of other labour market institutions, in order to facilitate activation of these target groups and to provide intermediary services between the employers and the unemployed in the form of job brokering. Promotion of mobility in the EU via EURES, enhanced involvement of partners, measures tackling the shadow economy, strengthening of regulatory institutions and reduction of structural imbalances in the labour market will contribute to this objective. Quality skills forecasting will improve the reconciliation between labour market supply and demand, which is currently hampered by the lack of appropriate tools and collaboration between the relevant stakeholders.

ALMP programmes that will promote employment via subsidies and different forms of training for the unemployed and that have been implemented in the 2007-2013 period will be upgraded so as to take on board the results of the research carried out,<sup>18</sup> which propo-

<sup>18</sup> Evaluation of the major ALMP programmes, including the measures to fight the economic and financial crisis, October 2012, EIPF, EKONOMSKI INSTITUT, d.o.o.; Government Office for Local Self-Government and Regional Policy, Evaluation of the labour market in the scope of the Operational Programme for Human Resources Development, 2012

ses greater concentration. These documents recommend that programmes become more concentrated. Access to employment for job seekers and the inactive, including long-term unemployed and individuals far from the labour market will be promoted, inter alia, through local employment initiatives and promotion of labour mobility. Special attention will be given to healthy and active ageing. The demographic changes and low employment rates among those over 55 years of age require adaptation of workplaces and working environments to older workers and the disabled and promotion of joint projects of social partners in this area. Implementation of these projects will ensure that working environments and the relevant needs of older workers are matched, which will boost the competitiveness of older workers in the labour market and will, subsequently, improve employment rates in this population group. A small share of the measures will target other age groups with the aim of ensuring health and safety at work and reconciliation between work and private life, all with a view to prolonging working life and postponing retirement.

Sustainable integration of young people, especially of those not in employment, education or training (NEET) in the labour market will also receive support. Moreover, measures will reach out to young people at risk of social exclusion and members of marginalised communities, including via the Youth Guarantee. Youth unemployment in the cohesion region of Vzhodna Slovenija will also be tackled with the help of **Youth Employment Initiative (YEI)** support.

Support will also be given to ALPM measures targeting members of vulnerable groups that will regain employability after participating in social inclusion and activation programmes. Other groups that will be addressed in this context will be workers on the verge of being made redundant and groups of individuals having the same problems that will represent the majority of registered unemployed individuals (for example, these are currently women with tertiary education).

Notwithstanding the fact that Slovenia has already achieved the objectives in the field of education under

the Europe 2020 Strategy, it needs to make further investment in education and training, as the participation rate of adults in all forms of education fell below the target value in 2012 (15%), to 14.5%. Despite a relatively high participation rate of adults in LLL, data suggest that especially the lower educated have below-average participation rates (Slovenia 2.7%, EU-28 4.6%; 2013) and that the divide between the most educated (ISCED 5-6)<sup>19</sup> and the least educated (ISCED 1-2)<sup>20</sup> individuals is vast.

In 2013 the 55-64 age group recorded a slightly lower level of participation than the EU-28 average for the first time (Slovenia 5.7%; EU-28 5.8%)<sup>21</sup>, but fell considerably behind the countries with which it seeks comparison (e.g. Denmark 23%). The 2013 Development Report<sup>22</sup> suggests that increased participation in education of the 55-64 age group, of the low-skilled and poorly educated is a significant factor in improving their employability. The Resolution on the National Programme of Adult Education in the Republic of Slovenia for the Period 2013-2020 also sets people over the age of 45 and the low-skilled as core target groups.

Data shows that educational attainment in the cohesion region of Vzhodna Slovenija is lower than in the cohesion region of Zahodna Slovenija (approximately 60% of the population in Vzhodna Slovenija and 40% in Zahodna Slovenija have either not completed primary school, have completed primary school or have a level below secondary vocational education). Furthermore, much fewer persons participate in education and training programmes<sup>23</sup> (28% in Vzhodna Slovenija compared to 72% in Zahodna Slovenija) and in LLL.

19 ISCED 5: First stage of tertiary education; ISCED 6: Second stage of tertiary education.

20 ISCED 1: Primary education or first stage of basic education; ISCED 2: Lower secondary education or second stage of basic education.

21 Eurostat, <http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/education/data/database> (Participation in education and training by educational attainment, lifelong learning – LFS data; last update 26 February 2014).

22 IMAD, Development Report 2013

23 SORS, 2012: the number of adults enrolled for the first time by gender, age, form of education, type of organisation, cohesion region.

In terms of improving the competences of individuals, the 2007-2013 period introduced instruments for the promotion of social inclusion, improvement of general knowledge and literacy and instruments that fostered secondary education attainment. The interim evaluation of the OP HRD 2007–2013<sup>24</sup> underlined the importance of adult skills development as the key element driving personal growth and as an important tool in securing the competitiveness of countries and regions in future. These measures will be further pursued in the 2014-2020 period and will target lower educated, lower skilled and older people as a priority. At the same time, the measures will seek to preserve the specific and traditional know-how and skills of these workers. There are two challenges the country wishes to overcome in this context: increasing participation rates in LLL and reducing the skills mismatch which is manifested by the discrepancy between the supply of qualifications and skills and the actual labour market needs.<sup>25</sup>

The role of career orientation should be strengthened. Furthermore, Slovenia should strive to improve the attractiveness of vocational education and training, as certain occupations are, currently, running short in the labour market.<sup>26</sup> A modernised and more responsive vocational and professional education system will become much more attractive, equipping pupils with better practical skills, and by involving the relevant stakeholders in the implementation of activities the vocational education system will become much more responsive to labour market needs. Slovenia also needs to strengthen the professional competences of teachers in the area of vocational education while using the existing infrastructure in order to improve the responsiveness of education to technological development.

Despite the fact that Slovenia has reached the Europe 2020 Strategy targets in the field of education, challenges remain, mostly related to key competences (reading literacy, mathematical literacy, scientific literacy, financial literacy etc.) where Slovenia lags behind the EU target values (PISA, 2012). Measures should focus on the promotion of flexible forms of learning at all levels of education; on forms that will enhance capacity for innovation, creativity and the entrepreneurial mind-set of young people, including measures that link the young to their environment. Employment opportunities for graduates fell drastically during the crisis, as the labour market experienced a decrease of suitable employment and because their profiles often failed to match the labour market needs. An analysis of the correlation between the labour market and higher education enrolment showed that higher education institutions often fail to recognize the significance of the labour market situation and the employability of their graduates, when considering the availability of certain study programmes and the number of enrolment places.<sup>27</sup> Therefore, Slovenia needs to address the issue by monitoring employers' needs for specific know-how and competences of graduates. According to studies,<sup>28</sup> employers would appreciate graduates who possess more study-related work experience and general skills. In order to develop these competences, the country needs to introduce flexible forms of learning that will be based on cooperation between employers and higher education institutions in developing innovative/active learning methods, practical training, research projects, career guidance and quality assessment.

ESI Funds will provide complementary support for the ICT infrastructure that is a prerequisite for the development of such competences of the young that directly relate to the advancement of more flexible forms of le-

24 Final report of interim evaluation of the first and second priority Improvement of quality and effectiveness of education and training systems and Improvement of individual's qualifications for work and life in a knowledge-based society under priority axis 3 of the Operational Programme for Human Resources Development for the Period 2007-2013, Kamnik, August 2011, available at eu-skladi.si

25 Council Recommendation on Slovenia's 2014 National Reform Programme and delivering a Council opinion on Slovenia's 2014 Stability Programme (Recommendation No 3).

26 Council Recommendation on Slovenia's 2014 National Reform Programme and delivering a Council opinion on Slovenia's 2014 Stability Programme (Recommendation No. 3).

27 Trg dela in visokošolski razpis za vpis – Analiza trga dela v povezavi z visokošolskimi vpisnimi mesti ter številom študentov in diplomantov; 2013, str. 43. (Labour market and the pre-enrolment announcement – Labour market analysis in connection with the number of available places and the numbers of students and graduates, 2013, pp 43).

28 HEGESCO: Higher Education as a Generator of Strategic Competences (<http://www.hegesco.org/>), Slovensko visoko šolstvo s perspektive zaposljivosti diplomantov (Slovenian higher education from the aspect of graduate employability) (<http://www.mfdps.si/Files/Karierni%20center/Slovensko%20VS%20s%20perspektive%20zaposljivosti%20diplomantov.pdf>).

arning and innovative learning environments. Further investment in the development of a modern, efficient, more accessible and safer educational infrastructure and e-content will be a springboard towards widespread use of e-learning, which in turn will lead to improved quality and efficiency of education and, subsequently, to its ability to adapt to the ever-changing needs.

- **PROMOTING SOCIAL INCLUSION AND COUNTERING POVERTY**

Slovenia is one of the EU Member States with a below-average risk of social exclusion and poverty. However, the risk of poverty has been rapidly increasing in the last two years, recording a faster pace than in other Member States, which makes Slovenia one of the countries that saw a significant increase in this respect. The country recorded 410,000 people in, or at risk of, poverty and social exclusion in 2013, which is a shift away from the 2020 target set at 320,000. This negative trend requires considerable efforts to be made to put in place a comprehensive, effective and financially sustainable system that ensures timely detection and prevention of any increase in the at-risk-of-poverty rate on the one hand and on the other combats the issues of poverty and social exclusion.

An increase in the at-risk-of-poverty rate has affected almost all socio-economic groups, but it is rising particularly among multiple-children families, the elderly and even children.<sup>29</sup> According to the latest data for 2013, the at-risk-of-poverty rate in Slovenia stood at 14.5% (cohesion region of Zahodna Slovenija 12.2%, cohesion region of Vzhodna Slovenija 16.6%). The gap between the two cohesion regions is gradually narrowing, as the region of Zahodna Slovenija is experiencing a much faster growth of the at-risk-of-poverty rate. That rate rose by 3.6%<sup>30</sup> in the 2008-2011 period, while in the region of Vzhodna Slovenija it increased by 1% in that same period, and was higher for women (15.4%) than for men (13.5%), especially for women over 65 ye-

ars of age and living alone (women 42.1%, men 33.2%). A considerable share of underage children is living below the poverty line (19%) according to the SORS data.

Poverty goes hand in hand with a poor state of health and frequent chronic disease risk factors, which are already the main cause of disability, early incidence of disease and death. The prevalence of cardiovascular disease in the 45-64 age group is highest among those who are less educated and have the lowest income, which could at least partly be attributed to the fact that those with low education levels often tend to be smokers, while those from low socio-economic status backgrounds more often than not tend to face obesity-related issues. Also, children from low socio-economic status households tend to be less physically active. Socio-economic factors and mental disorders are often interrelated, with depression being frequent in both genders and in those with low education levels, while suicide risk is more frequent in those with low education levels and the unemployed. Alcohol use and abuse is another frequent issue,<sup>31</sup> as Slovenia ranks fifth among EU Member States in terms of adult alcohol consumption per capita. Alcohol abuse has much to do with rising health inequalities in Slovenia (with men in the cohesion region of Vzhodna Slovenija being particularly affected by it).<sup>32</sup>

The current range of programmes on offer targeting socially excluded people (notably long-term recipients of social assistance in cash facing multiple barriers to integrate into the labour market) is poor, as merely 3% of total recipients were included in the employment incentives in 2012. Even in the health sector the programmes on prevention, early detection and comprehensive treatment of chronic diseases fail to meet the needs of vulnerable

29 IMAD, Development Report, p. 178, ([http://www.umar.gov.si/fileadmin/user\\_upload/publikacije/pr/2013/POR\\_2013s.pdf](http://www.umar.gov.si/fileadmin/user_upload/publikacije/pr/2013/POR_2013s.pdf)).

30 SORS, Income and poverty indicators by cohesion regions, ([http://www.stat.si/novica\\_prikazi.aspx?id=5609](http://www.stat.si/novica_prikazi.aspx?id=5609))

31 Neenakosti v zdravju v Sloveniji. T Buzeti et al; Ljubljana: Inštitut za varovanje zdravja Republike Slovenije, 2011. (Health Inequalities in Slovenia), T Buzeti et al; Ljubljana: National Institute of Public Health, 2011)

32 ALKOHOL v Sloveniji : trendi v načinu pitja, zdravstvene posledice škodljivega pitja, mnenja akterjev in predlogi ukrepov za učinkovitejšo alkoholno politiko / urednice Maja Zorko ... [et al.]. - Ljubljana: Inštitut za varovanje zdravja Republike Slovenije, 2013. (Alcohol in Slovenia: consumption trends, negative effects of alcohol abuse, positions of actors and proposed measures for a more efficient alcohol policy / editor Maja Zorko... [et al.]. - Ljubljana: then National Institute of Public Health, 2013).



groups, while there is room for improvement in terms of cooperation with the social care system.

The older population is growing at a fast pace. According to estimates<sup>33</sup>, the number of people aged over 65 years in need of long-term care services is about to jump from the current 30,000 to 40,000 in 2020, while the number of individuals from among the 20-65 age group who need such services is to increase by 2,000. According to the OECD data<sup>34</sup>, currently 1.9% use formal long-term care, of which 1.2% receive institutional care and 0.7% receive long-term care at home. Slovenia should properly respond to the Council recommendation that addresses the need to contain age-related expenditure on long-term care by refocusing care provision from institutional to community-based care.<sup>35</sup> Supported activities will thus allow for the upgrading of existing and development of new forms of community-based services, while the bulk of the funds under priority axis 9 will support investment in infrastructure with a view to improving the quality of long-term care services provided across Slovenia.

Considering the drawbacks in the functioning of the Slovenian health system, the country needs to undertake a comprehensive expenditure review of the sector, both at the national and local level, and finance the review from own funds or other resources.<sup>36</sup>

Members of minority ethnic groups with a different cultural identity and the disabled with their specific issues are often on an unequal footing when it comes to accessing cultural goods and, consequently, integrating into their environment or society, and also in terms of active labour market integration, which is why dedicated

programmes catering specifically to the needs of these groups will be designed with the aim of promoting their social inclusion and enhancing it.

The bulk of funds under **priority axis 9** should therefore be focused on comprehensive social activation measures that ensure an active approach to addressing the issue of social exclusion. Measures in this area require a comprehensive approach that brings together social care and healthcare, and integrates the educational and cultural components that enable future access to the labour market and also receive enough support under **priority axis 8**.

Social inclusion is connected to support for social entrepreneurship, which has numerous development opportunities in store – either for the development of new products and services or for employment. Slovenia is well behind the EU average in this respect, as in the 2009-2010 period the share of employees in the social economy as opposed to all employees accounted for a negligible 0.73% according to Eurostat data (EU 6.53%).<sup>37</sup> A wide spectrum of different forms of social enterprises and non-profit cooperatives should therefore be supported.

European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) support under priority axis 9 will be provided for community-led local development (CLLD) that allows the local population to set priorities and development targets on its own, thus shaping the future of local development.<sup>38</sup>

#### • RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND REDUCING ENVIRONMENTAL PRESSURES

Resource and energy efficiency are crucial for enhancing the competitiveness of the economy and reducing environmental pressures. Priority axes 1 and 3 will

33 Resolution on the National Social Care Programme 2013–2020.

34 Help Wanted? Providing and paying for long-term care, OECD 2011.

35 Council Recommendation on Slovenia's 2014 National Reform Programme and delivering a Council opinion on Slovenia's 2014 Stability Programme (Recommendation No 2).

36 Council Recommendation on Slovenia's 2014 National Reform Programme and delivering a Council opinion on Slovenia's 2014 Stability Programme (Recommendation No 1).

37 The social economy in the European Union, Summary of the Report drawn up for the European Economic and Social Committee by the CIRIEC, EU 2012, p. 39 (<http://www.eesc.europa.eu/resources/docs/qe-31-12-784-en-c.pdf>).

38 In line with the limitations that apply to each specific Fund, CLLD may receive support under EAFRD and EMFF. Detailed demarcation between the ERDF, EAFRD and EMFF used for CLLD will be discussed in chapter 8 of the OP.

support actions to improve the material and energy efficiency of enterprises and their ability to exploit the potentials which exist within the national and foreign markets in the field of green products and services. Investments under **priority axes 4, 5 and 6** will support actions which contribute to reducing environmental pressures and enhancing climate change adaptation. Such investments will also be supported by actions in the field of the labour market and education.

Slovenia achieved the interim end-use energy savings target for 2011 (4.9%), which is set out in Directive 2006/32/EC. By 2012 the achieved end-use energy savings, calculated in accordance with the methodology set out in the above-mentioned Directive, stood at 2,727 GWh which represents 5.7% out of the 9% target to be realised by 2016. In 2014 Slovenia has been drafting a new Energy Efficiency Action Plan for the 2014-2020 period, in accordance with Directive 2012/27/EU. The Energy Efficiency Action Plan for the period 2014-2020 will identify the actions to achieve the EU 2020 national targets.

Despite the investments made thus far in the field of energy renovation of buildings, renewable energy sources (RES) and efficient energy use, both cohesion regions still remain in need of such investments. Extensive investments in the field of housing stock renovation will also accelerate economic growth, create jobs and reduce Slovenia's dependence on imported energy. ESI Funds support used for improving the energy efficiency (EE) of the public sector will help improve the state of public finances and facilitate the fulfilment of obligations set out in Directive 2010/31/EU, which states that on an annual basis Member States should renovate 3% of state-owned buildings.

Actions for reducing energy poverty, which has been on the rise in the past few years in Slovenia, will also be supported. In the field of EE emphasis will also be given to developing financial instruments to promote the entry of private capital and to strengthen the role of energy suppliers in promoting and implementing EE projects.

In line with Directive 2009/28/EC Slovenia's national overall target for the share of energy from renewable sources in gross final consumption of energy in 2020 stands at 25% (21.5% for 2013), and the national target for the share of energy from renewable sources in transport stands at 10%. Slovenia has been successful in meeting its targets for the share of energy from renewable sources used in heating while it is slightly lagging behind in electricity consumption, mainly due to the lack of investments in new electricity generation units.<sup>39</sup>

In the area of heat supply, improving energy efficiency of the housing stock will be the key action under the future energy policy. The ambitious transition to low-carbon sources will also be implemented, specifically accelerating the deployment of RES heat generation systems, with the main focus being on promoting the use of biomass, solar and geothermal energy and biomass utilisation in high-efficiency systems for the cogeneration of heat and electricity and in district heating systems. Incentives will comply with the requirements set out in Directive 2008/50/EC and the package of actions for cleaner air in Europe, as the construction of new individual biomass systems will not be promoted in areas which have already introduced district heating systems and brownfield sites where the air is polluted. Investments will also comply with EU regulations to ensure the quality of watercourses and the conservation of biodiversity.

Smart grids can also contribute significantly to reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and improving energy efficiency (EE). Smart grids, inter alia, provide opportunities to develop a range of new products and services and job creation, and thus represent an opportunity also for small and medium-sized innovative enterprises (the global smart grid market is one of the fastest growing markets). Such enterprises also offer high-qualified jobs and generate high added-value.<sup>40,41</sup> In the field of electricity distribution Slovenia will thus support the expansion of smart distribution systems by introducing smart active

39 Evaluation of the Operational Programme for Environmental and Transport Infrastructure Development for the period 2007-2013

40 <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2011:0202:FIN:SL:PDF>

41 <http://www.smartgrids.si/index.php/sl/o-tehnoloski-platformi>

networks and metering systems for remote data transmission to improve EE and enhance the use of RES.

Promotion of sustainable mobility, including in urban areas, also plays a crucial role in climate change mitigation. The current situation regarding the use of public passenger transport (PPT) in Slovenia is poor as the share of passengers using public road and rail transport is decreasing.<sup>42</sup> Slovenia has one of the highest shares of passenger cars per 1,000 inhabitants. According to Eurostat data, households in Slovenia were at the very top of EU Member States in terms of the amount of funds used for transportation.<sup>43</sup> One of the most pressing issues in urban areas concerns air quality, especially PM10 particles, with unsustainable transportation patterns in urban areas contributing to GHG emissions in the transport sector.

System-wide solutions for sustainable mobility will be based on the prepared integrated transport strategies, which will address the issue of sustainable mobility at the level of urban areas or even at the regional level. Urban areas that are eligible to receive ITI mechanism support will need to establish compliance of integrated transport strategies with sustainable urban strategies (SUS). With regard to the specific needs of individual areas, support will be given to relevant infrastructure projects, with investment in soft actions and the design of intelligent IT systems, transport management systems and the promotion of mobility management also being of great relevance. On the basis of the integrated transport strategies support will also be given to investments in the field of eco-mobility and infrastructure for alternative fuel vehicles, if such vehicles prove to be eligible in terms of costs. By doing so, Slovenia will also contribute to meeting the target for the 10% share of energy from renewable sources in transport, and to taking advantage of the development potentials which exist in this field.

Investments in climate change adaptation will be of great relevance in the next programming period, as climate change causes an increase in the frequency and

severity of natural disasters and the consequent damage. Slovenia has still not adopted an integrated strategy for climate change adaptation, which means that no system-wide solutions exist, and this, in turn, hinders the planning process for sectoral policies and reduces Slovenia's resilience to climate change. This shortcoming will be remedied through a comprehensive evaluation of opportunities and threats, which will identify the most vulnerable sectors in terms of risk prevention and management. Slovenia will also design comprehensive and synergistic actions associated with the corresponding spatial planning. In the context of compliance with the requirements of ex-ante conditionalities, for the next programming period Slovenia will make a risk assessment of major natural and other disasters, which will be the basis for drafting the national disaster risk assessment. The actions will comply with transnational strategies, cross-border cooperation and joint mechanisms for co-ordinated action in disaster management.

Throughout Slovenia hydrological extremes are occurring more frequently and are becoming more pronounced. In addition to earthquakes, floods represent the most serious threat in terms of natural disasters.<sup>44</sup> Floods have already claimed casualties, and the estimated direct damage is also extensive.<sup>45</sup> In accordance with the legal framework of Directive 2007/60/EC Slovenia has identified 61 potential significant flood risk areas<sup>46</sup> where extreme floods may cause severe damage to human health, economic activity, public infrastructure, cultural heritage and the environment.<sup>47</sup>

In the framework of **priority axis 5** Slovenia will use ESI Funds support for comprehensively addressing

<sup>42</sup> Source: Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia, 8/2012

<sup>43</sup> Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia, 2011

<sup>44</sup> Revised Progress Report on Disaster Risk Assessment of the Republic of Slovenia, Administration of the Republic of Slovenia for Civil protection and Disaster relief, 2012

<sup>45</sup> Summarised from the Ex-ante evaluation of flood risk in the Republic of Slovenia (Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning, 2011) and data on flood damage 2012

<sup>46</sup> These areas were identified on the basis of the Report on the determination of the potential significant flood risk areas in the Republic of Slovenia and the monitoring of activities of flood management in these areas, available at:

[http://www.mko.gov.si/fileadmin/mko.gov.si/pageuploads/podrocja/voda/porocilo\\_OPVP.pdf](http://www.mko.gov.si/fileadmin/mko.gov.si/pageuploads/podrocja/voda/porocilo_OPVP.pdf)

<sup>47</sup> [http://www.mko.gov.si/fileadmin/mko.gov.si/pageuploads/podrocja/voda/karta\\_obmocij\\_OPVP.pdf](http://www.mko.gov.si/fileadmin/mko.gov.si/pageuploads/podrocja/voda/karta_obmocij_OPVP.pdf)



flood risk management and reduction in the identified potential significant flood risk areas. This approach will include structural and non-structural flood protection measures, with an emphasis on infrastructure representing the backbone of what is called the green infrastructure in Natura 2000 sites. In search of synergies, linkages will be made between the implementation of structural and non-structural measures and measures pursuing the improvement of the hydro-morphological status of waters, which will result in improved water status and help prevent the water status from deteriorating. In selecting projects specific emphasis will be given to project maturity, which is the condition for the projects to be implemented in a high-quality manner and without significant delays such as Slovenia faced numerous times in the 2007-2013 period.

In terms of preventive actions support will also be given to measures for monitoring water levels and for the establishment of an appropriate flood forecasting system in potential significant flood risk areas where these have still not been developed. Furthermore, appropriate information-awareness-raising systems will be set up or upgraded in the field of flood risk management and prevention, and material and technical means to respond to floods provided.

One of the more significant factors that contribute to greater flood protection is the adequate hydro-morphological regulation of watercourses, as hydro-morphological pressure is one of the key reasons why Slovenia will not attain good water status by 2015 in the Danube River Basin District in accordance with the requirements set out in the Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC. Achieving the objectives in the northern Adriatic sea basin district is hindered by the pollution of water bodies, particularly the pollution of water bodies in the coastal sea area with priority substances and other pollutants. In terms of the quality of watercourses 38.1% of surface water bodies in Slovenia do not achieve good ecological status or good ecological potential. ESI Funds will therefore support the improvement of the hydro-morphological status of watercourses, in combination with investment in the field of flood protection and biodiversity.

Synergies will be established with projects under LIFE and ETC programmes.

Comparison of the data regarding investments made in environmental protection in terms of the regional GDP share shows that in the period 2007-2011 such investments, implemented in the cohesion region of Vzhodna Slovenija, were above the Slovenian average. With the exception of 2008, the Vzhodna Slovenija region demonstrates an above-average share of funds earmarked for investment in environmental protection relative to other investment. Past investments for environmental infrastructure, supported by ESI Funds, have significantly improved the situation in this area. Nevertheless, the needs in both cohesion regions are still great, especially regarding fulfilment of the requirements set out in EU regulations, as Slovenia will have to deal with legal actions for violating the Community acquis if it fails to fulfil these requirements.

One of the more problematic issues pertains to urban wastewater collection and treatment infrastructure in agglomerations with a total load equal to or above 2,000 PE. The equipment and the number of people connected to the public sewerage system do not comply with the requirements set out in Article 3 of Directive 91/271/EEC. After 2007-2013 projects completion, i.e. by the end of 2015, less than half of the areas will meet the requirements set out in that Directive.<sup>48</sup> Therefore, in the period 2014-2020 key investments will be made in projects that will bring Slovenia closer to the objectives set out in the Directive and will be financed under **priority axis 6**. To avoid potential problems in terms of project implementation, special attention will be given to projects that demonstrate maturity in terms of being implemented or to projects that represent any outstanding phase of projects, where necessary and relevant.

ESI Funds will also be used to ensure greater transparency of the performance of public utility service providers in the field of environmental protection, and to

<sup>48</sup> Slovenia is currently negotiating with the European Commission to extend this deadline.

enhancing the quality and efficiency of their services, as this has thus far not been subject to comparative evaluation. Support will also be given to measures for upgrading the existing databases. The existing IT solutions do not facilitate efficient implementation of Directive 91/271/EEC or water management.

The situation in terms of drinking water supply is also improving, although certain areas still face inappropriate drinking water quality, especially in terms of ensuring microbiological safety in smaller systems, which is coupled with high concentrations of certain chemical pollutants in drinking water. The fact that certain water supply systems are worn out results in losses of drinking water which, in turn, does not provide efficient water management. Therefore, construction of the necessary water supply infrastructure (new systems and reconstruction of the existing ones) will be the number one priority in the future programming period, with a view to providing efficient, good-quality and reliable drinking water supply in areas where public supply systems have not yet been built or are inappropriate. Slovenia will thus provide for the supply of safe drinking water in line with Directive 98/83/EC. Funds will also be allocated to actions targeted at active protection of water resources and setting up systems to monitor drinking water quality and passive protection methods. Where necessary and relevant, special attention will be given to projects that demonstrate maturity in terms of being implemented or to projects that represent any outstanding phase of projects.

It has already been established that ESI Funds support will not suffice in terms of implementing all the necessary projects, which in turn means that other funding sources will also need to be harnessed. More attention will have to be paid to finding opportunities for the allocation of reimbursable funds. To ensure greater cost efficiency in the use of financial resources, average unit costs will be monitored. Technical assistance funds will contribute to improving the implementation of projects in the field of environmental infrastructure construction, which will be used for eliminating the identified obstacles that hindered the implementation of projects in the period 2007-2013.

Actions to be supported under this investment priority contribute to the environmental pillars of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region and EUSAIR.

Cities play a vital role in meeting the Europe 2020 targets, but only if they design sustainable urban development models and if they facilitate the establishing of links with their surrounding areas and if they establish control over the use and quality of public space and the housing stock. In addition to the development opportunities that cities offer, cities still face numerous environmental challenges which relate primarily to inefficient spatial use, unsustainable transport policy and inefficient use of energy.

The sprawl of settlements into new areas places a burden on the environment due to soil sealing, while brownfield sites in urban areas remain undeveloped. As a result of the abandonment of activities, including industrial, Slovenia has recorded 979 hectares of brownfield sites larger than 1 hectare, while the records for other types of brownfield sites are not yet available. The complex nature of the issue of urban centre development will require integrated projects targeting efficient spatial use, improving the quality of the environment and security of life in cities, reducing the carbon footprint and enhancing social inclusion.

Sustainable mobility, RES and EE measures, together with urban renewal measures, will contribute to improving the quality of air in all of the seven most problematic areas. Monitoring the implementation of air quality programmes and preparing the basis for their updating requires a comprehensive analysis of emissions and their impact on air quality, which is why new air quality assessment techniques and techniques for reporting the effects of implementing measures to improve the situation will be rolled out gradually, which complies with Directive 2008/50/EC on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe.

One of the more significant comparative advantages of Slovenia is its biodiversity, which, in turn, provides a high quality of living and facilitates the development of

services related to biodiversity marketing. According to SORS, 30% of foreign tourists are attracted to Slovenia by the preserved landscape, which is predominantly evaluated as excellent.<sup>49</sup> Long-term biodiversity preservation is a precondition for safeguarding jobs in protected areas as well as increasing the share of tourism service exports and the provision of ecosystem services, which also represents a great opportunity for Slovenia's development. Despite a variety of protection arrangements and considerable improvements in some areas, the conservation status of many habitats and species found in Slovenia has deteriorated over a relatively short period. This puts the attainment of the Europe 2020 targets for biodiversity conservation at risk.

Therefore, ESI Funds will be used to support investments for the conservation of species and habitat types in Natura 2000 sites, with adequate arrangements for the interpretation of nature and management of tourist visits also playing an important role. In fulfilling protection objectives, synergies will be sought with the entities responsible for sustainable development of the protection areas to preserve natural and cultural heritage and with a view to increasing their attraction as tourist destinations. Accommodation capacities for tourists will not be supported. Synergies will also be established with the implementation of flood protection measures and measures targeted at improving the hydro-morphological status of waters. In order for activities not to have a major effect on Natura 2000 sites or their influence areas, a statement by the ministry responsible for monitoring the status of Natura 2000 sites will have to be provided. Appropriate solutions to increase the absorption of EU funds under the LIFE programme to conserve biodiversity will also be sought.

- **ENABLING INFRASTRUCTURE**

Considering Slovenia's geostrategic position, transport is an essential factor in boosting its economic development. The efficient functioning of the internal market and Slovenia's recognition in the global market demands

a high-quality and highly-efficient transport system. In terms of meeting the Europe 2020 targets, pertaining to GHG emissions reduction, it is vital to promote investments which put less pressure on the environment.

Slovenia is working to meet the requirements set out under the EU transport policy in the establishment of the trans-European network, and is paying special attention to the development of the core network. Slovenia also provides for the establishment of suitable transport infrastructures and connections at the regional level, which are a condition for the balanced development and accessibility of individual regions. The reduction of external transport costs owing to better traffic flow capacity, roll-out of modern technologies for traffic management and provision of safety in traffic will be key to paving the way to developing the transport sector in Slovenia. According to the Global Competitiveness Index Slovenia's quality of infrastructure ranks Slovenia 35th among 144 countries and 15th among the EU-27.

In recent years, the development of transport infrastructure in Slovenia has been aimed especially at improving the motorway network, while other types of infrastructure fell behind on development. A lack of national investments and interest among national and foreign private investors has resulted in a lag that is particularly evident in rail infrastructure.

The 2007-2013 financial perspective saw Slovenia launch the first projects targeting the modernisation of the rail network under the Cohesion Fund, the completion of most motorway connections on the TEN-T network, removal of bottlenecks and road infrastructure hotspots, further improvements to port infrastructure and projects targeting the enhancement of sustainable mobility through public passenger transport and intermodal centres. Investments in the 2007-2013 period intended to deepen the seabed in the Port of Koper significantly contributed to improving the competitiveness of port and logistics activities at the national level. Despite the investments made thus far, both cohesion regions demonstrate that the resources needed for the development of transport infrastructure surpass the amount of available

49 [http://www.stat.si/tema\\_ekonomsko\\_turizem\\_anketa\\_2012.asp](http://www.stat.si/tema_ekonomsko_turizem_anketa_2012.asp),  
[http://www.stat.si/novica\\_prikazi.aspx?id=5378](http://www.stat.si/novica_prikazi.aspx?id=5378)

ESI Funds, which means that other available resources (such as EIB loans) will have to be applied if Slovenia is to achieve the set objectives.

In accordance with the requirements set out in the ex-ante conditionalities, Slovenia is drawing up the Strategy for the Development of Transport Infrastructure in the Republic of Slovenia, which will define the key bottlenecks based on a complex transport model and list development projects and measures by 2020 or 2030, respectively. The selection of projects will depend on the results of the transport model and eligibility of investments from the aspect of a comprehensive environmental impact assessment. They will ensure improved supply for the economy, mobility of the population and the realisation of actions to improve traffic safety, efficient use of energy and reduction of environmental burdens from transport. They will also contribute to attaining the objective of the relevant EUSDR priority area.

Thanks to its extensive investments in motorways, Slovenia's density of motorways in 2009 was almost twice the EU-27 average. In light of the fact that Slovenia is a transit country, this represents an additional challenge in meeting the national target for GHG emissions reduction in the sectors not covered by the EU Emissions Trading System (non-EU ETS sectors) in the framework of Europe 2020. Under **priority axis 7** the majority of the ESI Funds support will be allocated to investments in rail infrastructure, which is the condition for shifting freight from road to rail and enhancing the safety and competitiveness of rail transport. Hence, investments in the rail system will support development priorities set out in the EU Strategy for the Danube Region, remove bottlenecks in the TEN-T network, improve cross-border connections and increase throughput/performance on existing lines. Preparations for the investment cycle in the core TEN-T network in the Mediterranean and Baltic-Adriatic corridor will also be pursued. By developing the rail and other intermodal transport infrastructure Slovenia will take advantage of its potentials for developing its transport logistic branch. The final miles of links to the TEN-T network and the funding of projects under the CEF are envisaged to this end.

A smaller segment of the ESI Funds support will be allocated to investments in motorways, with the aim of removing bottlenecks on the TEN-T network, improving cross-border connections with neighbouring countries and shortening the time needed to cross the border. With a view to strengthening regional development potential and safeguarding jobs, the country seeks to improve accessibility to the existing TEN-T network and the quality of life, as well as sustain the development of the economy in all Slovenian regions by continuing to implement projects of road transport infrastructure on what are called the development axes. These represent secondary transverse connections and establish links between centres of national importance. They also ensure transport connections with centres of international importance in neighbouring countries and foreign influence areas. Investments in road infrastructure will primarily focus on the cohesion region of Vzhodna Slovenija.

Considering its extremely favourable geostrategic position in terms of supplying the markets of Central and Eastern Europe, the Port of Koper is one of the most important strategic platforms, particularly in terms of intercontinental trade between European markets and emerging markets in the East via the Suez Canal. Investing in the development of adequate port infrastructure is an essential building block in establishing the pan-European multimodal network in which the Mediterranean and Baltic corridor is connected with the sea lanes in the Adriatic-Ionian corridor. In order to increase the competitiveness of maritime transport, Slovenia needs to work on developing the internationally important Port of Koper, upgrading it and modernising its rail connections with the TEN-T network. Slovenia will allocate ESI Funds support to ensure safe conditions for navigation in waterways intended for international navigation in territorial waters and Slovenian internal waterways. The responsibility for the development of port infrastructure lies with the concessionaire, who intends to compete for funds under the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) instrument or other EU funds which are granted on the basis of annual or multi-annual calls for proposals. All investments will be implemented in compliance with

Slovenian and EU legislation on the protection of the environment and waters.

In light of the lessons learned and the problems regarding 2007-2013 period implementation, Slovenia plans to support the establishment of the adequate administrative capacity of the authorities involved in the 2014-2020 EU Cohesion Policy implementation, with special emphasis on the areas and procedures relating to the implementation of major infrastructure projects where implementation was delayed in the 2007-2013 period. In the new programming period Slovenia intends to use and improve the solutions and models mainly in order to improve the efficiency and success of implementing major infrastructure projects, and will also continue to organise training for staff and carry out control over project implementation. In addition to administrative capacity-building of the authorities involved in the 2014-2020 EU Cohesion Policy implementation, it is also essential to support administrative capacity-building of the beneficiaries eligible for ESI Funds absorption – this will be done through education, training and the transfer of knowledge among staff. Technical assistance funds will support such activities.

Modern global trends are underpinned by the development of the information or digital society. This requires a high-performance electronic communications network infrastructure that provides quality access to the Internet for all, and ensures high transmission speeds for the use of advanced interactive multimedia e-services, over the top content (OTT), etc. Accessible broadband infrastructure reduces the digital divide and increases the involvement of individuals in current social movements, while investment in this area also has a positive impact on employment, innovation and productivity.<sup>50,51</sup> In addition, it also contributes to preserving settlement in rural areas and facilitates polycentric development. In accordance with the national strategy for broadband network development by 2020 Slovenia is to ensure 90 per cent

coverage; according to the DAE scoreboard, broadband penetration in Slovenia stood below the EU average in 2013 (SI 74%, EU 76%).

Slovenia's trend of lagging behind when it comes to the development of broadband infrastructure has become very pronounced in recent years and is increasing, regardless of past investments in the construction of broadband infrastructure in rural areas where operators do not have any commercial interest in making independent investments. Fixed broadband infrastructure is still not available to about a third of Slovenia's citizens who are located for the most part in rural areas. The problem is also indicated by the DAE scoreboard, with the results being generally unfavourable – in 2013 Slovenia ranked last in terms of the share of households with standard fixed broadband networks in rural areas – the number standing at slightly above 10%. The situation is unfavourable also in terms of access speed. In Slovenia the share of broadband with speeds of 10 Mbps or more stands at only 38.9% (EU 64%), with the share of broadband with a speed of 30 Mbps or more standing at merely 5.8% (EU 18%).<sup>52</sup>

The planning of the future development of broadband infrastructure should take into account the dispersed settlement pattern of Slovenian rural areas. Potential private investors consider such dispersal as the main impediment to designing sustainable business models in rural areas. Certain system-wide solutions that have been adopted in the new Electronic Communications Act will facilitate limiting investment in duplicated infrastructure as well as facilitate finding co-investors, which means that the involvement of public funds could further encourage private investment and thus contribute to meeting the set objectives.

The expansion of broadband services and the deployment of high-speed networks, and supporting the use of emerging technologies and networks for the digital economy, will be financed under **PRIORITY AXIS 2**.

50 The Impact of Internet in OECD Countries, OECD, 2012, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/5k962hhgpb5d-en>

51 Franklin, M., P. Stam, and T. Clayton (2009), "ICT Impact Assessment by Linking Data", *Economic and Labour Market Review*, 3(10), 18-27

52 Scoreboard: [http://digital-agenda-data.eu/charts/country-ranking-table-on-a-thematic-group-of-indicators#chart={"indicator-group":"bbquality","ref-area":"SI","time-period":"2013"}](http://digital-agenda-data.eu/charts/country-ranking-table-on-a-thematic-group-of-indicators#chart={)

- **EX-ANTE EVALUATION AND STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

On the basis of the recommendations under the Ex-ante Evaluation of the OP, the section presenting the strategy on how the OP contributes to meeting the Europe 2020 targets was further developed. The link between the – in principle – well-identified challenges and needs and the set of actions to address the challenges and needs was improved. This segment of the evaluation established that the needs relating to the existing weaknesses in public governance have indeed been identified, however the solutions are not specific enough, which was duly taken into account in the drafting of the final version of the OP. Where possible, the authority drafting the OP improved the translation of the identified challenges into specific objectives.

The Ex-ante Evaluation of the OP established that specific needs exist in both cohesion regions, and that each cohesion region faces different challenges. Despite such differences, drafting a single OP is a positive thing insofar as its implementation is supported by improved and uniform management, which facilitates the achievement of the cross-cutting effects if compared to the previous programming period. Differentiated regional policy and region-specific actions will be of great relevance in terms of good governance. With the exception of priority axes 1 and 3 the evaluators established that the regional context has been adequately taken into account. Due to the specific characteristics of the two cohesion regions, the evaluators proposed developing region-specific actions for priority axes 1 and 3. This recommendation will be taken into account by the Managing Authority (MA) at the implementation level when drafting the multi-annual programmes for the individual area of implementation and after the instruments and the selection criteria are clearly identified. The MA will also take into account the recommendation for developing specific actions at the NUTS3 level. In accordance with the identified implementation structure the programme will be designed by expert groups, which will, if necessary, be joined by outside experts in the field of regional development. Thus the evaluators' recommendation for horizontal im-

plementation, which in turn calls for upgrading the poorly developed relevant skills in public administration, has been taken into account. This aspect is duly included in the actions planned as part of the technical assistance (TA). The text pertaining to the TA priority axis has been improved, with the relevant evaluators' recommendations also being taken into account.

The majority of the proposed content-related amendments, which were duly taken into account, relate to priority axis 1, mainly in terms of enhancing innovation-related activities and promoting non-technological innovation and innovation in society and public administration. Both aspects were further emphasised under the sections relating to actions. Sustainable mobility was also identified by the evaluators as an area lacking in terms of substance, with too much emphasis being put on the construction of infrastructure and too scarce focus on other relevant (i.e. soft) thematic sustainable mobility areas (e.g. public passenger transport, urban mobility, alternative means of transport, etc.). The authority drafting the OP considers the aspects of promoting sustainable urban mobility to be, for the most part, already included in the actions under this investment priority. In accordance with the recommendations the projects/actions and result indicators pertaining to priority axis 8 have been further developed. Where relevant, the text has been further developed in terms of ensuring gender equality and combating discrimination, particularly in the sections setting out the guiding principles for selection.

The internal coherence of the OP has also been improved (strengthening the correlation between the specific objectives within each priority axis). Consistency between the specific objectives of different priority axes has also been improved to a certain degree. Inconsistency was most pronounced between environmental objectives and the objectives to be pursued within priority axis 7. In accordance with the recommendations the intervention logic has also been improved in terms of establishing clearer causal relations, which are the basis for selection of the proposed OP actions. The distinction between individual activities and the balance of the detailed descriptions of each activity has also been improved.



Proposals pertaining to the complementarity of activities for better results have been partially taken into account.

According to the evaluators the selection of programme indicators is adequate for the most part, with the exceptions being duly taken into account by the authority drafting the OP. The recommendation that the indicators are to be revised in terms of responsiveness of the proposed programme indicators to the planned actions was taken into account as well as the recommendation that the indicators for priority axes 8 to 11 are to be changed from absolute to relative indicators. In accordance with the recommendations, result indicators and common indicators were revised in terms of relevance and understanding.

The final report of the Ex-ante Evaluation also includes an overview, which provides a summary of the recommendations taken into account, specifically that all of the relevant recommendations have been duly taken into account. The document is an annex to the OP within the SFC.

The environmental report identified those priority axes whose implementation could have significant impacts on natural resources, air, water, nature and biodiversity, climate, cultural heritage, landscape and health of the population. The evaluators proposed mitigation measures for the priority axes with identified potential significant environmental impacts. In the OP preparation process the proposed mitigation measures were for the most part taken into account, specifically in those sections of the investment priorities which pertain to the guiding principles for selection. Certain mitigation measure-related content was included in the other section, while some mitigation measures could not be taken into account due to the fact that their inclusion could increase the administrative burden for beneficiaries and present a problem for the institutions responsible for selection, specifically in terms of providing adequate verifiability of the requirements. When the environmental report was made public, comments pertaining mainly to thematic objective 7 were submitted. These comments were duly taken into account during the preparation of the final version of the report.

#### *1.1.1.1 Horizontal principles for the selection of projects/programmes*

The selection of projects/programmes will be based on two sets of principles, that is, horizontal principles, which will be applied in the selection of projects/programmes for all priority axes, and specific principles, which are identified under each priority axis in the relevant section. In addition to the principles, which must be pursued in accordance with the rules in force, the projects/programmes should:

- contribute to achieving the objectives/results at the level of the priority axis as well as direct effects;
- demonstrate maturity to be fully implemented in the period to which the support applies as well as the relevance and capacity of the beneficiaries;
- demonstrate the relevance of target groups;
- guarantee sustainability of the anticipated/planned results;
- respect the principles of non-discrimination and equal opportunities, including accessibility for persons with disabilities; gender equality; and must not increase inequalities in terms of health nor have negative impacts on the state of the environment/nature/cultural heritage;
- contribute to balanced regional development;
- ensure cost-effectiveness and efficiency in terms of synergies;
- ensure cross-sectoral cooperation and implementation of cross-sectoral projects, in accordance with the adopted implementation system.

Where relevant, the projects/programmes will also have to take into account:

- adequacy of the planned siting in terms of physical location and programme/purpose;
- projects/programmes should demonstrate that the project/programme has no adverse effect on the environment, by preparing an environmental impact assessment (EIA) or carrying out a preliminary procedure (EIA screening) for all the projects approved as part of the national legislation pertaining to EIA, which was not compliant with the EU regulations (before 4 July 2014);

- the contribution to tackling societal challenges (resource efficiency, mobility, health, population ageing, food and self-sufficiency, inclusive society, preservation of natural and cultural heritage);
- innovative public procurement principles and European Commission guidelines for green public procurement, including for areas which are not regulated by green public procurement rules;
- standards and criteria pertaining to a uniform information and communication platform of the wider public sector;
- ICT standards and criteria for new IT systems in central public administration, application of the existing horizontal solutions, potential for open data and services, integration into the cloud computing system<sup>53</sup>;
- economic criteria (added value, added value per employee, export, number of employees);
- contribution to enhancing the cumulative effects of the available funds through the application of an integrated approach to projects identification and by ensuring adequate complementarity of funds;
- inclusion of the possibility of establishing public-private partnerships;
- state aid rules;
- needs for human resources development, and the development of skills and competences;
- social responsibility (of operators or results – innovations);
- environmental dimension of sustainable development (material productivity and contribution to reducing Slovenia's carbon footprint);
- regional dimension with specific emphasis on problem areas;
- added value as part of EU macro-regional strategies.

vals and/or calls for proposals. The objectives of balanced regional development will be promoted through a territorially focused approach along all priority axes and in both cohesion regions. The selected projects/programmes will have to contribute to balanced regional development aimed at boosting economic growth and improving employment rates in the less developed and mainly peripheral areas within the two cohesion regions.

Detailed criteria for the selection of projects/programmes will be adopted by the Monitoring Committee.

In the process of project/programme selection, national as well as regional projects and projects with an impact on regional development will be approved by taking a programme approach or through direct appro-

<sup>53</sup> At the ministry responsible for IT within the central public administration. Funds for the upgrade of the cloud computing system should be ensured in order to facilitate the integration into the cloud computing system.



## 1.2 Justification for the selection of thematic objectives and corresponding investment priorities in terms of the Partnership Agreement based on the identification of regional and, where applicable, national needs including those identified by the relevant Council recommendations

Table 2: Synthetic overview of the justification for selection of thematic objectives and investment priorities

Selected thematic objective	Selected investment priority	Justification of the selection
(1) Strengthening research, technological development and innovation	Enhancing research and innovation (R&I) infrastructure and capacities to develop R&I excellence, and promoting centres of competence, in particular those of European interest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support for measures to make better use of the established RDI infrastructure to commercialise the already developed solutions and make more efficient use of the existing research infrastructure. Slovenia must develop the national research infrastructure in priority areas that complement smart specialisation areas. The National Reform Programme (NRP) envisages support for ESFRI projects, in accordance with the Research Infrastructure Development Plan 2011-2020 (which aims to provide access to major research infrastructures through cooperation in international projects in priority areas by 2020).</li> <li>Development of activities providing support for research institutions and enterprises to win resources in the international arena in line with the NRP orientations.</li> <li>The Research and Innovation Strategy of Slovenia (RISS) envisages the establishment of an environment providing efficient knowledge transfer from public research organisations to enterprises, as well as targeted and high-quality international cooperation which has a direct effect on the transfer of knowledge to the local economy and on encouraging the international mobility of researchers.</li> </ul>
	Promoting business investment in R&I, developing links and synergies between enterprises, research and development centres and the higher education sector, in particular promoting investment in product and service development, technology transfer, social innovation, eco-innovation, public service applications, demand stimulation, networking, clusters and open innovation through smart specialisation, and supporting technological and applied research, pilot lines, early product validation actions, advanced manufacturing capabilities and first production, in particular in key enabling technologies and diffusion of general purpose technologies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The NRP envisages further linking of infrastructure and development centres of enterprises to ensure that new innovative, technological and spin-off enterprises are created and developed, and envisages investments in the promotion of innovations and entrepreneurial investments in R&amp;D.</li> <li>In terms of indicators of innovation inputs Slovenia ranks highly, while indicators of innovation outputs point to a low or even declining effectiveness of the innovation effort (2011 OECD Economic Review).</li> <li>The Position Paper anticipates investments in activities aimed at increasing the innovation potential of SMEs.</li> <li>The share of researchers in the Slovenian economy is still small. Measures to promote the transfer and/or cooperation of researchers with the economy will enable closer collaboration between the public and private sectors and increase innovation in the economy.</li> </ul>
(2) Enhancing access to, and use and quality of, ICT	Extending broadband deployment and the roll-out of high-speed networks and supporting the adoption of emerging technologies and networks for the digital economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fixed broadband coverage in Slovenia is below the EU average<sup>54</sup>, coverage being extremely low in rural areas where the fixed broadband penetration rate stood at a mere 10%.</li> </ul>

Selected thematic objective	Selected investment priority	Justification of the selection
	Strengthening ICT applications for e-administration, e-learning, e-inclusion, e-culture and e-health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The objective of the European Union Location Framework (EULF) is to enable growth and better services through the use of location data.<sup>55</sup></li> <li>The objective of the COPERNICUS programme is to enable access to a large quantity of data for the purpose of observing the Earth.<sup>56</sup></li> <li>The Infrastructure for Spatial Information Act requires public administration authorities to establish a national infrastructure as an integral part of the European infrastructure for spatial information in accordance with Directive 2007/2/EC (INSPIRE).<sup>57</sup></li> </ul>
(3) Enhancing the competitiveness of SMEs, of the agricultural sector (for the EAFRD) and of the fishery and aquaculture sector (for the EMFF)	Promoting entrepreneurship, in particular by facilitating the economic exploitation of new ideas and fostering the creation of new firms, including through business incubators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One of the key obstacles to growth and development of enterprises in Slovenia is access to finance for SMEs.<sup>58</sup> Another problem is over-indebtedness of SMEs and the deterioration in their asset quality. For this reason emphasis will be on easing SME access to sources of finance on favourable terms, with the aim of stimulating growth and development of SMEs, in line with the orientations of the Small Businesses Act.</li> <li>The NRP 2013–2014 envisages the creation of a comprehensive set of actions to simplify the financing and operation of enterprises in order to create better conditions for their growth and development. EU Cohesion Policy funds will represent the key source of investment.</li> </ul>
	Developing and implementing new business models for SMEs, in particular with regard to internationalisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In Slovenia, the majority of revenue in foreign markets is generated by large enterprises, while SMEs, which account for more than 90% of Slovenian enterprises, lack adequate competences and resources to be able to enter global markets and successfully compete therein or to integrate into global value chains. Roll-out of advanced business models and establishment of development partnerships will help enhance their position in the global market.</li> <li>Exports are largely limited to EU markets and experienced a severe decline during the crisis. Hence, SMEs should be encouraged to engage in international activities in part through the acquisition of new knowledge, advanced documents, business cooperation and through the search for new business partners that will further strengthen the competitiveness of Slovenian SMEs.</li> </ul>
(4) Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors	Supporting energy efficiency, smart energy management and renewable energy use in public infrastructure, including in public buildings, and in the housing sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The target of a 20% improvement in energy efficiency must be achieved by 2020 in accordance with Directive 2012/27/EU.</li> <li>Directive 2012/27/EU requires each Member State to ensure that, as from 9 July 2015, 3% of the total floor area of heated and/or cooled buildings owned and occupied by its central government is renovated each year. For this reason, the renovation of these buildings will be supported as a priority.</li> <li>In accordance with Directive 2010/31/EU Member States should ensure that new buildings occupied and owned by public authorities are nearly zero-energy buildings from 2018 onwards, and in other sectors from 2020 onwards.</li> <li>The share of households facing the problem of energy poverty in the housing sector is increasing, so support will be given to measures for energy renovation in order to counter this problem.</li> <li>The poor energy performance of buildings contributes 40% of emissions and causes air pollution in urban areas.</li> </ul>

Selected thematic objective	Selected investment priority	Justification of the selection
	Promoting the production and distribution of energy derived from renewable sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Directive 2009/28/EC requires Slovenia to achieve at least a 25% share of renewable energy sources (RES) in gross final energy consumption by 2020.</li> <li>• Available informal data for 2012 suggest that the annual mid-term objective defined in the National Renewable Energy Action Plan (NREAP) has been achieved; however, further investments in this area are vitally important to meet the 2020 target.</li> <li>• In order to enhance the use of RES the country needs to introduce investment incentives along with renewal of the RES electricity support scheme with the aim of reducing the burden borne by final energy consumers.</li> <li>• In the area of RES targets in the heating sector, the greatest effects lie in promoting efficient district heating using RES (biomass, geothermal energy).</li> <li>• Buildings generate 40% of urban emissions; hence, measures are being promoted in urban areas to increase the energy performance of all buildings.</li> </ul>
	Development and use of intelligent low- and medium-voltage distribution systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A mere 25% of electricity consumers in the distribution network in Slovenia are currently equipped with smart metering systems that enable remote reporting of data.</li> <li>• A number of development-oriented enterprises and institutions operate in this area and participate in the international arena; for this reason, investments in this area are also related to the growth and development objectives of enterprises.</li> </ul>
	Promoting low-carbon strategies for all types of geographical area, in particular for urban areas, including the promotion of sustainable multimodal urban mobility and adequate mitigation and adaptation measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Country Position Paper for Slovenia recognises sustainable mobility in urban areas as the key intervention area.</li> <li>• Poor air quality in Slovenian urban areas is partly a result of a lack of implementation of sustainable mobility measures.</li> </ul>
(5) Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and management	Supporting investments for adaptation to climate change, including ecosystem-based approaches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The country identified 61 areas with potential significant flood risk where flood events cause severe damage according to the criterion of compromising human health, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity in accordance with the EU Floods Directive. The NRP 2013 – 2014 also envisages the need to invest in flood-protection measures.</li> <li>• Slovenia has not developed a comprehensive climate change adaptation strategy, nor has it produced risk assessments for natural and man-made disasters.</li> </ul>
(6) Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency	Investing in the water sector to meet the requirements of the Union's environmental acquis and to address needs identified by the Member States for investment that goes beyond those requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Slovenia should establish adequate wastewater collection and treatment infrastructure in agglomerations equalling or above 2,000 PE by 31 December 2015 (intermediate objectives being 31 December 2008 and 31 December 2010) in accordance with the Urban Waste Water Directive.</li> <li>• Systems of reliable access to healthy drinking water as laid down in the Drinking Water Directive (98/83/EC) are not available to all inhabitants, and there are major losses of drinking water from the mains systems, so investment in this area is also envisaged in the NRP.</li> <li>• The Framework Water Directive sets the target of achieving a good water status. Over a third of water bodies do not attain good ecological quality, and funds will notably target the key identified burdens (hydromorphological) in line with the Natura 2000 management plan for the period up to 2020 and the River Basin Management Plan for the period up to 2021.</li> </ul>
	Protecting and restoring biodiversity and soil and promoting ecosystem services, including through NATURA 2000, and green infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A large share of the area of Slovenia is included in the Natura 2000 network, which, however, has not yet been fully established.</li> <li>• The conservation status of numerous habitats and species has rapidly deteriorated owing to a number of pressures.</li> <li>• Conserving biodiversity represents a potential for the development of protected areas.</li> </ul>

Selected thematic objective	Selected investment priority	Justification of the selection
	Taking action to improve the urban environment, to revitalise cities, regenerate and decontaminate brownfield sites (including conversion areas), reduce air pollution and promote noise-reduction measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Slovenian urban areas face the problem of suburbanisation and consequent loss of good-quality land on the margins of urban areas.</li> <li>Cities and urban areas have a number of vacant, underused and degraded lands that have some basic infrastructure. Such inner city lands where activities have been abandoned or where there has been inappropriate land use have an enormous untapped potential for the development of cities and urban areas, both for economic development and public services, and consequently for a higher quality of life. Targeted investments in inner city areas, their renewal and revitalisation contribute to reducing the pressure on areas outside cities and urban areas.</li> <li>Air quality in seven Slovenian urban areas is bad, owing chiefly to excessive pollution with PM10. Air quality plans have been drawn up for these areas, although an essential component of monitoring their implementation and enhancement of measures will be to upgrade the system for monitoring air quality in line with the requirements of Directive 2008/50/EC.</li> </ul>
(7) Promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures	Developing a comprehensive, high-quality and interoperable railway system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The network configuration is obsolete and no longer meets the needs of modern railway transport due to inadequate investment in the rail infrastructure.</li> <li>The Position Paper recognizes the need for investments in the development of rail infrastructure along the two TEN-T corridors, in particular with the objective of meeting European standards.</li> </ul>
	Enhancing regional mobility by connecting secondary and tertiary traffic nodes to TEN-T infrastructure, including multimodal nodes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Analyses performed to date in establishing an integrated transport model as the basis for drafting the National Programme clearly show which regions are held back in their economic development due to inadequate access to the TEN-T network. For this reason, unfavourable demographic trends persist in these regions and their development gaps continue to grow. ERDF support will focus on launching construction of the southern part of the third development axis.</li> </ul>
	Supporting a multimodal Single European Transport Area by investing in the TEN-T network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Despite intensive investment in the road infrastructure, bottlenecks in the motorway network are identified; the most problematic ones will be removed with support from the CF in the Draženci Gruškovje project.</li> <li>The Port of Koper is one of the key ports in the TEN-T network; therefore, investment in the development of appropriate port infrastructure is the key building block in the establishment of the Trans-European multimodal networks that will ensure smooth functioning of the EU internal market and strengthen economic and social cohesion.</li> </ul>
(8) Promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility	Access to employment for job-seekers and inactive people, including the long-term unemployed and people far from the labour market, including through local employment initiatives and support for labour mobility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Low rate of employment in 2013 (67.2%), which lags 1.2 percentage points behind the EU-28 average; in the cohesion region of Vzhodna Slovenija the rate amounts to only 65%.</li> <li>It is crucial to fulfil the strategic employment rate target of 75% considering current demographic trends and the need to maintain a social state.</li> <li>The National Reform Programme 2013–2014 highlighted the programmes designed to facilitate activation of the unemployed, particularly of older workers, the long-term unemployed and the less educated.</li> <li>In line with the 2014 Council Recommendations<sup>59</sup> Slovenia must implement measures to increase employment of the identified target groups, so that it focuses resources on tailor made active labour market policy programmes while enhancing their effectiveness, and ensuring adequate incentives for increased employment of older workers. As for the labour market, a system for more successful matching of labour market supply and demand should be designed.</li> </ul>

Selected thematic objective	Selected investment priority	Justification of the selection
	Sustainable integration into the labour market of young people, in particular those not in employment, education or training, including young people at risk of social exclusion and young people from marginalised communities, including through the implementation of the Youth Guarantee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rapidly rising unemployment of young people in Slovenia (the highest growth rate in the EU in 2012), an above-average rate of unemployment among young people aged 15 - 24 in the cohesion region of Vzhodna Slovenija (26.5%, EU-28 average 23.5%), high unemployment of young people in the 25 - 29 age group (17.4%), which is above the EU-28 average (14.5%), and strong segmentation of young people in the labour market (precarious forms of employment).</li> <li>• The Council Recommendation<sup>60</sup> calls on Slovenia to take measures to further decrease segmentation, notably addressing the effectiveness of incentives for hiring young people.</li> <li>• The unemployment of young people is higher in the cohesion region of Vzhodna Slovenija and part of the measures being implemented in this region will be supported from the Youth Employment Initiative.</li> <li>• The NRP 2013-14 envisages implementation of a special set of active labour market policy programmes for young people, and in 2014 and 2015 implementation of the Youth Guarantee Implementation Plan.</li> </ul>
	Active and healthy ageing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The employment rate of older workers is among the lowest in the EU, amounting to 33.5% in 2013. The low figures can be attributed chiefly to the pension and disability insurance system.</li> <li>• The Council Recommendation<sup>61</sup> calls on Slovenia to ensure the sustainability of the pension system and take measures to adapt the working environment to a longer working life with the aim of increasing the employment of older workers.</li> <li>• Slovenia adopted new legislation in the area of employment and pension and disability insurance, and this is the stepping stone towards improvements in the area of labour market segmentation and enhanced employment of older people. The amendments should now be put in place through measures whose efficiency should be monitored.</li> </ul>
(9) Promoting social inclusion, combating poverty and any discrimination	Active inclusion, including with a view to promoting equal opportunities and active participation, and improving employability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase in the number of socially excluded persons and persons living below the poverty threshold.</li> <li>• Increasing health inequalities.</li> <li>• A growing number of recipients of cash social assistance, especially long-term.</li> <li>• Commitment in the NRP back in 2010.</li> <li>• The Position Paper recommends that the number of persons at risk of poverty and social exclusion is reduced through enhanced measures providing support for labour market re-integration and additional training for persons at risk.</li> <li>• A lack of systemically linked, integrated and targeted programmes of social activation enabling a way out.</li> <li>• A lack of and poor access to existing prevention programmes for persons at risk of poverty and social exclusion (e.g. existing prevention programmes in primary healthcare).</li> </ul>
	Enhancing access to affordable, sustainable and high-quality services, including health care and social services of general interest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In line with the Council recommendation<sup>62</sup> for 2014, Slovenia must strengthen community-based services and enable the transition from institutional to community-based care.</li> <li>• Anticipated increase in the need for community care in view of the demographic outlook.</li> <li>• Preparation for a systemic introduction of new networks of community services.</li> </ul>
	Investing in health and social infrastructure which contributes to national, regional and local development, reducing inequalities in terms of health status, promoting social inclusion through improved access to social, cultural and recreational services and the transition from institutional to community-based services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Given the envisaged process of deinstitutionalisation and expansion of the network of community services, it will be necessary to adapt or ensure adequate infrastructure.</li> <li>• Demographic trends show a sharp increase in the share of older people in Slovenia.</li> <li>• The Position Paper draws attention to the fact that public capacity in the area of long-term care does not meet the increasing demand for various types of accommodation adapted to the needs of elderly people and for other social services providing support to the older population.</li> </ul>

Selected thematic objective	Selected investment priority	Justification of the selection
	Promoting social entrepreneurship and vocational integration in social enterprises and the social and solidarity economy in order to facilitate access to employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social entrepreneurship has great potential for social inclusion and employment of vulnerable groups.</li> <li>• There is a need to ensure an exit from social activation into employment and to support the employment of vulnerable target groups in social enterprises.</li> <li>• Establishing and linking social enterprises with the network of community-based services and ensuring their visibility.</li> <li>• In order to provide new services and give jobs to vulnerable target groups, social enterprises must be appropriately trained, so there is a need to provide training, education, mentorship and advice for all stakeholders in social entrepreneurship.</li> <li>• The NRP 2013–2014 envisages carrying out of measures based on the adopted Strategy for Developing Social Entrepreneurship 2013-2020.</li> </ul>
	Investment under CLLD strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The flagship initiative of the Europe 2020 Strategy for “Preventing the risk of poverty and social exclusion” enables local groups to use ESI Funds at the local level to find solutions to identified problems in this area.</li> <li>• The bottom-up approach seems to fit and respond more to different specific needs of the local population than design and adoption of measures at the national level.</li> </ul>
(10) Investing in education, training and vocational training for skills and lifelong learning	Enhancing equal access to lifelong learning for all age groups in formal, non-formal and informal settings, upgrading the knowledge, skills and competences of the workforce, and promoting flexible learning pathways including through career guidance and validation of acquired competences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Council recommendation[1] and Position Paper call for enhanced accessibility and inclusion in lifelong learning (older, less educated and low-skilled people), enhancing the skills and competences of the workforce and improving the responsiveness of education and training systems to labour market needs, especially for these groups.</li> <li>• In addition to lifelong learning programmes the NRP envisages measures for providing lifelong career orientation for all groups of the working age population.</li> <li>• The Position Paper recognises the need to improve key literacy (reading), at the same time there is a need to improve the competences of young people that are crucial for the needs of the labour market and society.</li> <li>• The NRP envisages support for the international mobility of students and higher education teachers and the involvement of top level experts from the economy and from abroad.</li> <li>• The NRP envisages putting in place systematic monitoring of the employability of graduates in order to improve the responsiveness of the education system to labour market needs.</li> <li>• Low performance (high drop-out rate, extended course duration), hence, measures to improve the quality of higher education need to be introduced.</li> </ul>
	Improving the labour market relevance of education and training systems, facilitating the transition from education to work, and strengthening vocational education and training systems and their quality, including through mechanisms for skills anticipation, adaptation of curricula and the establishment and development of work-based learning systems, including dual learning systems and apprenticeship schemes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• According to the Council Recommendation<sup>63</sup> for 2014 Slovenia must address the skills mismatches by improving the attractiveness of vocational education and training.</li> </ul>
	Investing in skills, education and lifelong learning by developing education infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Slovenian ICT infrastructure supporting education lags behind the EU average in terms of the relevant EU indicators. Adequate ICT-supported education infrastructure will facilitate and increase the use of ICT in teaching and learning and will help improve the competences resulting from the modern ways of teaching and new teaching methods. This will require investments in ICT infrastructure, and highly developed digital skills in pupils, students and teachers.</li> </ul>

Selected thematic objective	Selected investment priority	Justification of the selection
(11) Enhancing the institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders and efficient public administration	Investment in institutional capacity and in the efficiency of public administrations and public services at the national, regional and local levels with a view to reforms, better regulation and good governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The European Commission in its Position Paper highlights the need to improve the business environment, increase administrative capacity and improve transparency, integrity and accountability in the public administration.</li> <li>In line with the Council conclusions there is a need to raise the level of computerisation, standardisation and openness of public administration operations.</li> <li>Council recommendation no 7 requires accelerated liberalisation of regulated professions, reduction of administrative burden including leaner authorisation schemes, while recommendation no 8 sets out that effective measures should be taken to fight corruption, enhance transparency and accountability, and introduce external performance evaluation and quality control.</li> <li>The Council recommendation also suggests that Slovenia should adopt an efficient mechanism for systemic pre-insolvency proceedings for out-of-court deleveraging and improve the enforcement of corporate insolvency procedures and in-court settlements, including swiftly resolving pending court cases related to bankruptcy procedures, in order to maximise recovery value and to facilitate the timely and efficient resolution of non-performing loans.</li> </ul>
	Capacity building for all stakeholders delivering education, lifelong learning, training and employment and social policies, including through sectoral and territorial pacts to mobilise for reform at the national, regional and local levels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In accordance with the NRP Slovenia should, following consultation with social partners, adjust its labour legislation to protect permanent jobs and thus reduce labour market fragmentation. Following consultation with social partners and in line with the national practices, Slovenia should also ensure that wage developments, including the minimum wage, support competitiveness and job creation.</li> <li>Slovenia recognises the need to enhance the capacities of stakeholders such as social partners and non-governmental organisations in accordance with the Position Paper.</li> </ul>

- 54 <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda/sites/digital-agenda/files/SL%20%20-%20Broadband%20markets.pdf>
- 55 [http://ec.europa.eu/isa/actions/documents/isa-2.13\\_eulf-strategic-vision-lite-v0-3\\_final\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/isa/actions/documents/isa-2.13_eulf-strategic-vision-lite-v0-3_final_en.pdf)
- 56 <http://copernicus.eu/>
- 57 <http://inspire.ec.europa.eu/>
- 58 [http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/sme/facts-figures-analysis/performance-review/files/countries-sheets/2012/slovenia\\_sl.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/sme/facts-figures-analysis/performance-review/files/countries-sheets/2012/slovenia_sl.pdf)
- 59 Council Recommendation on Slovenia's 2014 National Reform Programme and Council opinion on Slovenia's 2014 stability programme (Recommendation no. 3).
- 60 Council Recommendation on Slovenia's 2014 National Reform Programme and Council opinion on Slovenia's 2014 stability programme (Recommendation no. 3).
- 61 Council Recommendation on Slovenia's 2014 National Reform Programme and Council opinion on Slovenia's 2014 stability programme (Recommendation no. 2).
- 62 Council Recommendation on Slovenia's 2014 National Reform Programme and Council opinion on Slovenia's 2014 stability programme (Recommendation no. 3).
- 63 Council Recommendation on Slovenia's 2014 National Reform Programme and Council opinion on Slovenia's 2014 stability programme (Recommendation no. 3).



### 1.3 Justification of the financial allocation

Intervention areas under thematic objective 1 (**TO 1**) will have EUR 461 million available (15.38% of total funds, 33% from the ERDF), so that crowding out of private investments will be prevented and maximum spillover effects achieved.

Fixed broadband coverage in Slovenia is below the EU average<sup>64</sup> and ranks lowest among all Member States in terms of fixed broadband penetration in rural areas. There are also gaps in the area of spatial management. For this reason, a total of EUR 68 million will be allocated to **TO 2** (2.28% of total funds, 4.93% from the ERDF).

The investment trend in the area of **TO 3** is negative, moreover, the expenditure structure suggests that in the past an important share of investment (40%) was made in tourism and regional infrastructure. For this reason, around EUR 526 million will be available for this purpose (17.52% of total funds, 38% from the ERDF), mainly in the form of repayable funds.

Slovenia will find it hard to achieve the set national targets under the climate package, and the country will allocate EUR 281 million to **TO 4** (9.38% of total funds, 29% from the CF, 2% from the ERDF), whereby repayable funds will be combined with grants to ensure multiplier effects.

Investment totalling EUR 83 million (2.76% of total funds, 6% from the CF and 2% from the ERDF) in the measures under **TO 5** is needed since the country identified areas of potential significant flood risk, these being 61 in number, where appropriate action should be taken in line with the requirements of Directive 2007/60/EC.

Despite intensive investment in the construction of environmental infrastructure, there are still significant needs in the area of meeting the targets set under Directive 91/271/EEC and the targets set under Directive

2000/60/EC, as well as in the area of drinking water supply in accordance with Directive 98/83/EC. For this reason, a total of EUR 400 million will be allocated to the area of **TO 6** (13.33% of total funds, 30% from the CF and 9.43% from the ERDF).<sup>65</sup>

Key investments in transport infrastructure in Slovenia will be defined in the Transport Infrastructure Development Strategy. Investment in Slovenian transport infrastructure using the EU support actually represents only a small share of investment made in this sector, yet it is nevertheless significant in areas that contribute to sustainable mobility, better connectivity and access, and indispensable when it comes to reaching climate targets. A total of EUR 263 million will be allocated to the area of **TO 7** (8.75% of total funds, 25% from the CF and 3% from the ERDF).

<sup>65</sup> Around EUR 1,810 million will be required to implement the basic measures for protection of surface and groundwater in the period from 2010 to 2015 (as estimated in the River Basin Management Plan 2009-2015, [http://www.mko.gov.si/fileadmin/mko.gov.si/pageuploads/podrocja/voda/nuv\\_donava\\_jadran\\_2015/nacrt\\_upravljanja\\_voda.pdf](http://www.mko.gov.si/fileadmin/mko.gov.si/pageuploads/podrocja/voda/nuv_donava_jadran_2015/nacrt_upravljanja_voda.pdf)). The bulk of funds (90%) will be used for construction of wastewater treatment plants and the sewerage network in accordance with the Operational Programme for Collection and Treatment of Municipal Waste Water, the estimate standing at EUR 1,260 million (Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning, 2009). The estimate was obtained so that the 2005-2009 investment expenditure (EUR 490 million) was deducted from the total costs of the Operational Programme for Collection and Treatment of Municipal Waste Water for the Period 2005-2017 (EUR 2,160 million). The remaining value of the Operational Programme for Collection and Treatment of Municipal Waste Water amounts to around EUR 1,670 million for the 2010-2017 period, which averages EUR 210 million annually. Taking into account average annual costs of implementing the Operational Programme for Collection and Treatment of Municipal Waste Water, the cost for the 2010-2015 period equals EUR 1,260 million.

The River Basin Management Plan contains an analysis estimating that some 640,000 PE will not be served by appropriate collection and treatment infrastructure after the closure of the Operational Programme for Collection and Treatment of Municipal Waste Water for the 2005-2017 period.

Based on the estimate of average investment costs of constructing individual treatment plants, which amount to around EUR 810 / PE (Pregelj, 2010), total costs of constructing individual treatment plants up to 2017 were estimated to reach around EUR 520 million. The average annual costs of constructing individual treatment plants were estimated at between EUR 60 and 70 million, meaning that around EUR 400 million will be needed for construction of individual treatment plants in the 2010-2015 period. It is possible that the cost dynamics will differ from those projected and that the bulk of costs is incurred prior to 2017. OP continuation takes into account only investments in agglomerations over 2000 PE.

<sup>64</sup> <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda/sites/digital-agenda/files/SL%20%20-%20Broadband%20markets.pdf>

Planning of measures to receive the ESF support in the 2014-2020 period will take into account the evaluations of programmes implemented on the basis of the Operational Programme for Human Resources Development for the Period 2007-2013, the orientations of strategic documents (smart specialisation) and Council recommendations.

In light of the growing problem of unemployment, a total of EUR 287.7 million will be allocated to achieving the targets set under **TO 8** (9.58% of total funds, 40% from the ESF). Given the problems identified in the PA, the majority of these funds will be allocated to the investment priority seeking to increase employment<sup>66</sup>, specifically EUR 171 million, which accounts for 5.70% of total funds (23.86% from the ESF, 12.28% in the cohesion region of Vzhodna Slovenija and 11.57% in the cohesion region of Zahodna Slovenija).

Based on the situation analysis discussed in the PA, a total of EUR 73 million will be allocated under the respective investment priority<sup>67</sup> to tackle the youth unemployment issue, or 2.43% of total funds (10.18% from the ESF, i.e. 5.47% in the cohesion region of Vzhodna Slovenija and 6% in the cohesion region of Zahodna Slovenija) to achieve the first specific objective "Reduce youth unemployment". The second specific objective "Reduce youth unemployment in Vzhodna Slovenija" will only involve the implementation of measures that will be financed in the cohesion region of Vzhodna Slovenija by the Youth Employment Initiative, support amounting to EUR 18.4 million.

The identified problems include, *inter alia*, the low labour market participation of older people. In light of the need to prolong working life, investments will have to be made in "Active and healthy ageing". EUR 34.5

million will be ring-fenced for this purpose (1.15% of total funds, 4.84% from the ESF, i.e. 2.72% in the cohesion region of Vzhodna Slovenija, 2.09% in the cohesion region of Zahodna Slovenija). This will mitigate the negative effects of the shrinking working-age population on economic growth and, at the same time, support the measures accompanying pension and disability insurance reform.

Owing to the growing risk of poverty and the increasing inequalities in health, a total of EUR 145 million will be allocated to **TO 9** (4.84% of total funds, 20.26% from the ESF), with EUR 75 million from the ERDF, which accounts for 2.5% of total funds (5.4% from the ERDF). Key in this respect is a system-wide approach to addressing the issue, which lies in active inclusion. The investment priority supporting active inclusion<sup>68</sup> will have EUR 90 million available (3% of total funds, 12.75% from the ESF, i.e. 6.86% in the cohesion region of Vzhodna Slovenija and 5.72% in the cohesion region of Zahodna Slovenija). The funds under the second investment priority<sup>69</sup> will be ring-fenced to help fulfil Council recommendation no. 2, notably through measures supporting the transition from institutional to community-based services – EUR 25 million (0.83% of total funds, 3.49% from the ESF, 2.10% in the cohesion region of Vzhodna Slovenija, 1.39% in the cohesion region of Zahodna Slovenija). In light of the needs identified in the PA a total of EUR 45 million will be allocated, in order to implement the third investment priority<sup>70</sup> (1.5% of total funds, 3.24% from the ERDF) to upgrade existing and build new infrastructure.

Slovenia lags behind the EU in terms of social entrepreneurship<sup>71</sup>, which represents a great potential for

66 Access to employment for job-seekers and inactive people, including the long-term unemployed and people far from the labour market, including through local employment initiatives and support for labour mobility.

67 Sustainable integration into the labour market of young people, in particular those not in employment, education or training, including young people at risk of social exclusion and young people from marginalised communities, including through the implementation of the Youth Guarantee.

68 Active inclusion, including with a view to promoting equal opportunities and active participation, and improving employability.

69 Enhancing access to affordable, sustainable and high-quality services, including health care and social services of general interest.

70 Investing in health and social infrastructure which contributes to national, regional and local development, reducing inequalities in terms of health status, promoting social inclusion through improved access to social, cultural and recreational services and the transition from institutional to community-based services.

71 Promoting social entrepreneurship and vocational integration in social enterprises and the social and solidarity economy in order to facilitate access to employment.

creating jobs for persons who exit social activation programmes and affords enterprises the chance of providing community-based services that will be developed under the second investment priority. This area will be given EUR 30 million (1% of total funds, 4.19% from the ESF, 2.24% in the cohesion region of Vzhodna Slovenija and 1.95% in the cohesion region of Zahodna Slovenija).

Demographic projections for Slovenia suggest that the working-age population aged 50-64 will increase, which requires an improvement in the knowledge of this population cohort and attention being given to the less educated or low-skilled. It will be necessary to equip individuals with adequate new knowledge and competences to make them more responsive to the future labour market demand, as future employment (to the break-even point) and productivity growth ride on individuals rich in knowledge. For this reason, and in line with the OP Strategy, Slovenia intends to allocate EUR 178 million, i.e. 5.95% of total funds (24.92% from the ESF, 14.05% in the cohesion region of Vzhodna Slovenija, 10.86% in the cohesion region of Zahodna Slovenija) for achieving the **TO 10** and to implement measures under the investment priority *enhancing equal access to life-long learning*, and EUR 30 million (1.01% of total funds, 4.24% from the ESF, 2.24% in the cohesion region of Vzhodna Slovenija, 1.99% in the cohesion region of Zahodna Slovenija) in the investment priority *improving the relevance of education and training systems to the needs of the labour market*, where special emphasis will be placed on enhanced practical skills of individuals that better suit the needs of the labour market. A smaller portion of funds, i.e. EUR 20 million (0.67% of total funds, 1.44% from the ERDF) will be allocated to *developing education infrastructure*.

The low efficiency of the justice system and of the public administration drastically hamper the pursuit of business activities in Slovenia. The country will allocate EUR 52 million (1.73% of total funds, 7.26% from the ESF, 2.8% in the cohesion region of Vzhodna Slovenija, 4.46% in the cohesion region of Zahodna Slovenija) to **TO 11** as part of the *investments in institutional capacity and efficiency*. Moreover, in order to improve social and civil dialogue as part of the investment priority *strengthening capacities of stakeholders*, Slovenia will allocate EUR 10 million or 0.33% of total funds (1.4% from the ESF, 0.7% in the cohesion region of Vzhodna Slovenija, 0.7% in the cohesion region of Zahodna Slovenija).

The recommendations made in the ex-ante evaluation do not cover the changes made to financial allocations, since according to the evaluators they are accurate and correct, as they were subject to intensive coordination and alignment between line ministries.

Table 3: Overview of the investment strategy of the OP

Priority axis	Fund	Union support (EUR)	Share of total Union contribution to the OP	Thematic objective	Investment priority	Specific objective compatible with investment priority	Common result indicators and specific result indicators for which target values have been set
2.1 International competitiveness of research, innovation and technological development in line with smart specialisation for enhanced competitiveness and greening of the economy	ERDF	461 Vzhodna Slovenija: 254 Zahodna Slovenija: 207	15.38%	(1) Strengthening research, technological development and innovation	Enhancing research and innovation (R&I) infrastructure and capacities to develop R&I excellence, and promoting centres of competence, in particular those of European interest	Efficient use of the research infrastructure and development of knowledge/competences to improve national and international collaboration in the knowledge triangle	Indicators: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Share of foreign funding in gross domestic expenditure on R&amp;D</li> <li>Share of business sector funding in public sector expenditure on RDI</li> <li>Slovenia's performance ranking above the EU average in Innovation Union Scoreboard</li> </ul>
				Promoting business investment in R&I, developing links and synergies between enterprises, research and development centres and the higher education sector, in particular promoting investment in product and service development, technology transfer, social innovation, eco-innovation, public service applications, demand stimulation, networking, clusters and open innovation through smart specialisation, and supporting technological and applied research, pilot lines, early product validation actions, advanced manufacturing capabilities and first production, in particular in key enabling technologies and diffusion of general purpose technologies	Increased share of innovation-active enterprises	Indicators: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Share of business expenditure on R&amp;D as a percentage of GDP</li> <li>Share of innovation-active enterprises</li> </ul>	

Priority axis	Fund	Union support (EUR)	Share of total Union contribution to the OP	Thematic objective	Investment priority	Specific objective compatible with investment priority	Common result indicators and specific result indicators for which target values have been set
2.2 Enhancing access to, and use and quality of, ICT	ERDF	68 Vzhodna Slovenija: 39 Zahodna Slovenija: 28	2.28%	(2) Enhancing access to, and use and quality of, ICT	Extending broadband deployment and the roll-out of high-speed networks and supporting the adoption of emerging technologies and networks for the digital economy	Access to broadband electronic communications services in areas where broadband infrastructure has not yet been established and where there is no interest in the market to establish such infrastructure	Indicators: • 100 Mbps broadband penetration
2.3 Dynamic and competitive entrepreneurship for green economic growth	ERDF	526 Vzhodna Slovenija: 362 Zahodna Slovenija: 164	17.52%	(3) Enhancing the competitiveness of SMEs, of the agricultural sector (for the EAFRD), and of the fishery and aquaculture sector (for the EMFF)	Strengthening ICT applications for e-administration, e-learning, e-inclusion, e-culture and e-health  Promoting entrepreneurship, in particular by facilitating the economic exploitation of new ideas and fostering the creation of new firms, including through business incubators	Enhance transparency and efficiency of spatial planning, building construction and real-estate management  Specific objective 1: Promote the creation and operation of new firms, especially start-ups  Specific objective 2: Increase the added value of SMEs	Indicator: • Share of established IT infrastructure for local community members, enterprises and public administration in the field of spatial planning, building construction and real-estate registration  Indicators for Specific objective 1: • Improved entrepreneurial activity index (TEA index)  Indicators for Specific objective 2: • Number of emerging enterprises • Share of SMEs' net turnover in total net turnover of all enterprises • Added value per employee in SMEs • Higher material productivity
2.4 Sustainable consumption and production of energy and smart grids	CF ERDF	260 21 Vzhodna Slovenija: 10 Zahodna Slovenija: 11	8.68% 0.7%	(4) Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors	Developing and implementing new business models for SMEs, in particular with regard to internationalisation  Supporting energy efficiency, smart energy management and renewable energy use in public infrastructure, including in public buildings, and in the housing sector	Enhance international competitiveness of SMEs  Specific objective 1: Improve energy efficiency in the public sector  Specific objective 2: Improve energy efficiency in households	Indicators: • SMEs' net turnover from sales in foreign markets  Indicators for specific objective 1: • Annual energy savings in public sector buildings  Indicator for specific objective 2: • Annual energy savings in households

Priority axis	Fund	Union support (EUR)	Share of total Union contribution to the OP	Thematic objective	Investment priority	Specific objective compatible with investment priority	Common result indicators and specific result indicators for which target values have been set
2.5 Climate change adaptation	CF ERDF	53 Vzhodna Slovenija: 30	1.77% 1%	(5) Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and management	Promoting the production and distribution of energy derived from renewable sources	Increase the share of RES in final energy consumption	Indicators: • Share of RES in gross final energy consumption of heating sector • Share of RES in gross final energy consumption of electricity sector
				Promoting low-carbon strategies for all types of geographical areas, in particular for urban areas, including the promotion of sustainable multimodal urban mobility and adequate mitigation and adaptation measures	Development and use of intelligent low- and medium-voltage distribution systems	Improve the capacity utilisation and efficiency of energy systems	Indicator: • Share of consumers connected to intelligent metering systems
					Supporting investments for adaptation to climate change, including ecosystem-based approaches	Develop urban mobility to improve air quality in urban areas	Indicators: • Share of passenger kilometres in rail transport in relation to overall land transport • Share of passenger kilometres in bus transport in relation to overall land transport • CO2 emissions due to road usage by cars
2.6 Improvements of the environment and biodiversity status	CF ERDF	269 131 Vzhodna Slovenija: 82 Vzhodna Slovenija: 49	8.96% 4.37%	(6) Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency	Investing in the water sector to meet the requirements of the Union's environmental acquis and to address needs identified by the Member States for investment that goes beyond those requirements	Specific objective 1: Reduce emissions into water through development of municipal wastewater collection and treatment infrastructure Specific objective 2: Increase security of safe drinking water supply	Indicator for specific objective 1: • Increased wastewater load from agglomerations above 2,000 PE treated in municipal WWTP or combined treatment facility Indicator for specific objective 2: • Additional population enjoying secure supply of safe drinking water
				Protecting and restoring biodiversity and soil and promoting ecosystem services, including through NATURA 2000, and green infrastructure	Achieve good chemical and ecological status of waters	Specific objective 3: Achieve good chemical and ecological status of waters	Indicator for specific objective 3: • Number of surface waterbodies to improve status and/or conservation status of Natura 2000 species and habitats
					Improve the conservation status of important European species and habitat types, giving priority to those with poor conservation status and to endemic species		Indicators: • Habitat types in a favourable or inadequate conservation status • Species in a favourable or inadequate conservation status

Priority axis	Fund	Union support (EUR)	Share of total Union contribution to the OP	Thematic objective	Investment priority	Specific objective compatible with investment priority	Common result indicators and specific result indicators for which target values have been set
2.7 Infrastructure development and promotion of sustainable mobility	CF ERDF	223 Vzhodna Slovenija: 40	7.43% 1.32%	(7) Promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures	Taking action to improve the urban environment, to revitalise cities, regenerate and decontaminate brownfield sites (including conversion areas), reduce air pollution and promote noise-reduction measures	Specific objective 1: Efficient land use in urban areas  Specific objective 2: Improve air quality monitoring to provide better support to the development of plans in this field	Indicator for specific objective 1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Share of land not revitalised in cities implementing sustainable urban strategies</li> </ul> Indicator for specific objective 2: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Share of implemented ambient air quality plans which comply with Directive 2008/50/EC</li> </ul>
					Developing a comprehensive, high-quality and interoperable railway system	Remove bottlenecks, enhance line capacity and shorten travel time	Indicators: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rail freight transport</li> <li>Rail passenger transport</li> </ul>
2.8 Promoting employment and supporting transnational labour mobility	ESF	287.7 Vzhodna Slovenija 137.56 Zahodna Slovenija: 140.96 Vzhodna Slovenija: 18.4	9.58%	(8) Promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility	Enhancing regional mobility by connecting secondary and tertiary traffic nodes to TEN-T infrastructure, including multimodal nodes	Improve transport connections to enhance access and support balanced regional development	Indicator: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Total travel time</li> </ul>
					Supporting a multimodal Single European Transport Area by investing in the TEN-T (CF)	Remove bottlenecks in the TEN-T network and ensure TEN-T standards along the network	Indicators: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Total travel time</li> <li>Capacity of the Basin II navigation channel in the Port of Koper</li> </ul>
2.8 Promoting employment and supporting transnational labour mobility	YEI	Slovenija: 18.4			Access to employment for job-seekers and inactive people, including the long-term unemployed and people far from the labour market, including through local employment initiatives and support for labour mobility	Specific objective 1: Increase employment of the unemployed, in particular of those over 50, the long-term unemployed and those with below ISCED 3 education level  Specific objective 2: Make lifelong career orientation more efficient	Indicators for specific objective 1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participants in employment upon leaving (employment incentives)</li> <li>Participants in employment upon leaving (education and training)</li> </ul> Indicators for specific objective 2: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developed LCO devices in use</li> <li>Average number of counselling sessions per counsellor</li> </ul>
						Specific objective 3: Effective guidance for transnational labour mobility, especially of young people, via the EURES service	Indicator for specific objective 3: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Training modules used for information and guidance as part of EURES services</li> </ul>



Priority axis	Fund	Union support (EUR)	Share of total Union contribution to the Op	Thematic objective	Investment priority	Specific objective compatible with investment priority	Common result indicators and specific result indicators for which target values have been set
				Sustainable integration into the labour market of young people, in particular those not in employment, education or training, including young people at risk of social exclusion and young people from marginalised communities, including through the implementation of the Youth Guarantee		Specific objective 1: Reduce youth unemployment	Indicators for specific objective 1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Average number of counselling sessions per counsellor</li><li>• Share of young people aged 15 to 29 in employment upon leaving (employment incentives)</li><li>• Share of young people aged 15 to 29 in employment upon leaving (education or training)</li></ul>
						Specific objective 2: Implement the Youth Employment Initiative – reduce youth unemployment of those not in employment, education or training in the 15-29 age group in the cohesion region of Vzhodna Slovenija	Indicators for specific objective 2: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Unemployed participants who complete the programme</li><li>• Unemployed participants who receive an offer of employment, continued education or training upon leaving</li><li>• Unemployed participants who gain a qualification or are in employment, including self-employment, upon leaving education/training</li><li>• Long-term unemployed participants who complete the programme</li><li>• Long-term unemployed participants who receive an offer of employment, continued education or training upon leaving</li><li>• Long-term unemployed participants who gain a qualification or are in employment, including self-employment, upon leaving education/training</li><li>• Inactive participants who complete the programme</li><li>• Inactive participants who receive an offer of employment, continued education or training upon leaving</li><li>• Inactive participants who gain a qualification or are in employment, including self-employment, upon leaving education/training</li><li>• Participants in continued education, training programmes leading to a qualification, an apprenticeship or a traineeship six months after leaving</li><li>• Participants in employment, including self-employment six months after leaving</li><li>• Participants in self-employment, six months after leaving</li></ul>
				Active and healthy ageing		Prolong and improve labour force participation of the older population participating in the actions	Indicators: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reducing absence from work in supported firms</li><li>• Share of older workers who are prepared to work longer</li></ul>

Priority axis	Fund	Union support (EUR)	Share of total Union contribution to the OP	Thematic objective	Investment priority	Specific objective compatible with investment priority	Common result indicators and specific result indicators for which target values have been set
2.9 Social inclusion and poverty reduction	ESF	145 Vzhodna Slovenija: 80 Zahodna Slovenija: 65	4.84% 2.5%	(9) Promoting social inclusion, combating poverty and any discrimination	Active inclusion, including with a view to promoting equal opportunities and active participation, and improving employability	Specific objective 1: Establish an integrated model of social activation	Indicators for specific objective 1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Share of operational regional mobile units</li> <li>Share of trainers to complete training or gain a qualification</li> </ul>
	ERDF	75 Vzhodna Slovenija: 40 Zahodna Slovenija: 35				Specific objective 2: Empower target groups to bring them closer to the labour market	Indicators for specific objective 2: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Share of vulnerable group members engaged in job search, in education/training, in gaining a qualification or in employment upon leaving</li> </ul>
						Specific Objective 3: Prevent slipping into poverty or social exclusion and reduce health inequalities	Indicators for specific objective 3: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Share of intergenerational centres and family centres implementing the programme six months after the completion of intervention</li> <li>Share of community healthcare centres implementing the planned measures six months after the completion of intervention</li> </ul>
				Enhancing access to affordable, sustainable and high-quality services, including health care and social services of general interest	Pilot testing of approaches for improved integration of long-term care services	Indicators: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Average number of treatments per coordinator</li> <li>Share of participants not included in institutions upon leaving</li> <li>Share of elderly not included in institutions upon leaving</li> <li>Share of adults and children not included in institutions upon leaving</li> </ul>	
				Investing in health and social infrastructure which contributes to national, regional and local development, reducing inequalities in terms of health status, promoting social inclusion through improved access to social, cultural and recreational services and the transition from institutional to community-based services	Specific objective: Improve the quality of community-based services	Indicator for specific objective 1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of individuals in institutions</li> </ul>	

Priority axis	Fund	Union support (EUR)	Share of total Union contribution to the OP	Thematic objective	Investment priority	Specific objective compatible with investment priority	Common result indicators and specific result indicators for which target values have been set
2.10 Knowledge, skills and lifelong learning to enhance employability	ESF	209	6.96%	(10) Investing in education, training and vocational training for skills and lifelong learning	Promoting social entrepreneurship and vocational integration in social enterprises and the social and solidarity economy in order to facilitate access to employment	Increase the scope of activities and employment in the social entrepreneurship sector	Indicator: • Participants in employment upon leaving
	ERDF	Slovenija: 117 Zahodna Slovenija: 92 20	0.67%		Investment under CLLD strategies	Improved economic and social inclusion in areas of local action groups (LAGs)	Indicator: • Satisfaction with the local labour market situation
		Vzhodna Slovenija: 117 Zahodna Slovenija: 92 20			Enhancing equal access to lifelong learning for all age groups in formal, non-formal and informal settings, upgrading the knowledge, skills and competences of the workforce, and promoting flexible learning pathways including through career guidance and validation of acquired competences	Specific objective 1: Improve competences of those less-involved in lifelong learning  Specific objective 2: Improve employee competences to reduce the labour market mismatches  Specific objective 3: promote flexible learning pathways and support high-quality career orientation for school-age youth at all levels of the education system	Indicators for specific objective 1: • Share of participants completing the programme for obtaining competences • Share of participants over 45 completing the programme for obtaining competences  Indicators for specific objective 2: • Share of participants completing counselling • Share of employees completing training, additional qualification, specialisation or requalification  Indicators for specific objective 3: • Share of schools with successfully implemented flexible learning pathway strategies • Share of higher education institutions with successfully implemented flexible learning pathway strategies
		Slovenija: 10 Zahodna Slovenija: 10			Improving the labour market relevance of education and training systems, facilitating the transition from education to work, and strengthening vocational education and training (VET) systems and their quality, including through mechanisms for skills anticipation, adaptation of curricula and the establishment and development of work-based learning systems, including dual learning systems and apprenticeship schemes	Specific objective 1: modernise vocational education and training system  Specific objective 2: improve the competences of vocational education and training providers	Indicators for specific objective 1: • Share of schools with a successfully introduced variety of vocational education and training models  Indicators for specific objective 2: • Share of in-company mentors and professional staff to complete trainings

Priority axis	Fund	Union support (EUR)	Share of total Union contribution to the OP	Thematic objective	Investment priority	Specific objective compatible with investment priority	Common result indicators and specific result indicators for which target values have been set
2.11 Rule of law, enhancing institutional capacity, efficient public administration and capacity building of social partners and NGOs	ESF	62 Vzhodna Slovenija: 25 Zahodna Slovenija: 37	2.07%	(11) Enhancing institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders and efficient public administration	Investing in skills, education and lifelong learning by developing education and training infrastructure	Specific objective: improve competences and achievements of young people and enhance educators' qualifications through greater use of modern ICTs in teaching and learning	Indicators: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Share of primary school teachers using ICTs in the classroom more than 25% of the time</li> <li>Share of secondary school teachers using ICTs in the classroom more than 25% of the time</li> </ul>
					Investment in institutional capacity and in the efficiency of public administrations and public services at the national, regional and local levels with a view to reforms, better regulation and good governance	Specific objective 1: improve the quality of judicial proceedings by optimising them and improve the competences of the justice system staff  Specific objective 2: improve the level of qualification and integrity of public administration staff by upgrading the human resources management and training system	Indicators for specific objective 1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Share of established systems used in courts</li> <li>Share of participants to complete the supported training in the justice system</li> </ul> Indicator for specific objective 2: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Share of public administration staff to complete the supported training</li> </ul>
						Specific objective 3: improve governance and transparency in public administration by introducing new tools, methods and interoperable solutions	Indicators for specific objective 3: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Share of bodies to apply the CAF model</li> <li>Share of building blocks and fundamental data records implemented within the government cloud</li> </ul>
						Specific objective 4: improve the legislative framework and upgrade e-services for a user-oriented public administration	Indicator for specific objective 4: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Share of ministries with an implemented measurement system and use of SCM methodology</li> </ul>
					Capacity building for all stakeholders delivering education, lifelong learning, training and employment and social policies, including through sectoral and territorial pacts to mobilise for reform at the national, regional and local levels	Specific objective 1: build capacity of NGOs for advocacy and provision of public services  Specific objective 2: enhance competence of social partners in social dialogue processes, in particular in the area of labour market policies and lifelong learning	Indicator for specific objective 1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Share of supported structures with at least one employee six months after completion who performs support activities for an NGO</li> </ul> Indicator for specific objective 2: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Share of participants to complete training or gain a qualification</li> </ul>

Priority axis	Fund	Union support (EUR)	Share of total Union contribution to the OP	Thematic objective	Investment priority	Specific objective compatible with investment priority	Common result indicators and specific result indicators for which target values have been set
2.12 Technical assistance	CF	90	2.98%	not relevant	Technical assistance	Specific objective 1: effective implementation of the operational programme	Indicators for specific objective 1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Share of error rate (CF)</li> <li>Share of employees involved in OP implementation who have participated in trainings, education seminars (CF)</li> <li>Average number of training days per year per employee whose salary is co-financed from technical assistance funds (CF)</li> <li>Employee turnover per year, i.e. employees involved in OP implementation whose salary is co-financed from technical assistance funds (CF)</li> </ul> <p>Indicator for specific objective 2:  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Share of beneficiaries involved in OP implementation who participate in trainings, education seminars (CF)</li> </ul> </p>
2.13 Technical assistance	ERDF	17 Vzhodna Slovenija: 14 Zahodna Slovenija: 3	0.57%	not relevant	Technical assistance	Specific objective 1: effective implementation of the operational programme	Indicators for specific objective 1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Share of error rate (ERDF)</li> <li>Share of employees involved in OP implementation who have participated in trainings, education seminars (ERDF)</li> <li>Average number of training days per year per employee whose salary is co-financed from technical assistance funds (ERDF)</li> </ul> <p>Indicator for specific objective 2:  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Share of beneficiaries involved in OP implementation who participate in trainings, education seminars (ERDF)</li> </ul> </p>
2.14 Technical assistance	ESF	12 Vzhodna Slovenija: 9 Zahodna Slovenija: 3	0.43%	not relevant	Technical assistance	Specific objective 1: effective implementation of the operational programme	Indicators for specific objective 1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Share of error rate (ESF)</li> <li>Share of employees involved in OP implementation who have participated in trainings, education seminars (ESF)</li> <li>Average number of training days per year per employee whose salary is co-financed from technical assistance funds (ESF)</li> </ul> <p>Indicator for specific objective 2:  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Share of beneficiaries involved in OP implementation who participate in trainings, education seminars (ESF)</li> </ul> </p> <p>Indicator for specific objective 3:  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Annual growth of the reach of web activities (ESF)</li> </ul> </p>





## 2. DESCRIPTION OF THE PRIORITY AXES



## 2. DESCRIPTION OF THE PRIORITY AXES

### 2.1. International competitiveness of research, innovation and technological development in line with smart specialisation for enhanced competitiveness and greening of the economy

#### *2.1.1 Explanation for the establishment of a priority axis covering more than one category of region or more than one thematic objective or more than one Fund*

Increased focus on target markets and less fragmented scientific research and technological development in Slovenia are indispensable for improving the international competitiveness of research, innovation and technological development. Slovenia's compact size requires that all synergies created between Slovenia's higher education, research and innovation infrastructure over many decades are exploited as rationally and efficiently as possible in order to achieve this goal (OECD Economic Review, 2011, p. 102). Considering the above, cooperation, integration and openness of knowledge institutions to all stakeholders and initiatives of innovation development are of vital importance, building on further focus on final users and, to the extent possible, on market potential evaluation to guarantee market success. Slovenia should increase, and above all, make full use of scientific and technological knowledge to strengthen and scale up its innovation activities. This is the mission of the Smart Specialisation Strategy, which defines the priority areas and modes of concentrating the country's innovation potentials.

A uniform approach will be adopted at the national level under the priority axis concerned, as this is the only way to achieve the critical mass and to exploit the created synergies by taking into account the baseline situation stemming from the results of past investment and reflected in the concentration of research infrastructure, and partly of the knowledge created. Future development will build on strengthening already developed potentials and on simultaneous support for investment made in the cohesion region of Vzhodna Slovenija that will contribute to closing the gap in the area of research excellence that exists between the two cohesion regions. This will be substantially supported by the funding allocated to the

cohesion region of Vzhodna Slovenija which, compared with the previous programming period, is higher and additionally stimulates the development of the private sector in this region.

### **2.1.2 Fund, category of region and basis for Union support calculation**

<b>Fund</b>	<b>ERDF</b>
Category of region	Vzhodna Slovenija, Zahodna Slovenija
Basis for calculation (total eligible expenditure or eligible public expenditure)	Total eligible cost

### **2.1.3 Enhancing research and innovation (R&I) infrastructure and capacities to develop R&I excellence, and promoting centres of competence, in particular those of European interest**

**SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE: EFFICIENT USE OF THE RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE AND DEVELOPMENT OF KNOWLEDGE/COMPETENCES TO IMPROVE NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION IN THE KNOWLEDGE TRIANGLE**

More efficient investment in research, development and innovation (RDI), particularly in the areas where market demand is manifested, is the key lever underpinning successful restructuring of the economy. Slovenia should benefit from establishing a support system that facilitates the transfer of accumulated knowledge into market-oriented activities and improves conditions for multidisciplinary collaboration between experts of various profiles.

Slovenia's past investment in RDI created a relatively good environment for research and development. Specific attention in the current programming period should be particularly focused on how to use the existing research infrastructure and knowledge in a more efficient way in order to support innovation development processes in the economy and public sector for the development of technologies, processes, products and services boasting market potential, and in order to improve knowledge transfer in the knowledge triangle.

The existing research infrastructure (supported by the EU and national funds) and existing partnerships between institutions will represent a solid base for speeding up the process of knowledge transfer in the national and EU context.

This will guarantee further concentration of potentials and facilitate coordination of established links in accordance with the Smart Specialisation Strategy. Support under the investment priority in priority areas of use as identified in the Smart Specialisation Strategy will be given for the development of the missing research infrastructure in order to link the existing and upgraded research infrastructure into national and regional infrastructure centres in a functional way (based on NRRI and ESFRI). This will boost the global competitiveness of Slovenian research, and speed up and improve the development of the relevant human resources. The measures will be aimed at building up the European Research Area (ERA) and subsequent stepping up of Slovenia's competitiveness and of the EU area as a whole. Support for and upgrading of the instruments under Horizon 2020 will create synergies between the structural funds and funds provided by the central EU programmes (Horizon 2020).

The existing research infrastructure will be better used while unnecessary duplication of the costs of equipment will be minimised and access to state-of-the-art equipment in the economy will also be facilitated. This will have spillover effects on public research organisations and the economy and on the knowledge transfer between both spheres. Investment in the measures under this investment priority will intensify collaboration between research institutions, with a well-balanced role of public research institutions and economic entities, and improve the knowledge transfer in the knowledge triangle.

Hence, we expect Slovenia to become an internationally open research area attractive to individual researchers and research organisations as well as foreign and national enterprises.

The expected results under this specific objective:

- improved transfer of knowledge between research organisations and enterprises;
- full use of research infrastructure and its linking into national and regional infrastructure centres;
- enhanced international competitiveness of the Slovenian RDI area.

**Table 4: Specific result indicators**

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Data source	Frequency of reporting
1.1	Share of foreign funding in gross domestic expenditure on R&D	Share	Whole of Slovenia	8.6*	2012	8.6	SORS	Once a year
1.8	Share of business sector funding in public sector expenditure on RDI	Share	Whole of Slovenia	9.7	2012	12	SORS	Once a year
1.2	Slovenia's performance ranking above the EU average in Innovation Union Scoreboard	Place	Whole of Slovenia	12 <sup>th</sup> place	2014	11 <sup>th</sup> place**	Innovation Union Scoreboard	Once a year

\* Source: Eurostat

\*\*Due to the fact that the place cannot be accurately determined, the 11<sup>th</sup> place is an estimate representing one place above the EU average for 2014.

### 2.1.3.1 Actions to be supported under the investment priority

2.1.3.1.1 Description of types and examples of actions to be financed and their expected contribution to the corresponding specific objectives, including, where appropriate, identification:

The funds under the investment priority will be ring-fenced notably for those research areas that demonstrate market potential, support a market-oriented economy and indirectly contribute to strengthening entrepreneurial potential and raising added value. The measures to receive support will arise from the priorities outlined in the Smart Specialisation Strategy<sup>72</sup>.

<sup>72</sup> We are building the OP document on the latest version of the Smart Specialisation Strategy document dated 29 August until the final version of the Smart Specialisation Strategy has been approved. A relative consensus on the document was already reached by the stakeholders and this will be a stepping stone towards pursuing the entrepreneurial discovery process and further concentration efforts.

This document will, in line with the OP, describe in detail the allocation modes and procedures. The entrepreneurial discovery process will continue throughout the implementation of the OP; as a consequence, the set of measures and thematic areas they cover will be adjusted accordingly. Based on the consensus already reached between the stakeholders that participated in the development of the Smart Specialisation Strategy, we may identify which areas in particular will be supported:

- Improved international competitiveness and research excellence for participation in global value chains. Slovenia has developed and concentrated its capacities in several forms of integration between the academic and economic spheres (e.g. centres of excellence, competence centres, development centres) in the past decade. The areas where Slovenia is expected to boost the potential for a successful breakthrough into global markets and efficient integration into global value chains have been identified

with the help of the entrepreneurial discovery process launched for the sake of Smart Specialisation Strategy preparation. The role of the country in this respect is to foster mutual cooperation and encourage joint investment with the private sector. Not only does this involve the identification of new areas, but also better exploitation of the potentials, capacities and opportunities developed to date. Their results have already been evaluated and will be in future, too, which will provide a substantial input for the priority setting in the Smart Specialisation Strategy. Support in the context of this measure will be given to projects that demonstrate the potential for making a breakthrough in the international research arena and directly support the economy's development potentials.

- Wider use and development of research infrastructure. In connection with the first measure, support will be given to creating the conditions for opening up research infrastructure for use by other research institutions, foreign partners and enterprises. Support will also be given to putting in place a system of open access to research data, which will widen access to research results, and facilitate and speed up the transfer of acquired knowledge.

Infrastructure investment will focus on priority areas deemed to be the indispensable condition for the international competitiveness of Slovenian RDI. Support will thus be given to enhancement of the existing or, if relevant, the construction of new research infrastructure in priority areas of the Smart Specialisation Strategy and projects identified in the Research Infrastructure Development Plan whose emphasis will be given to ESFRI projects. Special attention will also be given to the development of infrastructure in cooperation with economic entities.

- Efficient integration into international research programmes, including the Horizon 2020 programme. The main emphasis will be given to supporting the integration of Slovenian partners into international networks by providing the infrastructure conditions

in terms of integration into major international infrastructures (e.g. CERN), promoting research activities and attracting renowned foreign experts to come to Slovenia, especially through schemes that complement international competitive funding (e.g. ERC). Furthermore, we will support the activities that pursue building of the European Research Area (e.g. ERA-net), the Innovation Union and Horizon 2020, and of other partnerships, which will create synergies between different sources of funding. Special effort in terms of funding will be directed toward the instrument of widening participation under Horizon 2020 (ERA chair, twinning, teaming) by funding initiatives in priority areas defined in the Smart Specialisation Strategy. Also, partnerships under Joint Programme Initiatives, under Articles 185 and 187 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) and partnerships under the European Institute of Innovation and Technology will be supported. The supportive environment for Slovenian applicants (research institutions and enterprises) for the central EU programmes Horizon 2020 will likewise be strengthened.

- Harnessing of research potential of researchers, and mobility of researchers between the academic and business spheres. The incentives will support research projects with a view to bringing together the actors within the knowledge triangle based on potentials and breakthrough ideas of individual researchers. Also, various forms of knowledge transfer between the academic sphere and the economy will be supported, as well as strengthening of the research potential of knowledge institutions and development-oriented economic entities. Special attention will be given to researchers who return to Slovenia after research or education work at foreign research and/or higher education institutions. Thanks to their acquired knowledge, they are able to significantly contribute to the RDI activity of enterprises and further production of knowledge and its application in the context of research projects that will be implemented so as to fully harness research potentials by boosting the economic competitiveness.

Where possible, support will likewise be given to researchers who rank high in open competitions for research funding, but will not receive support due to a limited budget under the call for proposals. Such linking will boost integration into the European Research Area and spur cooperation within the knowledge triangle. The instruments will act as a lever underpinning enhanced integration and collaboration between research organisations and the economy and, as a consequence, intensifying private sector investment in RDI.

- Linking of the areas of science, cultural and creative industries and the economy. The Smart Specialisation Strategy preparation process showed that the country needs to work on promoting the use and integration of new knowledge, artistic achievements, cultural and creative industries and on fostering state-of-the-art technologies in order to strengthen the knowledge society and raise the level of innovation and creativity. The measure will provide support for the establishment of platforms that will contribute to creating new links between projects that are already internationally known and that contribute to identifying the areas for development of specific applications.

Target groups: enterprises, research organisations, universities and independent higher education institutions or researchers and consortia, in line with the identified priority research and technological areas, institutions and entities in the cultural sphere.

Beneficiaries: legal entities of public law, including ministries, institutes (public and private), enterprises, research organisations, universities and independent higher education institutions or researchers and consortia, in line with the identified priority research and technological areas, regional development agencies, entities in the cultural sphere combining cultural activities with research.

#### 2.1.3.1.2 Guiding principles for the selection of operations

In addition to horizontal principles, the guiding principles in this part will comply with the areas identified in the Smart Specialisation Strategy, and projects that have the following characteristics will be favoured:

- they have a business plan that guarantees sustainability of measures after the closure of the programming period;
- they integrate knowledge, competences and technologies in priority areas;
- they promote innovation and integrity of the planned products, services and processes;
- they build on internationally comparable knowledge and competences throughout the knowledge development process;
- they demonstrate the administrative/technical capacity and investment capacity of those implementing the project;
- they demonstrate the long-term development and market potential of new products, services and integrated solutions;
- they have a broader social impact or response to societal challenges;
- they link different regional actors.

#### 2.1.3.1.3 Planned use of financial instruments

Financial instruments are not planned to be used under this investment priority.

#### 2.1.3.1.4 Planned use of major projects

Major projects are not planned at this stage.

### 2.1.3.1.5 Output indicators, broken down by investment priorities and category of region, if applicable

**Table 5: Output indicators**

ID	Indicator	Measure- ment unit	Fund	Category of region	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
CO24	Research, Innovation: Number of new researchers in supported entities	Number	ERDF	Vzhodna Slovenija	150	Monitoring	Once a year
				Zahodna Slovenija	200		
CO25	Research, Innovation: Number of researchers working in improved research infrastructure facilities	Number	ERDF	Whole of Slovenia	150	Monitoring	Once a year
CO26	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	Number	ERDF	Whole of Slovenia	135	Monitoring Ministry of Education, Science and Sport/Ministry of Culture	Once a year

**2.1.4 Promoting business investment in R&I, developing links and synergies between enterprises, research and development centres and the higher education sector, in particular promoting investment in product and service development, technology transfer, social innovation, eco-innovation, public service applications, demand stimulation, networking, clusters and open innovation through smart specialisation, and supporting technological and applied research, pilot lines, early product validation actions, advanced manufacturing capabilities and first production, in particular in key enabling technologies and diffusion of general purpose technologies**

#### **SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE: INCREASED SHARE OF INNOVATION-ACTIVE ENTERPRISES**

Slovenia is doing well in terms of increasing the number of patents and scientific articles, but less as regards the use of new knowledge and its commercialisation. The share of innovation-active enterprises in Slovenia has been falling and the lag behind the EU average has grown by 3.5 percentage points. Also, innovation activity in small enterprises has decreased, and the same trend has also been observed in service sector enterpri-

ses.<sup>73</sup> The processes of enterprise creation and technological transfers are weak. The technological structure of exports lags behind the EU average and investment in non-technological innovation has decreased.

Slovenia's economy still lacks researchers, especially technically qualified staff in engineering. Furthermore, Slovenia needs to catch up with other counterparts in the area of eco-innovations and in terms of material and energy efficiency. Coupled with the previously mentioned issues, the high dependence on raw materials imports creates an additional burden and acts as an impetus for investment in the development of solutions leading to a circular economy. The lag in terms of innovation activity of enterprises undermines the competitiveness of products and services in foreign markets and prolongs stagnation of high-tech product exports.

If the country wishes to increase the share of innovation-active enterprises, it should carry out a combination of measures that will contribute to building a critical mass required for achieving breakthrough momentum and participation in global value chains. The incentive

<sup>73</sup> [http://www.stat.si/novica\\_prikazi.aspx?id=6186](http://www.stat.si/novica_prikazi.aspx?id=6186)

system will be designed so as to concentrate on the incentives to support innovative enterprises and enterprises which operate at the low end of the added value chain and which will be encouraged to develop new products and services and seek new synergies.

Investments will seek to remove and correct the identified weaknesses and harness the potential of R&D in priority areas of use where the market potentials are clearly demonstrated and where these areas are recognised as a priority in the Smart Specialisation Strategy. These areas will see the creation of links between excellence, competences and potentials for the development of new products, services and integrated solutions. The country will strive to create and seize opportunities for joint investment and a combination of national and international funds for RDI areas while strengthening the created links in the innovation system and building a critical mass of different stakeholders, disciplines and areas in priority areas of use identified in the Smart Specialisation Strategy. These activities should strengthen the technology and innovation base of the Slovenian economy.

As innovations and innovativeness are not limited only to the research and private sectors, but are also an important factor helping to enhance the competitiveness

of the public and non-governmental sectors, the country intends to support development and innovations in these fields, too.

The incentive effect of support for RDI projects will play an important role in helping to avoid the crowding out of already planned private investment. A lower financing rate is planned to be used for the incentives compared with the 2007-2013 period. At the instrument level, the country intends to pursue the principle of allocating available funds to the best projects that demonstrate an adequate level of private financial input. Due attention will be given to the rules on state aid, including the ban on recovery and restructuring of state aid given to companies in difficulties in line with Regulation (EU) No 651/2014 (GBER) in terms of supporting RDI.

The expected results under this specific objective:

- increased share of innovation-active enterprises launching technological and non-technological innovations;
- increased share of enterprises integrated into global supply chains and consortia;
- increased share of high-tech exports among total exports;
- increased investment in RDI by the private sector.

**Table 6: Specific result indicators**

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Data source	Frequency of reporting
1.3	Share of business expenditure on R&D as a percentage of GDP	Share	Whole of Slovenia	1.76	2012	2	SORS	Once a year
1.4	Share of innovation-active enterprises	Share	Whole of Slovenia	46.5	2012	55	SORS	Once every two years*

2023 target values are determined based on long-term projections considering baseline data by taking into account the planned activities under the investment priority.

\*The published data is collected by SORS based on a statistical survey of innovation activity in manufacturing activities and selected service activities in accordance with the international OECD methodology (Oslo Manual) and the recommendations made by Eurostat, harmonised innovations inventory – CIS 2012 (Community Innovation Survey). The indicator is monitored every two years (the last survey of innovation activity was carried out in 2013, the enterprises responded to questions on innovation activity in the 2010-2012 period; the next survey covering the 2012-2014 period will be conducted in 2015).



### 2.1.4.1 Actions to be supported under the investment priority

2.1.4.1.1 Description of types and examples of actions to be financed and their expected contribution to the corresponding specific objectives, including, where appropriate, identification:

Measures will be implemented for enterprises and development partnerships at the national and international level. The measures will support the design of innovative solutions, their use and commercialisation. The measures will further raise the technological and non-technological complexity of products and services necessary to step up the productivity and value added, and strengthen the competitive position of the Slovenian economy in global markets. Support will be allocated to those projects that show the greatest potential for a breakthrough on a global scale, and arise from the priorities outlined in the Smart Specialisation Strategy<sup>74</sup> which will, in line with the OP, specify the allocation modes and procedures. The entrepreneurial discovery process will continue throughout the implementation of the OP; as a consequence, the set of measures and thematic areas they cover will be adjusted accordingly. Based on the consensus already reached between the stakeholders that participated in the development of the Smart Specialisation Strategy the following areas will be supported in particular:

- Networking and strengthening of links and synergies in the innovation system: this measure will support the strengthening of links and synergies in the innovation system and reinforce cooperation between the economy and knowledge institutions. This will help build development partnerships in the areas defined by the Smart Specialisation Strategy that will bring together excellent competences and capacities

forming a critical mass for a breakthrough on a global scale. Development partnerships may have the form of public-private partnerships and may be integrated so as to form innovation hubs. Support will also be given for the preparation of development partnership programmes, reinforcement of international cooperation, development of chains, joint investment and for the promotion of FDI (e.g. linking and cooperation with global knowledge centres and innovation networks). Support will further target the development of international consortia and partnerships, international R&D projects under Article 185 and 187 of the TFEU (e.g. EUREKA/Eurostars) and cross-border cooperation activities of regions, e.g. in the scope of EUSDR.

- Encouraging of innovation processes and associated investment: support will be given to technological and non-technological innovation that is oriented to commercialisation. The measures will encompass the following:

(1) Applied research; research and innovation projects for the development of new products, services and processes, and for the use of new technologies in priority areas of use defined in the Smart Specialisation Strategy that contribute to increasing material and energy efficiency will be prepared and implemented under this measure. Individual or joint research and innovation projects of enterprises or of enterprises in cooperation with research institutions and other beneficiaries under development partnerships will be supported.

(2) Investment in non-technological innovation and in sustainable value elements (e.g. intellectual property rights, process and organisation innovation, social innovation, linking of enterprises and cultural and creative industries, new business models innovations), including the promotion of using industrial design in the economy and elsewhere and the development of products and services with own trademarks.

<sup>74</sup> We are building the OP document on the latest version of the Smart Specialisation Strategy document dated 29 August until the final version of the Smart Specialisation Strategy has been approved. A relative consensus on the document was already reached by the stakeholders and this will be a stepping stone towards pursuing the entrepreneurial discovery process and further concentration efforts.

(3) Eco-innovation whose goal is substantial and evident progress made towards sustainable development through reduction of environmental impacts or contribution to efficient and prudent use of resources. Support will be given to the development of new materials based on renewable and natural resources, the development of environment-friendly products, processes, services and business models, e.g. in terms of reducing dependence on primary raw materials, the design of processes and products for reuse and recycling, and waste management. This will take on board every stage of the lifecycle, the concept of cradle-to-cradle design and efforts to increase material and energy efficiency.

(4) Pilot lines, early product validation actions, advanced manufacturing capabilities and first production in key enabling technologies. Support will be given to projects in KET and other multi-functional technologies. These projects will seek to develop and set up pilot lines, they will pursue early product validation activities, optimisation of advanced manufacturing technologies and first production through the simultaneous deployment of ICT solutions (e.g. future internet, big data, cloud computing, new integrated e-solutions and service platforms).

- Support for projects for the development of innovations and their testing in practice. Support will be given to demonstration projects to showcase and test new solutions for immediate use in practice and to projects demonstrating use (e.g. Living Labs, internet of things, cloud computing, big data, reinforcement of creativity e.g. CreativeHubs etc.). Support will particularly be given to projects that allow the solution designers to obtain relevant references and promote the commercialisation of solutions, including the provision of the necessary capacities to support the demonstration of solutions, which will significantly contribute to promoting Slovenian science, knowledge and technological development, and to expansion into new markets with

new products and services. The measure will complement thematic objectives 4, 5 and 7.

- Commercialisation of developed solutions and demand stimulation: support will be given to projects seeking commercialisation of developed solutions and entry of new technologies into the market in order to acquire references, e.g. through innovative public procurement, pre-commercial public procurement and demonstration projects.
- Strengthening of development competences: support will be provided with a view to enhancing competences and innovation potentials in order to complement key areas under this investment priority. To this aim, the country should initiate processes that will bring together the wider business environment and integrate it into innovation processes (e.g. mass innovation) in various fields. This should result in strengthening of development units in enterprises notably with multi- and interdisciplinary knowledge (creativity, design-management, art and other non-technological solutions).

The country needs to improve the RDI governance system in line with the orientations and recommendations, thus creating conditions for efficient public investment in RDI. The RDI governance structure outlined in the Smart Specialisation Strategy will provide for efficient coordination of different ministries and other actors in the field. This will create the required concentration levels of support for promising research and innovation projects, including in relation to the Horizon 2020 programme.

Creation of spin-off enterprises at knowledge institutions is another challenge to be addressed. Slovenia recognises the importance of timely delivery of the relevant legislation in this area. The measures targeting spin-offs are planned under specific objective 1: promote the creation and operation of new firms, especially start-ups under priority axis 3 (in connection with financial instruments), and will be implemented in compliance with the Smart Specialisation Strategy. Based on experience ga-

ined with venture capital firms in the past, it would make sense to implement the venture capital instruments in a broader regional context.

Target groups: development partnerships, enterprises and knowledge institutions.

Beneficiaries: legal entities under public law, including ministries, enterprises, different forms of linking of enterprises among themselves and with knowledge and cultural institutions, supportive environment for innovation, chambers, institutes, research organisations, regional development agencies, NGOs, knowledge institutions.

#### 2.1.4.1.2 Guiding principles for the selection of operations

In addition to horizontal principles, the guiding principles in this part will comply with the areas identified in the Smart Specialisation Strategy, and the projects that have the following characteristics will have priority:

- they take into account market trends, market potential of new products, services and integrated solutions;
- they integrate knowledge, competences and technologies in priority areas;
- they promote innovation and integrity of the planned products, services and processes;
- they build on internationally comparable knowledge and competences throughout the knowledge development process;
- they demonstrate the administrative/technical capacity of those implementing the project;
- they have a broader social impact or response to societal challenges;
- they link different regional actors.

#### 2.1.4.1.3 Planned use of financial instruments

A holding fund providing SMEs with access to finance was set up within the Slovene Enterprise Fund in the 2007-2013 period. The holding fund offered a financial engineering model of bank loan guarantee lines for technologically innovative projects of SMEs by using national sources of funding. Also, the SID Bank provided loans for RDI projects as part of a loan fund pilot programme. The SID bank similarly offered loans to enterprises via a loan fund to finance their R&D projects. Both lines of funding will also be available for enterprises in 2015.

The 2014-2020 programming period envisages the implementation of financial instruments, either in an independent way or in combination with grants based on the ex-ante assessment **of market needs and market financing gap and an estimate of the level and scope of public investment needs for financial instruments, including types of financial instruments for micro, small or medium-sized enterprises.** The ex-ante assessment will be commissioned, and the relevant procedure is underway.

#### 2.1.4.1.4 Planned use of major projects

Major projects are not planned.

## 2.1.4.1.5 Output indicators

Table 7: Output indicators

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	Number	ERDF	Whole of Slovenia	200	Monitoring/own data	Once a year
CO02	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving grants	Number	ERDF	Whole of Slovenia	100	Monitoring/own data	Once a year
CO03	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving financial support other than grants	Number	ERDF	Whole of Slovenia	100	Monitoring/own data	Once a year
CO28	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the market products	Number	ERDF	Whole of Slovenia	200	Monitoring/own data	Once a year
1.5	Number of established development partnerships	Number	ERDF	Whole of Slovenia	5	Monitoring/own data	Once a year
1.6	Number of established international development partnerships	Number	ERDF	Whole of Slovenia	4	Monitoring/own data	Once a year
1.7	Number of supported demonstration projects for presentation, testing of new solutions for direct practical use and demonstration of use	Number	ERDF	Whole of Slovenia	5	Monitoring/own data	Once a year

Indicator values will be monitored in line with the monitoring and evaluation guidelines. 2023 target values are determined on the basis of trend projections by taking into account baseline data and the impact of planned activities under the investment priority.

### 2.1.5 Social innovation, transnational cooperation and contribution to thematic objectives 1-7

The projects receiving support should demonstrate their contribution to broader social objectives (including social innovation) or to sustainable development (social, economic and environmental aspects) both in Slovenia and the wider setting. The investments made under this thematic objective will complement those made under thematic objective 3 and the projects under transnational and interregional initiatives. The supported projects will reinforce Slovenia's integration into the macro-regional and transnational context and throughout the EU, where

additional synergies will be created especially through linking up with the instruments under Horizon 2020. Transnational cooperation is vital for building up and integrating research infrastructures where joint initiatives building on the ESFRI Roadmap will be created on the common points of national smart specialisation strategies. Measures under priority axis 1 will help Slovenia integrate into the international environment, as practically every measure has been designed to be open for cooperation or upgrade in the region or beyond, which will help get the most out of the investments made in Slovenia and in other cooperating environments.

### 2.1.6 Performance framework

Priority axis	Indicator type (implementation step, financial indicator, output or result indicator)	ID	Definition of indicator or implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Fund	Category of region	Milestone for 2018	Final target (2023)	Source of data	Explanation of the relevance of the indicator, where applicable
1	Output indicator	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	Number	ERDF	Vzhodna Slovenija	30	120	Monitoring	59% of the funds available under priority axis 1, total for both cohesion regions
		CO01		Number	ERDF	Zahodna Slovenija	20	80	Monitoring	
1	Output indicator	CO26	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises cooperating with supported research institutions	Number	ERDF	Vzhodna Slovenija	10	54	Monitoring	21.6% of the funds available under priority axis 1, total for both cohesion regions
		CO26		Number	ERDF	Zahodna Slovenija	15	81	Monitoring	
1	Financial indicator	F1	Input/ expenditure	EUR	ERDF	Vzhodna Slovenija	79,486,445	317,945,783	Monitoring	
		F1		EUR	ERDF	Zahodna Slovenija	64,807,041	259,228,166	Monitoring	

Methodology: Indicator values for this investment priority will be monitored in line with the monitoring and evaluation guidelines produced by the MA. the progress made in terms of achieving the set indicator values will be monitored once a year via an information system that allows access to data on the achievement of target values by planned periods. Target output indicator values are determined on the basis of calculations of incentive amounts and available funds.

### 2.1.7 Categories of intervention

Fund and intervention field: ERDF - cohesion region of Vzhodna Slovenija									
Table 1: Intervention field		Table 2: Form and finance		Table 3: Territory		Table 4: Territorial delivery mechanisms		Table 6: ESF secondary theme	
Code	EUR amount	Code	EUR amount	Code	EUR amount	Code	EUR amount	Code	EUR amount
058	25,420,491	01	25,420,491	07	25,420,491	07	25,420,491	00	
060	58,485,904	01	58,485,904	07	58,485,904	07	58,485,904	00	
062	10,168,197	01	10,168,197	07	10,168,197	07	10,168,197	00	
063	4,862,164	01	4,862,164	07	4,862,164	07	4,862,164	00	
002	28,966,877	01	28,966,877	07	28,966,877	07	28,966,877	00	
057	28,966,877	04	28,966,877	07	28,966,877	07	28,966,877	00	
064	28,966,877	01	28,966,877	07	28,966,877	07	28,966,877	00	
056	28,966,877	04	8,110,726	07	28,966,877	07	28,966,877	00	
		05	17,380,126						
		06	3,476,025						
065	39,552,362	01	23,330,910	07	39,552,362	07	39,552,362	00	
		04	5,793,375						
		05	8,690,063						
		06	1,738,013						

Fund and intervention field: ERDF - cohesion region of Zahodna Slovenija									
Table 1: Intervention field		Table 2: Form of finance		Table 3: Territory		Table 4: Territorial delivery mechanisms		Table 6: ESF secondary theme	
Code	EUR amount	Code	EUR amount	Code	EUR amount	Code	EUR amount	Code	EUR amount
058	24,579,508	01	24,579,508	07	24,579,508	07	24,579,508	00	
060	56,703,222	01	56,703,222	07	56,703,222	07	56,703,222	00	
062	9,831,803	01	9,831,803	07	9,831,803	07	9,831,803	00	
063	3,530,463	01	3, 530,463	07	3, 530,463	07	3, 530,463	00	
002	21,033,122	01	21,033,122	07	21,033,122	07	21,033,122	00	
057	21,033,122	04	21,033,122	07	21,033,122	07	21,033,122	00	
064	21,033,122	01	2,,033,122	07	21,033,122	07	21,033,122	00	
056	21,033,122	04	5,889,274	07	21,033,122	07	21,033,122	00	
		05	12,619,873						
		06	2,523,975						
065	28,605,049	01	16,826,500	07	28,605,049	07	28,605,049	00	
		04	4,206,625						
		05	6,309,937						
		06	1,261,987						

### **2.1.8 Where appropriate, a summary of the planned use of technical assistance including actions to reinforce the administrative capacity of authorities involved in the management and control of programmes**

In order to implement the measures under the priority axis, Slovenia intends to ring-fence the monies under technical assistance for training and support in the areas where no experience was gained in the 2007-2013 period (e.g. demonstration projects, innovative public procurement).

## **2.2 Enhancing access to, and use and quality of, information and communication technologies**

### **2.2.1 Explanation for the establishment of a priority axis covering more than one category of region or more than one thematic objective or more than one Fund**

Modern global development trends demand the establishing of a knowledge-based society, which depends, *inter alia*, on the capacity of the electronic communications network infrastructure in its role as one of the key digital society infrastructures, which should enable high-quality Internet access for all. The Internet, which is an ever-present communication network of information sources, enables easy access to a wide range of topics and services and thus fundamentally changes the way modern society functions. The Internet thus creates opportunities for individuals in all areas of private and public life; from learning, employment, access to information and public services and freedom of expression to participation in public life and relationships with friends and family. The Internet has the same impacts on the economy, the public sector and civil society. Establishing access to broadband infrastructure across the whole of Slovenia facilitates balanced development, reduces the digital divide and enhances the inclusion of each individual in contemporary social flows. In terms of guiding development, the Internet is a strategic tool to increase productivity, to create innovative business models, products and services, to establish efficient communication and to improve the overall performance of society. Development and the use of the Internet depends on broadband infrastructure, which means that focusing

development activities should take into account the fact that the economic and overall development of a modern digital society is directly linked to the development of high-quality broadband infrastructure.

Enhancing access to broadband electronic communications services will have a significant impact on the socio-economic development of the whole of Slovenia, as both regions – the cohesion region of Vzhodna Slovenija and the cohesion region of Zahodna Slovenija – are in need of investments in broadband. According to the existing data it can be established that the ratio between the two cohesion regions regarding the number of households with access to broadband does not differ significantly, with the development issue being identical in both cohesion regions. It can also be established that a uniform approach and nationally-oriented actions in terms of the electronic communications policy should be maintained. The establishment of a broadband electronic communications network in rural areas will facilitate a more balanced regional development and the preservation and creation of an environment which proves supportive in terms of small and medium-sized enterprise development.

Efficient spatial planning, building construction and real estate management depends, *inter alia*, on the proper set up and integration of individual ICT components. Therefore, the project eProstor (eSpatial) will be established at the national level, the implementation of which will take into account the repartition key, which will be based on the ratio between the number of inhabitants in each of the two cohesion regions (52.38% in the cohesion region of Vzhodna Slovenija and 47.62% in the cohesion region of Zahodna Slovenija).

### **2.2.2 Fund, category of region and basis for Union support calculation**

<b>Fund</b>	<b>ERDF</b>
Category of region	Vzhodna Slovenija, Zahodna Slovenija
Basis for calculation (total eligible expenditure or eligible public expenditure)	Total eligible cost



### 2.2.3 Extending broadband deployment and the roll-out of high-speed networks and supporting the adoption of emerging technologies and networks for the digital economy

**SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE: ACCESS TO BROADBAND ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES IN AREAS WHERE BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE HAS NOT YET BEEN ESTABLISHED AND WHERE THERE IS NO INTEREST IN THE MARKET TO ESTABLISH SUCH INFRASTRUCTURE**

According to the Agency for Communication Networks and Services (AKOS) data for the first quarter of 2014, 27.2% of the population and 70.6% of households in Slovenia had fixed broadband Internet access, with both figures being below the EU average (the EU average standing at 30% of the population and 76% of households). xDSL technology represents a 46.2% share of the technologies used, followed by cable modems representing a 30.7% share, FTTH representing a 20.5% share and other technologies representing a 2.5% share of the technologies used. In terms of the speed of Internet access 10.4% of users have access to the Internet with a speed of below 2 Mbps, 44.4% of users have access to the Internet with a speed between 2 Mbps and 10 Mbps, 39.1% of users have access to the Internet with a speed between 10 Mbps and 30 Mbps, and only 6.1%

of users have access to the Internet with a speed above 30 Mbps, of which only 3.05% of users have access to the Internet with a speed of 100 Mbps. With regard to the strategic objective of providing a higher quality of living and a business environment with broadband Internet access with a speed of at least 100 Mbps, additional public funds should be invested in the construction of open next generation broadband networks which will enable Internet connections with a speed of 100 Mbps and will provide access to broadband electronic communications services in the areas where the operators do not provide such services and demonstrate no commercial interest in developing such broadband infrastructure. As a result the number of new next generation broadband connections of at least 100 Mbps will increase in both cohesion regions, which will, in turn, create conditions to stimulate innovation, create job opportunities, improve productivity and competitiveness of all sectors of the economy, improve the quality and efficiency of public services and a sustainable economic growth, the latter being achieved by reducing the impact of economic and social activity on the environment.

- The expected result under this specific objective: cover the areas where operators do not provide access to broadband services with broadband network.

**Table 8: Specific result indicators**

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value 2023	Data source	Frequency of reporting
2.1	100 Mbps broadband penetration	Share	Whole of Slovenia	3.05	2014	70*	Surveying and Mapping Authority of the Republic of Slovenia/ Agency for Communication Networks and Services, SORS/ local communities	Once a year

\*The target value of 70% 100 Mbps broadband penetration covers the investments financed by public as well as private funds. Investments financed by private funds are expected to have greater impact on the indicator both in terms of upgrading the existing infrastructure and the construction of new networks. Public funds will be used to construct broadband infrastructure in areas where such infrastructure has not yet been established and where there is no market interest in constructing such infrastructure.

### 2.2.3.1 Actions to be supported under the investment priority

2.2.3.1.1 Description of types and examples of actions to be financed and their expected contribution to the corresponding specific objectives, including, where appropriate, the identification of the main target groups and types of beneficiaries

The actions seek to ensure access to next generation broadband electronic communications services in areas where broadband infrastructure has not yet been established and where there is no interest from the market in establishing such infrastructure.

Private investors, local communities, contractors, managers and operators of infrastructure and the entities responsible for maintenance as well as all interested circles will participate in the project. In terms of deployment of the infrastructure, the relevant regulation rules will be applied. In order to maximise the effect of the infrastructure Slovenia intends to apply the principles of openness to all interested providers of broadband electronic communications services and the interested electronic communication network operators who will enjoy equal conditions in accessing interested end users.

The investment priority will support the following:

- Deploying open next generation broadband infrastructure<sup>75</sup> that will enable access to broadband electronic communications services in the areas where the operators do not provide such services

<sup>75</sup> Next generation networks consist, partly or on the whole, of optical communication components and enable the delivery of broadband services with enhanced characteristics if compared to the existing basic broadband networks. They have the following characteristics: 1) reliable delivery of high-speed services for the client through optical backhaul networks or networks that are based on an equivalent technology, close enough to the user's premises to actually ensure high-speed access; 2) support for various advanced digital services, including converged services based solely on the Internet Protocol and 3) significantly higher speed of data transfer if compared to basic broadband networks. At the current stage of market and technological development the next-generation networks are: 1) optical access networks (FTTx), 2) advanced upgraded cable networks, and 3) certain advanced wireless access networks which enable reliable delivery of high-speed service for the client.

and demonstrate no commercial interest in developing such broadband infrastructure. Backbone networks and open access networks that will allow access to electronic communications services to all interested end users will be set up in the framework of this action.

The actions to receive EAFRD and ERDF support will be identified in such a manner as to exclude the intervention of both Funds in the same areas.

Target groups: households, enterprises, public institutions without adequate access to broadband electronic communications services.

Beneficiaries: municipalities, enterprises and public institutions acting as co-investors, and other interested public.

### 2.2.3.1.2 Guiding principles for the selection of operations

Alongside the relevant horizontal principles, the selection of projects will take into account the following additional selection principles, giving priority to projects that:

- will be based on models with highest private inputs;
- will achieve the highest household coverage rate; per input in eligible areas within well-defined homogeneous units (municipality or municipalities' consortium);
- will take into account the principle of technological neutrality;
- will take into account the Directive on measures to reduce the cost of deploying high-speed electronic communications networks;
- will be sited beside the already existing infrastructure.

### 2.2.3.1.3 Planned use of financial instruments

No specific financial instruments are planned.

#### 2.2.3.1.4 Planned use of major projects

Major projects are not planned.

#### 2.2.3.1.5 Output indicators

**Table 9: Output indicators**

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region	Target value (2023)	Data source	Frequency of reporting
2.2	Number of additional households connected to new broadband networks of at least 100 Mbps	Number	ERDF	Vzhodna Slovenija	12,480	Surveying and Mapping Authority of the Republic of Slovenia/ Agency for Communication Networks and Services/local communities	Once a year
		Number	ERDF	Zahodna Slovenija	8,320	Surveying and Mapping Authority of the Republic of Slovenia/ Agency for Communication Networks and Services/local communities	Once a year
CO10	ICT Infrastructure: Additional households with broadband access of at least 30 Mbps*	Number	ERDF	Vzhodna Slovenija	12,480**	Surveying and Mapping Authority of the Republic of Slovenia/ Agency for Communication Networks and Services/local communities	Once a year
		Number	ERDF	Zahodna Slovenija	8,320***	Surveying and Mapping Authority of the Republic of Slovenia/ Agency for Communication Networks and Services/local communities	Once a year

\*Target values for both indicators are the same because ICT connections of at least 100 Mbps will be established in areas where there is no connection of at least 30 Mbps. If construction was planned in areas with ICT connections of at least 30 Mbps, another indicator would be used for those connections the speed of which increased from 30 to 100 Mbps.

\*\*In relation to the previous note, the total value of both indicators is 20,800 additional households connected, of which 12,480 households are located in the cohesion region of Vzhodna Slovenija and 8,320 households are located in the cohesion region of Zahodna Slovenija. The two specified values for the indicator "Number of additional households connected to new broadband networks of at least 30 Mbps" are not additional values but are the same as the values for the indicator "Number of additional households connected to new broadband networks of at least 100 Mbps".

\*\*\*Same as above.

#### 2.2.4 Strengthening ICT applications for e-government, e-learning, e-inclusion, e-culture and e-health

**SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE: ENHANCE TRANSPARENCY AND EFFICIENCY OF SPATIAL PLANNING, CONSTRUCTION AND REAL-ESTATE MANAGEMENT**

For the purposes of establishing efficient spatial management and real-estate management a programme of eProstor (eSpatial) projects will be implemented.<sup>76</sup>

<sup>76</sup> An independent evaluation of the investment costs will be drawn up for the project eProstor (eSpatial).

This will provide a single infrastructure for spatial information, a spatial information system as well as renovation of the real-estate records system. Spatial information databases and services relating to spatial information will be consistent with the requirements set under the Infrastructure for Spatial Information Act.<sup>77</sup> Upon completion of the programme of eProstor projects, users will have access to the most important spatial information, collected in a single location, which will be easy to access and understand as well as linked and standardi-

<sup>77</sup> Infrastructure for Spatial Information Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia No 8/10)

sed. Also a single IT infrastructure will be established for spatial information. The processes in the areas of spatial planning, construction and real-estate management will be optimized. Based on the established spatial information databases and optimized processes, e-commerce for obtaining building permits (eGraditev (eConstruction)), preparation of spatial planning documents (ePlan) and real-estate registration will be established.

We will thus establish the necessary conditions to address structural weaknesses and administrative obstacles in the field of spatial planning and construction, which will improve the efficiency of public administration. The programme of eProstor projects will have a positive impact on the creation of a friendly environment for foreign and national investments, as greater transparency and efficiency in spatial planning, construction and real-estate management will be provided. It will speed up the investment cycle which will boost Slovenia's economic growth and, in turn, contribute to long-term economic development and enhanced prosperity of the population. The implementation of the programme of eProstor projects will encourage enterprises to invest in innovation and research, as the operational and technical implementation of tasks require the engagement of new technologies and a large number of private sector organisations. Easily accessible spatial information and

services will encourage enterprises to develop new and innovative services.

Special attention will be given to the use of new technologies and innovation in the field of access to and integration of spatial information databases, ensuring their interoperability and reuse, and the creation of knowledge-based value-added services in the field of spatial planning, construction and renovation of buildings and real-estate management.

The investment priority will support the implementation of the programme of eProstor (eSpatial) projects which will use central horizontal public administration e-commerce functions, developed within priority axis 11, for setting-up services. The implementation of tasks under priority axis 2 and priority axis 11 are not duplicated but rather the individual thematic (vertical) areas are integrated with the the horizontal public administration e-commerce functions.

- The expected results under this specific objective: established IT infrastructure for spatial information and services providing support to public administration and citizens in the field of spatial planning, construction and real-estate management.

**Table 10: Specific result indicators**

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value 2023	Data source	Frequency of reporting
2.3	Share of established IT infrastructure for local community members, enterprises and public administration in the field of spatial planning, construction and real-estate registration	Share*	Whole of Slovenia	11	2014	80	European Commission (confer note)	Once a year

\*The measurement unit represents the average value of the indicators for consistent metadata, spatial information databases and services relating to spatial information, which is gathered in accordance with the Commission Decision of 5 June 2009 implementing Directive 2007/2/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards monitoring and reporting (UL L, No 148 of 11 June 2009).

\*\*Metadata 34%, data 0%, services 0%

#### 2.2.4.1 Actions to be supported under the investment priority

2.2.4.1.1 Description of types and examples of actions to be financed and their expected contribution to the corresponding specific objectives, including, where appropriate, the identification of the main target groups and types of beneficiaries

This investment priority will support actions to establish a uniform IT infrastructure for spatial and real-estate information in Slovenia in accordance with the INSPIRE Directive. A spatial IT system will be established to support spatial management. Network services for spatial information and real-estate data will be established (search, discovery, download, transformation, etc.). Real-estate records will be updated, including modernisation and conversion of analogue spatial information and geodetic data into digital form. By introducing e-commerce the action will speed up administrative procedures and enhance the efficiency of the public sector.

The investment priority will support the following:

- IT renovation of the existing real-estate records.
- Improvements of the positional accuracy of land cadastre maps.
- Setting up a spatial IT system (establishing databases and e-commerce in public administration in the field of spatial planning and construction).
- Identification of cultural heritage protected areas, updating the records and procedures in the field of cultural heritage protection and nature conservation, as well as the records and procedures related to limiting the use of space in conservation areas, protected areas, brownfield sites, endangered and other areas for optimisation of processes in the field of spatial planning and construction.
- Establishing coordination mechanisms necessary for the operation of a single infrastructure for spatial information in accordance with the Infrastructure for Spatial Information Act.
- Establishing a network of data providers and data users, and dialogue between them.

- Monitoring the deployment and use of spatial information infrastructure.
- Providing conditions for the unimpeded flow of spatial data between the Slovenian public administration authorities and data exchange with the European Commission bodies and other EU Member States.
- Establishing a network of services related to spatial information.

Target groups: public administration, local community members, households, enterprises.

Beneficiaries: public administration.

#### 2.2.4.1.2 Guiding principles for the selection of operations

Alongside relevant horizontal principles, the selection of projects will take into account the following additional selection principles, giving priority to projects that will:

- introduce new technologies and Internet of Things (IoT);
- introduce short-term/long-term optimal technological solutions (licence versus open-code);
- introduce integrated and innovative services and processes;
- support the “open governmental data” policy.

#### 2.2.4.1.3 Planned use of financial instruments

No specific financial instruments are planned.

#### 2.2.4.1.4 Planned use of major projects

Major projects are not planned.

## 2.2.4.1.5 Output indicators

Table 11: Output indicators

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region	Target value (2023)	Data source	Frequency of reporting
2.4	Number of database managers participating in the programme of eProstor (eSpatial) projects*	Number of participating database managers	ERDF	Whole of Slovenia	10	Surveying and Mapping Authority of the Republic of Slovenia, local communities, own data	Once a year
2.5	Number of e-services for local community members, business entities and public administration in the field of spatial planning, construction and real-estate registration under the programme of eProstor (eSpatial) projects**	Number of e-services	ERDF	Whole of Slovenia	13	Surveying and Mapping Authority of the Republic of Slovenia, local communities, Ministry of Culture, Institute for the Protection of Cultural Heritage of Slovenia, own data	Once a year
2.6	Number of digitalised land cadastre's archived cadastral reports***	Number	ERDF	Whole of Slovenia	9 million documents	Surveying and Mapping Authority of the Republic of Slovenia, local communities, own data	Once a year
2.7	Average number of all the municipal spatial planning documents annually adopted and in force****	Number of documents	ERDF	Whole of Slovenia	20	Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning, local community	Once a year

\*The programme of eProstor (eSpatial) projects foresees cooperation of the managers of the existing and new spatial information databases in accordance with the requirements set out in the Infrastructure for Spatial Information Act. The target for this indicator is to include all the managers in the services.

\*\*The programme of eProstor (eSpatial) projects foresees the deployment of electronic services for users. Electronic services will be developed for the purpose of issuing building permits, consents, searching within individual databases, reviewing individual databases, data transfer and for the purpose of spatial information conversion with a view to ensuring their interoperability.

\*\*\*Thus far the Surveying and Mapping Authority of the Republic of Slovenia managed to digitise around 40% of the land cadastre's archived cadastral reports which existed only in paper form. By the time the project is completed we intend to digitalise all of the reports (100%), which means scanning the remaining 9 million documents. Only a complete conversion of the archived cadastral reports in digital format will establish full e-commerce in terms of real-estate recording.

\*\*\*\*In 2007 Slovenia adopted new spatial planning legislation which lays down the rules for developing municipal spatial planning documents in digital format. In the period 2007-2013 12.7 municipal spatial planning documents were adopted and in force in digital format on an annual basis. The indicator sets the average number of all municipal spatial planning documents annually adopted and in force by 2023.

### 2.2.5 Social innovation, transnational cooperation and contribution to thematic objectives 1–7

Not relevant.

### 2.2.6 Performance framework

Priority axis	Indicator type (implementation step, financial, output or result indicator)	ID	Definition of the indicator or implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Fund	Category of region	Milestone for 2018	Final target (2023)	Source of data	Explanation of the relevance of the indicator, where appropriate
2	Output indicator	2.2	Number of additional households connected to new broadband networks of at least 100 Mbps	Number	ERDF	Vzhodna Slovenija	3,744	12,480	Surveying and Mapping Authority of the Republic of Slovenia / AKOS/	72% of the funds available under priority axis 2, total for both cohesion regions
				Number	ERDF	Zahodna Slovenija	2,496	8,320	Surveying and Mapping Authority of the Republic of Slovenia / AKOS/	
2	Financial indicator	F1	Input/expenditure	EUR	ERDF	Vzhodna Slovenija	14,910,000	49,710,000		
				EUR	ERDF	Zahodna Slovenija	10,780,000	35,937,847		

### 2.2.7 Categories of intervention

Fund and intervention field ERDF cohesion region of Vzhodna Slovenija									
Table 1: Intervention field		Table 2: Form of finance		Table 3: Territory		Table 4: Territorial delivery mechanism		Table 6: ESF secondary theme	
code	EUR amount	code	EUR amount	code	EUR amount	code	EUR amount	code	EUR amount
047	30,000,000	01	30,000,000	03	30,000,000	07	30,000,000	00	
078	9,768,000	01	9,768,000	07	9,768,000	07	9,768,000	00	

  

Fund and intervention field ERDF cohesion region of Zahodna Slovenija									
Table 1: Intervention field		Table 2: Form of finance		Table 3: Territory		Table 4: Territorial delivery mechanism		Table 6: ESF secondary theme	
code	EUR amount	code	EUR amount	code	EUR amount	code	EUR amount	code	EUR amount
047	20,018,277	01	20,018,277	03	20,018,277	07	20,018,277	00	
078	8,732,000	01	8,732,000	07	8,732,000	07	8,732,000	00	



**2.2.8 Where appropriate, a summary of the planned use of technical assistance including, where necessary, actions to reinforce the administrative capacity of authorities involved in management and control of the programmes**

Adequate administrative capacity of the human resources implementing this investment priority will be ensured through the implementation of training in areas that are defined in the framework of the technical assistance priority axis.

**2.3 Dynamic and competitive entrepreneurship for green economic growth**

**2.3.1 Explanation for the establishment of a priority axis covering more than one category of region or more than one thematic objective or more than one Fund**

The main challenge in maintaining economic growth and competitiveness is competence- and capacity-building of enterprises and their ability to respond to societal challenges. Building on the existing capacities and the gained knowledge can restart development and improve the economy's competitiveness in the national and international environment.

Dynamic and competitive entrepreneurship is the basis for Slovenia's economic development and the creation of jobs. In line with the Europe 2020 strategy and Slovenia's strategic development documents, economic growth will be achieved by implementing actions which will have a positive effect on society and the environment. Thus, all three elements of sustainable development will be taken into account.

In Slovenia, enterprises in the cohesion region of Vzhodna Slovenija and the cohesion region of Zahodna Slovenija are evenly represented. The key obstacle hindering growth and development of Slovenia's SMEs in both cohesion regions is access to finance, over-indebtedness and poor entrepreneurial activity. Enhancing the internationalisation of enterprises and ensuring a higher degree of integration into global value chains is also one

of the key challenges. Joint investments of knowledge, technology and capital should also be improved.

The aim of this priority is to accelerate growth and development, and to improve the international competitiveness of enterprises, particularly SMEs. In order to successfully achieve the objectives set under this priority axis we should simultaneously implement actions in the field of investments in international and regional competitiveness of research, innovation and technological development, the labour market and education, and also in the field of enhancing the efficiency of public administration and the judiciary. Therefore, the actions under this investment priority will complement the actions planned under sections 2.1, 2.8, 2.9, 2.10 and 2.11. This will establish a link with the Smart Specialisation Strategy drafting process, implementation of the Small Business Act principles and the achievement of the Europe 2020 targets.

**2.3.2 Fund, category of region and basis for Union support calculation**

Fund	ERDF
Category of region	Vzhodna Slovenija, Zahodna Slovenija
Basis for calculation (total eligible expenditure or eligible public expenditure)	Total eligible cost

**2.2.3 Promoting entrepreneurship, in particular by facilitating the economic exploitation of new ideas and fostering the creation of new firms, including through business incubators**

**SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 1: PROMOTE THE CREATION AND ACTIVITIES OF NEW ENTERPRISES, ESPECIALLY START-UPS**

The creation of new undertakings, especially through the start-up and operation of new enterprises, particularly start-ups, is crucial for economic growth and jobs. According to the annual GEM (Global Entrepreneurship Monitor) studies Slovenia has been ranking at the very bottom of the countries covered by the studies in terms of the state of entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial dynamism.

The 2013 GEM research for Slovenia notes that the Total Early-Stage Entrepreneurial Activity (TEA) index, which covers emerging and new entrepreneurs, has been on the rise over the past few years (in 2008, the TEA index stood at 3.65% and in 2013 it stood at 6.45%, which ranks Slovenia 55th out of the 63 countries covered), which is certainly encouraging. Unfortunately, the awareness of business opportunities in Slovenia continues to decrease.

The study also notes that in 2013 there was a shortage of financial mechanisms for the start-up of new, emerging and innovative firms. One of the disadvantages hindering the development of entrepreneurship in Slovenia is the lack of entrepreneurial culture, especially the negative climate for entrepreneurship, poor appreciation, the attitude toward success and enterprising individuals, a lower tendency to take risks, as well as the lack of internal entrepreneurial culture in already-established firms.

In view of the above Slovenia should:

- strengthen financial mechanisms for the start-up of new, emerging and innovative enterprises (seed capital, subsidies for start-up, etc.);
- raise awareness of new business opportunities;
- improve the climate for entrepreneurship by promoting entrepreneurship and success stories;
- change the perception of entrepreneurship, innovation and entrepreneurial activity, which not only enhances the enterprise's success but also facilitates the establishment of new enterprises (and restart of once already-existing enterprises);

- strengthen services supporting the business environment (e.g. mentoring for young enterprises).

The aim is to enhance entrepreneurial dynamism, which is reflected in the increasing number of newly-established enterprises that offer employment and are successful in responding to the needs of the market. The so-called start-ups are of special importance. Start-ups are newly-established enterprises which aim to develop innovative products or services and which have great potential for growth. Innovative enterprises with a high growth potential generate up to 3 times more jobs than enterprises with medium growth potential and as much as 15 times more jobs than enterprises with low growth potential. Start-ups (and spin-offs) are usually established within innovation centres where knowledge is concentrated and where interdisciplinary groups can be created; indeed innovative centres are a place where adequate business and creative dynamism exist and where the relevant support environment is available (e.g. technology parks, incubators, business accelerators, etc.).

The relevant support environment is crucial for all the newly-established enterprises as it provides entrepreneurial, innovative and financial support for the successful development of enterprises in the early stages of growth.

The expected result under this specific objective:

- improved entrepreneurial activity.

**Table 12: Specific result indicators, specific objective 1**

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value* (2023)	Data source	Frequency of reporting
3.1	Improved entrepreneurial activity index (TEA index)	Index	Whole of Slovenia	6.45	2013	7.00	GEM	Once a year

\*Target values can be qualitative or quantitative in the case of ERDF and CF.

## **SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 2: INCREASE THE ADDED VALUE OF SMEs**

SMEs represent the majority of Slovenian enterprises (99.8%), of which 92.8% are micro-enterprises. Micro-enterprises, which are predominant in the areas with specific development needs, fail to provide jobs due to a lack of innovation, adequate support environment and access to financial resources. In 2013 SMEs' contribution to the economy's added value stood at 63%. Emerging enterprises, which represent an untapped potential in Slovenia's economic growth, are of great importance in terms of increasing added value. Since the beginning of the crisis the share of emerging enterprises has decreased by a half, which suggests that the recovery of the economy, especially with regard to SMEs, is most exposed to the long-term negative effects of the crisis (in 2008 the share stood at 5.99% and in 2011 it stood at 2.49%, expressed as number of employees, Eurostat).

In the 2007-2013 programming period Slovenia implemented activities in the area of promoting entrepreneurship and competitiveness, which primarily focused on technological modernisation of SMEs and the provision of financial resources. Such investments only mitigated the significant negative effects of the crisis, failing to eliminate them. Investments in technological equipment were carried out proportionally in both cohesion regions with the ratio between the cohesion region of Vzhodna Slovenija and the cohesion region of Zahodna Slovenija standing at 56:44 in favour of Vzhodna Slovenija. The ratio regarding the number of enterprises supported by guarantees for bank loans and interest rate subsidies stood at 54:46 in favour of the cohesion region of Vzhodna Slovenija.

In the 2014-2020 programming period activities will focus on promoting SMEs' growth, especially the growth of emerging enterprises which will be reflected in the increased added value of SMEs. It is therefore cru-

cial to improve access to capital and funding, training, mentoring, networking and other support services. This will contribute to improving the skills and competences of enterprises (e.g. for the management of enterprises, marketing, etc.) and skills and competences at the level of inter-company cooperation (clusters, networks, etc. at the local and regional level and in the international sphere). Significant emphasis will be given to the elimination of obstacles that hinder the successful operation of enterprises, improvements of the regulatory and institutional framework as well as new approaches to promoting entrepreneurial activity.

Enhanced economic competitiveness will be achieved through supporting enterprises in their efforts to improve their use of renewable energy sources, material and energy efficiency and to come up with more environment-friendly products and services. In Slovenia about a quarter of the manufacturing sector is ranked among energy-intensive industries (paper and chemical manufacturing and the production of metals and non-metals), which in 2011 represented the fifth highest share among the EU Member States. Improving energy and material efficiency and the development of so-called green products will have a multiplier effect on the economy. Indeed, in addition to savings in energy and raw materials and the consequent reduction of production costs, the need for energy imports will decrease and energy independence will grow. Emphasis will also be given to tourism, especially linking various initiatives for the development and promotion of destinations.

The expected result under this specific objective:

- increased number of emerging enterprises;
- increased share of net turnover in SMEs, including in the framework of "green products";
- growth of productivity of SMEs (added value per employee);
- improved material and energy efficiency.

Table 13: Specific result indicators, specific objective 2

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value* (2023)	Data source	Frequency of reporting
3.2	Number of emerging enterprises	Number	Whole of Slovenia	3,725	2012	5,000	Agency of the Republic of Slovenia for Public Legal Records and Related Services (methodology of the Ministry of Economic Development and Technology)	Once a year
3.3	Share of SMEs' net turnover in total net turnover of all enterprises	Share	Whole of Slovenia	47.38	2012	49.50	Agency of the Republic of Slovenia for Public Legal Records and Related Services	Once a year
3.4	Added value per employee in SMEs	EUR	Whole of Slovenia	31,175	2012	38,000	Agency of the Republic of Slovenia for Public Legal Records and Related Services	Once a year
3.5	Higher material productivity	DMC/GDP	Whole of Slovenia	1.07	2011	1.50	EUROSTAT/SORS	Once a year

\* Target values can be qualitative or quantitative in the case of ERDF and CF.

The selected specific indicators are monitored by recognised institutions, which use harmonised methodological approaches. Target values for 2023 are based on projections made on the basis of the development trends by taking into account the activities planned in the framework of the investment priority. The methodology of the Ministry of Economic Development and Technology for monitoring the number of emerging enterprises was prepared in the framework of the Research on enterprises with a high growth potential in 2012.

### 2.3.3.1 Actions to be supported under the investment priority

2.3.3.1.1 Description of types and examples of actions to be financed and their expected contribution to the corresponding specific objectives, including, where appropriate, the identification of the main target groups and types of beneficiaries

Support under specific objective 1 “Promote the creation and operation of new firms, especially start-ups” will be given to:

- Young enterprises and start-ups: special focus will be given to (1) innovative start-ups with global growth potential, (2) enterprises in the field of social innovation, and enterprises introducing new ways of creating added value (e.g. design, supply routes, market approaches, after-sales service, upgrade and use of traditional knowledge and skills, etc.), (3) enterprises in geographical areas facing specific development challenges but having the potential

for growth and development, at least at the regional level, and (4) enterprises introducing new ways of delivering social content in collaboration with the institutional sector and the local environment.

- Upgrade of the existing support environment through the development and promotion of modern support services, connecting and management of regional destination organisations at the regional level (e.g. mentoring, training, promotion, enhancing the integration of enterprises and cultural and creative industries, business consulting, including for internationalisation of enterprises) within the entrepreneurial and innovation ecosystem in accordance with the Smart Specialisation Strategy. In the identified cases of institutional deficit both at the national and regional level this field will relate to upgrading and constructing additional regional infrastructure also through small-scale investments in business infrastructure with the development of associated services and associated available infrastructure.

Support under specific objective 2 “Increase the added value of SMEs” will be given to:

- Growth and development of smes with a view to promoting modern elements of achieving added value which are based on (1) creativity and innovation (e.g. establishing links with creative industries, networking of SMEs, and of SMEs and other public institutions to develop new and innovative products and services, (2) technological and non-technological development, and (3) development and capital investments of enterprises. Specific attention will be given to emerging enterprises and enterprises with the (global) growth potential for new organisational and business solutions.
- Upgrade of the existing support environment in connection with specific objective 1 under this investment priority.
- Establishment of a single business point (upgrade of the Single Contact Point) for providing information to enterprises, implementing e-procedures and e-reporting by enterprises, which will reduce the number and volume of data to be submitted by enterprises to government authorities and also facilitate access to, use and exchange of information in a single place. The action is related to section 2.11.1, which focuses on the development of central horizontal features of e-services in public administration.
- Improving energy and material efficiency of enterprises. We will implement actions to promote energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy sources, such as promoting energy efficient processes in enterprises, demonstration projects and support actions related to energy efficiency, supporting the use of local renewable energy sources such as biomass, solar energy, geothermal energy, etc. We will also implement actions to improve the efficient use of resources, for example the promotion and development of replacements of primary to secondary sources, closing material flows within enterprises and networks (e.g. industrial symbiosis), the introduction of more efficient production processes, waste prevention and more effective waste management, more efficient use of

other resources, etc.), which will contribute to Slovenia shifting to a circular economy.

As a support for the implementation of the above-mentioned actions under **both specific objectives**, we will use instruments facilitating access to finance, which will be intended for enterprises in all phases of their development to close the financing gaps:

- debt and equity financing instruments (venture capital, bank loan guarantees with interest rate subsidies, microloans, micro guarantees, loans and mezzanine financing, etc.);
- financial instruments adapted to particular phases of the development of enterprises (e.g. seed and pre-seed sources of finance for young enterprises) and other modern forms of financing;
- grants, including in conjunction with other financial instruments, for specific purposes and target groups (e.g. efficient use of resources, young enterprises);
- actions complementary to financial instruments, such as mentoring, business consulting, etc.

Where justified, relevant and necessary, the actions will be adapted to the national and regional level and coordinated at the level of ministries, as they complement the actions providing support for research, development and innovation, employment, social inclusion, training, education and efficient public administration. Their content, planning and implementation will be coordinated and complementary in order to provide maximum synergy effects and prevent any possible duplication of actions. To a smaller extent and where relevant and justified, support will also be given to the development of public infrastructure where it will be considered necessary and will have an effect on the delivery of business investments.

Support for projects will take into account the difference in the co-financing rates for the cohesion region of Vzhodna Slovenija and the cohesion region of Zahodna Slovenija. Due to state aid rules both cohesion regions will have a lower co-financing rate, with the co-financing rate being higher in the cohesion region of Vzhodna Slovenija, which derives from the higher co-financing

rates pursuant to the provisions of Regulation (EU) No 651/2014 (GBER). At the level of instruments, the following principle will be pursued: the available funds are to be allocated to the best projects with adequate private financial leverage. State aid rules will be applied in allocating support to SMEs, including the rules which prohibit allocating support to firms in difficulties.

Target groups: SMEs in all phases of development, potential entrepreneurs

Beneficiaries: SMEs in all phases of development, potential entrepreneurs, entities of the support environment for entrepreneurship and innovation, public funds (e.g. Slovene Enterprise Fund, Slovenian Regional Development Fund, etc.), public agencies (e.g. SPIRIT Slovenia, etc.) and other financial intermediaries (e.g. SID bank, regional guarantee schemes, etc.), central administration and public administration, judiciary, municipalities, regional development institutions.

#### 2.3.3.1.2 Guiding principles for the selection of operations

Alongside horizontal principles, the selection of projects will take into account the following additional selection principles:

- The principle of transparency and partnership will be ensured through the criteria for the selection of individual operations; the contribution to the achievement of objectives identified in Slovenia's strategic development documents and contribution to the achievement of Europe 2020 strategy targets and relevant thematic objectives and investment priorities.

Alongside horizontal principles the guiding principles for selection will comply with the identified areas under the Smart Specialisation Strategy and will meet the basic criteria for awarding development initiatives for enterprises:

- assessment of project quality and feasibility (capacity of the project promoter to implement the project – human, material and financial resources);
- market potential of the project;

- wider social impact of the project or its response to societal challenges, etc.;
- contribution to bridging the development gap between the two cohesion regions.

In supporting projects, State aid rules are taken into account. Where reasonable and appropriate, so-called European Commission “off the shelf” instruments will be applied.

#### 2.3.3.1.3 Planned use of financial instruments

In the 2007-2013 programming period a holding fund to finance SMEs was established with Cohesion Policy funds support. The holding fund was established within the Slovene Enterprise Fund. The following financial instruments were implemented: guarantees for bank loans with interest rate subsidies, development of venture capital funds, microloans. In 2014 national funding was used to establish a line of seed and start-up capital. This funding also complements the SID bank loans. The financing from all these lines is also available to enterprises in 2015.

In the 2014-2020 programming period we also plan to implement financial instruments for all phases of the development of enterprises. The financial instruments will be implemented either on their own or in complementarity with grants. Based on the experience gained in the 2007-2013 programming period, the 2014-2020 programming period will see continued implementation and upgrading of financial instruments such as guarantees for bank loans with interest rate subsidies, microloans, equity financing (seed and venture capital, mezzanine financing) and the combination of various instruments, including grants. For the 2014-2020 programming period Slovenia will also prepare an ex ante assessment of market needs and financial gaps as well as estimates of the amount and scope of public funds required for financial instruments, including the types of financial instruments for individual fields. In order to make the assessment a public procurement procedure for selection of tenders is underway.

## 2.3.3.1.4 Planned use of major projects

Major projects are not planned.

## 2.3.3.1.5 Output indicators

Table 14: Output indicators

ID	Indicator	Measure- ment unit	Fund	Baseline year	Target value* (2023)	Data source	Frequency of reporting
CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	Number	ERDF	2014	5,000	Monitoring (Ministry of Economic Development and Technology, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Education, Science and Sport)	Annually
CO03	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving financial support other than grants	Number	ERDF	2014	3,600	Monitoring	Annually
CO02	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving grants	Number	ERDF	2014	1,400	Monitoring (Ministry of Economic Development and Technology, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Education, Science and Sport)	Annually
CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Number	ERDF	2014	2,000	Monitoring	Annually
CO05	Productive investment: Number of new enterprises supported	Number	ERDF	2014	400	Monitoring (Ministry of Economic Development and Technology, Ministry of Education, Science and Sport)	Annually
CO06	Productive investment: Private investment matching public support to enterprises (grants)	EUR million	ERDF	2014	150	Monitoring	Annually
CO07	Productive investment: Private investment matching public support to enterprises (non-grants)	EUR million	ERDF	2014	750	Monitoring	Annually
CO08	Productive investment: Employment increase in supported enterprises	Number	ERDF	2014	1,000	Monitoring	Annually
3.6	Number of supported investment projects for physical/business infrastructure	Number	ERDF	2014	12	Monitoring	Annually
3.7	Number of enterprises that have introduced resource efficiency measures (including measures to improve energy and material efficiency)	Number	ERDF	2014	1,000	Monitoring (Ministry of Infrastructure, Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning, Ministry of Economic Development and Technology)	Annually
3.8	Number of Single Business Point users	Number	ERDF	2014	50.000	Monitoring (Ministry of Public Administration)	Annually
3.9	Number of newly-supported e-services for enterprises	Number	ERDF	2014	68	Monitoring (Ministry of Public Administration)	Annually

\*Target values can be qualitative or quantitative in the case of ERDF and CF.

Methodology: For this investment priority the indicators will be monitored in accordance with the guidelines on monitoring and evaluation which will be drawn up by the MA. Achieving the values of individual indicators will be monitored once a year through the information system that will allow insight into the achievement of the set targets for the planned periods. The target values of output indicators are set on the basis of the calculations made from estimates of the amount of incentive and the available resources.



### 2.3.4 Developing and implementing new business models for SMEs, in particular with regard to internationalisation

#### SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE: ENHANCE INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIVENESS OF SMEs

Slovenian export-oriented enterprises are currently out-performed in terms of cost and organisational competitiveness, the shift of the export structure to products and services of higher added value remaining far too slow.<sup>78</sup> In entering foreign markets Slovenian enterprises by and large do not avail themselves of most advanced business models, processes and approaches nor cooperate with each other and with various institutions, they also fail to actively use demonstration and pilot projects. The indicator monitoring the level of integration of enterprises shows that only 7% of enterprises are integrated into groups, and that only 20% of enterprises are residential in nature (SORS). Enterprises should thus be encouraged to integrate in order to enhance their competence and knowledge. Furthermore, neither the support nor the business environment are fully developed to help Slovenian enterprises integrate into international economic flows or to provide support for export-oriented enterprises. The KOF indicator (SORS) shows that the globalisation index is still on the decrease (2007 = 78.8 and 2010

= 76.9 index value) which means Slovenia ranks among the EU Member States with the poorest results in terms of the globalisation index. The crucial step is, thus, to improve the conditions for networking and integration of enterprises to help them successfully penetrate tough foreign markets and integrate into global value chains. Slovenian enterprises that wish to expand their activity beyond the national borders or seek to enter additional new foreign markets will benefit from support under this investment priority. The indicator monitoring net turnover from sales in foreign markets shows that the share of SMEs has decreased over the past few years (2009 = 33.3%, 2012 = 31.1%, Agency of the Republic of Slovenia for Public Legal Records and Related Services), which indicates that international business activities should be encouraged and promoted. Actions under this thematic objective will support enterprises, including enterprises in the field of tourism that wish to expand their activity to international markets or seek to diversify their presence in emerging foreign markets.

The expected results under this specific objective:

- increased capacity of enterprises to integrate into global value chains;
- increased export-intensity of enterprises;
- increased export of services.

<sup>78</sup> [http://www.umar.gov.si/fileadmin/user\\_upload/publikacije/pr/2013/POR\\_2013s.pdf](http://www.umar.gov.si/fileadmin/user_upload/publikacije/pr/2013/POR_2013s.pdf)

**Table 15: Specific result indicators**

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value* (2023)	Data source	Frequency of reporting
3.10	SMEs' net turnover from sales in foreign markets	Share	Whole of Slovenia	34.4	2013	38.4	SORS/ IMAD/ Agency of the Republic of Slovenia for Public Legal Records and Related Services	Once a year

\* Target values can be qualitative or quantitative in the case of ERDF and CF.

The selected specific indicators are monitored by recognised institutions, which use harmonised methodological approaches. Target values for 2023 are based on the analysis of past actions implemented in the field of internationalisation and FDI made by the Ministry of Economic Development and Technology.

### 2.3.4.1 Actions to be supported under the investment priority

2.3.4.1.1 Description of types and examples of actions to be financed and their expected contribution to the corresponding specific objectives, including, where appropriate, the identification of the main target groups and types of beneficiaries

With respect to challenges the Slovenian economy is facing, it is crucial to boost its international integration. With a view to addressing these issues and challenges we will boost through the measures the development and renewal of business models by placing specific emphasis on internationalisation. Design and implementation of measures will place emphasis on the search for synergies with actions under other investment priorities with a view to increasing the share of exports of high added-value products and services.

The following actions, which aim to increase SMEs' international competitiveness, are of key importance under this investment priority:

- Development, implementation and renewal of business models and promotion of achieving excellence in enterprises with a view to improving the efficiency of approaches to entering foreign markets and establishing business and development partnerships. Pilot and demonstration projects aimed at testing new concepts of project implementation will be supported and widely spread after a successful start-up (e.g. commercialisation of products and services especially in foreign markets). Improvement and development of new business processes by attaining the most advanced intellectual property standards and rights will be supported (e.g. certificates, patents, trademarks) and of introducing integrated business process management systems. In areas lagging behind developmentally, support will be given to innovative SMEs operating in niche markets which contribute to the smart specialisation process. Integration into global value chains, commercialisation of developed knowledge and optimising exploitation of the innovative potential of enterprises will be supported.
- Support for business and development partnerships to enhance integration into global value chains through integration into international processes and establishing a critical mass at the regional level for global breakthrough on the basis of creating links between stakeholders' competences and potentials (implementation of modern business models, entering foreign markets, niche breakthroughs, etc.). The development partnerships established at least at the regional level in areas identified under the Smart Specialisation Strategy will be supported.
- Establishment and operation of a one-stop-shop for domestic exporters and foreign investors supporting international business activities. Support will cover e.g. information, presentations, business consulting, offices abroad, tailor-made mentoring and training programmes in the field of international business activities, with the aim of enhancing the potentials that exist within enterprises (in relation to actions identified under section 2.3.1).
- Drawing up feasibility studies, market studies and export plans supporting enterprises with their further development of doing business within the international environment.
- Support in finding new international market opportunities. For the successful introduction of enterprises in the market, we will support the activities organized in specialized international fairs and other major events at home and abroad. At the same time, we will support the transfer of the best international business practices and innovative ways to find foreign business partners. Activities will also strengthen the recognition of Slovenia and the Slovenian economy.
- Development of new and innovative tourism products and services (including cultural tourism), enhancing their quality, and development of tourist destinations.

Support for projects will take into account the difference in the co-financing rates for the cohesion region of Vzhodna Slovenija and the cohesion region of Zahodna Slovenija. Due to state aid rules both cohesion regions will have a lower co-financing rate with the co-financing rate being higher in Vzhodna Slovenija, which derives from the higher co-financing rates pursuant to the provisions of Regulation (EU) No 651/2014 (GBER). At the level of instruments, the following principle will be pursued: the available funds are to be allocated to the best projects with adequate private financial leverage. State aid rules will be applied in allocating support to SMEs, including the rules which prohibit allocating support to firms in difficulties.

Target groups: SMEs, especially those that wish to go international and already established SMEs wishing to diversify their business activity into new products and/or enter new foreign markets or expand their activities in foreign markets.

Beneficiaries: SMEs, institutions, chambers, associations, non-profit organisations, networks, regional development institutions, public institutes.

#### 2.3.4.1.2 Guiding principles for the selection of operations

Alongside horizontal principles, the selection of projects will take into account the following additional selection principles:

- the principle of transparency and partnership will be ensured through the criteria for the selection of individual operations;
- contribution to the achievement of objectives identified in Slovenia's strategic development documents, contribution to the achievement of Europe 2020 strategy targets and relevant thematic objectives and investment priorities.

Alongside horizontal principles the guiding principles for selection will comply with the identified areas under the Smart Specialisation Strategy and will meet the basic criteria for awarding development incentives for enterprises:

- stability of the enterprise;
- obtained international certificates/patents, etc.;
- business plan;
- quality of the project, wider social impact or response to societal challenges, innovativeness, market potential;
- integration of the design and marketing aspects;
- economic criteria (added value, added value per employee, share of international trade, share of exports, growth in the number of employees etc.);
- project finance structure;
- contribution to bridging the development gap; between the two cohesion regions;
- reduction in the environmental impact.

In supporting projects State aid rules are taken into account. Where reasonable and appropriate, so-called European Commission "off the shelf" instruments will be applied.

#### 2.3.4.1.3 Planned use of financial instruments

Actions carried out through financial engineering instruments will comply with the findings of the ex ante assessment and will be supplemented with the standard forms of financing as identified by the European Commission and with grants. Based on the ex ante assessment, the funds will be earmarked for the areas with the greatest financial gap between SMEs' demand and financial institutions' supply.

#### 2.3.4.1.4 Planned use of major projects

Major projects are not planned.

## 2.3.4.1.5 Output indicators

Table 16: Output indicators

ID	Indicator (name of indicator)	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Data source	Frequency of reporting
CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	Number	ERDF		2014	2,500	Monitoring	Once a year
CO02	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving grants	Number	ERDF		2014	1,000	Monitoring	Once a year
CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving financial support other than grants	Number	ERDF		2014	5,000	Monitoring	Once a year
3.14	Number of new exporters receiving support (including new market, new product)	Number	ERDF		2014	280	Monitoring	Once a year

**2.3.5 Social innovation, transnational cooperation and contribution to thematic objectives 1–7**

Projects receiving support under this thematic objective should demonstrate their contribution to wider

social objectives (including social innovation) or sustainable development (social, economic and environmental aspect). Investment under this thematic objective will complement the investment under thematic objective 1 and thematic objective 6.

**2.3.6 Performance framework**

Priority axis	Indicator type (implementation step, financial, output or result indicator)	ID	Definition of the indicator or implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Fund	Category of region	Milestone for 2018	Final target (2023)	Source of data	Explanation of the relevance of the indicator, where appropriate
3	Output indicator	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	Number	ERDF	Vzhodna Slovenija	1,125	4,875	Monitoring	83% of the funds available under priority axis 3, total for both cohesion regions
		CO01		Number	ERDF	Zahodna Slovenija	750	2,625	Monitoring	
3	Financial indicator	F1	Expenditure	EUR	ERDF	Vzhodna Slovenija	120,640,000	482,561,745	Monitoring	
		F1		EUR	ERDF	Zahodna Slovenija	58,630,000	234,510,162	Monitoring	

### 2.3.7 Categories of intervention

Fund and intervention field ERDF cohesion region of Vzhodna Slovenija									
Table 1: Intervention field		Table 2: Form of finance		Table 3: Territory		Table 4: Territorial delivery mechanism		Table 6: ESF	
code	EUR amount	code	EUR amount	code	EUR amount	code	EUR amount	code	EUR amount
01	53,495,200	01	10,809,010	07	53,495,200	07	53,495,200	00	
		04	11,039,995					00	
		05	20,638,822					00	
		06	11,007,372					00	
063	4,837,052	01	4,837,052	07	4,837,052	07	4,837,052	00	
066	55,036,860	01	55,036,860	07	55,036,860	07	55,036,860	00	
067	149,975,452	01	62,604,437	07	149,975,452	07	149,975,452	00	
		03	27,518,430					00	
		04	27,518,430					00	
		05	27,518,430					00	
		06	4,815,725					00	
068	55,923,182	01	14,645,537	07	55,923,182	07	55,923,182	00	
		04	41,277,645					00	
069	5,503,686		5,503,686		5,503,686		5,503,686	00	
071	1,375,921		1,375,921		1,375,921		1,375,921	00	
072	17,199,018		17,199,018		17,199,018		17,199,018	00	
073	6,879,607	01	2,751,843	07	6,879,607	07	6,879,607	00	
		04	1,375,922					00	
		05	2,407,863					00	
		06	343,980					00	
075	11,695,332		11,695,333	07	11,695,332	07	11,695,332	00	

  

Fund and intervention field ERDF cohesion region of Zahodna Slovenija									
Table 1: Intervention field		Table 2: Form of finance		Table 3: Territory		Table 4: Territorial delivery mechanism		Table 6: ESF secondary theme	
code	EUR amount	code	EUR amount	code	EUR amount	code	EUR amount	code	EUR amount
01	24,298,691	01	4,810,234 4,937,461	07	24,298,691	07	24,298,691	00	
		04	5,007,424					00	
		05	9,361,177					00	
		06	4,992,627					00	
063	2,193,947	01	2,193,947	07	2,193,947	07	2,193,947	00	
066	24,963,139	01	24,963,139	07	24,963,139	07	24,963,139	00	
067	68,024,555	01	28,395,585	07	68,024,555	07	68,024,555	00	
		03	12,481,569					00	
		04	12,481,569					00	

Fund and intervention field ERDF cohesion region of Zahodna Slovenija									
		05	12,481,569					00	
		06	2,184,274					00	
068	25,330,345	01	6,607,900	07	25,330,345	07	25,300,345	00	
		04	18,722,354					00	
069	2,496,313		2,496,313	07	2,496,313	07	2,496,313	00	
071	624,078		624,078	07	624,078	07	624,078	00	
072	7,800,981		7,800,981	07	7,800,981	07	7,800,981	00	
073	3,120,392	01	1,248,156	07	3,120,392	07	3,120,392	00	
		04	624,078					00	
		07	1,092,137					00	
		06	156,019					00	
075	5,304,673	01	5,304,667	07	5,304,667	07	5,304,667	00	

**2.3.8 Where appropriate, a summary of the planned use of technical assistance including, where necessary, actions to reinforce the administrative capacity of authorities involved in management and control of the programmes**

Adequate administrative capacity of the human resources implementing this investment priority will be ensured through the implementation of training in areas that are defined in the framework of the technical assistance priority axis.

**2.4 Sustainable consumption and production of energy and smart grids**

**2.4.1 Explanation for the establishment of a priority axis covering more than one category of region or more than one thematic objective or more than one Fund**

Reduction of GHG emissions in Slovenia can mainly be attributed to the economic downturn in recent years. Available data suggest that the mid-term objective on renewables and energy efficiency will be achieved by 2016; however, a system-wide shift for the better was not achieved in this area in the past. Promotion of actions to improve energy efficiency and use of renewable energy sources in the public sector, the household sector and in enterprises is necessary in Slovenia, all the more so because the pressure of GHG emissions caused by transport is persistently growing. If Slovenia wants to achieve

the national obligations under the climate package by 2020, it will have to develop an ambitious programme of national measures for energy efficiency and renewable energy sources (RES). Support under the investment priority will notably be given to promoting investments in energy renovation of buildings, which has enormous untapped potential for reducing energy consumption. The public sector will play a special role in this respect, especially the central public administration, which should be a role model and an example to follow when it comes to renovations for enhanced energy efficiency in the household sector.

Smart grids and active networks significantly contribute to curbing GHG emissions and supporting energy efficiency. They offer possibilities for the development of new products and services with added value, and for the creation of high-skilled jobs.

A uniform approach will be adopted in support of investments in both cohesion regions, as it makes sense that renewables are exploited where there is technical potential, while the need for investments in energy efficiency is high in both cohesion regions.

Air quality in urban areas has considerably deteriorated recently due to GHG emitted by the rising number of private vehicles. To date the development concept has mainly built on favouring personal vehicles against sustainable modes of transport, but this will change, as

the country intends to transcend this model by planning sustainable mobility in urban areas in an integrated fashion. Sustainable mobility measures will benefit from a combination of Cohesion Fund and ERDF sources and will target Slovenian urban areas that are facing air quality issues and other urban transport-related issues. The planned measures should be system-wide, covering the entire area represented by an origin-destination network.

#### **2.4.2 Fund, category of region and basis for Union support calculation**

<b>Fund</b>	<b>CF</b>
Category of region	Not relevant
Basis for calculation (total eligible expenditure or eligible public expenditure)	Total eligible cost

  

<b>Fund</b>	<b>ERDF</b>
Category of region	Vzhodna Slovenija, Zahodna Slovenija
Basis for calculation (total eligible expenditure or eligible public expenditure)	Total eligible cost

#### **2.4.3 Supporting energy efficiency, smart energy management and renewable energy use in public infrastructure, including in public buildings, and in the housing sector;**

Slovenia is contributing to improving energy efficiency by 20% by 2020 in line with the new Directive 2012/27/EU. Two specific objectives are being pursued under this investment priority.

#### **SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 1: IMPROVE ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR**

It is relatively difficult to estimate the energy savings made in the public sector in Slovenia, as the statistical record system does not provide accurate actual energy consumption values for the public sector, given that energy statistics are not collated separately but together with other data on energy consumption by source, i.e. the service sector and agriculture. According to energy-end use estimates<sup>79</sup>, hospitals consume most final energy in the public sector (lighting excluded), followed by primary and secondary schools, higher education institutions and research institutions, public administration buildings, cultural and leisure buildings. Project data suggest that, on average, energy savings in the case of energy renovation amount to 50%.

The new Directive 2012/27/EU on energy efficiency requires each Member State to ensure that, from 9 July 2015, 3% of the total floor area of heated and/or cooled buildings owned and occupied by its central government is renovated each year. Investments will support our efforts in this direction. Slovenia will also follow the requirements of Directive 2010/31/EU, which sets out that the Member States should ensure that new buildings occupied and owned by public authorities are nearly zero-energy buildings from 2018 onwards. To this end, the country will support investments in the energy renovation of buildings and construction of new buildings according to the nearly-zero energy standards as provided in point 4 of Article 5 of Directive 2012/27/EU.

The expected results under this specific objective:

- energy end-use savings in the building stock of the public sector;
- energy renovated floor area of buildings occupied or owned by the central government.

<sup>79</sup> [http://www.stat.si/StatistichniDnevi/Docs/Radenci%202012/prispevki/Cesen\\_RabaEnergijeEmisijeStroskiJS-Prispevek\\_v2.pdf](http://www.stat.si/StatistichniDnevi/Docs/Radenci%202012/prispevki/Cesen_RabaEnergijeEmisijeStroskiJS-Prispevek_v2.pdf)



Table 17: Specific result indicators, specific objective 1

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Data source	Frequency of reporting
4.1	Annual energy consumption in public sector buildings	GWh	Whole of Slovenia	1,870	2013	1,630	Long-term energy balance 2030	Annually

Methodology: annual energy consumption in the public sector (buildings) will be reduced based on the assumption that the annual energy-renovated floor area will stand at 3% and that the energy savings will stand at 50%.

#### SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 2: IMPROVE ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN HOUSEHOLDS

The potential to improve energy efficiency in Slovenia is huge, partly owing to the building stock structure, which is highly unfavourable. Some 29% of single family detached houses have not been subject to energy renovation, while 26% of them underwent only partial energy renovation and are in need of further improvements. The same is true for multi-family residential buildings where as much as 34% of the building stock has not undergone any kind of energy renovation, 28% of the building stock having been partially renovated by a single energy re-

novation measure<sup>80</sup>. Considerable efforts will have to be made to boost the efforts for renovation of multi-family residential buildings, there are now certain barriers that hinder the successful retrofit of these buildings, and pilot projects will have to be promoted in the area of energy performance contracting. The renovation of flats occupied by underprivileged households will contribute to tackling the growing issue of energy poverty.

- The expected results under this specific objective:
- energy end-use savings in the household sector.

<sup>80</sup> [http://buildupskills.si/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/e-novice\\_februar-2013\\_low-res.pdf](http://buildupskills.si/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/e-novice_februar-2013_low-res.pdf)

Table 18: Specific result indicators, specific objective 2

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Data source	Frequency of reporting
4.3	Annual energy savings in households	GWh	Whole of Slovenia	198	2013	300	Eco Fund	Annually

The indicator demonstrates the annual energy savings due to building stock energy renovation measures for single houses or duplexes and for apartment buildings within the household sector.

#### 2.4.3.1 Actions to be supported under the investment priority

2.4.3.1.1 Description of types and examples of actions to be financed and their expected contribution to the corresponding specific objectives, including, where appropriate, identification:

In order to maximise the effects and leverages under this investment priority the system of energy performance contracting will be developed horizontally, in particular in the public sector, and, where relevant and feasible, in the household sector. In addition to legal and institutional aspects, very important elements sustaining the development of such a system are the development and setting up of appropriate financial and guarantee schemes which encourage the involvement of commercial banks in funding of such public-private partnerships. Appropriate guidelines serving as a basis for the implementation of such projects are being developed. They will also guide the preparation of the first energy performance contracting projects that will be implemented on a pilot or demonstration basis in line with the development of this financial instrument.

The following actions will receive support **in the public sector**:

- Energy renovation of public sector buildings owned and occupied by direct and indirect budget users and municipalities. The aim is to boost the comprehensive energy renovation of buildings, which includes the use of renewables and measures of energy renovation of entire buildings or parts of buildings undergoing either comprehensive or step-by-step retrofits. Individual elements of the buildings will also be retrofitted or replaced.
- Projects of energy renovation of the public sector building stock: the projects will be implemented in the scope of energy performance contracting which has emerged as a new form of implementing and funding energy renovations of buildings.
- Implementation of projects for comprehensive energy renovation of different categories of public

sector building stock according to the nearly-zero renovation criteria, where appropriate (central government buildings, cultural heritage buildings) by using most advanced technologies with a demonstration effect.

The buildings which have to be protected in accordance with the cultural heritage protection regulations account for a considerable portion of the public building stock and are in need of special treatment in their role of showcasing the Slovenian identity. In light of the above, the country intends to develop guidelines determining the criteria for energy renovation of cultural heritage buildings.

The support provided for comprehensive renovation, which includes the refurbishment of the building envelope, renovation of technical systems and installation of devices for RES use, will be relatively higher in order to encourage potential investors to opt for such a renovation. The mode of incentive and its amount will take due consideration of other aspects, such as environmental protection, in particular reduction of emissions, nature conservation, use of natural materials, promotion of energy-saving technologies and tackling of energy poverty.

The following actions will receive support **in the household sector**:

- Energy renovation of multi-family residential buildings through involvement of housing cooperatives that will also be implemented in the context of integrated territorial investment (ITI). Support will likewise be given to measures for energy renovation of entire buildings or individual elements of buildings, replacement of doors and windows, retrofit of heating and cooling systems, energy-efficient interior lighting, i.e. measures that will allow comprehensive energy renovations in the context of energy performance contracting. In order to guarantee the success of these projects, the country intends to provide appropriate support activities for project management.

- Specific actions targeting energy renovation for households faced with energy poverty. The measures will cover investments and advisory services and investments for step change in behaviour and patterns of consumers.
- Implementation of projects of comprehensive energy renovation of the building stock according to the nearly-zero renovation criteria, where appropriate by using most advanced technologies with a demonstration effect.

**Complementary measures** under this investment priority will encompass the following:

- Development of a register of central government buildings (through the upgrade of and connectivity between the e-Land Register, national Surveying and Mapping Authority data, central database of the real estate market records, other relevant databases).
- Use of green infrastructure (e.g. green roofs and walls) that will bring other benefits (noise reduction, air quality improvement, water retention etc.).
- Training of micro and SME enterprises, contractors in the building sector, support for integration of enterprises (for example, into consortia) undertaking renovations and new constructions for an effective implementation of projects.
- Informal and formal education and training activities for entities carrying out energy renovation measures (also on cultural heritage buildings).
- Training for the entities engaged in construction of nearly-zero energy buildings.
- Support for awareness-raising and educational activities about energy efficiency.
- In the framework of this investment priority the selected cities may support actions through the Integrated Territorial Investments mechanism. The actions may be combined with the actions identified under the investment priorities focusing on urban renewal and sustainable mobility in urban areas.

Target groups: enterprises, public sector, households, low income households (eligible for grants amounting to at least 50% of the eligible costs of investments).

Beneficiaries: enterprises, central public administration, public sector, self-governing local communities, providers of energy performance contracting, NGOs (priority will be given to organisations reaching out to low income groups of the population), cooperatives (e.g. housing).

#### 2.4.3.1.2 Guiding principles for the selection

The support for actions will draw on expert groundwork carried out in the scope of the long-term strategy for promotion of investment in building stock renovation to identify the priority categories of buildings in terms of yielding maximum savings. Priority will be given to actions that:

- allow funding in the context of energy performance contracting (ensuring energy savings and energy supply);
- encompass comprehensive energy renovations especially of unrenovated buildings;
- involve a set of similar buildings with one manager, for the segment of state-owned buildings;
- respect the criteria of sustainable construction.

Where relevant, the following criteria will also be taken into account:

- possibility of being connected to the district heating/cooling system;
- taking account of other aspects besides energy renovation, i.e. aspects connected to investments under other investment priorities (land-use efficiency, urban mobility) and implemented in the context of ITI;
- the parameters for air quality to achieve synergistic effects in the form of reduction of GHG emissions and the improvement of air quality (PM10) in urban areas;
- in the context of projects related to the reconstruction of cultural heritage buildings, the aspect of savings is complemented with protection aspects, while the main objective pursued is that of contribution to energy efficiency.

The principles identified here will not be in conflict with the principle for the selection of projects using the ITI mechanism.

Certain conditions will be applied to financial incentives (this applies to the public and household sectors, unless specified otherwise). The incentives will be given out to:

- only that part of the investment that contributes to energy end-use savings and use of RES;
- buildings that have undergone extended energy audits (this applies to the public sector only).

#### 2.4.3.1.3 Planned use of financial instruments

The scope and type of financial instruments will be defined based on the results of the gap analysis on the

#### 2.4.3.1.5 Output indicators

needs for financial instruments schemes. The assessment will also provide optimum allocation proposals for the implementation of financial instruments.

A guarantee scheme and financial instruments that envisage and encourage the involvement of commercial banks in the funding of PPP projects are planned in this respect. Grants in the public sector will only be mobilised for projects of comprehensive energy renovation where financial instruments are out of the question.

#### 2.4.3.1.4 Planned use of major projects

Major projects are not planned.

**Tabela 19: Output indicators**

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region	Target value (2023)	Data source	Frequency of reporting
CO31	Energy efficiency: Number of households with improved energy consumption classification*	Number	Whole of Slovenia	2,500	Estimate	Annually
CO32	Energy efficiency: Decrease of annual primary energy consumption of public buildings	kWh/year	Whole of Slovenia	23,000,000	Implementing authority	Annually
4.4	Renovated useful floor area of buildings owned or occupied by the public sector	m <sup>2</sup>	Whole of Slovenia	1,800,000	NEEAP 2020	Annually
4.5	Renovated useful floor area of renovated buildings owned or occupied by the central government**	m <sup>2</sup>	Whole of Slovenia	180,000	Implementing authority	Annually
4.6	Number of implemented energy renovation demonstration projects for different categories of buildings***	Number	Whole of Slovenia	5	Implementing authority	Annually
CO34	GHG reduction: Estimated annual decrease of GHG (in the public and household sectors)****	t CO <sub>2</sub> eq	Whole of Slovenia	32,000	Implementing authority	Annually

The target values of output indicators are determined on the basis of calculations of incentive amounts and available funds.

\* The indicator on the number of households with improved energy consumption classification combines the outputs of two actions (implementation of 10 pilot projects of energy renovation of neighbourhoods with multi-family residential building in the scope of ITI – EUR 10 million for approximately 2,000 households and subsidies for energy efficiency measures in 500 households with low incomes to help them tackle energy poverty standing at EUR 5 million).

\*\* The reduction of the annual primary energy consumption in public buildings (CO32) shows an average annual value of savings as a consequence of energy renovation of the public building stock. Up to 2023 the cumulative savings will together account 164 GWh.

\*\*\* The indicator on renovated floor area of central government buildings is obtained on the basis of estimates in the current buildings register, where the 3% annual share amounts to 26,000 m<sup>2</sup>, with the 2023 target standing at a total of 180,000 m<sup>2</sup>. The register will be upgraded and connected with other appropriate records and registers in the upcoming period (e-Land Register, national Surveying and Mapping Authority data, central database of real estate market records), which is why its value may be subject to change.

\*\*\*\* The calculation for the indicator CO34 (GHG emissions) takes into account the average emission factor of 0.27 kgCO<sub>2</sub>/kWh with respect to available funds for the private and public sectors.

#### 2.4.4 Promoting the production and distribution of energy derived from renewable sources

##### SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE: INCREASE THE SHARE OF RES IN END-USE ENERGY CONSUMPTION

This investment priority pursues the objective of increasing the share of RES in end-use energy consumption. In line with Directive 2009/28/EC, Slovenia's target is to achieve at least a 25% share of RES in terms of gross final energy consumption by 2020. To meet this target, the country will have to make efforts to curb the growth of end-use energy consumption, achieve energy efficiency, and intensify its support for increasing the use of RES as the headliner guiding economic development.

In the 2007-2013 period the country put in place investment incentives in the area of renewable heat that proved to be a good choice, and will further focus them

on the area of biomass which has enormous potential that needs to be unleashed, thus maximising return on investment. The country will make further efforts to support the use of renewables for heat generation in the context of district heating systems. Given that we still fail to meet mid-term objectives regarding electricity production set out in the NEEAP despite the investment made, we will support investments in small power plants driven by renewables from least expensive sources. One of the most untapped potentials in this respect in Slovenia is small hydropower plants. Owing to the domestic know-how that has been acquired, their construction has the largest multiplier effects on the Slovenian economy and on new jobs. On top of that, it contributes to tackling the flood safety issues. Other types of renewables will be supported for demonstration effects.

The expected results under this specific objective:

- increased generation of heat and cooling from RES;
- increased electricity generation from RES.

Table 20: Output indicators

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Data source	Frequency of reporting
4.7	Share of RES in gross final energy consumption by heating sector	Share	Whole of Slovenia	31.7	2013	34.0	Long-term energy projections	Annually
4.8	Share of RES in gross final energy consumption by electricity sector	Share	Whole of Slovenia	32.8	2013	40.0	Long-term energy projections	Annually

2023 target values are determined on the basis of long-term energy projections.

##### 2.4.4.1 Actions to be supported under the investment priority

2.4.4.1.1 Description of types and examples of actions to be financed and their expected contribution to the corresponding specific objectives, including, where appropriate, identification:

In order to achieve the target share of RES in gross final energy consumption by the electricity and heating sectors, the country should make efforts to promote the

use of all environment-friendly RES. Support will be provided for the following actions under the investment priority concerned:

- Heat for heating and cooling and high efficiency cogeneration: support will be provided for investments in the construction of new heating systems and reconstruction of existing heating systems, as well as for incentives for connection of new users to already existing capacities (geothermal heating systems, solar panels, biomass boilers in the public sector, service sector and industry, biomass district

heating systems over 1 MW, local biomass district heating systems up to 1 MW, heat pumps). District heating systems using wood biomass represent a large potential with outstanding synergistic effects in terms of the use of available energy sources, reduction of particulate matter emissions, construction of a wood-processing chain and associated job creation.

- Electricity: support will be given to construction of small-scale electricity generation facilities using RES (wind, solar energy and small hydropower plants up to 10 MW). Providing an important springboard for the use of currently underused RES, the country will disburden the existing scheme which encourages the generation of electricity from RES through a feed-in tariff. The mid-term objective for using RES in electricity production, currently having fallen behind the set value, will thus be more easily achieved.

In areas with more than 5,000 residents, support for investment in renewables may be carried out through pilot projects (schemes) of self-governing local communities with a view to achieving energy self-sufficiency (e.g. energy cooperatives). In this context, a clear distinction will be made between projects/actions that will be supported under the 2014-2020 Rural Development Plan.

Target groups: enterprises, public sector, households, municipalities, cooperatives, institutes, individuals.

Beneficiaries: enterprises, public sector, municipalities, cooperatives, institutes.

#### 2.4.4.1.2 Guiding principles for the selection

Horizontal principles will set out the prioritising of projects that:

- are more cost-efficient;
- clearly reflect eco-efficiency (maximum emission reduction, achievement of maximum energy savings and preservation of nature) and cost-efficiency. In addition, priority will be given to projects that

will achieve maximum positive synergistic effects on the economy with the lowest input;

- allow connection to cogeneration-based district heating/cooling;
- are sited in a way that does not compromise individual heritage units, including their area of influence.

The following aspects will additionally be taken into account during the selection:

- in the context of projects related to biomass heating, the parameters for air quality will also be taken into account to achieve synergistic effects in the form of reduced GHG emissions and improved air quality in urban areas. Solutions that will adhere to the limits set in the revised NEC directive concerning total particulate matter emissions from different combustion sources will be selected. Where relevant and feasible, the use of biomass will take on board the sustainable use of forests;
- in planning and operating geothermal power plants and geothermal heating systems, those projects will be selected which guarantee that the use of the geothermal energy source has no significant impact on groundwater and surface water, while siting of facilities will comply with EU environmental legislation;
- support will be given to the development of small hydropower plants deemed acceptable from the environmental point of view based on the SEA procedure as provided for in Directive 42/2001/EC and in compliance with the Water Framework Directive, especially Article 4, paragraphs 7, 8 and 9, and with the Habitats Directive, Article 6. Potential sites for small hydropower plants (up to 10 MW) for which an environmental assessment will be made and an environmental report produced and which will be considered acceptable from the environmental point of view will be identified in the new programming period in the context of the revised NREAP. Priority will be given to the use of existing sites during the actual programme preparation stage. The SEA procedure will also encompass assessment of mitigation measures, with special emphasis on sites or locations where exemptions as provided in Article 4(7) could be

enforced as well as proportionate measures as specified in the Waters Act. Specific attention will also be given to the locations with a likely significant impact on Natura 2000 sites which will be subject to appropriate assessment of the implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives as specified in Article 6 of the Habitats Directive. Where relevant, the siting of small hydropower plants will be further supported by additional separate studies which will assess the potential of the individual river tributaries in terms of energy use, and will serve as a basis for the procedure in accordance with Article 4.7 of the Water Directive;

- larger wind power plants (above 1 MW) will be sited at least 800 metres from the nearest settlements or secured buildings depending on the terrain morphology in order to mitigate the noise burden;
- siting of RES facilities in the physical space will be carried out in accordance with the NREAP and projects will be subject to SEA; priority will be given to projects that involve facilities that can be sited on degraded areas or on buildings, if relevant.

- Should the measures be planned in special protection areas and natural heritage areas, special attention will be given to ensuring integrity and connectivity between Natura 2000 sites, and preventing negative impact on qualifying species and habitat types or degradation of natural values which make them special, as well as to avoiding the negative impact that may compromise the targets of protected areas.

#### 2.4.4.1.3 Planned use of financial instruments

The scope and type of financial instruments will be defined based on the results of the gap analysis on the needs for financial instruments schemes. The assessment will also provide optimum allocation proposals for the implementation of financial instruments.

#### 2.4.4.1.4 Planned use of major projects

Major projects are not planned.

#### 2.4.4.1.5 Output indicators

**Table 21: Output indicators**

ID	Indicator (name of indicator)	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region	Target value (2023)	Data source	Frequency of reporting
4.9	Additional capacity for heat production	MW	CF	Whole of Slovenia	30	NREAP	Annually
4.10	Additional capacity for electricity production	MW	CF	Whole of Slovenia	50	NREAP	Annually
CO30	Renewables: Additional capacity of renewable energy production	MW	CF	Whole of Slovenia	80	NREAP	Annually
CO34	GHG reduction: Estimated annual decrease of GHG from electricity and heating	tCO <sub>2</sub> equivalent	CF	Whole of Slovenia	31,000*	NREAP	Annually

The target values of output indicators are determined on the basis of calculations of incentive amounts and available funds.

For the indicator RES – heat the total support should stand at EUR 14 million assuming there is a 30% subsidy for an average investment amounting to EUR 1.5 million per MW of capacity installed, and for the indicator RES - electricity the total support should be EUR 10 million assuming there is a 20% subsidy for an average investment amounting to EUR 1 million per MW of capacity installed.

\* Of which electricity 25,000 tons and heat 6,000 tons CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent.



#### ***2.4.5 Development and use of intelligent low- and medium-voltage distribution systems***

##### **SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE: IMPROVE CAPACITY UTILISATION AND EFFICIENCY OF ENERGY SYSTEMS**

In accordance with Directive 2009/72/EC, Member States are to replace 80% of all electricity meters with intelligent metering systems by 2020, where economically reasonable. The introduction of intelligent power monitoring and distribution systems can promote full integration and active participation of electricity consumers and electricity generation undertakings within the internal electricity market, especially in light of the growing active role of the consumer as the source of distributed generation. The intelligent metering system thus supports all local energy supply roles and becomes part of the intelligent distribution system. Such a functionally integrated system facilitates rational and prudent electricity use and thereby contributes to the efforts already made in the field of achieving low-carbon objectives.

The area of deployment of intelligent technologies in Slovenia shows similar trends to those perceived across the Union, which has also been corroborated by a European Commission analysis made in 2010. However, deployment of intelligent technologies is not efficiently coordinated or systematically managed, be it in the field of electricity, of other energy products or of energy management. The existing concepts of electricity distribution are based – technologically and in terms of cost – only on energy distribution; as such, they do not include the requirements for smart grids. This often leads to technical problems even in the phase of integrating the distributed energy sources into the existing grids which often require irrational technical solutions; this, in turn, increases costs. The introduction of new elements such as distributed sources, electricity storage facilities, electric vehicles (EV), and functional integration of electricity grids with other energy distribution grids needs to be addressed in a systematic and uniform manner.

The cost-benefit analysis of rolling out an intelligent metering system in Slovenia shows that the net benefits of introducing systematic electricity meters are relatively large, especially in terms of their greater capacity and the need for introducing information technologies which use electricity grids for data transfer. The benefits which offset the costs are demonstrated only in the long run.<sup>81</sup> The assessment shows that the initial investment will contribute to speeding up the process of introducing metering systems, which will lead to cost-effectiveness and in turn attract private investors. The operation of metering systems that are integrated into a complex smart grid contributes to optimal energy use, environmentally friendly energy management, and enables more effective risk management during planning, financing, construction and operation.

The projects will contribute to the achievement of the objectives set in the field of energy efficiency and optimal use of distributed renewable energy sources. Investments in this field also have wider economic implications as they can contribute to boosting the competitiveness of enterprises, to setting up breakthrough ICT enterprises and to developing new and innovative services.

The expected result under this specific objective:

- widespread roll-out of intelligent systems to electricity grid consumers benefitting from intelligent energy management on the ground and within the system, including electricity generation, electricity metering, regulation and control of energy processes as well as use of electricity storage facilities for charging electric vehicles.

<sup>81</sup> [http://www.agen-rs.si/dokumenti/29/2/2014/CBA\\_SLO\\_Koncno\\_20140321\\_1986.pdf](http://www.agen-rs.si/dokumenti/29/2/2014/CBA_SLO_Koncno_20140321_1986.pdf)



Table 22: Result indicators

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Data source	Frequency of reporting
4.11	Share of consumers connected to intelligent metering systems	Share	Whole of Slovenia	29	2013	85	SODO, electricity distribution system operator	Annually

The indicator represents the share of consumers connected to electricity grids with smart grid elements and advanced metering systems.

#### 2.4.5.1 Actions to be supported under the investment priority

2.4.5.1.1 Description of types and examples of actions to be financed and their expected contribution to the corresponding specific objectives, including, where appropriate, identification:

The concept of smart grids relates to efficient use of new intelligent metering technologies, all types of energy, active inclusion of the consumption side (DSM), virtual power plants, modern compensation devices, energy storage devices (batteries) and infrastructure for electric mobility. Increased observability and capacity of electricity grids facilitates the introduction of more advanced and complex energy management functions, and more consistent and complex capture and processing of functions and data, going hand in hand with the development of new elements in support of operation; it also opens up opportunities for the development and upgrading of existing concepts of grid operation and planning.

Support under this investment priority will be given to comprehensive solutions for the identified system-wide problems on the basis of the Smart Grids Development Programme in Slovenia (2012, SODO), where the situation could seriously deteriorate if appropriate action is not taken.

The following measures will be supported:

- Co-financing of activities that contribute to the integration of systems and solutions for the implementation and establishment of modern ICT infrastructure and the equipping of consumers with intelligent metering systems, which enables the construction

of smart grids and facilitates connectivity between intelligent devices and systems that are integrated within the smart grids concept. The measure also covers the installation of intelligent electricity meters, communication infrastructure and information systems for metering.

- Setting up of smart public infrastructure for small-scale energy storage for public and private use acting as a flexible consumer and supplier within the power system. Integration of small-scale energy storage infrastructure and energy storage devices into smart grid systems should facilitate and improve control of energy storage devices through controlled adjustments in terms of emptying and filling up owing to the scope of these devices (power and capacity) and the ability to modify demand for energy, and should contribute to fully utilising the energy systems and tackling the issues at the local level. Energy storage devices and the associated small-scale energy storage infrastructure will be connected to the main energy management control systems as part of the advanced infrastructure of intelligent network management.
- Promotion of the installation of ICT devices for active participation of the demand and supply sides, which will contribute to reducing peak demand on electricity grids in individual overburdened areas.
- Support for innovative investment in low-voltage distribution systems, and opening up of business opportunities for new/local actors both in the field of ICT and the energy sector.
- Development of new energy services which will enhance transparency and competitiveness in the market.

- Support for activities in the field of information, education and awareness-raising for final consumers regarding the active participation of the demand and supply sides, and the benefits of equipping consumers with intelligent metering systems (new business models).

Target groups: final consumers and electricity generation undertakings connected to low-voltage and medium-voltage distribution networks and operators of energy distribution systems.

Beneficiaries: operators of energy distribution systems, owners/operators of production units of distributed electricity sources and electricity storage facilities, owners of electric vehicles and owners/operators of car parks, ICT companies, self-governing local communities, local energy companies.

#### 2.4.5.1.2 Guiding principles for the selection of operations

Alongside the relevant horizontal principles, additional principles for selection will be applied under this investment priority. The principles will be based, inter alia, on

strategic guidelines for the deployment of the intelligent metering system in Slovenia and on the cost-benefit analyses carried out for this purpose by the national regulatory authority (Energy Agency of the Republic of Slovenia).

Priority will be given to projects that will:

- establish a link between the electricity metering systems and metering systems for other types of energy (gas, heat) by applying a uniform infrastructure and linking functions, which, in turn, establishes synergies between the design, construction and operation of the systems, increases their cost-effectiveness and contributes to the optimal use of energy.

#### 2.4.5.1.3 Planned use of financial instruments

The scope and type of financial instruments will be defined based on the results of the gap analysis on the needs for financial instruments schemes. The assessment will also provide a basis for the decision on which types of instruments to use and on the optimum allocation proposals for the implementation of financial instruments.

#### 2.4.5.1.4. Planned use of major projects

Major projects are not planned.

#### 2.4.5.1.5 Output indicators

**Table 23: Output indicators**

ID	Indicator (name of indicator)	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region	Target value (2023)	Data source	Frequency of reporting
CO33	Energy efficiency: Number of additional energy users connected to smart grids (final consumers, RES producers)	Number	CF	Whole of Slovenia	300,000	Energy Agency of the Republic of Slovenia	Annually

\*The indicator refers to the inclusion of new users in intelligent metering by the end of 2023 based on the assumption of a 33% subsidy of the costs relating to the installing of intelligent metering for which EUR 10 million will be earmarked. EUR 10 million under this priority axis will be earmarked for other related activities (ICT infrastructure, educational and demonstration activities, electricity storage, voltage regulation concepts, consumption management, etc.), for which no indicators are foreseen.

#### 2.4.6 Promoting low-carbon strategies for all types of territories, in particular for urban areas, including the promotion of sustainable multimodal urban mobility and adequate mitigation and adaptation measures

##### SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE: DEVELOP URBAN MOBILITY TO IMPROVE AIR QUALITY IN URBAN AREAS

The current situation regarding sustainable mobility and the use of public passenger transport (PPT) in Slovenia leaves a lot to be desired. Support in the 2007-2013 period was primarily targeted at improving the efficiency of public passenger transport within wider urban areas. However, a number of challenges in this field still remain to be addressed. In addition to GHG emissions, unsustainable mobility also affects air quality and contributes to higher noise levels in urban areas. In 2011, the population in urban areas was more exposed to pollution with PM<sub>10</sub> particles than the EU-

27 average,<sup>82</sup> while figures for pollution of ground-level ozone were even worse.<sup>83</sup> A year later the scope of overstepping the daily PM<sub>10</sub> concentrations decreased, but the problem remains particularly acute in Ljubljana, Celje, Maribor, Zasavje, Murska Sobota, Kranj and Novo Mesto, for which air quality plans have already been adopted. Other cities are also faced with similar problems that require comprehensive solutions. In addition to addressing environmental problems, the measures of sustainable mobility can also contribute to a better integration of urban areas and the outlying hinterlands, reducing traffic congestion, improving the quality of living spaces in urban areas and traffic safety.

<sup>82</sup> <http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/tgm/table.do?tab=table&init=1&plugin=1&language=en&pcode=tsdph370>

<sup>83</sup> <http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/tgm/table.do?tab=table&init=1&plugin=1&language=en&pcode=tsdph380>

Table 24: Specific result indicators

ID	Indicator (name of indicator)	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Data source	Frequency of reporting
4.12	Share of passenger kilometres in rail transport in relation to overall land transport	Share	CF, ERDF	Whole of Slovenia	2.3	2012	3.6	EUROSTAT	Once a year
4.13	Share of passenger kilometres in bus transport in relation to overall land transport	Share	CF, ERDF	Whole of Slovenia	11.1	2012	16	EUROSTAT	Once a year
4.20	CO <sub>2</sub> emissions due to road usage by cars*	t CO <sub>2</sub> eqv	CF, ERDF	Whole of Slovenia	0	2015	0	Slovenian Environmental Agency	Once a year

\*The indicator is included in the Action Plan for ex-ante conditionality 7.

##### 2.4.6.1 Actions to be supported under the investment priority

2.4.6.1.1 Description of types and examples of actions to be financed and their expected contribution to the corresponding specific objectives, including, where appropriate, identification:

Support under the investment priority will be provided for activities which reduce the effects of private car use on air quality and respond to the increasing mobility needs through improvements in sustainable mobility, thus contributing to a better quality of life. Investments in sustainable urban mobility will be aligned with the integrated approach and will be based on an integrated mobility concept for cities or functional urban areas, which cover all relevant mobility modes (walking, cycling,

using public passenger transport and other alternative forms of sustainable mobility) and measures to promote them. This represents an integrated concept of technical, political, and soft measures that improve the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of investments.

All investments that are proposed to receive ERDF and CF support under this investment priority are set out in Article 5(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1301/2013 and Article 4(a)(v) of Regulation (EU) No 1300/2013, and will be included in the Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans which will be linked to air quality plans and sustainable urban development strategies.

In order to reduce GHG emissions and lower the level of PM10 particle emissions from transport in urban areas and their surrounding areas, Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans will be developed for cities and regions, which will define priority CF and ERDF supported measures in the field of sustainable mobility at the level of municipalities or regions. The Slovenian Guidelines for Developing and Implementing a Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan take into account Slovenian specific circumstances – a number of small and medium-sized cities.

The planned measures, which will be implemented on the basis of the developed Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans at the level of municipalities or regions, are as follows:

- Arrangement for safe access to public passenger transport stations and stops, the provision of bicycle racks and roof overhangs for bicycle parking, park and ride systems, public passenger transport stations, pavements, cycling routes. These investments are planned to a lesser extent to address the gaps in existing infrastructure networks for sustainable urban mobility.
- Delivery of the relevant infrastructure conditions for sustainable mobility will be coupled with the design and implementation of measures for its management:
  - sustainable parking policy measures, which constitute an integrated approach at the level of parking in a particular city. This means that the

parking restrictions in city centres, the financial policy of more expensive parking in the centre and cheaper parking in the outskirts and the park and ride system facilitate the management of traffic volumes in cities.

- Design of mobility plans: depending on the specific characteristics of the area of their location, travel habits of employees and the possibility of arriving at work and school by using sustainable mobility modes, institutions design their own mobility plans and encourage employees to change their travel habits.
- Limiting the traffic in city centres for personal vehicles: the city sets restrictions regarding the entrance of cars in a wider or narrower traffic centre based on various criteria, such as vehicle emission standards (environmental zones) or closing certain areas to traffic.
- Green city logistics: the city decides on its policy regarding the delivery of goods. The policy will ensure that delivery vehicles meet environmental standards and will identify delivery periods. The policy will promote alternative solutions depending on the specific characteristics of urban centres.
- Use of advanced technologies for efficient mobility management: there are numerous mechanisms such as monitoring vehicles with real-time displays at bus stops of public passenger transport, information portals for passengers with the possibility of using mobile phones etc.
- Education and awareness-raising activities about sustainable mobility will focus on various target groups, ranging from kindergartens, primary schools, secondary schools and the student population to adult car drivers and various expert circles.

Actions to promote public passenger transport in cities and the related functional urban areas will facilitate the shift from personal transport to public passenger transport, thus contributing significantly to reducing GHG emissions and particulate matter. In the field of sustainable mobility actions we will pursue the requirements set

out under the document which is currently being drafted, namely the Operational Programme for Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction by 2020 in the field of transport.

Pursuit of the targets on renewables in the transport sector as specified in Directive 2009/28/EC and reduction of air pollution will be sustained through support for setting up infrastructure for alternative fuels and smart charging stations (both private and public) to promote and facilitate the roll-out of electromobility. Charging stations for electric vehicles are one of the key elements to accelerate the electrification of transport, which is one of the basic pillars of the energy concept that is being drawn up. Electrification of transport contributes to achieving the energy goals through greater energy efficiency and energy savings and use of renewables in transport, as well as environmental objectives, reducing air pollution (PM10 and NOx), greenhouse gas emissions and noise and other objectives such as reducing dependence and developing new business opportunities.

For certain cities the measures under the investment priority may receive support under the ITI mechanism. Support under the ITI mechanism will be given for integrated projects combining measures with those that are laid down under investment priorities for land-use efficiency and energy efficiency.

Target groups: citizens, pedestrians, cyclists, users of public passenger transport, users of private cars.

Beneficiaries: municipalities, transport operators, education institutions, research institutions, non-governmental organisations, regional development agencies, enterprises.

#### 2.4.6.1.2 Guiding principles for the selection of operations

Alongside the relevant horizontal principles, the following principles for the selection of projects, which will be based on the results of Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans of cities and regions, will be taken into account. Priority will be given to:

- projects that will apply an integrated approach in the implementation of sustainable mobility measures in urban areas with a clearly expressed continuation of the measures' implementation;
- projects that will contribute to changing the share of passenger kilometres by passenger cars in land transport involving reduced car use and improved air quality in cities;
- projects that will contribute to reducing noise pollution in urban centres;
- projects that will support the use of new technologies in urban transport systems;
- where relevant, the measures of this investment priority will be linked to the activities of other investment priorities to promote sustainable urban development.

The principles identified here will not be in conflict with the principle for the selection of projects using the ITI mechanism.

#### 2.4.6.1.3 Planned use of financial instruments

Reimbursable funding is not planned under the investment priority.

#### 2.4.6.1.4 Planned use of major project

Major projects are not planned.

## 2.4.6.1.5 Output indicators

**Table 25: Output indicators**

ID	Indicator (name of indicator)	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region	Target value (2023)	Data source	Frequency of reporting
4.14	Number of Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans in place	Number	CF	Whole of Slovenia	30	Ministry of Infrastructure	Once a year
4.15	Number of new park and ride facilities in urban areas	Number	CF	Whole of Slovenia	6	Municipalities	Once a year
4.16	Sustainable parking policy measures	Number	CF	Whole of Slovenia	8	Municipalities	Once a year
4.17	Number of sustainable mobility measures in the framework of Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans	Number	ERDF	Vzhodna Slovenija	7	Municipalities	Once a year
		Number	ERDF	Zahodna Slovenija	4	Municipalities	Once a year
4.18	Number of public electric vehicle charging stations with remote control of the charging process	Number	CF	Whole of Slovenia	630	Implementing body	Annually
4.19	Number of private electric vehicle charging stations with remote control of the charging process	Number	CF	Whole of Slovenia	3,150	Implementing body	Annually

We took into account the recommended ratio of 1 charging station per 10 electric vehicles for the indicator Number of smart charging stations for electric vehicles. Long-term energy scenarios (Long-term energy projections to 2030) forecast that about 70,000 new vehicles will be registered on an annual basis by 2023 (i.e. 630,000 by 2023). If we reach 5% newly registered electric vehicles by 2023, the figure stands at 31,500 electric vehicles. Presuming that about 20% of electric vehicles are charged at public charging stations the target value of the indicator would stand at 630 public charging stations. 10% of electric vehicles will benefit from private charging stations (2023 target value stands at 3,150). Presuming that the subsidy rate stands at 30%, this amounts to approximately EUR 2 million of public funding required for this purpose.

### 2.4.7 Social innovation, transnational cooperation and contribution to thematic objectives 1-7

Not relevant.

### 2.4.8 Performance framework

Performance framework – CF										
Priority axis	Indicator type (implementation step, financial, output or result indicator)	ID	Definition of the indicator or implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Fund	Category of region	Milestone for 2018	Final target (2023)	Source of data	Explanation of the relevance of the indicator, where appropriate
4	Output indicator	4.4	Useful floor area of public sector buildings subject to energy renovation	m <sup>2</sup>	CF	Whole of Slovenia	600,000	1,800,000	NEEAP	63% of the CF funds available under priority axis 4
4	Financial indicator	F1	Input	EUR	CF	Whole of Slovenia	77,000,000	306,597,412	Monitoring	

  

Performance framework - ERDF										
Priority axis	Indicator type (implementation step, financial, output or result indicator)	ID	Definition of the indicator or implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Fund	Category of region	Milestone for 2018	Final target (2023)	Source of data	Explanation of the relevance of the indicator, where appropriate
4	Output indicator	4.17	Number of sustainable mobility measures in the framework of Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans	Number	ERDF	Vzhodna Slovenija	0	7	Municipalities	100 % of the ERDF funds for priority axis 4, total for both cohesion regions
				Number	ERDF	Zahodna Slovenija	0	4	Municipalities	
4	Implementation step	K4	Number of developed integrated transport strategies	Number	ERDF	Vzhodna Slovenija	7		Ministry of Infrastructure	
				Number		Zahodna Slovenija	4		Ministry of Infrastructure	
4	Financial indicator	F1	Financial input	EUR	ERDF	Vzhodna Slovenija	4,000,000	12,517,690	Signed contracts	
			Financial input to sustainable mobility measures	EUR	ERDF	Zahodna Slovenija	5,000,000	13,789,567	Signed contracts	

## 2.4.9 Categories of intervention

Fund and intervention field: CF									
Table 1: Intervention field		Table 2: Form of finance		Table 3: Territory		Table 4: Territorial delivery mechanisms		Table 6: ESF secondary theme	
Code	EUR amount	Code	EUR amount	Code	EUR amount	Code	EUR amount	Code	EUR amount
09	2,000,000	01	2,000,000	07	2,000,000	07	2,000,000	00	
010	6,000,000	01	6,000,000	07	6,000,000	07	6,000,000	00	
011	2,000,000	01	2,000,000	07	2,000,000	07	2,000,000	00	
012	2,000,000	01	2,000,000	07	2,000,000	07	2,000,000	00	
013	165,200,000	01	115,200,000	07	165,200,000	07	165,200,000	00	
		04	50,000,000						
014	21,500,000	01	50,000,000	07	50,000,000	01	10,000,000	00	
015	19,897,800	01	13,897,800	07	19,897,800	07	19,897,800	00	
		04	5,000,000						
		06	1,000,000						
016	14,000,000	01	14,000,000	07	14,000,000	07	14,000,000	00	
043	9,550,000	01	4,550,000		9,550,000	07	9,550,000	00	
		02	5,000,000						
090	11,480,000	01	6,620,000	07	11,480,000	07	11,480,000	00	
		02	4,860,000						
036	4,980,000	01	2,980,000	07	4,980,000	07	4,980,000	00	
		02	2,000,000						
044	2,000,000	01	2,000,000	07	2,000,000	07	2,000,000	00	

  

Fund and intervention field: ERDF, cohesion region of Vzhodna Slovenija									
Table 1: Intervention field		Table 2: Form of finance		Table 3: Territory		Table 4: Territorial delivery mechanisms		Table 6: ESF	
Code	EUR amount	Code	EUR amount	Code	EUR amount	Code	EUR amount	Code	EUR amount
083	10,014,152	01	10,014,152	01	2,684,152	01	10,014,152	00	
				01	7,330,000				

  

Fund and intervention field: ERDF, cohesion region of Zahodna Slovenija									
Table 1: Intervention field		Table 2: Form of finance		Table: 3 Territory		Table 4: Territorial delivery mechanisms		Table 6: ESF secondary theme	
Code	EUR amount	Code	EUR amount	Code	EUR amount	Code	EUR amount	Code	EUR amount
083	11,010,053	01	11,010,053	01	2,950,053	01	11,010,053	00	
				02	8,060,000				



**2.4.10 Summary of the planned use of technical assistance including, where necessary, actions to reinforce the administrative capacity of authorities involved in the management and control of the programmes and beneficiaries (where appropriate)**

Adequate administrative capacity of the staff implementing this investment priority will be achieved through training in the areas identified in the scope of the technical assistance priority axis.

Given that new thematic areas will be supported under the priority axis, we intend to give special attention to trainings that equip staff with the necessary knowledge and skills in the area of sustainable use of energy (e.g. development of energy performance contracting models under PPPs, physical asset management, roll-out of new financial instruments, green public procurement).

A project unit, consisting of qualified experts in individual planned work areas, will be set up for the area of sustainable mobility. This is a completely new area of work which was not provided by the relevant ministry in the previous programming period, which means that staff reinforcement will be needed to carry out the planned tasks. The staff planning for the project unit on sustainable mobility will be planned in line with the respective tasks foreseen in the OP.

In this respect, a project office will provide support for the development of expert groundwork and baselines for project preparation, the preparation of tender procedures (public procurement, PPPs, physical asset management), selection of providers/contractors, and monitoring of the execution of energy renovation works on public sector buildings in the framework of PPPs, which is of great relevance in energy contracting projects. Funds will also be earmarked for the execution of tasks in the following areas: project management establishing and managing the records of central public administration buildings, developing the PPP model and system-wide project monitoring (labour costs and costs of individual activities).

**2.5 Climate change adaptation**

**2.5.1 Explanation for the establishment of a priority axis covering more than one category of region or more than one thematic objective or more than one Fund**

Climate change has become one of the most threatening problems and challenges for mankind and the environment. It is becoming clearer and clearer that mitigation actions will not reduce the negative impacts of climate change, let alone prevent climate change per se. That said, Slovenia intends to implement climate change mitigation measures that will receive support under priority axis 4, and invest in climate change adaptation measures, too.

The Risk assessment and progress report of the Republic of Slovenia in 2011 and the supporting risk matrix reveal that floods are considered to be the most threatening phenomenon that occurs in the country. To this end, the country intends to use the support provided by the CF and the ERDF particularly for dedicated investment pursuing climate change adaptation in flood prone areas. It will further promote investment to address specific risks and ensure disaster resilience. The last severe floods caused great material damage in the Drava river sub-basin and the Savinja river sub-basin, and in other parts of the cohesion region of Vzhodna Slovenija lying downstream in individual sub-basins. Hence, major problems tend to be concentrated in this cohesion region, and it is wise to allocate the ERDF support to flood prevention measures in Vzhodna Slovenija.

**2.5.2 Fund, category of region and Fund, category of region and basis for Union support calculation**

<b>Fund</b>	<b>CF</b>
Category of region	Not relevant
Basis for calculation (total eligible expenditure or eligible public expenditure)	Total eligible cost
<b>Fund</b>	<b>ERDF</b>
Category of region	Vzhodna Slovenija
Basis for calculation (total eligible expenditure or eligible public expenditure)	Total eligible cost

### 2.5.3 Supporting investments for adaptation to climate change, including ecosystem-based approaches

#### **SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE: REDUCE FLOOD RISKS IN THE AREAS WITH POTENTIAL SIGNIFICANT FLOOD RISKS**

In 2011 Slovenia carried out a preliminary flood risk assessment in accordance with Directive 2007/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2007 on the assessment and management of flood risks (Official Journal L288, 06/11/2007), and following a public consultation based on the above-mentioned preliminary flood risk assessment in 2013 identified 61 areas with potential significant flood risk<sup>84</sup> where flood events cause severe damage according to the criterion of compromising human health, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity<sup>85</sup>.

The 2014-2020 support from the ERDF and CF will be allocated to measures that contribute the most to reducing flood risks in the areas with potential significant flood risk in Slovenia. Individual actions will be implemented so as to be attuned to the Flood Risk Management Plan that will be developed by 22 December 2015 in accordance with the EU Floods Directive revised River Basin Management Plan for the Danube and the Adriatic Sea as the framework for an integrated approach to managing river basins in these regions. Also, individual actions will be aligned and agreed with neighbouring countries in the framework of active permanent commissions and joint action funded under cross-border cooperation projects to produce expert groundwork and design joint mechanisms for a coordinated action and approach to natural disaster management, particularly flood management.

Based on the preliminary flood risk assessment 13 out of 61 areas of potential significant flood risk were selected for co-financing under the ESI Funds in accordance with the following criteria: the population in the identified area, the number of IPPC and SEVESO establishments, the length of line infrastructure and the estimated damage caused by flood events in the last 25 years and relating to projects that received co-financing in the 2007-2013 period.

The actions in these areas were integrated into four investment projects that in geographic terms correspond with the Flood Risk Management Plans of national importance which are being drafted in accordance with Directive (EC) No 2007/60. Also, the relevant investment and project documentation for the projects is already being developed, including hydraulic-hydrological studies and graphic bases, given that the feasibility assessments for the projects showed these could be implemented in the given time frame. Implementation of these actions will help protect the areas out of the 61 areas with potential significant flood risk, where as much as half of the population, a third of the IPPC-SEVESO sites and line infrastructure is threatened. According to estimates, more than half of the damage caused by flood events in the last 25 years was precisely in these areas. The estimated value of planned investments is double the amount of available ESI Funds in the 2014-2020 period, and the country intends to additionally ask for EIB support to implement individual projects.

The expected result under this specific objective:

- reduced flood risk in the event of new floods.

<sup>84</sup> Report on the identification of areas with potential significant flood risks in the Republic of Slovenia and on the follow-up of flood risk management activities in areas with potential significant flood risks, Government Decision 35500-1/2013/5 of 14 February 2012.

<sup>85</sup> Report on the identification of areas with potential significant flood risks in the Republic of Slovenia and on the follow-up of flood risk management activities in the areas with potential significant flood risks: [http://www.MOP.si/fileadmin/MOP.gov.si/pageuploads/podrocja/voda/porocilo\\_OPVP.pdf](http://www.MOP.si/fileadmin/MOP.gov.si/pageuploads/podrocja/voda/porocilo_OPVP.pdf)  
Map: [http://www.MOP.si/fileadmin/MOP.gov.si/pageuploads/podrocja/voda/karta\\_obmocij\\_OPVP.pdf](http://www.MOP.si/fileadmin/MOP.gov.si/pageuploads/podrocja/voda/karta_obmocij_OPVP.pdf)

Table 26: Specific result indicators\*

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
5.1	Number of buildings at risk of flooding**	Number	Whole of Slovenia / CF	18,239	2013	7,075	Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning	Once a year
		Number	ERDF	18,239	2013	3,980	Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning	Once a year
5.2	Number of IPPC and SEVESO sites at risk of flooding***	Number	Whole of Slovenia / CF	44	2013	20	Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning	Once a Year

\* The indicators are based on the Report on identifying areas of potential significant flood risk in the Republic of Slovenia (annex to Government Decision No 355000-1/2013/5 of 14 February 2013) and breakdown of CF and ERDF support. If the agreement with the EIB in respect of credit lines for projects of flood protection is reached, the scope of investment may increase and low-value indicators will be adjusted accordingly.

\*\* The target value of indicator 5.1 gives a forecast for the number of buildings at risk of flooding after the action taken with respect to the buildings covered in the Report.

\*\*\* The target value of indicator 5.2 gives a forecast for the number of IPPC and SEVESO buildings at risk of flooding after the action taken with respect to the buildings covered in the Report. The indicator was selected considering the fact that there is a correlation between its trends and the need for protection of important energy, transport and local infrastructure that runs along these sites/buildings and should be protected against adverse effects of waters.

### 2.5.3.1 Actions to be supported under the investment priority

2.5.3.1.1 Description of the type and examples of actions to be financed and their expected contribution to the corresponding specific objectives, including, where appropriate, identification:

This investment priority will support hydro-technical, ecosystem and non-structural measures to reduce flood risk. The proposed non-structural activities will also create new jobs, for example in the field of floodplain control and management. Delivery of structural and ecosystem measures will bring new jobs in all investment- and construction-related industries.

CF and ERDF support will be used for the following indicative flood protection measures considered a priority for the country:

- Continuation of the project Sustainable flood protection in the Savinja river sub-basin: completion of Phase I projects, and continuation of priority investments for the overall flood protection of the Savinja river sub-basin and its tributaries. The scope of action and a detailed identification of the interven-

tions will be determined on the basis of the results of the hydraulic and hydrological study of the entire Savinja river sub-basin, which will also consider the already-implemented flood protection measures in the Savinja river sub-basin, which are being implemented in the 2007-2013 period.

- Continuation of the project Sustainable flood protection in the Drava river sub-basin: completion of Phase I projects, and continuation of the priority investments – reduction of flood risk in the Ptuj area of the Drava river sub-basin – potential significant flood risk areas of Spodnji Duplek and Ptuj; the flood regime for the Meža and Mislinja river sub-basins, reduction of flood risk in the potential significant flood risk areas of Dravograd, Prevalje-Ravne na Koroškem and Črna na Koroškem-Žerjav.
- Reduction of flood risk in the Gradaščica river sub-basin (up to Ljubljana) – reduction of flood risks in the potential significant flood risk areas of Ljubljana-South and Dobrova – Brezje pri Dobrovi.
- Reduction of flood risk for the Selška Sora river sub-basin (up to Dolenja vas) – reduction of flood risks in the potential significant flood risk area of Železniki.

- Reduction of flood risk in potential significant flood risk areas where the flood protection measures are not only mature for implementation (all the documentation required for implementation is prepared) but also identified as being urgent for meeting the flood risk reduction objective in areas identified under the Flood Risk Management Plan.

Where appropriate, projects to receive support have been designed in such a way that they primarily cover – with the exception of the construction of hydro-technical facilities – non-structural flood protection measures, protection of inhabited floodplains areas and measures to improve water status in accordance with the Water Framework Directive. Siting hydro-technical facilities will take into account the possibility of dual-use of retention basins (irrigation, recreational areas, water reservoirs in case of fire, etc.). Retention basins can be established within settlements only when their use is multi-functional. During flooding they are used as a retention area, otherwise they are part of the open space and are arranged as parks, ponds, recessed parking lots, yards and paths.

Drawing up strategic environmental assessments prior to the construction of hydro-technical measures will ensure an adequate level of environmental protection. Various eco-remediation measures implemented on floodplains also outside the flood zones (e.g. creating pools and ponds, afforestation, amelioration ditches with plantings, shock buffer zones between land and watercourses, creating hedges in larger agricultural areas, side arms, creating wetlands in the river-basin areas where the water inflows from the amelioration or drainage ditch, establishing vegetation levels by planting the areas which lie between the stone crushing area and rock crushing area, willow wattles on embankment sections, gravel rapids and thresholds) will receive support as potential ecosystem measures. If flood protection measures are planned to be implemented in areas with special requirements (water protection areas, Natura 2000 protected areas, natural value areas), special attention will be given to the prevention of impacts

on water quality, the water regime, ensuring the integrity and connectivity of Natura 2000 sites, and prevention of negative impacts on the qualifying species and habitat types, the deterioration of those characteristics of natural value areas on the basis of which they were identified as natural value areas, and the prevention of negative impact on the protected areas objectives.

In terms of land purchase and actual implementation of measures for controlled or natural movement of water during flooding, lands will additionally be purchased that are necessary to achieve the Natura 2000 objectives, if possible and justified in accordance with the provisions of Article 69 (3) (B) of Directive (EU) No 1303/2013, and the measures for water regulation and control will be put in place so as to favour improvement of the species and habitat types status and the protection of cultural heritage.

CF and the ERDF will also support other non-structural flood protection measures that will be implemented in the whole of Slovenia in order to achieve a lower flood risk level in the potential significant flood risk areas. The measures are coordinated and will be partially co-funded under the EAFRD funds.<sup>86</sup>

CF and ERDF support will be used for the following indicative non-structural flood protection measures:

- Identification of key floodplains in Slovenia – identification of vast areas that experience flooding during periods of high discharge in connection with mapping of potential significant flood risk areas, examination of the possible legal basis for protection and actual physical protection, regulation of these areas in cooperation with the respective municipalities (and other stakeholders), acquisition of land, drawing up of documentation and actual

<sup>86</sup> ERDF, CF and EAFRD support for thematic objective 5 will be used in a complementary manner in accordance with the PA. ERDF support will be used in a complementary manner for investment in non-structural flood protection measures, while the EAFRD support will target the deployment or further use of agricultural practices that contribute to the conservation of natural resources, biodiversity, to preservation of the man-made environment and its characteristics and to climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts.

delivery of measures on the ground to provide for controlled or natural water overflow during floods.

- Setting up **new gauging stations** to ensure regular hydrological monitoring in potential significant flood risk areas – (hydraulic) identification of sites for new gauging stations on watercourses that pose a threat to potential significant flood risk areas, drawing up the documentation for setting up gauging stations, purchase of hydrological and telecommunications equipment, delivery. Development of **hydrological forecasting models** to forecast high water levels in potential significant flood risk areas – in order to provide early warning against potential high water levels or floods in potential significant flood risk areas, high-quality and operational hydrological models for all 17 identified groups of potential significant flood risk areas are a must. The project includes collection of data, development of hydrological models and setting up of local early warning and dissemination systems.
- Development of **hydrological and hydraulic models** to justify and develop comprehensive flood control measures in individual sub-basins.
- **Providing information, awareness-raising, education, early warning, dissemination and encouraging** entities in potential significant flood risk areas and landslide area to take action – production of information materials, public information and awareness-raising activities for the flood-risk population and entities on possible preventive measures prior to flood events, interventions and actions during high water events, implementation of preparatory exercises, renovation and establishment of a system of public warning and active (financial) incentives for owners of buildings exposed to flooding and landslide (with special emphasis being put on cultural heritage areas/buildings/objects) to implement individual measures for protection against natural disasters in the potential significant flood risk areas and to establish inter-sectoral complementarity of the approaches and programmes in the area of improving disaster management and response. The physical implementation of the measures will take place simultaneously with the establishment of con-

trol centres, which means that activities that affect the physical environment will not be implemented separately before the action plan is in force.

This investment priority will also support the following horizontal measures for climate change risk management:

- Production of a comprehensive inter-sectoral **risk assessment** and assessment of opportunities that climate change has in store for Slovenia and which represent a solid ground for formulating adaptation measures, as well as risk prevention and management measures (action plan for climate change adaptation). The country will further carry out a risk assessment regarding natural and other disasters that pose the greatest risk at the national level, by also taking into account the potential cross-border impacts of disasters, and will serve as a basis for further spatial planning, planning of preventive measures aimed at reducing the risk of disasters, identification of priority investments aimed at reducing the risk of disasters, development of risk management plans and plans for assistance and disaster recovery in the event of a major natural or other disaster. For the risk assessments for disasters with potential cross-border impacts, the data should be coordinated with the neighbouring countries.
- Indicative support will also be given to the preparation and implementation of joint and coordinated actions to achieve greater resilience and responsiveness in managing all the risks identified at the national and local levels, especially in all the vulnerable urban and rural areas. This objective will be achieved by establishing a network of training and by strengthening cooperation between the competent authorities in the field of training, awareness-raising, networking, promotion, education, information and the establishment of early warning systems. These actions will take place in a coordinated and complementary manner with the activities implemented in the potential significant flood risk areas, specifically where their territories overlap.

Target groups: citizens exposed to natural disasters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• projects will be implemented in such a manner that all waterbodies will achieve the set environmental objectives specified in the relevant legislation;</li> <li>• cost-efficiency;</li> <li>• project maturity;</li> <li>• efficient institutional setup responsible for the development and implementation of projects, particularly when the local self-governing community acts as the beneficiary.</li> </ul>
Beneficiaries: Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning and other developers of risk assessments, Administration of the Republic of Slovenia for Civil Protection and Disaster Relief, Slovenian Environment Agency, self-governing local communities, owners of cultural heritage located in potential significant flood risk areas, Ministry of Culture and the Institute for the Protection of Cultural Heritage of Slovenia	Direct project approvals/group of projects approvals are foreseen.
2.5.3.1.2 Guiding principles for the selection of operations	2.5.3.1.3 Planned use of financial instruments
Alongside horizontal principles, the selection of projects will take into account the following additional selection principles:	Support in the form of grants is planned.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• integrated approach to management of river sub-basins: individual investments in flood control will need to build on an integrated approach to tackling the issue, including in the case of partial measures;</li> <li>• consistency with plans to reduce flood risk in accordance with Directive 2007/60/EC (beyond 2015);</li> </ul>	2.5.3.1.4 Planned use of major projects  Major projects are not planned.

## 2.5.3.1.5 Output indicators

Table 27: Output indicators

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
CO20	Risk prevention and management: Population benefiting from flood protection measures*	Number	CF	32,489	Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning/Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food	Annually
CO20	Risk prevention and management: Population benefiting from flood protection measures*	Number	ERDF	5,938	Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning/Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food	Annually
5.4	Number of flood warning and alarm systems in place**	Number	CF	96	Administration for Civil Protection and Disaster Relief	Annually
5.5	Number of implemented awareness-raising/information campaigns regarding natural disaster risk management	Number	CF	20	Ministry of the Environment and Spatial planning/ Administration for Civil Protection and Disaster Relief Ministry of Culture/ Institute for the Protection of Cultural Heritage of Slovenia	Annually
5.6	Number of risk assessments for natural and other disasters in place***	Number	CF	15	Developers	Annually

\*The indicator value gives the planned reduced number of citizens at risk of flooding after the implementation of actions.

\*\* The indicator 5.4. gives the number of alarm systems required in the areas of significant potential flood risk in accordance with the needs analysis serving the population in affected areas with early warning. As a result, settlements in areas of significant potential flood risk will be covered by a public alarm system to a satisfactory degree, which will improve the safety of the population in these areas and reduce future damage.

\*\*\* The indicator 5.5. gives the number of risk assessments that will be prepared in accordance with the new Decree implementing the Decision on the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No 62/14), so there is no specific methodology being used to determine the indicator while the baseline value stands at 0. Risk assessments were made for individual natural disasters in the past, but they were different in content, form, scope and purpose. They can, however, in certain cases be the basis for the risk assessments made pursuant to the Decree (for both individual assessments and a nation-wide assessment).

#### 2.5.4 Social innovation, transnational cooperation and contribution to thematic objectives 1-7

Not relevant.

### 2.5.5 Performance framework

Performance framework – CF										
Priority axis	Type of indicator (implementation step, financial, output or result indicator)	ID	Identification of indicator or implementation step	Measurement unit, where applicable	Fund	Category of regions	Milestone for 2018	Final target (2023)	Source of data	Explanation of the relevance of the indicator, where applicable
5	Implementation step	K1	Siting based on spatial planning documents	Number	CF	Whole of Slovenia	2	7	Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning	
5	Output	CO20	Risk prevention and management: Population benefiting from flood protection measures	Number	CF	Whole of Slovenia	372	32,489	Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning	95% of the CF funds under priority axis 5
5	Financial indicator	F1	Expenditure	EUR	CF	Whole of Slovenia	12,500,000	62,378,744	Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning	

  

Performance framework – ERDF										
Priority axis	Type of indicator (implementation step, financial, output or result indicator)	ID	Identification of indicator or implementation step	Measurement unit, where applicable	Fund	Category of regions	Milestone for 2018	Final target (2023)	Source of data	Explanation of the relevance of the indicator, where applicable
5	Output	CO20	Risk prevention and management: Population benefiting from flood protection measures	Number	ERDF	Vzhodna Slovenija	3,000	5,938	Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning	10% of the ERDF funds under priority axis 5 in the cohesion region of Vzhodna Slovenija
5	Financial indicator	F1	Expenditure	EUR	ERDF	Vzhodna Slovenija	2,000	37,500,000	Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning	

### 2.5.6 Categories of intervention

Fund and intervention field CF									
Table 1: Intervention field		Table 2: Form of finance		Table 3: Territory mechanisms		Table 4: Territorial delivery mechanisms		Table 6: ESF secondary theme	
Code	EUR amount	code	EUR amount	code	EUR amount	code	EUR amount	code	EUR amount
087	53,021,932	01	53,021,932	07	53,021,932	07	53,021,932	00	

  

Fund and intervention field: Vzhodna Slovenija ERDF									
Table 1: Intervention field		Table 2: Form of finance		Table 3: Territory mechanisms		Table 4: Territorial delivery mechanisms		Table 6: ESF secondary theme	
Code	EUR amount	code	EUR amount	code	EUR amount	code	EUR amount	code	EUR amount
087	30,000,000	01	30,000,000	07	30,000,000	07	30,000,000	00	



**2.5.7 Where appropriate, a summary of the planned use of technical assistance including, where necessary, actions to reinforce the administrative capacity of authorities involved in management and control of the programmes**

The implementation of projects in the 2007-2013 period revealed gaps in the following areas:

- priority setting in terms of addressing risks (risk assessments);
- adjusting/revising the water management system by placing emphasis on a comprehensive flood risk management in the country in accordance with the requirements set out in the EU water legislation (Floods, Water Framework and Marine Directives);
- preparation of technical and investment documentation;
- ensuring that project units act effectively as beneficiaries during the implementation of major projects;
- development of river basin management plans that in the past failed to provide a comprehensive basis for the preparation of quality investment projects.

Support under technical assistance will be a good enough basis to take measures in the areas covered by the priority axis concerned and to close the identified gaps.

**2.6 Improvements of the environment and biodiversity status**

**2.6.1 Explanation for the establishment of a priority axis covering more than one category of region or more than one thematic objective or more than one Fund**

Developing the environmental infrastructure in Slovenia will receive Cohesion Fund support, specifically where the funding approach does not depend on the development of the respective cohesion region.

The Natura 2000 network and other protected areas lie in almost all Slovenian municipalities (in 203 out of 211), covering 42% of the territory of the cohesion region of Zahodna Slovenija and stretching across 35% of

the territory of the cohesion region of Vzhodna Slovenija. Taking into account the fact that there is a number of municipalities with Natura 2000 sites and the extensive territory that the network covers in both cohesion regions, the country intends to adopt a uniform approach to implementing actions under the investment priority so as to make sure that the resources are employed in those parts of the Natura 2000 network where maximum synergies are foreseen (in terms of protection, the economy and society), while the uniform approach will go hand in hand with enhanced administrative efficiency.

The actions under investment priority 6.4 will be supported by the ITI mechanism, whereby ITIs will be implemented in urban areas of both cohesion regions in line with the criteria set out in the Partnership Agreement. The aim of actions receiving support is primarily brownfield revitalisation in urban areas, making brownfield sites active and vibrant again by preserving the minimal share of green area. Combining these actions with actions under priority axis 4, particularly those that target energy efficiency and sustainable urban mobility in the two cohesion regions, will result in the development of integrated projects of urban area sustainable development that will contribute to tackling air quality issues as well as noise emissions and consequently contribute to improving the general health of the population in urban areas.

**2.6.2 Fund, category of region and basis for Union support calculation**

Fund	CF
Category of region	Not relevant
Basis for calculation (total eligible expenditure or eligible public expenditure)	Total eligible cost
Fund	ERDF
Category of region	Vzhodna Slovenija, Zahodna Slovenija
Basis for calculation (total eligible expenditure or eligible public expenditure)	Total eligible cost

### 2.6.3 Investing in the water sector to meet the requirements of the Union's environmental acquis and to address needs identified by the Member States for investment that goes beyond those requirements

#### SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 1: REDUCE EMISSIONS INTO WATER THROUGH DEVELOPMENT OF MUNICIPAL WASTEWATER COLLECTION AND TREATMENT INFRASTRUCTURE

Slovenia has not yet met the requirements set under the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC). Pursuant to the Directive and in accordance with the Accession Treaty of 23 September 2003 (Official Journal of the European Union L 263, page 911) Slovenia should establish adequate wastewater collection and treatment infrastructure by 31 December 2015 (intermediate objectives being 31 December 2008 and 31 December 2010), specifically in agglomerations with loads above

2,000 PE. The goal is to connect 97% of total load in agglomerations with loads above 2,000 PE to public wastewater collection infrastructure and to provide an adequate level of urban wastewater treatment. Currently, the number stands at 36%. By investing in projects which have received Cohesion Fund support in the financial perspective 2007-2013 and which will be completed by the end of 2015, this share will increase by an additional 16%. By using the funds available for this field in the financial period 2014-2020 we plan to establish an adequate system of urban wastewater collection and treatment for an additional 8% of the total urban wastewater load in areas agglomerations with loads above 2,000 PE.

The expected result under this specific objective:

- more citizens connected to the municipal wastewater collection and treatment system.

Table 28: Specific result indicators, specific objective 1

ID	Indicator	Category of region	Measurement unit for indicator	Common output indicator used as basis	Baseline value	Measurement unit for baseline and target	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
6.1	Increased urban wastewater load from agglomerations above 2,000 PE treated in municipal WWTP or combined treatment facility	Whole of Slovenia	PE		526,000	PE	2012	1,418,000	Report to the European Commission regarding the implementation of Directive 91/271/EEC for 2012	Once a year

#### SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 2: INCREASED SECURITY OF WHOLESOME AND CLEAN DRINKING WATER SUPPLY

Despite investments made in the 2007-2013 period, there are still several areas in Slovenia where public water supply systems have not yet been established or are inadequate, thus making drinking water supply inconsistent with the Drinking Water Directive (98/83/EC).

Furthermore, there is no systematic approach to active protection of water sources. The safety of drinking

water from public water supply systems will be pursued through actions ensuring public water supply systems that have not yet been established, actions to reduce water losses in public water supply systems and provision of reserve water sources for public water supply systems. Wholesome and clean drinking water is drinking water which meets the quality standards of water intended for human consumption in accordance with the Drinking Water Directive (98/83/EC).

The expected result under this specific objective:

- additional population connected to public drinking water supply systems supplying wholesome and clean drinking water.

**Table 29: Specific result indicators, specific objective 2**

ID	Indicator	Category of region	Measurement unit for indicator	Common output indicator used as basis	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
6.2	Additional population enjoying secure supply of wholesome and clean drinking water*	Whole of Slovenia	Number		1,434,000	2012	1,977,000	Monitoring	Once a year

\*Inappropriate drinking water quality recorded at least in one day classifies as not being safe.

If the agreements with the EIB in respect of credit lines are realized, the volume of investments may be greater and the indicators will be adjusted accordingly.

\*\* The target value builds on the value specified in expert bases for the development of the Drinking Water Supply Operational Programme and will be achieved with the help of ESI Funds (Cohesion Fund) and the national counterpart.

### **SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 3: ACHIEVE GOOD CHEMICAL AND ECOLOGICAL STATUS OF WATERS**

Achieving a good status of water in Slovenia remains a challenge. The dispersion of pollutants from agriculture and hydromorphological pressures remain the most pressing issues in the second cycle of the river basin management plans. Some 30% of surface waterbodies are estimated to fall below the set environmental objectives due to hydromorphological pressures.<sup>87</sup> These are manifested in intensive use of riparian zones, reten-

tion basins, regulations and extensive land improvement areas. The support will notably be ring-fenced for the areas identified in the River Basin Management Plan for the Danube and the Adriatic Sea and the Programme of Natura 2000 actions as a priority and conducive to the achievement of good water status and improvement in the status of riparian species and habitat types. Investments made under this investment priority will make a direct contribution to Pillar 2 of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region.

The expected result under this specific objective:

- better status of waters.

<sup>87</sup> The Danube River Basin and the Adriatic Sea Management Plan in 2009 yielded the results of the ecological status for half of the waterbodies, showing that good status had not been achieved in 15% of surface waterbodies (due to hydromorphological pressures). It is estimated that the share of surface waterbodies will increase after the ecological status has been evaluated for the remaining half of waterbodies which will be carried out in the scope of the second River basin management plan by 2015. Given the ecological status analysis as well as analysis of hydromorphological pressures and impacts (on all waterbodies) and their estimates that environmental objectives will not be met for 30% of waterbodies, it is estimated that currently 30% of waterbodies fail to meet environmental objectives due to hydromorphological pressures.

Table 30: Specific result indicators, specific objective 3

ID	Indicator	Category of region	Measurement unit for indicator	Common output indicator used as basis	Baseline value	Measurement unit for baseline and target	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
6.3	Number of surface waterbodies to improve status and/or conservation status of Natura 2000 species and habitats	Whole of Slovenia	Number of implemented rehabilitations		108*	number	2012	110**	Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning	Annually

\*Baseline value for 108 waterbodies is a rough estimate. The Danube River Basin and the Adriatic Sea Management Plan for the 2016-2021 will specify the exact baseline value based on the evaluation of ecological status of all waterbodies.

\*\*The current River Basin Management Plan for the Danube and the Adriatic Sea foresees only rehabilitation of the downstream part of the Kamniška Bistrica river (waterbody SI132VT7 VT Kamniška Bistrica Študa-Dol) by 2015. The second River Basin Management Plan for the period 2016-2021 will focus more on the actions aimed at reducing hydromorphological pressures on water status and their prioritisation. Also, actions under the Programme of Natura 2000 for the period 2015-2020 are already being prepared; the programme encompasses water regulation actions conducive to the achievement of the Natura 2000 sites objectives and their prioritisation. Both documents serve as a basis for selecting priority rehabilitation projects. The funds available under the 2014-2020 EU Cohesion Policy for Slovenia, will not be enough to support the implementation of all the actions to improve the hydromorphological status for all the waterbodies in Slovenia. Funds will thus have to be absorbed from other EU funding sources (e.g. CBC, TRANS, etc.) and national funding sources. We can expect these actions to be implemented in the present as well as the next financial perspective.

### 2.6.3.1 Actions to be supported under the investment priority

2.6.3.1.1 A description of the type and examples of actions to be financed and their expected contribution to the corresponding specific objectives, including, where appropriate, the identification of the main target groups and types of beneficiaries

- Actions planned to achieve specific objective 1:
- Investments in primary and secondary infrastructure encompassing municipal wastewater collection and treatment at an appropriate level in agglomerations equal to or above 2,000 PE which still fail to meet the EU requirements under Directive 91/271/EEC. Among the planned projects of environmental infrastructure development in the above areas, priority will be given to projects which reduce emissions into waterbodies which are, according to the River basin management plan and the act governing the River basin management plan, classified as having poor status and which will most probably not meet the relevant environmental objectives.

- Projects to set benchmarking of public utilities services providers in the field of wastewater collection and treatment and water supply to make sure that these organisations operate effectively and transparently to protect the environment and that end users get the most out of these services.

Actions planned to receive support under specific objective 2:

- In terms of providing safe drinking water supply, the funds will be ring-fenced for the construction of new drinking water supply networks and the reconstruction of existing ones (primary and secondary networks) with the aim of improving the security of supply of quality drinking water to citizens and of reducing further water losses. The resources will also be deployed to rehabilitate and actively protect water resources and to put in place an appropriate water quality monitoring system and a water resource protection system. Therefore, these are actions targeting at reducing water losses in public water supply systems and providing reserve water sources for public water supply systems.

Actions targeting improvement of hydromorphological status of waters and achievement of specific objective 3:

- Various actions will tackle the hydromorphological status with a view to improving it, in particular through so-called re-naturalisation, which encompasses improvement of the hydrological regime status and morphological conditions as well as of connectivity of waterbodies (allowing the passage of water organisms and smooth transportation of floating debris). The funds will also be allocated to the development of project documentation, acquisition of lands (in accordance with the rules regulating eligible costs) and building permits, and the implementation of re-naturalisation projects, ensuring passages on severely transformed waterbodies.
- A clear demarcation will be made, with the actions supported in the context of priority axis 2.5. The actions that will be implemented to reduce flood risk will receive support under priority axis 2.5, whereby environmental objectives pertaining to the reduction of hydromorphological pressures will likewise be pursued in line with the guiding principles for selection.
- Furthermore, a clear demarcation will be made in relation to the RDP 2014-2020 as the document itself does not envisage funding of such themes. The actions of agri-environment-climate payments will support topics aimed at reducing pollution of water by dispersion of pollutants from agriculture. The RDP will likewise provide support for establishing irrigation systems, providing their technological upgrade and purchase of irrigation equipment. Article 46 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 on support from the EAFRD specifies the conditions which allow support for investments and which help to identify and regulate floodplains in order to improve flood protection.

With the aim of ensuring efficient implementation of the environmental legislation, this priority axis will also support the establishment of an adequate database and infrastructure for efficient integration and recor-

ding of data and information (e.g. putting in place a system for integrated planning and control of the public water supply networks from ground waterbodies to the tap, establishing a system for integrated planning and monitoring of wastewater treatment, establishing a database for implementation of extended producer responsibility schemes).

The activities of the common approach, known as e-environment will, by and large, simplify the system, making it user-friendly through elimination of numerous administrative barriers and thus directly contribute to the achievement of objectives. The activities will include:

- Putting in place an information system for planning and monitoring the implementation of the EU wastewater treatment directive (UWWTD\_SIIF). The system will serve as a model for further upgrade of the environmental information system for other EU environmental directives (e-environment (e-okolje)).
- Putting in place an information system for an integrated planning of water management which will facilitate and improve the provision of activities for key stakeholders (parties for acquiring the water right and water consent, those involved in strategic and spatial planning at the national and local level, investors, public, etc.). The creation of a spatial database is planned to keep and update information on erosion areas and landslide-prone areas. Hence, we expect a significant boost and simplification of investment activities in the water sector.

Target groups: end users.

Beneficiaries: municipalities, public utility service providers in the area of water regulation, public institutes in the area of environmental protection and water management, ministries.

#### 2.6.3.1.2 Guiding principles for the selection of operations

Alongside the relevant horizontal principles, the following project types will be considered a priority:

- they establish synergies with other areas and produce maximum possible environmental benefits/outputs per input;
- they demonstrate maturity (i.e. have been awarded a building permit, are in the process of formal coordination with the MA and/or IB) besides establishing synergies;
- they represent potential project phases co-financed by the Operational Programme for Environmental and Transport Infrastructure Development that have not yet been implemented;
- they are sited outside areas of nature conservation importance, in particular protected areas and compact forest areas. In cases where other spatial options are unavailable, the system should, as a priority, be placed next to existing routes;
- they ensure efficient institutional setup for the development and implementation of projects, particularly where a self-governing local community is considered the beneficiary;
- they comply with new regulations governing environmental impact assessment.

Additional principles will also be taken into account in specific areas for the selection of projects:

Construction of wastewater infrastructure:

- deadline for equipping agglomerations in accordance with the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive;
- project maturity, relation between the investment amount and the number of agglomerations and PE.

The construction of the public drinking water supply network should:

- ensure long term suitability (quantity, quality) of the water resource;

- ensure prudent and safe abstraction of drinking water in line with the prescribed hierarchy (Regulation on drinking water supply);
  - connection to the new or operating drinking water distribution network;
- when ensuring new drinking water abstraction sites, these are primarily focused on unpolluted water resources which are more easily and cost-effectively protected;
- ensure reserve capacities and reliability as well as safety in the public water supply network operation in line with the relevant criteria (Regulation on drinking water supply):
  - each public water supply network should have reserve drinking water abstraction sites which may, in case of emergency, supply drinking water in the public water supply area, to meet at least the minimum drinking water needs, meaning water used for drinking and basic hygiene of citizens as well as for the activities necessary for work and life in the public water supply area.
- Achieving good water status:
  - projects seeking to improve the morphological status of watercourses are considered a priority in order to achieve the improvement of water status or the conservation status of species and habitats under the River Basin Management Plan or a Programme of Natura 2000 sites measures;
  - project maturity.

Direct project approvals are envisaged. All projects, including those that are in the pipeline, will have to comply with the amendments to the legislation governing environmental impact assessment which is subject to *ex ante* conditionalities.

#### 2.6.3.1.3 Planned use of financial instruments

The priority foresees support in the form of grants.

#### 2.6.3.1.4 Planned use of major projects

Major projects are not planned.

#### 2.6.3.1.5 Output indicators

**Table 31: Output indicators**

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
CO19	Wastewater treatment: Additional population served by improved wastewater treatment*	Number of PE	CF	Whole of Slovenia	100,000	Public utility service providers, Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning	Annually
CO18	Water supply: Additional population served by improved water supply**	Number	CF	Whole of Slovenia	120,000	Public utility service providers, Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning	Annually
6.4	Number of waterbodies with improved status due to implemented rehabilitations of watercourses through re-naturalisation actions	Number of implemented rehabilitations	CF	Whole of Slovenia	2	Programme of river basin management measures and Programme of Natura 2000 sites management	Annually

\*In agglomerations above 2,000 PE. Target value to be achieved through support under this operational programme is based on the already-identified projects and the amount of financial resources earmarked for this investment priority.

\*\*Inappropriate drinking water quality recorded at least in one day classifies as not being safe. Target value to be achieved through support under this operational programme is based on the already-identified projects and the amount of financial resources earmarked for this investment priority.

#### 2.6.4 Protecting and restoring biodiversity and soil and promoting ecosystem services, including through Natura 2000, and green infrastructure

**SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE: IMPROVE THE CONSERVATION STATUS OF IMPORTANT EUROPEAN SPECIES AND HABITAT TYPES, GIVING PRIORITY TO THOSE WITH POOR CONSERVATION STATUS AND TO ENDEMIC SPECIES**

Biodiversity loss poses a threat to ecosystems and ecosystem services, which in turn also degrades the quality of life and has negative implications for the commercial sector. Slovenia classifies 37.9% of its territory as Natura 2000 sites. Around 70% of the Natura 2000 sites in Slovenia are covered by forests. Approximately 20% of agricultural land lies within non-forest areas of the Natura 2000 network, with extensive meadows being most important. Favourable conservation

status of habitat types is perceived in only half of the habitat types, while favourable conservation status of species can be perceived in only 60% of all species. Due to the numerous activities that affect the physical environment, we are faced with fragmentation of ecosystems and with changed landscape. Unsupervised visiting of areas under a protection regime, climate change and the introduction of invasive species also pose a threat to native species and habitats. The expected results under this specific objective:

- the Natura 2000 network provides a favourable conservation status for all species and habitat types, giving priority to those with poor conservation status and to endemic species;
- establishing exemplary arrangements in the area of conservation of species and habitat types in Natura 2000 sites which prove to be the most significant

- in terms of the concentration of several species and habitat types in an unfavourable conservation status;
- high-quality interpretation of the significance of biodiversity conservation to provide ecosystem services for the most significant Natura 2000 sites,

where exemplary arrangements in the field of ensuring a favourable conservation status of species and habitat types exist, and where efforts to establish synergies with the protection and interpretation of cultural heritage are made.

**Table 32: Specific result indicators**

ID	Indicator	Category of region	Measurement unit for indicator	Baseline value	Measurement unit for baseline and target	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
6.5	Habitat types in a favourable or inadequate conservation status*	Whole of Slovenia	Share	75	%	2013	81	Report to the Commission on the implementation of the Habitats Directive and the Birds Directive	Every 2 years
6.6	Species in a favourable or inadequate conservation status**		Share	77	%	2013	80	Report to the Commission on the implementation of the Habitats Directive and the Birds Directive	Every 2 years

\*The basis for the indicator is the conservation status of habitat types in the report on the implementation of the Habitats Directive. The report is prepared pursuant to Article 17 of the Habitats Directive. In line with the Habitats Directive the conservation status is determined for the biogeographical region of the country – Slovenia has the characteristics of Alpine, Continental and Mediterranean biogeographical regions. The report for the period 2007-2012 assesses altogether 88 habitat types of which 38 habitat types per biogeographical region are characterised as having a favourable conservation status, 28 habitat types per biogeographical region are characterised as having inadequate conservation status and 22 habitat types per biogeographical region are characterised as having an unfavourable conservation status. The aim for 2023 is that only 15 habitat types per biogeographical region are in an unfavourable conservation status, which represents a 25% improvement of the situation. The results do not cover the habitat types whose conservation status is unknown.

\*\*The basis for the indicator is the conservation status of species in the report on the implementation of the Habitats Directive and the Birds Directive. The report is prepared pursuant to Article 17 of the Habitats Directive and Article 12 of the Birds Directive. In line with the Habitats Directive the conservation status is determined for the biogeographical region of the country – Slovenia has the characteristics of Alpine, Continental and Mediterranean biogeographical regions, while the Birds Directive states that the conservation status is determined for all special protection areas (SPA) in the country (population trend per SPA). The report for the period 2007-2012 assesses altogether 207 species (168 species without birds and 39 species of birds) of which 75 species (of which 60 species without birds) per biogeographical region and 15 species of birds per SPA are characterised as having a favourable conservation status, 84 species (of which 4 species of birds) are characterised as having inadequate conservation status and 48 species are characterised as having an unfavourable conservation status of which there are 20 species of birds. The aim for 2023 is for only 42 species to be in an unfavourable conservation status, which represents approximately a 12% improvement of the situation. The results do not cover the species whose conservation status is unknown.



#### 2.6.4.1 Actions to be supported under the investment priority

2.6.4.1.1 A description of the type and examples of actions to be financed and their expected contribution to the corresponding specific objectives, including, where appropriate, the identification of the main target groups and types of beneficiaries

The investment priority will support the delivery of green infrastructure in significant nature protection areas, giving priority to Natura 2000 sites. For example: re-naturalisation actions, establishment of corridors, stopping the negative trends of deteriorating conservation status of species and habitat types. Such actions, which focus on the delivery of green infrastructure, will also provide key ecosystem services. The actions implemented in the Natura 2000 sites will take into account the Prioritised Action Framework for Natura 2000 – PAF<sup>88</sup> and the Natura 2000 Management Programme for Slovenia for the period 2014-2020. The goal is to achieve a favourable conservation status for species and habitat types, specifically by carrying out nature protection measures in the most significant Natura 2000 sites.<sup>89</sup>

As an upgrade to improving the conservation status of species and habitat types we also wish to develop a high-quality and visitor-attractive interpretation of the significance of successful biodiversity conservation to provide key ecosystem services. In interpreting the significance of biodiversity, conservation support will be given to actions focused on boosting visits to less sensitive areas, and awareness-raising of visitors and citizens about the importance of Natura 2000 sites in Slovenia. This will result in a demonstration effect on other similar areas, and a significant positive impact on the conservation status of species and habitat types. These actions will also seek to establish synergies with cultural herita-

ge protection, tourism and agriculture. Investment in the following areas will take place:

- Maintaining a good conservation status in the most significant Natura 2000 sites (e.g. restoration or conservation of ecosystems with a view to biodiversity conservation and invasive alien species management).
- To realise Natura 2000 sites objectives, support will be used, where relevant and justified, for purchasing the most significant nature protection areas or contracting the protection of or custodianship over the most significant nature protection areas (in accordance with the rules regulating eligible expenditure) with a view to establishing adequate management in order to achieve nature protection objectives and deliver key ecosystem services (e.g. retention of high waters, climate change mitigation and drinking water supply).
- Provision of corridors to achieve a favourable conservation status of protected species (e.g. green bridges, wetland restoration).
- Provision of high-quality interpretation of exemplary arranged nature protection areas which may also include investments in publically accessible buildings, by giving priority to the renovation of existing cultural heritage structures and small-scale construction projects (e.g. observation posts, trails, information points) with emphasis on education and awareness-raising about the significance of preserving nature, cultural heritage and landscape without causing negative impacts on achieving the nature conservation objectives, while creating conditions for sustainable mobility of visitors.

Integrated actions under the investment priority will be implemented at the national and regional level. Funds will notably be ring-fenced for those areas where the conservation status of the greatest number of species and habitat types is assessed as unfavourable. Development of the public infrastructure for interpretation of biodiversity preservation will, as a priority, take place in areas where synergies with the protection of cultural heritage can be established.

88 Prioritised Action Framework for Natura 2000 for the period 2014-2020. G.1 General Priority Measures for Natura 2000 G.2.b Priority Measures for promoting sustainable tourism and employment in relation to Natura 2000

[http://www.natura2000.gov.si/fileadmin/user\\_upload/LIFE\\_Upravljanje/PAFSlovenijaVerFinal2.pdf](http://www.natura2000.gov.si/fileadmin/user_upload/LIFE_Upravljanje/PAFSlovenijaVerFinal2.pdf)

89 Prioritised Action Framework for Natura 2000 for the period 2014-2020

Target groups: visitors to nature conservation areas (30% of EU citizens according to the statistical data) and cultural heritage, local communities and stakeholders in tourism and tourism-related activities (e.g. local food production), local population.

Beneficiaries: managers of nature protection areas and Natura 2000 sites, public institutes, municipalities, enterprises, NGOs, ministries, regional development institutions.

#### 2.6.4.1.2 Guiding principles for the selection of operations

Alongside the relevant horizontal principles, the following projects will be considered a priority:

- projects that contribute to improving the conservation status of several species and habitat types in an unfavourable conservation status and of endemic species;
- projects that create synergies in the areas of nature conservation, cultural heritage conservation and public access (e.g. interpretation of simultaneous biodiversity conservation and cultural heritage protection);
- projects that will establish proper management in the purchased nature protection areas, namely management which meets the purpose of nature protection and biodiversity conservation;

- in terms of providing premises, projects that give priority to the renovation of existing buildings, especially cultural heritage structures, instead of new construction;
- projects that are implemented in areas protected by the state, having particular regard to Article 10 of the Triglav National Park Act;
- projects of reconstructing the existing public infrastructure in nature protection areas. New developments will be placed outside the major or key parts of habitats and will, where relevant, redirect visitors to areas outside the major or key parts of habitats;
- public infrastructure in protected areas will not be lighted; however, should lighting be installed it will have no negative impact on human health by limiting the light pollution to an absolute minimum.

In case of direct project approval, the list of projects of national importance under the applicable Operational programme – Natura 2000 Management Programme – will be taken into account.

#### 2.6.4.1.3 Planned use of financial instruments

The priority foresees support in the form of grants.

#### 2.6.4.1.4 Planned use of major projects

Major projects are not foreseen.

### 2.6.4.1.5 Output indicators

**Table 33: Output indicators**

ID	Indicator	Measure- ment unit	Fund	Category of region	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
CO23	Nature and biodiversity: Surface area of habitats supported in order to attain a better conservation status*	Ha	ERDF	Whole of Slovenia	400	Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Nature Conservation, managers	Annually
6.7	Surface of nature protection areas arranged for public access**	Ha	ERDF	Whole of Slovenia	250	Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning	Annually
6.8	High-quality interpretation of biodiversity conservation and cultural heritage protection***	Number	ERDF	Whole of Slovenia	5	managers	Annually

\*The CO23 indicator measures surface area of the habitats supported (e.g. purchased habitats used in appropriate manner, or leased habitats the appropriate use of which is contracted, or land dedicated to public use handed over for management which guarantees appropriate use) to achieve better conservation status. The scope was determined on the one hand on the basis of the available resources and, on the other hand, on the basis of the minimum surface area that is required to improve the conservation status of species or habitat types.

\*\*The indicator measures surface area arranged for public access in a manner compliant with nature protection, allowing the demonstration of appropriate use to achieve better conservation status of species and habitat types for achieving multiplier effects. The scope was determined on the basis of available funds.

\*\*\*The indicator measures the number of projects which will provide high-quality interpretation (professionally correct presentation of how nature, species and habitats types function as well as the presentation of human activities that contribute to conservation and activities that have a compromising impact), especially in relation to traditional human activities which also protect cultural heritage.

### 2.6.5 Taking action to improve the urban environment, to revitalise cities, regenerate and decontaminate brownfield sites (including conversion areas), reduce air pollution and promote noise-reduction measures

#### SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 1: EFFICIENT LAND USE IN URBAN AREAS

The LUCAS<sup>90</sup> analysis data show that the surface of artificial land in Slovenia grew in the 2009-2012 period from 672 km<sup>2</sup> to 742 km<sup>2</sup> (by about 0.3%). The surface of agricultural land in Slovenia decreased by 4% from 1991 onwards until the present (from 28% to 24% of all land).<sup>91</sup> In urban areas there is a trend of depopulation, with people moving from city centres to the outskirts.<sup>92</sup> When economic, housing and social functions move outside of the cities to the outskirts, pressure is created

on agricultural lands, leaving space within cities and urban areas abandoned and under-used. Due to suburbanisation<sup>93</sup> cities and city centres have begun to lose their role as the generators of development. Suburbanisation promotes the creation of new traffic flows and traffic congestion and lowers the level of care for the people living in the cities.

The issue of soil degradation due to soil sealing has also been underlined in the Roadmap to a Resource-efficient Europe (COM (2011) 571), which sets the goal of reaching the state of no net land take by 2050, and urges the Member States, inter alia, to better integrate direct and indirect land-use and its environmental impacts in their decision-making and provide efficient use of space as a non-renewable source to the greatest extent possible.

With a view to enhancing the efficiency of land-use in urban areas, the measures under this investment priority will promote the exploitation of internal potentials of urban areas. With the implementation of urban renewal

90 <http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/lucas/data/database>

91 Source: SORS, Green growth indicators, indicator 'Share of agricultural land', [http://www.stat.si/doc/pub/Kazalniki\\_zelene\\_rasti.pdf](http://www.stat.si/doc/pub/Kazalniki_zelene_rasti.pdf)

92 In the 2000-2010 period the share of urban population decreased minimally (by about 1%). Own calculations; Spatial Planning Directorate, according to the SORS data.

93 According to UN data (2010) the level of suburbanisation in Slovenia stands at 50.46%.

projects we will invest in the reactivation of vacant and under-used land within cities. This will reduce conflicts which arise from activities that affect the physical environment, and consequently reduce the burden on the environment in terms of efficient use of resources. In this way, we will create conditions for the development of economic and social activities and improve the attractiveness of the urban environment for work and living.

The expected result under this specific objective:

- revitalised land in cities.

**Table 34: Specific result indicators, specific objective 1**

ID	Indicator	Category of region	Measurement unit for indicator	Fund	Baseline value	Measurement unit for baseline and target	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
6.9	Land not revitalised in cities implementing sustainable urban strategies*	Whole of Slovenia	Ha	ERDF	0	Ha	2016	45	Authority responsible for urban development	Annually

\*The indicator is included in the Action Plan for ex-ante conditionality 7.

#### **SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 2: IMPROVE AIR QUALITY MONITORING TO PROVIDE BETTER SUPPORT TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF PLANS IN THIS FIELD.**

Due to accelerated suburbanisation, city centres have begun to lose their role within the functional regions, with daily commuting to jobs and services (mainly by private vehicles from suburban or rural areas, transit freight transport) on the increase. Combined with the impacts of other sources of air pollution this not only increases the carbon footprint but also worsens air quality and consequently the health of the population. The share of residents who live in areas with excessive exposure to concentrations of PM10 particles is significantly higher in Slovenia compared to the EU average.

The issue of air quality, in particular pollution by PM10 particles, is being addressed as a priority in seven most polluted urban areas for which air quality plans

have been designed and adopted in accordance with Directive 2008/50/EC.

The existing air quality monitoring system does not meet the requirements set out under Directive 2008/50/EC and does not allow for adequate planning and monitoring of the effectiveness of the implementation of measures adopted under the air quality plans and the systematic measures at the national level. Also, Slovenia does not have the appropriate tools to identify the reasons for the excessive burdens, which results in the absence of suitable support for reviewing the impacts of the adopted ordinances as well as for planning any additional or new, cost-effective measures to improve air quality.

In the context of this specific objective the following result is expected:

- improved system of air quality monitoring in cities and adequate support for planning, monitoring the effects and updating air quality plans.

Table 35: Specific result indicators, specific objective 2

ID	Indicator (name of indicator)	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data
6.10	Share of implemented ambient air quality plans which comply with Directive 2008/50/EC *	Share	CF	Whole of Slovenia	17	2014	100	Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning

\*The indicator is based on the seven ambient air quality plans that comply with the requirements of Directive 2008/50/EC and allow for better prioritization of implementation of measures to improve air quality. The number of plans is equal to the number of areas where the daily limit value for PM10 levels in the air is exceeded. Currently about 17% of all planned activities identified in the plans are being implemented.

Realization of the project will provide 100% implementation of activities that need to be implemented in order to monitor the effects of programmes and the potential action under different circumstances.

#### 2.6.5.1 Actions to be supported under the investment priority

2.6.5.1.1 A description of the type and examples of actions to be financed and their expected contribution to the corresponding specific objectives, including, where appropriate, the identification of the main target groups and types of beneficiaries

The actions under specific objective 1 will contribute to efficient land-use within cities and urban areas, recycling of vacant and underused<sup>94</sup> lands and buildings in cities and urban areas and improving the quality of areas of public use.

The actions supporting land-use-efficiency in urban areas will be implemented by means of the ITI mechanism. The cities will select their investments based on their sustainable urban strategies as described in detail under section 4.2. Based on the territorial dialogue with the cities<sup>95</sup> the following areas have been

identified as being in need of support in urban areas in terms of land-use efficiency:

- Physical renovation of urban areas, including the reconstruction, maintenance, demolition and construction of buildings and other civil engineering facilities, landscaping, land purchase (where relevant and appropriate)<sup>96</sup>, design of new areas of public use and maintenance of already-existing areas of public use, including green space.
- Support activities for the implementation of projects for physical renovation of public buildings and land: design of urban solutions, development of project documentation and other documents needed for the projects to be implemented.
- Support activities for the design and implementation of integrated urban renewal projects, such as involvement of the general public through awareness-raising and information dissemination activities, setting up and operation of project offices dealing with urban renewal, and support for community-led initiatives.
- Projects that will – from the very beginning of their implementation – support activities targeting social regeneration and economic recovery in urban areas

<sup>94</sup> The locations of brownfield sites and underused sites will depend on the final identification of the ITI implementation area – sustainable urban area development – and will build on integrated urban development strategies.

<sup>95</sup> The Ministry responsible for urban development has been conducting a dialogue with the cities since March 2014 in order to ensure efficient implementation of Article 7 of Regulation (EU) No 1301/2013.

<sup>96</sup> In line with the provisions of Article 69 (3)(B) of the Regulation 1303/2013

and creation of new creative and business centres in areas that used to be abandoned.

These actions, pursuing specific objective 1, will be implemented in compliance with adopted sustainable urban strategies. The actions that will be implemented so as to complement other actions for sustainable urban development and will foster efficient land use, urban mobility and energy efficiency in cities, will be considered a priority.

Target groups: urban population, the economy, local communities, public open space and buildings managers, organisations active in the area of urban development promotion and urban revival, knowledge institutions, housing cooperatives and providers of other forms of housing in cities, visitors to cities and urban areas.

Beneficiaries: municipalities.

The funds available under specific objective 2 will be used to renew and upgrade the air quality monitoring system. The system, which comprises several sets (detailed records and emission scenarios; system for air quality measurements, dispersion and receptor modelling), will be tailored to the specific conditions in Slovenia. It will create synergies with actions under priority axis 4. The system will be aligned with the latest developments of the technique and will contribute to reducing the cost of the entire air pollution monitoring system. It will support policies in this area, especially in terms of upgrading and preparing air quality assurance programmes. In terms of ensuring the system's cost-effectiveness and achieving a critical mass within this area, it is imperative that a comprehensive system operates at the national level.

Target group: decision-makers at national and local level, urban population, the economy, local communities, visitors to cities and urban areas.

Beneficiaries: Slovenian Environment Agency

#### 2.6.5.1.2 Guiding principles for the selection of operations

Alongside horizontal principles the following principles for project selection will be taken into account:

- projects should pursue the objectives identified under sustainable urban strategies as well as the objectives identified under this investment priority;
- the principle of inner urban development (harnessing the potential of vacant and underused lands for development within cities and urban areas, priority for renovation instead of new construction, harnessing the potential of cultural heritage structures) is taken into account;
- projects designed to establish conditions for job creation should demonstrate the interest of companies in investing in areas of land recycling.
- By improving the quality of areas of public use, the projects also contribute to improvements in the urban environment and thus to improving the quality of life in cities;
- where relevant, priority will be given to projects which will link the activities under this investment priority with the activities of other investment priorities to promote sustainable urban development.
- if projects also cover modernisation of public lighting, this will be done only by introducing environment-friendly lighting;
- integrated approach to air quality monitoring and planning, including the identification and observance of synergies and conflicts with climate change mitigation.

The principles identified here will not be in conflict with the principle for the selection of projects using the ITI mechanism.

#### 2.6.5.1.3 Planned use of financial instruments

The exact size and content of financial instruments will be identified subsequently, after the ex-ante study assesses the gaps relating to the use and implementation of financial instruments in the field of urban and territorial development in the 2014-2020 period.

## 2.6.5.1.4 Planned use of major projects

Major projects are not planned.

## 2.6.5.1.5 Output indicators

Table 36: Output indicators

ID	Indicator (name of indicator)	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
CO37	Urban Development: Population living in areas with integrated urban development strategies*	Persons	ERDF	Vzhodna Slovenija Zahodna Slovenija	700,000	SORS	Annually
CO38	Urban Development: Open space created or rehabilitated in urban areas**	m2	ERDF	Vzhodna Slovenija Zahodna Slovenija	20,000	Authority responsible for urban development	Annually
CO39	Urban Development: Public or commercial buildings newly built or renovated in urban areas***	m2	ERDF	Vzhodna Slovenija Zahodna Slovenija	20,000	Authority responsible for urban development	Annually
CO40	Urban Development: Rehabilitated housing in urban areas****	Housing units	ERDF	Vzhodna Slovenija Zahodna Slovenija	200	Authority responsible for urban development	
6.12	Comprehensive analysis and quantification of the sources' contribution to air pollution in individual excessively polluted areas*****	Number	CF	Vzhodna Slovenija Zahodna Slovenija	7	Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning	Every 2 years

\*The indicator measures the number of inhabitants in urban municipalities for which integrated urban development strategies will be drawn up in line with Article 7 of Regulation (EU) No 1301/2013. Integrated urban development strategies will be developed for 11 urban municipalities that are eligible to use the ITI mechanism for sustainable urban development. The specified target value is based on SORS data for 2013 regarding the number of inhabitants in these urban municipalities.

\*\*The indicator measures the surface of open space created or rehabilitated in urban areas. The target value has been calculated on the basis of available funds.

\*\*\*The indicator measures the surface of public or commercial buildings newly built or renovated. The target value has been calculated on the basis of available funds.

\*\*\*\*The indicator measures the amount of rehabilitated or new housing in residential neighbourhoods as a result of urban renewal. The target value has been calculated on the basis of available funds.

\*\*\*\*\*The indicator measures the number of areas with excessive air pollution, for which quality and comprehensive expert guidelines will be developed to plan and monitor the effects of the implementation of actions in the context of air quality plans.

## 2.6.6 Social innovations, transnational cooperation and contribution to thematic objectives 1–7

Not relevant.

## 2.6.7 Performance framework

Performance framework – CF										
Priority axis	Indicator type (Implementation step, financial, output or, where appropriate, result indicator)	ID	Indicator or implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Fund	Category of region	Milestone for 2018	Final target (2023)	Source of data	Explanation of the relevance of the indicator, where appropriate
6	Output indicator	CO19	Wastewater treatment: Additional population served by improved wastewater treatment	Number of PE	CF	Whole of Slovenia	0	100,000	Public utility service providers, Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning	46.5% of the CF funds under priority axis 6
6	Output indicator	CO18	Water supply: Additional population served by improved water supply	Number	CF	Whole of Slovenia	0	120,000	Public utility service providers, Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning	46.5% of the CF funds under priority axis 6
6	Implementation step	K5	Percentage of signed contracts on co-financing in relation to the funds awarded by decisions under specific objective Reduce emissions into water through development of municipal wastewater collection and treatment infrastructure*	Share	CF	Whole of Slovenia	50	100	Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning	
	Implementation step	K6	Percentage of signed contracts on co-financing in relation to the funds awarded by decisions under specific objective Increased security of adequate drinking water supply**	Share	CF	Whole of Slovenia	50	100	Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning	
6	Implementation step	K3	Issued building permit	Number	CF	Whole of Slovenia	3	11	Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning	
6	Funding sources	F1	Expenditure	In EUR	KS	Whole of Slovenia	60,000,000	316,601,548	Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning	

\*We plan for all the bases required to issue decisions to be prepared as soon as possible. This would, indeed, facilitate immediate implementation of the projects which have been identified (the so-called 11 projects) and for which decisions were not issued in the 2007-2013 period.



Performance framework – ERDF										
Priority axis	Indicator type (Implementation step, financial, output or, where appropriate, result indicator)	ID	Indicator or implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Fund	Category of region	Milestone for 2018	Final target (2023)	Source of data	Explanation of the relevance of the indicator, where appropriate
6	output	CO37	Urban Development: Population living in areas with integrated urban development strategies	Number	ERDF	Vzhodna Slovenija	224,000	448,000	SORS	66% of the ERDF funds under priority axis 6, total for both cohesion regions
						Zahodna Slovenija	126,000	252,000	SORS	
6	financial	F1	expenditure	EUR	ERDF	Vzhodna Slovenija	11,120,000	102,656,700	Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning	
						Zahodna Slovenija	6,880,000	61,249,997	Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning	

## 2.6.8 Categories of intervention

Fund and intervention field: CF									
Table 1: Intervention field		Table 2: Form of finance		Table 3: Territory		Table 4: Territorial delivery mechanisms		Table 6: ESF secondary theme	
Code	EUR amount	code	EUR amount	code	EUR amount	code	EUR amount	code	EUR amount
020	125,000,000	01	125,000,000	04	125,000,000	07	125,000,000	00	
021	14,000,000	01	14,000,000	04	14,000,000	07	14,000,000	00	
022	125,111,315	01	125,111,315	04	125,111,315	07	125,111,315	00	
083	5,000,000	01	5,000,000	04	5,000,000	07	5,000,000	00	

**Fund and intervention field: ERDF Cohesion region of Vzhodna Slovenija**

Table 1: Intervention field		Table 2: Form of finance		Table 3: Territory		Table 4: Territorial delivery mechanisms		Table 6: ESF secondary theme	
code	EUR amount	code	EUR amount	code	EUR amount	code	EUR amount	code	EUR amount
086	12,006,394	01	12,006,394	07	12,006,394	07	12,006,394	00	
085	12,294,575	01	12,294,575	07	12,294,575	07	12,294,575	00	
089	49,683,641	01	49,683,641	07	49,683,641	01	49,683,641	00	
094	8,140,750	01	8,140,750	07	8,140,750	01	8,140,750	00	

**Fund and intervention field: ERDF Cohesion region of Zahodna Slovenija**

Table 1: Intervention field		Table 2: Form of finance		Table 3: Territory		Table 4: Territorial delivery mechanisms		Table 6: ESF secondary theme	
Code	EUR amount	Code	EUR amount	Code	EUR amount	Code	EUR amount	Code	EUR amount
086	8,012,796	01	8,012,796	07	8,012,796	07	8,012,796	00	
085	8,205,243	01	8,205,243	07	8,205,243	07	8,205,243	00	
089	27,922,526	01	27,922,526	07	27,922,526	01	27,922,526	00	
094	4,859,432	01	4,859,432	07	4,859,432	01	4,859,432	00	

**2.6.9 Where appropriate, a summary of the planned use of technical assistance including, where necessary, actions to reinforce the administrative capacity of authorities involved in management and control of the programmes and beneficiaries**

Special attention will be given to the enhancement of administrative capacities, especially in the areas where issues came up in the 2007-2013 period (e.g. development of technical and investment documentation, implementation of major projects etc.). Support will also be given to the preparation of missing expert guidelines (including the development of methodologies) for drawing up strategies, operational programmes and actions in these areas. The successful implementation of certain investment priorities requires the establishment of adequate databases, monitoring, establishment of an information system with the necessary equipment as well as informing and educating the public. Without these activities, the presented objectives of the priority axis are not feasible.

Due to new thematic areas in the field of promoting sustainable urban development, which will be financed

under this priority axis, special emphasis will be given to the provision of personnel and their professional training. Administrative capacity, in conjunction with the implementation of the integrated territorial investment mechanism to promote sustainable urban development, should thus be enhanced at both the national as well as local level. The funds will also be used to support co-operation within the Urban Development Network. We will also reinforce support for local communities to implement sustainable urban development, their education in the relevant fields, information and the promotion of thematic areas.

**2.7 Infrastructure development and promotion of sustainable mobility**

**2.7.1 Explanation for the establishment of a priority axis covering more than one category of region or more than one thematic objective or more than one Fund**

The Republic of Slovenia will identify the priority actions in the field of transport development, sustainable mobility implementation, construction of rail, road and port infrastructure in the Transport Development Strate-

gy in the Republic of Slovenia. The actions will derive from the established bottlenecks and the key obstacles hampering the development of public transport infrastructure. By doing so, Slovenia will identify the key actions and investment projects that will boost the development of regions and the economic sector as well as facilitate mobility of the population and contribute to human health from the view-point of environmental protection and stimulating people to exercise. The objectives that Slovenia has set in the field of transport infrastructure development contribute to the establishment of the Single European Transport Area and boost cohesion, efficiency and sustainability of the transport network by thus also enhancing the benefits for its users. The actions are proposed to receive CF support (investments in rail infrastructure, missing motorway sections as well as port infrastructure connecting to the TEN-T network) and ERDF support (secondary state roads). Combining support for the priority axis from both funds makes sense in that only one ministry has responsibility over the implementation and on the grounds that the proposed objectives are interlinked in terms of the content. Investments in road infrastructure will notably focus on actions in the cohesion region of Vzhodna Slovenija. Promotion of environment-friendly modes of transport and enforcement of the principles of multimodality should as a priority eliminate structural weaknesses in infrastructure development, primarily in the field of rail infrastructure. In this way, Slovenia contributes to meeting the conditions needed for smooth traffic flow on a regional scale on the one hand, and on the other hand takes on part of the burden of transit traffic (particularly environmental). Part of the burden is offset by the faster development of activities that rely on the transport network, such as the logistics sector.

Decisions on priority projects in individual areas will be taken in the above-mentioned Transport Development Strategy in the Republic of Slovenia on the basis of a transport model that assesses different transport development and transport infrastructure development scenarios and options up to 2020 or 2030 respectively, economic eligibility of the proposed actions and strategic environmental assessment.

### 2.7.2 Fund, category of region and basis for Union support calculation

Fund	Cohesion Fund
Category of region	Not relevant
Basis for calculation (total eligible expenditure or eligible public expenditure)	Total eligible cost

Fund	ERDF
Category of region	Vzhodna Slovenija
Basis for calculation (total eligible expenditure or eligible public expenditure)	Total eligible cost

### 2.7.3 Developing comprehensive, high-quality and interoperable railway system

**SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE: REMOVE BOTTLENECKS, ENHANCE LINE CAPACITY AND SHORTEN TRAVEL TIME**

The total rail network length stands at 1,200 kilometres, of which 50% is mainlines with about 42% of the lines being electrified. The railway line density (61 km of railway lines/1000 km<sup>2</sup>) stands at a level comparable to the EU-27 average (57 km of railway lines/1000 km<sup>2</sup>) (AVARIS, 2013). Major maintenance represents a huge issue, with the lines going beyond their useful life, a large number of sections having reduced speed, reduced line capacities and low competitiveness level. Modernisation will likewise be needed as regards rail traffic remote control. Regardless of these issues, the number of kilometres travelled by trains in 2011 increased by 5% against the 2010 figure and by 12% compared with 2000. The number of freight kilometres rose by 10% compared to 2010.

In the 2004-2009 period the number of passenger kilometres grew by 7% and freight transport saw a marked jump of 31% in the 2000-2011 period. At the beginning of the economic and financial crisis in 2009 rail freight decreased significantly, falling to 25%. In 2010 the scope of rail freight began to increase but without reaching the pre-crisis figures. The share of rail freight in 2010 accounted for 17.7% (in tonne kilometres), which

ch is almost the same as the EU-27 average standing at 17.1% (AVARIS, 2013). The routes where upgrading of rail infrastructure is planned, are important from the view-point of passenger transport (for example between Zidani Most and Celje), indeed the figures stand at more than 4,000 passengers per day. The planned upgrade of public rail infrastructure will help increase both rail freight and passenger volumes as capacities on the segments having multi-use paths will grow considerably, while the shorter travel times and the possibility of introducing a tactical timetable will enhance the attractiveness of rail transport. Upgrades will boost the competitiveness of the Zidani Most – Celje section and the entire corridor up to Hodoš, as the greatest obstacle and load restrictions will be removed.

The expected result under this specific objective:

- Investments in rail infrastructure will facilitate the further enhancement of rail freight transport by 20% in the 2014-2023 period. Enhancing the capacity of the lines will also increase the number of rail passengers by 15%. Upgrading the rail infrastructure will be aligned with the TEN-T guidelines concerning core networks (100 km/h speed, 740 m-long trains and 22.5 tonne axle load). By 2015, the project of introducing the ERTMS system in Corridor D (Koper/Sežana - Divača – Ljubljana - Zidani Most - Pragersko - Hodoš) will be completed, which will improve traffic management. All railway lines of the core TEN-T network will be electrified by the end of 2015. Upgrading the Zidani Most – Celje section will eliminate the biggest bottleneck, which results from axle load currently classified as C3. After the section is upgraded, the axle load will fall under category D4.

**Table 37: Specific result indicators**

ID	Indicator	Measurement Unit	Baseline Value	Baseline Year	Target Value (2023)	Data source	Frequency of Reporting
7.1	Rail freight transport	Tonne kilometre in million	3,799	2013	4,559	SORS	Annually
7.2	Rail passengers transport	Number of passengers in million	16.4	2013	18.7	SORS	Annually

### 2.7.3.1 Actions to be supported under the investment priority

2.7.3.1.1 A description of the type and examples of actions to be financed and their expected contribution to the corresponding specific objectives, including, where appropriate, the identification of the main target groups and types of beneficiaries:

The focus under the investment priority will be given to investments in:

- Developing rail infrastructure within the Core Network corridors – the Mediterranean Corridor and Baltic-Adriatic Corridor (Regulation (EU) No 1316/2013 of 11 December 2013). Investments of the 2007-2013 period are planned to be further

pursued with a view to improving the performance, increasing safety, reducing negative environmental impacts caused by transport and, consequently, redirecting traffic from the overburdened road networks to railways. Investments in this corridor will continue in the 2020-2030 period. Two projects were selected based on the assessments of the transport model, specifically upgrading and modernisation of the Zidani Most – Celje rail line and retrofitting of a rail hub with the upgrading of the Pragersko railway station.

### 2.7.3.1.2 Guiding principles for the selection of operations

The guiding principles for the selection will be in line with the identified horizontal principles. Alongside

the relevant horizontal principles, the following projects will be considered a priority:

- projects that will demonstrate a common interest in line with Regulation (EU) No 1315/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013;
- projects that will enhance the throughput of the rail infrastructure due to an increase in throughput of goods and an increase in the number of passengers;
- projects that will contribute to the elimination of bottlenecks which hinder the system;
- projects that ensure the upgrading of rail infrastructure in accordance with the requirements of the TEN-T core network (100 km/h speed, 740 m-long trains and 22.5 tonne axle load, establishment of the ERTMS system, line electrification);
- reconstruction or upgrading of the existing connections will be considered a priority;
- should the projects be implemented on protected areas or natural heritage areas, due attention will be given to delivering integrity and connectivity between the Natura 2000 areas and preventing negative impacts on qualifying species and habitat types, as well as preventing deterioration of the natural values which qualified them as eligible, and preventing the negative effects that compromise the objectives of protected areas;
- the lighting of sections to be supported under the investment priority will be provided exclusively by environment-friendly lighting systems and will be planned so as to limit the light pollution to an absolute minimum.

In line with the guiding principles for the selection, two projects which have fulfilled the relevant conditions and are ready to be launched in 2016 are planned:

- the project of upgrading and modernisation of the Zidani Most – Celje rail line has been selected to remove a major bottleneck on the core network of the Mediterranean Corridor and Baltic-Adriatic Corridor (Regulation (EU) No 1316/2013 of 11 December 2013). This is a category C3 line allowing only up to 200 kN of load per axle, which limits the use of various types of vehicles and reduces speed

in the section. The freight transport share accounts for 44% and boasts promising potentials for further development. This section is also important in terms of securing mobility for the population, as it registers an average of 4,134 passengers on a daily basis. The potential for further development has also been enhanced with Croatia's accession to the EU, the segment taking up a large bulk of freight and passenger transport on the Zagreb – Graz rail line. The implementation plans will be prepared in the first half of 2015 and will serve as a basis for preparing the investment documentation and for commencing construction in 2016;

- upgrading and modernisation of the rail hub and Pragersko railway station will help remove a bottleneck on the network of the Mediterranean Corridor and Baltic-Adriatic Corridor (Regulation (EU) No 1316/2013 of 11 December 2013), as the corridors split at that hub. In line with the European AGC, AGTC and TSI agreements, the above-mentioned action will ensure a train set length of 740 m, platform length of 400 m, line axle load of the D4 category, non-level access and passageways, GC profile and increased speed.

The pre-investment assessment for this project has been made and adopted as well as the Decree on the National Spatial Plan for retrofitting the Pragersko railway station (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia No 12/2014). Upgrading and modernisation of the rail hub and Pragersko railway station represents a continuation of the development of public rail infrastructure in the north-eastern part of Slovenia, and of providing adequate connection to the electrified and upgraded railway line of Pragersko – Ormož – Hodoš, which is in progress and is set for modernisation in the 2007-2013 financial perspective. The projects represent an upgrade of the existing route, which means that new land developments are not required. At the moment two public procurement contracts are underway, specifically the public procurement for the design of the Transport Technology Elaborate and the Phased Implementation Elaborate which are expected to be drawn up by the end of 2014. On the basis of these two documents we will select the optimal so-

lution or variant (within the framework of the adopted Decree on the National Spatial Plan), which will be dealt with in the project documentation at the level of the project for acquisition of a building permit and the project for execution, and will be completed in 2015.

#### 2.7.3.1.3 Planned use of financial instruments

The priority foresees support in the form of grants and long-term resources (e.g. EIB loans).

#### 2.7.3.1.4 Planned use of major projects

Both projects are listed in the Transport Development Strategy in the Republic of Slovenia based on the data arising from the transport model and the underlying concepts of the strategic environmental assessment.

ID	Project	Type of work	Scope	Funding source	Amount
1	Zidani Most-Celje	Upgrading of the existing railway line and retrofit of railway stations to meet the required TEN-T standards regarding interoperability	25 km of rail lines and reconstruction of 3 railway stations	CF	201.30 million
2	Pragersko Railway station (CF)	Upgrading of the railway hub to meet the required TEN-T standards regarding interoperability	Rehabilitation and development of hub	CF	184.25 million

The projects:

- **second track for Divača – Koper,**
- **upgrading the Šentilj – Maribor rail line and the second track of this line,**
- **the Ljubljana rail hub – Tivoli arc**

are planned to receive support under the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF). The project of a second track for Divača – Koper is already developed with its two-phase implementation being funded by the CEF – CF and the CEF. The Šentilj – Maribor project will also be two-fold, the first phase covering construction of the second track and the second stage delivering the upgrading and modernisation of the existing track, as the terrain layout does not allow any upgrading below the current transport route. The transport model identified the Ljubljana

rail hub – Tivoli as the key bottleneck based on the do-nothing scenario. As other options of a comprehensive modernisation of the rail hub should be examined beforehand, the project is still not ready and Slovenia will pursue CEF support to implement it.

#### 2.7.3.1.5 Output indicators

Both projects are considered major projects according to the award criteria. Support will focused on long rail sections to meet the specific objectives. The projects will be approved under the National Programme for the Development of Public Transport Infrastructure.

**Table 38: Output indicators**

	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
CO12a	Railway: Total length of reconstructed or upgraded railway line, of which: TEN-T	Km	CF	Vzhodna Slovenija	25	Ministry of Infrastructure	Annually
7.3	Number of reconstructed and upgraded railway stations to meet the TEN-T interoperability standards	Number of railway stations	CF	Vzhodna Slovenija	4	Ministry of Infrastructure	Annually

#### 2.7.4 Enhancing regional mobility by connecting secondary and tertiary traffic nodes to TEN-T infrastructure, including multimodal nodes

##### SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE: BETTER TRANSPORT CONNECTIONS TO ENHANCE ACCESS AND SUPPORT BALANCED REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The next period should witness the construction of the missing road infrastructure, which is the precondition for efficient implementation of other planned actions. Promotion of sustainable development and efforts to remove bottlenecks are the stepping stones to a normal functioning of the business environment. With a view to strengthening regional development potentials and preserving jobs, the aim of the third development axis projects is to facilitate access to the existing TEN-T network, improve accessibility for citizens and boost the development of the economy in all Slovenian regions. The investments in these projects are vital for the

development of regions from the demographic as well as economic and environmental aspects; however, they should be extensive and cannot be implemented without the support of ESI Funds. The missing road infrastructure along the third development axis will be a priority. Priority will be given to projects that will be well-prepared and will have all the necessary documentation proving that they are to be placed among the green projects under this financial perspective, and that they are mature, including the documentation for project preparation.

The expected result under this specific objective:

- New transport link for secondary roads to be connected to the TEN-T network. Improving accessibility of regions to national and international markets due to shorter transport times and lower costs of transportation, by also having a significant impact at the level of individuals (greater choice of goods, lower prices) as well as the country or region (improved competitiveness, greater mobility, establishment of distribution networks).

Table 39: Specific result indicators

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Data source	Frequency of reporting
7.4	Total travel time	Minutes	10.6	2013	4.7	Slovenian Roads Agency	Second year after the investment has been closed

Discounted benefits calculated for 2017 show costs being lower by EUR 23 million, ISD for phase 1 stands at 7.18%.

##### 2.7.4.1 Actions to be supported under the investment priority

2.7.4.1.1 A description of the type and examples of actions to be financed and their expected contribution to the corresponding specific objectives, including, where appropriate:

In the framework of this investment priority funds will be invested in the project identified in the Transport development strategy in the Republic of Slovenia along the third development axis, and – in the framework of

Technical Assistance – in the preparation of project documentation for other third development axis sections.

The third development axis is a high-quality road representing the secondary transverse transport connection between the Mediterranean Corridor and the Baltic-Adriatic Corridor. It facilitates the establishment of connections between centres of national importance and provides adequate accessibility and connection with international flows. From the Austrian side of Koroška the third development axis is connected via Slovenj Gradec and Velenje to the A1 Šentilj – Koper motorway and



continues towards Novo Mesto, where it is connected to the A2 Karavanke – Obrežje motorway, and then passes Metlika and Črnomelj and continues towards the Zagreb – Rijeka motorway (Dubrovnik). The project connects regional centres in Austria, Slovenia and Croatia, and thereby provides freight and passenger transport from all regions to connect to the major European transport routes.

Successful implementation of the complex project requires the integration of individual sectoral approaches in a uniform and coordinated vision for development, economy, transport, tourism, settlement and the environment, and coordinated action of all stakeholders at the local, regional and national level.

Implementation of the project should be aligned with the priorities of the individual regions and areas, specifically from the viewpoint of the development needs in the field of transport and the economy. The main priority, which the project strives to realise, is the provision of adequate throughput and quality of transport services in the transport routes of the A2–R Croatia motorway and the A1–R Austria motorway. The third development axis is a structural project which establishes transport connections between the urban centres of Koroška (Slovenian Carinthia), the regions of Savinjska regija, Zasavje, Spodnje-Posavje and Jugovzhodna Slovenija (South Eastern Slovenia), and is connected to the regional centres and roads of Austrian Carinthia and Karlovac county in Croatia. The primary purpose of the project is to boost the competitiveness of the region along the development axis by enhancing accessibility and strengthening the institutional and economic connections, which contributes to economic, social and territorial cohesion and a more balanced development of the Slovenian regions and European space.

In the framework of this investment priority funds will be invested in the actual implementation of the individual phases of the project identified in the Transport Development Strategy in the Republic of Slovenia along the third development axis, and – in the framework of Technical Assistance – in the preparation of project documen-

tation for other third development axis sections which are sited and directly connected to the TEN-T network.

The statistical region of Koroška is the only region in Slovenia which lacks direct access to motorways or expressways. Average travel times from the region to the motorway take about 60 minutes (50 kilometres), and more than 100 minutes to cities (Ljubljana, Maribor). The existing G1-4 road is a relatively high-traffic road with average annual daily traffic of 14,000-12,000 vehicles/day. Certain sections of the road run across terrain characterised by a particularly complex morphology, which makes the roads' geometric elements unsuitable and inadequate for the function and category of the road, thus failing to deliver the appropriate level of traffic services. Major flood events trigger full road closures, disrupting reliable traffic connections for the population and the economy. Poor accessibility undermines economic activities by increasing the transport costs, and enterprises seek opportunities in other Slovenian and foreign regions that offer highly developed infrastructure. The number of employees in companies in Koroška has fallen by 2,000 in the last four years alone. Poor transport connections also force young people to move out of the region, and as a consequence, the ageing index in Koroška is growing at a faster pace than in other Slovenian regions. The depopulation trend is partly mitigated by the fact that more and more inhabitants of Koroška find a job in neighbouring Austria. The northern part of the third development axis would stimulate equal development of Slovenia, which would go hand in hand with a positive impact on the Šaleška valley, where major companies have been forced to think about moving their production abroad or to other Slovenian regions with a more developed infrastructure. Project documentation is being planned to address the issue of appropriate connections with the TEN-T network.

A project on the southern part of the third development axis which is specified in the Transport Development Strategy in the Republic of Slovenia would be implemented under the investment priority concerned. This project represents a highly significant cross-border road connection which in Slovenia connects to the



TEN-T network on the A2 Ljubljana – Obrežje pri Novem Mestu motorway, and in Croatia on the A1 Zagreb – Dubrovnik motorway.

The project will ensure that the economic activities in the national centre of Novo Mesto get connected to the TEN-T network, and will further provide connectivity between the TEN-T network and the centres of regional importance such as Črnomelj and Metlika. The gravity network of centres is connected to the international road connections of the TEN-T network on both the Slovenian and the Croatian side.

In the Jugovzhodna Slovenija statistical region (NUTS 3) Bela Krajina has been notorious for having extremely poor connections to other major routes. Soaring operational costs and unreliable connections have recently resulted in the closing down of a number of enterprises in this part of Slovenia. The existing road from Bela Krajina stretches across an uneven, undulating terrain which requires the use of elements that are not characteristic of a main road category and as such severely compromises traffic safety. The existing Novo Mesto – Črnomelj road is also relatively burdened, its annual average daily traffic being high (above 10,000 vehicles per day). Phase I, which covers the motorway junction of Novo Mesto-east or the junction to the TEN-T network and the connection of the majority of the economic zone of Novo Mesto (stage I and II) are one of the utmost priorities to be carried out on development axes according to the Transport Development Strategy in the Republic of Slovenia.

For the project Section I of the third development axis – southbound (motorway A2 Novo Mesto-east – Maline (Gorjanci) junction) the transport and economic analysis of the construction stages of the third development axis – southbound: section I has been prepared. In determining the phases for the construction of this section the following criterion is taken into account: the slip road to the TEN-T network and the connection of Novo Mesto to the motorway are finished first, followed by construction of the high-quality road towards Bela Krajina (Metlika, Črnomelj).

In view of the results of the transport and economic evaluation of the individual stages and their combinations, we propose that the project be implemented in three phases:

- Phase I: Stage I and II (motorway hub of Novo Mesto-east – Osredek junction (Revoz)).
- Phase II: Stage III (Osredek (Revoz) junction – Poganci junction).
- Phase III: Stage IV (Poganci junction – Maline (Gorjanci) junction).

The project is viable from the economic and transport standpoint as the net present value (NPV) for Phase I stands at 7.18%. Phases II and III are less viable from the transport standpoint due to the fact that Phase II is planned to be constructed in 2029 and Phase III is planned to be constructed after 2030.

Due to its investment value and for reasons of transport and economic efficiency the construction of section I of the third development axis – southbound, which runs from the A2 Ljubljana – Obrežje motorway to the Maline (Gorjanci) junction, is planned to be implemented in phases. The construction of the entire section (without the western bypass of Novo Mesto) is planned to be implemented in two phases or four stages. Phase I, which covers the first two stages, covers the construction of the road in the section from the motorway hub of Novo Mesto-east to the Osredek (Revoz) junction in the length of 5.3 km. The next phase, which covers Stages III and IV, covers the construction of the remaining segment of the section, including the Gorjanci tunnel. The planned high-quality road facilitates:

- Establishing a direct connection of the national centre with the TEN-T network and connecting regional and inter-municipal centres with a network of international long-distance road links, as well as with national centres and major centres of neighbouring countries.
- Regional and international cooperation which maintains adequate supply of the economy and population mobility in Novo Mesto, which acts as an important economic centre of Slovenia and provides opportunities for the development of Bela Krajina

and the entire area of the cohesion region of Vzhodna Slovenija.

- Development of the economy by preserving jobs even in areas with poor conditions for doing business due to inadequate transport infrastructure. The cohesion region of Vzhodna Slovenija is Slovenia's largest exporter, which makes adequate connections a precondition for preserving the existing business entities and for further development.
- Improving road safety, increasing user benefits by shortening travel times, reducing the external costs of transport.
- Environmental impacts; optimal connection within the TEN-T network.

The investment, the construction costs of which are estimated at EUR 75 million, covers the motorway in the length of 5.3 km. The following works are planned: reconstruction of the A2 motorway slip road, 3 non-level junctions (Mačkovec, Cikava and Revoz), two bridges in an overall length of 408 m, a viaduct in the length of 121 m, 6 underpasses, 5 overpasses, 16 support and retaining walls and 1 flyover for cyclists and pedestrians in a length of 181 m.

#### 2.7.4.1.2 Guiding principles for the selection of operations

- connecting regional centres with the centres of national importance;
- improving the mobility of the population and support for the economy;
- improving traffic safety.

The project is listed in the Transport Development Strategy in the Republic of Slovenia based on the transport model data and baselines of the strategic environmental assessment. The selection of the projects is in line with the horizontal principles for selection, especially the needs of balanced regional development. Siting of the project and its maturity allow its implementation within the planned timeframe. Also, the project will respect the principles of the respective programme's environmental report, specifically:

- the new route will, as a rule, be placed outside protected areas and other natural heritage areas. Siting of projects will seek to minimise the interference to agricultural lands and forests and will comply with the prescribed distance from urban areas. Siting will further take on board nature conservation aspects in terms of cultural heritage and landscape;
- should the projects be implemented in protected areas or natural heritage areas, due attention will be given to delivering integrity and connectivity between Natura 2000 areas and preventing negative impacts on qualifying species and habitat types, as well as preventing deterioration of the natural values which qualified them as eligible, and preventing negative effects that compromise the objectives of protected areas. Where relevant the appropriate technical solution that will facilitate the migration of wild animals will also be taken into account;
- the lighting of sections to be supported under the investment priority will be provided exclusively by environment-friendly lighting systems and will be planned so as to limit the light pollution to an absolute minimum;
- the solutions will contribute to controlled elimination of traffic congestions (where relevant);
- the solution will facilitate occasional speed limits for vehicles on motorways and highways;
- the construction will contribute to supporting public passenger transport and will support the application of new technologies.

#### 2.7.4.1.3 Planned use of financial instruments

Support in the form of grants is planned.

#### 2.7.4.1.4 Planned use of major projects

The basis for the activities in the field of transport infrastructure is the Transport Development Strategy in the Republic of Slovenia. The said programme specifies the actions by individual areas. Based on the transport technical data, the following projects have been identified which are expected to meet the criteria set out in the above-mentioned programme.

ID	Project	Type of work	Scope	Funding source	Amount
3	Third development axis (southbound), phases I and II of Stage I of the highway from the Novo Mesto junction to Novo Mesto	Construction of a new road to be connected to the TEN-T network	EUR 5.3 million	ERDF	EUR 74.4 million

#### 2.7.4.1.5 Output indicators

Output indicators will be specified in line with the Transport Development Strategy in the Republic of Slovenia.

**Table 40: Output indicators**

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region	Target value (2023)	Data source	Frequency of reporting
CO13	Roads: Total length of newly built roads	Km	ERDF	Vzhodna Slovenija	EUR 5.3 million	Slovenian Roads Agency	Annually

#### 2.7.5 Supporting a multimodal Single European Transport Area by investing in the TEN-T (CF)

**SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE: REMOVE BOTTLENECKS IN THE TEN-T NETWORK AND ENSURE TEN-T STANDARDS ALONG THE NETWORK**

The Slovenian cross-shaped motorway network has been nearly completed with the help of generous investments in the current financial perspective, but the missing links along the TEN-T network represent bottlenecks. Major congestion hot spots are the A4 motorway from Šentilj to Gruškovje, Draženci – Gruškovje section, which is in fact the last missing section along the entire network (called the Pyhrn motorway), and the single-tube tunnel on the A2 motorway section from the Karavanke state border to Obrežje.

The Port of Koper is one of the most important ports of the TEN-T network. Therefore, investment in the development of appropriate port infrastructure and deepening of the navigation channel is a key building block in the establishment of the trans-European multimodal networks

that will ensure smooth functioning of the EU internal market and strengthen economic and social cohesion.

The Basin II navigation channel is planned to be deepened outside the area of the concession contract (the state as the investor) to facilitate the arrival and accommodation of ships categorised as “post panamax” having a draught of up to 15.5 metres. The project will have spill-over effects on land transport and other participants in the logistics chain, and on an important part of Slovenian economic activity, and will help step up the performance and safety of the Adriatic-Ionian Corridor transport connection via the core port of Koper to the multimodal Mediterranean Corridor and Baltic-Adriatic Corridor on the core network (Regulation 1316/2013 of 11 December 2013). An indicative schedule for the implementation of the Basin II navigation channel deepening project has already been made, and includes procedures for acquiring the relevant environmental consents.

During the development of the Decree on the National spatial plan for comprehensive spatial arrangement of the international port in Koper (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No 48/11), a tender procedure was carried out to select the best option in terms of meeting environmental requirements, water protection requirements and maritime logistics requirements. The necessary procedures were duly carried out and the relevant environmental consents were acquired. SEA was also carried out and the then Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning issued the relevant decision No 35409-252/2006 on 13 May 2011. The decision stated that the impacts of the project identified during the SEA procedure were acceptable from the environmental point of view by taking into account the mitigation measures and monitoring as set out in the Decree. An environmental report for the national spatial plan for comprehensive solutions for the international port of Koper regarding spatial issues was also produced (Aquarius d.o.o., May 2010).

- The expected results under this specific objective:
- removal of bottlenecks and closing of missing links in transport infrastructure and at sites where different transport infrastructures intersect;

- improved safety in the wider transport infrastructure area;
- mitigation of negative effects of exposure of urban areas to transit traffic;
- elimination of congestion caused on the A4 motorway section of Draženci – Gruškovje due to the unfinished motorway, which will enhance the mobility of the local population and other passengers. Also, transport connections in the NUTS region of Podravje will improve and become smooth, and numerous level crossings with the main road will be removed, which will further enhance traffic safety;
- construction of the second tube in the Karavanke tunnel will help meet the safety requirements that apply to such structures, and will help eliminate the bottlenecks on the A2 motorway which have been caused by the growing traffic volumes and frequent maintenance and repair works in the existing tube;
- deepening of the navigation channel in the Port of Koper, which will allow the accommodation of larger and wider vessels, to increase transshipment capacities and to secure safe navigation.

**Table 41: Specific result indicators**

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
7.5	Total travel time	Minutes	14.0	2013	7.0	DARS, Motorway Company in the Republic of Slovenia	Third year after the investment has been closed
7.6	Capacity of the Basin II navigation channel in the Port of Koper	In million tonnes	5.3	2013	5.8	Port of Koper	Third year after the investment has been closed

### 2.7.5.1. *Actions to be supported under the investment priority*

2.7.5.1.1 A description of the type and examples of actions to be financed and their expected contribution to the corresponding specific objectives, including, where appropriate, the identification of the main target groups and types of beneficiaries:

The project of the Draženci – Gruškovje section in a total length of 13 kilometres closes the missing link on the A4 motorway, thus completing it and addressing the only identified bottleneck on the motorway as part of the TEN-T network. The project will ensure a complete motorway connection with neighbouring countries in this part of Europe and will act as one of the key links in the direction NW-SE. Removal of this bottleneck will play a major role in addressing the congestion issues which, particularly throughout the summertime and before major holidays, bring traffic to a standstill in the wider region from Maribor to Ptuj, practically paralysing any activity of the local population.

Investments under this investment priority will be made in the following:

- Completion of the national programme of motorway network construction (motorway section of Draženci – Gruškovje (CF)). The project maturity allows the project to be launched, presumably in 2015.
- Deepening of the Basin II navigation channel in Koper freight port (deepening outside the port area, state as the investor). The Republic of Slovenia ensured that navigation channels outside the port area are maintained appropriately in line with Article 44, paragraph 3 of the Maritime Code (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, Nos 120/06, 88/10 and 59/11). Provisions under Article 4.7 of the Water Directive will also be taken into account in project implementation.

The project construction of the second tube of the Karavanke tunnel is scheduled to apply for support under the CEF. The same is true for the investments in the port infrastructure, connections to the hinterland and

passenger terminals (concessionaire being the investor). Indicative concessionaire projects in the freight port of Koper to deliver on the objective “remove bottlenecks in the TEN-T network and ensure TEN-T standards along the network” are listed under Annex 12.4.

### 2.7.5.1.2 Guiding principles for the selection of operations

The projects are listed in the Transport Development Strategy in the Republic of Slovenia based on the transport model data and baselines of the SEA procedure:

- support for the multimodal Single European Transport Area by investing in the TEN-T – removal of bottlenecks on the motorway network,
- support for the multimodal Single European Transport Area by investing in the TEN-T – removal of bottlenecks in maritime infrastructure.

Besides following the above two horizontal principles, the recommendations of the environmental report of the programme will be taken on board while implementing the projects:

- the new route will, as a rule, be placed outside protected areas and other natural heritage areas. Spatial planning of projects will seek to minimise the interference to agricultural lands and forests and will comply with the prescribed distance from urban areas. Spatial planning will further take on board nature conservation aspects in terms of cultural heritage and landscape;
- should the projects be implemented in protected areas or natural heritage areas, due attention will be given to delivering integrity and connectivity between Natura 2000 areas and preventing negative impacts on qualifying species and habitat types, as well as preventing deterioration of the natural values which qualified them as eligible, and preventing the negative effects that compromise the objectives of protected areas. If relevant, appropriate technical solutions tackling the issue of wild animal migration will be taken into account;
- the relevant environmental recommendations will be duly observed during the implementation of the

navigation channel deepening project, and the best option will be selected in line with the relevant legislation;

- where relevant, the selected solutions will contribute to the control and removal of traffic congestion;
- the solutions will ensure occasional speed limits on motorways and expressways;
- any development will, as much as possible, contribute to supporting public transport and will promote the use of advanced technologies.

#### 2.7.5.1.3 Planned use of financial instruments

Support in the form of grants is planned.

#### 2.7.5.1.4 Planned use of major projects

The projects will be listed in the Transport Development Strategy in the Republic of Slovenia. Based on the model transport data and baselines of strategic environmental assessment, the following two projects have been identified as major and are expected to meet the ex-ante conditionalities criteria.

ID	Project	Type of work	Scope	Funding source	Amount
4	Draženci – Gruškovje	Construction of the missing motorway section on the TEN-T network	13 km	CF	EUR 246 million
5	Capacity of the Basin II navigation channel in the Port of Koper	Deepening of the navigation channel	Deepening by 1.5 m	CF	EUR 15.00 million

The investment for the motorway section of Draženci – Gruškovje (estimated value EUR 246 million) seeks the construction of 13 kilometres of motorway, 13.9 kilometres of a two-lane road (the motorway overlaps the existing national road on several sections, which needs to be rebuilt) and 125 different road structures, and encompasses numerous actions that are indispensable for its implementation. In detail, the investment encompasses the motorway section in a total length of 13,01 kilometres (normal transverse profile standing at 27 metres), reconstruction of the Slivnica – Draženci motorway section in a total length of 0.400 kilometre, works on a parallel regional road in a total length of 13.899 kilometres, works on deviations of categorised and non-categorised roads, works on three junctions to the mo-

torway (Lancova vas, Podlehnik and Zakl), construction of seven overpasses, three underpasses, two pedestrian underpasses, three retaining walls and 67 culverts. Also, the project involves works on the Podlehnik service stations on both sides of the motorway, reconstruction of the Gruškovje border crossing paved area, arrangements for water drainage and collection, relocation or protection of utilities, provision of traffic equipment and signalisation, landscaping and planting, provision of a noise barrier in the total length of 8.145 kilometres, demolition of certain facilities and the costs of traffic diversion during construction. The cost of construction of the national road is considered as a total; however, it is not eligible for co-financing from the CF.

## 2.7.5.1.5 Output indicators

Table 42: Output indicators

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline Year	Target Value (2023)	Source of Data	Frequency of reporting
C013a	Roads: Total length of newly built roads, of which: TEN-T	Km	2013	13	Ministry of Infrastructure	Second year after the realised investment
7.7	Depth of the navigation channel	m	2013	16.0	Ministry of Infrastructure	Second year after the realised investment

## 2.7.6 Social innovation, transnational cooperation and contribution to thematic 1–7

Not relevant.

## 2.7.7 Performance framework

Performance framework – CF										
Priority axis	Type of indicator (implementation step, financial, output or result indicator)	ID	Identification of indicator or implementation step	Measurement unit, where applicable	Fund	Category of regions	Milestone for 2018	Final target (2023)	Source of data	Explanation of the relevance of the indicator, where applicable
7	Output indicator	CO12a	Railway: Total length of reconstructed or upgraded railway line, of which: TEN-T	Km	CF	Whole of Slovenia	10	25	SORS	68% of the CF funds under priority axis 7
7	Financial indicator	F1	Input	EUR	CF	Whole of Slovenia	180,000,000	292,461,506		
Performance framework – ERDF										
Priority axis 7	Type of indicator (implementation step, financial, output or result indicator)	ID	Identification of indicator or implementation step	Measurement unit, where applicable	Fund	Category of regions	Milestone for 2018	Final target (2023)	Source of data	Explanation of the relevance of the indicator, where applicable
	Output indicator	CO13	Roads: Total length of newly built roads	Km	ERDF	Vzhodna Slovenija	0	5.3	Slovenian Infrastructure Agency	100% of ERDF funds under priority axis 7 in the cohesion region of Vzhodna Slovenija
	Implementation step	K3	Number of building permits issued	Number	ERDF	Vzhodna Slovenija	1		Ministry of Infrastructure	
	Financial indicator	F1	input	EUR	ERDF	Vzhodna Slovenija	4,500,000	49,585,025	Monitoring	

## 2.7.8 Categories of intervention

Fund and intervention field – CF									
Table 1: Intervention field		Table 2: Form of finance		Table 3: Territory		Table 4: Territorial delivery mechanisms		Table 6: ESF secondary theme	
Code	EUR amount	Code	EUR amount	Code	EUR amount	Code	EUR amount	Code	EUR amount
024	153,100,000	01	153,100,000	07	153,100,000	07	153,100,000	00	
029	63,492,280	01	63,492,280	07	63,492,280	07	63,492,280	00	
039	6,500,000	01	6,500,000	07	6,500,000	07	6,500,000	00	

\* This aims, inter alia, to obtain quantified information on the contribution of the ESF to the thematic objectives referred to in Article 9 (1) to (7) CPR.

Fund and intervention field: ERDF cohesion region of Vzhodna Slovenija									
Table 1: Intervention field		Table 2: Form of finance		Table 3: Territory		Table 4: Territorial delivery mechanisms		Table 6: ESF secondary theme	
Code	EUR amount	Code	EUR amount	Code	EUR amount	Code	EUR amount	Code	EUR amount
030	39,668,020	07	39,668,020	07	39,668,020	07	39,668,020	00	

\* This aims, inter alia, to obtain quantified information on the contribution of the ESF to the thematic objectives referred to in Article 9 (1) to (7) CPR.

## 2.7.9 Where appropriate, a summary of the planned use of technical assistance including, where necessary, actions to reinforce the administrative capacity of authorities involved in management and control of the programmes and beneficiaries

Adequate administrative capacity of human resources implementing this investment priority will be ensured through the implementation of training in areas that are defined in the framework of the technical assistance priority axis.

Special attention will be given to the enhancement of administrative capacities especially in the areas where issues came up in the 2007-2013 period (e.g. development of technical and investment documentation, implementation of major projects etc.). Also, we will make efforts to highlight the area of monitoring the investments made in the transport infrastructure. ESI Funds support will also be allocated to updating and upgrading the transport model and to the development of the project documentation for individual sections of the secondary road network on different parts of the third development

axis that will be sited and will directly connect to the TEN-T network.

## 2.8 Promoting employment and supporting transnational labour mobility

### 2.8.1 Explanation for the establishment of a priority axis covering more than one category of region or more than one thematic objective or more than one Fund

Labour market measures that respond to national and regional challenges identified in the OP strategy will be implemented across the whole of Slovenia and in the individual cohesion region or local area. Current labour market policies and measures are designed as nation-wide, and funds are notably disbursed in areas which deal with the most pressing issues (notably in the cohesion region of Vzhodna Slovenija). Certain measures under the OP will be distinguished by whether they meet the needs of either Zahodna or Vzhodna Slovenija, whereas others will be considered horizontal and implemented across the whole of the country given that employment policy is a national responsibility.



Measures seeking the development and implementation of new programmes (tailor made programmes that are in tune with the needs of target groups) and services for the unemployed and systemic measures, e.g. instruments facilitating the reconciliation between labour market demand and supply, will be implemented across the whole of Slovenia. The plan is that such operations, which do indeed prove beneficial for both cohesion regions, will be located in the cohesion region of Zahodna Slovenija due to the fact that the majority of the institutions are located there and will receive support under the funds earmarked for the cohesion region of Zahodna Slovenija (approximately 30% of the funds under the investment priority).

Targeted labour market programmes or services will be designed for the target group of the unemployed considered especially vulnerable in each particular cohesion region (e.g. less educated individuals in the cohesion region of Vzhodna Slovenija, the 25-29 age group in the cohesion region of Zahodna Slovenija). The operations involving the participation of target groups will be funded by the amount allocated to the cohesion region where the permanent residence of this group is registered. The amount of funds allocated to a particular cohesion region will correspond to the actual share of the unemployed in that particular region. Considering the fact that the labour market situation in the cohesion region of Vzhodna Slovenija is particularly poor, the region will receive more funds than its counterpart.

The specific objective of improving the transition from education to the labour market for all young people with no work experience and aged up to 29 under the respective investment priority will be implemented under the Youth Employment Initiative in the cohesion region of Vzhodna Slovenija.

The employment rate of older workers reveals low figures in both regions (cohesion region of Vzhodna Slovenija 34.9%, cohesion region of Zahodna Slovenija 32.4%), which calls for system-wide measures or projects to support the delivery of reforms in the area, and for investments in training and motivation of workers. While systemic measures will notably

be implemented in the cohesion region of Zahodna Slovenija and will receive support under the bulk of funds allocated to that region, the location of operations targeting workers will be defined in accordance with the location of the employer's head office or in accordance with any other appropriate criterion (location of the head office of the body implementing the respective operation).

### ***2.8.2 Fund, category of region, basis for Union support calculation***

Fund	ESF
Category of region	Vzhodna Slovenija, Zahodna Slovenija
Basis for calculation (total eligible expenditure or eligible public expenditure)	Total eligible cost

Fund	Youth Employment Initiative
Category of region	Vzhodna Slovenija
Basis for calculation (total eligible expenditure or eligible public expenditure)	Total eligible cost

### ***2.8.3 Access to employment for job-seekers and inactive people, including the long-term unemployed and people far from the labour market, including through local employment initiatives and support for labour mobility***

#### **SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 1: INCREASE EMPLOYMENT OF THE UNEMPLOYED, IN PARTICULAR OF THOSE OVER 50, THE LONG-TERM UNEMPLOYED AND THOSE WITH BELOW ISCED 3 EDUCATION LEVEL**

Unemployment in Slovenia has soared in recent years. At the end of 2013 there were 124,015 people registered as unemployed with the Employment Service of Slovenia, up 3.9% on the same period of 2012, while unemployment averaged 119,827. Of those, 47.9% were women, 32.9% with low education levels and 47.9% long-term unemployed. The cohesion region of Vzhodna Slovenija accounted for 58.5% of all unemployed persons, with above-average figures in long-term unemployment and low education levels.

The following result is expected within the framework of this specific objective:

- increase the share of individuals with a job among the unemployed participating in labour market measures.

ESF funds will be used to implement measures in the labour market (active labour market policy measures that must be targeted to the needs of individual groups of unemployed persons, and better services from the Employment Service and other institutions in the labour market), which should result in individual groups of unemployed persons, especially those over 50, the long-term unemployed and those with education levels below ISCED 3, depending on their specific needs, being provided with the earliest possible high-quality employment. Special attention will be focused on those initiatives that contribute effectively to making progress in fulfilling the EU recommendations for Slovenia to increase employment of low-skilled and older workers.

Alongside groups stated in the specific objective, attention will be given to persons who are in the process of losing their employment.<sup>97</sup> The measures under this specific objective will target persons who will, after participating in social inclusion and activation

programmes under TO 9, get reactivated in the labour market, and groups of persons with the same characteristics that will be most represented in the register of the unemployed at a given point (such as currently women with tertiary education).

Despite the fact that the active employment policy measures financed by the national funds and cofinanced by the ESF between 2007 and 2013 have had a proven dampening effect on the impact of the economic crisis, according to the evaluation and EU recommendations (including the recommendations of the European Commission for OP programming), they lack focus on the special needs of particular target groups or areas. Hence, the country should not only strengthen active labour market policy measures in the 2014-2020 period but also differentiate between them to respond to the needs of particular target groups and areas. The share of participants to remain employed upon completion will thus be higher.

<sup>97</sup> The Labour Market Regulation Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia., Nos. 80/10, 40/12, 21/13, 63/13, 100/13, 32/14) Article 5, point 5: a job-seeker who may potentially lose his/her job (hereinafter referred to as a job seeker who may potentially lose his/her job; other job-seeker for the duration of the period of notice in the case of regular termination of employment by the employer or the person in respect of which the business documentation from the employer shows that his/her work will become redundant, or a person who is employed for a fixed term and his/her employment contract expires no later than within three months.

Table 43: Specific result indicators, specific objective 1

ID	Indicator	Category of region	Measurement unit	Common output indicator	Baseline value	Measurement unit for baseline and target	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Data source	Frequency of reporting
8.1	Participants in employment upon leaving (employment incentives)	Vzhodna Slovenija	Share	20	48	Share	2014	55	Monitoring	Once a year
8.2	Participants over 50, less educated and long-term unemployed in employment upon leaving (employment incentives)	Vzhodna Slovenija	Share		48	Share	2014	55	Monitoring	Once a year
8.1	Participants in employment upon leaving (employment incentives)	Zahodna Slovenija	Share		45	Share	2014	50	Monitoring	Once a year
8.2	Participants over 50, less educated and long-term unemployed in employment upon leaving (employment incentives)	Zahodna Slovenija	Share		45	Share	2014	50	Monitoring	Once a year
8.3	Participants in employment upon leaving (training and education)	Vzhodna Slovenija	Share		20	Share	2014	25	Monitoring	Once a year
8.4	Participants over 50, less educated and long-term unemployed in employment upon leaving (training and education)	Vzhodna Slovenija	Share		20	Share	2014	25	Monitoring	Once a year
8.3	Participants in employment upon leaving (training and education)	Zahodna Slovenija	Share		17	Share	2014	20	Monitoring	Once a year
8.4	Participants over 50, less educated and long-term unemployed in employment upon leaving (training and education)	Zahodna Slovenija	Share		17	Share	2014	20	Monitoring	Once a year

#### SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 2: MAKE LIFELONG CAREER ORIENTATION MORE EFFICIENT

According to the Employment Service of Slovenia, at 2013 year-end, 32.9% of unemployed persons had a low level of education, 23.8% had vocational education, 27.8% had secondary vocational and general education, and 15.8% tertiary education. In recent years, Slovenia has witnessed a significant shift in the enrolment of young people in education programmes. Between the

2000/2001 and the 2010/2011 academic years, enrolment in lower and secondary vocational schools fell from 27.7% of the generation to 15.5%, which is a 12.2 percentage point reduction. On the other hand, enrolment in grammar schools and four- and five-year vocational and technical programmes, which also offer an entry point into tertiary education, has increased. In the 2010/2011 academic year, 47.6% of young people aged 20 to 24 were enrolled in tertiary education. Compared to the 2000/2001 academic year, this is a 12.9 per-

tage point increase.<sup>98</sup> The main issue faced by persons becoming unemployed due to company bankruptcy or redundancy is that they are not sufficiently involved in the various forms of on-the-job training and education. Therefore, these persons not only have to contend with a low level of education but also lack the skills and know-how currently sought by the labour market.

From the point of view of the labour market, this results in the issue of structural unemployment, where despite high workforce supply, the needs of employers, especially their need for employees with vocational, secondary vocational and technical education, often remain unsatisfied. Some imbalances can also be noted with respect to those with tertiary education. There is a pronounced lack of human resources in the fields of engineering, electronics, computer science and IT. The greater matching of supply and demand and high-quality forecasting of labour market needs are hindered by the unavailability of appropriate instruments, as well as the lack of links between the stakeholders (public institutions, economic associations, research institutions, social partners). Undeclared work and employment also has an impact on the supply of human resources. The scope of undeclared work in Slovenia is quite extensive (most estimates put it at around 20% of GDP).

<sup>98</sup> Source: UMAR, Ekonomski izzivi 2012 – Vpliv gospodarske krize na trg dela in izzivi za politiko (IMAD, 2012 Economic Challenges – The impact of the economic crisis on the labour market and policy challenges).

The expected results under this specific objective:

- develop efficient lifelong career orientation (LCO) services and tools, and counselling work with unemployed people.

Within the framework of this specific objective, ESF funds will be used to develop the LCO services and instruments used to forecast the needs for human resources and competences, which are aimed at reducing the structural imbalances on the labour market and ensuring faster access to employment. The measures that will ensure that results are achieved are partly of a systemic nature, and partly aimed at unemployed people for LCO purposes and at employers for the purpose of striking a balance between labour market supply and demand. LCO services aimed at other target groups (such as employed people, students, young people) will be provided as part of TC 10.

With the overall aim of strengthening labour market institutions, between 2007 and 2013 support was given to the following projects aimed at modernising the ESS, developing LCO services and aids as well as LCO National Contact Points, developing the Slovene Human Resources Development and Scholarship Fund, strengthening social work centres, and promoting vocations where demand outstrips supply through TV broadcasts and similar. In the future, attention will be focused on strengthening particular key services provided by labour market institutions, with the aim of resolving structural imbalances and ensuring better matching of labour market supply and demand.

**Table 44: Specific result indicators, specific objective 2**

ID	Indicator	Category of region	Measurement unit	Common output indicator	Baseline value	Measurement unit for baseline and target	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Data source	Frequency of reporting
8.5	Developed LCO tools in use	Zahodna Slovenija	Share	not relevant	100	Share	2014	100	Monitoring	Once a year
8.6	Average number of counselling sessions per counsellor	Zahodna Slovenija	Number	not relevant	2,160	Number	2014	2,052	Monitoring	Once a year

**SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 3: EFFECTIVE GUIDANCE FOR TRANSNATIONAL LABOUR MOBILITY, ESPECIALLY OF YOUNG PEOPLE, VIA THE EURES SERVICE**

Due to the labour market conditions, Slovenian job seekers are increasingly interested in gaining employment in the wider European labour market. The “Recent trends in the geographical mobility of workers in the EU” study conducted by the Commission in June 2014 shows that as many as 39% would be prepared to look for a job in another Member State (which ranks Slovenia third in the EU, after Sweden and Croatia). However, the demand of Slovenian employers for foreign workers has fallen.

The expected result under this specific objective:

- put in place new models/forms used for information and guidance established as part of the EURES services

As part of this specific objective, ESF funds will be used to encourage workforce mobility within the EU (EURES). In Slovenia, the EURES will contribute to enhancing the employment prospects of Slovenian

job seekers in the wider labour market, and reducing unemployment in Slovenia by providing and developing services for jobseekers and employers, as well as by developing and strengthening the EURES network and partnerships, including enhancing the skills of human resources and developing and applying multi-channel operations according to the “one stop shop” principle. EURES will contribute to the awareness of these options and develop support services aimed at stimulating employment for jobseekers and employers in the broader EU labour market. By assisting jobseekers, especially those who are young and transitional (those currently between education and the labour market, or between employment and unemployment), EURES will contribute to reducing the number of persons excluded from the labour market. To this end, EURES will join a special mobility scheme of foreign partners, and will also provide financial support to short-term mobility schemes for jobseekers. The focus of EURES’s services will adapt to the conditions in the Slovenian labour market. EURES will develop and implement support mechanisms for queries relating to freedom of movement for Slovenian jobseekers and employers, as well as for foreign jobseekers and employers.

**Table 45: Specific result indicators, specific objective 3**

ID	Indicator	Category of region	Measurement unit	Common output indicator used as basis	Baseline value	Measurement unit for baseline and target	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Data source	Frequency of reporting
8.7	Training modules used for information and guidance as part of EURES services	Zahodna Slovenija	Share	Not relevant	100	Share	2014	100	Monitoring	Annually

**2.8.3.1 Actions to be supported under the investment priority**

2.8.3.1.1 A description of the type and examples of actions to be financed and their expected contribution to the corresponding specific objectives, including, where

appropriate, the identification of the main target groups and types of beneficiaries

Considering the findings outlined in the PA, the OP strategy and descriptions under particular priority axes, we believe that the above measure will help achieve the results and objectives set.

Within the framework of the first specific objective under the investment priority concerned, Slovenia will especially support measures which:

- Encourage unemployed persons, especially those belonging to the target groups and inactive persons, to become active, and incentivise employers to hire such persons in new or existing positions. As part of this measure we will support training for unemployed persons and those currently losing their jobs in light of their needs and the needs of the labour market, combined with additional incentives for employment of such target groups. Specific attention will be paid to the particular characteristics of the target groups by making the measures attuned accordingly.

Active labour market policy programmes will be aimed at encouraging employment through subsidies, various forms of training for unemployed persons (on-the-job training, short-term forms of training, training aimed at obtaining certificates of national vocational qualifications), and will be upgraded based on the activities conducted from 2007 and 2013, as well as the results of some evaluations and analyses. Most of our evaluations and analyses suggest the programmes should be more focused in order to optimise their impacts. The country is in need of tailoring the training programmes to the needs of the labour market and the target groups, and to enhancing the efficiency of job seeking. In combination with other active labour market policy measures, such as training and employment subsidies, the efficiency of jobseeking will be further enhanced. The future added value of the programmes will lie in their targeted approach to the needs of particular target groups and the relevant combination of training and employment measures; these will also be underlined by the development of high-quality labour market services (the second specific objective of TC 8 - LCO, employment brokerage) and the implementation thereof (TC 10 - LCO);

- Support development and innovative employment projects at the local and regional level aimed at stimulating the employment of target groups – especially those focused on supplying a workforce which is currently lacking in the market, supporting smart

specialisation, supporting green jobs. As part of the projects, the following will be financed:

- providers of training for unemployed persons and jobseekers,
- promotional activities,
- exchange of best practices with other countries,
- support for innovative projects, in particular those which will be submitted by beneficiaries at the local or regional level or the sectoral level.
- Encourage the participation of persons undergoing loss of employment in programmes and projects (self-employment assistance, training for new labour market challenges, short-term forms of training, training aimed at obtaining certificates of national vocational qualifications, employment incentives), which will be aimed at ensuring they regain employment/self-employment as soon as possible.

Target groups: Unemployed persons (including inactive persons), particularly those over 50, long-term unemployed persons and those below ISCED 3. Persons currently losing their employment,<sup>99</sup> persons who re-enter the labour market following participation in social inclusion and activation programmes under TC 9, and groups of persons with the same characteristics, whose representation in the register of unemployed persons is above-average at a given point.

Beneficiaries: Institutions in the labour market, such as the Employment Service of Slovenia, the Slovene Human Resources Development and Scholarship Fund, local and regional development institutions, the private sector, labour market regulators, social partners, and others that contribute to achieving the objectives through their activities.

<sup>99</sup> The Labour Market Regulation Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia., Nos. 80/10, 40/12, 21/13, 63/13, 100/13, 32/14) Article 5, point 5: a job-seeker who may potentially lose his/her job (hereinafter referred to as a job seeker who may potentially lose his/her job; other job-seeker for the duration of the period of notice in the case of regular termination of employment by the employer or a person in respect of which the business documentation from the employer shows that his/her work will become redundant, or a person who is employed for a fixed term and his/her employment contract expires no later than within three months.

As part of the second specific objective, efficient measures and instruments aimed at eliminating the mismatch between supply and demand will ride on improving the quality of LCO services through continuous strengthening of coordination, ensuring professional standards and training professionals in this field. Furthermore, awareness of the labour market (occupations in excess demand/supply), counselling, the development of devices used in career planning, teaching of career management skills, etc. The following measures in particular will be encouraged:

- Ensuring the more efficient matching of supply and demand in the labour market, such as developing and establishing a taxonomy model for vocational skills and competences, as well as the application thereof for improving service delivery (such as employment brokerage, profiling and segmenting unemployed persons, more efficient tackling of skills mismatches), recognising especially the short-term labour market needs of employers through the implementation of “employment forecasts” (developing a methodology for the short-term anticipation of demand for know-how, skills and competences - the national, regional and sectoral aspect).
- Developing LCO services through further development and strengthening of national LCO coordination centres – LCO at the Employment Service of Slovenia, tasked with bringing together all LCO stakeholders (ESS - LCO for unemployed persons, university career centres for students, the Slovene Human Resources Development and Scholarship Fund, regional career centres for young people still in education), by implementing activities such as training for LCO counsellors, developing LCO tools and training people for their use, promoting LCO, ensuring quality standards in this area, etc. This specific objective entails systemic support for developing LCO and including unemployed persons in LCO services, while measures aimed at providing LCO services to either employed persons or persons still in training are also planned as part of TC 10. Between 2007 and 2013, the “Development and promotion of services and tools for the

LCO of unemployed persons, other jobseekers and inactive persons” project was underway. As part of this project, the ESS developed 11 new LCO tools which are all currently in use (see [www.spletisvojokariero.si](http://www.spletisvojokariero.si)). Between 2014 and 2020, 12 new tools used for career orientation of school-age youth (primary school, secondary school and university students) are expected to be developed. Key institutions in this area will be involved in the design of products (the National Education Institute, Institute for Vocational Training and Education, university career centres) in order to avoid any duplication of efforts.

The following tools are expected to be developed between 2014 and 2020:

- tools for establishing and/or simulating the work environment for occupations of interest (for school-age youth);
- contest for the best photo depicting an occupation;
- “What is going on in the career centre?” and “Why do I visit the career centre for young people” informative documentaries;
- “How do I use the ‘Where and how’ tool?” informative documentary;
- website - portal with the devices available;
- tool enabling self-assessment of successful transition from school to work;
- tool enabling evaluation of performance and appropriateness of the educational programme leading to a certain occupation;
- programme for encouraging education for occupations in excess demand in primary and secondary schools;
- programme aimed at encouraging socially disadvantaged school-age youth to improve learning and vocational competences;
- tools for adults - new tools launched in 2015;
- search tool for educational programmes based on the Holland typology (Self-Directed Search) for young people;
- online tools - aptitude tests used for determining potential.



- Giving jobs to counsellors for working with unemployed persons and jobseekers and cooperating with the relevant stakeholders (employers, educational institutions, social partners).
- Improving labour market demand and supply matching, especially through the development of multichannel services focused on the use of modern IT, solutions and services (the integration of service delivery with online, phone and mobile service platforms), as well as through the development and strengthening of service centres (e.g. employer offices organised as part of the ESS).
- Improving the quality of delivering labour market services and measures, and strengthening links between labour market institutions, especially in their support for unemployed persons, jobseekers and employers (firms) in matching labour market supply and demand.
- Preventing undeclared work, such as public awareness, promoting the awareness of persons in the labour market of their labour and employment rights, developing instruments for more efficient operations and strengthening of regulatory authorities, supporting the social partners in strengthening their role, especially with respect to the functioning of the labour market.

Target groups: labour market institutions and other institutions working in the field in question, jobseekers, unemployed persons and employers.

Beneficiaries: institutions in the labour market, such as the ESS, the Slovenian Human Resources Development and Scholarship Fund, social partners, control authorities, local and regional development institutions and others that contribute to achieving the objectives through their activities.

Within the framework of the third objective under this priority investment, Slovenia will especially support the following measures:

- Supporting the work of a national coordination office for EURES services organised as part of the ESS.

The measures will be aimed at services provided to jobseekers, employers and other users. Slovenia will:

- ensure and develop the implementation of EURES services, develop their own and participate in EURES cross-border or transnational employment projects and/or mobility schemes, especially those aimed at young jobseekers in the European labour market;
- organise special EURES mobility events aimed at encouraging mobility;
- develop and implement the training of EURES employees and partners, as well as cooperate at EURES coordination meetings and events at the EU level;
- monitor EURES service user satisfaction and conduct independent research of the labour market, especially from the point of view of the complementarity of the Slovenian labour market and those of other Member States.

The following e-training modules will be developed and used for the training of counsellors at the ESS and potential future EURES counsellors (and potential partners) in the 2014-2020 period:

- At least three short-term workshop modules (group-based training), which EURES counsellors will apply to jobseeker counselling activities.
- Four e-training modules for the training of counsellors at the ESS and potential future EURES counsellors which are aimed at strengthening the competences of counsellors.

Target groups: the ESS, jobseekers, especially young jobseekers.

Beneficiaries: the ESS, the social partners and others whose activities in this area contribute to achieving the set objective.



### 2.8.3.1.2 Guiding principles for the selection of operations

Identified horizontal principles will apply to the selection of future actions. In addition, priority will be given to projects that:

- involve areas with higher unemployment rates;
- are innovative with respect to integrating the target groups in the labour market (new methods and approaches to labour market measures);
- promote equality among women and men in access to employment and balancing work and family life;
- involve key stakeholders;
- match supply and demand in the labour market;

- contribute to the exchange of experiences, results and good practice at the regional, national and transnational level;

- where relevant, prioritise areas which are relevant to the green economy and embed wider objectives of sustainable development and smart specialisation.

### 2.8.3.1.3 Planned use of financial instruments

Not relevant.

### 2.8.3.1.4 Planned use of major projects

Not relevant.

### 2.8.3.1.5 Output indicators

**Table 46: Output indicators**

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region	Target value (2023)	Data source	Frequency of reporting
<b>Specific objective 1:</b>							
	Number of participants (in employment incentives)	Number	ESF	Both regions	25,000	Monitoring	Once a year
	Number of participants over 50 or less educated or long-term unemployed (in employment incentives)	Number	ESF	Both regions	20,000	Monitoring	Once a year
8.8	Number of participants (in employment incentives)	Number	ESF	Vzhodna Slovenija	15,000	Monitoring	Once a year
8.9	Number of participants over 50 or less educated or long-term unemployed (in employment incentives)	Number	ESF	Vzhodna Slovenija	12,000	Monitoring	Once a year
8.8	Number of participants (in employment incentives)	Number	ESF	Zahodna Slovenija	10,000	Monitoring	Once a year
8.9	Number of participants over 50 or less educated or long-term unemployed (in employment incentives)	Number	ESF	Zahodna Slovenija	8,000	Monitoring	Once a year
	Number of participants in education or training	Number	ESF	Both regions	20,000	Monitoring	Once a year
	Number of participants over 50 or less educated or long-term unemployed (in education or training)	Number	ESF	Both regions	16,000	Monitoring	Once a year
8.10	Number of participants in education or training	Number	ESF	Vzhodna Slovenija	12,000	Monitoring	Once a year
8.11	Number of participants over 50 or less educated or long-term unemployed (in education or training)	Number	ESF	Vzhodna Slovenija	9,600	Monitoring	Once a year
8.10	Number of education or training participants	Number	ESF	Zahodna Slovenija	8,000	Monitoring	Once a year
8.11	Number of participants over 50 or less educated or long-term unemployed (in education or training)	Number	ESF	Zahodna Slovenija	6,400	Monitoring	Once a year

ID	Indicator	Measure- ment unit	Fund	Category of region	Target value (2023)	Data source	Frequency of reporting
<b>Specific objective 2:</b>							
8.12	Number of LCO devices	Number	ESF	Zahodna Slovenija	12	Monitoring	Once a year
8.13	Number of counsellors employed	Number	ESF	Zahodna Slovenija	65	Monitoring	Once a year
<b>Specific objective 3:</b>							
8.14	Training modules for information and counselling as part of EURES services	Number	ESF	Zahodna Slovenija	7	Monitoring	Once a year

**2.8.4 Sustainable integration into the labour market of young people, in particular those not in employment, education or training, including young people at risk of social exclusion and young people from marginalised communities, including through implementation of the Youth Guarantee**

**SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 1: REDUCE YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT**

The crisis period hit young people most by exacerbating their labour market conditions, since youth unemployment and its labour market segmentation have increased significantly. The employment prospects of less educated and also highly educated young people have deteriorated as well. The labour market participation rate of young people aged 15-24 has fallen from 34.8% in 2008 to 26.5% in 2013, while the unemployment rate has grown from 10.4% in 2008 to 21.6% in 2013. The active employment rate of men (30.4%) is higher than that of women (23.7%), while the unemployment level of women (21.0%) is also higher than that of men (20.3%).

As a result of EU initiatives, Slovenia therefore adopted the Youth Guarantee, which pledges that every young person between 15 and 29 will be offered a job (including apprenticeships), on-the-job training, participation in formal education or short-term institutional or practical training within four months of their registration as unemployed with the ESS.

The Slovenian Youth Guarantee covers the target groups of young people up to 29 years of age. A high proportion of Slovenia's unemployed are aged between

25 and 29 (the ESS data show that as many as 60% of new cases registered are young people between 25 and 29 years of age, and that 60% of these persons come from Vzhodna Slovenija). Young people mainly enter the labour market after they have completed formal education. Most young people begin actively searching for a job after they have turned 20, and even more so after reaching 25.<sup>100</sup> This is also the result of high enrolment in tertiary education. Details about the challenges young persons face in the labour market can be found in the Youth Guarantee and the ESS Analysis: Young People and the Labour Market.

In addition to the Youth Guarantee, Slovenia has also adopted the 2014-2015 Youth Guarantee Implementation Plan. This will be regularly updated following cooperation with key stakeholders, including youth organisations, so as to ensure that by the end of the programming period high-quality labour market measures and services seeking youth unemployment reduction will be in place. The measures under the priority investment will also be supported by monies under the Youth Employment Initiative which is discussed under specific objective 2.

The expected result under this specific objective:

- increase the share of individuals with a job among the unemployed participating in labour market measures.

<sup>100</sup> Analiza ZRSZ: Mladi in trg dela, Maj 2013, [http://www.ess.gov.si/files/4809/mladi\\_in\\_trg\\_dela.pdf](http://www.ess.gov.si/files/4809/mladi_in_trg_dela.pdf) (ESS Analysis: Young People and the Labour Market, May 2013).

In order to achieve the above objective, ESF funds will be used to implement labour market measures seeking to providing young unemployed persons with high-quality jobs as quickly as possible. Most of the measures will be implemented across Slovenia, while the share of participants in each particular measure will, as a rule, be higher in the cohesion region of Vzhodna Slovenija. Special measures will also be implemented in those areas which are especially problematic in terms of youth employment prospects.

Despite the fact that, according to the evaluation and EU recommendations (including the Commission

recommendations for OP programing), the active labour market policy measures financed by the national funds and ESF funds between 2007 and 2013 have had a proven dampening effect on the impact of the economic crisis, and they lack focus on the special needs of particular target groups or areas. Hence, the country should not only strengthen active labour market policy measures in the 2014-2020 period but also differentiate between them to respond to the needs of particular target groups and areas. The share of participants to remain employed upon completion will thus be higher (by an expected 5.5 percentage points).

**Table 47: Specific result indicators, specific objective 1**

ID	Indicator	Category of region	Measurement unit	Common output indicator used as basis	Baseline value	Measurement unit for baseline and target	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Data source	Frequency of reporting
8.15	Average number of counselling sessions per counsellor	Zahodna Slovenija	Number	Not relevant	2,580	Number	2014	2,451	Monitoring	Once a year
8.16	Number of young people aged 15 to 29 in employment	Vzhodna Slovenija	Share	20	67	Share	2014	72	Monitoring	Once a year
8.16	upon leaving (employment incentives)	Zahodna Slovenija	Share	20	70	Share	2014	75	Monitoring	Once a year
8.17	Number of young people aged 15 to 29 in employment	Vzhodna Slovenija	Share	20	63	Share	2014	65	Monitoring	Once a year
8.17	upon leaving (education or training)	Zahodna Slovenija	Share	20	60	Share	2014	65	Monitoring	Once a year

**SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 2: IMPLEMENT THE YOUTH EMPLOYMENT INITIATIVE – REDUCE YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT OF THOSE NOT IN EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION OR TRAINING IN THE 15-29 AGE GROUP IN THE COHESION REGION OF VZHODNA SLOVENIJA**

The cohesion region of Vzhodna Slovenija is eligible for support under the Youth Employment Initiative. This specific objective seeks to further reduce youth unemployment of those not in employment, education or training in the 15-29 age group in the cohesion regi-

on of Vzhodna Slovenija. Many young people decide to continue their studies at the tertiary level, especially due to a lack of suitable job opportunities. As a result, many young people in the 25-29 age group are unemployed and have no work experience.

- The expected result under this specific objective: retained share of young persons from the cohesion region of Vzhodna Slovenija region participating in the labour market measures.

The anticipated result will be achieved through the implementation of the 'First Challenge' (Prvi izziv) programme, which covers a three-month trial period in which the young person gets to know their employer, work duties and workplace and further pursuit of career in the form of a subsidised one-year period of employment providing that both parties show an interest in this. Young people aged between 15 and 29 who live in the cohesion

region of Vzhodna Slovenija, are unemployed, including long-term unemployed, and are or are not registered job seekers, participate in the project.

A similar programme was implemented in the previous financial perspective, and proved to be very successful in helping to integrate young people into the labour market.

**Table 48: Specific result indicators, specific objective 2**

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Common output indicator used as basis	Baseline value	Measurement unit for baseline and target	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Data source	Frequency of reporting
CR01	Unemployed participants who complete the YEI supported intervention	Number		88	Share	2013	88	ESS	Annually
CR02	Unemployed participants who receive an offer of employment, continued education, apprenticeship or traineeship upon leaving	Number		74	Share	2013	74	ESS	Annually
CR03	Unemployed participants who are in education/training, gaining a qualification, or in employment, including self-employment, upon leaving	Number		0**	Share		0**		
CR04	Long-term unemployed participants who complete the YEI supported intervention	Number		88	Share	2013	88	ESS	Annually
CR05	Long-term unemployed participants who receive an offer of employment, continued education, apprenticeship or traineeship upon leaving	Number		66	Share	2013	66	ESS	Annually
CR06	Long-term unemployed participants who are in education/training, gaining a qualification, or are in employment, including self-employment, upon leaving	Nnumber		0**	Share		0**		
CR07	Inactive participants not in education or training who complete the YEI supported intervention	Number		0*	Share		0*		
CR08	Inactive participants not in education or training who receive an offer of employment, continued education, apprenticeship or traineeship upon leaving	Number		0*	Share		0*		
CR09	Inactive participants not in education or training who are in education/training, gaining a qualification, or are in employment, including self-employment, upon leaving	Number		0*	share		0*		

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Common output indicator used as basis	Baseline value	Measurement unit for baseline and target	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Data source	Frequency of reporting
CR10	Participants in continued education, training programmes leading to a qualification, an apprenticeship or a traineeship six months after leaving	Number		0**	Share		0**		
CR11	Participants in employment six months after leaving	Number		70	Share	2013	70	ESS	Annually
CR12	Participants in self-employment six months after leaving	Number		1	Share	2013	1	ESS	Annually

\*None of the persons included will be considered inactive as the supported programme requires the individual to be registered with the ESS as unemployed, which means that they are actively searching for a job.

\*\*The value is 0 since none of the persons participating in the programme will be included in the indicator of the anticipated education or training activity as they are employed and/or participation in the programme does not result in the indicator of the anticipated activity.

#### 2.8.4.1 Actions to be supported under the investment priority

2.8.4.1.1 A description of the type and examples of actions to be financed and their expected contribution to the corresponding specific objectives, including, where appropriate, identification:

The majority of the measures under the first specific objective follow the headline objective of the Youth Guarantee, i.e. immediate and targeted activation of unemployed youth undergoing the transition from education to employment. In order to ensure sustainable outcomes, the measures for stimulating employment and self-employment of youth will also include practical training and professional mentoring. Therefore, the young will gain valuable work experience while their competitiveness in the labour market will be significantly enhanced upon leaving the measure.

The following measures will be supported under the first specific objective of the priority investment:

- Incentives for employing unemployed young individuals aged up to and including 29, notably first job-seekers and the long-term unemployed.
- Incentives for providing apprenticeships/traineeships in areas where previous work experience is a prerequisite to get a job.
- On-the-job trainings and work trials at employers with a view to gaining practical work experience. The training will be tailored to suit the needs of each individual and will seek to improve the individual's employability.
- Promotion of tailored training and intergenerational transfer of knowledge and experience to the young, e.g. via youth mentoring schemes.
- Provision of short-term training and obtaining of national vocational qualifications for unemployed young people with a view to gaining additional skills and knowledge in order to improve employability.
- Promotion of enterprise and entrepreneurship among youth in order to facilitate and increase their employment or self-employment.
- Strengthening of counselling provided to young people at the ESS and targeted training of already employed job counsellors for work with young people, which will help get young people more involved in the counselling process and will give their job search a boost.
- Support for the promotion and development of active citizenship among youth with a view to creating jobs for young people in organisations that operate in the youth and non-governmental sector as well as promoting, developing and recording competences gained in non-formal and informal settings.

- Support for young people in their implementation of innovative projects that allow increased employment of this target group of unemployed, development of suitable skills and approaches to seeking jobs.
- Support for the development of new forms of employment, self-employment and living of young people to respond to societal challenges (e.g. within the framework of sustainable communities, self-sufficiency projects, exploitation of natural potentials for added value in rural areas, through youth work programmes etc.).

For active employment policy programmes (employment or training), the decision to include the target group in an individual action will be based on the guidance for working with the unemployed. Such guidance is specified under the internal rules and regulations of the Employment Service of Slovenia and identified under the employment plan which is agreed between the counsellor and the unemployed person.

Various similar activities to those planned for 2014-2020 were already implemented under the OP HRD 2007-2013 and proved to be successful. These will continue to receive support:

- Under priority axis 1.2 Education and training for competitiveness and employability, the programme called 'Entrepreneurially into the world of business' ('Podjetno v svet podjetništva') was carried out. The programme provided young unemployed people up to 35 years of age with tertiary, university or postgraduate education with skills and know-how to embark on an independent entrepreneurial path. Similar trainings for entrepreneurship targeting young people up to and including 29 years old regardless of their educational attainment and adapted to their desired activities and entrepreneurial idea are planned for the future.
- Under priority axis 1.4 Promotion of the development of new employment opportunities, promotion of self-employment received support: the measure was evaluated as effective, as approximately 60%

of the participants remained in self-employment for twelve months upon leaving; however it was also subject to criticism that there was no real safety net for the participants, who could easily slip into poverty. It was decided to replace the measure with a measure funded under the main type of activity 1.2 which provided thorough training and mentoring prior to opting for self-employment as well as a support network after embarking on the path of self-employment.

- Under priority axis 2.1 Promotion of the employability of job seekers and inactive people the 2007-2013 period saw promotion of youth employment, on-the-job training, short-term trainings and preparation for the national vocational qualifications, training of final year undergraduate students and creation of jobs for higher education graduates; these measures will be enhanced and upgraded in the 2014-2020 period in order to increase their efficiency.
- priority axis 4.1 Equal opportunities in the labour market and strengthening of social inclusion supported instruments for the promotion of employment of first-job seekers in the area of social services and the 'First Challenge' project (Prvi izziv).

Target groups: young people up to and including 29 years of age.

Beneficiaries: Institutions in the labour market, such as the ESS, the Human Resources Development and Scholarship Fund, the youth service, organisations operating in the youth sector, local and regional development institutions and others that contribute to the achievement of the objective through their activities.

The planned measures of the **Youth Employment Initiative**, i.e. the second specific objective, are part of the Youth Guarantee Implementation Plan programme, which was designed to achieve higher levels of youth employment. In view of the relatively low level of funding that Slovenia received under the Youth Employment Initiative, the country intends to allocate funds to support

just one programme, which will on the one hand encourage employers to hire young people up to and including 29 years of age, and on the other give them the chance to have a job for a 15-month period which includes a three-month trial period. Young people will thus obtain important first work experience and will see their employment prospects improve. A high quality of jobs will be guaranteed as these will build on an employment contract giving rights to individuals and will be attuned to the educational attainment of individuals.

Target groups: Young people aged 15 to 29 inclusive who live in the cohesion region of Vzhodna Slovenija, are unemployed, including long-term unemployed, and are or are not registered job seekers. The measure will target the target group of the Youth Employment Initiative in accordance with Regulation 1304/2013/EU, whereby Slovenia decided to enlarge the target group to include young people up to and including 29 years of age.

Beneficiaries: Employment Service of Slovenia.

#### 2.8.4.1.2 Guiding principles for the selection of operations

Identified horizontal principles will apply to the selection of future actions. In addition, priority will be given to projects that:

- involve areas with a higher unemployment rate;
- are innovative with respect to integrating the target groups in the labour market (new methods and approaches to the labour market measures);
- promote equality among women and men in access to employment and balancing work and family life;
- involve key stakeholders;
- match supply and demand in the labour market;
- contribute to the exchange of experiences, results and good practice at the regional, national and transnational level;
- where relevant, prioritise areas which are relevant to the green economy and embed wider objectives of sustainable development.

The selection of measures under the Youth Employment Initiative will, in addition to the above principles, prioritise projects that:

- involve employers and the unemployed with permanent residence in the cohesion region of Vzhodna Slovenija.

#### 2.8.4.1.3 Planned use of financial instruments

Not relevant.

#### 2.8.4.1.4 Planned use of major projects

Not relevant.

## 2.8.4.1.5 Output indicators

Table 49: Output indicators, specific objective 1

ID	Indicator (name of indicator)	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region	Target value (2023)	Data source	Frequency of reporting
8.18	Number of job counsellors working with unemployed youth	Number	ESF	Zahodna Slovenija	20	Monitoring	Annually
8.19	Number of young people aged 15 - 29 (employment incentives)	Number	ESF	Vzhodna Slovenija	3,800	Monitoring	Annually
		Number	ESF	Zahodna Slovenija	5,300	Monitoring	Annually
8.20	Number of young people aged 15 - 29 (education and training)	Number	ESF	Vzhodna Slovenija	6,900	Monitoring	Annually
		Number	ESF	Zahodna Slovenija	4,600	Monitoring	Annually

Table 50: Output indicators, specific objective 2

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Regional category	Target value (2023)	Data source	Reporting frequency
8.21	Unemployed, including long-term unemployed	Number	YEI	Vzhodna Slovenija	2,859	IS ESS	Annually
8.22	Long-term unemployed	Number	YEI	Vzhodna Slovenija	715	IS ESS	Annually
8.23	Inactive, not in education or training				0*		Annually
8.24	Below 25 years of age	Number	YEI	Vzhodna Slovenija	1,490	IS ESS	Annually
8.25	Aged 25–29	Number	YEI	Vzhodna Slovenija	1,369	IS ESS	Annually

\*None of the participants will be inactive persons as the supported programme envisages persons being registered in the records of unemployed persons with the ESS, meaning that they are actively searching for a job.

## 2.8.5 Active and healthy ageing

#### SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE: PROLONG AND IMPROVE LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION OF THE OLDER POPULATION PARTICIPATING IN MEASURES

The employment rate of people over 55 in Slovenia is exceptionally low (33.5% in 2013), due primarily to early retirement. There are more people with lower education levels among older workers than among workers

of any other age group. This is often coupled with no access to LLL and training, particularly those employed in micro enterprises and SMEs.

The pension reform, which was implemented in 2013, will contribute to a gradual increase in active employment rates of older people in the years to come, while the newly adopted labour laws from 2013 are also expected to have positive effects reflected in employers' newfound willingness to hire older people. Moreover, tax reliefs and co-financing/exemption of employers



from paying regulatory contributions for older workers or retaining older workers on the labour market should contribute significantly to their participation rates growing.

Slovenia records a high rate of sick leave and high levels of stress and burnout among workers aged from 30 to 50, which also stems from having difficulties in balancing work, family and private life. The 5<sup>th</sup> European Working Conditions Survey (Eurofound 2010<sup>101</sup>) shows that a total of 71.4% of respondents from the EU-27 over 50 believe that they could remain in their current job until the age of 60, while this opinion was shared by only 39.6% of Slovenians over 50. The differences between countries are considerable, but Slovenia recorded the worst results among Member States.

Therefore both workers and employers will have to adjust to new conditions in order to achieve the aforementioned objective. Mechanisms for a comprehensive monitoring of the labour market conditions and of the state of play in the area of pension and disability insurance are a must; these will facilitate the identification of root causes for the low labour force participation rate of older workers and low actual retirement age, and will assess the effects of already implemented legislative changes.

The cooperation between social partners and other institutions working to ensure a safe and healthy workplace and joining efforts for the implementation of reforms are crucial to achieving this objective. The cooperation of social partners and a high level of soci-

al dialogue will also be necessary in the future. Various measures under priority axis 11 are planned to maintain trust among the social partners and to improve the social dialogue at all levels.

The expected result under this specific objective:

- improved conditions and greater share of older workers who are prepared to work longer.

The ESF funding will be used to support measures seeking a greater share of workers older than 45 who are prepared to work longer, while at the same time providing high-quality jobs. Measures for ensuring health and safety at work and for balancing work, family and private life will also be supported for all workers, regardless of their age. In order to monitor the enforcement of legislation and any amendments to it, it will be necessary to support comprehensive analyses and other measures (such as promotion, awareness-raising, motivation and provision of information to the public, workers and employers) in order to ensure progress in fulfilling the EU's recommendations to Slovenia for ensuring the sustainability of the pension system and for adapting the workplace to longer working life.

Special attention will be paid to adapting the work environment to older workers and people with disabilities, and to the promotion of joint projects of social partners in this area. Measures will also be implemented for the efficient intergenerational transfer of knowledge and the development of systemic and innovative approaches to training older workers, in order to maintain high-quality jobs or facilitate the transition in the labour market.

101 "The 5<sup>th</sup> European Working Conditions Survey - Overview Report": [http://eurofound.europa.eu/sites/default/files/ef\\_files/publications/2011/82/en/1/EF1182EN.pdf](http://eurofound.europa.eu/sites/default/files/ef_files/publications/2011/82/en/1/EF1182EN.pdf)

Table 51: Specific result indicators

ItD	Indicator	Category of region	Measurement unit	Common output indicator used as basis	Baseline value	Measurement unit for baseline and target	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Data source	Frequency of reporting
8.26	Reducing absence from work in supported firms	Vzhodna Slovenija	Share	100	100	Share	2014	90	Monitoring	Once a year
8.26	Reducing absence from work in supported firms	Zahodna Slovenija	Share		100	Share	2014	90	Monitoring	once a year
8.27	Older workers who are prepared to work longer	Vzhodna Slovenija	Share		39	Share	2010	50	Monitoring	once a year
8.27	Older workers who are prepared to work longer	Zahodna Slovenija	Share		39	Share	2010	50	Monitoring	Once a year

### 2.8.5.1 Actions to be supported under the investment priority

2.8.5.1.1. Description of types and examples of actions to be financed and their expected contribution to the corresponding specific objectives, including, where appropriate, identification:

The demographic trends require a rapid response in the form of reactivation of older workers in the labour market, and in terms of retaining them in the labour market and creating working conditions adapted to older workers. Building on these findings, Slovenia will design further measures seeking to contribute to prolonging working lives and increasing active employment rates of older people.

Hence, Slovenia will put in place mechanisms for a comprehensive monitoring of the labour market situation and of the situation in the area of pension and disability insurance. These mechanisms will help identify the root-causes for the low active employment rates of the older population and the low actual retirement age and will assess the efficiency of already implemented changes to systemic legislation.

These integrated measures will have to take account of the complex interdependences between work, health, age and retirement. The decision of an individual whether to retire or not is largely based on various factors, where their health plays an important, even decisive role. Older workers in particular should therefore be given a working environment that will actually enable them to work longer, as safe working conditions contribute significantly to better health status. Appropriate measures in the area of safety and health at work will therefore be adopted and will target workers of all age groups. The measures will target maintaining workers' capacity for work throughout their working life.

Under this priority investment, Slovenia will especially support measures designed for:

- The adaptation of workplaces, the introduction and promotion of forms of work that respond to societal and demographic challenges (for instance job sharing, job rotation, job greening through reduction of environmental impacts and increased material and energy efficiency) and modern workplace development trends, and the promotion of socially responsible companies.

- The intergenerational transfer of knowledge, development of system-wide approaches to and support for projects for the development and implementation of new approaches (which will be primarily proposed by social partners) to training of workers over 45, and the development and implementation of motivation programmes for workers older than 45 in order to increase their participation in education and training and thus improve their competitiveness on the labour market.
- The promotion of programmes designed to ensure health and safety at work, including programmes for promoting health at the workplace, for all age categories at the level of firms/organisations, analyses of health and safety at work (which will serve as the basis for the development of a new strategy in the area in question), support for the introduction of tools for risk assessment in the area of health and safety at work, training of employers to use those tools and promotion of a culture of prevention.
- The promotion of balancing work, family and private life throughout the individual's lifespan, promotion of health-friendly improvements to the work and organisation environment and awareness-raising of the importance of health at work.
- The development of analyses, models, information systems to support the presentation of the effects of various pension systems in Slovenia (through the upgrading of existing models or those currently in development which do not cover the different variants of the pension system and the labour market) and to support the the objectives of active and healthy ageing and exchange of best practices with other EU Member States, with the objective of reducing early retirement.
- Promotion, awareness-raising, motivation and provision of information to the public, workers and employers about the importance of active and healthy ageing.

Target groups: workers, particularly workers older than 45, public institutions involved in the design and implementation of active ageing policies, private sector and social partners.

Beneficiaries: institutions in the labour market, public and private sector, social partners and others whose activities in this area can contribute to achieving the objectives of this investment priority.

Projects seeking intergenerational transfer of knowledge, the participation of older workers in education and training programmes, linking of firms in a particular field for knowledge transfer and development of knowledge and competences, e.g. mentoring schemes, co-financing of worker education and training, competence centres in the scope of the main type of activity 1.2 Education and training for competitiveness and employability of OP HRD. The main type of activity 1.4 Promotion of the development of new employment opportunities supported the projects of social partners by co-financing them. The experience gained in implementing these projects will be an important springboard for planning and implementing similar measures in the future.

#### 2.8.5.1.2. Guiding principles for the selection of operations

Identified horizontal principles will apply to the selection of future actions. In addition, priority will be given to projects that:

- involve key stakeholders or contribute to bringing together social partners and NGOs;
- promote equality between women and men, including in terms of their balancing work and family life;
- improve access for disabled people in order to increase their inclusion in the labour market;
- contribute to increasing the flexibility and competitiveness of firms and workers;
- contribute to the introduction of flexible forms of work;
- contribute to the exchange of experiences, results and good practice at the regional, national and transnational level;
- where relevant, prioritise areas relevant to the green economy and incorporate wider objectives of sustainable development.

## 2.8.5.1.3 Planned use of financial instruments

Not relevant.

## 2.8.5.1.4 Planned use of major projects

Not relevant.

## 2.8.5.1.5 Output indicators

Table 52: Output indicators

ID	Indicator (name of indicator)	Measurement unit	Fund	Regional category	Target value (2023)	Data source	Frequency of reporting
8.28	Number of older workers participating in training and motivation programmes	Number	ESF	Vzhodna Slovenija	5,000	Monitoring	Once a year
8.28	Number of older workers participating in training and motivation programmes	Number	ESF	Zahodna Slovenija	5,000	Monitoring	Once a year
8.29	Number of firms to implement absence reducing measures	Number	ESF	Vzhodna Slovenija	100	Monitoring	Once a year
8.29	Number of firms to implement absence reducing measures	Number	ESF	Zahodna Slovenija	100	Monitoring	Once a year

### 2.8.6 Social innovation, transnational cooperation and contribution to thematic objectives 1–7

Transnational partners to implement joint programmes contributing to increased employment and employability will be sought in the framework of the respective investment priorities under the priority axis. If possible, Slovenia will join those countries that will propose cooperation activities and will provide support to the development of own mobility schemes.

As in the previous programming period, support will be given to social innovations that increase the added value of programmes. Joint projects of social partners and labour market service providers will merit particular attention in making a contribution to the achievement of the set objective.

The activities under TO 8 will contribute to the successful transfer and use of know-how for more jobs of higher quality in accordance with the smart specialisation strategy. In light of population ageing, the working age population is estimated to start declining as early as beyond 2015; hence, the country needs measures that will create added value per employee and increased participation in the labour market among the working age population. To this end and in connection with TO 3, the following objectives in the area of employment policy will be pursued:

- providing a qualified workforce to respond to the needs of the economy, with an emphasis on priority areas of using smart specialisation;
- introducing new organisation and business models in the area of human resources management;

- achieving greater impact and synergies of the work of social partners in smart specialisation;
- adapting work processes to an ageing workforce,
- improving balancing of family and work life, ensuring a safe and healthy workplace.

Part of the funds under TO 8 will also be earmarked for fulfilling TO 5 on climate change. Support for the shift to a low-carbon society, resource efficiency and climate change resilience will thus also be achieved through

the creation of green jobs and an increase in competences in terms of the importance of a low-carbon society, energy efficiency and climate change. The measures will be implemented in the form of support for employment initiatives through the resource efficiency measure and transition to a low-carbon society, and through training and changes to education and training programmes with thematic areas in question. Funds amounting to EUR 10,000,000 will be allocated to these activities.

### 2.8.7 Performance framework

Priority axis	Indicator type (implementation step, financial, output or result indicator)	ID	Definition of the indicator or implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Fund	Category of region	Milestone for 2018	Final target (2023)	Source of data	Explanation of the relevance of the indicator, where appropriate
8	Output indicator	8.8	Number of participants (in employment incentives)	Number	ESF	Vzhodna Slovenija	6,600	15,000	Monitoring	52.34% of the ESF funds (not including YEI) under priority axis 8 in the cohesion region of Vzhodna Slovenija
8	Output indicator	8.8	Number of participants (in employment incentives)	Number	ESF	Zahodna Slovenija	4,400	10,000	Monitoring	34.05% of the ESF funds (not including YEI) under priority axis 8 in the cohesion region of Zahodna Slovenija
8	Output indicator	8.19	Number of young people aged 15 - 29 (employment incentives)	Number	ESF	Vzhodna Slovenija	1,500	3,800	Monitoring	15.47% of the ESF funds (not including YEI) under priority axis 8 in the cohesion region of Vzhodna Slovenija
8	Output indicator	8.19	Number of young people aged 15 - 29 (employment incentives)	Number	ESF	Zahodna Slovenija	2,000	5,300	Monitoring	21.05% of the ESF funds (not including YEI) under priority axis 8 in the cohesion region of Zahodna Slovenija
8	Financial indicator	F1	Input	EUR	ESF	Vzhodna Slovenija	60,100,000	171,948,738	Monitoring	
8	Financial indicator	F1	Input	EUR	ESF	Zahodna Slovenija	61,600,000	176,207,595	Monitoring	

Performance framework – YEI										
Priority axis	Indicator type (implementation step, financial indicator, output or, where applicable, result indicator)	ID	Definition of the indicator or implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Fund	Category of region	Milestone for 2018	Final target (2023)	Source of data	Explanation of the relevance of the indicator, where appropriate
8	Output indicator	8.21	Unemployed, including the long-term unemployed	Number	YEI	Vzhodna Slovenija	2,859	2,859	Monitoring	100% of the YEI funds under priority axis 8
8	Financial indicator	F1	Invested funds	EUR	YEI	Vzhodna Slovenija	20,725,956	20,725,956	Monitoring	

### 2.8.8 Categories of intervention

Fund and intervention field: ESF, Vzhodna Slovenija									
Table 1: Domain of intervention		Table 2: Form of financing		Table 3: Type of territory		Table 4: Territorial delivery mechanisms		Table 6: ESF secondary theme	
Code	EUR amount	Code	EUR amount	Code	EUR amount	Code	EUR amount	Code	EUR amount
102	88,065,129	01	88,065,129	05	88,065,129	05	88,065,129	01	2,567,830
103	30,009,627	01	30,009,627	05	30,009,627	05	30,009,627	01	2,567,830
107	19,484,234	01	19,484,234	05	19,484,234	05	19,484,234	00	
103	18,423,072	01	18,423,072	05	18,423,072	05	18,423,072	00	

Fund and intervention field: ESF, Zahodna Slovenija									
Table 1: Domain of intervention		Table 2: Form of financing		Table 3: Type of territory		Table 4: Territorial delivery mechanisms		Table 6: ESF secondary theme	
Code	EUR amount	Code	EUR amount	Code	EUR amount	Code	EUR amount	Code	EUR amount
102	82,979,312	01	82,979,312	05	82,979,312	05	82,979,312	01	2,432,170
103	42,990,373	01	42,990,373	05	42,990,373	05	42,990,373	01	2,432,170
107	14,996,391	01	14,996,391	05	14,996,391	05	14,996,391	00	

### 2.8.9 Summary of the planned use of technical assistance including, where necessary, actions to reinforce the administrative capacity of authorities involved in the management and control of the programmes and beneficiaries (where appropriate)

Not relevant.

## 2.9 Social inclusion and poverty reduction

### 2.9.1 Explanation for the establishment of a priority axis covering more than one category of region or more than one thematic objective or more than one Fund

Measures under this priority axis will be implemented in a horizontal manner across the whole of Slovenia (particularly certain systemic measures), as well as separately so as to meet the needs of a particular cohesion region and local community. Horizontal measures that will mainly be supported by pilot tests will be implemented and located either in both cohesion regions at the same time or only in the cohesion region of Vzhodna Slovenija, and will receive funding depending on the location.

The objective of improving access and quality of community-based services will be financed from the ESF and ERDF, in order to provide the greatest possible effect of individual measures. For instance, services supported by ESF funding will also be complemented with investments from the ERDF in the necessary accompanying infrastructure.

Investment priorities will be linked and measures and activities will complement each other in order to develop a comprehensive approach to solving the problems of social exclusion and poverty. The links created between measures and activities will be highlighted during the promotion of social entrepreneurship, social activation measures and the development and strengthening of community-based services that will pursue measures for extension and improvement of infrastructure for implementing the process of deinstitutionalisation. This will stimulate the participation of social enterprises in the implementation of social activation programmes, and later on particularly the employment of people exiting social activation programmes. At the same time, these measures will provide social enterprises and other organisations with their area of work and operation within the framework of newly-developed and improved community-based services.

Local development strategies (LDS) led by the community will be implemented at the local or subregional level; these represent a tool for promoting integrated local development according to the “bottom up” principle and allow the local population to set its own priorities and development objectives and make decisions regarding local development. The objective is to promote social inclusion, fight poverty and all forms of discrimination, reduce regional disparities and boost the economic development of regions. In addition, this will make a significant contribution to environmental protection, nature conservation and preservation of cultural heritage. A further challenge is how to strengthen and increase the capacity of local development partnerships and improve decision-making on development by partnerships as a means for a targeted and coordinated approach to solving development challenges of local areas at the lowest level. The innovation potential particularly of problem areas can serve as the basis for the formation of networks and establishment of partnerships.

Community-led local development (CLLD) will be implemented in areas of established local action groups (LAGs), except in urban settlements of urban municipalities. LDSs that will be implemented under priority axis 9 will also be supported by ERDF funding.

### 2.9.2 Fund, category of region and basis for Union support calculation

ESF	
Fund	ESF
Category of region	Vzhodna Slovenija, Zahodna Slovenija
Basis for calculation (total eligible expenditure or eligible public expenditure)	Total eligible cost
ERDF	
Fund	ERDF
Category of region	Vzhodna Slovenija, Zahodna Slovenija
Basis for calculation (total eligible expenditure or eligible public expenditure)	Total eligible cost

### 2.9.3 Active inclusion, including with a view to promoting equal opportunities and active participation, and improving employability

#### SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 1: ESTABLISH AN INTEGRATED MODEL OF SOCIAL ACTIVATION

Recognition of the problems of socially excluded people with a high poverty risk is of crucial importance to implementing successful measures in this area. Slovenia lacks adequately developed networks and activities that would lead to an integrated approach; hence the initial years of OP implementation should focus in particular on support to the development and establishment of the social activation model which will provide for transparent, coordinated and comprehensive treatment of individuals by bringing together all relevant institutions and existing systems in this area.

The need for a standardised and systemic definition of the concept of social activation, including the development of programmes, was also underlined in the evaluation of the pilot social activation project that was carried out in the previous financial perspective.<sup>102</sup>

Given the fact that a number of structures are already well established and operating particularly in the context of existing institutions, such as social work centres, community healthcare centres, education and training institutions and the Employment Service of Slovenia, Slovenia does not intend to establish new ones, but will rather link up and improve the operations of existing structures and institutions. These institutions mostly provide only basic passive measures, not activation measures. In this sense, it is crucial to ensure that the relevant staff receives adequate training and that existing IT systems are fully upgraded so as to allow high-quality substantive monitoring of the activities and their continuous evaluation and adaptation.

The expected result under this specific objective:

- a well-developed and established model and tools which ensure a comprehensive and high-quality approach to addressing individuals from the target groups.

In order to achieve the aforementioned objective, ESF funds will be used to support activities in response to the above evaluation, which finds that “there is as yet no standardised definition of the concept of social activation in Slovenia, but in order to develop the programmes it is crucial to define the objectives of such programmes, what to expect from them, which target groups they should reach out to, what content they should include, who should implement them and, in particular, how social activation programmes should be integrated into other already existing programmes. Hence, **a comprehensive review of the existing types of programmes should be carried out at the national level, and subsequent integration of social activation into the existing network.** Later, during the process of developing these programmes, it will be necessary to establish systemic mechanisms for the participation of target groups in the programmes, while thinking out really well the objectives **to ensure that target groups are addressed at all levels and at all times**, be it exiting social activation programmes or employment programmes and labour market adjustments. This will require a system-wide increase in the supply of tailored jobs that match the needs of specific groups and improve the prospects for labour market integration of individuals otherwise unable to participate productively in the regular labour market. If not, the social activation programme will yield no effects and will not produce what they were designed for in the first place – i.e. facilitate real transition.”

Regardless of the above findings of the evaluation, focus will be placed on the target groups listed under specific objective 2 of this priority investment.

<sup>102</sup> Evaluation of the programme Encouragement of inactive persons who have been far from the labour market for longer periods of time for their re-integration into the labour market through in-depth individual and group-based treatment, Social Protection Institute of the Republic of Slovenia ([http://www.irssv.si/upload2/Spodbujanje%20neaktivnih\\_koncno%20porocilo.pdf](http://www.irssv.si/upload2/Spodbujanje%20neaktivnih_koncno%20porocilo.pdf)).



Table 53: Specific result indicators, specific objective 1

ID	Indicator	Category of region	Measurement unit	Common output indicator used as basis	Baseline value	Measurement unit for baseline and target	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Data source	Frequency of reporting
9.1	Share of operational regional mobile units	Vzhodna Slovenija	Share		100	Share	2014	100	Monitoring	Once a year
	Share of operational regional mobile units	Zahodna Slovenija	Share		100	Share	2014	100	Monitoring	Once a year
9.2	Trainers to complete training* or gain a qualification	Vzhodna Slovenija	Share		100	Share	2014	100	Monitoring	Once a year
	Trainers to complete training* or gain a qualification	Zahodna Slovenija	Share		100	Share	2014	100	Monitoring	Once a year

\*Participants are considered to have completed the programme if they obtained a certificate or a public document proving that they completed a programme which equips them with a new competence of a new level of education.

#### SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 2: EMPOWER TARGET GROUPS TO BRING THEM CLOSER TO THE LABOUR MARKET

Activities under this specific objective will target individuals who encounter numerous obstacles in entering the labour market which push them towards social exclusion and life below the poverty threshold. As already stated, the country lacks analyses and studies that would help identify the target groups to participate in social activation programmes, these groups being that much less identified at the level of the two cohesion regions. Nevertheless, we do believe that it would be best to focus primarily on the users of various healthcare and social care programmes in their final stages of following the programmes (e.g. persons suffering from alcohol or drug abuse and dependence, victims of violence and abuse, persons suffering from mental health disorders, homeless people, prisoners being released). Most of these individuals have more than one of the listed specifics which hamper their labour market integration.

For some of these groups, Slovenia in fact already has basic programmes in place that cover the aspects of social and healthcare integration (the homeless, persons suffering from mental health disorders, persons suffering from alcohol or drug abuse and dependence, prisoners) which will further receive national funding. However, we find that the funding is not sufficient to efficiently counter the obstacles that hinder these people from entering the labour market. The current provision of programmes targeting the long-term unemployed and socially excluded is low, given that employment initiatives and job creation initiatives in 2012 covered 1,653 recipients of financial social assistance, which is a mere 3% of the total recipients in 2012.

Furthermore, the programmes implemented by various institutions are not linked, and upgrading of these programmes will complement the measures under the first specific objective of this investment priority in order to enhance their efficiency.

The growth in the NEET population goes hand in hand with soaring youth unemployment figures. Slovenia supported targeted programmes to address these issues in the previous programming period (Project Learning for Young Adults); these facilitate integration for young people and deliver outstanding results. In 2013, Slovenia recorded a 48% school returns rate, 26% of the total participating population being in employment upon leaving, 18% of them decided to further pursue their education while working and 6% of participants embarked on an entrepreneurial path to realise their business idea. In view of the situation in the labour market, we would like to have these programmes updated and upgraded in the future, while improving their relevance to the labour market. The measures under this

priority investment will thus be complementary to the measures under thematic objectives 8 and 10 intended for the young.

The expected result under this specific objective:

- increase the share of the vulnerable target group engaged in job searching, in education or training, in gaining of a qualification or in employment upon leaving.

In order to achieve the above objective, ESF funds will be used for the development and implementation of social inclusion and social activation programmes to help the participants gain competences that bring them closer to the labour market.

**Table 54: Specific result indicators, specific objective 2**

ID	Indicator	Category of region	Measurement unit	Common output indicator used as basis	Baseline value	Measurement unit for baseline and target	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Data source	Frequency of reporting
9.3	Vulnerable target group engaged in job search, in education/training*, in gaining a qualification or in employment upon leaving	Vzhodna Slovenija	Share	Share	22	Share		25	Monitoring	Once a year
		Zahodna Slovenija	Share	Share	22	Share		25	Monitoring	Once a year

\* Participants are considered to have completed the programme if they obtained a certificate or a public document proving that they completed a programme which equips them with a new competence of a new level of education.

### **SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 3: PREVENT THE SLIDE INTO POVERTY OR SOCIAL EXCLUSION AND REDUCE HEALTH INEQUALITIES**

Low educational attainment, incomplete education, cultural diversity, precarious and low-paid employment and severe material deprivation are significant factors leading to poor health, sliding into poverty, social exclusion and health inequalities.

Timely recognition of various risk factors and provision of adequate psycho-social support, and empowerment towards healthy lifestyles are therefore crucial, particularly for the following population groups: families with low work intensity, single-parent families, families with a history of violence; children and adolescents on the verge of social exclusion for various reasons (such as absence of any real family life, behavioural problems, mental health or development problems, children and young with special needs, children of migrants, the Roma, etc.) and the elderly.

Patterns of material deprivation or poverty are transferred from generation to generation and affect and shape an individual's mental health and lifestyle, which is reflected in poor health. This in turn is one of the most significant reasons for slipping into poverty. Participation in preventive programmes, early detection programmes and programmes of comprehensive treatment of chronic diseases is low among vulnerable population groups, plus these groups tend to respond poorly to existing preventive programmes. Therefore it is necessary to develop new or upgrade existing preventive programmes in order to reach the above-mentioned target groups and adapt the programmes to meet their needs. The designed programmes will provide participants with support and give them additional knowledge and skills which they can use to more timely recognise their own risk factors and respond to them in the context of material deprivation and other unfavourable life situations.

Expressing one's cultural identity and participating in the cultural life of the wider society is the basic condition for social inclusion of individuals (e.g. members of minority ethnic groups with a different cultural identity, people with disabilities etc.). The National Programme

for Culture 2014-2017 envisages a dedicated measure tailored to increase social inclusion of these groups in the wider social environment. The measure was designed following consultation with the representatives of the target groups in question, who expressed their need for increased social inclusion. A special programme for increased access to cultural goods will enhance social inclusion of the members of the target groups concerned.

The expected result under this specific objective:

- development and upgrade of efficient approaches and programmes for preventing the slide into poverty and social exclusion, and for reducing health inequalities.

ESF support will be used to develop and upgrade the programmes preventing the slide into poverty and social exclusion. The prevention programmes under this specific objective (outlined in the last three incidents of types of measures under specific objective 3 which relate to the Resolution on the National Health Care Plan 2015 – 2020) will not be implemented until the Commission confirms that the ex-ante conditionality is fulfilled.

**Table 55: Specific result indicators, specific objective 3**

ID	Indicator	Category of region	Measurement unit	Common output indicator used as basis	Baseline value	Measurement unit for baseline and target	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Data source	Frequency of reporting
9.4	Number of intergenerational centres and family centres implementing the programme six months after the completion of intervention	Vzhodna Slovenija	Share		50	Share	2014	50	Monitoring	Once a year
		Zahodna Slovenija	Share		50	Share	2014	50	Monitoring	Once a year
9.5	Number of community healthcare centres implementing the planned measures six months after the completion of intervention	Vzhodna Slovenija	Share		50	Share	2014	50	Monitoring	Once a year
9.5	Share of community healthcare centres implementing the planned measures 6 months after the completion of intervention	Zahodna Slovenija	Share		50	Share	2014	50	Monitoring	Once a year

### 2.9.3.1 Actions to be supported under the investment priority

2.9.3.1.1 Description of types and examples of actions to be financed and their expected contribution to the corresponding specific objectives, including, where appropriate, identification:

The following measures are foreseen under the first specific objective:

- Development and establishment of a comprehensive model of social activation ensuring transparent, coordinated and integrated treatment of people and bringing together the relevant institutions, including:
  - carrying out analyses needed for the development of the social activation system;
  - establishing single entry points in the social activation system and employment, training and other forms of supporting the work of staff in single entry points, including for the treatment of the people included;
  - putting in place a system of cooperation between all relevant institutions and creating the relevant protocols for the cooperation and training of trainers (staff that will transfer knowledge from one part of the institution to another) at these institutions;
  - upgrading of information systems for efficient monitoring of the implementation of social activation programmes and the people participating therein, and developing information tools to support the implementing organisations and citizens in exercising their rights to use public funds.

Target groups: single entry points into the social activation system and participating institutions and their staff.

Beneficiaries: social work centres (including The Association of Centres for Social Work), healthcare centres, education and training institutions, Employment Service of Slovenia, providers of social services and programmes, the police, prison facilities, non-governmental

organisations and humanitarian organisations, local and regional development institutions, youth centres, social enterprises, employment centres, private organisations and social partners and others who contribute to the implementation of the measures under the investment priority through their work and activities.

The following measures are foreseen under the second specific objective:

- Development of interdisciplinary social activation programmes and selection of the relevant providers of the programmes and their additional training, if relevant.
- Implementation of social activation and social inclusion programmes that are tailor-made to contend with the specific difficulties of the target groups (particularly of difficulties identified in the introduction part under the specific objective text) with regard to social inclusion and labour market integration, with a view to empowering them and boosting employability before entering the labour market or before embarking upon a job search, and during the initial employment period. The following will be supported:
  - linking social activation programmes with employment programmes and developing tailored forms of work where people will be included after exiting the social activation programmes, in transitions between programmes and transitions from programmes to the labour market or to employment in social enterprises, and other types of work and programmes, notably in the NGO sector, with a view to further pursuing monitoring and providing support to people after they exit social activation programmes, while ensuring that complementarities and coordination between the activities of other priority axes and investment priorities under the priority are achieved at all times (particularly 8 and 10);
- Development and establishment of tailored forms of work for people who exit the above-mentioned activation programmes, but are unable to enter the labour market due to their specific difficulties, or unable to perform at least part-time work, which is

a precondition for being included in social entrepreneurship, which will be supported under the fourth investment priority, and public work which is funded from the national budget.

Target groups: in particular users of various healthcare and social service programmes during the final phase of treatment (e.g. persons suffering from alcohol or drug abuse and dependence), victims of violence and abuse, persons suffering from mental health disorders, homeless people, prisoners being released, young people who are not in employment, training or education, participating in the measure Project-based Learning for Young Adults.

Beneficiaries: social work centres (including The Association of Centres for Social Work), healthcare centres, education and training institutions, Employment Service of Slovenia, providers of social services and programmes, the police, prison facilities, non-governmental organisations and humanitarian organisations, local and regional development institutions, youth centres, social enterprises, employment centres, private organisations and social partners and others who contribute to the implementation of the investment priority measures through their work and activities.

The following measures are foreseen under the third specific objective:

- Development or upgrading and implementation of prevention programmes which are carried out mainly in existing or ESF-supported (particularly from the perspective of employment and training of staff) intergenerational centres and family centres, for:
  - work with families with children (teaching money management and household management skills, etc.) and work with families with a history of violence (e.g. the development of family centres in areas with increased levels of poverty risk);
  - comprehensive treatment of children and the young from distressed and threatened environments or children and the young who are at risk of social exclusion for various reasons, with

the objective of empowering them and boosting their social and cultural competency, which can also be carried out under the auspices of networks of institutions or NGOs;

- elderly people from deprived social backgrounds, including "ageing well" programmes for those in the post-retirement period (learning to plan their lives in a significantly changed material situation etc.).
- Increased social inclusion of members of minority ethnic groups and disabled people; a special programme for increased access to cultural goods will help reduce the risk of social exclusion of members of ethnic minorities and disabled people while bringing them closer to the labour market.
- Development of new and improvement of existing prevention programmes and their implementation, particularly at healthcare centres whose operations are financed from the national budget:
  - awareness-raising programmes and support for increased healthcare literacy and implementation of programmes supporting a healthy lifestyle for the target groups;
  - upgrade of existing and development and implementation of new programmes at healthcare centres to make them able to respond better to the needs of the target groups, including education and training of providers;
  - upgrade of programmes at healthcare centres for managing chronic diseases and risk factors, including support for behavioural changes and connections to social services in order to prevent social exclusion and underemployment of the chronically ill.

Target groups: families with low work intensity, individuals, particularly children and young people at risk of social exclusion, elderly people from deprived social backgrounds, population groups with increased risk of chronic disease, minority ethnic communities, disabled people and the Roma.

Beneficiaries: social work centres (The Association of Centres for Social Work), healthcare centres, educa-

tion and training institutions, Employment Service of Slovenia, providers of social services and programmes, the police, prison facilities, non-governmental organisations and humanitarian organisations, local and regional development institutions, intergenerational centres and family centres, youth centres, social enterprises, employment centres, private organisations and social partners and others who contribute to the implementation of the investment priority measures through their work and activities.

#### 2.9.3.1.2 Guiding principles for the selection of operations

The identified horizontal principles will apply to the selection of future measures. In addition, priority will be given to projects that:

- are aligned in the part referring to integrated social activation programmes and prevention programmes for vulnerable groups and to programmes for supporting healthy lifestyles;
- contribute to the development of service activities and the NGO sector;
- encourage social entrepreneurship and job creation for vulnerable groups, if relevant;
- specify areas with a higher number of long-term recipients of financial social assistance;

- are innovative under social activation measures by integrating target groups into the labour market (new methods and approaches of labour market measures);
- promote equal opportunities for target groups and equal opportunities for women and men;
- involve key stakeholders;
- contribute to the exchange of experiences, results and good practices at the regional, national and transnational level;
- where relevant, prioritise areas relevant to the green economy and incorporate wider objectives of sustainable development;

Certain specific additional selection principles will be formulated upon issuing the call for proposals.

#### 2.9.3.1.3 Planned use of financial instruments

Not relevant.

#### 2.9.3.1.4 Planned use of major projects

Not relevant.

#### 2.9.3.1.5 Output indicators

**Table 56: Output indicators**

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region	Baseline value	Target value (2023)	Data source	Frequency of reporting
<b>Specific Objective 1:</b>							
9.6	Number of established regional mobile units	Number	ESF	Vzhodna Slovenija	8	Monitoring	Once a year
	Number of established regional mobile units	Number	ESF	Zahodna Slovenija	4	Monitoring	Once a year
9.7	Number of trainers participating in training	Number	ESF	Vzhodna Slovenija	288	Monitoring	Once a year
	Number of trainers participating in training	Number	ESF	Zahodna Slovenija	192	Monitoring	Once a year

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region	Baseline value	Target value (2023)	Data source	Frequency of reporting
<b>Specific Objective 2:</b>							
9.8	Number of people from vulnerable target groups participating in programme	Number	ESF	Vzhodna Slovenija	10,450	Monitoring	Annually
	Number of vulnerable target group individuals participating in the programme	Number	ESF	Zahodna Slovenija	8,550	Monitoring	Annually
<b>Specific Objective 3:</b>							
9.9	Number of supported intergenerational centres and family centres	Number	ESF	Vzhodna Slovenija	10	Monitoring	Annually
	Number of supported intergenerational centres and family centres	Number	ESF	Zahodna Slovenija	5	Monitoring	Annually
9.10	Number of supported healthcare centres	Number	ESF	Vzhodna Slovenija	16	Monitoring	Annually
	Number of supported healthcare centres	Number	ESF	Zahodna Slovenija	9	Monitoring	Annually

#### **2.9.4 Enhancing access to affordable, sustainable and high-quality services, including health care and social services of general interest**

##### **SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE: PILOT TESTING OF APPROACHES FOR IMPROVED INTEGRATION OF LONG-TERM CARE SERVICES**

At present, Slovenia lacks a uniform long-term care system. Services and rights arise from various existing systems – the healthcare, pension and disability system and the social services system. Considering the demographic structure there is a need for reform that will provide for establishment of a uniform system of accessible and high-quality community-based services for those who most need assistance and help, and for reduction or postponement of the need of individuals for institutional forms of care.

A new legislative package in the area of long-term care in Slovenia is being drafted to provide comprehensive provisions governing funding and implementation in this area. A two-year transitional period is foreseen in accordance with the proposed act in which the conditions for its implementation will have to be provided. The key planned activities in this context are the establishment and operation of single entry points that repre-

sent the framework for delivering preparation for treatment (standardised triage process), treatment of people by interdisciplinary committees for assessing needs and entitlement to integrated services (healthcare and social) and funding for long-term care, monitoring of long-term care services beneficiaries and funding, and coordination of the development of integrated community-based services. Furthermore, this will require qualified staff, hence, it will also be necessary to provide training of professional staff in the context of the triage process, and of the staff providing integrated long-term care services and control staff, development of ICT support for implementing the services, development and upgrading of community-based services and support for informal types of services.

The ESF will support all listed activities via pilot projects, their development, implementation and findings, which will be taken into account during the roll-out of reformed long-term care system, whose operation will later be financed from the national budget. The training of professional staff will also be partially funded by the ESF during the implementation of the system.

Most of the ESF funding will be earmarked for activities relating to the development and implementation of

integrated community-based services for the elderly on a pilot basis, with a smaller proportion of funds earmarked for activities relating to the development and implementation of services on a pilot basis in the context of deinstitutionalisation of mental health and treatment of people with developmental disorders, disabled people and clients of occupational therapy centres, social services institutions, special and combined social services institutions, training institutions, and those who require emergency shelter or accommodations upon exiting the foster care system.

In 2014 there were approximately 21,000 people in institutions providing formal and informal long-term care, while long-term care in the form of formal and informal services and rights is received by around another 39,000 people. In accordance with the Resolution on the National Social Protection Programme

for the 2013-2020 period the country is pursuing the objective of having one third of potential users of the services in institutions, one third in formal forms of community-based care and one third in informal forms of care after the reform.

The current community-based services, such as home assistance, visiting nurse services and home care, personal assistance (employees, employable disabled people) and family assistants are currently provided for the elderly, adults and children with disabilities and mental health and developmental disorders. The future objective is to upgrade, redesign or integrate some of these services, and to develop new ones as necessary.

The expected result under this specific objective:

- a single entry point in the long-term care system in place.

**Table 57: Specific result indicators**

ID	Indicator	Category of region	Indicator measurement unit	Common output indicator used as basis	Baseline value	Measurement unit for baseline and target	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Data source	Frequency of reporting
9.11	Average number of treatments per coordinator	Vzhodna Slovenija	Number	Not relevant	250	number	2014	160	Monitoring	Once a year
9.12	Number of participants not included in institutions upon leaving	Vzhodna Slovenija	Share	Not relevant	90	Share	2014	90	Monitoring	Once a year
9.13	Number of elderly not included in institutions upon leaving	Vzhodna Slovenija	Share	Not relevant	85	Share	2014	85	Monitoring	Once a year
9.14	Number of adults and children not included in institutions upon leaving	Vzhodna Slovenija	Share	Not relevant	100	Share	2014	100	Monitoring	Once a year
9.12	Number of participants not included in institutions upon leaving	Zahodna Slovenija	Share	Not relevant	90	Share	2014	90	Monitoring	Once a year
9.13	Number of elderly not included in institutions upon leaving	Zahodna Slovenija	Share	Not relevant	85	Share	2014	85	Monitoring	Once a year
9.14	Number of adults and children not included in institutions upon leaving	Zahodna Slovenija	Share	Not relevant	100	Share	2014	100	Monitoring	Once a year



### 2.9.4.1 Actions to be supported under the investment priority

2.9.4.1.1 Description of types and examples of actions to be financed and their expected contribution to the corresponding specific objectives, including, where appropriate, identification:

In addition to the measures funded with the objective of establishing single entry points, which is discussed in greater detail in the introduction to the priority investment, support will also be allocated to various measures for the development of integrated community-based forms of social and healthcare services in the area of long-term care, and the development and implementation of efficient models of modernisation of social and healthcare services in order to implement the deinstitutionalisation process. The coordination of the process will be conducted via single entry points.

Slovenia needs faster development of community-based services, which are less developed than institutional forms of care and assistance. One of the key conditions for the implementation of deinstitutionalisation is the linking of primary social and healthcare services (linking of home social and healthcare services, daily care and short-term placement) and ensuring equal access to them in both urban and rural areas. These ambitious plans in connection with strengthening community-based forms of assistance and deinstitutionalisation processes will also require the much-needed modernisation of implementation networks in the social services and healthcare fields, including and above all in connection with education and training of staff to design and implement new forms of community-based assistance for individual target groups, and strengthening of cooperation between formal and informal providers (e.g. community-based services for dementia, palliative care, development and support for the concept of family assistants, treatment of people with serious mental disabilities within the community).

The aim is to enable primarily the elderly to remain in their local environment for as long as possible

with adequate community-based assistance and support, and to see a certain share of those who are currently institutionalised (e.g. people with long-term mental health issues, children and youth and people with developmental disabilities, and people with multiple disabilities) to return to their local environment or community. In this regard, it will be necessary to establish links with the local environment, primarily from the perspective of identifying the actual needs and capacities for support within the community. Also, this will require cooperation with NGOs, which represent an important gateway to users, and the development of preventive and innovative community-based services. It will also be necessary to enable the existing institutions to appropriately redesign their services. We would like the providers of institutional care to develop and expand their range of services to include community-based services for the elderly, as they have all the required knowledge and experience. Approximately 30% of nursing homes already provide community-based services, which we would like to expand to at least 50% of the providers of institutional care.

Alongside the above-mentioned activities the country intends to develop programmes that suit the needs of individual target groups in order to develop community-based services that will support the deinstitutionalisation process (e.g. clients of occupational therapy centres, social service institutions, special and combined social services institutions, training institutions, those who require emergency shelter or accommodation upon exiting the foster care system). For some of the groups in question there are no adequately adapted programmes and services within the scope of the current system.

The programmes under this specific objective, which are connected to the Resolution on the National Health Care Plan 2015–2020, will not be implemented until the Commission confirms that the ex-ante conditionality is fulfilled.

- In support of the reforms of long-term care, support will be provided for the following measures, which are intended primarily for the elderly population:

- implementation of pilot projects that will support the transition to enactment of the systemic law on long-term care, and which will include:
    - establishment and operation of single entry points;
    - training of professional staff;
    - development of ICT-supported services and ICT support structures;
  - adaptation and redesign of existing networks of institutional care and entry of new providers in order to offer community-based services and programmes for the elderly, which will include in particular:
    - performance of needs analysis in individual regions, development of concepts, etc.;
    - staff education and training;
    - implementation of developed community-based services with inclusion of users on a pilot basis (one project per region for redesigning the existing networks and one project per region for new providers of community-based services).
  - In order to provide community-based services for adults and children that allow them to lead partially independent lives:
    - analysis of needs and costs and legislative changes required for the encouragement of exit from institutions through the development of a network of key persons;
    - development of community-based programmes and services that will support the deinstitutionalisation process for individual target groups of users of institutional care with mental health and developmental disorders (particularly clients of occupational therapy centres, social service institutions, special and combined social services institutions, training institutions, those who require emergency shelter or accommodation upon exiting the foster care system), who are capable of partially independent living, including the development of alternative and innovative forms of residence for all age groups of users.
- Target groups: professional and technical personnel within the single entry point, providers of services and programmes and individuals who need integrated community-based services and programmes
- Beneficiaries: public providers of healthcare and social care services and programmes and their communities, education and training institutions, non-governmental organisations and humanitarian organisations, local and regional development institutions, institutions and associations of institutions, providers of social services and programmes, youth centres, social enterprises, employment centres, private organisations and social partners and others who contribute to the implementation of measures of the investment priority through their work and activities.
- 2.9.4.1.2 Guiding principles for the selection of operations
- The identified horizontal principles will apply to the selection of future measures. In addition, priority will be given to projects that:
- include areas where community-based services are much less available;
  - promote access for disabled people;
  - involve key stakeholders;
  - contribute to the exchange of experiences, results and good practice at the regional, national and transnational level.
- Certain specific additional selection principles will be formulated upon the issuing of the call for proposals.
- 2.9.4.1.3. Planned use of financial instruments
- Not relevant.
- 2.9.4.1.4. Planned use of major projects
- Not relevant.

## 2.9.4.1.5. Output indicators

Table 58: Output indicators

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region	Target value (2023)	Data source	Frequency of reporting
9.15	Number of coordinators employed within the single entry point	Number	ESF	Vzhodna Slovenija	15	Monitoring	Once a year
9.16	Number of participants	Number	ESF	Vzhodna Slovenija	500	Monitoring	Annually
9.17	Number of participating elderly	Number	ESF	Vzhodna Slovenija	400	Monitoring	Annually
9.18	Number of participating adults and children	Number	ESF	Vzhodna Slovenija	100	Monitoring	Annually
9.16	Number of participants	Number	ESF	Zahodna Slovenija	500	Monitoring	Annually
9.17	Number of participating elderly	Number	ESF	Zahodna Slovenija	400	Monitoring	Annually
9.18	Number of participating adults and children	Number	ESF	Zahodna Slovenija	100	Monitoring	Annually

**2.9.5 Investing in health and social infrastructure that contributes to national, regional and local development, reducing inequalities in terms of health status, promoting social inclusion through improved access to social, cultural and recreational services and the transition from institutional to community-based services**

**SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE: IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF COMMUNITY-BASED CARE SERVICES**

The majority of public institutional care centres were built during the 1970s and early 1980s, and are considered part of the so-called second or third generation of institutions in terms of their architectural design, while some operate in significantly older buildings. They are facing the problem of non-compatibility with modern operating requirements, from the perspective of both residential conditions and work concepts. These concepts need to be based on user-oriented psycho-social concepts which also meet their needs, and make the institution more user-friendly and open to the community. Providers of institutional care have to develop and expand their range of services to include community-based services for the target groups, as they are already

partly equipped with the necessary knowledge and experiences. Approximately 30% of homes for the elderly already provide community-based services, which we would like to expand to at least 50% of the providers of institutional care.

The transition to community-based services with the core aim of deinstitutionalisation will require the development of new services and inclusion of new providers of those services. This will involve the expansion of the network with smaller assisted living units and upgrading of forms of community living (group homes and residences) as well as individual apartments. All these forms are currently underdeveloped and are intended especially for target groups in the area of mental health, while such accommodation is not yet available to other target groups (persons with mental disorders, persons with physical and sensory impairments, elderly people with children with mental health problems, the elderly in occupational activity centres, housing communities for the young – transition from institutions, foster care and from emergency accommodation) and need to be provided. We will also continue to concentrate measures on the development and upgrading of a network of accommodation in residential units for people with mental he-

alth issues, primarily owing to the growing numbers of this population.

This objective will be achieved through investments in infrastructure where the community-based services will be placed and which will be modernised or developed anew in the framework of the second priority investment. Investments will primarily focus on remodelling the infrastructure network of providers of institutional care by shifting to the construction or acquisition of a network of apartments or housing and residential units to provide accommodation for persons relying on constant assistance of others in the scope of community-based support, establishment of infrastructure providing care and health services at a distance, including capacities catering for the needs of the elderly. Specific emphasis will be given to synergies of investment in infrastructure

which will address numerous different user groups and tackle their housing situation, and to social innovation.

It is estimated that investments in residential facilities in which new forms of community-based support and assistance will be developed will help place approximately 1,100 individuals therein. This is around 27% of individuals with special needs in all age groups who are currently placed in institutional settings.

The measures under this investment priority which are related to the Resolution on the National Health Plan 2015–2020 will not be implemented until the Commission confirms that the ex-ante conditionality is fulfilled.

The expected result under this specific objective:

- Relocation of a certain share of individuals from institutions to community-based care.

**Table 59: Specific result indicators**

ID	Indicator	Category of region	Measurement unit	Common output indicator used as basis	Baseline value	Measurement unit for baseline and target	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Data source	Frequency of reporting
9.19	Number of individuals in institutions	Vzhodna Slovenija	Number		2,900		2014	770	Monitoring	Annual report
9.19	Number of individuals in institutions	Zahodna Slovenija	Number		1,300		2014	330		Annual report

\* In the case of ERDF and CF the target values may be either qualitative or quantitative.

#### 2.9.5.1 Actions to be supported under the investment priority

2.9.5.1.1 Description of types and examples of actions to be financed and their expected contribution to the corresponding specific objectives, including, where appropriate, identification:

The investment priority will support measures seeking the creation of infrastructure conditions facilitating the process of deinstitutionalisation, and the

development of community-based forms of social and healthcare services and assistance as follows:

- modernisation of the network of nursing homes or their transformation into centres providing various community-based services, including ICT-supported services that are expected to be developed under the second investment priority of this thematic objective,
- construction or acquisition of a network of community and individual housing units in order to imple-

ment deinstitutionalisation in the area of disability and mental health,

- establishment of day and intergenerational centres at which integrated social and healthcare services will be provided,
- modernisation of mobile units in support of programmes intended for people targeted by measures under the second investment priority of this priority axis, and for others with various types of addiction.

Target groups: various groups in need of long-term assistance and care, healthcare and social service users.

Beneficiaries: providers of healthcare and social services and programmes and their communities, education and training institutions, non-governmental organisations and humanitarian organisations, regional and local development institutions, youth centres, social enterprises, employment centres, private organisations and others who contribute to the implementation of the me-

asures under the investment priority through their work and activities.

#### 2.9.5.1.2 Guiding principles for the selection of operations

Alongside horizontal principles identified under section 1.1.4 priority will be given to projects with synergistic effects which will address numerous target groups of users or which will include several integrated services for users.

#### 2.9.5.1.3 Planned use of financial instruments

Not relevant.

#### 2.9.5.1.4 Planned use of major projects

Not relevant.

#### 2.9.5.1.5. Output indicators

**Table 60: Output indicators**

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region	Target value (2023)	Data source	Frequency of reporting
9.20	Number of supported units	Number	ERDF	Vzhodna Slovenija	73	Monitoring	Annually
9.20	Number of supported units	Number	ERDF	Zahodna Slovenija	57	Monitoring	Annually

### ***2.9.6 Promoting social entrepreneurship and vocational integration in social enterprises and the social and solidarity economy in order to facilitate access to employment***

**SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE: INCREASE THE SCOPE OF ACTIVITIES AND EMPLOYMENT IN THE SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP SECTOR**

Activities intended to revive social entrepreneurship in Slovenia in recent years coincided with the beginnings of the economic crisis, which has prompted a search for

other, sustainable and more socially responsible business models able to create new employment opportunities for the growing number of unemployed people, especially those who require an adapted working environment to facilitate their inclusion in the labour force. Similarly, social entrepreneurship and its principles are increasingly recognised in Slovenia as the one organisational form of entrepreneurship that could become the right response to the growing need for social innovations and the development of new, notably social services and products, while being strongly integrated into the regional and local environment.

Since social entrepreneurship is still in its infancy in Slovenia<sup>103</sup>, the first step now is to provide appropriate conditions and a support environment for the creation of strong and sustainable social enterprises which will develop, respond to demands in a high-quality manner and have sufficient potential and know-how to develop services and offer employment and support to people who are unable to meet the usual demands in the labour market.

The OECD<sup>104</sup> established that the main factors slowing down the development of social entrepreneurship in Slovenia include, *inter alia*, underdeveloped social economy organisations. Also, a lack of general entrepreneurial knowledge and skills additionally severely hampers the development of social enterprises.

Social enterprises can offer solutions for increasing access to social services, especially those connected to the ageing of the population and long-term care in the framework of the deinstitutionalisation process, as well as other services intended to enhance social inclusion at the regional and especially the local level. Social enterprises also provide training and jobs for people who participated in social activation programmes, and who, despite the obvious progress made, are not yet able to enter the labour market, and for other less employable people who are unable to directly enter the labour market for various reasons.

According to the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities records<sup>105</sup> on **regional distribution of social enterprises**, these prevail in the cohesion region of Vzhodna Slovenija, with 72% of social enterprises having their main office registered in this region (the prevailing type is B). The figure reflects the deteriorating economic situation in this part

of Slovenia and is directly connected to the growth of unemployment; on the other hand, it is a result of the implementation of the Act Regulating Development Support to the Pomurje Region which set out that a social enterprise must be registered in that region as a condition for submitting a bid in the call for tenders on social entrepreneurship promotion. The initiatives of the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities in the framework of community work in autumn 2013 also contributed to the establishment of social enterprises – jobs for long-term unemployed people were created at social enterprises and at potential social enterprises which made the initiatives conditional on financial contributions from the municipalities. There was a good response mainly from municipalities in the cohesion region of Vzhodna Slovenija, primarily due to a significant increase in unemployment.

The measures under the investment priority will be complemented with measures under Priority Axis 3, i.e. with measures designed to increase the competitiveness of social enterprises (e.g. access to finance and to other support services for enterprises etc.).

The expected result under this specific objective::

- increase the percentage of employed people among those participating in measures for social entrepreneurship promotion.

103 The Social Entrepreneurship Act was only adopted in 2011

104 <http://www.oecd.org/employment/leed/conferenceimprovingsocialinclusionatthelocallevelthroughthesocialeconomypresentationoftheoecdreportljubljanaslovenia.htm>

105 49 social enterprises have been operating since the Act entered into force according to the records of the Ministry (the situation as at August 2014 can be accessed via website at [http://www.mddsz.gov.si/si/delovna\\_podrocja/trg\\_dela\\_in\\_zaposlovanje/socialno\\_podjetnistvo/evidenca\\_so\\_p/](http://www.mddsz.gov.si/si/delovna_podrocja/trg_dela_in_zaposlovanje/socialno_podjetnistvo/evidenca_so_p/)

Table 61: Specific results indicators

ID	Indicator	Category of region	Indicator measurement unit	Common output indicator used as basis	Baseline value	Measurement unit for baseline and target	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Data source	Frequency of reporting
9.21	Participants in employment upon leaving	Vzhodna Slovenija	Share		20	Share	2014	25	Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities	Annually
		Zahodna Slovenija	Share		20	Share	2014	25		Annually

### 2.9.6.1 Actions to be supported under the investment priority

2.9.6.1.1. Description of types and examples of actions to be financed and their expected contribution to the corresponding specific objectives, including, where appropriate, identification

Based on intensive negotiations between the state and social partners, the state adopted the Social Entrepreneurship Development Strategy 2013-2016<sup>106</sup> in 2013. The Strategy defines three strategic development objectives of social entrepreneurship: increasing the visibility of social entrepreneurship and enhancing knowledge of the principles of social entrepreneurship, improving the existing support environment for social entrepreneurship and promoting the employment of vulnerable groups in the labour market. The Government also adopted the Programme of Measures for 2014 – 2015<sup>107</sup> in line with the Strategy and in order to implement the development strategy for social entrepreneurship which, *inter alia*, foresees the implementation of measures foreseen under this investment priority.

Support will be earmarked for:

- A support scheme that includes training, education, mentoring and counselling programmes for all sta-

keholders in social entrepreneurship, networking, promotion etc.

- Participation of vulnerable groups in social enterprises (information, motivation and support during entry into employment in social enterprises or during participation in training at work for people from individual vulnerable groups).
- Development of activities and employment in existing or new social enterprises in order to develop community-based forms of care for target groups, particularly in connection with measures from the first and second investment priorities.

Target groups: Social enterprises, target groups in accordance with the Social Entrepreneurship Act and those who complete social activation programmes.

Beneficiaries: Social enterprises, regional development agencies, VEM entry points, non-governmental organisations, social partners, chambers and associations and other development institutions at the regional level, public agencies (e.g. SPIRIT, etc.), social innovation providers and others who contribute to achieving the objectives of the investment priority through their actions.

2.9.6.1.2. Guiding principles for the selection of operations:

The identified horizontal principles will apply to the selection of future measures. In addition, priority will be given to projects that:

- provide long-term employment after the end of the support eligibility period;

<sup>106</sup> [http://www.mddsz.gov.si/fileadmin/mddsz.gov.si/pageuploads/images/zaposlovanje/Strategija\\_socialnega\\_podjetnistva\\_-\\_sprejeta\\_na\\_vladi.doc](http://www.mddsz.gov.si/fileadmin/mddsz.gov.si/pageuploads/images/zaposlovanje/Strategija_socialnega_podjetnistva_-_sprejeta_na_vladi.doc)

<sup>107</sup> [http://www.mddsz.gov.si/fileadmin/mddsz.gov.si/pageuploads/dokumenti\\_pdf/zaposlovanje/Program\\_ukrepov\\_2014-2015\\_za\\_izvajanje\\_strategije\\_razvoja\\_socialnega\\_podjetnistva.pdf](http://www.mddsz.gov.si/fileadmin/mddsz.gov.si/pageuploads/dokumenti_pdf/zaposlovanje/Program_ukrepov_2014-2015_za_izvajanje_strategije_razvoja_socialnega_podjetnistva.pdf)



- conduct an analysis of needs and potentials for both supply and demand;
- are established by vulnerable groups, whereby this will shape the allocation criteria (type and amount of funding);
- disseminate innovative solutions to address the needs of vulnerable groups;
- prioritise areas relevant to the green economy and incorporate wider objectives of sustainable development.

## 2.9.6.1.3. Planned use of financial instruments

The use of financial instruments is not planned under this priority investment.

## 2.9.6.1.4. Planned use of major projects

Not relevant.

## 2.9.6.1.5. Output indicators

Table 62: Output indicators

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region	Target value (2023)	Data source	Frequency of reporting
9.22	Number of participants	Number	ESF	Vzhodna Slovenija	550	Monitoring	Annually
				Zahodna Slovenija	450	Monitoring	Annually
9.23	Number of social enterprises supported	Number	ESF	Vzhodna Slovenija	55	Monitoring	Annually
				Zahodna Slovenija	45	Monitoring	Annually

## 2.9.7 Investment under CLLD strategies

## SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE: IMPROVED ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL INCLUSION IN AREAS OF LOCAL ACTION GROUPS (LAGs)

CLLD strategies will address development challenges, such as persistently high unemployment rates and job shortage in eligible areas, particularly in problem areas facing high registered unemployment rates<sup>108</sup> where vulnerable groups are particularly affected. The deterioration of conditions in these areas is due in part to the lack of entrepreneurial drive and initiatives and the low level of innovation, which is coupled by the under-developed support environment. Only a limited number of enterprises boast innovation potential and as such represent the potential generators of growth and local de-

velopment. Most of the enterprises are only in the initial stage of development and are not able to reach the planned business indicators.

Weak economic activity, relocation of business and service activities to the outskirts of larger towns, poor access to public services and insufficient infrastructure and poor traffic connections cause youth depopulation, and the demographic situation in individual areas is a cause for concern. This is true for both rural and urban eligible areas, the issue being especially critical in remote, problem and border areas which are characterised by a relatively low level of educational attainment. This can mainly be attributed to the fact that older people predominate in the local population, and older people usually have lower educational attainment levels. Depopulation leaves behind abandoned areas and buildings, which contributes to the degradation of the man-made environment.

<sup>108</sup> Problem areas are established in accordance with Article 25 of the Promotion of Balanced Regional Development Act or receive development aid in accordance with the 2010-2015 Pomurje region Development Aid Act or the Posočje Post-earthquake Reconstruction of Structures and Development Promotion Act.



Local development strategies (LDS) will help tackle the identified challenges at the local, subregional and regional level. Local partnerships will identify intervention areas which are relevant to their local needs and include them in the LDS. Support for economic activities and investment in human potentials and small-scale investments in renovation will facilitate the creation of conditions in LAG areas for their development restructuring. Investment under the relevant investment priority will, through the creation of innovative partnerships, support the implementation of small projects that will respond to local challenges and opportunities and

complement the investment supported under other priority axes. Participation of stakeholders in the phases of preparation, decision-making and implementation of projects will help develop and enhance the human capital and innovative spirit of the population in these areas.

The expected results under this specific objective:

- creation of conditions for new jobs;
- enhanced social inclusion through the promotion of innovative partnerships;
- protection of the environment.

**Table 63: Specific result indicators**

ID	Indicator	Category of region	Indicator measurement unit	Common output indicator used as basis	Baseline value	Measurement unit for baseline and target	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Data source	Frequency of reporting
9.24	Satisfaction with the local labour market situation*	Vzhodna Slovenija	Share		9**		2012	15***	Human Development Report	Annually
		Zahodna Slovenija	Share		9		2012	15	Human Development Report	Annually

\*The indicator measures the share of respondents who answered with “right” to the question of the Gallup World Poll “When you consider the situation regarding the possibilities in the labour market in the city or the area where you currently live, would you say that this is the right time or not to search for a job?”. The indicator is used by the Human Development Report.

\*\* Baseline value is based on the 2012 data for the entire territory of Slovenia, therefore the values are same.

\*\*\* Target value is the same for both cohesion regions as the data are measured at the national level. Despite the fact that the number of LAGs is not yet known, it is not possible to define what their distribution will be across the two cohesion regions, therefore the target value is established for the entire territory of Slovenia.

#### 2.9.7.1. Actions to be supported under the investment priority

2.9.7.1.1 A description of the type and examples of actions to be financed and their expected contribution to the corresponding specific objectives, including, where appropriate, identification:

This investment priority foresees actions in three areas of intervention that are identified in the PA: job creation, environmental protection and nature conservation as well as enhanced inclusion of vulnerable groups:

#### Job creation:

- Promoting entrepreneurial activities and innovative development partnerships: the action will support activities contributing to enhancing entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and support is expected for activities designed to increase entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and activities that contribute to the creation of conditions for the implementation of entrepreneurial initiatives, such as: development of activation tools, establishment of informal networks for promoting entrepreneurship (especially social entrepreneurship,

SMEs), development and offering of local products and services in eligible areas, including the establishment of a local supplier network, activities for revival of village and city centres etc.

Enhanced inclusion of vulnerable groups:

- Strengthening cooperation with the institutional environment to enhance social inclusion: this action will support activities that will contribute to the activation of stakeholders in relation to the institutional environment and the existing social infrastructure at the local and regional level in order to enhance social inclusion. Support in this context may be provided for intervention work with youth facing problems due to addiction and poverty, for activities targeting the creation of innovative partnerships for the development of a service network for the elderly and promotion of healthy ageing measures, etc.
- Improving access to services at the local level and eliminating poverty: this action will support activities that contribute to poverty reduction and increase the quality of life in eligible areas such as: promotion of healthy and active lifestyles, co-housing and residential cooperatives and introduction of participatory budgeting for local communities, etc.

Environmental protection and nature conservation:

- Improving the environment: this action will support activities contributing not only to improving the state of the environment but also to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and supporting the establishment of low-carbon and zero waste communities, such as for example small-scale renovations of brownfield and industrial sites as well as so-called brownfield investments or small-scale infrastructure investment, where applicable and justified; restoration of thematic trails and the associated infrastructure; activities to promote sustainable urban mobility and energy efficiency, thereby promoting environment-friendly economy based on efficient use of resources, as well as activities to promote education, tra-

ining and awareness-raising of the local population associated with energy poverty reduction, creation of green jobs, improvement of watercourses etc.

Target groups: sole proprietors, young people (drop-outs, juvenile offenders, children and adolescents from families with a history of violence, women (e.g. victims of violence and abuse, migrants, members of ethnic minorities), older people and other vulnerable groups, NGOs, interest associations or other local-level associations, local or territorial initiatives.

Beneficiaries: local action groups (LAGs), legal persons governed by public and private law, non-governmental organisations, regional development institutions.

#### 2.9.7.1.2 Guiding principles for the selection of operations

LDS and LAGs under this priority axis will be selected based on joint criteria that apply to all three EU Funds. Furthermore, for the ERDF, LDSs will also take the following into account:

- Consistency between the implementing part of the local development strategy and the relevant regional development programme.
- Contribution of the local development strategy to the objectives of the relevant regional development programme.
- Innovative approach of the proposed measures in the local development strategy to addressing urban problems in smaller cities and urban areas.

#### 2.9.7.1.3 Planned use of financial instruments

The use of loans is not planned under this priority investment.

#### 2.9.7.1.4 Planned use of major projects

Not relevant.

## 2.9.7.1.5 Output indicators

Table 64: Output indicators

ID	Indicator (name of indicator)	Measurement unit	Fund	Regional category	Target value (2023)	Data source	Frequency of reporting
9.25	Number of stakeholders at the local level participating in the implementation of CLLD projects	Number	ERDF	Vzhodna Slovenija	120	Monitoring	Annually
		Number	ERDF	Zahodna Slovenija	60	Monitoring	Annually
9.26	Number of people living in areas with local development strategies in place	Number	ERDF	Vzhodna Slovenija	722,000**	Monitoring	Annually
		Number	ERDF	Zahodna Slovenija	658,000**	Monitoring	Annually
9.27	Number of supported partnerships*	Number	ERDF	Vzhodna Slovenija	16	Monitoring	Annually
		Number	ERDF	Zahodna Slovenija	8	Monitoring	Annually

\* Partnerships are forms of connections created by two or more stakeholders at the local or regional level with the intention of carrying out joint operations funded through CLLD instruments. Stakeholders may be representatives of the civil society, institutions at the local and regional level, network organisations, public and private legal entities, etc.

\*\*It is estimated that there are 1,380,000 inhabitants in the areas of the LAGs which are eligible for ERDF support. The calculation for the cohesion region of Vzhodna Slovenija and the cohesion region of Zahodna Slovenija is made with respect to the overall ratio of number of inhabitants in both cohesion regions (cohesion region of Vzhodna Slovenija 52% and cohesion region of Zahodna Slovenija 48%). The exact target values of the population living in areas with local development strategies will be determined after the number of LAGs is known and their distribution between the cohesion regions is determined – it can be expected that individual LAGs will be located in the area of the two cohesion regions.

### 2.9.8 Social innovation, transnational cooperation and contribution to thematic objectives 1–7

The priority axis will, as in the preceding programming period, support the development of social innovations, particularly programmes that link social and employment activation and employment in social enterprises or inclusion in training at work for people from individual vulnerable groups, which will represent added value for the programme. Special attention will also be paid to compliance with relatively new areas of smart use in the Smart Specialisation Strategy.

The measures under the priority axis will be linked with measures in the area of entrepreneurship, sustainable energy use, employment and education.

ESF funds under TO9 will be used to support measures that help increase the number of jobs in social

entrepreneurship, and indirectly, enhance their potential contribution to economic growth, reduce poverty and support social services, healthcare, etc. Training programmes will be carried out and the existing support networks will be adjusted so as to facilitate the development of entrepreneurship and regional development of social entrepreneurship in order to create an efficient support environment. Support for social entrepreneurship activities and networking will also be provided through the development and networks of social entrepreneurship incubators. In addition, socially vulnerable groups will be included in social entrepreneurship projects. The measures for and development of social entrepreneurship are closely connected to the measures in the area of increasing competitiveness under TO 3, where adapted financial instruments co-financed by the ERDF will be available (e.g. micro loans). The common result sought is a greater contribution of social entrepreneurship to GDP.

## 2.9.9 Performance framework

Performance framework – ESF										
Priority axis	Indicator type (implementation step, financial, output or result indicator)	ID	Definition of the indicator or implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Fund	Category of region	Milestone for 2018	Final target (2023)	Source of data	Explanation of the relevance of the indicator, where appropriate
9	Output	9.8	Number of participants from vulnerable target groups	Number	ESF	Vzhodna Slovenija	2,090	10,450	Monitoring	42.7% of the ESF funds under priority axis 9 for cohesion region of Vzhodna Slovenija
9	Output	9.8	Number of participants from vulnerable target groups	Number	ESF	Zahodna Slovenija	1,710	8,550	Monitoring	43.16% of the ESF funds under priority axis 9 for cohesion region of Zahodna Slovenija
9	Output	9.6	Number of established regional mobile units	Number	ESF	Vzhodna Slovenija	8	8	Monitoring	5.74% of the ESF funds under priority axis 9 for cohesion region of Vzhodna Slovenija
9	Output	9.6	Number of established regional mobile units	Number	ESF	Zahodna Slovenija	4	4	Monitoring	3.55% of the ESF funds under priority axis 9 for cohesion region of Zahodna Slovenija
9	Output	9.9	Number of supported interregional centres and family centres	Number	ESF	Vzhodna Slovenija	5	10	Monitoring	5.28% of the ESF funds under priority axis 9 for cohesion region of Vzhodna Slovenija
9	Output	9.9	Number of supported interregional centres and family centres	Number	ESF	Zahodna Slovenija	3	5	Monitoring	3.32% of the ESF funds under priority axis 9 for cohesion region of Zahodna Slovenija
9	input	F1	Input	EUR	ESF	Vzhodna Slovenija	20,300,000	100,331,530	Monitoring	
9	Input	F1	Input	EUR	ESF	Zahodna Slovenija	16,700,000	81,230,452	Monitoring	

Performance framework – ERDF										
Priority axis	Indicator type (implementation step, financial, output or result indicator)	ID	Definition of the indicator or implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Fund	Category of region	Milestone for 2018	Final target (2023)	Source of data	Explanation of the relevance of the indicator, where appropriate
9	Output	9.20	Number of supported units	Number	ERDF	Vzhodna Slovenija	0	73	Monitoring	30% of the ERDF funds under priority axis 9, total for both cohesion regions
9	Output	9.20	Number of supported units	Number	ERDF	Zahodna Slovenija	0	57	Monitoring	
9	Implementation step	K8	Published public contracts	Number	ERDF	Vzhodna Slovenija	2		Monitoring	
9	Implementation step	K8	Published public contracts	Number	ERDF	Zahodna Slovenija	2		Monitoring	
9	Output	9.26	Number of inhabitants living in areas with local development strategies	Number	ERDF	Vzhodna Slovenija	0	1,380,000**	Monitoring	40% of the ERDF funds under priority axis 9, total for both cohesion regions
9	Output	9.26	Number of inhabitants living in areas with local development strategies	Number	ERDF	Zahodna Slovenija	0	1,380,000**	Monitoring	
	Implementation step	K7	Adopted local development strategies	Number	ERDF	Vzhodna Slovenija	10		Monitoring	
	Implementation step	K7	Adopted local development strategies	Number	ERDF	Zahodna Slovenija	10		Monitoring	
9	Financial	F1	Input	EUR	ERDF	Vzhodna Slovenija	8,800,000	50,044,227	Monitoring	
9		F1	Input	EUR	ERDF	Zahodna Slovenija	7,200,000	43,772,847	Monitoring	

\*Number of inhabitants in LAG areas eligible for ERDF support

### 2.9.10 Categories of intervention

Fund and intervention field: ESF, cohesion region of Vzhodna Slovenija									
Table 1: Intervention field		Table 2: Form of finance		Table 3: Territory		Table 4: Territorial delivery mechanisms		Table 6: ESF secondary theme	
Code	EUR amount	code	EUR amount	code	EUR amount	code	EUR amount	code	EUR amount
109	49,162,450	01	49,162,450	05	49,162,450	05	49,162,450	00	
112	15,049,729	01	15,049,729	05	15,049,729	05	15,049,729	00	
113	16,053,045	01	16,053,045	05	16,053,045	05	16,053,045	00	

  

Fund and intervention field: ESF, cohesion region of Zahodna Slovenija									
Table 1: Intervention field		Table 2: Form of finance		Table 3: Territory		Table 4: Territorial delivery mechanisms		Table 6: ESF secondary theme	
Code	EUR amount	code	EUR amount	code	EUR amount	code	EUR amount	code	EUR amount
109	40,990,135	01	40,990,135	05	40,990,135	05	40,990,135	00	
112	9,997,594	01	9,997,594	05	9,997,594	05	9,997,594	00	
113	13,996,632	01	13,996,632	05	13,996,632	05	13,996,632	00	

  

Fund and intervention field: ERDF, cohesion region of Vzhodna Slovenija									
Table 1: Intervention field		Table 2: Form of finance		Table 3: Territory		Table 4: Territorial delivery mechanisms		Table 6: ESF secondary theme	
Code	EUR amount	code	EUR amount	code	EUR amount	code	EUR amount	code	EUR amount
055	25,035,380	01	25,035,380	05	25,035,380	05	25,035,380	00	
097	15,000,000	01	15,000,000	02	15,000,000	06	15,000,000	00	

  

Fund and intervention field: ERDF, cohesion region of Zahodna Slovenija									
Table 1: Intervention field		Table 2: Form of finance		Table 3: Territory		Table 4: Territorial delivery mechanisms		Table 6: ESF secondary theme	
Code	EUR amount	code	EUR amount	code	EUR amount	code	EUR amount	code	EUR amount
055	20,018,277	01	20,018,277	05	20,018,277	05	20,018,277	00	
097	15,000,000	01	15,000,000	02	15,000,000	06	15,000,000	00	

***2.9.11 Summary of the planned use of technical assistance including, where necessary, actions to reinforce the administrative capacity of authorities involved in the management and control of the programmes and beneficiaries (where appropriate)***

The use of technical assistance is planned primarily in order to strengthen the administrative capacity of local action groups for the development and implementation of local development strategies. Technical assistance is therefore planned to finance the costs of strengthening administrative capacity (i.e. capacity building), costs of support for the development of local development strategies and similar.

**2.10 Knowledge, skills and lifelong learning to enhance employability**

***2.10.1 Explanation for the establishment of a priority axis covering more than one category of region or more than one thematic objective or more than one Fund***

Based on the needs analysis, Slovenia will address key challenges in the area of improving access to lifelong learning for the older population, the less-skilled and the less-educated, helping employees gain relevant competences in order to reduce the gap between supply and demand in the labour market and job availability, and promoting flexible learning pathways, improved career guidance and orientation in order to improve the competences of young people at all levels of education for the labour market needs and society, all within the scope of the investment priority for enhancing equal access to lifelong learning. The ERDF funds will also serve to complementarily finance the ICT infrastructure required for the provision of the basis for developing the competences of young people which are directly related to the development of flexible learning pathways or innovative learning environments, including e-learning. Within the framework of the investment priority for improving the responsiveness of the education and training system to labour market needs, the vocational and professional education system will be modernised to improve its appeal and increase the focus on practical

qualifications, and to better link the vocational education system with labour market needs. These actions will be implemented in both cohesion regions and adapted to the target groups.

From a territorial point of view, the ESF and ERDF funds will be allocated to the whole of Slovenia, as the field of education is centralised and defined by national policy; nevertheless, the differences between the two cohesion regions will be taken into account when implementing specific actions. In the area of lifelong learning, the cohesion region of Vzhodna Slovenija will be allocated more funds compared to the cohesion region of Zahodna Slovenija; this is directly related to the education structure in the cohesion region of Vzhodna Slovenija, which is poorer than in the cohesion region of Zahodna Slovenija; moreover, in the cohesion region of Vzhodna Slovenija fewer persons are included in education and training programmes<sup>109</sup> and lifelong learning programmes than in the cohesion region of Zahodna Slovenija. Within the framework of the investment priority for improving the responsiveness of the education system to labour market needs, Slovenia will continue with the uniform approach in order to achieve the set objectives in both regions; nevertheless, taking into account the enrolment data (the number of secondary school and undergraduate students) and the number of schools implementing secondary and higher education programmes or institutions implementing vocational education and training, the cohesion region of Vzhodna Slovenija will receive more funding. Slovenia will also continue to apply the uniform approach within the framework of the investment priority for the development of ICTs in the area of education, with the scope of funds being relatively equally distributed among the two regions. In the event that system-wide actions are introduced in both cohesion regions (e.g. the development of innovative learning environments and teaching strategies for improving the competences of young people, supporting measures for recognising informally acquired knowledge and guidance activities, the upgrade of occupational standards and curricula, the modernisation or introducti-

<sup>109</sup> SORS, 2012: number of first-time enrolled adults by gender, age, type of education, form and type of organisation, cohesion region.

on of new vocational education models, the development of e-content, e-services and e-textbooks, the training of teachers and professional staff, etc.), it will be possible to apply the derogation principle pursuant to Article 70 of the CPR and Article 13 of the ESF Regulation, with the partition key (pro rata) taking into account the effect of the actions on the two cohesion regions, e.g. the number of schools in each cohesion region (56%, 44%), the number of secondary (55%, 45%) and undergraduate students at higher vocational colleges (53%, 47%), the number of institutions implementing secondary school programmes (not including classical grammar schools or *gimnazije*) (54%, 46%), the number of vocational colleges (47%, 53%), etc. If the derogation principle is applied, the partition key will be defined in more detail prior to the approval of operations, taking into account the direct relation between the planned actions and their effects for both cohesion regions.

### **2.10.2 Fund, category of region and basis for Union support calculation**

<b>Fund</b>	<b>ESF</b>
Category of region	Vzhodna Slovenija, Zahodna Slovenija
Basis for calculation (total eligible expenditure or eligible public expenditure)	Total eligible cost

  

<b>Fund</b>	<b>ERDF</b>
Category of region	Vzhodna Slovenija, Zahodna Slovenija
Basis for calculation (total eligible expenditure or eligible public expenditure)	Total eligible cost

### **2.10.3 Enhancing equal access to lifelong learning for all age groups in formal, non-formal and informal settings, upgrading the knowledge, skills and competences of the workforce, and promoting flexible learning pathways including through career guidance and validation of acquired competences**

#### **SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 1: IMPROVE COMPETENCES OF THOSE LESS INVOLVED IN LIFELONG LEARNING**

In modern society, participation in lifelong learning (LLL) is a key factor in ensuring that participants possess the competences required for successful integration into the labour market and society. As is evident from the needs analysis, the share of the older population and the less-skilled (those with an education level below vocational qualification<sup>110</sup>) participating in LLL programmes is at an extremely low level in Slovenia. In addition to the below-average level of participation, the data for Slovenia show that there is a wide gap between those who are most educated and those who are least educated. Owing to insufficient levels of participation in LLL programmes and poor base competences, the ability to adapt to the labour market and technological advancement is reduced as individuals do not possess the competences required to integrate into the labour market and society effectively.

Within the framework of this specific objective, the inclusion of people who are less-skilled, less-educated (ISCED 1-2) or above 45 years of age<sup>111</sup> in LLL programmes will be increased in accordance with the Resolution on the National Adult Education Programme (ReNPIO), thereby increasing the share of older people, the less-skilled or less-educated people who have successfully completed LLL programmes and acquired new competences.

The actions for increasing participation in LLL programmes and reducing the education deficit will be focused on ensuring that individuals acquire the competences which are required to reduce the skills mismatch in the labour market, that the individual's ability to adapt to changes occurring within the labour market is strengthened (competences for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, OECD), and that individuals are able to successfully integrate

<sup>110</sup> ISCED 3-4 level

<sup>111</sup> According to the ReNPIO, the priority group (employees) will comprise persons above the age of 45 because the share of less-skilled people in this group is high; owing to the rise in the retirement age in the 2014-2020 programming period, this will be a growing social and economic challenge (see ReNPIO 2013).



into society. The education programmes to be implemented will ensure a vertical increase in competences or an increase in the level of education, mainly the acquisition of technical upper secondary education (ISCED 3-4), in order to maintain or facilitate new employment opportunities for the target groups; at the same time, and to a smaller extent, the implementation of public programmes of training for success in life, which are being updated, will continue, as well as the implementation of informal training programmes for improving basic abilities or general competences, which were already carried out in the 2007-2013 programming period. The training programmes are intended for obtaining additional competences within the framework of previously obtained education and not for increasing the level of education.

Within the programmes to improve the competences of those less-involved in LLL, special attention will also be given to continuing the development of tools and

procedures supporting the identification and recognition of knowledge gained through non-formal learning, which were developed in the 2007-2013 period. Adequate certification and obtaining a public document proving vocational qualifications will be ensured.

In addition to general and vocational competences a segment of the funds will also be earmarked for the development of digital competences and skills in the area of ICTs, since the decrease in the life cycle of competences and the rapid technological advances result in the need for such competences to be continuously kept up to date.

The expected result under this specific objective:

- Increase in the share of less-skilled and less-educated people or people aged above 45 who have successfully completed LLL programmes and thus improved their general, vocational and digital competences.

**Table 65: Specific result indicators, specific objective 1**

ID-objective	Indicator	Category of region	Measurement unit	Common output indicator used as basis	Baseline value*	Measurement unit	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
10.1	Share of participants** to successfully complete the programme for obtaining competences***	Vzhodna Slovenija	Share		93.4	Share	2014	98	Monitoring	Annually
		Zahodna Slovenija	Share		97.4	Share	2014	98	Monitoring	Annually
10.2	Share of persons above the age of 45 to successfully complete the programme for obtaining competences****	Vzhodna Slovenija	Share		94.2*****	Share	2014	98	Monitoring	Annually
		Zahodna Slovenija	Share		97.8	Share	2014	98	Monitoring	Annually

\*The source is the data obtained from the monitoring of operations for obtaining competences for adults in the period 2011-2014. The percentage of success is calculated on the basis of the sample, which comprises 23% of all those included in the programmes. The sample comprises providers in such a manner that even distribution throughout the country is ensured.

\*\*The indicator 10.1 comprises all participants (less-skilled with poor competences) in LLL programmes, regardless of their age, whereas indicator 10.3 comprises a specific group of participants, i.e. those above the age of 45 with low education levels and poor general competences.

\*\*\*For the purpose of the result indicators 10.1 and 10.2, the term competence programme refers to all LLL programmes that comprise the participant's improvement and/or acquisition of education, as well as training intended for obtaining additional competences or informal skills. Participants are considered to have completed the programme if they obtained a certificate or a public document proving that they completed a programme which equips them with a new competence or higher educational level.

\*\*\*\*The source is the data obtained from the monitoring of operations for obtaining competences for adults in the period 2011-2014. The percentage of success is calculated on the basis of the sample, which comprises 23% of those included in the programmes. The sample comprises providers in such a manner that even distribution throughout the country is ensured.

\*\*\*\*\*The data on the baseline value of the indicator are specified for those above the age of 55 since the data for the target group of persons above the age of 45 were not recorded in the 2007-2013 programming period, as this group was defined as a target group with the adoption of the ReNPIO in 2013. The target value for the indicator will be monitored for the target group of persons above the age of 45.

## **SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 2: IMPROVE EMPLOYEE COMPETENCES TO REDUCE LABOUR MARKET MISMATCHES**

Social progress and rapid advances in economic, technological and working environments require constant adaptation and flexibility of workers, further deepening of their knowledge and upgrading of their competences. Career changes are nowadays a constant, which makes it all the more important that workers are provided either with appropriate education and/or skills that respond to what the labour market needs in order to embark on the new career path, or with up-skilling and broadening of knowledge to get ahead in their current job field.

Career counselling measures, information and guidance activities, additional training and specialisation, retraining and vocational training programmes will create a strong link between the education and training system and the rapidly changing labour market needs. Workers will benefit from new knowledge and competences required at the workplace (e.g. modern technologies, work/business processes) or representing a springboard for a new career path.<sup>112</sup>

Individuals are often unaware of all the education and training opportunities available that would give them new knowledge and competences which represent added value in the labour market at a given point in time. One of the basic measures will therefore be to provide them with effective counselling with long-lasting effects that will direct them to appropriate programmes of formal or non-formal education and training based on their current competences in order to gain new or upgrade existing competences and knowledge.

Training programmes will build, improve and strengthen those competences that individuals need

<sup>112</sup> The planned measures are part of the LCO system which aims to reinforce the activities of the National Coordination Point for LCO, discussed in detail under priority axis 8. The body will coordinate measures for different stakeholders and target groups and see to it that their actions are aligned. Career counselling for the target group of unemployed people will be supported by measures under priority axis 8, while the measures targeting school-age youth are planned under specific objective 3.

and will need at the workplace and for delivering the respective tasks in light of technological advances, nature of work and labour market needs, particularly in emerging areas that will contribute to stepping up economic competitiveness (in line with the Smart Specialisation Strategy). The measure for employee training will build on the experience gained during the implementation of education and training programmes and competence centres for human resources development.

Due attention will likewise be paid to specialisation programmes and programmes seeking vocational improvement in the scope of public programmes following the completion of secondary vocational and professional education (ISCED 3-4 level) and tertiary education (ISCED 5-8 level). These programmes seek to improve the mobility between work areas and did not receive any support in the 2007-2013 programming period; however, they are a key tool in countering the skills mismatch in the labour market.

Lifelong career orientation (LCO) activities for workers encompass counselling and guidance sessions where education, know-how, skills and competences of workers are listed and their needs in the labour market identified. This is the stepping stone that helps to define what sort of programme individual workers should follow – education, training, retraining, additional training or specialisation programmes. These measures, too, will build on and upgrade good practices witnessed in the areas of LCO for workers and counselling for adults in the 2007-2013 programming period.

- The expected result under this specific objective: improved employee competences that meet the labour market needs and an efficient career orientation system.

Table 66: Specific result indicators, specific objective 2

ID-objective	Indicator	Category of region	Measurement unit	Common output indicator used as basis	Baseline value	Measurement unit for baseline and target	Baseline year	Target value [1] (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
10.3	Share of participants to complete counselling*	Vzhodna Slovenija	Share		65**	Share	2013	75	Monitoring	Annually
		Zahodna Slovenija	Share		65	Share	2013	75	Monitoring	Annually
10.4	Share of employees to complete training, additional qualification, specialisation or requalification***	Vzhodna Slovenija	Share		80****	Share	2014	85	Monitoring	Annually
		Zahodna Slovenija	Share		80	Share	2014	85	Monitoring	Annually

\* The result indicator 10.3 represents the number of participants in counselling programmes who – after successful counselling – either participated in formal or non-formal learning and training, or acquired additional qualifications.

\*\* Source: the surveys conducted by the Slovenian Institute for Adult Education in the period 2007-2013 – ISIO.

\*\*\* By participating in training programmes the employees obtain the skills, knowledge and competences required for performing specific tasks for a specific job.

\*\*\*\* The baseline value is based on the data obtained from the results of 5 public calls for proposals for the programme “Education and training of employees in the 2007-2013 programming period”.

### SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 3: PROMOTE FLEXIBLE LEARNING PATHWAYS AND SUPPORT HIGH-QUALITY CAREER ORIENTATION FOR SCHOOL-AGE YOUTH AT ALL LEVELS OF THE EDUCATION SYSTEM

The participation of young people in education is being constantly prolonged, which means that they enter the labour market and gain work experience relatively late. It is therefore important that they not only acquire the skills, knowledge and competences required for successful integration into the labour market and society, but also receive quality career counselling during their education. Slovenia should focus on strengthening the general and occupational competences which are crucial for enhancing creativity, entrepreneurship and innovation in young people and for which poorer educational attainments are established. Accessibility should be maximised and comprehensive, high-quality career or

occupational counselling<sup>113</sup> should be provided in order to better match the skills and expectations of young people with labour market needs.

Within the framework of this specific objective, the competences of school-age youth will be improved through the promotion of flexible learning pathways, the improvement of the competences of professional staff in all areas of education, and the implementation of different models of transition between education and the environment, including the mobility of students and higher education staff. Furthermore, the responsiveness of the education system and the expectations of young people will be improved through the provision of high-quality occupational and career counselling services at all levels of formal education, and a system will be esta-

<sup>113</sup> Career orientation measures are support measures in the field of promoting flexible learning pathways, thus a smaller amount of funds will be earmarked for such measures under specific objective 3.

blished to monitor graduate employability, which will serve as the basis for forecasting labour market needs. Young people will acquire the skills needed to respond to labour market needs; they will also obtain competences required to create jobs.

The models and examples of best learning practice that were developed in the 2007-2013 period in the area of education (not higher education) will be implemented in many schools and upgraded with innovative learning practices (COM (2013) 654 final<sup>114</sup>), focusing on increasing literacy and competences in areas where young people show poor learning results. Teaching practices will be developed and upgraded with advanced technologies to the greatest extent possible in the implementation of the effective personalisation and individualisation of classes; at the same time, the competences of the professional staff will be improved in the area of education for the implementation of new, innovative teaching methods and practices.

114 Innovative learning practices involve the promotion of joint and social learning approaches; they are adapted to the specific needs of the learners and based on a networking approach, which is established on the basis of horizontally linked activities; they use open learning sources, extroversion (connected learning communities), they are globally connected, and benefit from the latest scientific discoveries, research and development; they are technologically advanced (use of ICT), emphasising the principle of learning anywhere and at any time, with anybody and using any tool, and are based on strengthening the abilities of learners and not solely on the acquisition of information (confer <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/SL/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52013DC0654&from=EN> and [http://www.keepeek.com/Digital-Asset-Management/oecd/education/innovative-learning-environments\\_9789264203488-en#page18](http://www.keepeek.com/Digital-Asset-Management/oecd/education/innovative-learning-environments_9789264203488-en#page18))

In the area of cooperation with the social and economic environment, a pilot project for the inclusion of students in programmes linking education and the economy was carried out in the 2007-2013 programming period. The project will be upgraded through the establishment of links with the broader social environment and the non-business sector; furthermore, the quality of teaching and the development of a learning environment that encourages creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship will be improved with the increase in mobility of Slovenian students, higher education teachers and staff participating in exchange programmes with foreign higher education institutions, the greater inclusion of foreign higher education teachers in the teaching process at Slovenian higher education institutions, and the development of partnerships between Slovenian and foreign higher education institutions.<sup>115</sup> Career centres will be reinforced and their operations expanded in comparison to the 2007-2013 programming period, with the aim of providing support to students throughout their education process until employment.

The expected result under this specific objective:

- An increase in the share of schools and higher education institutions providing flexible learning pathways for improving the competences of young people and high-quality occupational and career counselling services.

115 European Commission - SPEECH/14/543 10/07/2014

Table 67: Specific result, specific objective 3

ID	Indicator	Measure- ment unit	Category of region	Common output indicator used as basis	Baseline value	Measurement unit for baseline and target	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
10.5	Share of schools with successfully implemented flexible learning pathway strategies	Share	Vzhodna Slovenija		98**	Share	2014	85	Monitoring	Annually
		Share	Zahodna Slovenija		98	Share	2014	85	Monitoring	Annually
10.6	Share of higher education institutions with successfully implemented flexible learning pathway strategies***	Share	Zahodna Slovenija		100****	Share	2014	85	Monitoring	Annually
		Share	Vzhodna Slovenija		100	Share	2014	85	Monitoring	Annually

\* For the purpose of the indicator 10.5, a successfully implemented flexible learning pathway strategy refers to the fact that an individual school has adopted strategic documents (one umbrella document or several documents for the individual areas) in the areas of flexible learning pathways (e.g. the introduction of ICTs into the education process, an environmental cooperation strategy, a strategy for the use of open learning sources) and has introduced these strategic actions into the learning process.

\*\*The baseline value for indicator 1.5 represents the share of those education institutions which implemented flexible learning pathway activities (e.g. upgrading the strategies in the field of flexible learning pathways, training of personnel, developing and applying new didactic approaches to teaching and learning, teaching and other material, equal opportunities) under the 2007-2013 period, specifically in the framework of development projects as well as on the basis of the self-initiative of the individual education institution of the individuals employed with the education institution. In the 2014-2020 programming period we plan to implement actions of an institutional nature which will be based on an integrated approach at the level of the individual education institution (developing effective forms for the management of the education institution, upgrading the plans and strategies of the education institution, cooperation between education institutions and other institutions as well as exchange of best practices, development teams for various areas (subject-related areas and areas of expertise, project teams), training and services for teachers and head teachers and their (e-)communities), changing the role of the students by applying effective teaching and learning methods (e.g. personalisation) and participating in (e-)communities, ensuring equal opportunities and accessibility of education, comprehensive evaluation of activities, including self-evaluation, etc.), and the upgrading and linking of the results of the already-implemented activities. Contrary to the 2007-2013 period, the actions will be implemented in an integrated, systemic manner and for a greater number of education institutions, which in turn means that the level of performance will be lower as implementation should take into account a greater number of factors (e.g. attainment of the set standards, greater possibility of withdrawing from the projects), which can have a negative impact on performance.

\*\*\* The effective implementation of flexible learning pathways includes the design, adoption and implementation of strategic documents (one umbrella document or several documents for the individual areas) in the area of flexible learning pathways which include, *inter alia*, innovative learning practices, cooperation with the social, commercial and non-commercial environment and career counselling.

\*\*\*\* The baseline value for indicator 10.6 represents the share of those higher education institution which introduced at least one of the flexible learning pathway actions under the 2007-2013 programming period (in the area of career centres, projects for the promotion of practical knowledge, actions to establish innovative learning environments). Contrary to the 2007-2013 period, the actions will be implemented in an integrated, systemic manner and for a greater number of higher education institutions, which in turn means that the level of performance will be lower as implementation should take into account a greater number of factors (e.g. attainment of the set standards, greater possibility of withdrawing from the projects), which can have a negative impact on performance.

### 2.10.3.1 Actions to be supported under the investment priority

2.10.3.1.1 Description of types and examples of actions to be financed and their expected contribution to the corresponding specific objectives, including, where appropriate, the identification of the main target groups and types of beneficiaries

The actions supported within the framework of specific objective 1 **“improve competences of those less-involved in lifelong learning”** will focus on:

- The implementation of education and training programmes to enhance general and occupational competences to meet labour market needs and to raise the general level of education (e.g. co-financing tuition fees for completing technical upper secondary education, implementation of public programmes for acquiring new competences, etc.).
- The implementation of measures for identification and recognition of non-formally and informally acquired knowledge and skills and competences that are necessary for successful integration into the labour market, society or further education and training (the following activities will be carried out: establishing a bank of functions for direct verification and certification of informally acquired skills, certification of informally acquired skills to obtain public documents for professional qualifications).
- The implementation of the programmes for improving digital literacy and strengthening competences in the area of ICTs.
- Target groups: individuals above 45 years of age, the less-skilled and the less-educated.
- 

Potential beneficiaries: ministries, Slovene Human Resources Development and Scholarship Fund, Employment Service of Slovenia, Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Vocational Education and Training (CPI), Slovenian Institute for Adult Education (ACS), NGOs, social partners, regional development institutions or other institutions that have been recognised as benefi-

ciaries in accordance with the legislation or appropriate selection procedures.

The actions supported within the framework of specific objective 2 **“improve employee competences to reduce the labour market mismatch”** will focus on:

- The development of new lifelong career orientation models through competence centres for the development of human resources, integrated support and counselling for employees to improve career and occupational decisions, the aim of which is to either find employment, participate in formal or non-formal learning and training programmes, or obtain additional new qualifications that will improve employability. Activities such as in-depth counselling for career planning, drafting of portfolios, attracting participants and encouraging their involvement in education and training programmes will be carried out, including support measures for professional staff to obtain additional qualifications in the field of recognition of non-formally and informally acquired knowledge and skills.
- The promotion of investment in the human resources of companies and employee training, particularly in SMEs (co-financing of training programmes in individual companies or competence centres for the development of human resources, as well as by means of centralised instruments that will be formulated in cooperation with the support institutions, platforms and other stakeholders) and in NGOs, particularly in areas that are still gaining importance for the labour market and will contribute to boosting economic competitiveness, with the focus on Smart Specialisation Strategy (e.g. innovative technologies, environmental technologies, sustainable development). Activities such as career planning, the establishment of employee competences and training needs, as well as training, will also be carried out.
- Carrying out further vocational training courses and specialisations after the acquisition of second-

dary vocational and professional education and higher professional education, including improved mobility between fields of work, retraining and other areas of training (e.g. insurance in the business sector, metallurgy in mechanical engineering, car electrics in car servicing). For the purpose of carrying out the activities we will use the already-developed and, if necessary, upgraded infrastructure/equipment of the business education and training centres (MIC) which were developed in the 2007-2013 programming period for training in the areas considered a priority by the Smart Specialisation Strategy, and competence centres for the development of human resources.

The actions will be implemented in cooperation with the employees or key stakeholders (business sector, chambers and employer associations, trade unions), which will ensure an optimum match between the programmes and the labour market needs.

Target groups: employees in need of additional qualifications, training or retraining to meet labour market needs and the requirements of their workplace, and employers.

Potential beneficiaries: ministries, Slovene Human Resources Development and Scholarship Fund, Employment Service of Slovenia, Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Vocational Education and Training (CPI), Slovenian Institute for Adult Education (ACS), National Examination Centre (NEC), schools, local and regional development institutions, social partners, companies, NGOs, public institutes or other institutions which have been recognised as beneficiaries in accordance with the legislation or appropriate selection procedures.

The actions supported within the framework of specific objective 3 **“promote flexible learning pathways and support high-quality career orientation for school-age youth at all levels of the education system”** will focus on:

- The development of innovative learning environments and the introduction of teaching methods and practices through, *inter alia*, the integration of new technologies (e.g. the development of innovative learning materials, interdisciplinary subjects, new teaching models, new forms of learning such as group-based learning, social learning which is based on a networking approach and horizontal activities, the development of a higher education tutoring system) that will enhance the general (e.g. the ability to plan, solve problems, carry out independent work, think analytically, be creative, as well as entrepreneurship, literacy, natural and mathematical science, ICT skills) and occupational competences of students, including the implementation of cooperation programmes between education institutions (e.g. Slovenian and foreign higher education institutions in the development of common study programmes and partnerships). The increase of competences and literacy levels will also be monitored and evaluated on the basis of the methodology used in international benchmark research or through constant monitoring of the quality of the education system.
- The implementation of regional scholarship schemes and scholarships for deficit and specialised professions to link education and the environment.
- The implementation of open and flexible transition models between education/work/environment (industry, the local and international environment), including mobility, to ensure that young people have already gained the relevant and practical experience during the education process, that such processes have been developed to ensure direct participation in the implementation of ideas and the gaining of experience to increase employability, develop entrepreneurship and improve creativity (the implementation of specific projects in partnership with schools, the business and non-business sector, social partners and NGOs). Through these activities, individuals will gain the competences required for creating jobs, which is in line with the Smart Spec-



alisation Strategy, which focuses on the innovation and creativity of individuals.

- Career and occupational orientation for young people (higher education students and other school-age youth), and the monitoring of employability to facilitate appropriate career and occupational counselling and the basis for forecasting needs (e.g. information about jobs, individual support for identifying interests and abilities, consultancy and representation, group work for young people, establishing links with employers to increase employability). Career centres for higher education students will adapt their approaches to implement activities which have already started and develop new ones aimed at providing appropriate career planning for students, from enrolment to employment, for better information provided to employers concerning the programmes offered by higher education institutions and student and graduate competences in order to facilitate their integration into the labour market. The target groups will be expanded (future students, graduates and employers).
- Enhancing the competences of professionals in education and training, including inter-sectoral mobility between different levels of education (e.g. job shadowing). The actions will enhance the qualifications of professionals so that they can contribute to the development of critical and creative thinking, analytical abilities, entrepreneurship, digital abilities and other general and occupational competences of young people. It is important to train teachers so that they are able to transfer knowledge using new, advanced teaching methods, with an emphasis on experience-based learning and establishing links with the business sector.
- Improving the international mobility of Slovenian students from less privileged backgrounds through their participation in international exchange programmes, with the aim of improving the mobility effect and gaining new competences to meet labour market needs, with the complementary financing of mobility through the ERASMUS+ programme.
- Improving the international mobility of Slovenian higher education teachers and staff on exchange

in foreign higher education institutions and visits by foreign higher education teachers to Slovenian higher education institutions in order to enhance the international competences of young people, improve the quality of teaching and the development of a learning environment that stimulates creativity<sup>116</sup>, influence the development of the current study programmes, raise the standard of teaching and through it the quality of learning and learning outcomes of the bulk of non-mobile students, and increase the number of multilateral projects, research and joint study programmes, all with the aim of improving the competences of graduates. The mobility measures will focus on natural and technical sciences or the priority areas specified in the Smart Specialisation Strategy. High-quality higher education, open to the international environment will also have an indirect impact on the internationalisation of other sectors of society through the future activities of higher education graduates in the labour market.

Target groups: young people (pupils, secondary school students, undergraduate and postgraduate students), schools, universities and independent higher education institutions, Slovenian and foreign experts, teachers and professional staff<sup>117</sup> at all levels of education.

Beneficiaries: ministries, Employment Service of Slovenia, Slovene Human Resources Development and Scholarship Fund, Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Vocational Education and Training (CPI), Slovenian

<sup>116</sup> (European Commission - SPEECH/14/543 10/07/2014).

<sup>117</sup> Professional staff in public primary schools are teachers, school counsellors, librarians, laboratory technicians and other professional staff (Article 94 of the Organization and Financing of Education Act). Professional staff in public vocational and technical schools are teachers of general and special theoretical subjects in lower and secondary vocational schools, secondary technical and professional schools, vocational-college lecturers in post-secondary vocational colleges, instructors for practical training and skills, counsellors, librarians and other educators. Professional staff also comprise master craftsmen offering practical training to working students (Article 96 of the Organization and Financing of Education Act). In addition to the above-mentioned professional staff, professional staff also comprise higher education professional staff not defined in the Organization and Financing of Education Act).



Institute for Adult Education (ACS), schools, regional development institutions, Slovenian Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (NAKVIS), Centre of the Republic of Slovenia for Mobility and European Educational and Training Programmes (CMEPIUS), National Education Institute, National Examinations Centre (NEC), National School for Leadership in Education, social partners, the youth service, universities and independent higher education institutions which have been recognised as beneficiaries in accordance with the legislation or appropriate selection procedures.

#### 2.10.3.1.2 Guiding principles for the selection of operations

The horizontal principles identified in section 1.1.4 will be applied for the selection of future actions. The target groups identified under this investment priority represent the basic principle for the inclusion of

individuals in the actions. The guiding principles for the selection of operations in the scope of the implemented actions are:

- priority will be given to projects that are innovative or that represent an upgrade of the existing actions;
- priority will be given to projects that involve key stakeholders;
- priority will be given to projects that contribute to the exchange of experience, results and good practices or are set in an international environment and are internationally comparable.

Where relevant, the guiding principles will also include equal opportunities and gender equality principles.

#### 2.10.3.1.3 Planned use of financial instruments

Financial instruments are not planned.

## 2.10.3.1.4 Planned use of major projects

Major projects are not planned.

## 2.10.3.1.5 Output indicators

Table 68: Output indicators, specific objective 1

ID	Indicator (name of indicator)	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
10.7	Number of participants in programmes for obtaining competences*	Number	ESF	Vzhodna Slovenija	25,740	Monitoring	Annually
		Number	ESF	Zahodna Slovenija	17,160	Monitoring	Annually
10.8	Number of persons above the age of 45 participating in programmes for obtaining competences	Number	ESF	Vzhodna Slovenija	18,020	Monitoring	Annually
		Number	ESF	Zahodna Slovenija	12,010	Monitoring	Annually

\*Obtaining competences (in the framework of indicators 10.7 and 10.8) refers to the fact that the participants obtain general and vocational competences which in certain instances also facilitate raising the level of education up to the ISCED 3-4 level.

Table 69: Output indicators, specific objective 2

ID	Indicator (name of indicator)	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
10.9	Number of participants in guidance activities*	Number	ESF	Vzhodna Slovenija	12,000	Monitoring	Annually
		Number	ESF	Zahodna Slovenija	8,000	Monitoring	Annually
10.10	Number of participants in training and specialisation programmes, and programmes to obtain additional qualification, and requalification programmes	Number	ESF	Vzhodna Slovenija	35,604	Monitoring	Annually
		Number	ESF	Zahodna Slovenija	23,736	Monitoring	Annually

\*Guidance activities are aimed at participation in formal or non-formal learning or training, and the acquisition of additional qualifications.

Table 70: Output indicators, specific objective 3

ID	Indicator (name of indicator)	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
10.11	Number of education institutions participating in projects*	Number	ESF	Vzhodna Slovenija	270	Monitoring	Annually
		Number	ESF	Zahodna Slovenija	240	Monitoring	Annually
10.12	Number of higher education institutions participating in projects**	Number	ESF	Vzhodna Slovenija	26	Monitoring	Annually
		Number	ESF	Zahodna Slovenija	55	Monitoring	Annually
10.13	Number of professional staff participating in programmes to enhance the quality and efficiency of education and training	Number	ESF	Vzhodna Slovenija	30,520	Monitoring	Annually
		Number	ESF	Zahodna Slovenija	23,980	Monitoring	Annually
10.14	Number of young people included in scholarship schemes	Number	ESF	Vzhodna Slovenija	3,053	Monitoring	Annually
		Number	ESF	Zahodna Slovenija	1,377	Monitoring	Annually

\*For the purpose of output indicator 10.11, participation of education institutions in projects refers to the implementation of flexible learning pathway strategies (one umbrella strategy or several strategies in individual fields), which include innovative learning practices, programmes for establishing links between the social and commercial and non-commercial environment, the use of open learning sources, innovative teaching practices, etc. The criteria for determining performance in terms of promoting flexible learning pathways are specific for education institutions due to the fact that the education system in Slovenia is separated from the higher education system. Each system has its own characteristics for determining quality which means that they cannot be transferred.

\*\*For the purpose of indicator 10.12, participation of higher education institutions in projects refers to the implementation of flexible learning pathway strategies (one umbrella strategy or several strategies in individual fields), which includes innovative learning practices, programmes for establishing links between the social and commercial and non-commercial environment, and international student and teacher mobility programmes, provided that they encompass guidance activities for improving career and occupational decisions for young people with a view to increasing employability. The criteria for determining performance in terms of promoting flexible learning pathways are specific for higher education institutions due to the fact that the education system in Slovenia is separated from the higher education system. Each system has its own characteristics for determining quality which means that they cannot be transferred.

**2.10.4. Improving the labour market relevance of education and training systems, facilitating the transition from education to work, and strengthening vocational education and training (VET) systems and their quality, including through mechanisms for skills anticipation, adaptation of curricula and the establishment and development of work-based learning systems, including dual learning systems and apprenticeship schemes**

**SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 1: MODERNISE THE VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING SYSTEM**

Young people's interest in vocational and technical education should be enhanced, collaboration between the employers and the social partners in the education

process needs to be strengthened; we should also ensure that young people enter the labour market sooner by also being better-skilled. The vocational education and training system will be modernised, and different models of practical training will be introduced within the education process to ensure that vocational education and training becomes more attractive and better related to labour market needs. The objective is to introduce a system that will be based on different and established approaches to vocational education and training. In Slovenia, the school-based programmes approach is the most widespread approach in the framework of which the education system stimulates and ensures practical work for individual occupations. This is the established approach to vocational education and training that will be continued and upgraded through additional incentives

for the employers (with particular emphasis on SMEs) in order to ensure the provision of learning places for students in secondary and higher professional education. In the 2007-2013 programming period all the curricula were modernised (from secondary to higher professional education programmes) and introduced to schools. Within the scope of the programmes, a certain portion comprises practical work with the employer (a minimum of 24 weeks for technical upper secondary education and 800 hours for higher professional education); moreover, certain elements of the so-called dual system (education programmes, practical on-the-job training) have been introduced, which should be upgraded, particularly by establishing efficiency through learning achievements, in-depth cooperation with employers and potential regulation of the status.

New practical training models adapted to the situation or Slovenia's needs will be implemented in cooperation with social partners, thereby maximising the practical qualification and employability of those participating in vocational education (apprenticeships).

Special emphasis will be given to professions that are scarce and in short supply, master craftsman schools and vocations with high added value which require a highly-skilled labour force.

In parallel with the modernisation of the vocational and professional education system, the curricula and professional standards and catalogues that will provide adequate support for the implementation of the actions

will be supplemented. All the actions will be carried out with the direct cooperation of the key stakeholders (business sector, chambers and employer associations, trade unions).

In implementing the activities we will make use of the already-developed and, if necessary, upgraded infrastructure/equipment of business education and training centres (MIC), which were developed in the 2007-2013 programming period.

In parallel to the introduction of new practical training models, measures will also be carried out to promote vocational education, which will, together with other measures, contribute to the improvement and appeal of vocational education.

The education component, including potential programme starting points (e.g. strategic documents), different programmes and models, will be developed and financed within the framework of national funds, while the programme upgrade and implementation measures (incentives for employers, interim examinations, final examinations and practical training in Business Education Centres – MIC) will receive ESI Funds support.

The expected result under this specific objective:

- introduction of new vocational education and training models and better alignment and a stronger link between the vocational education system and the labour market needs.

Table 71: Specific result indicators, specific objective 1

	Indicator	Measure- ment unit	Category of region	Common output indicator used as basis	Baseline value	Measurement unit for base- line and target	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
10.15	Share of schools* with various successfully introduced vocational education and training models	Share	Vzhodna Slovenija		100**	Share	2014	90	Monitoring	Annually
		Share	Zahodna Slovenija		100	Share	2014	90	Monitoring	Annually

\* In the framework of indicator 10.15 schools are educational institutions that implement at least one programme in the field of secondary vocational education in a duration of three years.

\*\* The goal is to introduce two new vocational and professional education and training models. The modernisation of the vocational and professional education system means that at least one new vocational education model not in place until 2014 will be implemented in a certain share of vocational schools. The baseline value is the share of vocational schools participating in vocational education models by 2014. As the introduction of the various vocational and professional education models is a systemic approach introduced at the national level, the objective is to introduce various models in the majority of vocational schools.

#### SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 2: IMPROVE THE COMPETENCES OF VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROVIDERS

In order to improve the responsiveness of the education and training system to labour market needs, enhance the appeal of vocational education and training, ensure the successful introduction of new practical training models and efficient implementation of practical training at employers, appropriately qualified professional staff or other providers, who will ensure that the required standards of practical education and training are met, should be ensured.

The skills of mentors are crucial in order to bring vocational education and training closer to the target groups, as experience has shown that mentors are crucial for high-quality counselling, education, job coaching and the transfer of knowledge. The 2007-2013 programming period supported training of in-company mentors that turned out to be crucial for successful job coaching, and

the key stakeholders (chambers, schools) expressed their interest in training being continued and in upgrading it.

In exceptional circumstances, some companies train mentors in-house and not in compliance with the official programme adopted by the national institution responsible for the development of vocational education.

In addition to mentor-oriented actions, we should also implement measures to improve the vocational competences of teachers in the area of vocational education owing to rapidly changing technologies and other changes within the labour market, so that they are better harmonised and adapted to new technological and technical developments. This will improve the quality of the vocational education and training system and make it more responsive to the labour market needs.

The expected result under this specific objective:

- improved competences of those participating in the vocational education and training system.

Table 72: Specific result indicators, specific objective 2

	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region	Common output indicator used as basis	Baseline value	Measurement unit for baseline and target	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
10.16	Share of in-company mentors and professional staff to complete trainings		Vzhodna Slovenija		95*	Share	2014	98	Monitoring	Annually
			Zahodna Slovenija		95	Share	2014	98	Monitoring	Annually

\*For the purpose of indicator 10.16 completed training refers to the fact that the mentor or the professional staff obtained a certificate or a public document proving that the training has been completed successfully.

\*\*The baseline value is the assessment of successfully completed training in the 2007-2013 programming period. Based on interviews conducted after the training, an expert assessment was made of the percentage of successfully completed training courses.

#### 2.10.4.1 Actions to be supported under the investment priority

2.10.4.1.1 Description of types and examples of actions to be financed and their expected contribution to the corresponding specific objectives, including, where appropriate, the identification of the main target groups and types of beneficiaries

The actions supported within the framework of specific objective 1 **“modernise the vocational education and training system”** will focus on:

- The introduction of two new vocational education and training models that will constitute a new system together with the existing ones, and facilitate easier, faster and more efficient entry into the labour market, specifically: modernisation of the model for practical on-the-job training and education for occupations in deficit. The missing occupational standards and curricula will be supplemented and new models will be implemented in practice (e.g. the period of on-the-job training) along with modernisation (updating the programmes, the establishment of

efficiency based on learning achievements in close cooperation with the employers, etc.).

- The continuation of practical training with employers through incentives for the employers to provide learning places (e.g. cost of mentorship for students in companies, a portion of the remuneration for students, etc.) for students in secondary and higher professional education.
- Improving the appeal and competitiveness of vocational and professional education through promotional activities such as the presentation of occupations and schools, competitions, advertising and other activities aimed at improving the reputation and recognition of vocational and professional education.

The actions supported within the framework of specific objective 2 **“improve the competences of vocational education and training providers”** will focus on:

- Enhancing the qualifications of in-company mentors for implementing quality mentorship to students of secondary and higher vocational schools in practical training or apprenticeship.

- Enhancing the vocational competences of professional staff in vocational education in the area of adaptation to the technological and technical needs of individual occupations (e.g. the training of teachers in companies, etc.).

Target groups: students of secondary and higher vocational schools, providers and mentors of practical training in companies, professional staff in vocational education, employers, social partners.

Beneficiaries are: ministries, Slovene Human Resources Development and Scholarship Fund, Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Vocational Education and Training (CPI), social partners, chambers, employers, employer associations or other institutions which have been recognised as beneficiaries in accordance with the legislation or appropriate selection procedures.

#### 2.10.4.1.2 Guiding principles for the selection of operations

The horizontal principles identified in section 1.1.4 will be applied for the selection of future actions.

#### 2.10.4.1.5 Output indicators

**Table 73: Output indicators**

ID	Indicator (name of indicator)	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of monitoring
10.17	Number of schools participating in various vocational education and training models	Number	ESF	Vzhodna Slovenija	40	Monitoring	Annually
		Number	ESF	Zahodna Slovenija	23	Monitoring	Annually
10.18	Number of in-company mentors and professional staff participating in programmes to enhance the quality and effectiveness of vocational education and training	Number	ESF	Vzhodna Slovenija	2,979	Monitoring	Annually
		Number	ESF	Zahodna Slovenija	2,641	Monitoring	Annually

- Priority will be given to projects that are innovative or that represent an upgrade of the existing actions;
- priority will be given to projects that involve key stakeholders;
- priority will be given to projects that contribute to the exchange of experience, results and good practices or are set in an international environment and are internationally comparable.

Where relevant, the guiding principles will also include equal opportunities and gender equality principles.

#### 2.10.4.1.3 Planned use of financial instruments

Financial instruments are not planned.

#### 2.10.4.1.4 Planned use of major projects

Major projects are not planned.

### ***2.10.5 Investing in skills, education and lifelong learning by developing education and training infrastructure***

**SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE: IMPROVE COMPETENCES AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF YOUNG PEOPLE AND ENHANCE EDUCATORS' QUALIFICATIONS THROUGH GREATER USE OF MODERN ICTs IN TEACHING AND LEARNING**

Investments in the development of a modern, more efficient, more accessible and safer education infrastructure and the further development of e-services and e-content will help improve the quality and efficiency of education and training and, in turn, a person's ability to adapt to the changing labour market demands that increasingly call for new ICT skills.

A learning and teaching process based on innovative approaches and ICT solutions will motivate and activate its participants – primary and secondary school students – while at the same time, the increased use of ICTs by teachers will improve school-age youth's access to knowledge and skills. In addition to improving general competences (reading literacy), new competences will be developed (digital literacy), which will also boost the qualifications of educators. An advanced ICT infrastructure is a prerequisite for greater use of e-learning (innovative teaching approaches: e-services and e-content), and bringing together diffe-

rent stakeholders and developing new business models is similarly important<sup>118</sup>. Data show<sup>119</sup> that Slovenia is lagging behind when it comes to ICT infrastructure within the education system. Therefore, resources should be targeted at providing the main infrastructure bases required for the application of innovative learning and teaching approaches, which will contribute to better results achieved by students, as well as enhanced creativity and problem-solving skills. High-performance optical connections for educational institutions, modern wireless networks, appropriate clients, cloud computing in education, service upgrading, storage, HPC and GRID infrastructure will result in the development of e-services and e-content in education and increase the use of modern ICT-supported approaches.

The actions will facilitate greater use of ICTs in classrooms by teachers, which will improve the general and vocational competences and learning achievements of students.

The expected result under this specific objective:

- Improved competences and achievements of young people and improved qualifications of educators through greater use of ICTs in classrooms.

<sup>118</sup> Opening up Education, [http://ec.europa.eu/education/news/doc/openingcom\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/education/news/doc/openingcom_en.pdf)

<sup>119</sup> See ICT in Education Country Profile: Slovenia (2012)



Table 74: Specific result indicators

ID-objective	Indicator	Category of region	Indicator measurement unit	Common output indicator used as basis	Baseline value	Measurement unit for baseline and target	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
10.19	Share of primary school teachers using ICTs in the classroom more than 25% of the time	Vzhodna Slovenija	Share		40*	Share	2014	55	ICT in Education Country Profile: Slovenia, European Commission, Ministry of Education, Science and Sport	Annually
		Zahodna Slovenija			40*			55		
10.20	Share of secondary school teachers using ICTs in the classroom more than 25% of the time	Vzhodna Slovenija	Share		51	Share	2014	65	ICT in Education Country Profile: Slovenia, European Commission, Ministry of Education, Science and Sport	Annually
		Zahodna Slovenija	Share		51	Share		65		

\* For indicators 10.19 and 10.20 the baseline value is set on the basis of the data from the ICT in Education Country Profile: Slovenia (2012).

#### 2.10.5.1 Actions to be supported under the investment priority

2.10.5.1.1 Description of types and examples of actions to be financed and their expected contribution to the corresponding specific objectives, including, where appropriate, the identification of the main target groups and types of beneficiaries

The specific objective “**improve competences and achievements of young people and enhance educators’ qualifications through greater use of modern ICTs in teaching and learning**” will support actions focused on:

- Providing the appropriate ICT devices, constructing wireless networks at educational institutions and developing an optical network infrastructure for education and training.

- Upgrading cloud computing, services, storage, HPC and GRID and other network and optical infrastructure for organisations that are active in the area of education and training in the spheres of education, academia and research.
- Development of e-services and e-content and technologies to support the roll-out of new approaches in education and training (e-school bag, e-textbooks, online classrooms, educational TV, multimedia services, etc.).

Target groups: young people (pupils, students) and professional staff (teachers).

Beneficiaries: ministries, educational institutions, public institutes, Academic and Research Network of Slovenia and other institutions which have been recognised as beneficiaries according to the legislation or appropriate selection procedure.

#### 2.10.5.1.2 Guiding principles for the selection of operations

The defined horizontal principles will be applied in the selection of future actions. In addition, we will prioritise projects that will enable financially sustainable investments and have the resources provided after completion of the projects (maintenance).

#### 2.10.5.1.3 Planned use of financial instruments

Financial instruments are not planned.

#### 2.10.5.1.4 Planned use of major projects

Major projects are not planned.

#### 2.10.5.1.5 Output indicators

**Table 75: Output indicators**

ID	Indicator (name of indicator)	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
10.21	Ratio: number of pupils to ICT devices connected to the Internet	Number	ERDF	Vzhodna Slovenija	5*	Monitoring	Annually
		Number	ERDF	Zahodna Slovenija	5		
10.22	Ratio: number of teachers to ICT devices connected to the Internet	Number	ERDF	Vzhodna Slovenija	1.5**	Monitoring	Annually
		Number	ERDF	Zahodna Slovenija	1.5		
10.23	Number of education institutions connected to wireless network	Number	ERDF	Vzhodna Slovenija	546***	Monitoring	Annually
		Number	ERDF	Zahodna Slovenija	418		
10.24	Number of new e-services	Number	ERDF	Vzhodna Slovenija	7****	Monitoring	Annually
		Number	ERDF	Zahodna Slovenija	7		
10.25	Number of new e-contents (e-textbooks, e-materials)	Number	ERDF	Vzhodna Slovenija	15*****	Monitoring	Annually
		Number	ERDF	Zahodna Slovenija	15		

\*The average ratio of the number of pupils per ICT device with access to the Internet is used as the basis for the value of the indicator. Value 5 represents the average value in the cohesion region of Vzhodna Slovenija and the cohesion region of Zahodna Slovenija and is not an absolute number.

\*\*The average ratio of the number of teachers per ICT device with access to the Internet is used as the basis for the value of the indicator. Value 1.5 represents the average value in the cohesion region of Vzhodna Slovenija and the cohesion region of Zahodna Slovenija and is not an absolute number.

\*\*\*The objective is to connect all higher education institutions to a wireless network in the cohesion region of Vzhodna Slovenija and the cohesion region of Zahodna Slovenija by 2023. The number of higher education institutions with the output indicator 1027 includes all higher education institutions, including affiliated schools, since all the physical facilities of higher education institutions must be connected to a wireless network.

\*\*\*\*The e-services developed will be used in the cohesion region of Vzhodna Slovenija and the cohesion region of Zahodna Slovenija, which is why the numbers for the regions are the same.

\*\*\*\*\*The e-services developed will be used in the cohesion region of Zahodna Slovenija and the cohesion region of Vzhodna Slovenija, which is why the numbers for the regions are the same.

#### 2.10.6 Social innovations, transnational cooperation and contribution to thematic objectives 1–7

The projects supported under this thematic objective should demonstrate a contribution to wider social objectives (including social innovations) or sustainable development (social, economic and environmental aspects). Investments under this thematic objective

will be complemented to a reasonable extent with investments within the framework of thematic objectives 1–7 and projects within the context of transnational initiatives. Special attention will also be given to compliance with relatively new areas of smart use in the Smart Specialisation Strategy. The investment priority for the promotion of lifelong learning will see efforts made for the inclusion of transnational cooperation processes by

finding appropriate transnational partners for the implementation of joint programmes that help increase the participation rate in lifelong learning. Experience shows that this area has potential, which Slovenia wishes to exploit.

As in the previous programming period, lifelong learning will give extensive support to social innovations that will add value to the programme.

The actions of individual investment priorities under this priority axis will complement the actions of other priority axes by contributing to achieving their objectives, i.e. enhanced competitiveness, the application of research and innovations, productivity, improved resource efficiency and the labour market.

### 2.10.7 Performance framework

Performance framework – ESF										
Priority axis	Indicator type (implementation step, financial, output or result indicator)	ID	Definition of the indicator or implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Fund	Category of region	Milestone for 2018	Final target (2023)	Source of data	Explanation of the relevance of the indicator, where appropriate
10	Output	10.7	Number of participants in programmes for obtaining competences	Number	ESF	Vzhodna Slovenija	10,296	25,740	Monitoring	16% of ESF funds under priority axis 10 for cohesion region of Vzhodna Slovenija
						Zahodna Slovenija	6,864	17,160	Monitoring	14.1% of the ESF funds under priority axis 10 for cohesion region of Zahodna Slovenija
10	Output	10.14	Number of young people included in scholarship schemes	Number	ESF	Vzhodna Slovenija	1,212	3,053	Monitoring	9.6% of the ESF funds under priority axis 10 for cohesion region of Vzhodna Slovenija
						Zahodna Slovenija	530	1,377	Monitoring	5.8% of the ESF funds under priority axis 10 for cohesion region of Zahodna Slovenija
10	Output	10.17	Number of schools participating in various vocational education and training models	Number	ESF	Vzhodna Slovenija	16	40	Monitoring	12.2% of the ESF funds under priority axis 10 for cohesion region of Vzhodna Slovenija
						Zahodna Slovenija	9	23	Monitoring	14.6% of the ESF funds under priority axis 10 for cohesion region of Zahodna Slovenija
10	Output	10.10	Number of participants in training and specialisation programmes, programmes to obtain additional qualification, and requalification programmes	Number	ESF	Vzhodna Slovenija	14,242	35,604	Monitoring	18.4% of the ESF funds under priority axis 10 for cohesion region of Vzhodna Slovenija
						Zahodna Slovenija	9,494	23,736	Monitoring	15.6% of the ESF funds under priority axis 10 for cohesion region of Zahodna Slovenija
10	Financial resources	F1	Input/expenditure	EUR	ESF	Vzhodna Slovenija	58,410,000	146,019,679	Monitoring	
						Zahodna Slovenija	46,100,000	115,226,270	Monitoring	

Performance framework – ERDF										
Priority axis	Indicator type (implementation step, financial, output or result indicator)	ID	Definition of the indicator or implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Fund	Category of region	Milestone for 2018	Final target (2023)	Source of data	Explanation of the relevance of the indicator, where appropriate
10	Output	10.21	Ratio: number of pupils to ICT devices connected to the Internet	Number	ERDF	Vzhodna Slovenija	9	5	Monitoring	51% of the ERDF funds under priority axis 10, total for both cohesion regions
						Zahodna Slovenija	9	5	Monitoring	
10	Financial indicator	F1	Input/expenditure	EUR	ERDF	Vzhodna Slovenija	5,000,000	12,517,690	Monitoring	
						Zahodna Slovenija	5,000,000	12,511,424	Monitoring	

### 2.10.8 Categories of intervention

Fund and intervention field ESF cohesion region of Vzhodna Slovenija									
Table 1: Intervention field		Table 2: Form of finance		Table 3: Territory		Table 4: Territorial delivery mechanisms		Table 6: ESF secondary theme	
Code	EUR amount	Code	EUR amount	code	EUR amount	code	EUR amount	Code	EUR amount
117	100,749,437	1	100,749,437	01	70,000,000	05	100,749,437	01	3,500,000
				02	30,749,437				
118	16,066,306	1	16,066,306	01	10,000,000.00	05	16,066,306	01	900,000
				02	6,066,306				

Fund and intervention field ESF cohesion region of Zahodna Slovenija									
Table 1: Intervention field		Table 2: Form of finance		Table 3: Territory		Table 4: Territorial delivery mechanisms		Table 6: ESF secondary theme	
Code	EUR amount	Code	EUR amount	Code	EUR amount	code	EUR amount	code	EUR amount
117	77,883,422	1	77,883,422	01	53,000,000	05	77,883,422	01	3,000,000
				02	24,883,422				
118	14,297,594	1	14,297,594	01	8,800,000	05	14,297,594	01	600,000
				02	5,497,594				

Fund and intervention field ERDF cohesion region of Vzhodna Slovenija									
Table 1: Intervention field		Table 2: Form of finance		Table 3: Territory		Table 4: Territorial delivery mechanisms		Table 6: ESF secondary theme	
Code	EUR amount	code	EUR amount	Code	EUR amount	code	EUR amount	Code	EUR amount
048	9,118,152	1	9,118,152	01	4,104,000	05	9,118,152	08	
				02	5,014,152				
080	896,000	1	896,000	05	896,000	05	896,000	8	-

Fund and intervention field ERDF cohesion region of Zahodna Slovenija									
Table 1: Intervention field		Table 2: Form of finance		Table 3: Territory		Table 4: Territorial delivery mechanisms		Table 6: ESF secondary theme	
Code	EUR amount	code	EUR amount	Code	EUR amount	code	EUR amount	Code	EUR amount
048	9,305,139	1	9,305,139	01	4,296,000.00	05	9,305,139	00	
				02	5,009,139	05			
080	704,000	1	704,000	05	704,000	05	704,000	00	

**2.10.9 Where appropriate, a summary of the planned use of technical assistance including, where necessary, actions to reinforce the administrative capacity of authorities involved in management and control of the programmes**

Not relevant.

## **2.11 Rule of law, enhancing institutional capacity, efficient public administration and capacity building of NGOs and social partners**

### **2.11.1 Explanation for the establishment of a priority axis covering more than one category of region or more than one thematic objective or more than one Fund**

With the aim of enhancing the efficiency of the justice system, Slovenia adopted an umbrella national programme for the development of the justice system, the Justice 2020 Strategy<sup>120</sup> and the Strategy for Human Resources Management in Justice by 2020.<sup>121</sup> Centralised implementation of actions in the justice system, pertaining to the organisation and operation of judicial bodies, is legally contingent on and prescribed under the Constitution of the Republic of Slovenia.<sup>122</sup> Moreover, the central authorities implementing system-wide actions are defined by law. The Judicial Training Centre is responsible for education and training for the entire justice system. The Information Technology Centre at

the Supreme Court of the Republic of Slovenia, which is the most important subsystem of the national justice system, provides information support for the processes within the entire justice system. Implementation of actions to improve the efficiency of the justice system as a whole is under the responsibility of the justice and court administration. In accordance with the aforementioned constitutional and legal arrangements, the Justice 2020 Strategy and the Strategy for Human Resources Management in Justice by 2020 were drawn up. The strategies lay down uniform nationwide actions for all levels of operation of judicial bodies in both cohesion regions. In light of the fact that these are system-wide actions, they will be centrally implemented at the national level. The funding of these system-wide actions will be divided territorially on the basis of the number of first and second instance courts<sup>123</sup>, i.e. 61% in the cohesion region of Zahodna Slovenija and 39% in the cohesion region of Vzhodna Slovenija. The partition key is determined on the basis of the ratio between the percentage of employees in the justice system in the two cohesion regions (57% in Zahodna Slovenija and 43% in Vzhodna Slovenija).<sup>124</sup>

Part of the national programmes or projects in the field of public administration have already been drafted, and the new Public Administration Development Strategy for the period 2014–2020, which will lay down the

<sup>120</sup> [http://www.mp.gov.si/fileadmin/mp.gov.si/pageuploads/mp.gov.si/zakonodaja/120803\\_Strategija\\_Pravosodje\\_2020.pdf](http://www.mp.gov.si/fileadmin/mp.gov.si/pageuploads/mp.gov.si/zakonodaja/120803_Strategija_Pravosodje_2020.pdf)

<sup>121</sup> [http://www.mp.gov.si/fileadmin/mp.gov.si/pageuploads/CIP/2014/5\\_5\\_2014\\_Strategija2020.pdf](http://www.mp.gov.si/fileadmin/mp.gov.si/pageuploads/CIP/2014/5_5_2014_Strategija2020.pdf)

<sup>122</sup> Constitution of the Republic of Slovenia, Courts Act, State Prosecutor Act, State Attorney Act, Enforcement of Criminal Sanctions Act and other legal acts.

<sup>123</sup> This is the division by higher court offices and the associated courts of first instance. There are 4 higher courts in Slovenia, 2 in the cohesion region of Zahodna Slovenija (Ljubljana and Koper), 2 in the cohesion region of Vzhodna Slovenija (Maribor and Celje), and 55 courts of first instance (34 in the cohesion region of Zahodna Slovenija and 21 in the cohesion region of Vzhodna Slovenija).

<sup>124</sup> The number and ratio of judicial officials (judges, prosecutors and attorneys) and the corresponding personnel at judicial authorities for 2013 was taken into account in relation to the division of NUTS2 regions.

guidelines for the strategic development of public administration, is being prepared. In addition to the strategy, revised action plans for the implementation of actions by specific area or objective (better regulation and administrative procedures, quality control and assurance procedures, human resource management, e-public administration, open and transparent public administration, reducing the risk of corruption, etc.) will also be adopted. In the field of public administration, centralised management and operations are legally contingent on and prescribed under the Constitution of the Republic of Slovenia. The Administration Academy is responsible for education and training of public administration staff, whereas IT support for public administration operations and the development of e-public administration fall within the competence of the ministry responsible for public administration. The actions under specific objectives 3 and 4 are of a systemic and horizontal nature, and are aimed at improving public administration in Slovenia; therefore, they will be implemented at the national level and will receive support proportionally depending on the number of inhabitants in the two regions (47.20% in the cohesion region of Zahodna Slovenija, 52.80% in the cohesion region of Vzhodna Slovenija).

Actions for capacity building of non-governmental organisations will be implemented with a unified approach throughout Slovenia. Such actions will receive support proportionally in respect of the number of non-governmental organisations in 2012 (51.5% in the cohesion region of Zahodna Slovenija, 48.5% in the cohesion region of Vzhodna Slovenija). Actions to provide support to social partners will be implemented primarily with a unified approach throughout Slovenia and will receive support proportionally in respect of the number of employees in 2013 (50% in the cohesion region of Zahodna Slovenija, 50% in the cohesion region of Vzhodna Slovenija).

### **2.11.2 Fund, category of region and basis for Union support calculation**

<b>Fund</b>	<b>ESF</b>
Category of region	Vzhodna Slovenija, Zahodna Slovenija
Basis for calculation (total eligible expenditure or eligible public expenditure)	Total eligible cost

### **2.11.3 Investment in institutional capacity and in the efficiency of public administrations and public services at the national, regional and local levels with a view to reforms, better regulation and good governance**

Support will be earmarked for actions to enhance the rule of law and improve the judicial and administrative system as well as to enhance the quality of services throughout the public administration. The actions under this investment priority will pursue the following specific objectives:

#### **SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 1: IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS BY OPTIMISING THEM AND IMPROVE THE COMPETENCES OF JUSTICE SYSTEM STAFF**

An efficient justice system is decisive to economic performance. Confidence in the justice system and its enhanced efficiency are essential in order to revive the economy. Predictable, timely and enforceable court decisions which help ensure the stability of economic cycles are crucial, as they preserve existing jobs and encourage the establishment of new enterprises, and also contribute to fulfilling contractual obligations in due time, attracting new investments and the protection of property and other rights.<sup>125</sup> An efficient justice system improves market competitiveness. A justice system that ensures efficient and rapid execution of contracts prevents enterprises from establishing personal benefits in their business relationships by also lowering their transaction and opportunity costs. Deficiencies in justice systems also

<sup>125</sup> Research shows a positive correlation between the size of the enterprise and the efficiency of national judicial systems on the one hand and lower incentives for investment and employment on the other hand if the judicial system is deficient. See IMF Country Report No. 13/299.

result in higher borrowing costs.<sup>126</sup> According to European Commission figures, Slovenia faces issues of poor efficiency of its justice system.<sup>127</sup> Judicial proceedings at the first instance are still excessively long. The average expected time for resolving economic and civil cases in Slovenia is approximately 400 days.<sup>128</sup> In terms of efficiency, Slovenia faces a large number of unresolved cases, i.e. more than 14 unresolved first-instance non-criminal cases per 100 inhabitants, ranking the country at the very bottom of the EU Member States<sup>129</sup>. Judges are overburdened with their routine adjudication work, which is why their intellectual potential is not fully utilised. The current organisation and level of computerisation of operations does not facilitate an equal workload among all the judges and the courts. The 2007-2013 financial perspective provided IT support only for certain segments of the justice system operation. For this reason, the external access of users to e-services in the justice system is still not provided equally. There is also a need to ensure broader integration of European judicial services into Slovenia's justice system environment. As a result of adapting the legal framework to the challenges of the economic crisis, justice system staff need to acquire new skills and knowledge.

As part of this specific objective, Slovenia will focus on actions aimed at improving the efficiency of the justice system, with special emphasis on enhancing competitiveness. Investments will be made in actions to

reduce the length of proceedings in the justice system for the purpose of accelerating decision-making by defining and monitoring time standards<sup>130</sup>. ESF funds will support investment in the development and upgrade of tools for the identification of key bottlenecks hindering the efficiency of the justice system. To enhance the efficiency of the justice system we need to establish high standards throughout the judicial chain. This specific objective will thus focus on investments to reform the operation of the justice system, develop the competences of justice system staff and promote the application of alternative dispute resolution methods.

This specific objective focuses on Slovenia's need to improve efficiency, raise the level of expertise and enhance accessibility of the justice system, which is a precondition for improving the business environment, boosting economic growth and enhancing the competitiveness of enterprises. Prompt decision-making and user-friendly access to judicial services will have a positive effect on improving financial discipline, thereby stimulating the growth and development of SMEs and strengthening the trust of potential foreign investors.

The expected results under this specific objective:

- reformed judicial business processes;
- improved level of qualification of justice system staff.

<sup>126</sup> IMF Country Report No. 13/299.

<sup>127</sup> Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Central Bank, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions – EU Justice Scoreboard 2014.

<sup>128</sup> Justice Scoreboard 2014, p. 8, figure 2.

<sup>129</sup> Of the 22 Member States that reported a total number of pending non-criminal cases, Slovenia ranked 21st. Justice Scoreboard 2014, p. 12, figure 8.

<sup>130</sup> Saturn Guidelines for Judicial Time Management (Cepej 2008-8 Rev); Implementing the Saturn Time Management Tools in Courts" (Cepej-Saturn 2001-9); [http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/cooperation/cepej/ReseauTrib/4\\_2013\\_Saturn\\_15\\_Guidelines\\_Plus\\_IRSIG\\_draft\\_121112.pdf](http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/cooperation/cepej/ReseauTrib/4_2013_Saturn_15_Guidelines_Plus_IRSIG_draft_121112.pdf)

Table 76: Specific result indicators, specific objective 1

ID	Indicator	Category of region	Indicator measurement unit	Common output indicator used as basis	Baseline value	Measurement unit for baseline and target	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
11.1	Share of established systems used in courts*	Vzhodna Slovenija	Share	Not relevant	0*	Share	2014	100	Monitoring	Once a year
		Zahodna Slovenija	Share	Not relevant	0**	Share	2014	100	Monitoring	Once a year
11.2	Share of participants to complete the supported training in justice system	Vzhodna Slovenija	%	Not relevant	100**	%	2015	100***	Monitoring	Once a year
		Zahodna Slovenija	%	Not relevant	100**	%	2015	100***	Monitoring	Once a year

\* In the framework of two actions (PROMOTING AND ENSURING QUALITY IN THE JUSTICE SYSTEM and REFORMING BUSINESS PROCESSES) 11 systems will be developed and used by all courts (the actions are of a systemic nature and will be implemented in a centralized manner).

\*\* The baseline value for the indicator is 100% – experiences gained in the 2007-2013 programming period indicate that 100% of the systems that were developed are actually in use.

\*\*\* The baseline value is the ESF-supported trainings carried out in the 2007-2013 programming period in the framework of e-justice. All participants successfully completed the training programmes, which is why the baseline value, i.e. the share of participants to complete supported training in the justice system, is set at 100%.

\*\*\*\*A total of 2,000 participants in training in the justice system are planned. On the basis of past experiences we foresee that all participants will successfully complete the supported training in the justice system (completed education means that the participants received a certificate proving their participation) – 100% share.

#### SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 2: IMPROVE THE LEVEL OF QUALIFICATION AND INTEGRITY OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION STAFF BY UPGRADING THE HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AND TRAINING SYSTEM

The European Commission and the OECD have drawn attention to the fact that Slovenia needs to improve the efficiency of public administration and institutional capacities at all levels, both national and local, including through efficient human resource management.<sup>131</sup> Efficient human resource management is also hindered by deficiencies in the civil servants system, to which attention is drawn by individual government bodies, local community authorities and various supervisory authorities (Inspection of the Civil Service System<sup>132</sup>, Employment Appellate Commission of the Slovenian

Government, Court of Auditors of the Republic of Slovenia<sup>133</sup> and Human Rights Ombudsman<sup>134</sup>).

More rational human resources management will be ensured through the modernisation of a single IT system for human resource management and strategic planning in state administration bodies, which will be carried out in the 2014–2020 period on the basis of the functional analysis findings. A modernised system will simplify human resource recruitment procedures, enable a swifter adaptation to changes in the field of human resources, and provide support for management, decision-making and strategic planning. A significant element in the upgrade of the civil servants system will be the introduction of a competence model in the public administration as part of the system-wide regulation of the employment

131 2012 OECD Public Governance Review of Slovenia: Towards a Strategic and Efficient State, co-financed by ESF funds

132 Annual reports on the activities of the Public Sector Inspectorate, available on the website of the Ministry of the Interior [http://www.mnz.gov.si/si/varnost\\_in\\_nadzor/inspektorat\\_za\\_javni\\_sektor/](http://www.mnz.gov.si/si/varnost_in_nadzor/inspektorat_za_javni_sektor/)

133 Annual reports of the Court of Auditors of the Republic of Slovenia, available on the following website <http://www.rs-rs.si/rsrcs/rsrs.nsf/1/K86546B35F636AAC1C1257155004B3D11>

134 Annual reports of the Human Rights Ombudsman, available on the following website <http://www.varuh-rs.si/publikacije-gradiva-izjave/letna-porocila-priporocila-dz-odzivna-porocila-vlade/>



and promotion of civil servants and the training of competence assessors, which will contribute to better use of the knowledge and skills of civil servants, the identification of training needs and the consequent formation of an efficient, modern and cheaper public administration. Slovenia will therefore strengthen training in key identified areas, such as management skills, strategic and project management, better regulation, quality management, public procurement and public finances and digital competences by introducing new programmes, increasing the number of persons included in training and strengthening cooperation with academia.

In accordance with the Council Recommendation<sup>135</sup>, one of the Slovenia's key objectives is to fight corruption by taking a zero tolerance approach. By implementing the planned activities and actions to increase the level of integrity and limit corruption risks, Slovenia pursues the vision of a professional and efficient public administration which is characterised by the predictable

<sup>135</sup> Council Recommendation on Slovenia's 2014 national reform programme and Council opinion on Slovenia's 2014 stability programme (Recommendation no. 8).

and comprehensive management of corruption risks. Additional training of heads and employees in the public administration is planned, which will make a significant contribution to achieving the set targets, with emphasis on integrity and the prevention of corruption or areas with increased corruption risks, such as public procurement procedures.

Actions to develop human resource management in the public administration were not part of the 2007-2013 financial perspective; therefore, the ESF-supported actions for 2014–2020 will focus on improving human resource management and raising the levels of qualification and integrity of the public administration staff.

The expected results under this specific objective:

- a modern and efficient human resource management system;
- improved competences of civil servants;
- improved level of qualification of public administration staff responsible for reducing corruption risks.

**Table 77: Specific result indicators, Specific objective 2**

ID	Indicator	Category of region	Indicator measurement unit	Common output indicator used as basis	Baseline value	Measurement unit for baseline and target	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
11.3	Share of public administration staff to complete the supported training*	Zahodna Slovenija	%	Not relevant	100	%	2013	100**	Monitoring	Once a year

\*Participants are considered to have successfully completed the programme if they obtained a certificate or a public document proving the successful completion of a programme which provides new competences or level of education.

\*\* The baseline value is based on past experience of training carried out with all the participants having successfully completed the training and receiving a certificate of training. The target value for 2023 is based on past experience.

**SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 3: IMPROVE GOVERNANCE AND TRANSPARENCY IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION BY INTRODUCING NEW TOOLS, METHODS AND INTEROPERABLE SOLUTIONS**

Slovenia has fallen behind in terms of international competitiveness (IMD<sup>136</sup> and WEF 2013<sup>137</sup>). The inefficiency of the public administration and corruption are the key factors impacting entrepreneurship. There are no system-wide actions to monitor and control quality in public administration bodies at all levels<sup>138</sup>, nor any measurable objectives or process indicators. The effective functioning of the public administration is one of the building blocks in enhancing trust and prosperity. As a result, Slovenia will introduce internal work quality assessments, external performance assessments<sup>139</sup> (peer assessment) and processes to monitor and control quality via proper IT support in accordance with European Council recommendations<sup>140</sup> and OECD recommendations<sup>141</sup>. Standardised semantic and technical tools for enhancing the quality of inspections and administrative operation will also be developed.

In accordance with Council Recommendations<sup>142</sup> and on the basis of the Slovenian Government's Programme for the Prevention of Corruption<sup>143</sup> and the GRECO report Analytical, semantic and technical actions to reduce corruption risks will be implemented in

cooperation with the Commission for the Prevention of Corruption and NGOs.<sup>144</sup> A central unified web platform for monitoring all risks (operating risks, corruption risks, risks at work) will be set up in public administration, including an information tool for effective monitoring of the use of public finances (internal audit). This will facilitate mutual communication (exchange of best practices) among public administration institutions in one place, and transparent and efficient activities to reduce corruption risks. Transparency of public procurement procedures and calls for proposals procedures will be established by upgrading the e-public procurement and contract notification system.

In efforts for more open and transparent public administration and to ensure proper implementation of the Directive on the re-use of public sector information we will improve the technical and semantic interoperability of back-office IT systems – common building blocks, horizontal applications, basic data registers and open data publishing platform. Compliance with the needs of the environment and users will be established, including the possibilities for highly automated and reliable publication of data in open formats and their efficient reuse.

In the 2007-2013 period, certain common building blocks and horizontal applications were already put in place, for example in the area of “e-social security” (e-sociala). While establishing a single business contact point, a central system for authentication was developed with a cross-border dimension included, which is limited to the functionalities of the results of large-scale pilot projects, i.e. e-delivery (e-vročanje) and e-signature (e-podpis). A government IT cloud is also being established as an extremely important new uniform ICT platform. Over the next 2014-2020 period we will put in place new common building blocks, tools and services (in particular for e-dissemination of data, trust services, e-payments and e-archive) and will upgrade existing building blocks in accordance with needs

136 <http://www.imd.org/news/World-Competitiveness-2013.cfm>

137 [http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF\\_GlobalCompetitivenessReport\\_2013-14.pdf](http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_GlobalCompetitivenessReport_2013-14.pdf)

138 In all ministries, government offices, bodies affiliated to ministries and administrative units.

139 Council Recommendation on Slovenia's 2014 national reform programme and Council opinion on Slovenia's 2014 stability programme (Recommendation no. 8).

140 2012 OECD Public Governance Review of Slovenia: Towards a Strategic and Efficient State.

141 Council Recommendation on Slovenia's 2014 national reform programme and Council opinion on Slovenia's 2014 stability programme (Recommendation no. 8).

142 Actions associated with corruption are explicitly covered by Recommendation no. 8.

143 The Slovenian Government's Programme for the Prevention of Corruption was adopted on 5 March 2014: <http://www.mnz.gov.si/fileadmin/mnz.gov.si/pageuploads/SOJ/word/MNZ-VRS-PK-marec2014.pdf>. The so-called First interim report on its implementation was already adopted by the Slovenian Government on 29 May 2014: [http://www.mnz.gov.si/si/novinarsko\\_sredisce/novica/browse/1/article/12208/8850/943bd83ad6dd53ca761ffeb-85180d9ab/](http://www.mnz.gov.si/si/novinarsko_sredisce/novica/browse/1/article/12208/8850/943bd83ad6dd53ca761ffeb-85180d9ab/)

144 The GRECO report of October 2012 on the Republic of Slovenia: Corruption prevention in respect of members of parliament, judges and prosecutors (57th Plenary Meeting).

(e.g. eIDAS<sup>145</sup>, TEN TELE<sup>146</sup>). All the building blocks, horizontal applications and basic data registers will be implemented within the new government IT cloud, which will significantly improve the interoperability of systems and key data, their reliability, flexibility and accessibility. As a horizontal platform, the government

IT cloud will also be used for the installation and operation of products developed under other priority axes.

- The expected results under this specific objective:
- enhanced applicability of tools for quality control and monitoring;
- developed and upgraded tools to enhance transparency and reduce corruption risks;
- enhanced interoperability of processes and data.

<sup>145</sup> Regulation (EU) No 910/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 July 2014 [http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L\\_.2014.257.01.0073.01.ENG](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L_.2014.257.01.0073.01.ENG)

<sup>146</sup> <http://register.consilium.europa.eu/doc/srv?l=EN&f=ST%2010088%202013%20INIT>

**Table 78: Specific result indicators, specific objective 3**

ID	Indicator	Category of region	Indicator measurement unit	Common output indicator used as basis	Baseline value	Measurement unit for baseline and target	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
11.4	Share of bodies to apply the CAF model*	Vzhodna Slovenija	%	Not relevant	100**	%	2013	100	Monitoring	Once a year
		Zahodna Slovenija	%	Not relevant	100**	%	2013	100	Monitoring	Once a year
11.5	Share of building blocks and fundamental data records implemented within the government cloud	Vzhodna Slovenija	%	Not relevant	100***	%	2014	100	Monitoring	Once a year
		Zahodna Slovenija	%	Not relevant	100***	%	2014	100	Monitoring	Once a year

\*Central public administration authorities and bodies (ministries, affiliated bodies, agencies, administrative units); implemented quality system refers to positive results of the implemented procedures for quality control in the central public administration authorities and bodies.

\*\* The baseline value is based on past experience – all bodies that implemented quality system carried out a positive assessment of the procedures for quality control. The target value for 2023 builds on past experiences.

\*\*\* A national cloud has not yet been established. The initial value is based on comparable experience gained under the 2007-2013 programming period, when we all developed building blocks and data registers were implemented to 100% on existing servers that are not a single platform and do not have the characteristics of a cloud.

#### **SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 4: IMPROVE THE LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK AND UPGRADE E-SERVICES FOR A USER-ORIENTED PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION**

The European Commission finds that a burdensome legislative framework is one of the most difficult challenges that Slovenia faces. Such legislation hinders Slovenia's competitiveness in the national and foreign markets. The programme of actions to eliminate regulatory barriers has been systematically implemented in Slovenia through the use of ESF funds since 2009 and has bro-

ught significant results in simplifying the business environment. However, increased intensity in implementing key actions will be required in order to ensure a friendly and stimulating environment for entrepreneurs, and to enhance their competitiveness. A survey of entry conditions set out by all the regulations will be carried out in the 2007-2013 period, and a survey of other conditions will also need to be carried out, specifically by including external partners. Such surveys will be the basis for system-wide proposals for deregulation. The programme of actions to eliminate regulatory/administrative barriers

will take into account the proposals for the rationalisation of processes drawn up on the basis of the functional analysis of public administration, and will continue to measure administrative costs and burdens in regulations based on the SCM methodology, informing and notifying the public and preparing comparative analyses of regulations (also at the EU level) by including external partners. Thus a tool to improve regulations will be developed covering the establishment of an IT system to design a comprehensive (quantitative and qualitative) assessment of the impacts of regulations, primarily the assessment of the impacts of regulations on the economy through what is called the SME test. The modernisation of legislation governing administrative processes will be carried out, specifically by putting in place an IT system to support administrative operations.

Slovenia has years of experience in introducing e-public administration. Users have access to a large selection of e-public services, the use of which unfortunately fails to reach the expected extent, in particular in terms of e-public service use by citizens. Thus there is untapped potential with regard to efficiency and

the provision of public administration services. Various e-administration benchmarks show that Slovenia is increasingly lagging behind the leading EU Member States, and according to the majority of indicators is currently positioned in the EU average. With the development of new integrated solutions (computerisation of the entire process, the one-stop-shop concept, uniform editorial policy) the public administration will provide simplified e-public services, including in areas that have yet to be sufficiently developed. To that end, we will fundamentally upgrade the existing e-public administration mechanisms in terms of proving the active involvement of users (in the form of co-creation or co-production) in giving priority, planning, testing and improving new integrated e-public administration services according to the life events concept ("everything in one place" or one-stop-shop).

The expected results under this specific objective:

- introduction of quantitative and qualitative assessment of the effects of regulations on all competent ministries;
- increased use of e-public administration services.

**Table 79: Specific result indicators, specific objective 4**

ID	Indicator	Category of region	Indicator measurement unit	Common output indicator used as basis	Baseline value	Measurement unit for baseline and target	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
11.6	Share of ministries with an implemented measurement system and use of SCM* methodology	Vzhodna Slovenija	%		100*	%	2014	100	Ministry of Public Administration	Annually
		Zahodna Slovenija	%		100*	%	2014	100	Ministry of Public Administration	Annually

\*The SMC methodology has been implemented within the Ministry of Public Administration, specifically in the framework of a pilot project – this is why the baseline value is set at 100%. Other ministries will implement the SMC methodology by the end of 2023.

### 2.11.3.1 Actions to be supported under the investment priority

2.11.3.1.1 Description of types and examples of actions to be financed and their expected contribution to the corresponding specific objectives, including, where appropriate, the identification of the main target groups and types of beneficiaries

The following actions will be implemented to achieve the objective of enhancing the quality of judicial proceedings, optimisation and raising the qualifications level of justice system staff:

- Promoting and ensuring quality in the justice system:
  - first the missing tools will be identified and then the existing tools will be upgraded, specifically the tools for the identification of bottlenecks in management decision-making within the justice system, such as data warehouse, interactive and dynamic analytical tools – business intelligence, etc.;
  - when the triage feasibility study and fast track procedure in specific segments of judicial proceedings will be prepared, the IT systems will be upgraded with functionalities that support triages and the fast track procedure;
  - on the basis of a feasibility study, analysis of the eligibility of concentration or centralisation of specific services, joint services will be introduced (e.g. printing, enveloping, digitalisation, archiving);
  - measuring satisfaction and the level of confidence in the services of the justice system aimed at raising confidence in the justice system.
- Updating business processes:
  - first the missing IT solutions in the justice system will be identified and then the IT systems will be renewed and upgraded, such as: upgrading the registers, additional e-services, web portal, digitalisation of case files, access to external records, payment of court fees;
- when the missing tools for the advanced management of documents in judicial matters will be identified, they will then be further developed;
- After the identification IT environment will be established to facilitate external operations for judges/prosecutors and their support staff;
- integration of European judicial web services into the IT environment of Slovenia's justice system;
- development of tools for a uniform exchange of data relating to criminal and minor offences;
- establishing voice recognition for audio recording of main hearings and other court hearings;
- optimisation of the legislative procedure in the justice system, including the development of specific tools for identifying problems in relation to the implementation of regulations in the justice system.
- Promoting methods of alternative dispute resolution:
  - activities related to informing and notifying enterprises about the possibilities, methods and advantages (lower costs compared with court disputes, this type of dispute resolution does not limit business opportunities, this type of dispute resolution enables business entities to influence the resolution of disputes according to their needs) brought about by alternative dispute resolution methods and identification and implementation of the tools to promote the implementation of court-affiliated mediation;
  - training representatives and other persons responsible at enterprises on the methods of the amicable resolution of disputes (also through employer associations);
- Raising the qualifications level of justice system staff:
  - introduction of a competency model covering knowledge and skills and the motivation of justice system staff;
  - training and education within the competency model focusing on four vertically (hierarchically) set levels: staff working in courts, the state prosecutor's office and state attorney's office

(Level 1); judges, state prosecutors and state attorneys (Level 2); heads of internal organisational units, directors (Level 3); court presidents, heads of state prosecutor's and state attorney's offices (Level 4); and training for the use of the system which will be developed under action 1 and 2. Training and educational courses are intended for developing general and specific/professional competences as well as for introducing new business models;

- establishment and introduction of permanent support for users, including the establishment of a support IT system.

Target groups: judicial authorities, judges, prosecutors, judicial authority staff.

Beneficiaries: the Ministry of Justice will act as the Intermediate Body to implement the actions, and the Supreme Court of the Republic of Slovenia and the Ministry of Justice are the beneficiaries.

The implementation will take place via direct approval of projects/programmes.

The following actions are foreseen to achieve specific objective 2:

- Upgrading the human resources system by building on the competency model.
- Upgrading the human resources IT system.
- Training of heads and employees in the public administration at all levels with respect to the key identified areas such as: management skills, strategic and project management, better regulation, quality management, integrity and the reduction of corruption risks, public procurement and public finances, digital competences.

Target groups: public authorities and public authority staff.

The beneficiary of the implemented actions is the ministry responsible for public administration, the Commission for the Prevention of Corruption and the Information Commissioner.

The following actions are foreseen to achieve specific objective 3:

- Introduction of quality management tools with emphasis on the use of measurable objectives and process indicators, including proper IT support for quality system management.
- Introduction of an external performance assessment system (peer assessment) and internal audits/assessments of the quality of the functioning of administrative authorities.
- Introduction of semantic and technical tools to enhance efficiency, transparency and interaction of inspection bodies.
- Raising awareness to enhance transparency with respect to the utilisation of funds by the wider public sector (organisation of events, comparative analyses, etc.).
- Establishment of a single risk register by upgrading the existing corruption risk register of the Commission for the Prevention of Corruption for monitoring all types of risks (operating risks, corruption risks, etc.) in the public administration and more effective control over the use of public finances (internal audit module).
- Upgrading the IT system for e-public procurement with additional modules for the publication of contracts and the transparency of the entire public procurement procedure and calls for proposals procedure.
- Upgrading the *Supervisor* application with the inclusion of public commercial institutes, public undertakings, and 100% government-owned companies.
- Upgrading and transferring the common building blocks and horizontal applications developed during the previous financial perspective to the new government cloud.

- Development of new common building blocks, tools and services (primarily for the e-delivery of data, trust-based services, e-payments and e-archive).
- Improving the semantic interoperability and connectivity of the fundamental data registers which serve as a primary Source of data within a certain thematic area and are also used in other areas (e.g. civil register, vehicle register, etc.) and their gradual migration to the new government cloud.
- Upgrading the open data publication system, thereby facilitating the automated publication of data from the fundamental data registers and real-time big-data operations (transfer, publication and mega data processing without significant delays) and improving access, processing and reuse of such data.

Target groups: public authorities and public authority staff.

The beneficiaries of the implemented actions are ministries and the authorities affiliated to the ministries, the Commission for the Prevention of Corruption and the Information Commissioner.

The following actions are foreseen to achieve specific objective 4:

- Measuring administrative costs and regulatory burdens on the basis of the SCM methodology.
- Establishing an IT system to develop an integrated (quantitative and qualitative) assessment of the effects of regulations, including the SME test.
- Establishing an IT system to support administrative operations with customers.
- Improving digital channels to provide public administration services to end users in terms of a more comprehensive coverage of user needs according to the life events concept ("everything in one place" or one-stop-shop); also available to foreign nationals.

Target groups: public authorities and public authority staff.

The beneficiary of the implemented actions is the ministry responsible for public administration.

#### 2.11.3.1.2 Guiding principles for the selection of operations

In addition to the identified horizontal principles the selection of operations under this investment priority will take into account the following:

- specific objective 1 – actions which contribute, to the greatest extent possible, to creating conditions to enhance the economy's competitiveness, a healthy business environment for SMEs and a healthy economic climate for the inflow of foreign investments, and actions that contribute to shortening court proceedings. The supported actions complement one another, supplementing each other in terms of a synergistic effect aimed at achieving the common objective – the improvement of judicial proceedings, conducting proceedings and the staff's attainment of new competences;
- specific objectives 2, 3 and 4 – actions which comply with the strategic plans and regulatory commitments, financial savings for users and service providers, the interoperability principle, reuse and transparency, and the possibility of a public-private partnership. The content, planning and implementation of actions will be coordinated and complementary, ensuring the highest possible synergistic effects and preventing any potential duplication in terms of action implementation.

#### 2.11.3.1.3 Planned use of financial instruments

Financial instruments are not planned to be used under this investment priority.

#### 2.11.3.1.4 Planned use of major projects

Major projects are not planned.

## 2.11.3.1.5 Output indicators

Table 80: Output indicators

ID	Indicator (name of indicator)	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
11.7	Number of participants in education/training to improve the competences of the justice system staff	Number	ESF	Vzhodna Slovenija	854	Monitoring	Annually
		Number	ESF	Zahodna Slovenija	1,146	Monitoring	Annually
11.8	Number of participants in education/training in public administration	Number	ESF	Zahodna Slovenija	20,690	Monitoring	Annually
11.9	Number of supported bodies to apply the CAF model**	Number	ESF	Vzhodna Slovenija	36	Monitoring	Annually
		Number	ESF	Zahodna Slovenija	26	Monitoring	Annually
11.10	Number of ministries with an implemented measurement system and use of SCM methodology	Number	ESF	Vzhodna Slovenija	13***	Monitoring	Annually
		Number	ESF	Zahodna Slovenija	13	Monitoring	Annually
11.11	Number of supported building blocks and fundamental data records implemented within the government cloud	Number	ESF	Vzhodna Slovenija	15***	Monitoring	Annually
		Number	ESF	Zahodna Slovenija	15	Monitoring	Annually
11.12	Number of established systems used in the justice system****	Number	ESF	Vzhodna Slovenija	11	Monitoring	Annually
		Number	ESF	Zahodna Slovenija	11	Monitoring	Annually

\*\* Bodies are ministries, affiliated bodies, agencies, administrative units.

\*\*\* The action is of a systemic nature, therefore the number is the same for both cohesion regions.

\*\*\*\* 11 systems will be developed for both cohesion regions (their list is given in Annex 6).

**2.11.4 Capacity building for all stakeholders delivering education, lifelong learning, training and employment and social policies, including through sectoral and territorial pacts to mobilise for reform at the national, regional and local levels**

Support will be earmarked for actions strengthening the development of the non-governmental sector and capacity building of social partners.

**SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 1: STRENGTHEN THE CAPACITY OF NGOs FOR ADVOCACY AND PROVISION OF PUBLIC SERVICES**

The actions implemented in the framework of the 2007-2014 financial perspective focused on establishing a comprehensive service for capacity building of NGOs. The service was provided by the what are called support environment entities: horizontal networks, regi-



onal hubs and content networks. The visibility of NGOs increased among policy decision-makers and their position in the drafting of legislation and development policies strengthened. Cooperation and networking among NGOs at the national and regional level and at the level of thematic areas increased. The institutional capacity of the non-governmental sector was also strengthened with the basis for inter-sectoral cooperation also being established (NGO cooperation with the commercial sector and public sector).

Despite the achieved results, it has been established<sup>147</sup> that “in light of the new challenges and the associated new reforming actions which also cover the increase in the efficiency of the public administration (e.g. transition from institutional to community-based services) the competences of non-governmental organisations will need to be further developed.”

According to the data of the Agency of the Republic of Slovenia for Public Legal Records and Related Services, only 5.92% of NGOs had at least one employee in 2012 and only 10% generated more than EUR 50,000 in revenues. The total revenue of NGOs in 2012 accounted for only 2.39% of Slovenia's GDP, while the share of employees relative to the entire workforce in employment amounted to 0.76% or a mere 7,029 employees working for NGOs. According to the results of the most recent major international comparative study, conducted by Johns Hopkins University in 2003, the average share of employability at NGOs stands at 2.76% globally, and 3.39% in EU Member States.

<sup>147</sup> Capacity building of non-governmental organisations with the help of establishing support structures. Synthesis report. Pitija, Ljubljana, July 2014.

The evaluation established that the process of establishing support structures began in the 2007–2013 period and took place during politically and economically very unstable times, therefore given the achieved results associated with support actions for NGOs it is vital to further professionally strengthen the supporting structures themselves.

The new financial perspective will thus build on the existing capacities of NGOs, where relevant, and develop new capacities, mainly focusing on strengthening sectoral and inter-sectoral cooperation, the visibility of NGOs in their local environment, raising the level of expertise and professionalism for the provision of specialised services, and advocacy, in particular in light of participatory governance. It is a fact that unlike the social dialogue, the civil dialogue in Slovenia is not institutionalised, making it more complex and requiring greater involvement, a greater level of innovation, searching for alliances, etc. A more complex approach and a more long-term process are needed for its enhancement, while the result may have a significant impact on the quality of adopting public policies.

On the other hand, the integration and cooperation of NGOs in implementing public policies will have a positive impact on the economic strength and human resources reinforcement of the non-governmental sector, specifically by increasing the revenue of the non-governmental sector and the number of employees within the non-governmental sector.

The expected result under this specific objective:

- improved level of professionalism of NGOs for advocacy and provision of public services.

Table 81: Specific result indicators, specific objective 1

	Indicator	Category of region	Indicator measurement unit	Common output indicator used as basis	Baseline value	Measurement unit for baseline and target	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
11.13	Share of supported structures with at least one employee six months after completion, who performs support activities for an NGO*	Vzhodna Slovenija	%		38**	%	2014	58	MPA monitoring	Once every two years
		Zahodna Slovenija	%		38**	%	2014	58	MPA monitoring	Once every two years

\*The supported structures are support environment entities: horizontal networks, regional hubs and content networks. The services to be implemented by these supported structures are listed in section 2.11.4.1.1.

\*\*The baseline value is based on the reports produced by the beneficiaries for the call for proposals 2012-2014; it covers the share of beneficiaries who employ, specifically after closure of the ESF project, individuals whose salary is not financed from ESF funds and who implement support activities for an NGO.

#### SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 2: ENHANCE THE COMPETENCE OF SOCIAL PARTNERS IN SOCIAL DIALOGUE PROCESSES, IN PARTICULAR IN THE AREA OF LABOUR MARKET POLICIES AND LIFELONG LEARNING

During the 2007-2013 financial period Slovenia began establishing support structures for social partners. The establishment process took place during politically and economically very unstable times. Therefore it is necessary to further professionally strengthen the support structures themselves to enable effective implementation of the social dialogue at the national and sectoral levels and in firms. The competence of social partners should also be enhanced from the institutional point of view in areas such as peaceful settlement of disputes.

Social partners abroad employ a lot of staff for information and publicity and training (e.g. Germany, Denmark). This enhances their performance and effectiveness in supporting social dialogue and the effective functioning of the labour market. Slovenian social partners should follow their example. Social partners can also prove to be an extremely effective linking element between the education system and the labour market. In recent years, i.e. during the economic and social crisis, the role of social partners was overlooked and not

supported. An effective and sustainable market economy is the result of improved social dialogue. Social partners are also one of the key players in monitoring the rule of law and in maintaining an appropriate level of a social state, thus making the strengthening of properly educated and qualified staff in employment organisations and in trade union organisations crucial.

Suitably qualified social partner institutions represent a way to effectively and successfully draft and reform public policies.

The 2014-2020 financial perspective will build on existing capacities, where relevant, and develop new capacities, mainly focusing on:

- capacity building of social partners for their effective participation in forming public policies that are important for the labour market, enhancing social partner competences in strengthening the rule of law and the legal profession, peaceful settlement of disputes, enhancing the role of social partners in lifelong learning, mobility or migration of workers, worker diversity management, obtaining knowledge in the area of the informal and non-formal learning, and career counselling, vocational training, actions in the area of retraining and obtaining addi-

tional qualifications, safety and health at work and encouraging worker participation in management;

- strengthening social partners for conducting an effective social dialogue at the national and sectoral levels and the level of firms, and effective participation of social partners at the EU level;
- strengthening the role of social partners in terms of information and publicity, training and awareness-raising for employees.

This investment priority will support capacity building of social partners, while the actual implementation

of the actions and the activities within specific thematic areas will be supported in the framework of the individual investment priorities (in particular 8, 9 and 10).

The expected result under this specific objective:

- increased capacity of employees at social partner organisations to participate more effectively in the drafting and implementation of policies and approaches, relating primarily to the labour market and lifelong learning, and to ensure the legal certainty of the active working population.

**Table 82: Specific result indicators, specific objective 2**

ID	Indicator	Category of region	Indicator measurement unit	Common output indicator used as basis	Baseline value	Measurement unit for baseline and target	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
11.14	Share of participants to complete training or to obtain qualification*	Vzhodna Slovenija	Share	Not relevant	95	Share	2014	95	Monitoring	Annually
		Zahodna Slovenija	Share	Not relevant	95	Share	2014	95	Monitoring	Annually

\* Participants are considered to have completed the programme if they obtained a certificate or a public document proving that they completed a programme which equips them with a new competence of a new level of education.

#### 2.11.4.1 Actions to be supported under this investment priority

2.11.4.1.1 Description of types and examples of actions to be financed and their expected contribution to the corresponding specific objectives, including, where appropriate, the identification of the main target groups and types of beneficiaries

This investment priority will support the continued upgrading of the support environment services for NGOs with the aim of long-term development and effective participation of non-governmental organisations in drafting and implementing public policies. The actions intended to promote the support environment for NGOs will focus on raising the level of expertise and professionalism and on strengthening sectoral and inter-sectoral cooperation,

advocacy and recognisability/visibility of NGOs in the local environment, and are given below:

- Encouraging expertise and professionalism and sectoral and inter-sectoral cooperation (cooperation with the business sector, public sector, social partners, and the media): consultancy and mentorship associated with identified specialised areas where NGOs have potential (sharing the knowledge of experienced NGO practitioners, new forms of cooperation, such as co-working, coaching, job-shadowing).
- Tailored training for the transfer of specific public services to NGOs, reinforcing the capacities of strategic management and the business development of organisations, strengthening advocacy skills and lobbying.

- Encouraging advocacy: training, mentorships, consultancy and promoting the cooperation of NGOs for the provision of professional advocacy aimed at more effective cooperation when drafting, implementing and evaluating public policies, in particular in light of influencing the position and development of NGOs, and the transfer of public services and authorisations to NGOs.
- Providing comprehensive support to NGOs with respect to the provision of information that is relevant for the growth and development of NGOs and the reinforcement of their role.
- Campaigns aimed at improving the recognisability (profile) of NGOs in their local environment by contributing to improving the conditions for so-called “grassroot NGOs”.

Target groups: NGOs in all phases of development (establishment, initial operation (start-up), growth and development).

Beneficiaries: Non-governmental organisations.

The following actions will be supported to achieve the objective enhance the competence of social partners:

- Conducting studies and analyses especially studies and analyses of social dialogue, industrial relations and the labour market.
- Supporting the establishment of professional bodies and models for promoting the exchange of experience and best practices associated with social dialogue (transfer and development of best practices from abroad within the scope of social dialogue at the level of a specific sector, examining the possibility of establishing paritarian funds, finding professional solutions for boosting competitiveness and sustainable development, employment security and the sustainability of business models).
- Education and training of social partners in those thematic areas related to the policies pertaining to the labour market, lifelong learning, safety and health.
- Cooperation of social partners with the private sector, non-governmental organisations and public institutions in finding innovative systemic solutions

for more effective functioning of the labour market and the legal protection of employees.

- Activities associated with developing the concept of participation of employees in management) at various levels.
- Supporting the establishment of social partner centres for the peaceful settlement of disputes.
- Supporting information and awareness raising of employers, employees and the unemployed about legislation and rights pertaining to the labour market, including by supporting publicity activities (release of publications, bulletins, mobile applications, informative materials for children and youth about the work process, e-teaching materials and handbooks).

Target groups: Social partner organisations and their members, employees.

Beneficiaries: representative social partners at the national level.

#### 2.11.4.1.2 Guiding principles for selection

In addition to the identified horizontal principles, priority will be given to projects that:

- ensure the complementarity of services between service providers;
- increase the flexibility of services to user needs (tailor-made);
- are relevant in defining strategic and specific objectives;
- demonstrate the ability to enhance cooperation and integration at various levels;
- exert direct and indirect influence in terms of strengthening NGOs and the wider environment;
- include comprehensive and innovative services and processes;
- represent a financially sustainable project structure;
- demonstrate maturity in terms of implementation;
- incorporate quality actions which should be reflected in the defined purpose, objectives and expected training results, the programme and methodology of training, the definition of supplementary actions

vities to ensure continued learning and transfer of knowledge/skills into practice, the references of the training providers.

Where relevant, the selection of projects for capacity building of social partners will give priority to projects to be implemented in cooperation with public institutions and NGOs.

#### 2.11.4.1.3 Planned use of financial instruments

Financial instruments are not planned to be used under this investment priority.

#### 2.11.4.1.4 Planned use of major projects

Major projects are not planned.

#### 2.11.4.1.5 Output indicators

**Table 83: Output indicators**

ID	Indicator (name of indicator)	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
11.15	Number of projects/supported structures* for capacity building of NGOs for advocacy and provision of public services	Number	ESF	Vzhodna Slovenija	8	Monitoring	Annually
		Number	ESF	Zahodna Slovenija	8	Monitoring	Annually
11.16	Number of participants in training who are employed with social partner organisations	Number	ESF	Vzhodna Slovenija	6	Monitoring	Annually
		Number	ESF	Zahodna Slovenija	6	Monitoring	Annually

\*Projects = supported structures are support environment entities: horizontal networks, regional hubs and content networks.

#### **2.11.5 Social innovation, transnational cooperation and contribution to thematic objectives 1–7**

This priority axis will focus on finding innovative solutions to enhance the effectiveness of the justice system, to optimise the resolution of enforcement and associated matters, to improve the execution of insolvency proceedings in companies, alternative methods of resolving disputes between corporate entities, and to enhance the efficiency of detecting and prosecuting economic crime and corruption.

Within the scope of transnational cooperation Slovenia will continue to join projects in the field of the justice system which are initiated by other Member States.

All the aforementioned activities will establish synergies in various areas which impact the creation of conditions for boosting the economy's competitiveness and for a healthy business environment for SMEs.

Actions under specific objectives 3 and 4 to enhance the efficiency and transparency of the public administration and improve the legislative framework will have

a significant impact on the development of the economy and will boost competitiveness.

in particular, are also inseparably linked with the social potential of innovation.

Open public sector data can have a massive impact on innovativeness in society. The use of the government cloud is a key internal innovation in the system of ensuring increased reliability, flexibility, accessibility and connectivity of systems and key data in the public administration. With the regular release of up-to-date, high-quality and reliable information from the public administration, companies and citizens also have an exceptional basis for developing new innovative solutions and products. Technological development and the resulting competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises,

Open data is also an extremely important tool for non-governmental organisations – to conduct independent control over the efficient and responsible use of budgetary funds, for cooperation in setting up sustainable public policies aimed at preserving the environment, reducing the effects on climate change, energy use and transport route efficiency. The “interoperability, transparency and open data” actions have a major impact on social innovations and transnational cooperation, and establish synergies with the majority of the thematic objectives.

#### 2.11.6 Performance framework

Priority axis	Indicator type (implementation step, financial, output or result indicator)	ID	Definition of the indicator or implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Fund	Category of region	Milestone for 2018	Final target (2023)	Source of data	Explanation of the relevance of the indicator, where appropriate
11	Output indicator	11.12	Number of established systems used in the justice system	Number	ESF	Vzhodna Slovenija	5	11	Monitoring	30.10 % of ESF funds under priority axis 11 for cohesion region of Vzhodna Slovenija
				Number	ESF	Zahodna Slovenija	5	11	Monitoring	31.93 % of ESF funds under priority axis 11 for cohesion region of Zahodna Slovenija
11	Output indicator	11.11	Number of supported building blocks and fundamental data records implemented within the government cloud	Number	ESF	Vzhodna Slovenija	8	15	Monitoring	31.83 % of ESF funds under priority axis 11 for cohesion region of Vzhodna Slovenija
				Number	ESF	Zahodna Slovenija	8	15	Monitoring	19,29 % of ESF funds under priority axis 11 for cohesion region of Vzhodna Slovenija
11	Financial indicator	F1	Input/expenditure	EUR	ESF	Vzhodna Slovenija	10,285,200	31,353,603	Registered claims for reimbursement	
				EUR	ESF	Zahodna Slovenija	13,114,800	46,238,873		

### 2.11.7 Categories of intervention

Fund and intervention field ESF cohesion region of Vzhodna Slovenija									
Table 1: Intervention field		Table 2: Form of finance		Table 3: Territory		Table 4: Territorial delivery mechanisms		Table 6: ESF secondary theme	
Code	EUR amount	code	EUR amount	code	EUR amount	code	EUR amount	code	EUR amount
119	20,066,306	01	20,066,306	05	20,066,306	05	20,066,306	00	
120	5,016,576	01	5,016,576	05	5,016,576	05	5,016,576	00	

Fund and intervention field ESF cohesion region of Zahodna Slovenija									
Table 1: Intervention field		Table 2: Form of finance		Table 3: Territory		Table 4: Territorial delivery mechanisms		Table 6: ESF secondary theme	
Code	EUR amount	code	EUR amount	code	EUR amount	code	EUR amount	code	EUR amount
119	31,992,301	01	31,992,301	05	31,992,301	05	31,992,301	00	
120	4,998,797	01	4,998,797	05	4,998,797	05	4,998,797	00	

**2.11.8 Where appropriate, a summary of the planned use of technical assistance including, where necessary, actions to reinforce the administrative capacity of authorities involved in management and control of the programmes**

Not relevant.

### 2.12 Technical assistance – CF

#### 2.12.1 Explanation for the establishment of a priority axis covering more than one category of region

Technical assistance will support actions targeting effective implementation of the operational programme. Special attention will be placed on the implementation of actions in areas which have shown to be problematic in past periods, as well as areas where Slovenia lacks experience with respect to their implementation.

The funds earmarked within this priority axis are crucial for achieving the objectives set out in the thematic priority axes. Due to the nature of the actions and their purpose, a standardised approach to implementing this priority axis will be applied at the national level and, where necessary, these actions will be adapted to the spe-

cific characteristics of each cohesion region should this prove to be relevant and justified.

#### 2.12.2 Fund and category of region

Fund	CF
Category of region	Not relevant
Basis for calculation (total eligible expenditure or eligible public expenditure)	Total eligible cost

#### 2.12.3 Specific objectives and expected results

The following specific objectives are pursued within this priority axis:

##### SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 1: EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME

Suitably qualified staff participating in the implementation of actions and an effective and operational implementation system are essential for the successful implementation of actions within the scope of the thematic priority axes and thus for the achievement of the defined target values at the result and direct output level.

In the past, technical assistance was earmarked for developing the EU funds management and implementation system. Investments in the functioning and simultaneous improvement of the management, implementation and control system are crucial to achieve better results. In doing so, specific emphasis is placed on maintaining and enhancing the administrative capacity and competences in the field of management and control, establishing a more efficient work organisation and on motivating employees.

Attention will also be given to investments in improving the institutional structure, reinforcing inter-sectoral cooperation, standardisation of relevant administrative practices and reducing the administrative burdens by formulating proportionate project requirements and improving/upgrading the IT system. Such an approach will lead to a more transparent implementation system which is more intelligible and also more accessible to beneficiaries/applicants as well as to control institutions. Enhancing the system's transparency will be ensured through the appropriate division of control and implementation tasks, and transparent allocation of support and actions to prevent fraud. Salary and wage costs will account for the majority of technical assistance for entities carrying out management and control tasks and for those to whom management and control bodies, by way of authorisation or other act, transferred the implementation of tasks within the scope of the European Cohesion Policy.

The expected results under this specific objective::

- enhanced capacity of employees participating in OP implementation;
- faster start of project implementation;
- lower number of identified irregularities and errors;
- higher share of e-applications of project.

#### **SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 2: BUILD BENEFICIARY CAPACITY**

An important factor in improving the achievement of the set objectives and assuring complementarity in terms of various EU funds absorption is enhanced capacity of beneficiaries at the national and regional level. Relatively little attention has been paid to this area thus far, which means that the 2014-2020 technical assistance will support activities targeting administrative capacity-building as well as capacity-building in terms of drawing up high-quality project proposals suitable to apply for support under this operational programme. Enhanced capacity and qualifications of beneficiaries will strengthen the partnership between various stakeholders and the MA.

The expected result under this specific objective:

- increased number of qualified beneficiaries due to their participation in relevant training and education.



## 2.12.4 Result indicators

**Table 84: Specific result indicators, specific objective 1**

ID	Indicator	Measure- ment unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
12.1	Share of error rate (CF)*	share	0.2918*	2013	below 0.5	Budget Supervision Office	Annually
12.2	Share of TA employees involved in OP implementation who have participated in trainings, education seminars (CF)**	share	50	2013	55	Managing Authority and relevant bodies participating in European Cohesion Policy implementation	Annually
12.3	Average number of training days per year per employee whose salary is co-financed from technical assistance funds (CF)***	number	2	2013	3	Managing Authority and relevant bodies participating in European Cohesion Policy implementation	Annually
12.4	Employee turnover* per year, i.e. employees involved in OP implementation whose salary is co-financed from technical assistance funds (CF)****	share	11.4	2014	Less than 3	Managing Authority and relevant bodies participating in European Cohesion Policy implementation	Annually

\* Source: Annual control report for 2013 (Budget Supervision Office)

\*\*In 2013 the number of employees involved in OP implementation for the CF stood at 185 of which 93 employees attended at least one education/training course, which represents 50% of the employees. Source: internal databases of the MA. Calculation: (number of participants/number of employees)\*100

\*\*\* In 2013 the number of employees involved in OP implementation for the CF stood at 185. The report shows that the number of training days totalled 370 days in 2013, which on average represents 2 training days per employee. Source: internal databases of the MA. Calculation: (number of participants/number of employees)\*100

\*\*\*\*In 2014 the MA employed 7 new employees with 3 terminations of employment, representing a total of 10 jobs, the number of all the MA employees receiving a salary co-financed by TA funds stands at 88, which represents 11.4%. This share is extrapolated to all employees involved in implementation of the European Cohesion Policy and financed from technical assistance funds. Source: Internal database of the MA. Calculation: (Number of new jobs + number of terminations of employment) / number of employees

**Table 85: Specific result indicators, specific objective 2**

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
12.5	Share of beneficiaries involved in OP implementation who have participated in training, education and seminars (CF)*	Share	15	2013	20	Managing Authority and relevant bodies participating in European Cohesion Policy implementation	Annually

\*In 2013 the number of CF beneficiaries stood at 413 of which 62 participated in education and training seminars organised by the MA, which represents a 15% share. Source: internal databases of the MA. Calculation: (number of participants/number of beneficiaries involved in OP implementation)\*100

#### 2.12.4.1 Actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the corresponding specific objectives

##### 2.12.4.1.1 Description of the actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the corresponding specific objectives

Slovenia will realise the specific objectives and attain the identified results by enhancing the administrative capacity of authorities participating in ESI Funds implementation as well as of the beneficiaries to receive these funds, specifically through the following actions:

- providing appropriate employment opportunities in areas where bottlenecks have already been identified during the current programming period implementation;
- capacity building of the employees participating in ESI Funds implementation;
- education and training courses (a training programme will be designed) for employees and beneficiaries to ensure smooth implementation of ESI Funds;
- strengthening the human resources management model, which will also improve the provision of services;
- reinforcing actions for smooth implementation of processes;
- introducing a permanent quality assessment and quality management process (carrying out evaluations, etc.) based on pre-defined criteria (standards) and performance indicators.

The 2014-2020 technical assistance funds will support administrative capacities for entities carrying out management and control tasks and for those to whom management and control bodies, by way of authorisation or other act, transferred the implementation of tasks within the scope of the European Cohesion Policy. In order to ensure effective management and utilisation of the available funds, support will be earmarked for actions reducing administrative burdens for beneficiaries and for capacity building of beneficiaries. A clear demarcation will be established between the actions to be implemented in the framework of this priority axis and the actions to be implemented in the framework of priority axis 11.

Indicative allocation of technical assistance support broken down by individual category:

- **Employment** for the implementation of management and control tasks and other employee-related costs, in particular to ensure a stable and high-quality employee structure in the area of Cohesion Policy implementation.

For a detailed definition of the employee structure, we will develop an analysis of human resources needs to perform the tasks that are required to implement this programme.

A portion of the funds will also be earmarked for those areas where problems/issues arose during previous programming period implementation (e.g. public procurement, waters, waste and transport), as well the areas which are identified for this first time under the 2014-2020 programming period (e.g. sustainable mobility, urban development, etc.).

- **Education, training, and capacity building for better management**

Funds will be earmarked for administrative capacity building, specifically through the on-going organisation of training and education courses (state aid, accounting, book-keeping, management verifications, exchange of best practices to improve the level of quality and innovation of strategic planning to implement EU policies and government policies, project management, preparing calls for proposals, etc.) with the aim of improving the competences of employees.

Training and education will be tailor-made and will cater to different target groups with respect to the current specific needs by individual areas for smooth implementation of the European Cohesion Policy. The envisaged training/education courses will be set out under the Framework Training and Education Plan for the 2014-2020 programming period, drafted by the Managing Authority together with other entities in the field of education. Participants involved in European Cohesion Policy implementation will also attend training and education courses within the standard training courses organised by various institutions.

On the basis of the issues identified under the 2007-2013 financial perspective and in order to fulfil individual criteria of ex-ante conditionalities, education and training activities will give special attention, in addition to other thematic areas, to the following areas:

- public procurement, which is key in terms of efficient absorption of European Cohesion Policy funds. A special training programme for beneficiaries and all managing and control authorities, including intermediary bodies, is being prepared. The programme will be based on an analysis of the situation in terms of public procurement implementation. The programme identifies the difficulties at the systemic and operational levels (preparation, implementation and control of public procurement procedures, lack of administrative capacity), as well as the actions taken to eliminate the main and recurring errors. The analysis defines the tools and actions at all levels to ensure the sufficient number of skilled staff and the appropriate administrative capacity/qualifications of staff covering the area of public procurement;
- based on previous practice and experience, special guidelines will also be drawn up to simplify the preparation procedure of tender documentation and to enhance the efficiency of public procurement procedures (e.g. drafting sample tender documentation with respect to various types of procedures, a manual for the implementation of all phases of various public procurement procedures, a standardised checklist to verify the completeness and correctness of the implemented public contracts, preparing lists for the entire public procurement documentation that beneficiaries submit together with their application for reimbursement, etc.);
- enhancing the administrative capacity in implementing European Cohesion Policy projects relating to water infrastructure and other infrastructure associated with environmental protection, the construction of transport infrastructure, major infrastructure projects, enhanced capacity in

drafting public procurements, issuing permits, non-compliance with the environmental impact assessment directive, new environmental legislation, directives, etc. The training programme will also ensure training covering the areas of green public procurement, sustainable development, ensuring gender equality and equality, public-private partnership, energy contracting, sustainable mobility, urban development and so on;

- a fraud-based risk analysis will be made, and will serve as a basis for managing and control authorities in developing appropriate actions;
- a portion of these funds will be earmarked for capacity building of the beneficiaries to improve the achievement of the set objectives and complementarity of various EU funds (such as the exchange of best practices to increase the level of quality and innovation of strategic planning to implement EU policies and national policies, drafting and managing comprehensive, complex and high-quality projects, drafting project and investment documentation, etc.). Within the scope of these activities funds will also be earmarked for strengthening beneficiaries and institutions to ensure the efficient, timely and correct use of the allocated funds.

Technical assistance will also be used to support activities which are carried out outside the areas of eligibility insofar as these activities prove to be beneficial to the eligible areas (e.g. training abroad, exchange of best practices).

- **Studies, evaluations and other guidelines, analyses, strategic programming documents** related to the ex-ante conditionalities which will be required for the implementation of individual policies, operational programme priority axes and individual instruments. This action will support activities which will contribute to a more effective, faster and higher-quality implementation of individual policies, operational programme priority axes and individual instruments. Support will be targeted at drawing up studies, evaluations, research, assessments, expert

opinions and reports on the implementation of the operational programme and the preparation of project and investment documentation, and other activities with the objective of gathering better and more accurate feasibility assessments of individual instruments, projects, their impacts on various factors, (investment) value, other impacts and risks as well as the time required for implementation. The funds will finance the organisation of workshops and/or events to disseminate the results of the studies and evaluations. This action will also support the services of external experts and providers.

- **IT systems**, primarily the optimisation of systems applied in the framework of Cohesion Policy implementation (the IT system of the managing authority and certifying authority, the national accounting system of the Ministry of Finance and other IT systems required for optimal functioning in the framework of Cohesion Policy implementation for more efficient and faster operation and detection of irregularities). Where appropriate, technical assistance funds will also support activities for introducing e-services and e-cohesion. The funds under this action will also support the introduction of modifications needed to ensure the consistency of e-services with Commission requirements. This will improve monitoring and control in the framework of European Cohesion Policy implementation and also simplify the acquisition of the required data for all the participants. In addition to greater connectivity of databases we also plan to enhance and simplify reporting for all user levels. This action will also support the establishment/upgrade and connection of the existing IT systems and databases, the purchase and lease of licenses, software and hardware for these IT systems as well as support for other relevant activities which are needed for an efficient and linked functioning of the included IT systems in line with the regulations and best practices in the field of IT technology.
- **Other support activities** required for the implementation of OP ECP 2014–2020-related tasks at the na-

tional level. The activities will establish the material and technical conditions and the intellectual and administrative capacity of the stakeholders to effectively absorb the European Cohesion Policy funds.

Funds are earmarked for the following support activities:

- lease, maintenance, purchase, depreciation and management of office areas;
- lease, maintenance, purchase and depreciation of office equipment;
- lease, maintenance, purchase and depreciation of computers, hardware and software;
- lease, maintenance, purchase and depreciation of licenses;
- purchase of office supplies;
- organisation of working sessions, meetings, monitoring committees, etc.;
- motivational workshops for employees participating in OP implementation;
- on-the-spot checks;
- travel expenses relating to OP implementation activities;
- external services (e.g. translation services);
- legal, financial and other consultancy;
- other activities to support the effective implementation of the European Cohesion Policy.

Technical assistance will also finance other costs incurred on an ad hoc basis during the 2014-2020 programming period implementation, including activities associated with the implementation of EU macro-regional strategies. In addition to the content of the operational programme and the horizontal thematic areas, technical assistance will also finance activities related to the closure of the 2007-2013 programming period and the preparations for the 2021-2027 programming period.

The identified (system-wide) actions at the central level (central and public administration) will, as a rule, be financed under technical assistance, while similar actions at lower levels (especially at the beneficiary level) will receive support under the individual priority axis or specific project.

The competent authorities will draw up uniform guidelines to reduce administrative burdens for beneficiaries, which will clearly and unambiguously define the use of individual categories, by also enabling beneficiaries to submit applications for their project proposals in a more simplified and clearer manner. Simplifications are also envisaged in the area of IT systems, primarily the optimisation of systems which will significantly contribute to the de-bureaucratisation of the processes and en-

hancing transparency as well as to enhancing efficiency and introducing simplifications for beneficiaries and the individuals participating in European Cohesion Policy management and implementation (e.g. one-time entry of data). Simplifications have also been envisaged in relation to eligible costs and their demonstration in the case of flat-rates, standard costs per unit and other possibilities within the scope of the newly adopted implementing regulations for the ERDF and the ESF.

#### 2.12.4.1.2 Output indicators

**Table 86: Output indicators, specific objective 1**

ID	Indicator (name of indicator)	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
12.6	Number of on-the-spot checks performed by the MA per year (CF)	number	13	Managing Authority	Annually
12.7	Number of published reports on studies and evaluations (CF)*	Number	16	Managing Authority	Annually
12.8	Number of full-time employees whose salary is co-financed from technical assistance funds (CF, ERDF, ESF)	Number	314	Managing Authority and relevant bodies participating in European Cohesion Policy implementation	Annually
12.9	Number of employees involved in OP implementation, participating in education and training courses in the field of public procurement, audits and management verifications, public-private partnership, state aid, project management, etc. (CF)	Number	700	Managing Authority and relevant bodies participating in European Cohesion Policy implementation	Annually

\* Target value represents the total number of studies and evaluations for the entire period for all three Funds.

**Table 87: Output indicators, specific objective 2**

ID	Indicator (name of indicator)	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
12.10	Number of beneficiaries involved in OP implementation, participating in education and training courses in the field of public procurement, audits and management verifications, public-private partnership, state aid, project management, etc. (CF)	Number	700	Managing Authority and relevant bodies participating in European Cohesion Policy implementation	Annually

### 2.12.5 Categories of intervention

Fund and intervention field CF					
Table 1: Intervention field		Table 2: Form of finance		Table 3: Territory	
code	Amount in EUR	code	Amount in EUR	code	Amount in EUR
121	84,171,766	01	84,171,766	07	84,171,766
122	5,365,270	01	5,365,270	07	5,365,270

## 2.13 Technical assistance – ERDF

### 2.13.1 Explanation for the establishment of a priority axis covering more than one category of region

Technical assistance will support actions targeting effective implementation of the operational programme. Special attention will be focused on the implementation of actions in areas which have shown to be problematic in past periods, as well as areas where Slovenia lacks experience with respect to their implementation.

The funds earmarked within this priority axis are crucial for achieving the objectives set out in the thematic priority axes. Due to the nature of the actions and their purpose, a standardised approach to implementing this priority axis will be applied at the national level and, where necessary, these actions will be adapted to the specific characteristics of each cohesion region should this prove to be relevant and justified.

Actions under this priority axis will be carried out mainly at the national level. The breakdown is set at 82% for the cohesion region of Vzhodna Slovenija and 18% for the cohesion region of Zahodna Slovenija. This fun-

ding breakdown builds on the fact that the number of beneficiaries in the cohesion region of Vzhodna Slovenija is greater than the number of beneficiaries in the cohesion region of Zahodna Slovenija, as well as the fact that the beneficiaries in Vzhodna Slovenija need capacity support much more than those in Zahodna Slovenija. Historically speaking the beneficiaries in Vzhodna Slovenija have less opportunity to access support than the beneficiaries in Zahodna Slovenija, especially in the areas of RDI and entrepreneurship. The funds will therefore be used primarily to provide direct support to beneficiaries to improve their overall skills and knowledge in the areas of innovative strategic planning, preparation and management of integrated high quality projects, exchange of best practices, knowledge transfer, cooperation between different actors (sectors and regional level), entrepreneurial activities, etc. In addition, the funds will be used to improve the skills of employees at the MA and IB in order to be able to better assess the needs of the cohesion region of Vzhodna Slovenija and develop such measures which will contribute to narrowing the gap between the two cohesion regions (dedicated studies, evaluations, etc.). The financing of measures from ERDF funds will be complementary to the technical assistance from the CF, where funds are not automatically allocated to one of the two regions in advance.

### 2.13.2 Fund and category of region

Fund	ERDF
Category of region	Vzhodna Slovenija, Zahodna Slovenija
Basis for calculation (total eligible expenditure or eligible public expenditure)	Total eligible cost

### 2.13.3 Specific objectives and expected results

Specific objectives and expected results are defined under section 2.12.3.

### 2.13.4 Result indicators

**Table 88: Specific result indicators, specific objective 1**

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
13.1	Share of error rate (ERDF)	share	2.4685*	2013	below 1.9	Budget Supervision Office	Annually
13.2	Share of employees involved in OP implementation who have participated in trainings, education seminars (ERDF)**	share	50	2013	55	Managing Authority	Annually
13.3	Average number of training days per year per employee whose salary is co-financed from technical assistance funds (ERDF)***	Number	2	2013	3	Managing Authority and relevant bodies participating in European Cohesion Policy implementation	Annually

\* Annual control report for 2013 (Budget Supervision Office)

\*\*In 2013 the number of employees involved in OP implementation for the ERDF stood at 124 of which 62 employees attended at least one education/training course, which represents 50% of the employees. Source: internal databases of the MA. Calculation: (number of participants/number of employees)\*100

\*\*\* In 2013 the number of employees involved in OP implementation for the ERDF stood at 124. The report shows that the number of training days totalled 248 days in 2013, which on average represents 2 training days per employee. Source: internal databases of the MA. Calculation: (number of training days/number of employees at the end of the year)

**Table 89: Specific result indicators, specific objective 2**

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
13.4	Share of beneficiaries involved in OP implementation who have participated in trainings, education seminars ( ERDF)*	share	10	2013	20	Managing Authority and relevant bodies participating in European Cohesion Policy implementation	Annually

\*In 2013 the number of ERDF beneficiaries stood at 1,416 of which 212 participated in education and training seminars organised by the MA, which represents a 15% share. Source: internal databases of the MA. Calculation: (number of participants/number of beneficiaries involved in OP implementation)\*100

#### *2.13.4.1 Actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the corresponding specific objectives*

##### 2.13.4.1.1 Description of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the corresponding specific objectives

The description of actions is given under section 2.12.5.

##### 2.13.4.1.2 Output indicators

**Table 90: Output indicators, specific objective 1**

ID	Indicator (name of indicator)	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
13.5	Number of on-the-spot checks performed by the MA per year (ERDF)	Number	31	Managing Authority	Annually
13.6	Number of published reports on studies and evaluations (ERDF)*	Number	15	Managing Authority	Annually
13.7	Number of full-time employees whose salary is co-financed from technical assistance funds ( ERDF)	Number	64	Managing Authority and relevant bodies participating in European Cohesion Policy implementation	Annually
13.8	Number of employees involved in OP implementation, participating in education and training courses in the field of public procurement, audits and management verifications, public-private partnership, state aid, project management, etc. (ERDF)	Number	250	Managing Authority and relevant bodies participating in European Cohesion Policy implementation	Annually

\* Target value represents the total number of studies and evaluations for the entire period for all three Funds.



Table 91: Output indicators, specific objective 2

ID	Indicator (name of indicator)	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
13.9	Number of beneficiaries involved in OP implementation, participating in education and training courses in the field of public procurement, audits and management verifications, public-private partnership, state aid, project management, etc. (ERDF)	Number	250	Managing Authority and relevant bodies participating in European Cohesion Policy implementation	Annually

### 2.13.5 Categories of intervention

Fund and intervention field ERDF cohesion region of Vzhodna Slovenija					
Table 1: Intervention field		Table 2: Form of finance		Table 3: Territory	
code	Amount in EUR	code	Amount in EUR	code	Amount in EUR
121	13,266,605	01	13,266,605	07	13,266,605
122	845,639	01	845,639	07	845,639

  

Fund and intervention field ERDF cohesion region of Zahodna Slovenija					
Table 1: Intervention field		Table 2: Form of finance		Table 3: Territory	
code	Amount in EUR	code	Amount in EUR	code	Amount in EUR
121	2,867,487	01	2,867,487	07	2,867,487
122	182,779	01	182,779	07	182,779

## 2.14 Technical assistance – ESF

### 2.14.1 Explanation for the establishment of a priority axis covering more than one category of region

Technical assistance will support actions targeting effective implementation of the operational programme. Special attention will be placed on the implementation of actions in areas which have shown to be problematic in past periods, as well as areas where Slovenia lacks experience with respect to their implementation.

The funds earmarked within this priority axis are crucial for achieving the objectives set out in the thematic priority axes. Due to the nature of the actions and their purpose, a standardised approach to implementing this priority axis will be applied at the national level and, where necessary, these actions will be adapted to the spe-

cific characteristics of each cohesion region should this prove to be relevant and justified.

Actions under this priority axis will be carried out at the national level and will receive support proportionate to the allocation of technical assistance support within the ESF (71% for the cohesion region of Vzhodna Slovenija, 29% for the cohesion region of Zahodna Slovenija).

This funding breakdown builds on the fact that the number of beneficiaries in the cohesion region of Vzhodna Slovenija is greater than the number of beneficiaries in the cohesion region of Zahodna Slovenija (such as the regional offices of the Employment Service of Slovenia, social work centres and so forth). Due to the greater number of beneficiaries as well as the fact that several indicators point to the conditions being less favourable in the cohesion region of Vzhodna Slovenia compared

to the cohesion region of Zahodna Slovenija, the cohesion region of Vzhodna Slovenija demonstrates a greater need to build beneficiary capacity. Their capacity should be strengthened in areas that will enhance the inclusion of target groups in the available programmes/actions. By doing so, the specific objectives under this priority axis will be fulfilled. This will be achieved by improving their knowledge, preparation and management of integrated high quality projects, exchange of best practices, knowledge transfer and cooperation between different actors (sectors and regional level). In addition, the funds will be used to improve the skills of employees at the MA and IB in order to be able to better assess the needs of the cohesion region of Vzhodna Slovenija and develop measures that will contribute to narrowing the gap between the two cohesion regions (dedicated studies, evaluations, etc.). The financing of measures from the ESF funds will be complementary to the technical assistance from the CF, where funds are not automatically allocated to one of the two regions in advance.

#### 2.14.2 Fund and category of region

Fund	ESF
Category of region	Vzhodna Slovenija, Zahodna Slovenija
Basis for calculation (total eligible expenditure or eligible public expenditure)	Total eligible cost

#### 2.14.3 Specific objectives and expected results

##### SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 1: EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME

Specific objectives and expected results are defined under section 2.12.3.

##### SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 2: BUILD CAPACITY OF BENEFICIARIES

Specific objectives and expected results are defined under section 2.12.3.

##### SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 3: EFFECTIVE INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION WITH TARGET GROUPS (AS DEFINED IN THE COMMUNICATION STRATEGY)

The visibility and recognisability of EU Funds support ranks relatively high in terms of the 2007-2014 programming period implementation, however, the level of satisfaction in terms of clarity and effectiveness of the information is still open to improvement. The 2014-2020 programming period will focus on improving the qualitative aspects of information and publicity, with the support targeting information and publicity about the purpose, effectiveness and transparency of ESI Funds support. Moreover, the actions to achieve this objective will focus on intensifying the level of involvement and participation of relevant target groups at all levels, which can be directly related to the achievement of specified results identified under the individual thematic priority axes and to enhancing the level of trust and transparency in terms of projects receiving ESI Funds support. Efficiency in achieving this objective will be monitored through the drafting of periodic evaluations for various target groups. This will improve the understanding in the general public about the role of the ESI Fund-supported investments in improving the quality of life in Slovenia as well as within the wider area of the European Union.

The expected result under this specific objective:

- better visibility and recognisability of the ESI Funds for the public.

## 2.14.4 Result indicators

**Table 92: Specific result indicators, specific objective 1**

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
14.1	Share of error rate (ESF)	Share	1.23*	2013	below 1.9	Budget Supervision Office	Annually
14.2	Share of employees involved in OP implementation who have participated in training, education and seminars (ESF)**	Share	50	2013	55	Managing Authority and relevant bodies participating in European Cohesion Policy implementation	Annually
14.3	Average number of training days per year per employee whose salary is co-financed from technical assistance funds (ESF)***	Number	2	2013	3	Managing Authority and relevant bodies participating in European Cohesion Policy implementation	Annually

\*Error rate, cumulative

\*\*In 2013 the number of employees involved in OP implementation for the ESF stood at 163 of which 82 employees attended at least one education/training course, which represents 50% of the employees. Source: internal databases of the MA. Calculation: (number of participants/number of employees)\*100

\*\*\* In 2013 the number of employees involved in OP implementation for the ESF stood at 163. The report shows that the number of training days totalled 326 days in 2013, which on average represents 2 training days per employee. Source: internal databases of the MA. Calculation: (number of participants/number of employees at the end of the year)

**Table 93: Specific result indicators, specific objective 2**

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
14.4	Share of beneficiaries involved in OP implementation who have participated in training, education and seminars (E*SF)	Share	15	2013	20	Managing Authority and relevant bodies participating in European Cohesion Policy implementation	Annually

\*In 2013 the number of ESF beneficiaries stood at 853 of which 128 participated in education and training seminars organised by the MA, which represents a 15% share. Source: internal databases of the MA. Calculation: (number of participants/number of beneficiaries involved in OP implementation)\*100

**Table 94: Specific result indicators, specific objective 3**

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
14.5	Annual growth of the reach of web activities per year** (ESF)	Share	3	2013	5	Managing Authority	once a year

\*\*This indicator measures the total growth in the number of the website visitors, recipients of the e-letter and followers on the Managing Authority's social networks. The formula for calculating this indicator: (value of the current year – value of the past year)/value of the current year.

#### *2.14.4.1 Actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the corresponding specific objectives*

##### 2.14.4.1.1 Description of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the corresponding specific objectives

In addition to the actions set out under section 2.12.5, funds within this priority axis will also be earmarked for:

- Information and communication:  
On the one hand, the public will be informed about the possibilities, conditions and the methods of ESI Funds allocation as well as the impacts and results of ESI Funds support.

To implement activities supported within this action the relevant Information and Communication Strategy on the Implementation of the European Cohesion Policy in the 2014–2020 Programming Period will be drawn up. The Strategy will comply with the 2014-2020 regulations provisions.

On the basis of the experiences gained during the previous perspective the information and communication activities will include:

- organisation of and participation at various events;
- dissemination and promotion of the effects of greater integration of the ESI Funds and other EU funding programmes (e.g. Horizon 2020);
- the establishment, upgrade and maintenance of a web portal, the use of social networks, etc.;
- preparing printed and electronic material and printing promotional products with the objective

of enhancing the visibility and recognisability of the European Cohesion Policy for the public;

- information, advertising and promotion (radio and television advertisements, notices, announcements, preparation and design, production and broadcasting of radio and TV shows) or the leasing of media space;
- evaluations and public opinion polls in the area of information and communication with the public;
- other activities identified during the implementation of the programme as activities facilitating the realisation of the set objectives.

During the 2014-2020 programming period and within the scope of the provisions for promoting partnership in European Cohesion Policy implementation, the Managing Authority will design a more structured approach and coordinate cooperation with the representatives of regional and local development bodies and communities, social partners and non-governmental organisations. The purpose of this approach is to eliminate discrepancies in terms of the design and implementation of instruments, to promote cooperation in evaluation processes and to contribute to establishing a permanent dialogue which will yield successful and effective implementation of the European Cohesion Policy. The promotion of the territorial dimension of the partnership will play an important role. The Managing Authority will establish various types of “platforms for cooperation” and thus facilitate the formulation of a common mechanism for inclusion in the 2014-2020 Cohesion Policy implementation. The mechanism will supplement the implementation of the Monitoring Committee tasks.

## 2.14.4.1.2 Output indicators

Table 95: Output indicators, specific objective 1

ID	Indicator (name of indicator)	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
14.6	Number of on-the-spot checks performed by the MA per year (ESF)	Number	16	Managing Authority	Annually
14.7	Number of published reports on studies and evaluations (ESF)*	Number	16	Managing Authority	Annually
14.8	Number of full-time employees whose salary is co-financed from technical assistance funds (ESF)	Number	47	Managing Authority and relevant bodies participating in European Cohesion Policy implementation	Annually
14.9	Number of employees involved in OP implementation, participating* in education and training courses in the field of public procurement, audits and management verifications, public-private partnership, state aid, project management, etc. (ESF)	Number	250	Managing Authority and relevant bodies participating in European Cohesion Policy implementation	Annually

\* The formula for calculating the indicator "growth of the reach of web activities": (value of the current year – value of the past year)/value of the current year.

Table 96: Output indicators, specific objective 2

ID	Indicator (name of indicator)	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
14.10	Number of beneficiaries involved in OP implementation, participating in education and training courses in the field of public procurement, audits and management verifications, public-private partnership, state aid, project management, etc. (ESF)	Number	250	Managing Authority and relevant bodies participating in European Cohesion Policy implementation	Annually

Table 97: Output indicators, specific objective 3

ID	Indicator (name of indicator)	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
14.11	Number of organised events (conferences, seminars, workshops, etc.) (ESF)	Number	40	Managing Authority (MA)	Once a year
14.12	Number* of publications on the MA website and the MA social network (ESF)	Number	2,000	Managing Authority	Once a year
14.13	number of e-letter recipients (ESF)	Number	3,000	Managing Authority	Once a year

\* The number represents the sum of the published news and press releases on the website and on the social network.

### 2.14.5 Categories of intervention

Fund and intervention field ESF cohesion region of Vzhodna Slovenija					
Table 1: Intervention field		Table 2: Form of finance		Table 3: Territory	
code	Amount in EUR	code	Amount in EUR	code	Amount in EUR
121	5,999,626	01	5,999,626	07	5,999,626
122	543,625	01	543,625	07	543,625
123	2,528,906	01	2,528,906	07	2,528,906

  

Fund and intervention field ESF cohesion region of Zahodna Slovenija					
Table 1: Intervention field		Table 2: Form of finance		Table 3: Territory	
code	Amount in EUR	code	Amount in EUR	code	Amount in EUR
121	2,510,307	01	2,510,307	07	2,510,307
122	227,459	01	227,459	07	227,459
123	1,058,121	01	1,058,121	07	1,058,121









3.

THE FINANCING PLAN OF THE  
OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME

### **3. THE FINANCING PLAN OF THE OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME**

**3.1 The total financial appropriation envisaged for support for each of the Funds and the amounts relating to the performance reserve**

Table 98: The total financial appropriation envisaged for support for each of the Funds and the amounts relating to the performance reserve

Fund	Category of region	2014		2015		2016		2017		2018		2019		2020		Total	
		Main allocation	Performance reserve	Main allocation	Performance reserve	Main allocation	Performance reserve	Main allocation	Performance reserve	Main allocation	Performance reserve	Main allocation	Performance reserve	Main allocation	Performance reserve	Main allocation	Performance reserve
ERDF	In less developed regions	111,528,546	7,107,333	133,739,531	7,271,481	116,027,356	7,406,001	118,349,453	7,554,220	120,717,952	7,705,401	123,133,773	7,859,603	125,597,718	8,016,876	829,094,329	52,920,915
ERDF	In more developed regions	64,283,040	4,096,538	65,557,411	4,191,151	66,876,073	4,268,685	68,214,488	4,354,116	69,579,647	4,441,254	70,972,082	4,530,133	72,392,255	4,620,782	477,874,996	30,502,659
Total ERDF		175,881,586	11,203,871	179,296,942	11,462,632	182,903,429	11,674,686	186,563,941	11,908,336	190,297,599	12,146,655	194,105,855	12,389,736	197,989,973	12,637,658	1,306,969,325	83,423,574
ESF	In less developed regions	48,073,873	2,770,074	49,022,279	2,839,583	49,726,011	3,174,000	50,721,195	3,237,523	51,736,265	3,302,315	52,771,616	3,368,401	53,827,593	3,435,804	355,878,832	22,127,700
ESF	In more developed regions	42,855,360	2,731,025	43,704,941	2,794,101	44,584,048	2,845,790	45,476,325	2,902,744	46,386,432	2,960,836	47,314,721	3,020,089	48,261,504	3,080,522	318,583,331	20,335,107
Total ESF		90,929,233	5,501,099	92,727,220	56,333,684	94,310,059	6,019,790	96,197,520	6,140,267	98,122,697	6,263,151	100,086,337	6,388,490	102,089,097	6,516,326	674,462,163	42,462,807
Youth Employment Initiative		5,175,020	0	4,036,516	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9,211,536	0
Cohesion Fund		122,390,295	7,162,249	115,099,886	7,358,401	117,853,302	7,522,551	120,407,114	7,685,561	122,788,127	7,837,540	125,439,838	8,006,797	127,669,580	8,149,122	841,648,142	53,722,221
Total		384,306,134	23,867,219	391,160,564	24,454,717	395,066,790	25,217,027	403,168,575	25,734,164	411,208,423	26,247,346	419,632,030	26,785,023	427,748,650	27,303,106	2,832,291,166	179,608,602

### 3.2 Total financial appropriation of support from each of the Funds and national co-financing (in EUR)

Table 99: Financial plan of the operational programme

Priority axis	Fund	Category of region	Basis for the calculation of Union support	Union support (a)	National counterpart (b) = (c) + (d)	National public funding (c)	National private funding (d)	
	ERDF	Less developed	Total	254,356,626.00	63,589,157.00	38,153,494.00	25,435,663.00	
01	ERDF	More developed	Total	207,382,532.00	51,845,634.00	31,107,381.00	20,738,253.00	
02	ERDF	Less developed	Total	39,768,000.00	9,942,000.00	4,971,000.00	4,971,000.00	
02	ERDF	More developed	Total	28,750,277.00	7,187,570.00	3,593,785.00	3,593,785.00	
03	ERDF	Less developed	Total	361,921,310.00	120,640,435.00	48,256,174.00	72,384,261.00	
03	ERDF	More developed	Total	164,157,114.00	70,353,048.00	28,141,219.00	42,211,829.00	
04	ERDF	Less developed	Total	10,014,152.00	2,503,538.00	2,378,361.00	125,177.00	
04	ERDF	More developed	Total	11,010,053.00	2,779,514.00	2,641,888.00	137,626.00	
04	CF		Total	260,607,800.00	45,989,612.00	15,636,468.00	30,353,144.00	
05	ERDF	Less developed	Total	30,000,000.00	7,500,000.00	7,125,000.00	375,000.00	
05	CF		Total	53,021,932.00	9,356,812.00	8,888,971.00	467,841.00	
06	ERDF	Less developed	Total	82,125,360.00	20,531,340.00	19,504,773.00	1,026,567.00	
06	ERDF	More developed	Total	48,999,997.00	12,250,000.00	11,637,500.00	612,500.00	
06	CF		Total	269,111,315.00	47,490,233.00	45,115,721.00	2,374,512.00	
07	ERDF	Less developed	Total	39,668,020.00	9,917,005.00	9,421,155.00	495,850.00	
07	CF		Total	223,092,280.00	39,369,226.00	37,400,765.00	1,968,461.00	
08	ESF	Less developed	Total	137,558,990.00	34,389,748.00	30,950,773.00	3,438,975.00	
08	ESF	More developed	Total	140,966,076.00	35,241,519.00	31,717,367.00	3,524,152.00	
08	Youth Employment Initiative		Total	18,423,072.00	2,302,884.00	2,302,884.00	0.00	
09	ERDF	Less developed	Total	40,035,380.00	10,008,847.00	9,007,961.00	1,000,886.00	
09	ERDF	More developed	Total	35,018,277.00	8,754,570.00	7,879,113.00	875,457.00	
09	ESF	Less developed	Total	80,265,224.00	20,066,306.00	18,059,675.00	2,006,631.00	
09	ESF	More developed	Total	64,984,361.00	16,246,091.00	14,621,482.00	1,624,609.00	
10	ERDF	Less developed	Total	10,014,152.00	2,503,538.00	2,378,361.00	125,177.00	
10	ERDF	More developed	Total	10,009,139.00	2,502,285.00	2,377,171.00	125,114.00	
10	ESF	Less developed	Total	116,815,743.00	29,203,936.00	29,203,936.00	0.00	
10	ESF	More developed	Total	92,181,016.00	23,045,254.00	23,045,254.00	0.00	
11	ESF	Less developed	Total	25,082,882.00	6,270,721.00	6,270,721.00	0.00	
11	ESF	More developed	Total	36,991,098.00	9,247,775.00	9,247,775.00	0.00	
12	CF		Total	89,537,036.00	15,800,654.00	15,800,654.00	0.00	
13	ERDF	Less developed	Total	14,112,244.00	3,528,062.00	3,528,062.00	0.00	
13	ERDF	More developed	Total	3,050,266.00	762,567.00	762,567.00	0.00	
14	ESF	Less developed	Total	9,072,157.00	2,268,040.00	2,268,040.00	0.00	
14	ESF	More developed	Total	3,795,887.00	948,972.00	948,972.00	0.00	
Total	ERDF	Less developed		882,015,244.00	250,663,922.00	144,724,341.00	105,939,581.00	
Total	ERDF	More developed		508,377,655.00	156,435,188.00	88,140,624.00	68,294,564.00	
Total	CF			895,370,363.00	158,006,537.00	122,842,579.00	35,163,958.00	
Total	ESF	Less developed		368,794,996.00	92,198,751.00	86,753,145.00	5,445,606.00	
Total	ESF	More developed		338,918,438.00	84,729,611.00	79,580,850.00	5,148,761.00	
Total	Youth Employment Initiative			18,423,072.00	2,302,884.00	2,302,884.00		
Total				3,011,899,768.00	744,336,893.00	524,344,423.00	219,992,470.00	

Total funding (e) = (a) + (b)	Co-financing rate (f) = (a) / (e)	EIB contributions	Main allocation Union support (h) = (a) – (j)	Main allocation: national counterpart (i) = (b) – (k)	Performance reserve: Union support (j)	National counterpart for performance reserve (k) = (b) * (j) / (a)	Share of the performance reserve in the total Union support (l) = (j) / (a) * 100
317,945,783.00	79.9999998742%		238,875,229.00	59,718,808.00	15,481,397.00	3,870,349.00	6,09%
259,228,166.00	79.9999996914%		194,859,579.00	48,714,896.00	12,522,953.00	3,130,738.00	6,04%
49,710,000.00	80.0000000000%		37,331,920.00	9,332,980.00	2,436,080.00	609,020.00	6,13%
35,937,847.00	79.9999983305%		27,025,260.00	6,756,316.00	1,725,017.00	431,254.00	6,00%
482,561,745.00	75.0000002590%		339,856,032.00	113,285,342.00	22,065,278.00	7,355,093.00	6,10%
234,510,162.00	70.0000002559%		154,204,671.00	66,087,715.00	9,952,443.00	4,265,333.00	6,06%
12,517,690.00	80.0000000000%		9,386,568.00	2,346,642.00	627,584.00	156,896.00	6,27%
13,789,567.00	79.8433554875%		10,349,450.00	2,612,743.00	660,603.00	166,771.00	6,00%
306,597,412.00	84.9999999348%		242,971,443.00	42,877,314.00	17,636,357.00	3,112,298.00	6,77%
37,500,000.00	80.0000000000%		28,130,000.00	7,032,500.00	1,870,000.00	467,500.00	6,23%
62,378,744.00	84.9999993588%	600,000,000.00	49,468,283.00	8,729,697.00	3,553,649.00	627,115.00	6,70%
102,656,700.00	80.0000000000%		77,147,838.00	19,286,960.00	4,977,522.00	1,244,380.00	6,06%
61,249,997.00	79.9999990204%		46,059,997.00	11,515,000.00	2,940,000.00	735,000.00	6,00%
316,601,548.00	84.9999997473%		251,464,637.00	44,376,113.00	17,646,678.00	3,114,120.00	6,56%
49,585,025.00	80.0000000000%		37,207,938.00	9,301,985.00	2,460,082.00	615,020.00	6,20%
262,461,506.00	84.9999999619%	116,000,000.00	208,206,743.00	36,742,367.00	14,885,537.00	2,626,859.00	6,67%
171,948,738.00	79.9999997674%		129,055,451.00	32,263,863.00	8,503,539.00	2,125,885.00	6,18%
176,207,595.00	80.0000000000%		132,408,111.00	33,102,028.00	8,557,965.00	2,139,491.00	6,07%
20,725,956.00	88.8888888889%		18,423,072.00	2,302,884.00			
50,044,227.00	79.9999968028%		37,633,257.00	9,408,316.00	2,402,123.00	600,531.00	6,00%
43,772,847.00	79.9999986293%		32,917,182.00	8,229,296.00	2,101,095.00	525,274.00	6,00%
100,331,530.00	80.0000000000%		75,404,981.00	18,851,245.00	4,860,243.00	1,215,061.00	6,06%
81,230,452.00	79.9999992614%		61,057,546.00	15,264,387.00	3,926,815.00	981,704.00	6,04%
12,517,690.00	80.0000000000%		9,413,303.00	2,353,326.00	600,849.00	150,212.00	6,00%
12,511,424.00	79.9999984015%		9,408,591.00	2,352,148.00	600,548.00	150,137.00	6,00%
146,019,679.00	79.9999998630%		109,606,798.00	27,401,700.00	7,208,945.00	1,802,236.00	6,17%
115,226,270.00	80.0000000000%		86,550,155.00	21,637,539.00	5,630,861.00	1,407,715.00	6,11%
31,353,603.00	79.9999987242%		23,527,909.00	5,881,978.00	1,554,973.00	388,743.00	6,20%
46,238,873.00	79.9999991349%		34,771,632.00	8,692,908.00	2,219,466.00	554,867.00	6,00%
105,337,690.00	84.9999995253%		89,537,036.00	15,800,654.00			
17,640,306.00	79.9999954649%		14,112,244.00	3,528,062.00			
3,812,833.00	79.9999895091%		3,050,266.00	762,567.00			
11,340,197.00	79.9999947091%		9,072,157.00	2,268,040.00			
4,744,859.00	79.9999957849%		3,795,887.00	948,972.00			
1,132,679,166.00	77.8698214354%		829,094,329.00	235,594,921.00	52,920,915.00	15,069,001.00	6,00%
664,812,843.00	76.4692891169%		477,874,996.00	147,030,681.00	30,502,659.00	9,404,507.00	6,00%
1,053,376,900.00	84.9999998101%		841,648,142.00	148,526,145.00	53,722,221.00	9,480,392.00	6,00%
460,993,747.00	79.9999996529%		346,667,296.00	86,666,826.00	22,127,700.00	5,531,925.00	6,00%
423,648,049.00	79.9999997167%		318,583,331.00	79,645,834.00	20,335,107.00	5,083,777.00	6,00%
3,756,236,661.00	80.1839724124%	716,000,000.00	2,832,291,166.00	699,767,291.00	179,608,602.00	44,569,602.00	

Table 100: Youth Employment Initiative (YEI) – ESF allocation and allocation dedicated to YEI

Priority axis	Fund	Category of region	Basis for the calculation of Union support	Union support (a)	National counterpart (b) = (c) + (d)	National public funding (c)	National private funding (d)	Total funding (e) = (a) + (b)	Co-financing rate (f) = (a) / (e)
08	ESF	Less developed	Total	9,211,536.00	2,302,884.00	2,302,884.00		11,514,420.00	80.00%
08	ESF	Transition	Total	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%
08	ESF	More developed	Total	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%
08	Youth Employment Initiative		Total	9,211,536.00				9,211,536.00	100.00%
08	Total			18,423,072.00	2,302,884.00	2,302,884.00	0.00	20,725,956.00	88.89%
Total				18,423,072.00	2,302,884.00	2,302,884.00	0.00	20,725,956.00	88.89%

Ratio	%
Ratio of ESF by category of region: less developed	100.00%
Ratio of ESF by category of region: transition regions	0.00%
Ratio of ESF by category of region: more developed regions	0.00%

Table 101: Breakdown of the financial plan by priority axis, Fund, category of region and thematic objective

Priority axis	Fund	Category of region	Thematic objective	Union support	National counterpart	Total funding
01	ERDF	Less developed	Strengthening research, technological development and innovation	254,356,626.00	63,589,157.00	317,945,738.00
01	ERDF	More developed	Strengthening research, technological development and innovation	207,385,532.00	51,845,634.00	259,228,166.00
02	ERDF	Less developed	Enhancing access to, and use and quality of, ICT	39,768,000.00	9,942,000.00	49,710,000.00
02	ERDF	More developed	Enhancing access to, and use and quality of, ICT	28,750,277.00	7,187,570.00	35,937,847.00
03	ERDF	Less developed	Enhancing the competitiveness of SMEs, of the agricultural sector (for the EAFRD) and of the fisheries and aquaculture sector (for the EMFF)	361,921,310.00	120,640,435.00	482,561,745.00
03	ERDF	More developed	Enhancing the competitiveness of SMEs, of the agricultural sector (for the EAFRD) and of the fisheries and aquaculture sector (for the EMFF)	164,157,114.00	70,353,048.00	234,510,162.00
04	ERDF	Less developed	Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors	10,014,152.00	2,503,538.00	12,517,690.00
04	ERDF	More developed	Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors	11,010,053.00	2,779,514.00	13,789,567.00
04	CF		Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors	260,607,800.00	45,989,612.00	306,597,412.00
05	ERDF	Less developed	Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and management	30,000,000.00	7,500,000.00	37,500,000.00
05	CF		Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and management	53,021,932.00	9,356,812.00	62,378,744.00
06	ERDF	Less developed	Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency	82,125,360.00	20,531,340.00	102,656,700.00
06	ERDF	More developed	Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency	48,999,997.00	12,250,000.00	61,249,997.00
06	CF		Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency	269,111,315.00	47,490,233.00	316,601,548.00
07	ERDF	Less developed	Promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures	39,668,020.00	9,917,005.00	49,585,025.00
07	CF		Promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures	223,092,280.00	39,369,226.00	262,461,506.00
08	ESF	Less developed	Promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility	137,558,990.00	34,389,748.00	171,948,738.00
08	ESF	More developed	Promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility	140,966,076.00	35,241,519.00	176,207,595.00
08	Youth Employment Initiative		Promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility	18,423,072.00	2,302,884.00	20,725,956.00
09	ERDF	Less developed	Promoting social inclusion, combating poverty and any discrimination	40,035,380.00	10,008,847.00	50,044,227.00

Priority axis	Fund	Category of region	Thematic objective	Union support	National counterpart	Total funding
09	ERDF	More developed	Promoting social inclusion, combating poverty and any discrimination	35,018,277.00	8,754,570.00	43,772,847.00
09	ESF	Less developed	Promoting social inclusion, combating poverty and any discrimination	80,265,224.00	20,066,306.00	100,331,530.00
09	ESF	More developed	Promoting social inclusion, combating poverty and any discrimination	64,984,361.00	16,246,091.00	81,230,452.00
10	ERDF	Less developed	Investing in education, training and vocational training for skills and lifelong learning	10,014,152.00	2,503,538.00	12,517,690.00
10	ERDF	More developed	Investing in education, training and vocational training for skills and lifelong learning	10,009,139.00	2,502,285.00	12,511,424.00
10	ESF	Less developed	Investing in education, training and vocational training for skills and lifelong learning	116,815,743.00	29,203,936.00	146,019,679.00
10	ESF	More developed	Investing in education, training and vocational training for skills and lifelong learning	92,181,016.00	23,045,254.00	115,226,270.00
11	ESF	Less developed	Enhancing the institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders and an efficient public administration	25,082,882.00	6,270,721.00	31,353,603.00
11	ESF	More developed	Enhancing the institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders and an efficient public administration	36,991,098.00	9,247,775.00	46,238,873.00
Total				2,892,332,178.00	721,028,598.00	3,613,360,776.00

Table 102: Indicative amount of support to be used for climate change objectives

Priority axis	Priority axis title	Indicative amount of support to be used for climate change objectives (EUR)	Share of total allocation for the operational programme (%)
01	International competitiveness of research, innovation and technological development in line with smart specialisation for enhanced competitiveness and greening of the economy	68,157,411.00	2.26%
03	Dynamic and competitive entrepreneurship for green economic growth	86,453,525.60	2.87%
04	Sustainable consumption and production of energy and smart grids	259,099,482.00	8.60%
05	Climate change adaptation	83,021,932.00	2.76%
06	Improvement of the environment and biodiversity status	23,807,603.20	0.79%
07	Infrastructure development and promotion of sustainable mobility	63,840,000.00	2.12%
08	Promoting employment and supporting transnational labour mobility	10,000,000.00	0.33%
10	International competitiveness of research, innovation and technological development in line with smart specialisation for enhanced competitiveness and greening of the economy	8,000,000.00	0.27%
Total		602,379,953.80	20.00%









4.

INTEGRATED APPROACH TO  
TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT

#### 4. INTEGRATED APPROACH TO TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT

Slovenia's urban network has a polycentric structure, and the network's backbone is comprised of centres which are, topologically speaking, small and medium-sized cities providing important support to their functional hinterlands. Balanced territorial development rides on two conditions – strengthening of the (international) competitiveness of urban centres and simultaneous improvement of the quality of life in such centres. On the other hand, it is also important to strengthen the regional centres outside major urban areas that play an important role in providing (new) jobs and facilitate access to public services at the regional level. Small and medium-sized Slovenian towns represent a comparative advantage in terms of quality of life where the natural and man-made urban environments meet and integrate with the rural hinterland. The potential of urban areas provides opportunities for the development of cities and also represents an advantage that helps improve the competitiveness of Slovenian regions.

Regional development potential has not been fully harnessed in Slovenia; therefore, the 2014-2020 programming period will place greater emphasis on coordinated action of the national and regional levels which will build on common elements of national and regional development documents. Regions will see their development promoted on the basis of the comparative advantages of each particular region (geographical, cultural, natural, economic and social). Functional integration of regions and the development of joint projects and initiatives to achieve synergies in several regions simultaneously will also be underlined. In order to efficiently mobilise the resources in the areas that are relevant from the aspect of development needs and appropriate development potentials, the country intends to design an integrated approach to implementing integrated projects in territorially independent units. Where relevant, the approach will respect the principle of maximum efficiency, which will be achieved through complementarities between thematic areas and resources from different investment priorities of the OP. This will facilitate an integrated approach in the country to tackling the issues of particular territorial areas, and appropriate long-term planning of Slovenia's territorial development.

The OECD Territorial Review for Slovenia (2011) states that it is essential to exploit the comparative advantages of all 12 statistical regions (development specialisation), and improve their economic situation. Although the Osrednjeslovenska (Central Slovenia) region contributes most to the economic development of Slovenia, it is essential to stimulate economic growth and development in other regions, where endogenous territorial challenges remain unused. Labour mobility and accessibility to urban centres should be improved. Natural resources should be used effectively (e.g. efficient use of land for economic development). We need to address the dispersion of human capital and innovation potential of regions, which would in turn enhance productivity. This in turn is related to education, the efficiency of the innovation system and organizational and social innovations.

Regions are drafting regional development programmes for the 2014-2020 period which will be the basis for concluding agreements on the development of regions. These will identify the key projects that will contribute to addressing the identified challenges and needs of each NUTS 3 region.

#### 4.1 Community-led local development actions

The basic approach relevant for this section is identified in section 3.1.1 of the Partnership Agreement.

CLLD measures are pivotal for the development of both rural and urban areas that are specific in their particular development needs, issues and opportunities which require a different development approach.

CLLD will be implemented under the priority axis Social inclusion and reduction of poverty risks, investment priority Investment under CLLD. The “bottom-up” approach gives the local population the chance to define their own priorities and development goals and to make their own decision regarding local development. This helps meet a range of different challenges in various settings, it allows greater flexibility and suits the actual needs of the local environment. The combination of various funding sources is perfect for local partnerships to

implement more complex projects. Such an approach is much more integrated, and has a positive effect in terms of successful meeting of needs. Local development strategies (LDS) produced by the local population for each particular area address specific geographic or demographic issues and challenges. Thanks to the flexibility between various types of operations, and, ultimately, to the fact that the approach is not governed in line with the “top-down” principle, this approach has an enormous innovative strength.

Slovenia’s agreement with the Commission sets out that the country will use EAFRD, ERDF and EMFF support to implement the CLLD measures in the 2014-2020 period. LAG areas will also cover settlements with more than 10,000 inhabitants where operations that will receive support from the EMFF and ERDF will be implemented. LAG areas are formed in areas with a population between 10,000 and 150,000. Settlements with more than 10,000 inhabitants will not be eligible for support from the EAFRD. The EAFRD will support operations implemented within the individual LAG and outside settlements with more than 10,000 inhabitants which are recognised as non-rural areas. Community-led local development for commercial sea fishing and mariculture will be implemented in the coastal areas of the Republic of Slovenia and the areas which will meet the criteria for defining an area as an aquaculture area, which are identified under the PA and the OP for implementation of the EMFF for the period 2014-2020.

The ERDF will support operations in the entirety of the LAG areas and in settlements with a population of more than 10,000, except in urban settlements of urban municipalities<sup>148</sup> that will receive support under the ITI mechanism.

<sup>148</sup> According to the Local Self-government Act an urban municipality is a densely populated area comprising one or more settlements integrated into a single spatial organism and its suburbs that is connected by daily migration flows (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, Nos 94/07-UPB2, 27/08, 76/08, 100/08, 79/09, 14/10, 51/10, 84/10, 40/12). There are 11 urban municipalities in Slovenia: Celje, Koper, Kranj, Ljubljana, Maribor, Murska Sobota, Nova Gorica, Novo mesto, Ptuj, Slovenj Gradec and Velenje.

The combination of support from the three Funds (EAFRD, ERDF and EMFF) will be used for the implementation of local development strategies (LDS) so that each Fund will contribute to the objectives of a particular programme. The support of the individual Fund will comply with the Fund-specific limitations and the relevant programme. The LDS in rural areas will also cover all three Funds if all the Fund-specific criteria for eligibility are met and if they address the specific needs and challenges of the individual LAG area. This will ensure an integrated approach to tackling local development challenges. Even though this may be a more challenging approach, we believe that the lessons learned in the previous period are a strong enough motivation and provide sufficient qualifications to the local development actors that will be able to tackle the implementation of more complex strategies. A CLLD Coordinating Committee will be set up for the implementation of the CLLD approach in order to ensure a coordinated approach to implementing CLLD. By doing so, a mechanism for creation of synergies in the early stages of the CLLD approach preparation and the LDS selection criteria identification will be put in place.

In order to prevent double financing local partnerships will have to define the key challenges under the LDS that will be addressed by applying the support of the individual Fund. Commitment appropriations will be determined for each Fund and will be intended for the implementation of operations. The types of ineligible costs will be identified in accordance with Fund-specific rules. By taking into account the demarcation criterion – category of intervention area – the risk of potential double financing will additionally be minimised in the planning phase. A system of monitoring and control of expenditure incurred under the operations will be put in place, which will prevent double financing of the same costs from different sources. Controls will be carried out for each Fund separately by the MA and the paying authority/agency.

The selection of LDS and LAG will be based on the selection criteria which will be based on the principles identified under the PA.

Beneficiaries will be able to use the funds for the implementation of LDS operations in an individual LAG area, for the implementation of cooperation operations between LAGs and for the reimbursement of running and animation costs based on the decision approving the formation of the LAG area.

LDS and LAGs that will be selected on the basis of selection criteria building on the principles of quality of LDS, partnership, quality of proposed measures and their feasibility etc. will be granted the right to use the funds for each LAG on the basis of specific criteria (LAG population, LAG surface area and development level of the particular LAG area). Each LAG will be eligible to receive a funds quota that the LAGs will be able to use for the operations selected in calls for proposals. All the relevant stakeholders in the relevant LAG areas will be involved in the LDS preparation process.

LAGs will perform tasks as specified in Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013. Objectives set out in LDS will receive support from individual Funds and will be pursued by LAGs through the implementation of four sub-measures:

- Preparatory support intended to strengthen institutional capacity, training and networking for the preparation and implementation of LDS (preparatory support);
- Support for the implementation of LDS operations;
- Support for the preparation and implementation of LAG cooperation operations;
- Support for running costs and animation costs that will be used to reimburse the costs of LAG operation and management.

The LDS preparation process will take into account and include all the key elements as set out by the relevant EU regulations and national implementing regulations. When drawing up their LDS, the local partnerships will take into account the following key challenges: creation of jobs, development of basic services, environmental protection and nature conservation, and greater involvement of youth, women and other vulnerable groups. The distribution of priorities by individual thematic areas of

intervention will depend on the needs identified by local partnerships. These will determine the centre points of the individual thematic areas of intervention. The LAG will be responsible for the selection of the operations with which the LAG will pursue thematic areas of intervention. In the LDS, the LAG will define the Fund under which the realisation of the objectives of individual thematic areas will be implemented. The LAG will select operations on the basis of a public call.

Consistency and complementarity will also be established with the existing regional strategies. A contribution to the objectives of sectoral strategies in the field of social inclusion, promotion of entrepreneurship, sustainable mobility and energy efficiency will be ensured by implementing measures which are planned to receive support under the investment priority “Investments in community-led local development”.

## 4.2 Integrated action for sustainable urban development

Sustainable urban development will be implemented through the implementation of the ITI mechanism that will notably receive support under the investment priority<sup>149</sup> with support from the ERDF. The mechanism will be used to maximise the investments made and make the most of them. The investments will be identified and selected by the cities themselves in accordance with Sustainable Urban Strategies (SUS). The cities will thus make sure that a contribution to the SUS objectives will be made, as well as to at least two specific objectives under the investment priorities for urban renewal (2.6.5), sustainable mobility (2.4.6) and energy efficiency (2.4.3) and, where relevant, to other specific objectives of the OP<sup>150</sup>.

149 Measures to improve the urban environment, measures for urban revival, rehabilitation and redevelopment of brownfield sites (including areas under conversion), measures for reducing air pollution and promotion of measures for reducing noise.

150 The aim of promoting sustainable urban development is to fully use the inner potentials of cities in order to improve the quality of life and encourage economic growth through an integrated approach to planning and implementing the investments. In the context of promoting sustainable urban development the cities should focus particularly on: improving the attractiveness of cities and urban areas, reviving cities and individual parts of cities (particularly residential neighbourhoods and underused and degraded sites in cities); strengthening of housing and supply functions of cities; creating conditions for sustainable mobility; improving the

The ITI mechanism will be implemented in all 11 urban municipalities: Celje, Koper, Kranj, Ljubljana, Maribor, Murska Sobota, Nova Gorica, Novo Mesto, Ptuj, Slovenj Gradec and Velenje. In order to be eligible for support under the mechanism, these cities will have to draw up and adopt their SUS. The document will have to incorporate the economic, environmental, climate, demographic and societal challenges and objectives of sustainable development of a particular urban area that will relate to the national sustainable urban development objectives. SUS are the basis for an integrated approach to planning and implementing investments and are drawn up on the basis of the existing or new development strategies and programmes at the local level (municipality). SUS are adopted by municipal councils. Support for urban municipalities in their drafting process is provided via territorial dialogue that has been conducted by the relevant ministry since March 2014. According to the plan, the first SUS documents are supposed to be adopted before the summer of 2015.

For effective implementation of Article 7 of Regulation (EU) No 1301/2013 a national body will be set up. The body will comprise the representatives of urban municipalities, the Managing Authority, the ministry responsible for urban development and other relevant ministries. If necessary, other experts will be included. This body will be responsible for adopting the criteria relevant for assessing the integrity and suitability of SUS in accordance with the provisions of this Operational Programme and for setting the criteria relevant for assessing the eligibility of project proposals for being granted support.

quality of the environment and life in cities. Investments should contribute to creating the conditions for creation of jobs in the economy; renewal of areas of public use, of areas used for recreation and intergenerational cooperation; supply of a high enough number of public rental units; promotion of multimodal mobility; renovation of energy inefficient and non-functional housing stock (reduction of energy poverty); improved access to cultural features; enhanced capacities of local communities for the implementation of integrated projects of urban development and urban renewal.

Projects will be selected on the basis of the challenges and objectives highlighted under the SUS. The projects will be selected by the cities themselves, which will act as Intermediate Bodies. The projects selected will have to follow the objectives and principles set under the Operational Programme and meet the adopted criteria relevant for the implementation of operations. Implementation will be limited to the area of urban settlements and settlements within urban areas. Priority will be given to projects that will demonstrate an integrated approach to achieving the development objectives of the city and that will include various sources of funding.

The Managing Authority (MA) and the ministry responsible for urban development as well as the urban municipality will sign an agreement on the implementation of SUS. The agreement specifies in more detail the rights and

duties of each of the signatories, relating to implementation, financing and control. On the basis of negotiations between the MA, the urban municipality and the ministry responsible for urban development, the urban municipality will, depending on its competences, be delegated other jurisdictions relating to the use of the ITI mechanism. The decision to apply the ITI mechanism in individual municipalities will be adopted by the national body established to implement Article 7 of Regulation (EU) No 1301/2013. To implement the ITI mechanism the municipality will have to meet the following criteria: sustainable urban strategy drawn up in a high-quality manner, implementation of investments by using various sources of funding and capacity to manage integrated territorial investments. Upon fulfilment of the conditions by all eligible urban municipalities, Slovenia will have the potential to implement eleven integrated territorial investments.

**Table 103: Indicative amount of ERDF support for sustainable urban development for integrated actions**

Fund	Indicative amount of ERDF support for sustainable urban development and the indicative allocation of ESF support for integrated actions	Share of the total allocation of the Fund to the operational programme
Total ERDF	EUR 107 million	7.7%
Total CF	EUR 10 million	1.1%
Total ERDF+CF	EUR 117 million	5.12%

#### 4.3 Integrated territorial investments

As specified in section 3.1.2 of the Partnership Agreement, Slovenia decided to apply the Integrated Territorial Investments mechanism to urban areas.

#### 4.4 Arrangements for interregional and transnational actions within the operational programme, with beneficiaries located in at least one other Member State

Activities of international cooperation with beneficiaries outside Slovenia are not foreseen in the operational programme at this stage. However, in accordance with Article 70 of CPR No 1303/2013, cooperation with the relevant beneficiaries could be established in the framework of the existing macro-regional strategies or the macro-regional strategies that are still being drafted, namely the EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region, EU Strategy for the Danube Region and EU Strategy for the Alpine Region.



#### 4.5 Where Member States and regions participate in macro-regional strategies and sea-basin strategies, subject to the needs of the programme area as identified by the Member State, the contribution of the planned interventions to such strategies

Slovenia will participate in the implementation of three EU macro-regional strategies, namely the EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region, EU Strategy for the Danube Region and EU Strategy for the Alpine Region. Coordination of the activities of implementing the macro-regional strategies takes place at the level of the National Contact Point (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) together with the coordinators of the priority areas under the macro-regional strategies, which are authorised by the Slovenian Government.

The contributions to the implementation of the EU macro-regional strategies will be coordinated and assessed in the framework of the OP ECP and the ETC programmes. Competence for the implementation of the OP ECP and all the ETC programmes lies with the Government Office for Development and European Cohesion Policy, which will significantly improve coordination of the Funds.

In the framework of all three macro-regional strategies special attention will be paid to the cooperation of research institutions with educational institutions as well as to the exchange of competences and knowledge, with the aim of enhancing the level of applicability of the results for the economic and the public sector, in accordance with the actions under priority axis 1 and the Smart Specialisation Strategy.

The following priorities of EU macro-regional strategies were given prominence in drafting the OP:

- **Water management, environmental risks and preserving biodiversity**  
On the basis of the river basin management plans and other relevant documents in this field, Slovenia will strengthen international cooperation with its neighbouring countries, especially in the area

of marine management and the management of the Danube and the Adriatic River Basin Districts.

Investments supported under priority axes 5 and 6 will contribute to the second and third pillar of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR).

In the framework of EUSDR emphasis will be given to joint implementation of the Danube River Basin Management Plan by also taking into account the Sava River Basin Management Plan, as well as the activities which are already being implemented under the auspices of the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR) and the International Sava River Basin Commission (ISRBC), especially in the field of improving flood protection along the entire course of the River Danube and its tributaries.

The activities under EUSDR to accelerate implementation of the REACH regulation will be further combined with the anti-flood measures in the framework of priority axis 5 and measures designed to improve biodiversity.

In accordance with the activities planned under priority axes 4, 5 and 6, Slovenia will act in the context of EUSALP to deal with key threats posed by climate change. Slovenia will continue the implementation of good projects (e.g. Project Alpstar) and stress the importance of nature, cultural heritage and linking of parks.

#### • **Environmental protection and resource efficiency**

Investments supported under priority axes 5 and 6 will contribute to the third pillar of the EUSAIR in light of the final establishment of the Natura 200 sites management system, projects for the establishment of green infrastructure in synergy with anti-flood measures and the measures to improve the hydro-morphological status of waters.

Participation in drawing up the sea management plan and the plan for sustainable linking of the sea and the coast to the hinterland will be a key focus under EUSAIR. Investments under priority axes 3, 4, 6 and 7 will also address sustainability-related challenges under all three EU macro-regional strategies with an emphasis on the conservation of bio-

diversity, protection of ecosystems and the creation of green jobs.

- **Improving mobility and multimodality – road, rail and air links**

Slovenia will continue with its active role in the implementation of targeted projects of the EUSDR priority area “To improve mobility and multimodality – road, rail and air links”. Specific attention in the framework of EUSAIR will be given to linking the sea and the coast to the hinterland, including ports within the Northern Adriatic area, navigational safety, adequate sea protection, inter-modality and linking ports with secondary links. These will improve accessibility and enhance the attractiveness of the area and tourist facilities as well as contribute to economic growth and employment. Investments will receive support under priority axes 2 and 7 with an emphasis on rail and road links between regions, with this being of great relevance also in terms of EUALPS where challenges need to be addressed and the potential of the Alpine Space needs to be exploited.







5.

THE SPECIFIC NEEDS OF GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS MOST AFFECTED BY POVERTY OR TARGET GROUPS AT HIGHEST RISK OF DISCRIMINATION OR SOCIAL EXCLUSION

6.

SPECIFIC NEEDS OF GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS WHICH SUFFER FROM SEVERE AND PERMANENT NATURAL OR DEMOGRAPHIC HANDICAPS

7.

AUTHORITIES AND BODIES RESPONSIBLE FOR MANAGEMENT, CONTROL AND AUDIT AND THE ROLE OF RELEVANT PARTNERS

## **5. THE SPECIFIC NEEDS OF GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS MOST AFFECTED BY POVERTY OR TARGET GROUPS AT HIGHEST RISK OF DISCRIMINATION OR SOCIAL EXCLUSION**

The content is presented under the PA in section 3.1.5.

## **6. SPECIFIC NEEDS OF GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS WHICH SUFFER FROM SEVERE AND PERMANENT NATURAL OR DEMOGRAPHIC HANDICAPS**

The content is presented under the PA in section 3.1.6.

## **7. AUTHORITIES AND BODIES RESPONSIBLE FOR MANAGEMENT, CONTROL AND AUDIT AND THE ROLE OF RELEVANT PARTNERS**

### **7.1 Identification of the relevant authorities and bodies**



Authority/body	Institution	Responsible person
Managing Authority	Government Office for Development and European Cohesion Policy	Minister
Certifying Authority	Ministry of Finance, Department for Management of EU Funds	Head of the Department for the Management of EU Funds
Audit Authority	Ministry of Finance, Budget Supervision Office (BSO)	Director

A more detailed presentation of the relevant authorities and bodies responsible for the implementation of the Operational Programme is given in the PA under section 2.1.a.

## 7.2 Involvement of relevant partners

### *7.2.1 The actions taken to involve the relevant partners in the preparation of the operational programme, and the role of the partners in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the operational programme*

Involvement of relevant partners – the key element for implementation of the Europe 2020 Strategy – in the preparation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the OP is in line with the European Code of Conduct on Partnership in the framework of the ESI Funds<sup>151</sup> (European Code of Conduct).

#### **Involvement of partners in drawing up the OP**

In line with the multilevel governance approach (Article 5 of the General Regulation) Slovenia established partnership with the competent regional and local authorities and bodies and involved them in drawing up the OP.

The responsibility for drawing up the OP lies with the Government Office for Development and European Cohesion Policy (GODC). All the line ministries were involved in the preparation process from mid-2012 onwards with a view of identifying key development needs and potentials and setting specific objectives to be achieved by Slovenia through ESI Funds implementation. As part of the drafting process GODC coordinated

the selection of thematic objectives and investment priorities and the content of the proposed actions which are to receive ESI Funds support under the OP.

In addition to the ministries, other groups of stakeholders as defined by Article 5 of Regulation EU No 1303/2013 were involved in the OP drafting process, in accordance with the European Code of Conduct. Coordination with the partners took place in the form of meetings, public consultations, events and in writing.

The following partners were actively involved in the drafting process (coordination took place directly at meetings, public consultations, events and in writing):

- cohesion region development councils (established in 2013; consisting of representatives of municipalities, regional development agencies, non-governmental sector and economic partners);
- working group of the Office of the Republic Slovenia for Youth to monitor the placement of youth in the OP and the PA;
- special *ad hoc* working group consisting of representatives of trade unions and employers (established under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council);
- special *ad hoc* group of representatives of non-governmental organisations (selection of 17 members was made through the procedure carried out by the NGO umbrella organisation – the network of Slovenian non-governmental organisations, CNVOS);
- representatives of 12 regional development agencies.

In selecting partners who were involved in the drafting process, the criteria of representativeness and thematic areas were taken into account. Coordination took place in the form of meetings, public consultations, events and in writing.

<sup>151</sup> [http://www.mou.gr/elibrary/EC240\\_code\\_of\\_conduct\\_07012014\\_L74\\_EN.pdf](http://www.mou.gr/elibrary/EC240_code_of_conduct_07012014_L74_EN.pdf)

In addition to these representative stakeholders a wider group of stakeholders also participated in the consultation on the OP. The OP preparation process thus covered the involvement of the widest possible range of different interests that were represented by stakeholders with high-quality contributions and comments.

The organisations representing the interests of persons with disabilities were also involved in the OP drafting process, specifically through a variety of events organised by the line ministry. During the drafting of the final version of the OP ECP cooperation with these organisations was further strengthened.

In five workshops, which took place in spring 2013, the stakeholders helped identify the guidelines formulated beforehand by the relevant ministries. In this way the stakeholders helped identify the key needs and challenges, which served as a basis for the selection of the OP investment priorities. In line with this process, the authority drafting the OP presented in September 2013 the first elements of the OP and forwarded it to the general public for public consultation. A broader public consultation about the content of all strategic documents, including the OP, was launched in early 2013. A detailed list of the entities that had the option of participating in the drafting process is given in Annex 1. The general public was also acquainted with the first informal draft of the OP, which was completed in the second half of January 2014.

Stakeholders were given the opportunity to express their views on the orientations and content at several public events, with three public consultations focusing on the PA and the OP. The entities drafting the ex-ante evaluation and the environmental impact assessment invited interested stakeholders to participate by using the mailing lists. In March and April 2014 several working meetings were conducted with ministries as well as with the representatives of the regional level, specifically with representatives of the cohesion region development councils and regional development agencies. The final workshop with the key representative groups of stakeholders (social partners, regions, non-governmental or-

ganisations) and the representatives of line ministries took place on 18 September 2014.

The content of the OP was amended and further developed on the basis of the contributions received in the framework of the public consultation and the conducted coordination meetings. The content and the proposed actions were made more concrete, deriving from the experience, ideas and illustrations of examples of bad/good practices that were presented by various groups of stakeholders. On the basis of contributions from different stakeholders, the content of the OP was therefore supplemented with a new priority axis dedicated to investment in deploying broadband connections; also an additional investment priority devoted to capacity-building for all stakeholders was added. Based on the established dialogue the text for priority axis 1 and 3 was also further developed, with the aim of ensuring better inclusion of the specific needs of both cohesion regions. Based on the comments of the stakeholders from the two cohesion regions the financial breakdown was amended, with the amount of funds earmarked for sustainable mobility in urban centres and the implementation of actions for urban renewal increasing. The text was also significantly amended in terms of including the community-led local development approach, which will be subject to ERDF support. Many of the stakeholders' comments related to the expansion of the range of beneficiaries, which was for the most part taken into account by the authority drafting the OP. The range of beneficiaries to receive support under the technical assistance priority axis was also significantly expanded, mainly in terms of capacity-building of the key groups of stakeholders and of the beneficiaries.

The stakeholders' key comment, especially from representatives of the regional and local levels, was that the financial breakdown envisages too much of the ERDF support being earmarked for investment in RDI and competitiveness, and that more support should be earmarked for the construction of the missing infrastructure in various fields. Regional level stakeholders were also critical of the approach, which does

not explicitly underline regional development at the NUTS3 level. Certain groups of stakeholders were also critical of the fact that the document does not explicitly highlight certain sectors (e.g. tourism, wood processing industry and cultural heritage) and of the decision that the 2014-2020 period does not foresee investment in sports and recreation infrastructure. Representatives of environmental non-governmental organisations were critical of the proposed financial breakdown under priority axis 7, especially in the sense that in the 2014-2020 period Slovenia should not continue to invest in the motorway network but in areas that were neglected in the previous period despite the fact that they are environmentally more acceptable. A lot of criticism was levelled at the selection of the number of cities that will implement projects under the Integrated Territorial Investment mechanism, as representatives of the stakeholders at the regional level believe that the range of such cities is too narrow. Comments were also made in terms of the scarce allocation of funds for the improvement of social dialogue, despite the fact that we explained to the stakeholders that the activities of the social partners can be strengthened mainly by implementing projects under the relevant priority axes.

#### **Involvement of partners in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the OP**

In line with Article 47 of the General Regulation, a Monitoring Committee will be established for monitoring the OP. The Monitoring Committee tasks are defined under Article 49 of the General Regulation. The Monitoring Committee will consist of Managing Authority, Certifying Authority, Audit Authority and Paying Authority representatives as well as representatives of the relevant partners in accordance with Article 5 of the General Regulation (representatives of regional and local authorities and other public authorities, economic and social partners and bodies representing the civil society, such as environmental partners, non-governmental organisations and bodies responsible for promoting social inclusion, gender equality and non-discrimination). The composition of the Monitoring

Committee will also take into account the principle of gender equality, and adequate representation from the two cohesion regions and urban areas. Pursuant to Article 47 the Monitoring Committee will be established no later than three months after receipt of the decision of the European Commission on the OP adoption.

In line with the European Code of Conduct, the partners will be actively involved in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the OP by participating in the Monitoring Committee (in line with Article 48 CPR). As members of the Monitoring Committee, partners will participate in the identification of the criteria for the selection of projects/actions in the context of the OP, in monitoring the achievement of the set objectives and results, and studying and approving the annual and final reports on implementation. The partners will also participate in the consideration and approval of any amendments to the OP; they will also be able to propose to the Managing Authority amendments to the OP with the aim of improving the management and implementation thereof.

Taking into account the arrangements, which prevent conflicts of interest, it is also foreseen that partners are involved in the work of the consultative groups of the Monitoring Committee, especially in the field of compliance and evaluation. The first group is the technical expert group, established by the MA, which will primarily serve as a forum in the framework of which partners will be able to cooperate by posing operational questions and giving feedback in relation to implementation and compliance. This working group will report back to the Monitoring Committee and will review and comment on the regular monitoring report prior to the presentation thereof, specifically in order to improve the efficiency and quality of OP implementation in the segment relating to compliance. The evaluation groups will primarily play a role in giving advice and assistance in the design of evaluation studies, quality assurance of the results and the wide dissemination thereof. The group will monitor the implementation of the Evaluation Plan for the 2014-2020 period.

Where relevant, the partners will also be included in the work of the expert groups that will be in charge of coordinating OP implementation, as defined in the PA.

With a view to developing the potential in terms of the contribution to partnership efficiency as well as to better achieve the European Cohesion Policy objectives and ensuring complementarities and synergies between individual ESI Funds, a segment of the technical assistance funds will be earmarked for the capacity-building of partners, mainly in the form of dedicated workshops, training and dissemination of examples of best practices. As defined in the technical assistance section the MA will establish a more structured approach and coordination of cooperation with the stakeholders. The MA will thus establish various types of “cooperation platforms” and establish a uniform mechanism of involvement in 2014-2020 Cohesion Policy implementation. This mechanism will complement the implementation of the tasks of the Monitoring Committee. In terms of the involvement of partners, the conditions that will facilitate adequate accessibility for all stakeholders with special needs will also be established.

### **7.2.2 Global grants**

Global grants are an action/mechanism for small projects (the value of which is between EUR 5,000 and EUR 15,000) that strengthen and facilitate the involvement of non-governmental organisations in the OP with a view to activating the unemployed and inactive individuals who are either less privileged or excluded. The total value of the global grants equals 0.4% of the ESF (EUR 3 million). The global grants actions are planned under priority axis 9 and priority axis 10.

### **7.2.3 Earmarking for capacity building**

In the actions under priority axis 11 “Rule of law, enhancing institutional capacity, efficient public administration, capacity-building of NGOs and social partners” in the framework of the investment priority for capacity-building of stakeholders, 1.4% of the ESF

support is allocated to actions targeting capacity-building of non-governmental organisations and social partners. Non-governmental organisations and social partners will also receive support under other ESF- and ERDF-supported actions.

Capacity of social partners will also be enhanced through actions under priority axis 8 “Promoting employment and supporting transnational mobility” in the framework of which social partners will mainly participate in actions targeting the provision of effective co-ordination of labour market supply and demand and improved job brokerage; the development of lifelong career orientations (with regard to the related actions supported under priority axis 10); improving the quality of services and labour market measures and cooperation of labour market institutions; tackling the shadow economy. Social partners will also be included in certain actions supported under the investment priority aimed at the inclusion of young people in the labour market. Social partners will have a crucial role in the implementation of actions under the investment priority “Active and healthy ageing”, focusing on joint projects of the social partners, enterprises and other institutions in the labour market with a view to providing support in terms of adapting to changes. Thematic areas within which social partners will be eligible to receive support: adaptation of jobs, the introduction and promotion of those forms of work that are adapted to social and demographic challenges; promotion of programmes that ensure safety and health at work for all generations; drawing up an analysis of the pension and disability insurance system; a comprehensive analysis of the labour market by sets.

In addition to the funds under priority axis 11, non-governmental organisations will be eligible to receive support primarily under priority axis 9, which focuses on social inclusion and reduction of poverty risk. The actions in the area of implementing prevention programmes, which prevent falling into poverty and focus on the development of community-based programmes and services as well as social entrepreneurship, will be of particular relevance.







8.

COORDINATION BETWEEN THE FUNDS  
THE EAFRD, THE EMFF AND THE OTHER  
UNION AND NATIONAL FUNDING  
INSTRUMENTS, AND WITH THE EIB

## 8. COORDINATION BETWEEN THE FUNDS THE EAFRD, THE EMFF AND THE OTHER UNION AND NATIONAL FUNDING INSTRUMENTS, AND WITH THE EIB

A general description of the manner in which co-ordinated funding between the ESI Funds is ensured is given in the Partnership Agreement under section 2.1. The MA will establish expert groups which will comprise representatives of the Intermediate Bodies, ETC national authorities, experts for the individual areas under the macro-regional strategies, info points for the direct EU programmes and, where appropriate, outside experts. They will, *inter alia*, be responsible for establishing synergies and complementarity at the level of individual operations in terms of the implementation of the actions under the OP ECP, RDP and OP EMFF. Adequate demarcation will also be ensured through the relevant monitoring committees.

### PRIORITY AXIS 1:

- We will establish a mechanism for individual areas under the **Horizon 2020 programme**, which will allow for coordination in terms of preparation of the programmes/calls for proposals and the selection of projects to receive ERDF support. Establishing synergies and complementarity will be taken into account in particular with regard to:
  - instruments to expand cooperation, which means that project proposals to be approved by the Commission may also receive structural funds support. Special emphasis will be given to what is called the *Teaming* instrument and, in this context, the *twining* and *ERA-chair* instruments;
  - ESFRI initiatives (synergies with Horizon 2020 funds, ESI funds, national funds).
- Attention will also be paid to establishing partnership under Articles 185 and 187 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) and the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT). Complementarity will also be established in the framework of the New Entrants' Reserve 300 programme (NER 300).
- Opportunities to establish links will also lie in the framework of the **LIFE** programme, primarily in the area of demonstration projects (eco-innovations, innovative technologies, etc.).



- The investment of ERDF funds will be complementary with the **Marie Curie** and **ERASMUS+** programmes, and the proposals will be approved on a case-by-case basis.
- Complementarity in terms of funding will also be established with EIB funds and the Slovenian Export and Development Bank (SID).
- The ESI funds that are complementary with national funds will be earmarked primarily for development and innovation activities related to the Smart Specialisation Strategy policies (market or economy). National funds are also earmarked for the establishment of a broad spectrum of knowledge and the bolstering of human potential to facilitate upgrading through ESI funds in the Smart Specialisation Strategy priority areas. Complementarity will also be established with ESF funds as part of priority axes 8 and 10, primarily in the context of developing competences for implementing the Smart Specialisation Strategy.
- Investments in this field will be supported under the SI-AT and IT-SI programmes as part of all the transnational programmes in which Slovenia participates, and as part of the INTERREG EUROPE programme. The relevant results will be included in the ESI Funds-supported programmes.
- The EAFRD funds will be used in a complementary manner through the M16 and M02 actions.

#### **PRIORITY AXIS 2:**

- National funds will be used to fulfil the ex-ante conditionalities and to invest in raising demand for modern broadband communications, including setting up free Wi-Fi networks in rural areas and for developing e-services for the thematic areas that are of interest to the rural population.
- A clear demarcation between the investments under priority 2 axis and the investments under priority axis 11 will be established.
- The actions to receive EAFRD and EMFF support will be defined in such a manner that the intervention of both Funds in the same areas is prevented;

the EAFRD funds will be used in a complementary manner through the M07 action.

#### **PRIORITY AXIS 3:**

- Investments of ESI Funds will primarily be linked to the **COSME** programme, with complementarity of support being established on a case-by-case basis. Synergies will also be established within the **Start-Up Europe** programme (ICT companies), and in the framework of the new **Programme for Employment and Social Innovation** (social enterprises).
- Company investments will receive SID bank support as well as support in the framework of the relevant public funds, specifically in the form of equity financing and debt financing.
- Complementarity will also be established with ESF money under priority axes 8, 9, 10 and 11, where a clear demarcation between the investments will be established.
- Complementarity with the cross-border SI-AT programme and the INTERREG EUROPE programme will also be established. The relevant results will be included in the ESI Funds-supported programmes.
- The EAFRD support will be used in a complementary manner through the M04 and M06 actions. The EMFF funds will support actions to enhance the competitiveness of micro and small enterprises that are registered to implement activities eligible for EMFF support.

#### **PRIORITY AXIS 4:**

- If needed, i.e. on the basis of a gap analysis for this area (e.g. JESSICA), the EIB and SID funds as well as relevant public funds are a potential source of funding.
- As regards reducing air pollution in the region of Zasavje and other areas with increased air pollution, an integrated project will be prepared as part of the **LIFE programme**.
- Resources from the budget fund for climate change will also be made available for this purpose.
- The field of EE and RES is envisaged to be an area of investment for the IT-SI programme, three tran-

snational programmes and the INTERREG EUROPE programme.

- The EAFRD support will be used in a complementary manner through the M04 and M06 actions.

#### **PRIORITY AXIS 5:**

- Alongside ESI Funds, funding will also be ensured within the budget fund for water with EIB loans also being a potential funding source.
- Links between actions will be established in the framework of the **LIFE programme's** integrated projects.

#### **PRIORITY AXIS 6:**

- The **LIFE programme** is a potential area for establishing additional synergies in the field of energy efficiency and the preservation of biodiversity, especially with regard to merging actions into integrated LIFE projects.
- EIB funds, SID sources and relevant public funds are a potential source of complementary funding.
- The area of environmental protection and biodiversity is included in all ETS and transnational programmes as well as the INTERREG EUROPE programme. The relevant results will be included in the ESI Funds-supported programmes.
- The EMFF funds will be used in a complementary manner to support actions for fish stock preservation and preservation of marine and terrestrial habitat types, for biodiversity conservation and for a good environmental status of the seabed.

#### **PRIORITY AXIS 7:**

- Complementarity will be established within the **CEF programme**, especially in railway infrastructure to remove bottlenecks in the core TEN-T network, motorways of the sea and port infrastructure and safety measures on the TEN-T network motorways.
- The EIB funds are a potential source of funding if the need arises and if this is an option in view of the fiscal situation.
- This field is included in three transnational programmes involving Slovenian participation.

#### **PRIORITY AXIS 8:**

- The MA will primarily ensure consistency between the **EU Programme for Employment and Social Innovation** projects and the ESF-supported projects. Complementarity will also be established for actions to promote transnational labour mobility. A suitable mechanism will be established that will ensure thematic complementarity and upgrading of content while at the same time preventing double financing.
- In the event that Slovenia participates in activities within the **European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (2014-2020)** programme, the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities will ensure complementarity and prevent any potential double financing.
- Activities within the framework of the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) will aim to implement integration measures for asylum-seeking migrants. Target groups will receive ESF support insofar as they fulfil other conditions set under OP priority axis 8. Responsibility for the coordination of the content of AMIF projects is assumed by an inter-ministerial working group and monitoring committee for funds in the area of internal matters and migration whose members are also representatives of the MA and the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities. This will ensure complementarity of EU funds and prevent double funding.
- Actions will be linked to the **ERASMUS+** programme. The MA will cooperate with relevant institutions to ensure adequate links and the complementarity of the supported actions. The assessment of the projects regarding connections in this area will, where relevant, be included in the criteria for the selection of projects and the assessment process. Where relevant, outside experts will be included in the process.
- The active employment policy (AEP) actions receiving ESF support will be aimed at upgrading actions to support the specific needs of the most vulnerable groups, and ensuring the continued development of services within the labour mar-

ket (especially where these have thus far been developed and implemented to a lesser extent) while national sources will primarily be used for implementing labour market measures (AEP services and measures) and employment benefits.

- Complementarity between ESF funds and national sources will also be ensured through the implementation of the Youth Guarantee scheme. Complementarity with the SI-HU programme will also be established.
- The EMFF funds under the OP EMFF 2014-2020 will support promoting the inclusion of freshwater aquaculture representatives in rural areas in local action groups.

#### **PRIORITY AXIS 9:**

- In cooperation with other institutions the MA will establish complementarity of actions with activities that will be implemented under the **Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived (FEAD)**. In addition to providing food for the most vulnerable, the FEAD also supports counselling as part of what are called accompanying activities implemented by partner organisations. These are recognised as “entry points” into the system of social activation and will receive ESF support. The Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities is the MA for the Fund and will also be a member of the monitoring committee for ESI Funds, thereby ensuring complementarity of EU funds and preventing double financing.
- Within the framework of the **EaSI** programme, the MA and other relevant institutions will, above all else, ensure complementarity between projects implemented under this programme with relevant ESF-supported projects. This will enable the developing and upgrading of examples of good practice and prevent double financing. Adequate synergies will also be established with actions under priority axis 3, particularly in the field of financial support for social enterprises.
- Slovenia will also participate in the activities of the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF)

and the Internal Security Fund (ISF). The Ministry of the Interior, acting as the responsible authority, will award AMIF funds to projects targeting integration of target groups and activities to prepare people to enter the labour market, while the actions in the area of AEP will be implemented by the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities. Due to the specificity the ISF does not interfere with the area of European Cohesion Policy. The content of the projects in the field of internal matters (AMIF and ISF) is coordinated by an inter-ministerial working group and monitoring committee for funds in the area of internal matters and migration. The monitoring committee comprises representatives of the MA and the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, thereby ensuring complementarity of EU funds and preventing double financing.

- ESF funds will be earmarked to support actions targeting successful entry into the labour market, while national sources will be allocated to support actions under the national social security programme that are a precondition for including target groups in the next stages of successful entry into the labour market.

#### **PRIORITY AXIS 10:**

- The actions under the **ERASMUS+** programme for student mobility will be supplemented with funds under priority axis 10 for mobility of students from less privileged backgrounds.
- The actions will be complementary to the actions supported under priority axes 1 and 3 by investing in improving the competences of the target groups in the areas pertaining to the Smart Specialisation Strategy.
- Funds will complement national funds to develop educational (programme) components of various apprenticeship programmes and models, while the actions for upgrading the programmes and their implementation will be co-financed with ESI funds.
- National funding is used to finance vocational training programmes for completing education, while

ESI funds will encourage employers to give students practical training in their firms.

- Complementarity with the SI-HR programme will also be established.
- The EAFRD support will be used in a complementary manner through action M01.

#### **PRIORITY AXIS 11**

- Under priority axis 11, central horizontal functions of e-commerce in public administration will be developed and applied by the already-established services within specific thematic areas under other priority axes. With regard to the implementation of tasks under priority axes 2, 3 and 11 this does not represent a case of duplication but rather the integration of individual (vertical) thematic areas supported under priority axes 2 and 3 with the horizontal functions of e-commerce in public administration supported under priority axis 11.
- The ISF-supported actions to fight corruption and commercial crime cover the capacity-building of investigators, improving the methods of police work and participation in the EU Policy Cycle in

the fight against organised crime. The target group of such ISF-supported actions are representatives of the bodies for detection and prosecution, which means that there is no overlapping with the ESF-supported actions and target groups and thus no double financing. Due to the specificity, the ISF does not interfere with European Cohesion Policy.

- For the thematic areas under the **Horizon 2000** programme we will establish a coordinating mechanism in terms of the preparation of the programmes/calls for proposals and the selection of projects to receive ESF support. Synergies with the **Horizon 2000** programme will be established, particularly in relation to innovative development of the public sector with the help of ICTs and in other sectors of e-administration development, mobility, introduction of new technologies, cross-border services and other areas that promote innovative development of the public sector.
- The thematic area is included in the majority of those ETC programmes in which Slovenia participates. The relevant results of the ETC projects will be included in programmes receiving ESIF support.







9.  
EX-ANTE CONDITIONALITIES

10.  
REDUCTION OF THE  
ADMINISTRATIVE BURDEN  
OR BENEFICIARIES

11.  
HORIZONTAL PRINCIPLES

## **9. EX-ANTE CONDITIONALITIES**

### **9.1 Ex-ante conditionalities**

Refer to table 24 under Annex 1.

### **9.2 A description of the actions to fulfil the ex-ante conditionalities, the responsible bodies and a timetable for such actions**

Refer to tables 25 and 26 under Annex 1.



## **10. REDUCTION OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE BURDEN FOR BENEFICIARIES**

The content is presented under the Partnership Agreement in section 2.6.

## 11. HORIZONTAL PRINCIPLES

### 11.1 Sustainable development

The common approach to the integration of the sustainable development principle into the selection of projects is presented in the Partnership Agreement under section 1.5.3.

Sustainable development in the OP will be implemented through the ‘polluter pays’ principle, one of the core principles of the Environmental Protection Act<sup>152</sup>. That act also includes the principle of prevention<sup>153</sup>. The Act sets out the economic and financial instruments of environmental protection and introduces the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) and GHG emission allowances. The reduction of GHG emissions in sectors not covered by the EU ETS will soon be subject to the Operational Programme for Reducing GHG Emissions by 2020<sup>154</sup>. The progress made towards achieving the national targets in this area will be regularly monitored<sup>155</sup>, while the air quality objectives set out in the Ambient Air Quality Directive 2008/50/EC will be more easily achieved through the promotion of measures to improve public transport, use of renewables and energy efficiency.

Prudent and rational investment in biodiversity conservation, coupled with a strengthening of the actors in sustainable development and management (natural and cultural heritage) and use of appropriate criteria for project planning in protected areas, will pave the way for the preservation of ecosystems and their services. This will make society much more resistant and resilient to envi-

152 Environmental Protection Act, (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, Nos 39/06, official consolidated text, 49/06 – Meteorological Activities Act, 66/06 – Constitutional Court Decision, 33/07 – Spatial Planning Act, 57/08 – Financing of Municipalities Act, 70/08, 108/09, 108/09 – Spatial Planning Act, 48/12, 57/12 and 93/13), Articles 4 and 9 (Extended Polluter Responsibility principle).

153 Article 17 of the Environmental Protection Act lays down the environmental protection measures in terms of limit values and rules associated therewith, point 1 discusses emissions.

154 The Operational Programme for Reducing GHG Emissions by 2020 is an implementing plan of measures for Slovenia to achieve the set target of emission reduction based on Decision 406/2008/EC, which allows Slovenia to increase GHG emissions by 2020 by 4% against 2005.

155 GHG emissions from sectors not covered by the EU ETS system in Slovenia (transport, agriculture, waste disposal, households and services) may increase by 4% by 2020 against 2005.

ronmental stresses and will help retain the comparative advantage of Slovenia in this sense.

At the systemic level, which already goes beyond the mere implementation of measures for use of the ESI Funds, the mechanisms for external costs internalisation (e.g. removal of environmentally harmful subsidies, development of financial instruments, green tax reform) and for encouraging sustainable consumption and production put in place will create conditions conducive to sustainable development.

The responsibility for consistently incorporating environmental issues into the OP will lie with the MA and the IB, or, where relevant, other implementing institutions that will be assisted and steered by the ministry responsible for the environment. The instruments that the public sector may use as a lever for promoting sustainable development will play an important role in this respect (green and innovative public procurement, energy accounting, environmental management systems etc.).

The Decree on Green Public Procurement has been in force in Slovenia since 2011<sup>156</sup>. This is a binding document for all public contracting authorities commissioning 11 groups of products and services<sup>157</sup>. Tax cuts for organisations that introduce the EMAS environmental management system and subsidies in certain areas to receive EMAS registration are aimed at continuously improving the environmental performance of enterprises and at developing green products and services.

The projects to receive support from the ESI Funds will comply with the requirements of the EIA Directive and the relevant regulations adopted in the context of fulfilling ex-ante conditionalities for using the ESI Funds.

The ministry responsible for the environment will draw up a three-year action plan with actions to improve and build knowledge of all relevant stakeholders on SEA and EIA procedures and requirements. Support for capacity building will be provided in the scope of the OP's technical assistance.

The OP priority axes that directly contribute to strengthening the environmental component of sustainable development are as follows:

- **PRIORITY AXIS 4:** priority will be given to projects that reduce GHG emissions to the greatest possible extent, and contribute to improving air quality, particularly in cities and other areas facing poor air quality.
- **PRIORITY AXIS 5:** priority, notably in the scope of non-structural measures, will be given to projects that ensure synergy effects in terms of flood protection, environmental protection and improvement of the hydro-morphological status of water bodies. Also, potential cross-border impacts of natural and other disasters will be taken into account, both from the aspect of individual disaster risk assessments and from the aspect of risk management plans (exchange of information, common warning systems, cooperation in intervention and recovery actions and mutual aid).
- **PRIORITY AXIS 6:** support will be given to measures for reducing environmental burdens (reducing water pollution and improving air quality) that will contribute to the development of protected areas through biodiversity conservation.

The vertical approach to incorporating the environmental component of sustainable development will be taken into account under priority axis 7. The bulk of the funds available under this priority axis will be ring-fenced for investments in rail infrastructure, helping to enhance the attractiveness and competitiveness of this mode of transportation for freight and passenger transport, and contributing, in the long run, to the reduction of GHG emissions.

<sup>156</sup> Decree on Green Public Procurement (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, Nos 102/11, 18/12, 24/12, 64/12 and 2/13).

<sup>157</sup> These are as follows: electricity; food and beverages, agricultural products for food and catering services; office paper and hygiene paper products; electronic office equipment; audio and video equipment; household refrigerators, freezers and their combination, washing machines, dishwashers and air conditioning machines; buildings; furniture; cleaning products, dry cleaning services and laundry services; personal and transport vehicles and bus transport services; tyres.

The environmental component of sustainable development will also be integrated as a cross-cutting theme into other priority axes:

- **PRIORITY AXIS 1:** the measures under this priority axis will contribute to finding solutions for key societal challenges (sustainable energy, sustainable mobility, sustainable construction, resource efficiency, health, food and the environment, inclusive and safe society) in line with the orientations of the Smart Specialisation Strategy.
- **PRIORITY AXIS 3:** the priority axis will establish a link between the key societal challenges identified in the Smart Specialisation Strategy by giving special attention to the measures for promoting material and energy efficiency through horizontal criteria and through specific sets of support.
- **PRIORITY AXIS 8:** special training programmes will be developed for the purpose of acquiring specific know-how in the area of renewables, energy renovation of buildings, local food self-sufficiency, nature protection and biodiversity etc.
- **PRIORITY AXIS 10:** programmes will be developed to allow an appropriate educational structure for successful tackling of societal challenges identified in the Smart Specialisation Strategy and creation of added value chains in the context of green growth from the aspect of pursuing long-term development and identifying labour market needs.

## 11.2 Equal opportunities and non-discrimination

The main approach to implementing the principle of equal opportunities and non-discrimination is presented in the Partnership Agreement under section 1.5.2. Equal opportunities and non-discrimination will be respected at the level of the OP irrespective of different personal characteristics (e.g. age, disability, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, sexual orientation) horizontally by mainstreaming the principle of non-discrimination and equal opportunities and vertically through measures, particularly under priority axes 8, 9 and 10.

- **PRIORITY AXIS 8:** Equal opportunities in employment and/or in the workplace will be promoted through

the measures envisaged within all three investment priorities. The **target groups** who will be guaranteed equal opportunities through a variety of measures are **individuals older than 50, the long-term unemployed, people with qualifications below ISCED 3 level and those groups of people who are represented in the records of unemployed persons in greater proportion in various periods of their life, as are currently for example women with tertiary education** (measures for encouraging the unemployed to become more active); **young people at various levels of education** (development of tools that will be useful for the purposes of career orientation for school-age youth); **young jobseekers** within the European labour market, who will be involved in cross-border or transnational employment projects and/or mobility schemes through the EURES services; **unemployed young people aged up to 29** (incentives for employment of unemployed young people aged up to 29, particularly first-time jobseekers and the long-term unemployed, internships, on-the-job training and implementation of work trials with employers, etc.), **employees, especially those older than 45** (adaptation of jobs, the introduction and promotion of forms of work that are adapted to social and demographic challenges, promoting programmes to ensure safety and health at work, reconciliation of work, private and family life, etc.). Non-discrimination and equal opportunities for persons with disabilities will be provided horizontally, as the project selection will give priority to projects that will improve accessibility for **people with disabilities** to increase their involvement in the labour market.

- **PRIORITY AXIS 9:** equal opportunities will be promoted particularly through the planned measures under all five investment priorities, especially the investment priority Active Inclusion, including with a view to promoting equal opportunities and active participation, and improving employability. The target groups, for whom equal opportunities will be ensured through various measures, are **users of health and social care programmes in the final stage of treatment, homeless pe-**

**people, victims of violence and abuse, persons suffering from mental health problems and prisoners being released, young NEETs** (social activation programmes and social inclusion programmes, which are specially adapted to the specific problems the target groups face in integration into society and the labour market, etc.), **individuals, especially children and young people at risk of social exclusion, the elderly from socially disadvantaged backgrounds, population groups with an increased risk of developing chronic diseases, ethnic minorities, people with disabilities and Roma** (measures to develop or upgrade and implement prevention programmes, measures to promote greater social inclusion of persons belonging to minority ethnic communities and people with disabilities, etc.), **individuals in need of integrated community-based services and programmes, particularly the elderly and users of institutional care with mental health problems** (adults and children) (pilot projects that will support the transition from institutional care to community care). Non-discrimination and equal opportunities for **persons with disabilities** will be provided horizontally, as the project selection will give priority to projects that promote accessibility for people with disabilities.

- **PRIORITY AXIS 10: Equal opportunities will be promoted through the measures envisaged within all three investment priorities, especially the investment priority Enhancing equal access to lifelong learning for all age groups in formal, non-formal and informal settings. The target groups who will be guaranteed equal opportunities through a variety of measures are people over 45, the less educated and the less skilled** (education and training to enhance general and professional competences, digital literacy, etc.), **young people at all levels of education** (the development of innovative learning environments, a regional scholarships scheme for deficit and specialized professions, new models of vocational education and training, practical training with employers, etc.).

The mechanisms for implementing the horizontal principle of equal opportunities and non-discrimination are as follows:

- **Administrative capacity of the MA:** provision of training and capacity building for the persons responsible for administering the Funds to ensure implementation of the principle of equal opportunities and non-discrimination.
- **Support structure:** establishment of a support structure/authority that will provide guidance and support for the implementation of the horizontal principle of equal opportunities and non-discrimination under the OP. The support structure will also cover the area of gender equality and will be embedded in the management and implementation.
- **Involvement of authorities and experts in the field of non-discrimination:** the representatives of authorities responsible for non-discrimination and the equal opportunities policy, as well as experts in this field, will be included in the monitoring committees for the Funds and the OP.
- **Monitoring of indicators:** where possible or available, the data and indicators will be monitored for various personal characteristics.

### 11.3 Equality between men and women

The main approach to ensuring the principle of equality between men and women is discussed in the PA under section 1.5.2. Equality between men and women as defined in Article 7 of Regulation (EU) No 1304/2013 will be respected at the level of the OP horizontally through gender mainstreaming and vertically through actions under priority axes 8 and 9.

- **PRIORITY AXIS 8: Equal opportunities will be promoted through the measures envisaged within all three investment priorities, especially the investment priority Access to employment for job-seekers and inactive people. The measures will target unemployed women with tertiary education,** as the unemployment records show that the share of women with tertiary educational attainment who are

unemployed is at a high level. Measures to promote reconciliation between work, family and private life throughout the life cycle, which will be implemented in the context of investment priority Active and Healthy Ageing, will promote equality between women and men of all ages, which will particularly contribute to gender equality in later periods of life. Gender equality will be implemented as a cross-cutting element, as the projects that promote equality between men and women in accessing employment and in reconciliation of work and private life throughout the individual's life span will be treated as a priority.

Implementation of the horizontal principle of gender equality will be ensured in accordance with the cohesion policy objectives on the promotion of gender equality throughout implementation, monitoring and evaluation through the following mechanisms:

- **Managing Authority administrative capacity:** provision of training and capacity building for persons responsible for administering the Funds to promote gender equality and gender mainstreaming, including the aspect of gender budgeting.
- **Support structure:** establishment of a support structure/authority that will provide guidance and support for the implementation of gender equality under the OP. The support structure will also cover the area of equal opportunities and non-discrimination and will be embedded in the management and implementation.
- **Involvement of authorities and experts in the field of gender equality:** the representatives of authorities responsible for promotion of gender equality, as well as experts in the field of gender equality, will be included in the monitoring committees for the Funds and the OP.
- **Monitoring of indicators:** in addition to providing data gathered separately for men and women, the financial indicators, output indicators and result indicators will take into account the gender aspect to the greatest possible extent.
- **Gender-balanced representation:** balanced representation of men and women will be ensured in the monitoring committees for the Funds and the OP.









# 12.

## SEPARATE ELEMENTS

## **12. SEPARATE ELEMENTS**

### **12.1 List of major projects for which implementation is planned during the programming period**

Table 104: List of major projects

Title	Planned time of notification/ submission of the major project application to the Commission (year, quarter)	Planned start of implementation (year, quarter)	Planned completion date of implementation (year, quarter)	Investment priority	Priority axis
Motorway section on TEN-T network A4: Draženci – international border crossing of Gruškovje	2015, first quarter	2015, first quarter	2018, first quarter	<b>Supporting a multimodal Single European Transport Area by investing in the TEN-T</b>	Construction of infrastructure and actions to promote sustainable mobility
Upgrading of the Zidani Most - Celje Rail line	2016, first quarter	2016, second quarter	2018, fourth quarter	<b>Supporting a multimodal Single European Transport Area by investing in the TEN-T</b>	Construction of infrastructure and actions to promote sustainable mobility
Arrangement of a hub through upgrading and modernisation of the Pragersko railway station	2016, first quarter	2016, fourth quarter	2020, fourth quarter	<b>Supporting a multimodal Single European Transport Area by investing in the TEN-T</b>	Construction of infrastructure and actions to promote sustainable mobility

## 12.2 Performance framework of the operational programme

**Table 105: Performance framework for funds and categories of region (collective table)**

Priority axis	Fund	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestone for 2018	Final target (2023)
1. INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIVENESS OF RESEARCH, INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT IN LINE WITH SMART SPECIALISATION FOR ENHANCED COMPETITIVENESS AND GREENING OF THE ECONOMY	ERDF	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	Number	Slovenia 50 Vzhodna Slovenija 30 Zahodna Slovenija 20	Slovenia 200 Vzhodna Slovenija 120 Zahodna Slovenija 80
	ERDF	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	Number	Slovenia 25 Vzhodna Slovenija 10 Zahodna Slovenija 15	Slovenia 135 Vzhodna Slovenija 54 Zahodna Slovenija 81
	ERDF	Financial indicator	EUR	Slovenia 144,293,486 Vzhodna Slovenija 79,486,445 Zahodna Slovenija 64,807,041	Slovenia 577,173,949 Vzhodna Slovenija 317,945,783 Zahodna Slovenija 259,228,166
2. ENHANCING ACCESS TO, AND USE AND QUALITY OF, INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES	ERDF	Number of additional households connected to new broadband networks of at least 100 Mbps	Number	Slovenia 6,240 Vzhodna Slovenija 3,744 Zahodna Slovenija 2,496	Slovenia 20,800 Vzhodna Slovenija 12,480 Zahodna Slovenija 8,320
	ERDF	Financial indicator	EUR	Slovenia 25,690,000 Vzhodna Slovenija 14,910,000 Zahodna Slovenija 10,780,000	Slovenia 85,647,847 Vzhodna Slovenija 49,710,000 Zahodna Slovenija 35,937,847
3. DYNAMIC AND COMPETITIVE ENTREPRENEURSHIP FOR GREEN ECONOMIC GROWTH	ERDF	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	Number	Slovenia 1,875 Vzhodna Slovenija 1,125 Zahodna Slovenija 750	Slovenia 7,500 Vzhodna Slovenija 4,875 Zahodna Slovenija 2,625
	ERDF	Financial indicator	EUR	Slovenia 179,270,000 Vzhodna Slovenija 120,640,000 Zahodna Slovenija 58,630,000	Slovenia 717,071,907 Vzhodna Slovenija 482,561,745 Zahodna Slovenija 234,510,162
4. SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION OF ENERGY AND SMART GRIDS	CF	Renovated useful floor area of buildings owned or occupied by the public sector	m2	Slovenia 600,000	Slovenia 1,800,000
	CF	Financial indicator	EUR	Slovenia 77,000,000	Slovenia 306,597,412
	ERDF	Number of sustainable mobility measures in the framework of sustainable mobility strategies	Number	Slovenia 0 Vzhodna Slovenija 0 Zahodna Slovenija 0	Slovenia 11 Vzhodna Slovenija 7 Zahodna Slovenija 4
	ERDF	Number of integrated transport strategies in place	Number	Slovenia 11 Vzhodna Slovenija 7 Zahodna Slovenija 4	
	ERDF	Financial indicator	EUR	Slovenia 9,000,000 Vzhodna Slovenija 4,000,000 Zahodna Slovenija 5,000,000	Slovenia 26,307,257 Vzhodna Slovenija 12,517,690 Zahodna Slovenija 13,789,567

Priority axis	Fund	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestone for 2018	Final target (2023)
5. CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION	CF	Risk prevention and management: Population benefiting from flood protection measures	Number	Slovenia 372	Slovenia 32,489
	CF	Siting based on spatial planning documents	Number	Slovenia 2	Slovenia 7
	CF	Financial indicator	EUR	Slovenia 12,500,000	Slovenia 62,378,744
	ERDF	Risk prevention and management: Population benefiting from flood protection measures	Number	Slovenia 3,000 Vzhodna Slovenija 3,000	Slovenia 5,938 Vzhodna Slovenija 5,938
	ERDF	Financial indicator	EUR	Slovenia 2,000,000 Vzhodna Slovenija 2,000,000	Slovenia 37,500,000 Vzhodna Slovenija 37,500,000
6. IMPROVEMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND BIODIVERSITY STATUS	CF	Wastewater treatment: Additional population served by improved wastewater treatment	Number of PE	Whole of Slovenia 0	Whole of Slovenia 100,000
	CF	Water supply: Additional population served by improved water supply	Number	Whole of Slovenia 0	Whole of Slovenia 120,000
	CF	Percentage of signed contracts on co-financing in relation to the funds awarded by decisions under specific objective Reduce emissions into water through development of municipal wastewater collection and treatment infrastructure	%	Slovenia 50	Slovenia 100
	CF	Percentage of signed contracts on co-financing in relation to the funds awarded by decisions under specific objective Increased security of adequate drinking water supply	%	Slovenia 50	Slovenia 100
	CF	Issued building permit	Number	Slovenia 3	Slovenia 11
	CF	Financial indicator	EUR	Slovenia 60,000,000	Slovenia 316,601,548
	ERDF	Urban Development: Population living in areas with integrated urban development strategies	Number	Slovenia 350,000 Vzhodna Slovenija 224,000 Zahodna Slovenija 126,000	Slovenia 700,000 Vzhodna Slovenija 448,000 Zahodna Slovenija 252,000
	ERDF	Financial indicator	EUR	Slovenia 18,000,000 Vzhodna Slovenija 11,120,000 Zahodna Slovenija 6,880,000	Slovenia 163,906,697 Vzhodna Slovenija 102,656,700 Zahodna Slovenija 61,249,997
7. INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT PROMOTION OF SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY	CF	Railway: Total length of reconstructed or upgraded railway line, of which: TEN-T	km	Slovenia 10	Slovenia 25
	CF	Financial indicator	EUR	Slovenia 80,000,000	Slovenia 262,461,506

Priority axis	Fund	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestone for 2018	Final target (2023)
	ERDF	Roads: Total length of newly built roads	km	Whole of Slovenia 0 Vzhodna Slovenija 0	Whole of Slovenia 5.3 Vzhodna Slovenija 5.3
	ERDF	Number of issued building permits	Number	Whole of Slovenia 1 Vzhodna Slovenija 1	
	ERDF	Financial indicator	EUR	Vzhodna Slovenija 4,500,000	Vzhodna Slovenija 49,585,025
8. PROMOTING EMPLOYMENT AND SUPPORTING TRANSNATIONAL LABOUR MOBILITY	ESF	Number of participants (in employment incentives)	Number	Slovenia 11,000 Vzhodna Slovenija 6,600 Zahodna Slovenija 4,400	Slovenia 25,000 Vzhodna Slovenija 15,000 Zahodna Slovenija 10,000
	ESF	Number of young people aged 15 to 29 (employment incentives)	Number	Slovenia 3,500 Vzhodna Slovenija 1,500 Zahodna Slovenija 2,000	Slovenia 9,100 Vzhodna Slovenija 3,800 Zahodna Slovenija 5,300
	ESF	Financial indicator	EUR	Slovenia 121,700,000 Vzhodna Slovenija 60,100,000 Zahodna Slovenija 61,600,000	Slovenia 348,156,333 Vzhodna Slovenija 171,948,738 Zahodna Slovenija 176,207,595
YOUTH EMPLOYMENT INITIATIVE	YEI	Unemployed, including long-term unemployed	Number	Vzhodna Slovenija 2,859	Vzhodna Slovenija 2,859
	YEI	Financial indicator	EUR	20,725,956	20,725,956
9. SOCIAL INCLUSION AND REDUCTION OF POVERTY RISKS, ACTIVE AND HEALTHY AGEING	ESF	Number of people from vulnerable target groups participating in programme	Number	Slovenia 3,800 Vzhodna Slovenija 2,090 Zahodna Slovenija 1,710	Slovenia 19,000 Vzhodna Slovenija 10,450 Zahodna Slovenija 8,550
	ESF	Number of established regional mobile units	Number	Slovenia 12 Vzhodna Slovenija 8 Zahodna Slovenija 4	Slovenia 12 Vzhodna Slovenija 8 Zahodna Slovenija 4
	ESF	Number of supported intergenerational centres and family centres	Number	Slovenia 8 Vzhodna Slovenija 5 Zahodna Slovenija 3	Slovenia 15 Vzhodna Slovenija 10 Zahodna Slovenija 5
	ESF	Financial indicator	EUR	Slovenia 37,000,000 Vzhodna Slovenija 20,300,000 Zahodna Slovenija 16,700,000	Slovenia 181,561,982 Vzhodna Slovenija 100,331,530 Zahodna Slovenija 81,230,452
	ERDF	Number of supported units	Number	Slovenia Vzhodna Slovenija 0 Zahodna Slovenija 0	Slovenia 130 Vzhodna Slovenija 73 Zahodna Slovenija 57
	ERDF	Issued public contracts	Number	Slovenia 4 Vzhodna Slovenija 2 Zahodna Slovenija 2	Slovenia - Vzhodna Slovenija - Zahodna Slovenija -
	ERDF	Number of people living in areas with local development strategies in place	Number	Slovenia 0 Vzhodna Slovenija 0 Zahodna Slovenija 0	Slovenia 1,380,000 Vzhodna Slovenija 722,000 Zahodna Slovenija 658,000
	ERDF	Adopted local development strategies	Number	Slovenia 20 Vzhodna Slovenija 10 Zahodna Slovenija 10	Slovenia - Vzhodna Slovenija - Zahodna Slovenija -
	ERDF	Financial indicator	EUR	Slovenia 16,000,000 Vzhodna Slovenija 8,800,000 Zahodna Slovenija 7,200,000	Slovenia 93,817,074 Vzhodna Slovenija 50,044,227 Zahodna Slovenija 43,772,847

Priority axis	Fund	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestone for 2018	Final target (2023)
10. KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND LIFELONG LEARNING TO ENHANCE EMPLOYABILITY	ESF	Number of participants in programmes for obtaining competences	Number	Slovenia 17,160 Vzhodna Slovenija 10,296 Zahodna Slovenija 6,864	Slovenia 42,900 Vzhodna Slovenija 25,740 Zahodna Slovenija 17,160
	ESF	Number of young people participating in scholarship schemes	Number	Slovenia 1,742 Vzhodna Slovenija 1,212 Zahodna Slovenija 530	Slovenia 4,430 Vzhodna Slovenija 3,053 Zahodna Slovenija 1,377
	ESF	Number of schools participating in various vocational education and training models	Number	Slovenia 25 Vzhodna Slovenija 16 Zahodna Slovenija 9	Slovenia 63 Vzhodna Slovenija 40 Zahodna Slovenija 23
	ESF	Number of participants in training and specialisation programmes, programmes to obtain additional qualifications and requalification programmes	Number	Slovenia 23,736 Vzhodna Slovenija 14,242 Zahodna Slovenija 9,494	Slovenia 59,340 Vzhodna Slovenija 35,604 Zahodna Slovenija 23,736
	ESF	Financial indicator	EUR	Slovenia 104,510,000 Vzhodna Slovenija 58,410,000 Zahodna Slovenija 46,100,000	Slovenia 261,245,949 Vzhodna Slovenija 146,019,679 Zahodna Slovenija 115,226,270
	ERDF	Ratio: number of pupils to ICT devices connected to the Internet	Number	Slovenia 9 Vzhodna Slovenija 9 Zahodna Slovenija 9	Slovenia 5 Vzhodna Slovenija 5 Zahodna Slovenija 5
	ERDF	Financial indicator	EUR	Slovenia 10,000,000 Vzhodna Slovenija 5,000,000 Zahodna Slovenija 5,000,000	Slovenia 25,029,114 Vzhodna Slovenija 12,517,690 Zahodna Slovenija 12,511,424
11. RULE OF LAW, ENHANCING INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY, EFFICIENT PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND CAPACITY BUILDING OF SOCIAL PARTNERS AND NGOS	ESF	Number of established systems used in the justice system	Number	Slovenia 5 Vzhodna Slovenija 5 Zahodna Slovenija 5	Slovenia 11 Vzhodna Slovenija 11 Zahodna Slovenija 11
	ESF	Number of supported building blocks and fundamental data records implemented within the government cloud	Number	Slovenia 8 Vzhodna Slovenija 8 Zahodna Slovenija 8	Slovenia 15 Vzhodna Slovenija 15 Zahodna Slovenija 15
	ESF	Financial indicator	EUR	Slovenia 23,400,000 Vzhodna Slovenija 10,285,200 Zahodna Slovenija 13,114,800	Slovenia 77,592,476 Vzhodna Slovenija 31,353,603 Zahodna Slovenija 46,238,873

### 12.3 List of relevant partners involved in drawing up the operational programme

The list of stakeholders is given under Annex 2.

### 12.4 Indicative projects of the concessionaire at the Koper freight port (CEF Tender) for the achievement of the objective “Removing bottlenecks in the TEN-T Network and ensuring TEN-T standards along the network”

Project	Estimated value of works in the 2014-2020 period (EUR million)	Project implementation timeframe (for the 2014-2020 period)	Estimated value of works in the post-2020 period (EUR million)
Deepening of port basins	10	2015-2020	10
Extension of Pier I (extension of the southern and northern parts of Pier I)	70	2016-2020	60
Upgrading of operational coastline and construction of berths in Basin I, Basin II and Basin III	40	2015-2019	20
Construction of an additional railway infrastructure network at the Port of Koper	20	2015-2018	20
New entry to the port and support road infrastructure	20	2015-2017	10
Passenger terminal building at the Port of Koper	3	2015-2016	/
Construction of hinterland infrastructure	12	2017-2020	10





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