

Response to EC comments on the overview of enabling conditions

All entries in the table have been corrected to indicate that a YES is entered only if the condition is fulfilled at the present moment.

EU charter of fundamental rights: Rights or principles cited in documents were those that are most relevant. We have now added to the list to include all rights or principles relevant to particular documents depending on the context.

State Aid in research institutions: to ensure that compliance will be checked at the national level, the MA issues a binding opinion on the compliance of the measure before the measure itself is implemented. If the subsequent verification reveals that the implementation is not in accordance with rules, the recovery of the aid is requested. For this reason, the National authority (State Aid Department) assesses the aid in accordance with the rules and, if necessary, verifies them through DG COMP (Some DGs, such as REGIO and RTD, may provide different information than DG COMP).

PO 1

Thematic enabling condition	Fund	Specific objective	EC Comment	MA Response and comments
1. Good governance of national or regional smart specialisation strategy	ERDF	All specific objectives under this policy objective	It is stated that the S3 is being revised. Please provide an indicative timeline for when this can be expected. It would be ideal to have an overall timeline, including expected timing for the fulfilment of all the criteria on the list. We understand that you cannot dedicate to an exact date but please provide an estimate.	The S4 has prepared an indicative timeline in the way that all S4 would be upgraded and revised in line with all 7 criteria as in the draft regulation by the end of this year. This time line goes hand in hand with activities on preparation of other required programming documents (Partnership Agreement, Programmes, etc.). However, in the entrepreneurial discovery process, it was evident that more time will be needed. This process is currently in Phase II. Based on existing priority areas, the new EDP was launched in June 2020, starting with

				<p>renewal of current structure of priorities for priority domains of S4 (focus areas and technologies). In most of the cases, substantial reorganization, concentration as well as modifications are proposed.</p> <p>At the second stage (Phase II) of the EDP bilateral meetings has been held (October) between S4 Unit and individual SRIPs. Representatives of the MEDT participated at all meeting and MPA at two of them. Since the focus areas are still overlapping the S4 Unit requested another round of meetings, this time multilateral gathering SRIPs with overlapping focus areas. This part of the process is expected to be finalized by the end of November or beginning of December.</p> <p>In the next stage, an open EDP process will be moderated by GOSP involving actors beyond SRIP members, starting with supportive environment (art and creative sector, technology transfer office, competence centres, entrepreneurial and innovative institutions). This will apparently have to be conducted in the first months of 2021.</p> <p>In addition, under Criteria 5 – innovation ecosystem a lot is currently evolving: from Slovene Industrial Policy to the New Law on Science and Research. Therefore, structural reforms still remain to be addressed and</p>
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				<p>implemented. Some will be implemented through new research and innovation strategic documents and/or necessary legal framework, which will tackle also institutional issues. In existing policy mix there are still some remaining gaps to be addressed e.g. Proof of Concept financing, empowerment of technology and knowledge transfer, equity financing, Industrial PhD.</p>
			<p>Governance is a key element of the implementation of S3 in 2021-2027. In the comment section you mention the lack of human resources at the S3 unit level and you state that additional resources are expected in the frame of the reorganisation. What is the expected increase of staff for S3? This should be comparable to other MS.</p>	<p>We share your view that governance is a key element in the S4 implementation and nevertheless also in the process of upgrading the Strategy. As regarding the lack of HR the comparison was done to other MS/regions of comparable size in terms of inhabitants and innovation ecosystem (source JCR). The Units in other MS/regions are bigger. To also note that some turnover happened in Slovene team and one colleague left for maternity leave. Based on this fact we consider that it is relevant to signal this in our reporting. This issue was raised also at the minister's management meeting. According to discussion at the meeting it is expected that this Unit will be merged in the Cohesion Policy Office in the foreseen reorganisation of the GODECP and within this reorganization enough resources is to be secured for proper management of S4. The timeframe for reorganization is end of this</p>

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PO 2

Thematic enabling condition	Fund	Specific objective	EC Comment	MA Response and comments
2.1 Strategic policy framework to support energy efficiency renovation of residential and non-residential buildings	ERDF, Cohesion Fund	Promoting energy efficiency and reducing greenhouse gas emissions	Long-term renovation strategy – the public consultation was closed in September. Please provide the latest state of play and your assessment of when it will be adopted.	The long-term strategy for the renovation of buildings is in the final inter-ministerial phase of coordination. It is expected to be adopted by the end of this year.
2.2 Governance of the energy sector	ERDF, Cohesion Fund	Promoting energy efficiency and reducing greenhouse gas emissions Promoting renewable energy	NECP (criterion: An indicative outline of proposed financing resources and mechanisms for promoting low-carbon energy) - The NECP lays out the sources of financing at the EU and national level. As regards cohesion policy, the NECP already sets out which sectors cohesion policy would cover. However, it is not clear which areas other sources (for example IFIs and the national budget) would cover. In addition, there is a lack of a more concrete financing plan, which would set out indicative amounts per source (national budget, ESIF, IFI etc.).	Slovenia has prepared its Integrated National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP) following the Annex I of the Regulation (EU) 2018/1999 of 11 December 2018 on the Governance of the Energy Union and Climate Action. An overview of the investment needs is provided in chapter 5.3. During the process of programming policy interventions and instruments/measures reported in the NECP, it has been estimated that total investments for the period 2021 - 2030 should amount to approx. EUR 28.4 billion including investments in transport infrastructure and sustainable mobility. In order to successfully achieve the energy and climate policy goals, good targeting and fine-tuning of

				<p>all investments in the period up to 2030 will be crucial. In subchapter 5.3.3. Analysis of additional financial support or funding to close the gap has been presented.</p> <p>The maximum possible amount of private funding will be required to carry out the planned investments and reach ambitious NECP targets. Gaps in financing will be filled by prioritising the use of available EU funds and financing through EU and national financial instruments.</p> <p>The planned financing model for realising NECP investments is based on the coordinated use of grants and repayable public funds as well as sources of financing provided by financial institutions and funds.</p> <p>Significant sources for national financing of envisioned NECP investments will be implemented through dedicated contributions like the existing schemes for supporting RES and high efficient CHP or energy efficiency support programs (indicative amounts per source are given in Figure 93). Funds from Slovenian Eco Fund and the Climate Fund are also significant sources of funding envisioned NECP incentives in the period 2021-2030.</p> <p>The funding from the national budget was also estimated but it is necessary to have in mind that the national budget is planned only for two</p>
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				<p>years in advance and when the new national budget is planned, the required amounts will be fine-tuned according to the investment needs and gaps. In this context and in addition to the sources already mentioned, it is important to state that is envisioned that the CO2 tax, which is part of budget resources, will play an important role in financing future NECP related projects (indicative amounts for a period up to 2030 are given in Figure 94).</p> <p>Thus, dedicated contributions (RES and CHP contributions, EEU contribution) and the Climate Fund are the main sources of funding from NECP incentives in the period 2021-2030. The available resources from these sources range between EUR 300 million and EUR 350 million annually (Figure 93) and represent a total of up to EUR 3.1 billion in the period 2021-2030, which is the main financial source for implementing the planned amount of incentives needed. In addition, the greatest possible amount of cohesion funding will need to be integrated and carefully planned for the next financial period, in particular for the requirements of the sustainable renovation of public buildings, industry incentives, sustainable mobility measures and the mitigation of energy poverty.</p> <p>Within the planning of cohesion funds for the</p>
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				<p>period 2021-2027 in the framework of NEPN activities 600 to 700 million EUR are planned.</p> <p>Other public funding resources that will need to be provided for investment in rail infrastructure and increased funding for research and innovation will be planned in the national budget, that is planned for two years in advance and will be fine-tuned according to the investment needs and gaps.</p>
<p>2.3 Effective promotion of the use of renewable energy across sectors and across the EU</p>	<p>ERDF, Cohesion Fund</p>	<p>Promoting renewable energy</p>	<p>please specify for each of the two criteria: which measures specifically are already put in place; and which measures are planned to be put in place. Please be sure to describe the measures and not only goals, etc.</p>	<p>Slovenia has already adopted numerous energy and climate policy measures. However, we are fully aware that achieving the ambitious targets of the NECP will require the continuation of the implementation of measures already taken, their upgrading and extension, and the adoption of additional measures. Particular attention will have to be paid to increasing implementation capacity, monitoring the implementation of actions and, on the basis of the findings, adjusting and improving the individual instruments accordingly.</p> <p>All measures, existing and newly proposed, their descriptions and indicative implementation deadlines are listed and described in Chapter 3 of the NECP.</p> <p>Existing upgraded measures/instruments are listed in tables coloured in blue (Tables 16, 17, 19, 21, 23, 24, 25, 27, 28, 30, 31, 32, 34, 37 and</p>

				<p>38). Newly proposed additional measures and instruments are listed in tables coloured in green (Tables 18, 20, 22, 26, 29, 33, 35, 36 and 39). As part of the additional funds under the Recovery and Stability Plan, an additional EUR 3 million is planned for the purpose of renewable resources.</p>
<p>2.4 Effective disaster risk management framework</p>	<p>ERDF, Cohesion Fund</p>	<p>Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and disaster resilience</p>	<p>Risk management framework – we will proceed with informally consulting the other relevant services</p>	<p>Resolution on the National Programme of Protection against Natural and Other Disasters from 2016 to 2022 is a comprehensive disaster management programme at national level, with its main objective of disaster prevention, preparedness and effective response to all natural and man-made disasters. It includes basic information on prevention measures, established based on risk assessment, taking due account impacts of climate changes and adaptation to them. Detailed description of disaster risk management programme, including assessment and description of key and important risks and prevention, preparedness and response measures to address those risks, are further defined within National Disaster Risk Assessment and National Assessment on Disaster Risk Management Capabilities. Those documents include all disasters, recognized as important or key risks, including climate</p>

				induced disasters (floods, wildfires, sleet).
2.5 Updated planning for required investments in water and wastewater sectors	ERDF, Cohesion Fund	Promoting sustainable water management	Water management – as both the drinking water and wastewater programmes are still in preparation; please clarify when the two programmes are expected to be completed and the enabling condition will be fulfilled? Please also include more details of the steps that still need to be taken. At what stage of preparation is the drinking water programme?	The Operational program for wastewater treatment was approved by the government on 17 September 2020. For the water sector, the information required will be provided in the process of updating of the Operational program for drinking water. The current document is valid until 2021, an update is foreseen to be carried out in 2021.
2.6 Updated planning for waste management	ERDF, Cohesion Fund	Promoting the transition to a circular economy	as both the drinking water and wastewater programmes are still in preparation; please clarify when the two programmes are expected to be completed and the enabling condition will be fulfilled? Please also include more details of the steps that still need to be taken.	An update of the Waste Management Plan and Waste Prevention Plan is underway, and it will be complemented with a current situation analysis and appropriate measures. Preparatory activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - review, preparation and evaluation of measures necessary to promote product re-use and preparation for re-use, - review, preparation and evaluation of measures to promote the establishment and support of reuse and repair networks (centres), - PRO (extended producer responsibility) adoption of new legislative and other measures for the purposes of reuse and prevention and recycling of waste (Environmental Protection Act ZVO-2), - an additional analysis was performed on the

				<p>quantity and quality of sludge from municipal and joint treatment plants for 2018,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- the public consultation and inter-ministerial coordination of the Regulation amending the Waste Regulation was completed, where Article 6 of Directive 2008/98 / EC on the cessation of waste status was fully transposed. <p>We started with the preparation of the program; activities that are currently underway:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- analysis of the composition of mixed municipal waste,- the food waste prevention program,- analysis of the efficiency of municipal and other waste management in 2018 and on scenario of possible development in the next 20 years (external contractor). <p>Indicative timeline:</p> <p>October to November 2020: Data on waste flow and waste management facilities (ARSO, SURS); Tendering for data analysis, data analysis;</p> <p>1.10. to 15.1 2021 (final version by 31.1.2021): Preparation of content for the programme;</p> <p>November 2020: Application for SEA;</p> <p>December 2020: Tendering for SEA; December 2020 – January 2021: finalisation of programme draft;</p> <p>1.2.2021 (1.3.2021): SEA and its adoption;</p>
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				<p>1.2.2021 to 1.3.2021 or 1.3. to 1.4.2021 (SEA report): publication of report and coordination between ministries;</p> <p>February 2021 public discussion;</p> <p>1. 3. 2021 (1.4.2021) to 15. 4. 2021 (15.5.2021): including comments and finalising report;</p> <p>30.5.2021: Preparation of decision on the acceptability of the programme for the environment in accordance with the SEA Directive, programme to be sent to the Government for adoption.</p>
			Waste management plan – is the JASPERS input going to be taken into account before the adoption planned for May 2021?	
2.7 Prioritised action framework for the necessary conservation measures involving Union co-financing	ERDF, Cohesion Fund	Promoting green infrastructure in the urban environment and reducing pollution	Prioritised action framework (Natura 2000) – at what stage of preparation is the Management programme?	<p>Prioritised Action Framework format (PAF) for Slovenia was sent to the European Commission on 22 April 2020. Costs were estimated relating to EU co-financing. On 28 October 2020 a reply was sent to the informal comments received from the European Commission.</p> <p>Management Programme for Natura 2000 Sites for 2021-2027 is at the moment being prepared in the framework of the LIFE Integrated Project for Enhanced Management of Natura 2000 in Slovenia http://www.natura2000.si/life_natura. The majority of workshops with experts for determination of conservation objectives were implemented. The remaining workshops will be</p>

				carried out in November 2020. Adoption of the programme is due to COVID-19 postponed on the second half of 2021.
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PO 3

Thematic enabling condition	Fund	Specific objective	EC Comment	MA Response and comments
3.1 National or regional broadband plan	ERDF	Enhancing digital connectivity	For broadband all criteria are marked as fulfilled, however, in the comments column it is clearly stated that most of the measures are still to be prepared. This means that it is not fulfilled and should be marked as such. For example, it is stated that a new NGN strategy will be developed in 2020. Has this been done yet? If yes, the Commission is ready to provide comments if you share it with us.	No, the new NGN strategy has not been adopted yet. It shall be adopted in Q2 2021 and it will be included in national strategy for digital transformation Digital Slovenia (Digitalna Slovenija). More detailed information about criteria are provided in Excel document, where we have up-dated all the information.
3.2 Comprehensive transport planning at the appropriate level	ERDF, Cohesion Fund	Developing a sustainable, climate resilient, intelligent, secure and intermodal TEN-T Developing and enhancing sustainable,	Transport strategy – we will proceed with informally consulting the other relevant services.	

		climate resilient, intelligent and intermodal national, regional and local mobility, including improved access to TEN-T and cross-border mobility	
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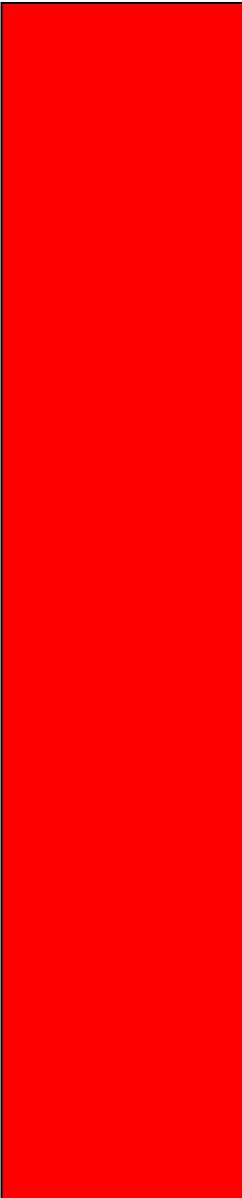
PO 4

Thematic enabling condition	Fund	Specific objective	EC Comment	MA Response and comments
4.1 Strategic policy framework for active labour market policies	ESF, ERDF	ESF: Improving access to employment of all jobseekers, in particular youth and long-term unemployed and disadvantaged groups on the labour market, and of inactive people, promoting self-	provide an expected timeline for the adoption of the new/updated strategic documents and guidelines.	The draft Guidelines for the implementation of the active labour market policy measures 2021-2025 have been prepared. The Guidelines will integrate the Youth Guarantee as well. Next steps: Inter-ministerial coordination has been completed, document approved at this stage. - Consultation with the social partners at the Economic and Social Council (estimated

		<p>employment and the social economy;</p> <p>Modernising labour market institutions and services to assess and anticipate skills needs and ensure timely and tailor-made assistance and support to labour market matching, transitions and mobility;</p> <p>ERDF:</p> <p>Enhancing the effectiveness of labour markets and access to quality employment through developing social innovation and infrastructure</p>		<p>date: December 11, 2020),</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - adoption by the Government of the Republic of Slovenia (estimated date: the second half of December 2020 or early January 2021).
			<p>Will the new/updated documents include a mapping of the infrastructure, equipment and resources needed for the effective implementation of priorities under PO4 (labour market, education and training, social inclusion and poverty reduction)?</p>	<p>Labour market and lifelong learning needs will be adequately addressed in the envisaged strategic documents for these two policy areas.</p>
4.2	National	ESF, ERDF	ESF:	provide an expected timeline for the The preparation of the National Program for

<p>strategic policy framework for gender equality</p>		<p>Promoting a gender-balanced labour market participation, and a better work/life balance including through access to childcare and care for dependent persons</p> <p>Promoting adaptation of workers, enterprises and entrepreneurs to change, and active and healthy ageing and a healthy and well-adapted working environment addressing health risks</p> <p>ERDF:</p> <p>Enhancing the effectiveness of labour markets and access to quality employment through developing social innovation and infrastructure</p>	<p>adoption of the new/updated strategic documents and guidelines.</p>	<p>equal opportunities between men and women 2030 is underway. The following activities are carried out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Updating data disaggregated by gender, - Evaluation of the National Programme 2015-2020 (external contractor), - 2nd round of coordination of the measures prepared by the ministries; the Office for Nationalities and the Office for the Support and Integration of Migrants were consulted as well, - Organization of a strategic seminar seminar for working group (coordinators for equal opportunities) (20 October 2020). <p>Final date of adoption is unknown, as the national programme for gender equality must be approved by the National Assembly. It is planned that the document will be adopted in March/April 2021 by the Government.</p>
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			<p>Will the new/updated documents include a mapping of the infrastructure, equipment and resources needed for the effective implementation of priorities under PO4 (labour market, education and training, social inclusion and poverty reduction)?</p>	<p>Not relevant</p>
<p>4.3 Strategic policy framework for the education and training system at all levels.</p>	<p>ESF, ERDF</p>	<p>ESF: Improving the quality, effectiveness and labour market relevance of education and training systems, to support acquisition of key competences including digital skills;</p> <p>Promoting equal access to and completion of, quality and inclusive education and training, in particular for disadvantaged groups, from early childhood education and care through general and vocational education and training, and to</p>	<p>provide an expected timeline for the adoption of the new/updated strategic documents and guidelines.</p>	<p>This condition will be fulfilled by three documents:</p> <p>1) National programme for higher education:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Working group for the preparation of the national programmed presented a progress before the Higher Education Council on 22 September 2020. - Another session of the Council for Higher Education was convened, at which the expert group wanted to present to the members the starting point regarding the status of Slovene as an official and teaching language in higher education; in doing so, the emerging NPVŠ is in line with the emerging Resolution on the National Program for Language Policy 2020-2024. The working group gained the position of the Council for higher education and has now included them in its starting points. <p>Next steps:</p>

		<p>tertiary level, as well as adult education and learning, including facilitating learning mobility for all;</p> <p>Promoting lifelong learning, notably flexible upskilling and reskilling opportunities for all taking into account digital skills, better anticipating change and new skills requirements based on labour market needs, facilitating career transitions and promoting professional mobility</p> <p>ERDF:</p> <p>Improving access to inclusive and quality services in education, training and lifelong learning through developing</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Public consultation through the Council of the Republic of Slovenia for Higher Education - Interministerial coordination and adoption by the government by 31 March 2021 <p>2) Resolution on the Master Plan for Adult Education:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The draft document is harmonized by the competent institutions (MIZŠ, ACS - Centre for education of adults, CPI – Centre for vocational education). <p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Coordination meeting with the ACS at the end of November an preparation of document for the public consultation - Inter-ministerial coordination and adoption by the government by the end of 2020 / beginning 2021 <p>3) Short-cycle higher education development Strategy: adopted by the government in July 2020</p> <p>Planned fulfilment of the thematic enabling condition: March/April 2021</p>

		infrastructure		
			Will the new/updated documents include a mapping of the infrastructure, equipment and resources needed for the effective implementation of priorities under PO4 (labour market, education and training, social inclusion and poverty reduction)?	
			Provide an expected timeline for the adoption of the new/updated strategic documents and guidelines.	<p>The preparation of the Resolution on the national social assistance programme 2021-2027 is underway. Thus far, the proposals of the expert institutions (Social Chamber of Slovenia, Community of Social Institutions, Community of Centers for Social Work, Community of Care Work Centers) have been gathered according to prepare the objectives of the Resolution.</p> <p>Next steps: (ongoing process since March 2020).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A draft Resolution is expected to be prepared by the end of December 2020 - Submission of the proposal to interservice consultation is planned in January 2021 - Public consultation with relevant stakeholders is planned in February 2021 - Submission in the approval procedure in the Parliament is expected in March 2021 - Estimated time of adoption in the Parliament is March 2021

<p>4.6 Strategic policy framework for health and long-term care</p>	<p>ESF, ERDF</p>	<p>ESF: Enhancing the equal and timely access to quality, sustainable and affordable services; modernising social protection systems, including promoting access to social protection, improving accessibility, effectiveness and resilience of healthcare systems and long-term care services</p> <p>ERDF: Ensuring equal access to health care through developing infrastructure, including primary care</p>	<p>How does the long-awaited long-term care legislation fit into this enabling condition? Can the legislation (and the potentially necessary other strategic documents) be adopted within the next 6 months?</p>	<p>The condition is partly fulfilled by the "National Health Care Resolution Plan 2016-2025"</p> <p>For the criteria 1. Mapping of health and long-term care needs, including in terms of medical and care staff, to ensure sustainable and coordinated measures.</p> <p>For the purpose of preparing the mapping methodology, the European Commission hired an expert to prepare a methodology (deadline September 2020). Next steps are:</p> <p>Ministry of Health will prepare the final mapping document: final date unknown. We think that legislation on LTC will not be adopted within the next 6 months.</p> <p>Also, the Resolution contains specific objectives and main indicators that the Ministry is planning to achieve.</p>
			<p>What is the state of play of the preparation of health infrastructure mapping? What is the timeline for finalizing the mapping?</p>	<p>In October, a European Commission expert presented a method used for infrastructure mapping. We plan to carry out the mapping, including investments in infrastructure, LTC needs, medical and care staff, to ensure</p>

				sustainable and coordinated measures.
			A description on how the criterions 2 (measures to ensure efficiency, sustainability and accessibility to GH and LTC services) and 3 (measures to promote community-based services) are fulfilled is missing.	The enabling condition for both criterions are included in the Resolution of the National Health Care Plan 2016-2025 "Together for a society of health". It fulfils the commitments to expand the national health care plan, which includes a health care development strategy with a purpose, vision and principles, goals, priority development areas and elements of strategic planning.