

**Slovenia’s EU Cohesion Policy Programme 2021-2027**

Ljubljana, December 2022

Version 4.2.2

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**LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS**

AI – artificial intelligence

AMIF – Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund

API – Action Programme for Persons with Disabilities

AVK – Competition Protection Agency

CEF – Connecting Europe Facility

CF – Cohesion Fund

CLLD – community-led local development

Coal Exit Strategy – National Strategy for a Coal Exit and Restructuring of Coal Regions in line with Just Transition Principles

CPI – Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Vocational Education and Training

DNSH – “do no significant harm” principle

DRR – agreement on the development of regions

DSEPS – Long-term Energy Renovation Strategy for 2050

EAFRD – European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development

EC – European Commission

ECP – European Cohesion Policy

EII – European Innovation Index

EMFAF – European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund

ERDF – European Regional Development Fund

ESS+ – European Social Fund Plus

EU – European Union

EU Funds – in the Programme, the term is used for ERDF, ESF+ and CF

EUSAIR – EU Strategy for the Adriatic-Ionian Region

EUSALP – EU Strategy for the Alpine Region

EUSDR – EU Strategy for the Danube Region

FI – financial instruments

GDP – gross domestic product

GHG – greenhouse gas

HPC – High Performance Computing

ICT – information and communication technology

IRSSV – Social Protection Institute of the Republic of Slovenia

ITI – Integrated Territorial Investment

JŠRIPS – Public Scholarship, Development, Disability and Maintenance Fund of the Republic of Slovenia

JTF – Just Transition Fund

KTO – Knowledge Transfer Office

LAG – local action groups

LDS – local development strategy

MA – Managing Authority

MDDSZ – Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities

MGRT – Ministry of Economic Development and Technology

MIZŠ – Ministry of Education, Science and Sport

MOP – Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning

MZZ – Ministry of Foreign Affairs

NECP – National Energy and Climate Plan 2030

NEET – Not in Education, Employment, or Training

NGO – non-governmental organisations

OECD – Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

PO – policy objective

P&R – park and ride

Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 – Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2021 laying down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund Plus, the Cohesion Fund, the Just Transition Fund and the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund and financial rules for those and for the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, the Internal Security Fund and the Instrument for Financial Support for Border Management and Visa Policy

RES – renewable energy sources

RRP – Recovery and Resilience Plan

RDI – research, development and innovation

RDP – regional development programme

SAŠA region – Savinjsko-šaleška region

SDS 2030 – Slovenian Development Strategy 2030

SFP – Skills Forecasting Platform

SME – small and medium-sized enterprises

SO – specific objective

SPOT – Slovenian Business Point

SRIP – Strategic Research and Innovation Partnership

SURS – Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia

SVRK – Government Office for Development and European Cohesion Policy

SUS – sustainable urban strategies

S4 – Slovenian Smart Specialisation Strategy

S5 – Smart Specialisation Strategy 2030

TRL – technology readiness level

UMAR – Institute of Macroeconomic Analysis and Development of the Republic of Slovenia

URSIKS – Prison Administration of the Republic of Slovenia

ZJN – Public Procurement Act

ZOFVI – Organisation and Financing of Education Act

ZPIZ – Pension and Disability Insurance institute of Slovenia

ZRSZ – Employment Service of Slovenia

ZUTD – Labour Market Regulation Act

ZViS – Higher Education Act

# Information about the programme

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| --- | --- |
| CCI | 2021SI16FFPR001 |
| Title in EN | Slovenia’s EU Cohesion Policy Programme 2021-2027 |
| Title in national language(s) | Program evropske kohezijske politike v obdobju 2021–2027 v Sloveniji |
| Version | 1.0 |
| First year | 2021 |
| Last year | 2027 |
| Eligible from | 1 January 2021 |
| Eligible until | 31 December 2029 |
| Commission decision number |  |
| Commission decision date |  |
| NUTS regions covered by the programme | SI0 - Slovenija SI03 - Vzhodna Slovenija SI031 - Pomurska SI032 - Podravska SI033 - Koroška SI034 - Savinjska SI035 - Zasavska SI036 - Posavska SI037 - Jugovzhodna Slovenija SI038 - Primorsko-notranjska SI04 - Zahodna Slovenija SI041 - Osrednjeslovenska SI042 - Gorenjska SI043 - Goriška SI044 - Obalno-kraška |
| Fund(s) concerned | ERDF |
| Cohesion Fund |
| ESF+ |
| JTF |
| EMFAF |
| Programme | under Investment for jobs and growth goal for the outermost regions only |

# Programme strategy: main development challenges and policy responses

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| --- |
| Drafting of Slovenia’s EU Cohesion Policy Programme 2021-2027 (hereinafter: Programme) was based on the **Slovenian Development Strategy 2030** (SDS 2030). Progress in achieving the set objectives is monitored annually by the Institute of Macroeconomic Analysis and Development of the Republic of Slovenia (hereinafter: UMAR) by issuing annual development reports. **Development Report** **2021 and 2022**[[1]](#footnote-1)establish that measures to increase the resilience of the economy and society, utilise new opportunities and accelerate the transition to a highly productive, low-carbon and circular economy are key.  In order to achieve the objectives set out in SDS 2030, we need to prioritise measure in areas where main challenges are identified:   * **fostering productivity growth, including the development of relevant skills**; * **accelerating the transition to a low-carbon circular economy**; * **strengthening the resilience of the healthcare system and the financial sustainability of social security systems**; * **strengthening the development role of the state and its institutions**: improving the efficiency of public sector governance and reducing regulatory burdens remains a challenge that was mainly addressed by the Recovery and Resilience Plan (hereinafter: RRP) and is therefore not specifically addressed by the Programme.   Based on relevant documents, specific evaluations, reports, recommendations of the Council of the European Union in relation to Slovenia’s National Reform Programme 2019, 2020 and 2022 (Council recommendations) and European Commission’s strategic priorities, we have developed measures to effectively address the identified challenges. As the measures are interdependent, we will ensure maximum substantive and implementation synergies and promote the identification of systemic horizontal solutions. The RRP puts a strong emphasis on reforms that will contribute to realising the EU and Programme policy objectives more quickly and effectively. With regard to measures under the investment segment of the RRP and this Programme, we will ensure a clear differentiation between or complementarity of the areas and supported measures.  Slovenia will take into account the mitigation measures set out in the strategic environmental assessment (annex: Mitigation Measures and Recommendations) and the ‘do no significant harm’ principle (annex: DNSH). The European Cohesion Policy funds will be used to support the most vulnerable and those most exposed to the social and economic consequences of green transition. Where relevant, the Programme will support investments that successfully integrate the principles of sustainability, aesthetics and inclusiveness in line with the New European Bauhaus initiative.  Slovenia is divided into two cohesion regions, with the Western Slovenia cohesion region being classified as a developed region, and the Eastern Slovenia cohesion region as a less developed region. KRVZ needs to catch up with the European Union (hereinafter: EU) as well as the Slovenian average and the more developed the Western Slovenia cohesion region. Despite being more developed, the Western Slovenia cohesion region is characterised by significant development disparities between and within the NUTS-3 regions, which increased again in 2020 due to the COVID-19 epidemic. The relevant national contribution will be provided in the frame of the Budget of the Republic of Slovenia, which will ensure proper implementation of operations in both cohesion regions[[2]](#footnote-2). Three territorial approaches will be applied in promoting the cooperation of urban and rural areas and in reducing development disparities. Sustainable urban development will be supported by the Integrated Territorial Investment (hereinafter: ITI) approach within three specific objectives (hereinafter: SO) (RSO 2.7, 2.8 and 5.1), community-led local development (hereinafter: CLLD) within SO RSO5.2, and regional development through agreements on the development of regions (hereinafter: DRR) within four SOs (RSO1.3, 2.5, 2.7 and 3.2). Decision-makers and representatives of cities, LAGs and regions will participate in the first phase of the selection procedure. A detailed explanation is given in Chapter 1.1 and Chapter 2 for individual SO.  In the 2014-2020 period, we have developed numerous good practices, in particular by establishing excellent cooperation of line ministries in the planning of strategic documents that served as the basis for developing programming documents (e.g. Smart Specialisation Strategy 2030 (hereinafter: S5)). We have also translated the good cooperation from the 2014-2020 period into the programming of documents and measures for the 2021-2027 period, which will form the basis for the cooperation in their implementation. A more concrete definition of the implementation at the level of measures in given in Chapter 2.  Slovenia’s key challenges and priority measures:   1. Fostering productivity growth   **Productivity Report** **2021**[[3]](#footnote-3) underlines that the transition to a low-carbon circular economy is becoming an increasingly important factor in ensuring long-term productivity growth and resilience of the economy and society. The reformed S5 also takes this fact into account, namely in relation to: (i) the development of future human resources and skills, (ii) the role of public finances in promoting smart, digital and innovation transformation, and (iii) a sustainable transformation towards a low-carbon and circular economy.  In the period of economic growth between 2014 and 2019, Slovenia reduced its lagging behind in economic development and reached 89% of the EU average in 2019. Not being able to catch up in terms of development resulted mainly from poor productivity growth due to low investment, even during the period of economic expansion. The slow progress of investing in various forms of intangible capital, which is a key factor in productivity growth in modern economies, was particularly pronounced, with the epidemic further emphasising the importance of such investments.  In the context of this challenge, Productivity Report 2021 identifies the following priority measures:   * increasing government sector investment in smart and sustainable transformation and ensuring infrastructural conditions   Government sector investment in digital and green transformation is essential for productivity growth. There is a need to strengthen the scientific research, innovation and digital ecosystem, which promote collaboration and lead to joint investment, risk sharing and more intensive international cooperation, which in turn leads to breakthrough innovation and greater productivity growth. The reforms identified in the Recovery and Resilience Plan will also have an impact on increasing the efficiency of the ecosystem. There is a need to ensure (i) digital infrastructure (e.g. digital accessibility in rural areas, next generation technologies), (ii) research and development infrastructure and (iii) green infrastructure (e.g. measures to support renewable energy production, sustainable mobility, etc.), taking into account the principles of public procurement of innovative solutions, which has a strong medium-term impact on productivity.  Digital transformation and the transition to a digital society can significantly contribute to the achievement of all the objectives set out in SDS 2030. According to the European Digital Economy and Society Index (hereinafter: DESI), Slovenia has been above the EU average since 2016 (2021: 13th place), with a trend of losing competitiveness in the field of connectivity, which is most pronounced in basic digital skills. There is also a comparative decline in fixed broadband coverage, which is unfavourable for ensuring high-quality digital accessibility for all, especially rural areas.  According to the European Innovation Index (hereinafter: EII), Slovenia has been classified as a moderate innovators for a third consecutive year in 2021. Compared to the EU average the EII component where Slovenia is lagging behind most, is corporate investment. The already low level of funding and support for venture capital has further decreased. In investment in RDI, ICT and the total number of researchers, Slovenia lags far behind the most successful countries. We need to strengthen the research capacity of the public sector and invest in human resources to boost the innovation activity of the economy. The innovation activity of small and medium-sized enterprises (hereinafter: SMEs) remains below the EU average.   * improving the business and innovation environment and encouraging the business sector to invest in digital, innovation and green transformation   Productivity is the driving force of a thriving economy and higher economic development, with the key objective of ensuring welfare of the population. In this context, the transition to a low-carbon circular economy is an increasingly important factor, also due to the rising prices of energy and raw materials. Slovenia should thus introduce more radical systematic changes, which are based on new skills, innovation and investment in clean technologies.[[4]](#footnote-4)  Industry is increasingly shifting from labour-intensive and low-technology products to high-technology products, which is demonstrated in the increasing market share of high-technology products and a comparatively favourable development of productivity. Slovenia is less competitive in knowledge-based services, including ICT.  Slovenia should encourage investing in key enabling factors for the digital and innovation transformation of the business sector, from data and analytics, systems and technologies, to talent and organisational capital, which are key for advanced, smart, data-driven companies, an area which is particularly challenging for SMEs. As the transition to the fourth industrial revolution is changing the nature of the innovation process, we need to accelerate the introduction of new business models, breakthrough and disruptive innovations and upgraded business processes and organisation, including domestic and international networking. The business and innovation environment will also need to be improved.  Complementarity with Recovery and Resilience Plan is also key.   * building knowledge and skills of the future   In Slovenia, the biggest risk is the long-lasting decline in the participation of adults and employees in lifelong learning, which impacts developing adequate skills of young people and adults. This calls for accelerating investment in human resources to cover current gaps and promoting adult participation in lifelong learning so that they are able to successfully meet future challenges (e.g. digital, circular), including workers whose jobs will be more exposed to automation and change.  Modernised and future-oriented education and training systems need to be more flexible. Interdisciplinary approaches and cross-cutting skills (entrepreneurship, innovation and creativity) are becoming increasingly important.   1. **Transition to a low-carbon circular economy**   The European Green Deal has set ambitious targets for the transformation of the EU economy and a framework for achieving a climate-neutral, circular economy by 2050. Regulation (EU) 2021/1119 transposed those targets into the so-called European Climate Law, which, *inter alia*, sets an interim target of reducing net greenhouse gas (hereinafter: GHG) emissions by at least 55% by 2030 compared to 1990. Slovenia will use the available Programme funding to achieve a maximum impact on the supply of clean, accessible and secure energy. We will also use the funding to accelerate the transition to sustainable and smart mobility, mobilising industry for a clean and circular economy, the renovation initiative, namely building and renovating in an energy- and material-efficient manner, for realising our ambition to achieve zero pollution for a toxic-free environment, for preserving and restoring ecosystems and biodiversity and mitigating climate change, as well as for building regions and cities resilient to climate change, and for other areas in line with the specific initiatives of the European Green Deal. Slovenia will also use the available funds to mobilise and strengthen research in the field of sustainability. The reduction of GHG emissions is related to decarbonisation and the rise in material efficiency in key sectors. In the context of this challenge, UMAR identifies the following priority measures:   * adequate promotion of sustainable mobility and the extension and modernisation of its infrastructure, including through the use of modern technological solutions   In 2020, transport emissions in Slovenia were the largest source of GHG emissions in the non-ETS[[5]](#footnote-5) sector (47 %; in 2005, only 38%)[[6]](#footnote-6) as the majority of goods are transported by trucks and most passengers travel by car. In passenger transport, the use of rail and other public means of transport is low in international comparison, partly due to the diversity of the relief and dispersed settlement. A large proportion of the population in Slovenia find it difficult to access public passenger transport (2019: 40%[[7]](#footnote-7)). COVID-19 epidemic measures caused further decrease in the share of the public passenger transport in total traffic[[8]](#footnote-8). In view of the increasing GHG emissions from the transport sector, introduction of long-term systemic shifts will need to be accelerated. Alongside passenger-friendly and greener rolling stock, greater diversification, frequency, alignment and adaptation of timetables will contribute to a more integrated introduction of sustainable mobility.[[9]](#footnote-9) Despite a favourable share in 2020 (10.9%[[10]](#footnote-10)), we need to continue supporting the use of renewable energy sources (RES) in transport to achieve the target set out in the Integrated National Energy and Climate Plan 2030 (hereinafter: NECP). We will address these challenges also through reforms and investments supported under the Recovery and Resilience Plan.  Forecasts of traffic flows, traffic safety, environmental impacts and social acceptability were the basis for the formulation of measures in the Transport Development Strategy of the Republic of Slovenia until 2030[[11]](#footnote-11). Sustainable mobility at local level is promoted through systemic support of integrated transport strategies (hereinafter: SUMPs[[12]](#footnote-12)), which have already been adopted by 83 cities, but will need to be updated. Such strategies also need to be developed for the regional level. The measures foreseen in the strategies will contribute to achieving the objectives set out in the Cities Mission initiative for climate-neutral cities.  Air quality is also related to the issue of transport, especially in urban areas, where exposure to particles is above the EU average[[13]](#footnote-13).   * ***introduction of new low-carbon circular business models, including more efficient waste management***   The transition to a low-carbon circular economy should be interpreted in the broader context of productivity growth, as access to and prices of raw materials and energy products will continue to influence the competitiveness of businesses and industry. Slovenia, which ranks below the EU average in terms of energy, material and emission productivity, should address this challenge systematically.  55% of Slovenian SMEs believe that subsidies help them manage resources more efficiently (EU: 36%)[[14]](#footnote-14). Compared to 2017, the SMEs surveyed show an increase in the offer of green products and services (the number of such SMEs rose by 14%) and green jobs (the number of such SMEs rose by 17%). When developing new green products and services, companies also need support in the form of technical assistance and advice on how to identify potential markets or customers, and in terms of marketing and distribution.[[15]](#footnote-15) We will partly support the transformation towards decarbonisation of the economy through reforms and investments in the frame of the RRP. However, additional investment are needed in the field of RDI, strengthening the supportive environment, supporting the reduction of process emissions, as well as in developing new environmentally more acceptable products, services and business models. The creative sector and the improvement of such skills in the public sector should also play an important role in the transformation.   * promoting energy efficiency and a significant capacity building to enhance the use of RES, in particular through more efficient siting of projects   Investing in energy efficiency is the basis of the transition towards climate neutrality. In households, final consumption of energy decreased due to occasionally higher temperatures during the heating season, installation of heat cost allocators, more efficient heating appliances, and the energy renovation of buildings.[[16]](#footnote-16) According to NECP, Slovenia should improve energy efficiency by at least 35% by 2030. The objectives will be achieved by combining resources (national, RRP and ECP). It is essential to invest in the energy renovation of public sector buildings, where cumulative final energy consumption in 2020 lagged behind the target values by 26% and cumulative reduction of CO2 emissions by 12%. The tasks of the existing Task Force – Office for the Energy Renovation of Buildings should be upgraded and should also act as the system-level accelerator of projects for energy renovation of public buildings. In light of the ambitious 2030 targets, we should ensure adequate intensity of implementation of measures in households. Energy poverty is a particular challenge, as more than 40% of single residential buildings have high heating costs. In line with NECP and the Long-term Energy Renovation Strategy for 2050 (DSEPS 2050),[[17]](#footnote-17), [[18]](#footnote-18) Slovenia should establish, as soon as possible, an integrated approach to address the issue.  The use of renewable energy sources (RES) in final energy consumption in Slovenia rose the least among all EU Member States in the period 2005-2020 (SI 6%, EU 92%)[[19]](#footnote-19). Slovenia thus used a mechanism for statistical transmission of RES from another EU Member State to achieve its objective.[[20]](#footnote-20) With such a dynamic, reaching the targets set for the next years will also be very difficult.[[21]](#footnote-21) The capacity for RES use can also be increased by promoting self-sufficiency in energy of household and at the community level. With the current dynamics, we can expected that in 2023 more than 26,000 of customers will become self-sufficient in energy, with a total power of almost 337 MW.[[22]](#footnote-22) To increase the deployment of RES, NECP also identifies accelerated development of the electricity distribution network as one the key challenges that will facilitate taking advantage of the flexibility of resources and loads, the integration of heat pumps, the fulfilment of the requirements related to the accelerated deployment of e-mobility, and the accelerated integration of electricity generation equipment from RES.[[23]](#footnote-23) Energy storage capacities are also important for the successful integration of RES.  Slovenia is also facing climate change, the impacts of which are mainly so-called climate-related disasters. According to the 2018 Disasters Risk Assessment[[24]](#footnote-24) and on the basis of an analysis of past disasters and the damage caused[[25]](#footnote-25), the greatest risk is flood, glazed ice and storms as well as large wildfires. Wildfires are becoming more and more complex and large-scale, requiring a cross-sectoral response and, in the absence of adequate equipment and means for extinguishing them, the activation of foreign forces and resources[[26]](#footnote-26). Comprehensive approach to investments in this area will be achieved also by implementing reforms and investments supported under the Recovery and Resilience Plan.  The funding Slovenia invested in the wastewater collection and treatment system is not sufficient for Slovenia to meet the requirements set out in the EU Directive.[[27]](#footnote-27) In Slovenia, almost 90% of the population is connected to public water supply, which ensures good quality of water, but some regions are still lagging behind. High losses in the water supply network, resulting from old infrastructure, are also a problem. The planned reform, foreseen in the RRP, in the field of public services for environmental protection will contribute to investments in infrastructure that will provide long-term quality and cost-effectiveness of service to all residents of Slovenia.  Biodiversity is decreasing in Slovenia. Pressures and threats to species and habitat types, important for Europe, identified in Slovenia, are land development, in particular through urbanisation, unregulated economic public infrastructure, industrialisation and traffic, poorly planned regulation of watercourses, also for ensuring flood protection and overgrowth of agricultural land, and intensification of agriculture and forestry. This also has a negative impact on landscape diversity and ecosystem connectivity. The threat to biodiversity and natural values is on the rise also due to land over-use due to recreation and tourist visits. Climate change and the spread of invasive non-native species further add to the gravity of the situation.   1. Inclusive social development and intergenerational solidarity   In addition to measures that address the long-standing issues that have increased during the epidemic (healthcare, social care), we should continue to improve access to employment, long-term care, quality learning environment and to strengthen people’s skills, which, also in line with past experience and evaluations of the measures, will be the focus of measures under PO 4. Programme measures will complement the measures of the RRP and the Programme for eliminating material deprivation in Slovenia in the period 2021-2027.  In the context of this challenge, Development Report 2021 and Development Report 2022 identify the following priority measures:   * establishing appropriate systemic regulation of financing and increasing the capacity of the long-term care system (particularly care at home) and health care, including the promotion of healthy living and a comprehensive pension reform to ensure the fiscal sustainability of the pension system and adequate pensions   Improvements in population health, measured by key health indicators, have slowed down in the period preceding the COVID-19 epidemic. With the epidemic, the situation regarding the access to health and long-term care worsened. The impact of the epidemic on the quality of life is already demonstrated in some indicators for 2020. According to the assessments and analyses of the EC and OECD, a decline in indicators for 2021 is also expected. The situation needs to be addressed quickly, comprehensively and in a focused manner.  We have already intensified our efforts to ensure sustainable and quality long-term care and deinstitutionalisation. We will continue to promote inclusion of people in need of long-term care, to work towards normalising their lives in accordance with their needs and desires, to support them in living as independently as possible, and to invest in infrastructure adaptations or provision of living environments that support living independently.  In the last decade, the biggest challenge in healthcare, in terms of system capacity, has been the growing number of patients with chronic degenerative diseases and the growing number of people over 80 with fragility problems, often suffering also from multiple chronic diseases, who dependent on assistance from others and need long-term care. With new technologies and treatment methods, and the need to increase the efficiency of the system, Slovenia successfully introduced new models of acute treatment at the primary and secondary levels. On the other hand, Slovenia did not address the need for capacity building to treat older and multi-morbid patients, to introduce new capacities for non-acute treatment, extended hospital treatment, early rehabilitation, integrated long-term care and home care, so the Programme will also focus on these issues. Health system reform, systemic reform of long-term care and planned investments under the RRP will also contribute to addressing these challenges.   * ensuring sufficient workforce, also with the active inclusion of immigrants in social and societal life   Despite positive economic and social trends, certain social groups continue to face various challenges:  At the end of April 2022, 58,081 unemployed persons were registered, which is 26.7% less compared to April 2021 and is at the lowest level thus far. In the face of demographic change, strengthened economic activity has led to an above-average demand for labour, which is still growing, which makes it difficult for employers to find the right workforce. The structural problems of unemployment are on the rise with the growing share of those who have been unemployed for a long time and who need additional and in-depth treatment to reintegrate into the labour market. In its Spring Forecast[[28]](#footnote-28) UMAR projects employment growth to continue, while demographic trends will strengthen the impact of labour availability constraints.  The share of employees with fixed-term contracts and precarious contracts remains above the EU average. Slovenia should thus provide adequate information and training on workers’ rights. Due to ageing of the population, older workers, and in particular low-skilled older workers face various challenges in labour market participation (employment rate of older workers in the third quarter of 2019 stood at 48.9% in Slovenia (EU: 60.2%) and of low-skilled older workers at 27.5% in Slovenia (EU: 45.3%). Long-term unemployment of older workers remains a major challenge and active labour market policies are still not effective enough. The OECD project for the inclusion of long-term unemployed into the labour market and NEET mapping underline the need to carry out individual qualifications assessments and inclusion in various forms of personalised training to address this challenge.  According to the Gender Equality Index, Slovenia was slightly below the EU average in 2021 (and declining the most compared to all other Member States in 2021), and lags significantly behind the SDS 2030 target. Gender inequalities were most pronounced in the areas of knowledge and power.  The epidemic initially worsened the labour market situation for low-skilled, low-income workers, young people and women. The greater impact on low-skilled workers and women was a result of the marked sectoral and occupational dimension of the epidemic, as the closure measures and the decreased activity mainly affected activities and occupations where women are over-represented and wages are below average. Young people were more exposed to temporary forms of work. With the reopening and new employment, labour market conditions gradually improved also for vulnerable groups. Labour shortages contributed to improved employment opportunities for vulnerable groups, as was the case before the epidemic. Vulnerable target groups are characterised by numerous personal circumstances that make it difficult for them to enter the labour market, so prior activation is necessary, which involves the gradual organisation of time, tasks and gradual normalisation of personal circumstances. In this process, it is essential that various institutions cooperate with the same individual and provide them with services related to the institution’s field of work. Modernisation of social services and integration with labour market services is essential.  The COVID-19 epidemic also highlighted the importance of occupational safety and health measures. During the epidemic, work at home increased substantively, which has positive effects on the use of time for the individual and the environment, but can also lead to increased risks of musculoskeletal disorders due to unregulated ergonomics of workplaces and over-intensive or frequent use of modern ICTs, which poses new challenges for occupational safety and health.   * strengthening lifelong learning and adapting workplaces for older people to remain active longer and better integrate into society   This measure is complementary with the measure *Building knowledge and skills for the future* under PO1. Slovenia’s population is relatively well educated. Development of adequate skills to meet not only the current but also the future needs of society and the economy is a growing challenge. Slovenia should thus enhance investment in effective adaptation of all types of education[[29]](#footnote-29). Slovenia should establish a responsive partnership system for forecasting medium-term skills needs, and for increasing the participation of adults in the lifelong learning. A series of reforms and investments under the RRP will also help address skills mismatches in the labour market.  The trend of declining participation of adults and employees in lifelong learning is a cause for worry. The participation of older workers, low-skilled and inactive people in education is below the EU average.The OECD Skills Strategy Implementation Guidelines for Slovenia state that a well-coordinated adult learning system is essential for achieving long-term objectives.  Young people’s maths and science literacy are at a high level (PISA 2018), but there are some differences between schoolchildren in terms of their gender and migrant backgrounds. Book reading is at a poor level, and the development of language resources and technologies for the promotion and development of Slovenian language has been too slow for many years. In order to establish the right to use and develop sign language and deafblind language, safeguarded by the Constitution of the Republic of Slovenia, adjustments[[30]](#footnote-30) are needed to improve the accessibility and quality of education. Certain knowledge gaps are the result of distance schooling during the epidemic, which are particularly characteristic for the more vulnerable groups of children. Therefore, effective measures are needed to reduce the skills gap of children and to address other impacts of the epidemic on education.  More than half of teachers are over 50 years old, a large proportion of them are already approaching retirement age, and shortages are already emerging in some areas.   * strengthening the role of culture and tourism in ensuring quality of life   The cultural and creative sectors play an important role in ensuring quality of life, local development, revitalisation of rural and urban areas, tourism and economic development. They create new jobs, revenues and value added.[[31]](#footnote-31) The link between culture and the economy, in particular with the tourism sector, has many positive effects. The total GDP resulting from tourism consumption amounted to EUR 4,127 million in 2019 and EUR 2,485 million in 2020. In 2019, it represented 8.5% and in 2020, 5.3% of GDP. The total value added resulting from tourism consumption amounted to EUR 2.997 million in 2019 and in 2020, EUR1,817 million, which represented 7.1% or 4.4% of total value added in the economy. In addition to the values of nature, the Slovenian Tourism Strategy 2022-2028[[32]](#footnote-32) strengthens the relevance of culture, authenticity, health and quality of life. Slovenia is a green destination that offers diverse and easily accessible cultural experiences with a strong local authentic character. Key challenges are lack of cultural elements in the tourism offer and the image of Slovenia as a green boutique destination, as well as a disrupted balance between tourism, the environment and the population. The regulation of natural and cultural heritage and its inclusion in the tourist offer is of strategic importance for the development of individual destinations and the tourist ambience of Slovenia and has an impact on improving the quality of life of the local population.   1. Just transition   Just Transition Fund (JTF) investments are based on Annex D of the Country Report - Slovenia 2020 and the National Strategy for a Coal Exit and Restructuring of Coal Regions in line with Just Transition Principles[[33]](#footnote-33) (Coal Exit Strategy). Two coal regions eligible under the Just Transition Fund have been identified (the Zasavje region and the Savinjsko-šaleška region (hereinafter: SAŠA)). The two regions are at different stages of the transition, so they will each have a different investment strategy.  In Zasavje, where the mine is no longer used, we need to primarily support socio-economic measures to complete the transition. The narrower area of influence includes the municipalities of Trbovlje, Hrastnik and Zagorje ob Savi. The gap analysis of the Zasavje region[[34]](#footnote-34) establishes that the majority of coal-related jobs have not been replaced in the region since the closure of the mine. In 2020, the average labour migration index of coal municipalities stood at 63.1[[35]](#footnote-35), which is 23.3% less than in 2000. Depopulation has also been observed (by 11% over the period from 2000 to 2021). Unemployment rate in the region stands at around 13.5% with the municipality of Zagorje ob Savi having the lowest unemployment rate. The municipality of Trbovlje faces a high percentage of long-term unemployed and unemployed young people (15.1%). The labour market in the region is characterised by the surplus of people who do not have the necessary skills and who account for the largest share of those who are long-term unemployed. On the other hand, there is a shortage of skilled workforce in certain sectors. The majority of employees in the region are over 30 years old, the highest number of employees fall in the category of 50-59 year olds. There are currently no new opportunities in the region, neither in SMEs nor in large enterprises, to provide jobs for the unemployed. It is therefore crucial to support targeted measures to reduce the current labour market gap, to strengthen and upgrade RDI capacities in the region in S5 areas, to improve the quality of the socio-economic development in the region, to strengthen competences, to diversify the economy and to increase added value per employee, which will create new employment opportunities in SMEs and large enterprises. The wider area is represented by the whole of the Zasavje statistical region, which, in addition to the three above-mentioned municipalities, also includes the municipality of Litija.  The strategy for coal exit of the SAŠA region foresees the closing of Unit 6 of the Šoštanj Thermal Power Plant (TEŠ) and stopping lignite mining by no later than 2033. In this region, the wider area of influence comprises 10 municipalities and the narrower area of influence three, namely the municipality of Velenje, Šoštanj and Šmartno ob Paki (78% of all direct employees in the local coal and energy industries or in TEŠ and the PV group). An analysis of the characteristics of employment in the coal-related activities of the region in the frame of the gap analysis[[36]](#footnote-36) shows that the sector predominately employs older workers (only 26 % of the employees are under 35), indicating that the sector is not attractive for young people. The region is also characterised by low labour mobility. JTF measures should support diversification of energy companies, strengthening and upgrading RDI capacities in the areas of green transition and S5, measures to fill job vacancies more efficiently and efficiently in sectors already facing labour shortages, enhancing skills of various target groups. Both large and SMEs provide major employment opportunities in the region. In the period between 2011 and 2020, the number of employees in SMEs increased by 12%. Measures to support economic activity will focus mainly on raising added value in existing enterprises and developing new propulsive companies. One of the key challenges of the region is the provision of an alternative heat source for the district heating system.   1. Administrative capacity   High-quality institutional and governance framework is important for ensuring effective implementation and achievement of the Programme objectives. Slovenia identified[[37]](#footnote-37) certain challenges in this area and prepared a detailed plan for strengthening administrative capacity for the implementation of the Programme for the 2021-2027 period (Plan) in Annex 1 of the Programme, where measure to address these challenges are divided into four groups:   * Human resources management and organisational management: the main focus is on training measures (new and existing professional and managerial staff). * Measures for the strategic implementation of the Programme: support for enhancing good governance and administrative capacity; more efficient management with different information/data sources; cooperation between ministries and other stakeholders; capacity of intermediate bodies and end-users, etc. * Enabling framework conditions is a set of measures to improve cooperation with different stakeholders; reduce administrative burden; evaluation; prevent conflicts of interest and corruption; enhance efficiency of public procurement, etc. * For beneficiaries and stakeholders, we will implement measures to strengthen the capacity of different stakeholder groups in different areas and thus ensure that the partnership principle is respected while improving the quality of Programme implementation.   The plan is a “living document”. Its implementation will be monitored and continuously updated with the Managing Authority and the Monitoring Committee playing a key role. The Monitoring Committee will also communicate on a regular basis with interested stakeholders to support ownership of the Plan throughout the implementation period. |

## Justification for the selected policy objectives, corresponding priorities, specific objectives and forms of support

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Policy objective or JTF specific objective | Specific objective or dedicated priority | Justification (summary) |
| PO 1: A more competitive and smarter Europe by promoting innovative and smart economic transformation and regional ICT connectivity | Priority 1: Innovative knowledge-based society  RSO1.1: Developing and enhancing research and innovation capacities and the uptake of advanced technologies | While the intensity of private investment in research and development is the same as the EU average, modest public investment in research and development continues to hinder the effectiveness of the research and development system[[38]](#footnote-38). In terms of the EII index, Slovenia slipped from 12th to 15th place in 2019 becoming a moderate innovator, where it remains in 2021[[39]](#footnote-39). The EU Council Recommendation stresses that limited investment and poor cooperation between science and the economy in Slovenia slows down the creation and growth of innovative enterprises.  For Slovenia to become a strong innovator, the country should improve the RDI ecosystem and provide coordinated and stable incentives to invest in RDI. Public expenditure on RDI should increase to at least 1% of GDP, giving priority to public investment in technological and applied research, with a focus on strengthening science-economy cooperation, which is now largely confined to medium and high-tech sectors, and on the use of advanced technologies. By increasing RDI investments, we also need to improve scientific excellence (as measured by the share of publications among the 10% of the most frequently cited publications worldwide), where Slovenia lags behind the EU average (17th place) in the attractiveness of the research system in terms of the EII for 2021. While the number of researchers has increased significantly over the last decade, especially as a result of more favourable developments in the private sector, with the highest number of researchers employed, we are still lagging behind the EU average. In the public sector, developments are largely unfavourable, mainly due to employment constraints.  Research infrastructure is decrepit, failing to meet safety requirements (fire, earthquake, accessibility for physically handicapped, energy saving) and spatially inadequate, which prevents development and limits the absorption capacity of research organisations as a key partner in research and innovation projects.  The differences in innovation performance between the Eastern Slovenia cohesion region and the Western Slovenia cohesion region hinder cooperation and networking. In the period between 2010 and 2017, labour productivity grew by 1.4% annually in the Eastern Slovenia cohesion region and 1% in the Western Slovenia cohesion region (EU average 0.8%), but the gap remains too strong to close it and reach the EU average in a relatively short period of time.  We will use grants and reimbursable funds. A detailed justification is given in Chapter 2. |
| Priority 1: Innovative knowledge-based society  RSO1.2: Reaping the benefits of digitalisation for citizens, companies, research organisations and public authorities | In 2021, Slovenia ranked 13th among the 27 EU Member States in terms of the DESI index[[40]](#footnote-40). In order to achieve the SDS 2030 target, Slovenia should increase its investment in the most advanced digital technologies by more than 50% in line with the progress made in the last five years. In terms of human capital, Slovenia is gradually making progress, but still lags behind the EU average in terms of Internet use, the human capital dimension and the level of basic digital skills. Developments in digital public services have been somewhat encouraging in recent years, but they mainly relate to the provision of digital public services (forms filled in in advance, online provision of services, open data) which are not used often by individuals and companies.[[41]](#footnote-41) Digital public services for companies remains a challenge to be addressed.  Slovenian companies take advantage of the opportunities offered by the electronic exchange of information (33% of companies use it; EU 34%) and social media (24% of companies; EU 25%). In terms of using big data and cloud services, SMEs selling online and e-commerce is also close to the EU average. Slovenia has more than 40 years of experience in developing a relatively good and successful research and educational environment and infrastructure in the field of artificial intelligence (hereinafter: AI) and high performance computing and big data. To remain at the top, the country needs to allocate funding for increasing investment for the development and deployment of advanced technologies (e.g. AI) and solutions for the economy and public administration.  In the first quarter of 2020, 87% of people aged 16-74 used the Internet regularly. Despite the widespread use of Internet services, we are facing a gap in digital services at community level and in narrower living environments. Local communities demonstrate digital needs mainly in the areas of infrastructure and energy efficiency (public lighting), effective land policy, efficient water use (water supply and treatment plants) in order to reduce water losses, in the field of tourism (in order to connect municipalities with common digital platforms), in the field of mobility and the circular economy.  We will use grants. A detailed justification is given in Chapter 2. |
| Priority 1: Innovative knowledge-based society  RSO1.3: Enhancing sustainable growth and competitiveness of SMEs and job creation in SMEs, including by productive investments | For several years now, early entrepreneurial activity has not been increasing in Slovenia.[[42]](#footnote-42) In 2020, Slovenia ranked in the final fifth[[43]](#footnote-43). Innovation activity of companies remains below the EU average due to the notable lagging behind of SMEs[[44]](#footnote-44).  The Start-up and Scale-up Initiative[[45]](#footnote-45) highlights that too few start-ups survive the critical start-up phase (2-3 years) and even fewer start-ups grow into larger companies (scale-up). Both target groups need coordinated support using accelerators, incubators and regulatory sandboxes to develop the most advanced technologies.  Slovenia is an export-oriented country with a high share of export of goods and, to a lesser extent, export of services. The export economy has proved to be the most resilient in times of crisis. As the world’s top 100 companies account for 56% of exports, there is a potential to increase the share of SMEs in exports. A large part of exports operate within global value chains, which face mega trends that SMEs can adapt to by enhancing their competitiveness, adaptability and mastering the most advanced technologies, and thus list upstream in the supply chain.  In November 2021, 269 social enterprises were registered (180 in the Eastern Slovenia cohesion region, 89 in the Western Slovenia cohesion region). At EU level, the social economy sector contributes 8% to the GDP, in Slovenia only 0.268%[[46]](#footnote-46), so incentives to reduce the development backlog are necessary, in particular by encouraging the development of social innovation.[[47]](#footnote-47)  Slovenia should address the issue of silver economy. In 2018, Slovenia fell below the EU average in terms of the Active Ageing Index. Slovenia should increase support for SMEs aimed at addressing the challenges faced by older people, e.g. health services, digitalisation, mobility, etc. This will complement addressing the challenges of developing social innovation and increasing the resilience of an ageing society.  Entrepreneurs from smaller, remote and less developed areas find it more difficult to access entrepreneurial training organised in larger cities (greater transport costs, time use, etc.). Decentralised implementation of programmes for acquiring entrepreneurial skills and developing business ideas is essential. Entrepreneurs who, with the support of the relevant institutions, develop business ideas in their environment will start businesses there, thereby increasing local self-sufficiency and reducing regional disparities.  We will use grants. A detailed justification is given in Chapter 2. |
| Priority 1: Innovative knowledge-based society  RSO1.4: Developing skills for smart specialisation, industrial transition and entrepreneurship | Slovenia’s share of highly educated population is above the EU average. However, due to demographic change and rapid technological progress, Slovenia faces growing mismatches between the supply of skills and the needs of society and the economy[[48]](#footnote-48), as already underlined by the 2019 Country Report, Annex D. The challenge remains unaddressed. This is also underlined in the Development Report 2022, which adds that in the medium term the growing challenge pertains to providing young people and adults with skills for the digital and green transformation of the economy and facing the challenges of a long-lived society and technological development, which requires taking into account not only current but especially future needs. The latter was already pointed out by the OECD in 2018, stating that in Slovenia, in the face of increasingly smaller generations in the labour market and resulting labour shortages, 25% of jobs are highly exposed to automation and 27% to marked changes due to automation, which is well above the OECD average. Skills shortages occur in both secondary and tertiary education graduates as well as the already employed. Less than half of Slovenian companies face a lack of desired skills in the labour market when recruiting new staff.[[49]](#footnote-49)  Decreasing involvement of employees in lifelong learning additionally hinders adaptation to changes at the workplace caused by Industry 4.0.[[50]](#footnote-50) There are regional differences in population education and inclusion in lifelong learning. The Eastern Slovenia cohesion region lags behind the Western Slovenia cohesion region in the share of the population with tertiary education, and the participation of employees in lifelong learning. However, both regions face a lack of adequate knowledge and skills.[[51]](#footnote-51), [[52]](#footnote-52)  Grants will be used. A detailed justification is given in Chapter 2. |
| Priority 2: Digital connectivity  RSO1.5: Enhancing digital connectivity | European Gigabit Society[[53]](#footnote-53) sets out three key targets for 2025, namely that all households (urban and rural) have access to internet connectivity of at least 100 Mbps, 5G coverage in all urban areas and all major terrestrial transport paths, and Gigabit connectivity for all major socio-economic drivers (schools, digital-intensive businesses, universities, public research organisations, hospitals, etc.). Digital Compass[[54]](#footnote-54) envisages full coverage of the population by broadband networks and populated areas with 5G by the end of 2030. Slovenia’s strategic objectives for the development of Gigabit infrastructure are fully aligned with the EU’s digital connectivity objectives and are defined in the Gigabit Infrastructure Development Plan 2030[[55]](#footnote-55).  In 2021, Slovenia ranks 9th in the field of connectivity according to the DESI index. 98% of the 5G spectrum is allocated. Next-generation access (hereinafter: NGA) broadband covers 88% of households, which is close to the EU average, but this percentage is significantly lower in rural areas, which still points to a gap between urban and rural areas.[[56]](#footnote-56)  Slovenia is a significantly rural environment, with the vast majority of the population (almost 70%) living in settlements of less than 10,000 inhabitants[[57]](#footnote-57). The construction of broadband networks is slower and more expensive due to low population density of rural areas and many hilly areas in Slovenia. With each covered white spot, construction is becoming even more expensive as such areas are more and more remote from the main high-capacity broadband networks. A combination of funding from different sources is therefore necessary.  The COVID-19 epidemic has further highlighted the problems in various areas that have demonstrated the need for broadband. The provision of distance primary and secondary education has raised problems regarding the non-coverage of certain areas with fixed broadband infrastructure and disruptions in the functioning of online learning environments. The increased use of teleworking, which has many positive effects in the regions, was hindered by the epidemic and in many cases unrealisable due to the lack of availability of high-performance broadband networks.[[58]](#footnote-58)  We will use grants. A detailed justification is given in Chapter 2. |
| PO 2: A greener, low-carbon transitioning towards a net zero carbon economy and resilient Europe by promoting clean and fair energy transition, green and blue investment, the circular economy, climate change mitigation and adaptation, risk prevention and management and sustainable urban mobility | Priority 3: Green transformation for climate neutrality  RSO2.1: Promoting energy efficiency and reducing greenhouse gas emissions | In the non-ETS sector, GHG emissions were below the annual target by 11.9% in 2019, meaning that Slovenia fulfilled the set commitments and annual targets. This does not however mean that Slovenia is in control of the GHG in the long term.  Despite the reduction in the use of primary energy in the non-ETS sector for a third year in a row (by 2.62% compared to 2019) in 2020, achieving the 2030 targets will be crucial as progress is too slow. Slovenia achieved only 65% of EU emissions productivity in 2020. The link between economic development measures and measures to reduce GHG emissions will need to be further strengthened. Despite seemingly favourable trends in achieving the primary energy consumption target, current efforts to increase energy efficiency will not be sufficient to manage energy use and GHG emissions. This is also illustrated by the fact that Slovenia is not meeting the annual energy renovation target of 3% of the total floor area of buildings owned and occupied by the central government. Energy renovation of buildings (public, private service and multi-apartment), including the deployment of digital smart building technologies, is one of the measures to reduce energy use and GHG emissions. Therefore, the implementation of instruments in this area needs to be strengthened and expanded in line with the planned measures under DSEPS 2050.  In the case of multi-apartment buildings, a number of obstacles and limitations have been identified that make it difficult to decide spontaneously for energy renovation, e.g. diffuse ownership, demographic structure and unmotivation of owners, energy poverty, sharing incentives between owners and tenants[[59]](#footnote-59). Such buildings need integrated renovations from other aspects (earthquake, fire, etc.).  According to the 2020 Living Conditions Survey (EU-SILC), the at-risk-of-poverty stood at 12.4% (254,000 people), which also has an impact on the so-called energy poverty. The largest number of these were retired people (38.2% and 19.5% of all retired people), followed by labour-active (5% of the entire working-age population), minors (10.5% of all children), unemployed (43.4% of all unemployed) and others (19.6% of all incapacitated, housewives, students, other inactive and non-classified persons). The at-risk-of-poverty rate was higher in the Eastern Slovenia cohesion region than in the Western Slovenia cohesion region.  We will use grants and reimbursable funds. A detailed justification is given in Chapter 2. |
| Priority 3: Green transformation for climate neutrality  RSO2.2: Promoting renewable energy in accordance with Renewable Energy Directive (EU) 2018/200, including the sustainability criteria set out therein | In the period between 2005 and 2019, the increase of the share of RES in Slovenia was the lowest compared to other Member States; in terms of the use of resources such as wind, solar and geothermal energy, Slovenia is close to the bottom of the scale of the EU Member States[[60]](#footnote-60). In addition to not reaching the 2020 target, Slovenia is also quite far from meeting the SDS 2030 and NECP targets, i.e. 27% of RES in final energy consumption by 2030 (compared to the baseline value of 22% in 2015). Slovenia’s structure of RES is marked by a large share of conventional and smaller shares of other sources, and the country is particularly lagging behind in the field of the use of wind turbines and heat pumps.[[61]](#footnote-61) Accelerating the use of RES to meet the SDS 2030 and NECP targets will therefore require a faster shift towards green energy investments.  To meet the set RES target, Slovenia will also take into account the final report of the project “Facilitating Renewable Energy Deployment In Electricity Sector Of Slovenia” (Request For Service REFORM/SC2021/091), especially in the field of wind energy, where Slovenia has limited possibilities of exploitation. Slovenia has no prospect of installing offshore wind farms. As a result, the possibilities for installing and using wind energy are to some extent limited and smaller than in other EU countries. In addition, the potential for wind energy is reduced by highly dispersed settlements (limited number of locations with appropriate wind speed and requirements for the necessary distance from settlements for noise protection purposes).  We will use grants. A detailed justification is given in Chapter 2. |
| Priority 3: Green transformation for climate neutrality  RSO2.3: Developing smart energy systems, grids and storage outside the Trans-European Energy Network (TEN-E) | Slovenia did not meet its RES target in 2020 and will need to significantly increase its investment in RES in order to reach the set target. Council Recommendation for 2019 states that the existing energy storage capacity in Slovenia is underdeveloped and therefore Slovenia does not meet the needs arising from unrelated local RES production. With the Directive on the promotion of the use of RES, Slovenia has placed particular emphasis on local energy communities, which, by setting up their own joint installation for the production of electricity from RES, can cover a large proportion of their own electricity needs and thus contribute to decarbonisation and sustainable development.  The common problem of technologies for the production of electricity from RES is their dependence on weather or external influences, which we cannot control. This results in unstable electricity generation, which often does not meet the real energy needs of consumers. At the same time, there is a growing need for efficient and reliable storage of short-term peaks of electricity and its reuse in times of market scarcity. The integration of different energy sectors, in particular the integration of electricity, gas and district heating and cooling sectors, will therefore be crucial for the successful achievement of the energy and climate objectives.  We will use grants. A detailed justification is given in Chapter 2. |
| Priority 3: Green transformation for climate neutrality  RSO2.4: Promoting climate change adaptation and disaster risk prevention and resilience, taking into account eco-system based approaches | Due to climate change, Slovenia is facing increasingly frequent weather-related natural disasters.  In 2019, floods caused damage of EUR 120.5 million[[62]](#footnote-62) and EUR 1.64 billion in the period between 2010 and2020[[63]](#footnote-63). The preliminary flood risk assessment of the Republic of Slovenia identifies 86 areas of significant impact of floods, which, despite investments made so far in this area, are still not properly regulated. Flood risk management is an extremely important segment of water management, including the most advanced technologies that enable proper spatial planning and forecasting.  Large wildfires also pose a threat and the complexity, number, scale and damage caused (to eco-systems, settlements, infrastructure) are increasing. Wildfires occurred also outside traditionally endangered areas and entail high intervention costs (3 major fires EUR 0.25 million; fires in the Karst in 2022 indicate extremely severe damage and intervention costs even before the end of the intervention)[[64]](#footnote-64). Units responding to such disasters do not have the necessary equipment (in case of fires in Karst, the necessary activation of forces and assets from seven foreign countries).  Glazed ice and storms pose a risk with significant impacts on infrastructure and forests, and potentially causing chain events (e.g. floods, pest occurrences, etc.) (EUR 430 million in damage caused by glazed ice in 2014)[[65]](#footnote-65). Other weather events, which are quite common and cause significant damage, required a response of 1000 units at 700 sites (hails, winds, etc.) in the first nine months of 2020. These risks or disasters have so far not been properly addressed in terms of the provision of equipment. Slovenia also does not have adequate infrastructure and training programmes, units do not have the appropriate equipment to ensure effective and safe response in a timely manner.  We will use grants. A detailed justification is given in Chapter 2. |
| Priority 3: Green transformation for climate neutrality  RSO2.5: Promoting access to water and sustainable water management | The assessment of equipment and the level of connection of agglomerations to the relevant infrastructure (data for 31 December 2018), prepared in the frame of the Operational Programme for Urban Wastewater Treatment, adopted by the Government of the Republic of Slovenia on 17 September 2020[[66]](#footnote-66), analysed the actual state of equipment of agglomerations and updated the borders of agglomerations. This assessment shows the actual settlement concentration and generation of urban wastewater due to activities and consistency with basic spatial units. The updated agglomerations entered into force on 1 January 2020 with amendments to the Decree on the discharge and treatment of urban wastewater[[67]](#footnote-67). Despite the investments made so far in the field of urban wastewater discharge and treatment, Slovenia has not yet met the requirements of the Directive 91/271/EEC concerning urban wastewater treatment. According to the Directive and in accordance with the Accession Treaty, Slovenia should build adequate infrastructure for the discharge and treatment of wastewater in agglomerations with a total load of 2,000 PE or more. Slovenia is not making the set progress in terms of improving water quality.  The Operational Programme for Drinking Water Supply for the period 2022-2027[[68]](#footnote-68) identifies poor provision of water reserves and high water losses in distribution systems for public water supply as an issue be addressed in the field of drinking water supply in Slovenia. Water reserves are independent sources, which provide the required amount of water for drinking and basic hygiene of the population, as well as essential activities for work and living in the area of public water supply system. The Operational Programme finds that none of the 6 public water supply systems, which supply more than 50,000 inhabitants, does not have a reserve supply of water that could provide adequate drinking water in the case of an emergency. Water losses in distribution systems for public water supply are estimated at 27%,[[69]](#footnote-69) and more than 25% of the public pipes need to be upgraded.  The key challenges regarding equipment, the level of connection of agglomerations and drinking water supply are of wider regional importance and are defined in the regional development programmes (hereinafter: RDPs). Thus, regional development approach will be applied, unless a central approach is necessary in terms of implementation.  We will use grants. A detailed justification is given in Chapter 2. |
|  | Priority 3: Green transformation for climate neutrality  RSO2.6: Promoting the transition to a circular and resource efficient economy | Slovenia’s material productivity is still below the EU average. According to UMAR recommendations, Slovenia should speed up its transition to a low-carbon circular economy to reach the goal of 3.5 PPS/kg (SDS 2030).  The Slovenian Enterprise Observatory 2017 identified the key obstacles which prevent SMEs from adopting circular economy principles and concepts: lack of time, human capital, knowledge and access to information and funding. This is also in line with Eurobarometer[[70]](#footnote-70) findings: 26% of Slovenian SMEs surveyed (EU28: 23%) believe that support services would help them improve their material efficiency, and 29% believe that they would benefit from the demonstration of new technologies and processes in this field (EU28: 22%). 28% of SMEs surveyed would benefit from better cooperation between companies in different industries to develop new processes for the re-use of waste and by-products (EU28: 20%).  We will use grants and reimbursable funds. A detailed justification is given in Chapter 2. |
| Priority 3: Green transformation for climate neutrality  RSO2.7 Enhancing protection and conservation of nature, biodiversity and green infrastructure, including in urban areas, and reducing all forms of pollution | Slovenia has the highest share of Natura 2000 sites in the EU, i.e. 37.9%. However, the conservation status of animal and plant species and their habitat is deteriorating. In the last decade, deterioration of the conservation status has been observed in 34% of the habitat types and 24% of species. The European Environment Agency also imposes on Slovenia to improve the surface of the Natura 2000 sites (grass, forest and freshwater habitats), which are defined in the national Natura 2000 Management Programme[[71]](#footnote-71) and will also be defined in the Natura 2000 Management Programme for the period 2022-2028[[72]](#footnote-72).  Air quality in Slovenia is decreased by high concentration of dust particles, which is higher in the colder part of the year. As a result of the exceeded[[73]](#footnote-73) permitted number in six areas, ordinances on ambient air quality plans have been adopted. Slovenia has been upgrading the existing measuring network, but certain areas have not yet been covered. In these areas, Slovenia cannot provide citizens with information on ambient air quality (PM10) and adoption of measures to improve air quality[[74]](#footnote-74).  In urban areas, the increasing concentration and density of the population, the provision, quality and usability of urban green areas and the linking thereof are a growing challenge. Linking would provide ecosystem services by establishing so-called green and blue corridors, which is also a priority for the EC[[75]](#footnote-75). Green infrastructure reduces pollution, increases the absorption of rainfall, cools, improves health and allows contact with nature. It creates jobs and promotes sustainable development[[76]](#footnote-76). Accessible and attractive green and blue urban infrastructure should be used as a tool to achieve environmental, social and economic development objectives of urban areas[[77]](#footnote-77).  Internal urban development should also be promoted through better use of the already limited space in cities, while ensuring good quality of life for residents and city visitors[[78]](#footnote-78).  Both ITI and DRR should be applied for investments in green infrastructure to support bottom-up initiatives, DRR focusing on integrated regional projects and ITI focusing on areas within urban municipalities.  We will use grants. A detailed justification is given in Chapter 2. |
|  | Priority 4: Sustainable urban mobility  RSO2.8: Promoting sustainable multimodal urban mobility, as part of transition to a net zero carbon economy | The biggest challenge for Slovenian in reducing GHG emissions is the transport sector, which is not covered by the EU trading scheme. In 2020, GHG emissions is the transport sector stood at 47%.  The target regarding the number of passenger-kilometres in public passenger transport is far from being met. In Slovenia, public passenger transport options differ from region to region, which impacts the share of the population in terms of the appropriate distance to stops with an adequate or at least satisfactory frequency of journeys. Thus, appropriate frequency is available to 70-80% of the population in the Osrednjeslovenska region and the Gorenjska region, while the availability in the Goriška region is significantly lower (30-40% of the population). This results in very frequent use of cars, which, in terms of the number of passenger cars per capita, is the highest in regions with more dispersed settlements (the Primorsko-notranjska region, the Goriška region). It is difficult to switch between different public passenger transport systems as there are no transfer points or they are not comfortable enough. Some of the entry points to public passenger transport are also not adequately equipped with parking for bicycles and cars.  Slovenia is not meeting the set target for specific emissions of new vehicles, which are increasing instead of decreasing. Slovenia is also failing to meet the set targets for the use of alternative fuels in transport with not enough publicly accessible recharging points for various alternative fuels. 53% of the vehicles run on petrol and 46% on diesel. Vehicles using alternative fuels account for a small segment. In addition to measures for improving public passenger transport, Slovenia should ensure that electric vehicles or plug-in hybrids represent at least 17% of the cars used (200,000 vehicles), and electric light-duty vehicles at least 12% (11,000 vehicles) of the cars used if the country is to meet the alternative fuel targets by 2030[[79]](#footnote-79).  In order to promote urban mobility, the ITI approach should be applied to support bottom-up initiatives based on sustainable urban strategies and integrated transport strategies, which are prepared and approved by urban municipalities that are the drivers of urban development.  We will use grants. A detailed justification is given in Chapter 2. |
| PO 3: A more connected Europe by enhancing mobility | Priority 5: Sustainable cross-regional mobility and connectivity  RSO3.1: Developing a sustainable climate resilient, intelligent, secure, sustainable and intermodal TEN-T | One of the main causes of air pollution is the increasing road transport,[[80]](#footnote-80) which contributes greatly to emissions of CO2 and air pollutants. If converted to GDP, road transport has, in the period 2010-2018, increased by far the most in Slovenia (by 18%) compared to other EU Member States (average decrease by 3%). The reason is that most goods are transported by trucks and most passengers use cars. Thus, Slovenia is still lagging behind in the transition towards zero emission transport by 2050.  The 2020 Slovenia Country Report says that sustainable transport connections, especially railways, are not sufficiently developed to fully support the transition to other modes of transport, aimed at reducing CO2 emissions, or the economic development of less developed regions. Public railway infrastructure, including within the TEN-T network, in some stations, stops and inter-post sections does not meet today’s transport requirements and is a bottleneck in the public rail infrastructure, making the existing rail network of urban nodes a cause for the public passenger transport being unattractive. Therefore, the main objectives in the field of TEN-T network and regional lines of public railway infrastructure are: increasing capacity and track speed and shortening travel times, improving scheduling stability, removing bottlenecks, increasing the level of traffic safety, more efficient traffic management, reducing operating costs, improving passenger train schedules, and other measures (ICT equipment and related measures (parking areas, areas to store bicycles) at stations and stops to provide passenger-friendly services). Slovenia will, thus, increase the share of the use of sustainable modes of transport. Transport system should be integrated, focusing on increasing the attractiveness of public passenger transport to encourage passengers to use it by ensuring high-quality of the entire transport system. Slovenia should also improve the accessibility of railway stations, which are often located outside settlements, or less accessible on foot or by bicycle. Slovenia should also improve the safety and fluidity of road TEN-T infrastructure and enhance connectivity with neighbouring countries.  We will use grants and reimbursable funds. A detailed justification is given in Chapter 2. |
| Priority 5: Sustainable cross-regional mobility and connectivity  RSO3.2: Developing and enhancing sustainable, climate resilient, intelligent and intermodal national, regional and local mobility, including improved access to TEN-T and cross-border mobility | In addition to TEN-T, the role of public passenger transport and thus reduction of air pollution and CO2 emissions can be improved by enhancing regional rail network, which faces the same challenges as TEN-T and, therefore, investment in this area is also crucial. The objective of Priority 5 is to connect the transport system.  Despite the modernisation of the rail system, a more competitive public passenger transport and the implementation of the P&R system, the permeability of around 230 km of roads will be exceeded in 2030. Despite the implementation of a sustainable transport policy, less permeable sections on the road network will emerge, which will have unfavourable consequences. This limits Slovenia’s balanced regional development in areas that are not located next to the motorway network. Poor accessibility and higher transport costs make such areas uncompetitive. Bottlenecks and road congestions need to be addressed, as well as ensuring greater safety, reducing negative environmental impacts, enhancing accessibility, and improving public passenger transport due to mobility poverty. In Slovenia, household cost for transport represent are the highest compared to other EU Member States[[81]](#footnote-81), and is expected to continue to grow with the increase in energy prices.  Improving the national cycling network[[82]](#footnote-82), especially in wider urban areas, can add to enhancing sustainable mobility. The needs in cities and regions are identified in the municipal integrated transport strategies.[[83]](#footnote-83) In 2017, 5% of all journeys during the working day were made by bicycle, and for shorter routes (from 1 to 2.5 km) 8%.[[84]](#footnote-84) Bicycles can be used for shorter distances for commuting to workplaces, school, shopping, and for longer distances as part of intermodal bike-public passenger transport-bike routes. Accessibility to railway stations is crucial as rail can be the backbone transport network that will not reach passengers’ without a power grid. In Slovenia, cycling connections are not properly arranged, thus, not guaranteeing adequate safety and comfort for all road users.  The problems of regions, which face connectivity challenges, can only be addressed by integrated transport planning and implementation of measures at regional level through a regional development approach.  We will use grants. A detailed justification is given in Chapter 2. |
| CP 4: A more social and inclusive Europe implementing the European Pillar of Social Rights | Priority 6: Skills and responsive labour market  ESO4.1: Improving access to employment and activation measures for all jobseekers, in particular young people, especially through the implementation of the Youth Guarantee, for long-term unemployed and disadvantaged groups on the labour market, and for inactive people, as well as through the promotion of self-employment and the social economy | The COVID-19 epidemic halted favourable labour market trends.[[85]](#footnote-85) We can expect such trends to pick up and continue in the future with demographic trends possibly limiting labour availability[[86]](#footnote-86). On the basis of regular reports on Slovenia’s implementation of labour market measures[[87]](#footnote-87), the measures are being adjusted to ensure maximum effect. Active employment policy measures should focus on ensuring an inclusive and responsive labour market and should be targeted at mitigating the impact of crises and reducing structural disparities.  Data from March 2022 show that among the long-term unemployed, which is slightly higher in the Eastern Slovenia cohesion region (57.1%) than in the Western Slovenia cohesion region (42.6%), 44.7% are above 50 years old, 34.9% are people with primary education, 22.5% are people with disabilities, and 12.3% are young people. Drawing from past experience with the implementation of the measures, the long-term unemployed need more support in training and education in order to acquire adequate skills for meeting the needs of local employers.[[88]](#footnote-88)  The number of people at risk of losing their job has been increasing. At the end of 2018, 16.1% of registered jobseekers were employees at risk of losing their job, with the number rising to over 20% at the end of 2019. Faster activation of redundant workers would help maintain work capacity and labour market competitiveness.  In the last two years before the COVID-19 epidemic, labour market segmentation decreased slightly. However, young people remain highly exposed to temporary employment.[[89]](#footnote-89) They have difficulties in finding suitable employment when entering the labour market due to lack of experience and the attained level of education, especially first employment, which can lead to taking various forms of precarious work. There is a marked decline in entrepreneurial activity of young people aged 18-24, which has been declining for the third year in a row (2016: 17.49%; 2018: 5.18%)[[90]](#footnote-90). Slovenia is falling behind also in the number of established young entrepreneurs.  Women’s involvement in entrepreneurship is growing, but GEM Slovenia 2020[[91]](#footnote-91) identifies a vast gender gap, especially in rural areas, thus placing Slovenia in the 30th place (out of 43 countries surveyed). Slovenia is also below the EU average in the field of social economy, where only 0.26% of the working-age population in Slovenia is employed (EU average: 6%).  We will use grants. A detailed justification is given in Chapter 2. |
| Priority 6: Skills and responsive labour market  ESO4.2: Modernising labour market institutions and services to assess and anticipate skills needs and ensure timely and tailormade assistance and support for labour market matching, transitions and mobility | Slovenia faces structural labour market problems, in particular the low employment rate of low-skilled and older workers and the mismatch between the employers’ needs and the job seekers’ skills. According to the Employment Forecast survey conducted in the second half of 2021[[92]](#footnote-92), more than half of employers faced shortages of adequate staff (51.2%). As many as two-thirds of employers said there are no potential employees for job vacancies. Slovenia should, thus, establish a comprehensive system for the medium and long-term forecasting of skills needs and for promoting career development in all areas and at all stages of life. The labour market platform for long-term forecasting of skills needs will facilitate the development and orientation of educational and scholarship policies and career orientation to support the implementation of PO1 measures.  Changes in working modes and labour market conditions make it necessary to further digitise and streamline work processes, to strengthen synergy integration of all stakeholders at all levels (national, regional, local) and to equip labour market institution employees with adequate knowledge and skills. The OECD analysis[[93]](#footnote-93) also underlines that the Employment Service of the Republic of Slovenia (hereinafter: ZRSZ) should enhance the provision of remote services and improve its competence. This includes anticipating skills needs, providing timely and tailor-made assistance and support to match supply and demand and career transitions and labour market mobility.  Labour market institutions play an important role in creating employment opportunities for unemployed people abroad and in further strengthening links within the European network of public employment services EURES. This network will address the inclusion of the most vulnerable NEETs, thus addressing the employment issue of young people aged 18-35, which is related to long-term unemployment, with the issue being identified in all statistical regions in Slovenia.  We will use grants. A detailed justification is given in Chapter 2. |
| Priority 6: Skills and responsive labour market  ESO4.4: Promoting the adaptation of workers, enterprises and entrepreneurs to change, active and healthy ageing and a healthy and well-adapted working environment that addresses health risks | Ageing of the population has resulted in Slovenia’s declining working-age population ever since 2021. According to population projections, the decline will continue. In five years, one in four employees will be over 55 years old. Slovenia’s labour force participation rate of older population aged 55 to 64 is among the lowest in the EU, namely 52.3% (EU27 average: 60.8%, OECD: 61.7%). According to EUROSTAT data, Slovenia’s old age dependency ratio of older population will rise from 30.5% in 2019 (EU27: 31.4 %) to 54% by 2050 (EU27: 59.8%). Key challenges are ensuring that older employees have adequate skills also due the low participation in lifelong learning, and motivating older people to stay employed longer. The latter is essential due to the risk of increase in pension expenditure (from 10.0% of GDP in 2019 to 15.7% of GDP in 2050) and low pensions (183,000 pensioners receive an old-age pension below the at-risk-of-poverty threshold (EUR 739). The low employment rate of older people is certainly also related to the indicator of healthy life years, which is below the EU average in Slovenia, and the self-assessment of health and disability is also well below the EU average. These issues should be addressed in a comprehensive manner.  In terms of fair working conditions, precarious work is a common form of employment in Slovenia, and workers do not voluntarily decide for the uncertainty that such form of employment brings. The risk of precarious work is most characteristic for students, agency workers, economically dependent self-employed persons, platform workers and individuals working mainly through civil-law contracts, as well as employees with employment contracts concluded for a period of less than three months.[[94]](#footnote-94), [[95]](#footnote-95)  Occupational safety and health is not sufficiently aligned with the changing forms of work and the changed conditions, which have become even more pronounced by the COVID-19 epidemic (increasing teleworking and volume of work, etc.), and is not sufficiently adapted to the ageing of the population and the workforce and to the digital and green transitions.[[96]](#footnote-96)  A pressing problem among employees in the prison system is occupational burnout, which is the result of the lack of knowledge and skills to cope with everyday stressful situations when working with incarcerated persons.  We will use grants. A detailed justification is given in Chapter 2. |
| Priority 6: Skills and responsive labour market  ESO4.5: Improving the quality, inclusiveness, effectiveness and labour market relevance of education and training systems including through validation of non-formal and informal learning, to support acquisition of key competences including entrepreneurial and digital skills, and by promoting the introduction of dual-training systems and apprenticeships | In recent years, not enough has been done to address knowledge and skills mismatches on the labour market. Investment in human resources and human resources development is thus essential[[97]](#footnote-97). Employer surveys show that the demand for 21st century skills (problem solving, critical thinking, innovation, etc.) is growing rapidly, which is also underlined in the 2019 Skills Strategy. Young people lack digital, social and emotional skills and all the key competences also need to be developed[[98]](#footnote-98). According to PISA 2018, a high number of young people fall short of basic literacy levels. Factors influencing performance or educational pathways are mainly socio-economic status, migrant background and gender. In the 2014-2020 period, career centres proved to be an important factor in the quality of decision-making for young people’s career choices that are aligned with labour market needs.  Due to the wider social circumstances (economic and demographic trends, smaller generations of learners, etc.), which impact the perception of the attractiveness and social reputation of professions in the field of education and reduce the stability of working conditions, fewer people opt for this profession with rising exits from the profession. Half of the teachers in tertiary and secondary education and more than one third in primary education are over 50 years old[[99]](#footnote-99). There is also a shortage of specialists for the education of people with special needs; in rural areas there is also a shortage of teachers of science, technology, engineering and mathematics[[100]](#footnote-100).  25% of young people aged 16 and 17 are enrolled in vocational schools. Employers are in need of workers with vocational training since older workers with proper skills are leaving the labour market. Labour market mismatches result also from young people not being interested in certain educational programmes, too few places open for enrolment, poor attractiveness of occupations and the lack of cooperation of educational institutions with the economic sector. This shows that there is a need to further strengthen cooperation between education and the environment (by also promoting apprenticeships),[[101]](#footnote-101) and the career guidance of young people. Thus, studies should be completed within the set deadline, with Slovenia being at the bottom of OECD countries according to the share of first-cycle students[[102]](#footnote-102).  We will use grants. A detailed justification is given in Chapter 2. |
| Priority 6: Skills and responsive labour market  ESO4.7: Promoting lifelong learning, in particular flexible upskilling and reskilling opportunities for all taking into account entrepreneurial and digital skills, better anticipating change and new skills requirements based on labour market needs, facilitating career transitions and promoting professional mobility | In line with Council Recommendation for 2019, Slovenia[[103]](#footnote-103) needs to improve the labour market relevance of education and training, as well as lifelong learning measures to increase employability. The period 2008-2019 was marked by low participation of employees in the occupations that are subject to digitalisation and automation[[104]](#footnote-104), which negatively affects their employment opportunities. For many years now, mathematical understanding and reading skills of adults, especially the poorly educated and older people, have been at a low level[[105]](#footnote-105). In 2020, participation in lifelong learning stood at 8.4% (EU: 9.2%), of which 9.3% in the Western Slovenia cohesion region and 7.6% in the Eastern Slovenia cohesion region. The proportion of adults with lower or no education enrolled in lifelong learning is five times lower than of those with higher education. The main reasons are the lack of motivation and the reluctance of employers to second their employees to training to avoid disrupting the smooth working process (time, financial and staffing limitations).  The downward trend in inclusion in lifelong learning is unfavourable in terms of business competitiveness, the digital and green transformation of the economy and addressing the changes caused by the epidemic. This also applies to employees in the public sector. The COVID-19 epidemic has underlined the importance of distance learning in terms of ensuring access to such forms of learning. The OECD also[[106]](#footnote-106) stresses the importance of developing didactic approaches, teachers’ qualifications for distance teaching and establishing quality assurance mechanisms.[[107]](#footnote-107)  Globalisation, technological progress and demographic change will further transform life in all areas, making adequate approach to the competences of all adults (including young adults) thus more important. 12.7% of employers stress the lack of competence of candidates as a key issue in recruitment, mainly lack of vocational-specific skills, horizontal skills and inadequate education.  The European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan underlines the need to step up efforts to increase adult participation in lifelong learning and improve educational achievement in basic education/training. At least 80% of 16-74 year-olds will have to have at least basic digital skills in Slovenia by 2030 (DESI Index 2021: 55%, which is below the EU average).  We will use grants. A detailed justification is given in Chapter 2. |
| Priority 6: Skills and responsive labour market  RSO4.2: Improving equal access to inclusive and quality services in education, training and lifelong learning through developing accessible infrastructure, including by fostering resilience for distance and on-line education and training | To address the challenge of ensuring adequate infrastructure conditions, the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport prepared[[108]](#footnote-108) two analyses of the state of public infrastructure in education and higher education. According to the analyses, there was no systematic investment or the amount of funds allocated for such infrastructure has been insufficient. The analyses establish that the existing building stock is in a relatively poor condition, especially in the Eastern Slovenia cohesion region, where 48.3% of the facilities of the University of Maribor are not regularly maintained (in the Western Slovenia cohesion region 5% and 14%[[109]](#footnote-109)). There is a need for substantial investment in maintenance and ensuring additional premises to address overcrowding, and to adapt to the new requirements regarding carrying out basic activities of public institutes. The analyses point to a strong need for investment in the provision of new sustainable educational infrastructure, especially in the fields of secondary education and higher education. Greening the education infrastructure is also in line with Council Recommendation for 2019 and the initiative of a new European Education Area by 2025. As the Eastern Slovenia cohesion region lags behind in terms of development – the most in in terms of demographic, social and economic situation, investments are a priority for this region.  In the 2014-2020 period, Slovenia established that higher education institutions do not have the appropriate infrastructure to digitise the study process. Thus, relevant content activities (promoting the use of ICT) cannot be properly implemented in the higher education pedagogical process. The analysis[[110]](#footnote-110) shows that the write-off rate of ICT equipment at public universities is above 70%. Over 70% of the existing disk capacity is occupied which puts ensuring smooth operation of the system at risk.  The survey analysis (August 2021) establishes that organisations in the youth sector need hardware and software updates to establish a supportive environment for the further development of young people’s digital competences. The integration of the use of ICT for modernising and raising the quality of youth work, non-formal education and other forms of youth participation aimed at encouraging young people to engage in digital youth work is also encouraged by various European institutions.  All investments will follow the principles of non-discrimination in order to prevent educational segregation.  We will use grants. A detailed justification is given in Chapter 2. |

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| PO 5: a Europe closer to citizens by fostering the sustainable and integrated development of all types of territories and local initiatives | Priority 7: Long-term care and health, and social inclusion  ESO4.8: Fostering active inclusion with a view to promoting equal opportunities, non-discrimination and active participation, and improving employability, in particular for disadvantaged groups | Under the baseline scenario of the population projection for Slovenia, the working-age population is projected to decline, so that in 2060 the number of working-age people could be as many as half a million lower than in 2013. The share of people in the 20-64 age group has been falling since 2013 and the negative demographic trend has already resulted in the shrinking workforce. Thus, increased demand for workers has been recorded in the past two years.  According to ZRSZ[[111]](#footnote-111), the number of unemployed persons in Slovenia in September 2021 stood at 66,122, 45.3% of whom were receiving social assistance in cash. In terms of the structure of the unemployed, the long-term unemployed accounted for the majority of the unemployed (76.9%), followed by the category of women (48.1%), and persons who completed primary school or failed to complete a basic cycle of primary school (38.9%).  Enabling people to enter the labour market as quickly as possible avoids the risk of dependency on social benefits due to unemployment and at the same time ensures that that the investment made in education and training is returned. Lessons learnt during the 2014-2020 period show that activating as quickly as possible, in particular the long-term unemployed individuals, is essential to secure a workforce that is profoundly affected by the emerging demographic changes or population ageing. That is why the country should keep its social activation programmes in the future.[[112]](#footnote-112)  NEETs and young people with special needs constitute a special target group that should be offered various forms of help and assistance during their school-to-work transition period to improve their employability. In this context, experience and findings of evaluations of the projects carried out in the 2014-2020 period will be taken into account.[[113]](#footnote-113) The need for intervention and assistance that target young people with special needs in their transition from education to employment is more pronounced in the Eastern Slovenia cohesion region, as the Western Slovenia cohesion region offers much more opportunities for the young to participate in various assistance programmes that help them get faster into work.  Prisoners constitute the second specific target group. In terms of educational background, data for 2020 show that as many as 40.7% of the total prison population did not have vocational education (39.88% lower or secondary vocational school, 24.42% primary school, 15.22% secondary technical school or high school). 11% of prisoners had no formal education, 2.5% of them having no literacy, reading or basic computer skills. The proposal builds on the Council of Europe Recommendation No. R (89) 12on Education in Prison (2011) and Recommendation Rec(2006)2 of the Committee of Ministers to Member States on the European Prison Rules.  We will use grants. A detailed justification is given in Chapter 2. |
| Priority 7: Long-term care and health, and social inclusion  ESO4.11: Enhancing the equal and timely access to quality, sustainable and affordable services, including services that promote the access to housing and person-centred care including healthcare; modernising social protection systems, including promoting access to social protection, with a particular focus on children and disadvantaged groups; improving accessibility including for persons with disabilities, effectiveness and resilience of healthcare systems and long-term care services | Slovenia’s social protection system is fragmented and involves different stakeholders, which results in a disconnected sector and leads to difficulties in ensuring equal quality of and access to services, appropriate analytical bases and record keeping. The target groups and the challenges these target groups face are outlined in the Resolution on the National Social Protection Programme 2020–2030.[[114]](#footnote-114) Slovenia is committed to supporting the development of services for families and children, in particular for those that come from disadvantaged families.[[115]](#footnote-115)  The share of persons aged 65 and over is estimated to rise from 20% in 2019 to 31% in 2050 in Slovenia. This will have a considerable impact on the sustainability of the healthcare system,[[116]](#footnote-116) bringing to the fore the urgent need to strengthen the long-term care system. A comparative analysis of OECD countries reveals that there is major room for improvement in Slovenia in the area of care for people with dementia.  Slovenia lags behind EU average in mortality rates, which is linked to the widespread unhealthy lifestyle behaviours (unhealthy diet/eating disorders, smoking, alcohol, mental health problems) that are important risk factors for the development of chronic diseases whose burden is rising[[117]](#footnote-117) (cardiovascular diseases, cancer[[118]](#footnote-118))[[119]](#footnote-119). The costs of treating patients diagnosed with previously mentioned conditions make up the largest share of healthcare expenditures. Behavioural risk factors are observed already in children and adolescents and are particularly common in disadvantaged population groups.[[120]](#footnote-120) As regards illicit drugs, the rate of overdose deaths has been on the increase as well. In order to ensure the shortest possible emergency response times and make sure all patients have equal access to emergency medical assistance, the country needs to invest in the education and training of all relevant stakeholders. Data show that the level of digital skills in the healthcare sector falls behind the EU average.[[121]](#footnote-121) Provision of patient care and treatment requires the appropriate use of digital tools by all stakeholders.  According to SURS data, there are about 170,000 people with disabilities and physical disabilities in Slovenia, which accounts for 12-13% of the population. Measures to overcome or reduce barriers to independent living and to equal inclusion in society and work are essential to ensuring equal opportunities for these persons.  Slovenia has a weak supportive environment for social innovation, which has a negative impact on the development and dissemination of geographically dispersed, user-driven and cost-effective services to improve the quality of life, social cohesion and social inclusion of the entire population.  We will use grants. A detailed justification is given in Chapter 2. |
| PN 7: Long-term care and health, and social inclusion  ESO4.12: Promoting social integration of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion, including the most deprived persons and children | According to SURS data, the at-risk-of-social exclusion rate in 2021 stood at 13.8% (Eastern Slovenia cohesion region 15.4%).[[122]](#footnote-122) The risk of poverty and social exclusion exceeds the EU average only for older women (particularly widows), and is just slightly above the EU average for single-person households and the unemployed.  Few Roma community members complete primary school, and even fewer of them manage to complete secondary or higher education. This leads to low employment prospects, poor material conditions and the increased likelihood of falling into poverty. There are reportedly 97 Roma settlements in Slovenia, three of them in Western Slovenia cohesion region and the remaining in the Eastern Slovenia cohesion region.[[123]](#footnote-123) The key goals and measures aiming to improve the social integration and activation of the Roma community members are identified in the National Programme of Measures for Roma of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for the 2021-2030 Period.[[124]](#footnote-124)  Out of 170,000 people with disabilities in Slovenia, 8,000 are children and adolescents.[[125]](#footnote-125) Out of 140 associations and organisations that provide physical activities and sports for persons with disabilities, only 61% have staff that is adequately qualified and only half of them run appropriate programmes.  The share of persons enrolled in secondary and tertiary education in Slovenia is well above the EU average. Nevertheless, the country has been underperforming in intercultural learning and social inclusion of children belonging to vulnerable groups (particularly Roma and immigrant children). According to the PISA 2018 results, immigrant students tend to score lower than the OECD average in reading compared to the country’s population as a whole. The disruption to educational processes and school closures caused by the covid-19 pandemic hit the hardest the students from low socio-economic backgrounds, in particular children with special needs, as the system failed to respond properly during the lockdown to meet their specific needs.[[126]](#footnote-126) Thus, an action plan for the preparation of a proposal for the inclusion of Slovenian sign language in the system of pre-school education and primary and secondary education of the deaf and hard-of-hearing was adopted in 2021 following the amendment to the Constitution of the Republic of Slovenia in 2021.  The annual reports issued by URSIKS suggest that the number of prisoners who, due to various health-related or other reasons, lack of previous work experience or motivation, do not participate in work, education and other social activities offered by prisons, has been on the rise in recent years. This has a negative impact on their later successful reintegration.  We will use grants. A detailed justification is given in Chapter 2. |
| PN 7: Long-term care and health, and social inclusion  RSO4.3: Promoting the socio-economic inclusion of marginalised communities, low-income households and disadvantaged groups, including people with special needs, through integrated actions including housing and social services | A total of 4,050 persons were placed in institutional care facilities for children and adults with disabilities at the end of 2020 (178 children and 3,872 adults aged between 18 and 65), with only 167 adults living in residential communities that served fewer than six persons. Persons with disabilities currently primarily receive care in institutional settings; however, intensive work is underway to facilitate the shift to community-based settings, where multidisciplinary teams will provide care in accordance with the deinstitutionalisation process in Slovenia that will build on the Common European Guidelines on the Transition from Institutional to Community-Based Services and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The country is set to gradually transition to community-based services allowing individuals to live independently with support from the community in line with the draft Strategy of the Republic of Slovenia for deinstitutionalisation of the social care system for the 2021-2033 period.[[127]](#footnote-127)  The number of people diagnosed with dementia has been on a steady rise in Slovenia, particularly as the share of people aged 80 and over, who are most likely to suffer from dementia, has been increasing the most. In the past years, the country has made significant progress in the field of development of conceptual frameworks for dementia care. However, the country has not been able to ensure adequate adjustments to dementia care settings and facilities to implement the modern concepts of work with people with dementia. Resolution on the National Social Protection Programme 2022-2030 gives particular attention to persons with dementia. The goal of the Resolution is to provide roughly 1,300 places in day care centres across the country.  Unfortunately, Slovenia lacks adequate and tailored permanent community housing options that would cater to the needs of different vulnerable target groups which would be of so-called transition nature, providing individuals or families with low-intensity community-based services and enabling them to stay there on a temporary basis and get prepared for life in a more suitable permanent community living option. Members of most vulnerable groups, who are left without housing for various reasons, usually find themselves faced with a lack of appropriate housing solutions or with rent they cannot afford. Often, this is coupled with prejudice and misconceptions on the part of property owners who are reluctant to offer accommodation to disadvantaged groups.  We will use grants. A detailed justification is given in Chapter 2. |
| PN 7: Long-term care and health, and social inclusion  RSO4.5: Ensuring equal access to healthcare and fostering resilience of health systems, including primary care, and promoting the transition from institutional to family-and-community-based care | Projections show that by 2030, nearly one in three Slovenians, i.e. 30.4%, will be aged 60 and over and will face decline in cognitive abilities or increased incidence of disability, whereas nearly every fifth person is projected to suffer from chronic pain. Slovenia has 9.7 rehabilitation beds per 100,000 inhabitants, which puts it in 17th place among EU member states. Average bed occupancy rate stands at staggering 95.6% (hospital acquired infections prevent the rate from getting higher). Similar conditions are recorder in other specialty hospitals across the country, which calls for investment in new capacities or extension of existing specialty hospital facilities, including investment in equipment and supplies, which will help improve the quality of treatment and the outcomes of patients.[[128]](#footnote-128)  Access to healthcare services varies considerably across the country. In order to ensure uninterrupted patient care, the country needs to set up satellite emergency centres and out-of-hours services. In turn, in order to ensure optimisation of patient care, the country needs to make sure that public health institutions are fully equipped with modern medical equipment they need and the technology for digitalisation of health data that is accessible, transparent and of high quality. The number of MRI and CT scans has been growing, but Slovenia still lags behind EU counterparts. Roll-out of new preventive approaches in all primary-level outpatient clinics ensures that each and every citizens has equal access to prevention programmes, with a particular emphasis on making programmes accessible to vulnerable groups with a view to improving prevention and management of chronic diseases and conditions.[[129]](#footnote-129)  As regards the number of acute care hospital beds, Slovenia hovers at the EU-15 average unlike the countries of the Central and Eastern Europe that have drastically cut the number of beds. Similarly, Slovenia is in the EU-15 average for the length of stay in acute care hospitals, the number of hospital discharges and the number of outpatient visits. According to the data of the Health Insurance Institute of Slovenia, in 2020, the number of first appointments (examinations) in specialty outpatient clinics at the secondary level dropped by 19% compared to 2019 and the number of follow-up appointments fell by 21% at the national level. Similarly, in that same period, the number of diagnostic imaging examinations dropped by 15%, the number of operations fell by 9%, and the share of treatments, dyalises and drug administrations that are performed separately from other types of treatment decreased by 3%.[[130]](#footnote-130)  We will use grants. A detailed justification is given in Chapter 2. |
| Priority 8: Sustainable tourism and culture  RSO4.6: Enhancing the role of culture and sustainable tourism in economic development, social inlcusion and social innovation | Cultural heritage is a common good and an intrinsic value of the environment we live in. Therefore, it represents an important component of the public space in cities and other environments.[[131]](#footnote-131) The conservation and revitalisation of cultural heritage increase the value of public spaces that are open and accessible to all citizens and visitors alike. The needs and the challenges that will be addressed under this specific objective are as follows: conserving and protecting cultural heritage for future generations (including retaining the knowledge and skills needed to conserve cultural heritage), ensuring accessibility to heritage for all (including vulnerable groups), and mobilising the potential of cultural heritage for sustainable development and for increasing added value in Slovenian tourism.  In its broadest sense, culture and cultural identity is the factor that can make a decisive contribution to upgrading the value chain and increasing added value in Slovenian tourism. Slovenian tourism strategy builds on the premise that well-preserved natural and cultural heritage is the foundation for tourism, which helps increase the visibility of Slovenia on an international scale as a green, healthy and active country. Development of tourism can only be considered successful for a certain destination if it is pursued in a sustainable way so that the tourism industry benefits the local communities to the greatest extent possible and sensitive areas and cultural heritage are properly protected and conserved for the generations to come.  Too much of our natural and cultural heritage potential is being exploited in the simplest way. The country should invest much more effort, knowledge, culture and responsibility in the creation of attractive tourism products and integrate them to deliver tourism offer with more added value.  We will use grants. A detailed justification is given in Chapter 2. |
| Priority 9: Sustainable development of local areas  RSO5.1: Fostering the integrated and inclusive social, economic and environmental development, culture, natural heritage, sustainable tourism, and security in urban areas | Cities are the drivers of development at the local, regional and national level as they act as economic, educational, cultural, and service centres. The rate of urbanisation stands at 55% in Slovenia, with cities accounting for 90% of all jobs. Slovenian urban areas have seen a sharp growth in suburbanisation rates, much like cities across the globe. This puts tremendous pressure on undeveloped land that should primarily be used for nature conservation and food production. At the same time, inner city areas have vast areas of vacant, underutilised, or even degraded land where redevelopment and revitalisation could importantly halt urban sprawl and the need to expand the geographic extent of urban areas. According to the latest data available, 1,057 areas altogether covering a total of 3,368 hectares are functionally degraded urban areas. Estimates have shown that 81 areas covering 236.25 hectares are suitable for immediate reactivation, whereas 224 areas with a total surface of 236.25 hectares are considered suitable/partly suitable for immediate reactivation.[[132]](#footnote-132) EU Cohesion Policy 2021-2027 will support urban development with measures for urban regeneration and revitalisation aimed at vacant and underutilised buildings and/or land in order to make Slovenian cities greener, more socially inclusive and productive.  Sustainable urban development and tackling of economic, environmental, climate, demographic and social challenges in cities will be supported on the basis of sustainable urban strategies (hereinafter: SUS); in this context, urban municipalities identified in Article 16 of the Local Self-Governance Act will be at the forefront. Representatives of cities will be actively involved in the selection of projects to be funded.  Accordingly, this specific objective will be entirely implemented under the Integrated Territorial Investments (ITI) mechanism.  We will use grants and reimbursable funds. A detailed justification is given in Chapter 2. |
| Priority 9: Sustainable development of local areas  RSO5.2: Fostering the integrated and inclusive social, economic and environmental local development, culture, natural heritage, sustainable tourism, and security in areas other than urban areas | The Partnership Agreement between Slovenia and the European Commission 2021-2027 sets out that support under the community-led local development mechanism (CLLD) will continue in the 2021-2027 period. The bottom-up approach is of utmost importance for the development of local geographically connected areas as it makes sure that specific common development needs, challenges and opportunities of these areas that require a tailor-made approach are recognised.  One of the key challenges facing Slovenia that is addressed by Slovenian Development Strategy 2030, Council Recommendations for Slovenia for 2019 and 2020 and Long-term vision for rural areas by 2040 is the need to reduce development disparities at the local level. Urban and rural areas face a number of development-related challenges that affect the quality of life of the local population. Active involvement and participation in decision-making of partners and other local stakeholders at lower governance levels to help better understand local challenges and potentials makes an important contribution to balanced development, higher added value and improved resilience of individual regions.  We will use grants. A detailed justification is given in Chapter 2. |
| PO 6: a Europe for a just transition | Priority 10: Restructuring of coal regions  JSO8.1: Supporting regions and communities to address the social, employment, economic and environmental impacts of the transition to Union’s energy and climate targets by 2030 and to climate-neutral economy by 2050 on the basis of the Paris Agreement | In Annex D of its 2020 Country Report for Slovenia, the Commission identified two regions that are dependent on fossil fuels:   * Savinjsko-Šaleška (SAŠA) region: in line with the NECP, Slovenia's Coal Exit Strategy[[133]](#footnote-133) sets 2033 as the year in which the country will make its final exit from coal. This will result in the cessation of coal-mining activities in the Velenje coal mine and the closure of the mine. After the mine closure, efforts will have to be made to mitigate the effects of closure on people and communities. Promotion of just transition will therefore be at the heart of the coal phase-out. In 2020, the Velenje coal mine group alone directly employed around 2,300 people from the Šaleška dolina valley, which accounts for nearly 10% of the region’s total working population. In addition, a further 10% of the local economy, providing between 1,500 and 2,000 jobs, directly depends on the revenue of the coal mining industry. In 2018, coal mining industry generated around 30% of the total revenue in the local economy. The long-standing mining tradition has importantly shaped behavioural patterns (e.g. reliance on job security etc.), and has left indelible mark on the landscape (demolition of houses and relocation of families, caving-in and sinking of the ground and creation of artificial lakes, etc.). As coal mining industry has become intrinsic to the region's communities and landscape, the promotion of a just transition should be at the heart of the coal phase-out. * Zasavska region: in 2020, the region was transitioning from coal-related activities, and the local environment was undergoing economic restructuring as a result of coal phase-out. However, during the process of mine closures (including the Trbovlje-Hrastnik coal mine), not all principles of a just transition were duly taken into account, as the process failed to adequately consider social and economic restructuring. Since 2013, a total of 5,000 jobs have been lost, and in 2017, the region recorded the lowest GDP per capita (52.4% of the Slovenian average) and one of the lowest GDP per capita country-wide. The measures outlined in the act that governs the gradual closure of the Trbovlje-Hrastnik coal mine and region's economic restructuring (adopted in 2000) failed to ensure an adequate economic recovery of the region.   We will use grants. A detailed justification is given in Chapter 2. |

# Priorities

## Priorities other than technical assistance

### Priority 1: Innovative knowledge-based society

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| This is a priority dedicated to youth employment |
| This is a priority dedicated to social innovative actions |
| This is a priority dedicated to support to the most deprived persons under the specific objective set out in point (m) of Article 4(1) of the ESF+ Regulation\* |
| This is a priority dedicated to support to the most deprived persons under the specific objective set out in point (l) of Article 4(1) of the ESF+ Regulation |
| This is a priority dedicated to urban mobility specific objective set out in point (viii) of Article 3(1)(b) of the ERDF and Cohesion Fund Regulation |
| This is a priority dedicated to digital connectivity specific objective set out in point (v) of Article 3(1)(a) of the ERDF and Cohesion Fund Regulation |

**\*** If marked go to section 2.1.1.2.

#### Specific objective RSO1.1. Developing and enhancing research and innovation capacities and the uptake of advanced technologies (ERDF)

##### Interventions of the Funds

The related types of actions:

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| The country will improve the research, development and innovation (RDI) ecosystem and ensure investment in RDI in accordance with the Council Recommendation for Slovenia for 2019. The funding will be dedicated to enhancing research and innovation capacities and the uptake of advanced technologies in order to:   * improve research and innovation performance and boost productivity growth by identifying priority areas of Slovenia's Sustainable Smart Specialisation Strategy (S5),[[134]](#footnote-134) and * increase added value of the economy to put Slovenia back among strong innovators by increasing the number of innovative businesses in S5 priority areas.   The implementation of measures in the 2014-2020 period has contributed to increased RDI investment by Slovenian businesses (from 1.40% of GDP in 2018 to 1.55% of GDP in 2021), that is why the abovementioned actions are necessary.  The actions will be entirely based on S5 and will focus on:   * *improving the innovation system in Slovenia and the incentives for knowledge transfer*; in this context, the actions will focus on:   + bringing together businesses, knowledge institutions, local communities, the state and other innovation stakeholders (quintuple helix) by upgrading the Strategic Research and Innovation Partnerships (hereinafter: SRIPs). The process of focusing will continue in S5 areas to enable new breakthrough innovative products and services in (global) value chains. Targeted measures will be carried out to increase RDI investments in both the public and the private sector, and, in turn, encourage collaboration through the quintuple helix innovation model.   + Upgrading the supportive environment, such as Knowledge Transfer Offices (hereinafter: KTO), with further staff professionalisation and promotion of knowledge transfer to ensure long-term flow of research findings and knowledge into the economy and subsequent spillover effects.   + Merging science, art, technology, and the economy for creative (including international) collaboration by fostering research-based artistic production and breakthrough ideas on a global scale. The measure seeks to create synergies in the national network of regional centres by strengthening infrastructure as well as content and human resources potentials.   + Implementing measures for effective governance, networking and building of capacities of RDI actors by complementing the reform of the RDI system governance identified in the RRP. The goal is to integrate active innovation networks to support RDI (SRIPs, Slovenian Business Point (hereinafter: SPOT), Slovenian Education Network, Fablab, Centre for Creativity, KTO consortium) that currently work in a non-cohesive manner. The existing research infrastructure and partnerships between institutions will form the basis for establishing infrastructure and institutional connections within the country and EU-wide, and the partnerships will be open to further expansion and mergers; * *enhancing research capacities*; in this context, the actions will focus on:   + building and deploying research infrastructures (including e-infrastructure) in accordance with S5. Investments in state-of-the-art research equipment and necessary facilities will boost progress in the relevant scientific and technological fields, promote RDI partnerships with industry, contribute to the mobility of knowledge and researchers in the research area, and enhance result dissemination and optimisation. The existing research equipment is mostly entirely used and depreciated. The country plans to further invest in the construction and upgrading of national infrastructure in priority areas of the Research Infrastructure Roadmap 2030, by implementing both international RI projects and national priorities. The investments made will be balanced across both cohesion regions. New research infrastructure is a must to foster the integration of different scientific disciplines and the development of technologies for the economy by pooling top scientific capacities. Along with enhancing RDI capacities, it is also important to reinforce the role and importance of science in society, to foster and spread the culture of innovation and technology, to encourage business investment in RDI, and to upgrade the collaborative links in the quintuple helix innovation model. As regards the distribution of potentials across regions and Slovenia's goal to rejoin strong innovators, the country must step up investments in both cohesion regions, that is why RDI capacities are planned to be enhanced where the needs are most evident (natural sciences and mechanical engineering in Western Slovenia cohesion region, with priority project Faculty of Mechanical Engineering; establishment of a state-of-the-art technological centre INNOVUM that is based on existing RDI infrastructure, human resources and RDI projects in Eastern Slovenia cohesion region). This will help create ecosystems that are conducive to breakthrough results; * *strengthening investments in RDI projects and collaboration between the stakeholders in the quintuple helix innovation model*; in this context, the actions or incentives will be complementary to RRP-supported actions and will focus on:   + boosting investments in RDI projects and bringing together stakeholders. The degree of maturity/technology readiness level (hereinafter: TRL) and the size of the instruments will vary between:     - highest technology readiness levels (TRL 6-9), where innovation orientation and high commercial readiness level will play a key role; the projects will therefore be smaller in size, involving fewer partners, the key partner will come from the economic sphere;     - low technology readiness levels (TRL 3-6), where openness and development of promising areas will play a key role and where we expect joint work of entities that may be regarded as competition in the commercialisation phase. These stages will involve the development of new key knowledge, that is why the instruments will be larger, involving a larger number of partners that will pursue synergies through collaboration.   + Activities of pilot-demonstration centres that will encourage higher technology readiness levels (TRL 6-9).   + Helping companies test their artificial intelligence-based technologies before bringing them to market.   + Supporting applied research at TRL 3-6, which is crucial in terms of knowledge exchange and commercialisation; successfully completed applied projects of the Slovenian Research Agency will be upgraded in this context.   + Funding of concept testing in accordance with the innovation funnel approach to continue basic research funding.   + Promoting projects that support early-career researchers in domestic and foreign research organisations, aimed at various forms of knowledge exchange between the academic sphere and the economy and at strengthening the research potential of knowledge institutions and of development-oriented economic operators. * Providing job opportunities in the economy for researchers wishing to gain experience to face challenges in the economy and for companies wishing to pool quality human resources to reinforce their RDI teams and develop high-tech products, technologies and services. We will support the economy with top researchers having highest degrees, which will make the collaboration between the economy and knowledge institutions much more effective; * *supporting collaboration in the European research area and strengthening synergies between different sources of funding and internationalisation by fostering collaboration between companies and R&D institutions in joint RDI projects at the international level*;the following actions are planned in this context:   + instruments of complementary funding and combined funding: in particular, we will co-finance the projects on widening participation and spreading excellence that will seek complementary funding from various sources (e.g. Teaming); projects on promoting the deployment of research infrastructures and common European data spaces (e.g. EuroHPC, EOSC); projects on widening participation and spreading excellence that were positively evaluated but could not receive funding (e.g. ERA Chair, ERA Talents, ERA Scholarships); projects under the Excellent Science Pillar (e.g. MSCA COFUND projects) or projects in other areas of Horizon Europe Programme and research and innovation partnerships programmes. Additionally, funding will be available for the continuation of the selected ERC projects (ERC Exit).   + supporting the integration of Slovenian partners in transnational RDI projects will be of key importance to achieve synergies, in a complementary way also RDI projects of interregional collaboration selected under joint transregional calls for proposals, and the development of a suitable complementary instrument at the national level that will be able to be linked to the so-called Plug-in scheme under Horizon Europe Programme.   By focusing on priority areas with a special policy mix, S5 makes an important contribution to the EU Mission: Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities 2030 (e.g. Smart Cities and Communities, Smart Buildings and Homes, including the Wood Chain, Circular, Factories of the Future) and to the New European Bauhaus Initiative.  The final design of measures and the formulation of their selection and implementation criteria will take into due account the relevant mitigation measures and, to the greatest extent possible, the relevant recommendations stemming from the strategic environmental assessment (annex Mitigation Measures and Recommendations). None of the planned measures has a significant adverse impact on any of the six environmental objectives, taking into account the technical screening criteria set out in annex DNSH. |

The main target groups:

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| Target groups: enterprises, knowledge institutions (research organisations, higher education institutions, etc.), development partnerships, entrepreneurship and innovation ecosystem actors.  Beneficiaries: research organisations, enterprises, development partnerships, cultural entities, chambers. |

Actions safeguarding equality, inclusion and non-discrimination:

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| The principles of equality, inclusion and non-discrimination will be respected in the implementation of all activities at all levels in accordance with national legislation, the EU acquis and the relevant international human rights instruments. The Rules on ensuring the horizontal enabling condition Effective application and implementation of the Charter of fundamental rights and the Action Programme for Persons with Disabilities 2022-2030, as well as other relevant documents that will be developed during the implementation of measures will also be taken into account in order to ensure equal opportunities and advocate fight against discrimination. The principle will likewise be respected in the scope of the management and control system.  Gender equality in the area of scientific research and innovation-driven activities will be promoted and ensured in accordance with the objectives and measures of the Resolution on the Slovenian Scientific and Research Strategy 2030. In accordance with measure 6.4.4 of the said Strategy Gender equality in funding research, including gender mainstreaming in research activities, gender mainstreaming will be implemented as a horizontal principle applied to R&D projects in TRL 3-6, in particular where relevant. At the same time, measures will address the area of young researchers, who are a vulnerable group in terms of first job, with particular attention given to advocating gender non-discrimination (e.g. parental leave, etc.). |

Indication of the specific territories targeted, including the planned use of territorial tools:

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| The use of territorial tools is not foreseen under the specific objective. |

The interregional, cross-border and transnational actions:

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| The country expects to establish transnational and cross-border cooperation (e.g. through ESFRI projects, EuroHPC projects relating to high performance computing, quantum computing, development of European processors, etc., and EOSC project, which all aim at establishing state-of-the-art research infrastructure and collaboration) as part of measures (collaborative measures).  In order to achieve synergies, support to involvement of Slovenian partners in transnational RDI projects (e.g. Eurostars, Eureka, IPCEI, EIC instrument) will be of key importance. Under Eurostars/Eureka programme, companies are planned to join joint R&D projects involving partners from other Eurostars/Eureka members. Under IPCEI, enterprises will join joint R&D projects with companies and organisations from other EU member states that will participate in an individual IPCEI. In addition, Slovenia has signed a Memorandum of understanding on collaboration with EIT in the area of transition to a smart and circular economy. The relevant activities will partly be financed under the RRP, while collaboration with EIT will be supported by other measures where relevant.  Foreign companies will be able to use the established research infrastructure, which will additionally facilitate and boost international partnerships and collaboration.  In the scope of the EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (hereinafter: EUSAIR), activities are carried with the support of EUSAIR Facility Point to foster innovation in the Adriatic-Ionian macro-region in the area of environment, sustainable tourism, energy and transport, and blue economy. Under EUSAIR Pillar 1 Blue Growth, the EUSAIR participating countries reached an agreement on a macro-regional or flagship project called Fostering quadruple helix ties in the fields of marine technologies and blue biotechnologies for advancing innovation, business development and business adaptation in blue bio-economy.  As part of specific objective RSO1.1., R&D projects addressing focus sub-areas, such as hydrogen and biomass, and SRIPs (in particular SRIP Smart Cities) will be funded in accordance with S5, which will contribute to the achievement of the European Innovation Agenda – EU initiative to strengthen climate-neutral cities and hydrogen valleys. |

The planned use of financial instruments:

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| According to the preliminary assessment of market needs and funding gaps in the market for the implementation of financial instruments in the 2021–2027 programming period (July 2022) a high gap was identified in the thematic investment area for RDI for the target group of final recipients, i.e. SMEs and large enterprises. Despite the fact that the area will be strongly supported by repayable funds from national sources (already set-up loan funds making EUR 100 million available and reutilisation of financial instruments in a revolving way totalling EUR 80 million), the country plans to use financial instruments in the form of debt financing. The Programme provides only an indicative amount of funding earmarked for financial instruments. |

##### Indicators

Table 2: Output indicators

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| Priority | Specific objective | Fund | Category of region | ID | Indicator | Measurement unit | Milestone (2024) | Target (2029) |
| 1 | RSO1.1 | ERDF | Less developed | RCO01 | Enterprises supported (of which: micro, small, medium, large) | enterprises | 0 | 331 |
| 1 | RSO1.1 | ERDF | More developed | RCO01 | Enterprises supported (of which: micro, small, medium, large) | enterprises | 0 | 200 |
| 1 | RSO1.1 | ERDF | Less developed | RCO02 | Enterprises supported by grants | enterprises | 0 | 297 |
| 1 | RSO1.1 | ERDF | More developed | RCO02 | Enterprises supported by grants | enterprises | 0 | 186 |
| 1 | RSO1.1 | ERDF | Less developed | RCO03 | Enterprises supported by financial instruments | enterprises | 0 | 34 |
| 1 | RSO1.1 | ERDF | More developed | RCO03 | Enterprises supported by financial instruments | enterprises | 0 | 14 |
| 1 | RSO1.1 | ERDF | Less developed | RCO06 | Researchers working in supported research facilities | annual FTEs | 0 | 169 |
| 1 | RSO1.1 | ERDF | More developed | RCO06 | Researchers working in supported research facilities | annual FTEs | 0 | 118 |
| 1 | RSO1.1 | ERDF | Less developed | RCO07 | Research organisations participating in joint research projects | research facilities | 14 | 14 |
| 1 | RSO1.1 | ERDF | More developed | RCO07 | Research organisations participating in joint research projects | research facilities | 36 | 36 |
| 1 | RSO1.1 | ERDF | Less developed | RCO10 | Enterprises cooperating with research organisations | enterprises | 27 | 27 |
| 1 | RSO1.1 | ERDF | More developed | RCO10 | Enterprises cooperating with research organisations | enterprises | 66 | 66 |

Table 3: Result indicators

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority | Specific objective | Fund | Category of region | ID | Indicator | Measurement unit | Baseline or reference value | Reference year | Target (2029) | Source of data | comments |
| 1 | RSO1.1 | ERDF | Less developed | RCR03 | Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) introducing product or process innovation | enterprises | 0 | 2022 | 222 | MGRT |  |
| 1 | RSO1.1 | ERDF | More developed | RCR03 | Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) introducing product or process innovation | enterprises | 0 | 2022 | 139 | MGRT |  |
| 1 | RSO1.1 | ERDF | Less developed | RCR06 | Patent applications submitted | patent applications | 0 | 2022 | 7 | beneficiary, MIZŠ |  |
| 1 | RSO1.1 | ERDF | More developed | RCR06 | Patent applications submitted | patent applications | 0 | 2022 | 18 | beneficiary, MIZŠ |  |
| 1 | RSO1.1 | ERDF | More developed | RCR08 | Publications from supported projects | publications | 0 | 2020 | 68 | monitoring |  |
| 1 | RSO1.1 | ERDF | Less developed | RCR102 | Research jobs created in supported entities | annual FTEs | 0 | 2022 | 41 | beneficiary, MIZŠ |  |
| 1 | RSO1.1 | ERDF | More developed | RCR102 | Research jobs created in supported entities | annual FTEs | 0 | 2022 | 45 | beneficiary, MIZŠ |  |
| 1 | RSO1.1 | ERDF | Less developed | 15 | Share of innovation-active enterprises | percentage | 55% | 2020 | 60% | SURS |  |
| 1 | RSO1.1 | ERDF | More developed | 15 | Share of innovation-active enterprises | percentage | 55% | 2020 | 60% | SURS |  |

##### Indicative breakdown of the programme resources (EU) by type of intervention

Table 4: Dimension 1 – intervention field

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority No | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |
| 1 | ERDF | Less developed | RSO1.1 | 002 | 22,920,000 |
| 1 | ERDF | More developed | RSO1.1 | 002 | 8,930,000 |
| 1 | ERDF | Less developed | RSO1.1 | 003 | 7,380,000 |
| 1 | ERDF | More developed | RSO1.1 | 003 | 3,230,000 |
| 1 | ERDF | Less developed | RSO1.1 | 004 | 33,575,000 |
| 1 | ERDF | More developed | RSO1.1 | 004 | 13,800,000 |
| 1 | ERDF | Less developed | RSO1.1 | 010 | 88,980,000 |
| 1 | ERDF | More developed | RSO1.1 | 010 | 32,960,000 |
| 1 | ERDF | Less developed | RSO1.1 | 011 | 18,389,000 |
| 1 | ERDF | More developed | RSO1.1 | 011 | 8,909,000 |
| 1 | ERDF | Less developed | RSO1.1 | 012 | 17,238,512 |
| 1 | ERDF | More developed | RSO1.1 | 012 | 16,401,600 |
| 1 | ERDF | Less developed | RSO1.1 | 026 | 6,500,000 |
| 1 | ERDF | More developed | RSO1.1 | 026 | 6,500,000 |
| 1 | ERDF | Less developed | RSO1.1 | 028 | 1,571,650 |
| 1 | ERDF | More developed | RSO1.1 | 028 | 980,400 |
| 1 | ERDF | Less developed | RSO1.1 | 029 | 15,599,503 |
| 1 | ERDF | More developed | RSO1.1 | 029 | 9,390,120 |
| 1 | ERDF | Less developed | RSO1.1 | 030 | 1,466,335 |
| 1 | ERDF | More developed | RSO1.1 | 030 | 1,660,080 |
| 1 | ERDF | Less developed | RSO1.1 | 043 | 68,000,000 |
| 1 | ERDF | More developed | RSO1.1 | 043 | 20,000,000 |
| 1 | ERDF | More developed | RSO1.1 | 171 | 9,508,800 |

Table 5: Dimension 2 – form of financing

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority No | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |
| 1 | ERDF | Less developed | RSO1.1 | 01 | 267,347,744 |
| 1 | ERDF | More developed | RSO1.1 | 01 | 126,542,256 |
| 1 | ERDF | Less developed | RSO1.1 | 03 | 14,272,256 |
| 1 | ERDF | More developed | RSO1.1 | 03 | 5,727,744 |

Table 6: Dimension 3 – territorial delivery mechanism and territorial focus

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority No | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |
| 1 | ERDF | Less developed | RSO1.1 | 33 | 281,620,000 |
| 1 | ERDF | More developed | RSO1.1 | 33 | 132,270,000 |

Table 7: Dimension 6 – ESF+ secondary themes

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority No | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |

Table 8: Dimension 7 – ESF+**\***, ERDF, Cohesion Fund and JTF gender equality dimension

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority No | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |
| 1 | ERDF | Less developed | RSO1.1 | 02 | 2,550,000 |
| 1 | ERDF | More developed | RSO1.1 | 02 | 2,800,000 |
| 1 | ERDF | Less developed | RSO1.1 | 03 | 279,070,000 |
| 1 | ERDF | More developed | RSO1.1 | 03 | 129,470,000 |

**\*** In principle, 40% for the ESF+ contributes to gender tracking. 100% is applicable when Member State chooses to use Article 6 ESF+ Regulation as well as programme specific actions in gender equality.

#### RSO1.2. Reaping the benefits of digitisation for citizens, companies, research organisations and public authorities (ERDF)

##### Interventions of the Funds

The related types of actions:

|  |
| --- |
| The digital transformation of the economy, society and public administration is essential for Slovenia's long-term development and competitiveness. In order to improve its DESI scores, Annex D of the 2019 Country Report for Slovenia highlights that Slovenia should:   * increase the uptake of ICT in SMEs, including by supporting infrastructures and services, with a view to improving the number of enterprises reaching a high digital intensity, and * increase the use of e-Government services, i.e. digital public services, by citizens, businesses, research organisations and public authorities.   The country will speed up the digital transformation by introducing new business models and state-of-the-art technologies (AI, distributed ledger technology, big data, quantum technologies, Internet of Things, etc.).  Slovenia's RRP identifies digital transformation actions for the economy, public sector and public administration that will help scale up digital infrastructure and support the development of advanced technological solutions and next-generation services. The actions supported by Cohesion Policy will complement the abovementioned actions.  The investments will focus on the following:   * *digitalisation of society and public administration services* in accordance with the Digital Slovenia 2030 Strategy and the Digital Public Services Strategy 2030[[135]](#footnote-135)*:* measures to ensure comprehensive public services for businesses, citizens and public institutions – these measures will be co-designed with users in accordance with the principle of co-creation to ensure a secure and user-friendly experience. Data[[136]](#footnote-136) and advanced digital technologies will be harnessed and building blocks for the development of smart public services ensured with the aim of building trust in digital transformation, e-commerce, a better business environment and the functioning of the EU digital single market.[[137]](#footnote-137)   + Enhancing digital inclusion and digital competences:     - measures will be carried out to actively promote the safe use of digital technologies, the Internet and digital public services (e-services for citizens and businesses, e-inclusion, e-learning, etc.) and foster the digitalisation of public services;     - measures will be carried out to improve digital literacy, in particular among population groups that are identified as having lowest digital literacy levels and biggest gaps in line with the situation analysis;     - measures will be carried out to optimise processes in the NGOs to make their work more efficient and effective;     - e-learning: the project Smart School that is implemented under the 2014-2020 Cohesion Policy will be upgraded to ensure further development of integrated and interoperable IT solutions in administrative management of schools and the relevant line ministry by standardising their processes, unifying data, fostering debureaucratisation and digitalising the way they work.   + Smart cities, communities, and villages:     - measures will be carried out to bolster the supportive environment for the digital transformation of processes, systems and services of local communities, including the strategic project of connectivity platform for local communities;     - measures will be carried out to improve digital competences in local communities;     - measures will be carried out to foster the participation of local communities in sharing or using and managing data through a shared data infrastructure, which will pave the way towards the deployment of local digital twins and harnessing of synergies resulting from integration with state-led digital solutions.   + Digital innovation in spatial planning and the environment: the digital transformation measures aimed at spatial planning and set out in the 2014-2020 Operational Programme and the RRP will be upgraded with AI building blocks in accordance with the guidelines of the National Programme on the Development and Uptake of AI by 2025, virtual and augmented reality, multi-dimensionality, deployment of new Building Information Modelling (BIM) technologies, big data, etc. We will make sure these state-of-the-art technologies are integrated in accordance with the concept of Geospatial Knowledge Infrastructure that will deliver location-based knowledge and help businesses and other stakeholders use data and services to improve operation, RDI, production and marketing of globally competitive high-tech solutions in all sectors where real-time geospatial data analytics is key. We will build a digital data ecosystem to enable faster and automated monitoring and planning of relevant measures on the basis of data-driven modelling and prediction.   + Digitalisation of public services for businesses and citizens: we will deliver integrated smart mobile public services or mGovernment, widen and improve access to public records, allowing users to better manage personal data from various public records. We will ensure accessibility, coherence and interoperability of digital services with data sources that the competent institutions can independently model using high-performance and smart tools. A single advanced platform enabling login to e-services, e-authorisation, creation and verification of e-signature and e-serving will be set up.[[138]](#footnote-138) It will be easily accessible from mobile phones and it will work across borders. We will upgrade the building blocks of the interoperable ecosystem (platform), the algorithms and data analytics tools with the use of advanced technologies as well as the public administration data space[[139]](#footnote-139) for the processing and sharing of data to support digital public services.   + Digitalisation of the Slovenian language and cultural heritage, and support to vulnerable groups: development and upgrading of the corpora of processed spoken language that underpin the development of speech technologies; development of models, tools and applications to improve the accessibility, distribution and competitiveness of the cultural sector, conservation of cultural heritage, in particular of endangered cultural heritage, facilitating access to cultural heritage contents and their re-use, strengthening ICT skills of employees and users in the relevant sectors and ensuring accessibility of contents tailored to the needs of the deaf and hard-of-hearing.   + Supporting the uptake of AI-based solutions in the economy, public administration and society in accordance with the National programme on the development and uptake of AI by 2025:     - measures will be carried out to support the projects of development and uptake of AI in the economy and public sector;     - measures will be carried out to support reference projects for the deployment of AI in concrete solutions to support the digitalisation of the economy and public sector and transform the way they work, including ensuring an appropriate legal environment and support activities to build public trust;     - establishment of the relevant technological infrastructure, including testing and data infrastructure.   + Digitalisation of services and processes in the field of justice by deploying integrated IT solutions that will modernise court operations with digital innovation and provide fully digital judicial services (both in concrete proceedings and by ensuring online information about the judiciary, procedures and rule of law), notarial services and services of other judicial authorities (inter alia, by setting up a digital entry/exit point at the State Attorney's Office, designing technological solutions to facilitate the implementation of the Minor Offence Act, etc.); * *fostering the digital transformation of SMEs* in accordance with the Strategy of Digital Transformation of the Economy where Slovenia needs to upgrade the supportive environment and the targeted instruments to support businesses; in this context, the actions will focus on the following:   + fostering full-scale digital transformation of SMEs to address poor integration of digital technologies in business processes of SMEs. The country will support the development and implementation of digital strategies for businesses, fully encouraging the renewal of business models and processes, even in traditional economic sectors that face the toughest competition in the market, and delivering digitalisation measures to make the SMEs ready to enter and compete on foreign markets (e-commerce).   + Fostering digital transformation to improve the entrepreneurship, innovation, finance and research environment (relating to S5) – implementation of digital transformation (uptake of advanced technologies) of services for S5 areas and beyond. The actions will seek to promote the development and uptake of AI and other advanced digital technologies (e.g. distributed ledger technology) and ensure that the businesses are provided with the relevant support, human resources and competences, that they learn about best practices from abroad and embrace the necessary changes.   + Fostering secure digital transformation that builds on certification, standardisation and accreditation of products, data, processes and technologies as well as integration with public administration data and services;      * Promoting the supportive and business environment for the digital transformation of the society, businesses and public sector, which includes enhancing the operation and services of SMEs, existing and new mechanisms and institutions for digital transformation (digital innovation hubs, chambers and other stakeholders, Fablab networks, platforms supporting value chains, digital creativity centres – design, etc.) and improving links between the economy and the public sector in accordance with the Strategy of Digital Transformation of the Economy, the Digital Slovenia 2030 Strategy and the Digital Public Services Strategy 2030.   The final design of measures and the formulation of their selection and implementation criteria will take into due account the relevant mitigation measures and, to the greatest extent possible, the relevant recommendations stemming from the strategic environmental assessment (annex Mitigation Measures and Recommendations). None of the planned measures has a significant adverse impact on any of the six environmental objectives, taking into account the technical screening criteria set out in annex DNSH. |

The main target groups:

|  |
| --- |
| Target groups: SMEs, public administration and justice system, local self-government, local communities, NGOs, research organisations, cultural entities, citizens and others.  Beneficiaries: SMEs, supportive environment institutions, implementing institutions, organisations providing informal training, NGOs, institutions working with disadvantaged groups and people with disabilities, educational institutions, bodies governed by public law, local communities, public institutes or agencies, higher education institutions, research organisations, state administration bodies, chambers and other stakeholders identified as beneficiaries. |

Actions safeguarding equality, inclusion and non-discrimination:

|  |
| --- |
| The principles of equality and equal opportunities will be respected in the implementation of all activities at all levels in accordance with national legislation (Equal Opportunities for Women and Men Act, Protection Against Discrimination Act, Equalisation of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities Act), the EU acquis, particularly the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union**,** Charter of fundamental rights, the principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights and the relevant international human rights instruments, particularly the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Equal opportunities and fight against discrimination based on characteristics, such as gender, age, race, ethnicity, disability, religion, sexual orientation will be advocated and ensured both horizontally and vertically as far as possible. In this context, the Rules on ensuring the horizontal enabling condition Effective application and implementation of the Charter of fundamental rights, and the Action Programme for Persons with Disabilities 2022-2030, as well as other relevant documents that will be developed during the implementation of measures will also be fully observed. If relevant, administrative capacity building training will be carried out to foster equal opportunities and non-discrimination. The principle will likewise be respected in the scope of the management and control system. The Monitoring Committee will be notified of any inconsistencies that will potentially arise at least once a year.  Actions targeting vulnerable groups are planned mainly in the context of digitalisation of the Slovenian language with a view to making the relevant contents (e.g. subtitles in TV programmes) more easily accessible to vulnerable groups, and in the area of digital inclusion, etc. Actions aimed at increasing digital inclusion will target different groups (e.g. NGOs, citizens, etc.), seeking to reduce the differences in terms of access to the Internet and equipment, and in terms of security and digital literacy, which will, in turn, help improve overall situation in the society and contribute to reducing inequalities. |

Indication of the specific territories targeted, including the planned use of territorial tools:

|  |
| --- |
| No territorial tools are planned to be used under this specific objective. |

The interregional, cross-border and transnational actions:

|  |
| --- |
| No interregional, cross-border or transnational measures are planned under this specific objective as the relevant actions seek to improve the national, i.e. Slovenian ecosystem, which can act as the springboard for penetration of Slovenian businesses in foreign markets. As three cross-border projects will already be supported under the RRP, more specifically its Programme of digital transformation of industry/businesses (European Common Data Infrastructure and Services (IPCEI-CIS), European Blockchain Services Infrastructure (EBSI) and multi-country project Low-Power Processors and Semiconductor Chips), no cooperation is currently planned under the Programme.  Slovenia will continue to support RDI stakeholders through the complementary funding of membership in the Vanguard Initiative, an effective mechanism for interregional cooperation and project generation. The membership in the Vanguard Initiative is directly managed by three line ministries that are key intermediaries responsible for the implementation of RDI-related activities. |

The planned use of financial instruments:

|  |
| --- |
| The preliminary assessment of market needs and funding gaps in the market for the implementation of financial instruments in the 2021–2027 programming period (July 2022) revealed a significant funding gap in particular in the area of digitalisation of the economy. Nevertheless, the use of financial instruments is not foreseen under the Programme. Instead, the projects of digitalisation development will be supported with a combination of grants under this specific objective and reimbursable funds from national sources, i.e. dedicated assets of the Slovene Enterprise Fund or revolving funds, with grants accounting for 30% and loans 70% of the support provided (loans will be granted to final recipients under equal conditions applied across the country). The funds are expected to multiply, which will help meet emerging needs to finance SME digitalisation. |

##### Indicators

Table 2: Output indicators

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority | Specific objective | Fund | Category of region | ID | Indicator | Measurement unit | Milestone (2024) | Target (2029) |
| 1 | RSO1.2 | ERDF | Less developed | RCO01 | Enterprises supported (of which: micro, small, medium, large) | enterprises | 112 | 1,230 |
| 1 | RSO1.2 | ERDF | More developed | RCO01 | Enterprises supported (of which: micro, small, medium, large) | enterprises | 88 | 950 |
| 1 | RSO1.2 | ERDF | Less developed | RCO02 | Enterprises supported by grants | enterprises | 0 | 82 |
| 1 | RSO1.2 | ERDF | More developed | RCO02 | Enterprises supported by grants | enterprises | 0 | 48 |
| 1 | RSO1.2 | ERDF | Less developed | RCO04 | Enterprises with non-financial support | enterprises | 112 | 1,148 |
| 1 | RSO1.2 | ERDF | More developed | RCO04 | Enterprises with non-financial support | enterprises | 88 | 902 |
| 1 | RSO1.2 | ERDF | Less developed | RCO13 | Value of digital services, products and processes developed for enterprises | euro | 0 | 6,033,884 |
| 1 | RSO1.2 | ERDF | More developed | RCO13 | Value of digital services, products and processes developed for enterprises | euro | 0 | 9,172,478 |
| 1 | RSO1.2 | ERDF | Less developed | RCO14 | Public institutions supported to develop digital services, products and processes | public institutions | 1 | 96 |
| 1 | RSO1.2 | ERDF | More developed | RCO14 | Public institutions supported to develop digital services, products and processes | public institutions | 4 | 117 |

Table 3: Result indicators

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority | Specific objective | Fund | Category of region | ID | Indicator | Measurement unit | Baseline or target value | Reference year | Target (2029) | Source of data | Comments |
| 1 | RSO1.2 | ERDF | Less developed | RCR02 | Private investments matching public support (of which: grants, financial instruments) | euro | 0 | 2022 | 5,440,000 | beneficiaries, MGRT |  |
| 1 | RSO1.2 | ERDF | More developed | RCR02 | Private investments matching public support (of which: grants, financial instruments) | euro | 0 | 2022 | 3,240,000 | beneficiaries, MGRT |  |
| 1 | RSO1.2 | ERDF | Less developed | RCR11 | Users of new and upgraded public digital services, products and processes | users/year | 0 | 2022 | 591,463 | beneficiaries, ministry | Number of digital data downloads and service use |
| 1 | RSO1.2 | ERDF | More developed | RCR11 | Users of new and upgraded public digital services, products and processes | users/year | 0 | 2022 | 779,257 | beneficiaries, ministry | Number of digital data downloads and service use |
| 1 | RSO1.2 | ERDF | Less developed | RCR12 | Users of new and upgraded digital services, products and processes developed by enterprises | users/year | 0 | 2022 | 262,000 | public institutions, enterprises |  |
| 1 | RSO1.2 | ERDF | More developed | RCR12 | Users of new and upgraded digital services, products and processes developed by enterprises | users/year | 0 | 2022 | 238,000 | public institutions, enterprises |  |

##### Indicative breakdown of the programmed resources (EU) by type of intervention

Table 4: Dimension 1 – intervention field

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority No | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |
| 1 | ERDF | Less developed | RSO1.2 | 013 | 14,855,292 |
| 1 | ERDF | More developed | RSO1.2 | 013 | 9,638,074 |
| 1 | ERDF | Less developed | RSO1.2 | 016 | 25,060,934 |
| 1 | ERDF | More developed | RSO1.2 | 016 | 18,849,114 |
| 1 | ERDF | Less developed | RSO1.2 | 018 | 11,674,546 |
| 1 | ERDF | More developed | RSO1.2 | 018 | 7,841,184 |

Table 5: Dimension 2 – form of financing

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority No | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |
| 1 | ERDF | Less developed | RSO1.2 | 01 | 51,590,772 |
| 1 | ERDF | More developed | RSO1.2 | 01 | 36,328,372 |

Table 6: Dimension 3 – territorial delivery mechanism and territorial focus

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority No | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |
| 1 | ERDF | Less developed | RSO1.2 | 33 | 51,590,772 |
| 1 | ERDF | More developed | RSO1.2 | 33 | 36,328,372 |

Table 7: Dimension 6 – ESF+ secondary themes

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority No | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |

Table 8: Dimension 7 – ESF+\*, ERDF, Cohesion Fund and JTF gender equality dimension

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority No | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |
| 1 | ERDF | Less developed | RSO1.2 | 03 | 51,590,772 |
| 1 | ERDF | More developed | RSO1.2 | 03 | 36,328,372 |

**\*** In principle, 40 % for the ESF+ contributes to gender tracking. 100 % is applicable when Member State chooses to use Article 6 ESF+ Regulation as well as programme specific actions in gender equality.

#### Specific objective RSO1.3. Enhancing sustainable growth and competitiveness of SMEs and job creation in SMEs, including by productive investments (ERDF)

##### Interventions of the Funds

The related types of actions:

|  |
| --- |
| The specific objective aims to enhance the competitiveness of the economy by creating products and services with high added value and to improve the corporate social responsibility of the businesses that will facilitate and speed up the transition to a climate-neutral society. Creation of high added value will be supported by innovations, promotion of creativity and harnessing of all opportunities of the Fourth Industrial Revolution. Particular attention in this context will be given to ensuring a stimulating and predictable environment that allows doing business and making investments by taking into account the specific needs and characteristics of small enterprises, and to promoting collaboration with cultural and creative industries and fostering internationalisation of businesses.  In order to boost growth and competitiveness of SMEs, the investments and actions will build on S5 focusing on the following:   * *development and optimisation of the ecosystem to support entrepreneurship and innovations* through:   + upgrading and implementing comprehensive services to support businesses in their creation, growth and development, and in their transition to a low-carbon circular economy (e.g. in the scope of SPOT consulting points, innovation environment actors: university and business incubators, technology parks, accelerators, co-working spaces, learning labs, project PONI (An entrepreneurial approach to challenges)). Attention will also be given to specific target groups (e.g. young people, women) that will be able to receive incentives to start their career path in entrepreneurship.   + Upgrading the SPOT Global system for domestic exporters and foreign investors to make the support offered more efficient and tailored to international business (e.g. relevant information, presentations, advisory services, offices abroad, partner matchmaking and business opportunity database, tailored mentoring and training programmes in the area of international business to strengthen the potentials of businesses).   + Upgrading the economic and business infrastructure to cater to the needs of RDI, help improve governance, strengthen cooperation and synergy effects of collaboration between businesses in business zones and to cater to the needs of specialisation in S5 priority areas. Developing business and economic infrastructure necessary for the operation of incubators. These actions will complement the support provided under the RRP and the JTF to facilitate and scale up productivity and innovations of local businesses and the entrepreneurship ecosystem towards greening and digitalisation of business process with a clear focus on priority areas.   + Smart management of Slovenian tourism destinations and actions for integration and promotion of the potentials of culture and cultural and natural heritage for entrepreneurship and tourism. Attention will be given to the development of tourism destinations and their active management at the destination and entrepreneurship level (strategic planning and coordination of destination management, development and promotion of tourism products at the ecosystem level, including valorisation of cultural and natural heritage, integration of tourism offer, promotion, digitalisation, mobility, better quality of tourism services, improved competences of destination organisations). Destination management is one of the key elements of the success and competitiveness of tourism; as such, it indirectly addresses all development objectives.   + Supporting the national platform of cultural and creative industries (cultural and creative sectors). The country needs to foster the use and integration of new knowledge, artistic achievements and cultural and creative industries with the other sectors of the economy and the society as well as with the state-of-the-art technologies to build a stronger knowledge-based society and boost innovation and creativity.   + Building administrative capacities of businesses in the area of e-procurement; * *transition of new business ventures and newly born enterprises to a faster growth phase (start-ups and enterprises undergoing transition to the next growth stage) and measures for fast-growing enterprises (scale-ups)* through:   + supporting young enterprises and new business ventures (start-ups) in their initial operations. As a priority, support will focus on business areas that comply with the principles of climate neutrality and circular economy. We will improve the processes relating to starting an enterprise, operation of an enterprise and harnessing of their development potentials as well as the processes relating to their competitiveness in domestic or foreign markets, which will help reduce mortality rates among enterprises in the initial lifecycle stages and increase their survival rates while boosting their growth.   + Mix of measures targeting fast-growing enterprises (scale-ups and scale-outs) that will include the identification of (potential) fast-growing enterprises, setting-up of an experienced mentoring team providing coaching and mentoring to support the growth and development of enterprises (training of enterprises held abroad), experience sharing with seasoned entrepreneurs (at promotional and networking events), cooperation with educational and research institutions and providers of advisory services, close cooperation with financial institutions and investors (scale-up financing, particularly equity); * *growth and development of enterprises (various incentives, e.g. incentives for innovation, including social innovation, etc.)* with measures for adopting innovative approaches across various business segments, as dictated by global trends (transition to a low-carbon economy, population ageing, etc.). These actions will ensure further growth and development of enterprises, boosting their innovation and competitiveness. In this context, the country intends to carry out the following actions:   + supporting business process improvement, business process renewal, strategic transformation and new business models that are relevant for the transition to a low-carbon circular economy, and bringing business excellence to enterprises, including by putting in place an internal service quality assurance system.   + Developing new and improved products and services with a view to increasing added value or creating jobs, including the development of products and services in the field of silver economy and use of natural renewable materials that facilitate a green transition.   + Small-scale incentives (vouchers) in specific areas that are characterised by knowledge and skills gaps, which will allow SMEs to boost their competitiveness, competences and innovation in the areas based on their needs (e.g. intellectual property protection, certification, eco-labels, quality standards, ownership transfer, internationalisation, business excellence).   + Promoting social innovations and social enterprises to address societal needs through the development of new products, services and models (direct incentives, development of a supportive environment for social innovations, competence centres, development of tools measuring social impact, social innovation platforms, etc.).   + Promoting investments and investment-related working capital in the form of guarantees (possibly with interest rate subsidies); * *internationalisation and cooperation in the macro-regional area by establishing partnerships with enterprises in foreign markets, promoting and strengthening brands of products and services of Slovenian enterprises abroad and supporting joint ventures in foreign markets;* in this context, the country intends to carry out actions to provide a comprehensive support for the integration of enterprises in global value chains or internationalisation of the Slovenian economy in accordance with S5 goals:   + fostering the diversification of Slovenian exports to third markets to cut reliance on traditional trade partners in the EU. We will support the export of knowledge through new innovative measures, such as international development cooperation, joint ventures in foreign markets and mentoring for enterprises abroad.   + Developing and strengthening brands with a view to increasing added value and upgrading the position of enterprises in global value chains. Promoting pilot and demonstration projects aimed at testing new concepts.   + Supporting the development of feasibility studies and export plans that address main challenges, opportunities, threats and risks faced by Slovenian enterprises with new and existing products/services in foreign markets in order to reduce business risks for Slovenian enterprises in foreign markets.   + Supporting business and development partnerships to strengthen participation in global value chains by engaging in international processes and building critical mass at the regional level to allow for global breakthroughs on the basis of integration of stakeholders' competences and potentials (adoption of modern business models, entry into international markets, niche breakthroughs, etc.), thus enhancing synergies between Slovenian exporters and reducing the risks associated with foreign market entry.   + Organising activities at international specialised fairs and other events held at home and abroad to facilitate the search for new international market opportunities for a successful positioning of enterprises in the market. We will support the transfer of good international business practices, innovative ways of finding foreign business partners and activities to increase the visibility of Slovenia and its economy.   The final design of measures and the formulation of their selection and implementation criteria will take into due account the relevant mitigation measures and, to the greatest extent possible, the relevant recommendations stemming from the strategic environmental assessment (annex Mitigation Measures and Recommendations). None of the planned measures has a significant adverse impact on any of the six environmental objectives, taking into account the technical screening criteria set out in annex DNSH. |

The main target groups:

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| Target groups: potential entrepreneurs, micro enterprises and SMEs, social enterprises, entrepreneurship and innovation ecosystem actors, NGOs, cooperatives, self-employed professionals in culture, ministries, implementing institutions.  Beneficiaries: SMEs, entrepreneurship and innovation ecosystem actors, regional development agencies, implementing institutions, NGOs, public institutes, self-employed professionals in culture, chambers, cooperatives, associations, destination management organisations and private institutes. |

Actions safeguarding equality, inclusion and non-discrimination:

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| --- |
| The principles of equality, inclusion and non-discrimination will be respected at all levels in accordance with the national legislation, the EU acquis, particularly the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union**,** Charter of fundamental rights, the principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights and the relevant international human rights instruments, particularly the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Equal opportunities and fight against discrimination based on characteristics, such as gender, age, race, ethnicity, disability, religion, sexual orientation will be advocated and ensured both horizontally and vertically as far as possible in the scope of Slovenia's Cohesion Policy Programme 2021-2027. In this context, the Rules on ensuring the horizontal enabling condition Effective application and implementation of the Charter of fundamental rights, and the Action Programme for Persons with Disabilities 2022-2030, as well as other relevant documents that will be developed during the implementation of measures will be fully observed. The principle will likewise be respected in the context of the management and control system.  Both in entrepreneurship and society as a whole can potentials be fully realised if all talents and diversity are fully harnessed. Gender equality brings more jobs and higher productivity.[[140]](#footnote-140) Women entrepreneurs need to be fully supported before embarking on the career path in entrepreneurship as well as after they have created their own enterprise. Therefore, a set of measures will be designed to support training and provide financial support. More often than men, women are faced with a number of challenges as they embark on their own career path, in particular with respect to access to finance, training, integration in networks and work-life balance. In addition to women, other vulnerable target groups need additional support in starting their own business (e.g. young people); these individuals can make an important contribution to the development of social innovations thanks to their experience. Social innovations help improve (social) inclusion, and enhance accessibility while advocating non-discrimination in all walks of life through a diverse range of products and services. The actions will also focus on breaking the cycle of inter-generational disadvantage, in particular in the area of fostering silver economy. |

Indication of the specific territories targeted, including the planned use of territorial tools:

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| Under this specific objective, we plan to use the regional development approach in accordance with the needs identified in the prepared territorial strategies (regional development programmes) of all 12 regions to address the area of upgrading and ensuring supportive environment and entrepreneurship environment at the regional level and entrepreneurship training. The said strategies will be developed in accordance with the provisions of Article 29 of the Regulation (EU) 2021/1060. The first phase of operation selection will involve decision-makers and representatives of regions (in the framework of regional councils). |

The interregional, cross-border and transnational actions:

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| --- |
| Interregional and cross-border networking will be carried out by entrepreneurship and innovation environment actors that will be brought together to work together with other similar institutions in cross-border projects, ensuring exchange of good practices and strengthening the participation of different stakeholders.  In order to foster a diversified tourism offer, including varied and customised products and services under sustainable tourism, two macro-regional strategies, i.e. EUSAIR and EUSDR, support flagship projects: Develop sustainable and thematic cultural routes/Connect cultural routes in EUSAIR (AIR Cultural Routes), and Sustain and better connect EUSDR cultural routes. The content of the action has a similar thematic basis planned in all cross-border Interreg programmes and transnational programmes (Central Europe, Interreg IPA Adrion and Euro-MED).  Cooperation and synergies between Interreg programmes and specific objective RSO1.3 will be fostered through the participation of the representative of the managing authority under Objective 1 in macro-regional strategies and through participation of the members of the monitoring committees in Interreg programmes. |

The planned use of financial instruments:

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| --- |
| The preliminary assessment of market needs and funding gaps in the market for the implementation of financial instruments in the 2021–2027 programming period (July 2022) revealed a significant funding gap in this particular investment area. Financial instruments are planned to be used. The Programme provides only an indicative amount of the funding earmarked for financial instruments. The actual scope and type of the individual financial instrument and the optimal allocation of funds will be defined at a later stage once the decision is made on the financial instrument governance structure and the scope of funds to be ring-fenced for financial instruments as counterpart to national sources. |

##### Indicators

Table 2: Output indicators

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority | Specific objective | Fund | Categorry of region | | ID | Indicator | Measurement unit | Milestone (2024) | Target (2029) |
| 1 | RSO1.3 | ERDF | | Less developed | RCO01 | Enterprises supported (of which: micro, small, medium, large) | enterprises | 534 | 5,093 |
| 1 | RSO1.3 | ERDF | | More developed | RCO01 | Enterprises supported (of which: micro, small, medium, large) | enterprises | 388 | 3,691 |
| 1 | RSO1.3 | ERDF | | Less developed | RCO02 | Enterprises supported by grants | enterprises | 128 | 2,880 |
| 1 | RSO1.3 | ERDF | | More developed | RCO02 | Enterprises supported by grants | enterprises | 89 | 2,154 |
| 1 | RSO1.3 | ERDF | | Less developed | RCO03 | Enterprises supported by financial instruments | enterprises | 0 | 297 |
| 1 | RSO1.3 | ERDF | | More developed | RCO03 | Enterprises supported by financial instruments | enterprises | 0 | 193 |
| 1 | RSO1.3 | ERDF | | Less developed | RCO04 | Enterprises with non-financial support | enterprises | 625 | 3,173 |
| 1 | RSO1.3 | ERDF | | More developed | RCO04 | Enterprises with non-financial support | enterprises | 445 | 2,220 |
| 1 | RSO1.3 | ERDF | | Less developed | RCO05 | New enterprises supported | enterprises | 36 | 1,198 |
| 1 | RSO1.3 | ERDF | | More developed | RCO05 | New enterprises supported | enterprises | 20 | 675 |
| 1 | RSO1.3 | ERDF | | Less developed | RCO103 | High growth enterprises supported | enterprises | 0 | 8 |
| 1 | RSO1.3 | ERDF | | More developed | RCO103 | High growth enterprises supported | enterprises | 0 | 7 |
| 1 | RSO1.3 | ERDF | | Less developed | 1 | Tourism destination products | number | 15 | 15 |
| 1 | RSO1.3 | ERDF | | More developed | 1 | Tourism destination products | number | 15 | 15 |

Table 3: Output indicators

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority | Specific objective | Fund | Category of region | ID | Indicator | Measurement unit | Baseline or reference value | Reference year | Target (2029) | Source of data | Comments |
| 1 | RSO1.3 | ERDF | Less developed | RCR02 | Private investments matching public support (of which: grants, financial instruments) | euro | 0 | 2022 | 155,246,000 | IS eMA, implementing body, MGRT, MGRT |  |
| 1 | RSO1.3 | ERDF | More developed | RCR02 | Private investments matching public support (of which: grants, financial instruments) | euro | 0 | 2022 | 101,354,000 | IS eMA, implementing body, MGRT, MGRT |  |
| 1 | RSO1.3 | ERDF | Less developed | RCR17 | New enterprises surviving in the market | enterprises | 0 | 2022 | 277 | MGRT |  |
| 1 | RSO1.3 | ERDF | More developed | RCR17 | New enterprises surviving in the market | enterprises | 0 | 2022 | 165 | MGRT |  |
| 1 | RSO1.3 | ERDF | Less developed | RCR19 | Enterprises with higher turnover | enterprises | 0 | 2022 | 231 | IS eMA, implementing body, MGRT, MGRT |  |
| 1 | RSO1.3 | ERDF | More developed | RCR19 | Enterprises with higher turnover | enterprises | 0 | 2022 | 140 | IS eMA, IO MGRT, MGRT |  |
| 1 | RSO1.3 | ERDF | Less developed | RCR25 | SMEs with higher value added per employee | enterprises | 0 | 2022 | 75 | IS eMA, implementing body, MGRT, MGRT |  |
| 1 | RSO1.3 | ERDF | More developed | RCR25 | SMEs with higher value added per employee | enterprises | 0 | 2022 | 71 | IS eMA, implementing body, MGRT, MGRT |  |

##### Indicative breakdown of the programme resources (EU) by type of intervention

Table 4: Dimension 1 – intervention field

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority No | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |
| 1 | ERDF | Less developed | RSO1.3 | 013 | 3,300,000 |
| 1 | ERDF | More developed | RSO1.3 | 013 | 1,700,000 |
| 1 | ERDF | Less developed | RSO1.3 | 021 | 64,008,953 |
| 1 | ERDF | More developed | RSO1.3 | 021 | 37,906,872 |
| 1 | ERDF | Less developed | RSO1.3 | 023 | 10,470,000 |
| 1 | ERDF | More developed | RSO1.3 | 023 | 2,460,000 |
| 1 | ERDF | Less developed | RSO1.3 | 024 | 22,484,400 |
| 1 | ERDF | More developed | RSO1.3 | 024 | 8,852,600 |
| 1 | ERDF | Less developed | RSO1.3 | 025 | 19,999,000 |
| 1 | ERDF | More developed | RSO1.3 | 025 | 12,000,000 |

Table 5: Dimension 2 – form of financing

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority No | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |
| 1 | ERDF | Less developed | RSO1.3 | 01 | 77,652,353 |
| 1 | ERDF | More developed | RSO1.3 | 01 | 36,529,472 |
| 1 | ERDF | Less developed | RSO1.3 | 02 | 7,500,000 |
| 1 | ERDF | More developed | RSO1.3 | 02 | 7,500,000 |
| 1 | ERDF | Less developed | RSO1.3 | 04 | 35,110,000 |
| 1 | ERDF | More developed | RSO1.3 | 04 | 18,890,000 |

Table 6: Dimension 3 – territorial delivery mechanism and territorial focus

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority No | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |
| 1 | ERDF | Less developed | RSO1.3 | 24 | 10,470,000 |
| 1 | ERDF | More developed | RSO1.3 | 24 | 2,460,000 |
| 1 | ERDF | Less developed | RSO1.3 | 33 | 109,792,353 |
| 1 | ERDF | More developed | RSO1.3 | 33 | 60,459,472 |

Table 7: Dimension 6 – ESF+ secondary themes

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority No | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |

Table 8: Dimension 7 – ESF+\*, ERDF, Cohesion Fund and JTF gender equality dimension

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority No | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |
| 1 | ERDF | Less developed | RSO1.3 | 01 | 2,415,000 |
| 1 | ERDF | More developed | RSO1.3 | 01 | 585,000 |
| 1 | ERDF | Less developed | RSO1.3 | 03 | 117,847,353 |
| 1 | ERDF | More developed | RSO1.3 | 03 | 62,334,472 |

**\*** In principle, 40 % for the ESF+ contributes to gender tracking. 100 % is applicable when Member State chooses to use Article 6 ESF+ Regulation as well as programme specific actions in gender equality.

#### Specific objective RSO1.4. Developing skills for smart specialisation, industrial transition and entrepreneurship (ERDF)

##### Interventions of the Funds

The related types of actions:

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| --- |
| In order to support further economic development of Slovenia, it is essential to boost the development of knowledge and skills that are needed for smart specialisation, industrial transition as well as green and digital transformation in all stages of the innovation cycle spanning development, roll-out and uptake of technologies and products both for development enterprises specialised in the development of state-of-the-art technologies (e.g. digital technologies, AI) and for the enterprises that use these technologies to develop new innovative products and services in all segments of the economy and society. This includes economic entities, knowledge institutions, stakeholders of the supportive environment of smart specialisation, including SRIPs and the public sector that must support R&D through an innovative design of policies and regulations and as the early adopter/first user of innovative solutions (innovative, green, pre-commercial public procurement). These actions will help the country tackle skills and knowledge gaps and mismatches between the skills supply and demand. In particular, the actions will aim to:   * reduce capacity constraints in the economy and tackle challenges associated with technological changes and industrial transition, and * bolster the growth of SMEs and facilitate internationalisation   with a view to bridging the gap between the education system and the labour market, notably in S5 priority areas, as well as to investing in skills and competences in the area of social innovations. Certain complementary actions (the development and full operation of the Skills Forecasting Platform (SFP) tool as the most important for S5 among them) will be carried out under PO 4 (detailed explanation is provided in the description of actions).  The following areas will be addressed under the specific objective:   * *strengthening knowledge and skills for smart specialisation, industrial transition and to support innovations for enterprises and other stakeholders in the economy*;in this context, activities will seek to further strengthen and focus the work of competence centres for human resources development in all priority areas and cross-cutting themes of S5 policy mix. The action aims to support the upskilling and development of competences of employees through the development of competence models, stronger linkages and networking between enterprises, exchange of knowledge, staff mobility and exchange of good practices in the framework and on the basis of competence centres for human resources development which have provided informal training and education already in the 2014-2020 period. The measure that has proved efficient and successful in the 2014-2020 period will be kept in the 2021-2027 period and will focus on improving and developing the relevant skills and competences of individual enterprises while improving the labour market position of employees by investing in employee training, fostering development change in enterprises and enhancing networking and linkages between enterprises. The implementation of the action and the involvement of employers in education planning will help boost growth and competitiveness of enterprises and tackle the mismatch between the skills and knowledge supply and demand in the labour market, while contributing in a complementary way to other measures promoted under smart specialisation. The new systemic tool that is currently being developed under specific objective ESO4.2, i.e. SFP, will play an important role in identifying investments in gaining different competences through training provided in the scope of individual career centres. Once the platform is operational, presumably in 2024, the complementarities will be two-way – the competence centres will use the data/results delivered by the SFP while feeding the SFP database with real-time data in line with their needs. The action is expected to have synergy effects with the adult education actions foreseen under specific objective ESO4.7 on lifelong learning; * *developing and implementing flexible learning pathways for upskilling of graduates and micro-credentials,* notably in S5 priority areas and in direct collaboration with SRIPS or the economy to speed up and facilitate the transition from the education system to the labour market and to skills training of graduates. By offering study programmes geared at upskilling, it is possible to bridge the gaps between the acquired subject-specific skills and knowledge of graduates and the expectations of employers more quickly. Unlike regular study programmes, flexible programmes and other forms of micro-credentials are developed much faster, the courses are quicker and can help close the real-time gaps and needs in the labour market which makes them more relevant and responsive to workplace needs, in particular in the areas that are key in terms of development and use of knowledge and skills in priority areas identified in S5. Employers often seek narrow, specialised skills and expertise from graduates that cannot be achieved under conventional full-length degree courses. Shorter courses help broaden expertise and provide technical skills and knowledge in specific areas, which makes them responsive both to learner and employer needs. In this context, the role of higher education institutions in the co-creation and co-development of knowledge and skills in the scope of S5 priority areas should be expanded. The expected long-term effect of the action will manifest in better integration of higher education institutions in the wider environment through a mechanism that will be in place to help identify short-term and medium-term needs for skills and knowledge provided by higher education institutions. In turn, the latter will provide feedback information to the developers of study programmes on the relevance of knowledge and skills of graduates for their career path in the local and wider environment. These steps will lead to enhanced role of higher education institutions in the area of lifelong learning, and help tackle/prevent the growing issue of graduate brain drain Slovenia has recently been facing. The role of the anticipated systemic tool, i.e. SFP, that will be developed under specific objective ESO4.2, will be important in this context as the data and the findings of the tool will be used for the development of flexible learning pathways; * *strengthening knowledge and skills of systemic implementers of smart specialisation:* (i) SRIP staff, (ii) staff at ministries and other S5 implementing structures. Both actors involved in multi-level governance showed a severe lack of skills and knowledge to develop new solutions and incentives in the area of smart specialisation and in their ability to translate these solutions and measures to the ground in the 2014-2020 period. That is why effective and quality planning, preparation and delivery of S5 measures calls for ensuring highly qualified stakeholders involved in the S5 multi-level governance system and strengthening the S5 monitoring and evaluation system. Accordingly, the activities will be focused mainly on:   + training of coordinators and other staff of relevant stakeholders (e.g. SRIPs): the 2014-2020 period revealed a strong need for continuous investments in institutional capacity building and empowerment of stakeholders' staff able to make an important contribution to the effective implementation of S5 owing to their wide scientific technology-related knowledge and to understanding the needs in the economy and research sphere;   + training of staff at ministries, implementing institutions and across the public sector on S5-related measures: both in the public sector and at the level of stakeholders it is necessary to support the development of skills and competences in social innovation and systemic innovation (e.g. through a hub that enables tackling of societal challenges that could, as a pilot, focus on prototyping solutions for the transition to a low-carbon circular economy, which is a horizontal S5 theme);   + improving the S5 monitoring and evaluation system: it is important to make sure that all stakeholders have the relevant information, so that the results and outputs of S5 are measured in a consistent way and the emerging challenges are appropriately addressed.   We assessed the impact of each proposed action on the six environmental objectives in accordance with the Technical guidance on the application of 'do no significant harm' under the Recovery and Resilience Facility Regulation. Based on the answers to the checklist questions, we conclude that none of the actions envisaged under this specific objective has a significant adverse impact on any of the six environmental objectives. The technical screening criteria are set out in annex DNSH. |

The main target groups:

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| Target groups: SMEs, SRIPs, ministries, implementing institutions, employers, employees, higher education institutions, partners in R&D programmes, partners in SRIP projects and other relevant partners.  Beneficiaries: Public Scholarship, Development, Disability and Maintenance Fund of the Republic of Slovenia, higher education institutions, ministry responsible for public administration, chambers. |

Actions safeguarding equality, inclusion and non-discrimination:

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| --- |
| The principles of equality, inclusion and non-discrimination will be respected in the implementation of all activities at all levels in accordance with the national legislation (Equal Opportunities for Women and Men Act, Protection Against Discrimination Act, Equalisation of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities Act), the EU acquis, particularly the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union**,** Charter of fundamental rights, the principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights and the relevant international human rights instruments, particularly the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Equal opportunities and fight against discrimination based on characteristics, such as gender, age, race, ethnicity, disability, religion, sexual orientation will be advocated and ensured both horizontally and vertically as far as possible in the scope of Slovenia's Cohesion Policy Programme 2021-2027. In this context, the Rules on ensuring the horizontal enabling condition Effective application and implementation of the Charter of fundamental rights and the Action Programme for Persons with Disabilities 2022-2030, as well as other relevant documents that will be developed during the implementation of measures will be fully observed. If relevant, administrative capacity building training will be carried out for the implementation of the principles of equal opportunities and non-discrimination. The principle will likewise be respected in the scope of the management and control system. The Monitoring Committee will be notified of any inconsistencies that will potentially arise at least once a year.  The call for the development and implementation of flexible study programmes for graduates will include a special criterion that will reward all applicants whose projects involve activities fostering female participation in STEM education programmes with the aim of building STEM competences.  The main objective of the action Strengthening knowledge and skills of systemic implementers of smart specialisation is to strengthen the competences in smart specialisation areas, i.e. areas that largely fall in the scope of STEM jobs in terms of expected competences. All key stakeholders will be given the opportunity to gain additional competences. |

Indication of the specific territories targeted, including the planned use of territorial tools:

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| No territorial tools are planned to be used under the specific objective. |

The interregional, cross-border and transnational actions:

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| --- |
| No cooperation is foreseen for now under specific objective RSO1.4 which aims at strengthening knowledge and skills for smart specialisation. S5 actions first and foremost foster knowledge and skills needed for the smooth implementation and achievement of S5 goals (green transition mostly in so-called green and digital skills), which allows all actors, in particular the relevant enterprises, but also knowledge institutions and other S5 stakeholders to invest in building the needed and relevant (S5) skills of their employees. Such interregional, cross-border and transnational networking will be appropriately supported and promoted by different actors of the entrepreneurship and innovation environment that are or will be involved in different types of transnational cooperation projects.  In addition to (non-)inclusion of measures under this specific objective in interregional, cross-border and transnational actions, wider complementary effects under the EUSAIR Facility Point strategic project should be mentioned. The project fosters innovations in the Adriatic-Ionian macro-region in the area of environment, sustainable tourism, energy and transport and blue economy. A concrete example of direct links or complementarities between S5 content (in this case in the area of sustainable blue economy) and Policy objective 2 is the project BLUEAIR – Interreg IPA ADRION. On the one hand, the project seeks to foster the emergence of smart specialisation for the whole EUSAIR in the area of blue growth and the related innovations or innovation environment, while providing a framework for the entrepreneurial discovery process to be carried out in the area of blue economy in Slovenia and other EUSAIR countries with a view to identifying their common potentials in this area. Moreover, the participating countries agreed on a macro-regional or flagship project called Fostering quadruple helix ties in the fields of marine technologies and blue biotechnologies for advancing innovation, business development and business adaptation in blue bio-economy under EUSAIR Pillar 1 Blue Growth. |

The planned use of financial instruments:

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| --- |
| Financial instruments are not planned to be used in accordance with the preliminary assessment of market needs and funding gaps in the market for the implementation of financial instruments in the 2021–2027 programming period (July 2022). The proposed measures do not generate revenue or savings, which is why the use of financial instruments is not relevant or reasonable. These measures are aimed at strengthening knowledge and skills in smart specialisation areas in the public interest and will be carried out notably by public institutions (public fund, higher education institutions, ministries) in cooperation with SRIPs and other S5 stakeholders. For this reason, only grants will be used under the specific objective. |

##### Indicators

Table 2: Output indicators

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority | Specific objective | Fund | Category of region | ID | Indicator | Measurement unit | Milestone (2024) | Target (2029) |
| 1 | RSO1.4 | ERDF | Less developed | RCO101 | SMEs investing in skills for smart specialisation, for industrial transition and entrepreneurship | enterprises | 58 | 208 |
| 1 | RSO1.4 | ERDF | More developed | RCO101 | SMEs investing in skills for smart specialisation, for industrial transition and entrepreneurship | enterprises | 42 | 192 |
| 1 | RSO1.4 | ERDF | Less developed | 5 | Number of knowledge institutions participating in projects of skills development for smart specialisation | number | 0 | 2 |
| 1 | RSO1.4 | ERDF | More developed | 5 | Number of knowledge institutions participating in projects of skills development for smart specialisation | number | 0 | 2 |
| 1 | RSO1.4 | ERDF | Less developed | 6 | SRIP stakeholders that invest in skills for smart specialisation, for industrial transition and entrepreneurship | number | 0 | 13 |
| 1 | RSO1.4 | ERDF | More developed | 6 | SRIP stakeholders that invest in skills for smart specialisation, for industrial transition and entrepreneurship | number | 0 | 7 |

Table 3: Result indicators

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority | Specific objective | Fund | Category of region | ID | Indicator | Measurement unit | Baseline or reference value | Reference year | Target (2029) | Source of data | Comments |
| 1 | RSO1.4 | ERDF | Less developed | RCR98 | SMEs staff completing training for skills for smart specialisation, for industrial transition and entrepreneurship (by type of skill: technical, management, entrepreneurship, green, other) | participants | 0 | 2020 | 1.803 | beneficiary, MIZŠ, MDDSZ and eMA2 |  |
| 1 | RSO1.4 | ERDF | More developed | RCR98 | SMEs staff completing training for skills for smart specialisation, for industrial transition and entrepreneurship (by type of skill: technical, management, entrepreneurship, green, other) | participants | 0 | 2020 | 1.347 | beneficiary, MIZŠ, MDDSZ and eMA2 |  |
| 1 | RSO1.4 | ERDF | Less developed | 4 | SRIP staff completing training for skills for smart specialisation, for industrial transition and entrepreneurship (by type of skill: technical, management, entrepreneurship, green, other) | number | 0 | 2021 | 31 | beneficiary and eMA2 |  |
| 1 | RSO1.4 | ERDF | More developed | 4 | SRIP staff completing training for skills for smart specialisation, for industrial transition and entrepreneurship (by type of skill: technical, management, entrepreneurship, green, other) | number | 0 | 2021 | 19 | beneficiary and eMA2 |  |

##### Indicative breakdown of the programme resources (EU) by type of intervention

Table 4: Dimension 1 – intervention field

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority No | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (EUR) |
| 1 | ERDF | Less developed | RSO1.4 | 023 | 13,220,200 |
| 1 | ERDF | More developed | RSO1.4 | 023 | 4,709,900 |
| 1 | ERDF | Less developed | RSO1.4 | 170 | 3,590,000 |
| 1 | ERDF | More developed | RSO1.4 | 170 | 1,000,000 |

Table 5: Dimension 2 – form of financing

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority No | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (EUR) |
| 1 | ERDF | Less developed | RSO1.4 | 01 | 16,810,200 |
| 1 | ERDF | More developed | RSO1.4 | 01 | 5,709,900 |

Table 6: Dimension 3 – territorial delivery mechanism and territorial focus

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority No | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (EUR) |
| 1 | ERDF | Less developed | RSO1.4 | 33 | 16,810,200 |
| 1 | ERDF | More developed | RSO1.4 | 33 | 5,709,900 |

Table 7: Dimension 6 – ESF+ secondary themes

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority No | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (EUR) |

Table 8: Dimension 7 – ESF+**\***, ERDF, Cohesion Fund and JTF gender equality dimension

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority No | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (EUR) |
| 1 | ERDF | Less developed | RSO1.4 | 02 | 5,266,000 |
| 1 | ERDF | More developed | RSO1.4 | 02 | 1,776,000 |
| 1 | ERDF | Less developed | RSO1.4 | 03 | 11,544,200 |
| 1 | ERDF | More developed | RSO1.4 | 03 | 3,933,900 |

**\*** In principle, 40 % for the ESF+ contributes to gender tracking. 100 % is applicable when Member State chooses to use Article 6 ESF+ Regulation as well as programme specific actions in gender equality.

### Priority 2: Digital connectivity

|  |
| --- |
| This is a priority dedicated to youth employment |
| This is a priority dedicated to social innovative actions |
| This is a priority dedicated to support to the most deprived persons under the specific objective set out in point (m) of Article 4(1) of the ESF+ Regulation\* |
| This is a priority dedicated to support to the most deprived persons under the specific objective set out in point (l) of Article 4(1) of the ESF+ Regulation |
| This is a priority dedicated to urban mobility specific objective set out in point (viii) of Article 3(1)(b) of the ERDF and Cohesion Fund Regulation |
| * This is a priority dedicated to digital connectivity specific objective set out in point (v) of Article 3(1)(a) of the ERDF and Cohesion Fund Regulation |

**\***  If marked go to section 2.1.1.2.

#### Specific objective RSO1.5. Enhancing digital connectivity (ERDF)

##### Interventions of the Funds

The related types of actions:

|  |
| --- |
| Over 108,000 households/dwellings in Slovenia make up white areas that do not have access to speeds of at least 100Mbps[[141]](#footnote-141), many of them not even having access to 30 Mbps while also facing poor mobile signal coverage.[[142]](#footnote-142) These white spots are mostly found in rural areas, in particular in mountainous terrains and hard-to-access remote places with low population density where construction is severely hampered and where, up until now, the operators have not demonstrated sufficient commercial interest to build broadband networks despite considerable state subsidies offered for broadband deployment. The country must step up its role and provide the funding necessary to build the network. The current 2014-2020 Operational Programme has provided a total of EUR 27,824,202.20 in Cohesion Policy funding for broadband deployment in white areas covering 15,424 households. The RRP funding amounting to a total of EUR 30 million is planned to co-finance the construction of networks in white areas to serve around 8,500 households/dwellings for which the development of broadband networks is considered particularly challenging and consequently more expensive.  Connections of at least 100 Mbps are urgently needed to facilitate the digitalisation and digital transformation of rural areas, suburbs and urban areas. Indeed, without broadband, it is nowadays simply impossible to ensure suitable conditions for remote working and remote learning, or to ensure adequate access to all digital public or private services that are available to citizens. These areas, in particular rural areas, are in fact the backbone of Slovenian economy, agriculture, tourism and forestry, which all need high-quality and high-capacity broadband networks for their development as they underpin effective and smooth business, education and, in general, foster accelerated and balanced societal development. Broadband infrastructure development is also important for the development of 5G networks, autonomous driving, etc., as the latter cannot be developed without high-capacity broadband infrastructure.  The development of high-speed broadband in Slovenia in order to reach the target of 100% access to high-speed Internet infrastructure is an important goal that should be fully reached by 2025 in line with the Gigabit Infrastructure Development Plan by 2030 that the government adopted on 25 August 2022. To reach the goal, Slovenia needs to fill the identified funding gap of EUR 278,580,000 in public support for 107,932 households. Additional EUR 15,326,344 are planned for connectivity vouchers, even though the relevant source of funding has neither been identified nor approved. Slovenia will cover the funding gap with EUR 30 million from the RRP, the ERDF and other sources of funding, but will not use EAFRD funds for this purpose. Households in rural areas account for 45% of all households in Slovenia. Nearly three quarters of them, i.e. 70,68%, had NGN access in 2021 (DESI 2022), of which 51.52% had very high capacity networks. With the planned support, the country expects that all rural households will have access to broadband infrastructure in 2025, of which all households will have high-speed broadband. Full coverage with broadband infrastructure is thus planned for 2025.  The deployment of advanced technologies in households/dwellings, the economy and public institutions will require a high-capacity infrastructure that will facilitate the use of state-of-the-art digital technologies and services and lead to so-called gigabit society. These measures follow the single market guidelines on public co-financing of infrastructure development where there is no commercial interest from investors.  This action includes the co-financing of the construction of open high-capacity broadband infrastructure or broadband connections to households/dwellings, enterprises and public institutions in order to support the roll-out of new services and technologies, such as e-commerce, e-learning, Internet of Things, smart houses/buildings/homes, 5G, etc. in areas where such networks cannot be found today (open high-capacity broadband networks, backbone/access networks allowing transmission speeds of at least 100 Mbps to end-users, upgradable to 1 Gbps in the future) and where there is no commercial interest from investors or operators. Educational institutions will benefit from such support also outside these areas in order to ensure long-term economic sustainability and adequate management of infrastructure, which is necessary for ensuring a smooth educational process.  Actions will be implemented by taking into account the precautionary principle to minimise the exposure of the population to the electromagnetic radiation from digital connectivity devices. In accordance with the Technical guidance on the application of 'do no significant harm' under the Recovery and Resilience Facility Regulation (C(2021) 1054 final), we assessed that the proposed action has no significant adverse effect on any of the six environmental objectives, taking into account the technical screening criteria set out in annex DNSH. |

The main target groups:

|  |
| --- |
| Target groups: households/dwellings, education institutions, public institutions in the area of education  Beneficiaries: enterprises, the Academic and Research Network of Slovenia (ARNES) |

Actions safeguarding equality, inclusion and non-discrimination:

|  |
| --- |
| The principles of equality, inclusion and non-discrimination will be respected in the implementation of all activities at all levels in accordance with the national legislation (Equal Opportunities for Women and Men Act, Protection Against Discrimination Act, Equalisation of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities Act), the EU acquis, particularly the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union**,** Charter of fundamental rights, the principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights and the relevant international human rights instruments, particularly the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Equal opportunities and fight against discrimination based on characteristics, such as gender, age, race, ethnicity, disability, religion, sexual orientation will be advocated and ensured both horizontally and vertically as far as possible in the scope of Slovenia's Cohesion Policy Programme 2021-2027. In this context, the Rules on ensuring the horizontal enabling condition Effective application and implementation of the Charter of fundamental rights and the Action Programme for Persons with Disabilities 2022-2030, as well as other relevant documents that will be developed during the implementation of measures will be fully observed. If relevant, administrative capacity building training will be carried out for the implementation of the principles of equal opportunities and non-discrimination. The principle will likewise be respected in the scope of the management and control system. The Monitoring Committee will be notified of any inconsistencies that will potentially arise at least once a year.  Households/dwellings for which no market interest has been shown will be eligible for support under this specific objective. Public co-financing of the network construction (to improve digital connectivity) aims to ensure adequate broadband access through public funding to the households/dwellings without broadband access to the Internet at a certain download speed for which private investors or electronic communications operators have shown no interest to construct broadband infrastructure in the next three years. The measure is therefore fully designed to protect equality, inclusion and non-discrimination of households/dwellings with ‘poorer’ digital infrastructure (which are largely, but by no means entirely, located in rural areas). In other words, public funding will be used for positive action targeting areas or households/dwellings with poorer connectivity by providing them with investments in broadband network. |

Indication of the specific territories targeted, including the planned use of territorial tools:

|  |
| --- |
| No territorial tools are planned to be used under the specific objective. |

The interregional, cross-border and transnational actions:

|  |
| --- |
| No interregional, cross-border or transnational actions are foreseen under this specific objective as investments target Slovenian citizens. However, these actions are expected to facilitate and boost the participation of Slovenian stakeholders in the activities implemented in the three macro-regions in which Slovenia takes part. |

The planned use of financial instruments:

|  |
| --- |
| The preliminary assessment of market needs and financing gaps in the market for the implementation of financial instruments in the 2021–2027 programming period (July 2022) suggested that there was no rationale for the use of financial instruments in this area nor did it identify any gap. The funding earmarked for GOŠO (Deployment of open broadband networks) projects will be used to address the white areas, i.e. areas where operators have shown no commercial interest in building open broadband networks. Such projects do not generate a sufficient cash flow which is the precondition for the use of financial instruments' support.  Public funding will not be used in geographic areas where operators have shown commercial interest in building the network. The relevant State Aid rules will be fully respected. |

##### Indicators

Table 2: Output indicators

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority | Specific objective | Fund | Category of region | ID | Indicator | Measurement unit | Milestone (2024) | Target (2029) |
| 2 | RSO1.5 | ERDF | Less developed | RCO41 | Additional dwellings with broadband access of very high capacity | dwellings | 200 | 4,017 |
| 2 | RSO1.5 | ERDF | More developed | RCO41 | Additional dwellings with broadband access of very high capacity | dwellings | 122 | 2,439 |

Table 3: Result indicators

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority | Specific objective | Fund | Category of region | ID | Indicator | Measurement unit | Baseline or reference value | Reference year | Target (2029) | Source of data | Comments |
| 2 | RSO1.5 | ERDF | Less developed | RCR53 | Dwellings with broadband subscriptions to a very high capacity network | dwellings | 0 | 2022 | 2.410 | beneficiaries, Government Office for Digital Transformation | The last round of testing of commercial interest showed there were altogether 108,000 white areas. The RRP will support broadband deployment for 8,500 white areas. Another round of testing of commercial interest is foreseen in the end of 2022. |
| 2 | RSO1.5 | ERDF | More developed | RCR53 | Dwellings with broadband subscriptions to a very high capacity network | dwellings | 0 | 2022 | 1,463 | beneficiaries, Government Office for Digital Transformation | The last round of testing of commercial interest showed there were altogether 108,000 white areas. The RRP will support broadband deployment for 8,500 white areas. Another round of testing of commercial interest is foreseen in the end of 2022. |

##### Indicative breakdown of the programme resources (EU) by type of intervention

Table 4: Dimension 1 – intervention field

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority No | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (EUR) |
| 2 | ERDF | Less developed | RSO1.5 | 034 | 13,650,000.00 |
| 2 | ERDF | More developed | RSO1.5 | 034 | 3,415,620.00 |
| 2 | ERDF | Less developed | RSO1.5 | 035 | 1,934,000 |
| 2 | ERDF | More developed | RSO1.5 | 035 | 663,124 |

Table 5: Dimension 2 – form of financing

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority No | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (EUR) |
| 2 | ERDF | Less developed | RSO1.5 | 01 | 15,584,000 |
| 2 | ERDF | More developed | RSO1.5 | 01 | 4,078,744 |

Table 6: Dimension 3 – territorial delivery mechanism and territorial focus

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority No | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (EUR) |
| 2 | ERDF | Less developed | RSO1.5 | 33 | 15,584,000 |
| 2 | ERDF | More developed | RSO1.5 | 33 | 4,078,744 |

Table 7: Dimension 6 – ESF+ secondary theme

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority No | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (EUR) |

Table 8: Dimension 7 – ESF+\*, ERDF, Cohesion Fund and JTF gender equality dimension

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority No | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (EUR) |
| 2 | ERDF | Less developed | RSO1.5 | 03 | 15,584,000 |
| 2 | ERDF | More developed | RSO1.5 | 03 | 4,078,744 |

**\*** In principle, 40 % for the ESF+ contributes to gender tracking. 100 % is applicable when Member State chooses to use Article 6 ESF+ Regulation as well as programme specific actions in gender equality.

### Priority 3: Green transformation for climate neutrality

|  |
| --- |
| This is a priority dedicated to youth employment |
| This is a priority dedicated to social innovative actions |
| This is a priority dedicated to support to the most deprived persons under the specific objective set out in point (m) of Article 4(1) of the ESF+ Regulation\* |
| This is a priority dedicated to support to the most deprived persons under the specific objective set out in point (l) of Article 4(1) of the ESF+ Regulation |
| This is a priority dedicated to urban mobility specific objective set out in point (viii) of Article 3(1)(b) of the ERDF and Cohesion Fund Regulation |
| This is a priority dedicated to digital connectivity specific objective set out in point (v) of Article 3(1)(a) of the ERDF and Cohesion Fund Regulation |

**\*** If marked, go to section 2.1.1.2.

#### Specific objective RSO2.1. Promoting energy efficiency and reducing greenhouse gas emissions (ERDF) (Cohesion Fund)

##### Interventions of the Funds

Related types of actions:

|  |
| --- |
| Pursuant to Article 5 of Directive 2012/27/EU on energy efficiency, Slovenia will have to renovate in terms of energy almost 26 million m2 of building surfaces or 1.3–1.7 million m2 annually, of which slightly more than a third is in the standard of almost zero-energy buildings, and in accordance with the DSEPS, ensure a reduction of GHG emissions in buildings by at least 70% by 2030 compared to 2005. Slovenia will be able to achieve the aforementioned by significantly improving energy efficiency and increasing the use of RES in buildings. As part of the pursuit of the goal of improving energy efficiency, special emphasis will be put on the economy. To attain the stated objectives in the area of ​​promoting energy efficiency and the requirements of European directives, investments will be aimed at:   * *Measures of the energy renovation of buildings (including public) with consideration of sustainable construction and advanced management of systems in and on buildings (including public)*: investments in the energy renovation of buildings will be carried out in accordance with the DSEPS; support will also be aimed at measures to improve energy management. When implementing the measures, the mitigating measures and guidelines for environmental protection from the NECP, and suitably adapted mitigating measures in the field of cultural heritage buildings will be taken into account. Within the RRP, the primary focus was on the renovation and upgrading of individual building systems in the buildings that are most at risk for the spread of the virus during the COVID-19 epidemic, as they perform emergency administrative and other socially important functions to support the smooth work of the state administration and the provision of essential services for residents. In addition to energy renovation, other forms of renovation were planned to a lesser extent, e.g. seismic retrofitting. Funding from the ECP will address the remaining buildings not included in the RRP, but which require urgent renovation due to their poor energy efficiency. The measures will contribute to Slovenia’s target to improve energy efficiency by 2030 by at least 35%, i.e. with the systematic implementation of adopted policies and measures, the final energy use will not exceed 54.9 TWh (4,717 ktoe) by 2030. Within the framework of the proposed measures, special attention will be paid to the successful integration of the principles of sustainability, aesthetics and inclusion in line with the New European Bauhaus initiative. In accordance with the aforementioned, the following sub-measures are foreseen in this field:   + Comprehensive energy renovation of public sector buildings: The long-term objective regarding public sector buildings is the energy renovation of the largest possible total floor area. In the narrower public sector (hereafter: NPS), the objective is 3% of the total floor area, where the minimum energy efficiency requirements are met in accordance with national legislation. The DSEPS 2050 foresees the energy renovation of NPS buildings based on the calculation of the total floor area of ​​buildings owned and used by NPS persons, which have a total usable floor area of ​​more than 250 m² and which, on January 1 of each year, do not meet the national minimum energy efficiency requirements specified pursuant to Article 4 of Directive 2010/31/EU on the energy performance of buildings. This measure foresees the implementation of the energy renovation of buildings owned and used by the narrower and wider public sector, including buildings of special importance (police, military (dual-purpose facilities intended not only for military personnel, but also for civilians), prisons, courts, infrastructure in the field of protection and rescue), and buildings owned and used by municipalities intended for activities in the public interest (e.g. educational institutions, nursing homes (whereby the funds will be used to increase quality, while not increasing the accommodation capacity), libraries, gyms, etc.). Special treatment will be given to buildings with specific characteristics based on building typology, purpose or changes resulting from energy renovation. Considering the clearly identified advantages of energy performance contracting, particularly in relation to the attainment of objectives related to the provision of energy savings and the effectiveness of resource consumption, projects will be guided towards the implementation of procedures in accordance with various implementation models of energy performance contracting. At the same time, the CF funds will also be used to encourage the preparation of projects for the energy renovation of public buildings to promote the renovation of public sector buildings, shorten the time for document drafting and promote the implementation of further measures related to energy renovation.   + Comprehensive energy renovation of buildings of the private service sector: Measures are planned for buildings of the private service sector, such as shops, office buildings, hospitality buildings, privately owned hotels, etc. According to the NECP and the DSEPS 2050, these buildings constitute a great technical potential for comprehensive energy renovation. Energy efficiency (hereafter: EE) and the use of RES enable small and medium-sized companies to reduce energy costs, thus improving business operations. Due to their limited size, these companies usually do not have enough staff and knowledge, and do not recognise the opportunities brought by EE and RES measures. Despite the fact that limited public funds are already available for this purpose (Eco Fund funds, energy supplier programmes), the potential identified by the DSEPS 2050 is great; therefore, a special measure should be devised for this target group of buildings to accelerate and help to remove obstacles to increase the share of private service sector renovation. Within these funds, more incentives may be focused on different building typologies to promote more projects, e.g. hotels, hospitality establishments of historical importance with technological or construction peculiarities, with the aim of promoting certain specific types of private sector buildings in view of the great potential for renovation, where their potential would be recognised and appropriate financial incentives developed for them. This measure is also intended to stimulate the provision of service packages aimed at this target group.   + Promoting the energy renovation of private multi-dwelling buildings: The planned scope of the required energy renovation of multi-dwelling buildings between 2021 and 2030 covers almost all buildings, including buildings where the identified obstacles and problems (dispersed ownership in multi-dwelling buildings, demographic structure of owners, energy poverty, sharing incentives between owners and tenants, lack of owners’ motivation, the urgency of a complete renovation) are striking and it is therefore difficult to expect that the energy renovation will take place without external support. So far, these buildings have not been subject to energy renovation. Therefore, one of the measures is to also upgrade the energy office activities in the field of multi-dwelling buildings within the framework of the Eco Fund, which will provide technical assistance, the identification of potential individual and group energy renovation projects for multi-dwelling buildings, the preparation of energy renovation projects, the implementation of extended energy inspections and the production of energy certificates for buildings, the assessment of renovation potentials, the collection of information on consents and structural problems of building ownership, etc. To promote energy renovation and eliminate obstacles in private multi-dwelling buildings, several pilot demonstration projects will be supported, which will also address other problems of comprehensive renovation, which arise during energy renovation (e.g. almost zero-energy renovation of a multi-dwelling building, comprehensive seismic and/or fire retrofitting with energy renovation of a multi-dwelling building, zero-emission renovation of a multi-dwelling building, energy renovation of a multi-dwelling building with increased energy poverty due to dispersed ownership). * *Measures to raise awareness of socially vulnerable groups and facilitate their access to grants and reduce energy poverty*: The measures aim to reduce energy poverty and improve the health and quality of life of people affected by energy poverty. An upgrade of the instrument for EE in households for vulnerable population groups is planned. In the 2014–2020 financial framework, EUR 5 million was allocated to reducing energy poverty by subsidising EE measures. The experience based on the measures implemented between 2014 and 2020 will primarily help to identify the relevant most vulnerable stakeholders and formulate suitable justified energy efficiency costs. Major challenges appeared in communication with the recipients or beneficiaries of these measures, as they are largely illiterate people who have major problems just preparing the application. Measures in this field will therefore be aimed at investments and guidance, and measures to change behavioural habits. Guidance and other implementation assistance will be aimed at eliminating the obstacles faced by this target group (access to information, skills to implement measures, etc.) and will rely as much as possible on experience in providing assistance to this target group in other fields.   To develop the existing, and promote the creation of, new contractors in energy performance contracting or energy service companies (ESCO SMEs), a creation of a pilot financial instrument product to strengthen ESCO SMEs is foreseen, for example by providing guarantees (through guarantee schemes) and/or by strengthening the capital of ESCO SMEs through (virtual) equity financing and/or the issue of green bonds and other potential products.  To formulate the final content of the measures, and the criteria for their selection and implementation, the relevant mitigation measures and, to the greatest extent possible, the relevant recommendations in accordance with the strategic environmental assessment, which are listed in the annex Mitigation Measures and Recommendations, will be taken into account. None of the measures foreseen under this SO has a significant adverse impact on any of the six environmental objectives, taking into account the technical screening criteria set out in annex DNSH. |

Main target groups:

|  |
| --- |
| Target groups: enterprises, public sector, local communities, households, low-income households, contractual saving providers.  Beneficiaries: enterprises, state administration, public sector, local communities, non-governmental organisations (priority will be given to organisations that have access to people with low income), cooperatives (e.g. housing), chambers. |

Measures to protect equality, inclusion and non-discrimination:

|  |
| --- |
| When planning, implementing and monitoring measures, the principles of gender equality, equal opportunities and non-discrimination will be respected in accordance with national legislation (Equal Opportunities for Women and Men Act, Protection Against Discrimination Act, Equalisation of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities Act), the EU legal order, in particular the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU, the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and the principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights, and relevant international documents for the protection of human rights, in particular the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Within the framework of the ECP 2021–2027 Programme, equal opportunities and the fight against discrimination based on various personal circumstances (e.g. gender, age, disability, race, ethnic origin, nationality and religion, sexual orientation) will be provided horizontally and vertically, as much as possible. This will also take into account the Procedural rules for providing the horizontal enabling condition “Effective application and implementation of the Charter of Fundamental Rights” and the Action Programme for Persons with Disabilities 2022–2030, and other relevant documents that will be created as part of implementation. If necessary, administrative capacity training will be provided to implement the principles of equal opportunities and non-discrimination. This principle will also be taken into account within the framework of the management and control system. The Monitoring Committee will be notified of any identified discrepancies at least once a year.  During the implementation of structural measures, the facilities will also meet technical requirements with which they are adapted to be non-discriminatory against all forms of temporary or permanent disability and are adapted to vulnerable population groups. The measure to raise awareness of socially vulnerable groups and facilitate their access to grants, and reduce energy poverty is, by its content, aimed at reducing social poverty and the social inclusion of the most vulnerable groups. |

Indication of the specific territories targeted, including the planned use of territorial tools:

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| --- |
| Under this specific objective, the use of territorial tools is not foreseen. |

The interregional, cross-border and transnational actions:

|  |
| --- |
| The implementation of interregional, cross-border and transnational actions is not planned within the stated specific objective, as these are measures to promote energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions primarily intended for target groups in the territory of Slovenia. |

Planned use of financial instruments:

|  |
| --- |
| The preliminary assessment of market needs and financing gaps in the market for the implementation of financial instruments in the 2021–2027 programming period (July 2022) determined that the gap in attaining the objectives of the NECP and other key strategic documents in the field of investments in energy efficiency is sufficient to make the use of financial instruments (hereinafter: FI) sensible. The use of FI is foreseen in the energy renovation of buildings of the private service sector.  For the public sector, the 2014–20 period showed that, for many reasons identified in the analysis by the fund of funds, the implementation was not sufficiently successful, therefore, grants will be used. For the rest of the private sector (private individuals and enterprises), grants from EU funds will be supplemented by support from FI created from national funds. |

##### Indicators

Table 2: Output indicators

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority | Specific objective | Fund | Category of region | ID | Indicators | Measurement unit | Milestone (2014) | Target (2029) |
| 3 | RSO2.1 | ERDF | Less developed | RCO18 | Dwellings with improved energy performance | Dwellings | 0 | 352 |
| 3 | RSO2.1 | ERDF | More developed | RCO18 | Dwellings with improved energy performance | Dwellings | 0 | 152 |
| 3 | RSO2.1 | CF | Entire Slovenia | RCO19 | Public buildings with improved energy performance | Square metres | 0 | 211,810 |
| 3 | RSO2.1 | ERDF | Less developed | 2 | Private buildings with improved energy performance | Total renovated net floor area of ​​buildings (m2) | 0 | 75,757 |
| 3 | RSO2.1 | ERDF | More developed | 2 | Private buildings with improved energy performance | Total renovated net floor area of ​​buildings (m2) | 0 | 18,939 |

Table 3: Result indicators

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority | Specific objective | Fund | Category of region | ID | Indicator | Measurement unit | Baseline or reference value | Reference year | Target (2029) | Source of data | Comments |
| 3 | RSO2.1 | CF | Entire Slovenia | RCR26 | Annual primary energy consumption (of which:  dwellings, public buildings, enterprises, other) | MWh/year | 57,659 | 2020 | 38,563 | MZI, ministries |  |
| 3 | RSO2.1 | ERDF | Less developed | RCR26 | Annual primary energy consumption (of which: dwellings, public buildings, enterprises, other) | MWh/year | 13,443 | 2020 | 8,991 | MZI, ministries |  |
| 3 | RSO2.1 | ERDF | More developed | RCR26 | Annual primary energy consumption (of which: dwellings, public buildings, enterprises, other) | MWh/year | 3,361 | 2020 | 2,248 | MZI, ministries |  |
| 3 | RSO2.1 | CF | Entire Slovenia | 19 | Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in public buildings | Tonnes CO2 eq./year | 376,812 | 2020 | 373,038 | MZI, ministries |  |
| 3 | RSO2.1 | ERDF | Less developed | RCR29 | Estimated greenhouse gas emissions | Tonnes CO2 eq./year | 332,097 | 2020 | 331,217 | MZI, ministries |  |
| 3 | RSO2.1 | ERDF | More developed | RCR29 | Estimated greenhouse gas emissions | Tonnes CO2 eq./year | 83,024 | 2020 | 82,804 | MZI, ministries |  |

##### Indicative breakdown of the programme resources (EU) by type of intervention

Table 4: Dimension 1 – intervention field

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority no. | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |
| 3 | ERDF | Less developed | RSO2.1 | 040 | 12,000,000 |
| 3 | ERDF | More developed | RSO2.1 | 040 | 3,000,000 |
| 3 | ERDF | Less developed | RSO2.1 | 041 | 20,539,537 |
| 3 | ERDF | More developed | RSO2.1 | 041 | 7,675,896 |
| 3 | CF | Entire Slovenia | RSO2.1 | 045 | 59,470,000 |

Table 5: Dimension 2 – form of financing

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority no. | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |
| 3 | CF | Entire Slovenia | RSO2.1 | 01 | 59,470,000 |
| 3 | ERDF | Less developed | RSO2.1 | 01 | 20,539,537 |
| 3 | ERDF | More developed | RSO2.1 | 01 | 7,675,896 |
| 3 | ERDF | Less developed | RSO2.1 | 03 | 8,000,000 |
| 3 | ERDF | More developed | RSO2.1 | 03 | 2,000,000 |
| 3 | ERDF | Less developed | RSO2.1 | 05 | 4,000,000 |
| 3 | ERDF | More developed | RSO2.1 | 05 | 1,000,000 |

Table 6: Dimension 3 – territorial delivery mechanism and territorial focus

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority no. | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |
| 3 | CF | Entire Slovenia | RSO2.1 | 33 | 59,470,000 |
| 3 | ERDF | Less developed | RSO2.1 | 33 | 32,539,537 |
| 3 | ERDF | More developed | RSO2.1 | 33 | 10,675,896 |

Table 7: Dimension 6 – ESF+ secondary themes

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority no. | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |

Table 8: Dimension 7 – ESF+\*, ERDF, Cohesion Fund and JTF gender equality dimension

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority no. | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |
| 3 | CF | Entire Slovenia | RSO2.1 | 03 | 59,470,000 |
| 3 | ERDF | Less developed | RSO2.1 | 03 | 32,539,537 |
| 3 | ERDF | More developed | RSO2.1 | 03 | 10,675,896 |

**\*** In principle, 40% for the ESF+ contributes to gender tracking. 100% is applicable when Member State chooses to use Article 6 ESF+ Regulation as well as programme specific actions in gender equality.

#### Specific objective RSO2.2. Promoting renewable energy in accordance with Renewable Energy Directive (EU) 2018/2001, including the sustainability criteria set out therein (ERDF) (Cohesion Fund)

##### Interventions of the Funds

Related types of actions:

|  |
| --- |
| To attain the objectives of the SDS 2030 and the NECP, Slovenia must promote investments in the use of RES. In accordance with Directive (EU) 2018/2001 on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources, including the sustainability criteria, promoting energy generation from RES is one of the key steps towards a climate-neutral Slovenia by 2050; therefore, investments in the following key measures will be accelerated under this specific objective:   * *Increasing electricity generation from RES*, i.e.:   + The potential of electricity generation from wind farms is estimated to be at least 415 MW. Regardless of the obstacles accompanying the installation of wind farms, Slovenia will also invest in the field of wind farm use. If the need is demonstrated, the measure will also finance prerequisites for the implementation of RES investments in wind farms, which mainly includes the analyses and financing of other system solutions for a more optimal introduction of wind farms, and the financing of expert bases and the monitoring of environmental factors (qualifying) of species and habitat types, noise assessment of buildings with protected spaces by modelling the propagation of noise in the infrasound and audible spectrum (including low frequencies) in view of the local terrain dynamic and the peculiarities of meteorological factors).   + Electricity generation in solar power plants constitutes the greatest development and environmentally acceptable potential for increasing electricity generation from RES in Slovenia. From the aspect of sustainable use of space, future development will be primarily focused on the integration of SPP in buildings where the technical potential of electricity generation based on available surfaces is estimated at more than 20 TWh. Due to the geographical location and climate features of Slovenia, the potential for electricity generation in solar power plants is not defined geographically, but on the basis of the available building characteristics and their connection with the energy infrastructure. The greatest potential is thus defined near urban centres (includes self-sufficiency in households). In addition, the installation of medium-sized and large solar power plants in urban centres in industrial locations and degraded areas is encouraged.   In both sub-measures, the use of DC transmission network technologies will be promoted in cases of connection of great power and their economic justification.  Investments in wind farms and solar power plants will be directed at fields recognised as potentially interesting and environmentally acceptable by the authors of the study “Facilitating Renewable Energy Deployment In Electricity Sector Of Slovenia” (Request For Service REFORM/SC2021/091[[143]](#footnote-143)). Potential recommendations of this study will also be taken into account and a public consultation will be held when siting them. Stakeholders will be encouraged to monitor the impact on nature, particularly the impact of wind farms on birds, with the aim of collecting important scientific data.   * *Promoting new remote renewable energy systems (heating and cooling)*: the continuation of existing instruments for promoting the development of district heating and cooling systems based on RES and excess heat is foreseen. Financial incentives are planned for the construction of new sustainable district heating systems which will be efficient and competitive. In this regard, it will be important to promote the cogeneration of heat and electricity in district heating systems and to connect sectors (energy storage, “power2heat”, etc.).   Slovenia, where forests and wood constitute exceptional development potential, wants to further strengthen the forest-wood value chain. The energy use of waste wood biomass[[144]](#footnote-144) produced in industrial processes and/or forest rehabilitation also plays an important role. Introducing advanced technological solutions to build new district heating and cooling systems is therefore an important path towards better competitiveness of the wood processing chain, a good state of the forest and the attainment of RES objectives. Therefore, this measure will support the introduction of the most advanced technological solutions for the use of (waste) biomass, in which the generation of electricity and thermal energy can be combined, and which are designed to contribute to better air quality. When using biomass, the sustainability criteria as prescribed by the EU Directive on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources and, where relevant, the cascading principle of biomass use are taken into account. The support will also/largely be aimed at the establishment of larger high-efficiency systems, even at the expense of a better utilisation of excess heat.  While the ECP funds will be intended to build new district heating systems, the RRP funds will be used to promote the restructuring of the existing systems to a greater share of RES. Therefore, double financing from both sources will not be possible. Delimitation will be determined at the level of individual public tenders or individual projects.  To formulate the final content of the measures, and the criteria for their selection and implementation, the relevant mitigation measures and, to the greatest extent possible, the relevant recommendations in accordance with the strategic environmental assessment, which are listed in the annex Mitigation Measures and Recommendations, will be taken into account. None of the measures foreseen under this SO has a significant adverse impact on any of the six environmental objectives, taking into account the technical screening criteria set out in annex DNSH. |

Main target groups:

|  |
| --- |
| Target groups: enterprises, public sector, local communities, cooperatives, institutions.  Beneficiaries: enterprises, public sector, local communities, institutions, cooperatives, chambers. |

Measures to protect equality, inclusion and non-discrimination:

|  |
| --- |
| When planning, implementing and monitoring measures, the principles of gender equality, equal opportunities and non-discrimination will be respected in accordance with national legislation (Equal Opportunities for Women and Men Act, Protection Against Discrimination Act, Equalisation of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities Act), the EU legal order, in particular the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU, the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and the principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights, and relevant international documents for the protection of human rights, in particular the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Within the framework of the ECP 2021–2027 Programme, equal opportunities and the fight against discrimination based on various personal circumstances (e.g. gender, age, disability, race, ethnic origin, nationality and religion, sexual orientation) will be provided horizontally and vertically, as much as possible. This will also take into account the Procedural rules for providing the horizontal enabling condition “Effective application and implementation of the Charter of Fundamental Rights” and the Action Programme for Persons with Disabilities 2022–2030, and other relevant documents that will be created as part of implementation. If necessary, administrative capacity training will be provided to implement the principles of equal opportunities and non-discrimination. This principle will also be taken into account within the framework of the management and control system. The Monitoring Committee will be notified of any identified discrepancies at least once a year. |

Indication of the specific territories targeted, including the planned use of territorial tools:

|  |
| --- |
| Under this specific objective, the use of territorial tools is not foreseen. |

The interregional, cross-border and transnational actions:

|  |
| --- |
| Under this specific objective, the implementation of interregional, cross-border and transnational actions is not planned, as these are measures to promote energy from renewable sources primarily intended for target groups in the territory of Slovenia. |

Planned use of financial instruments:

|  |
| --- |
| The use of grants is foreseen. In accordance with the results of the analysis of the preliminary assessment of market needs and financing gaps in the market for the implementation of financial instruments in the 2021–2027 programming period (July 2022), the use of financial instruments under this specific objective is not foreseen. When using grants, an appropriately reduced rate of co-financing will be determined, which will take into account savings during the economic life of an investment, or in accordance with state aid rules. |

##### Indicators

Table 2: Output indicators

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority | Specific objective | Fund | Category of region | ID | Indicators | Measurement unit | Milestone (2014) | Target (2029) |
| 3 | RSO2.2 | ERDF | Less developed | RCO22 | Additional production capacity for renewable energy (of which: electricity, thermal) | MW | 15 | 340 |
| 3 | RSO2.2 | ERDF | More developed | RCO22 | Additional production capacity for renewable energy (of which: electricity, thermal) | MW | 2 | 92 |
| 3 | RSO2.2 | CF | Entire Slovenia | RCO22 | Additional production capacity for renewable energy (of which: electricity, thermal) | MW | 0 | 55 |

Table 3: Result indicators

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority | Specific objective | Fund | Category of region | ID | Indicator | Measurement unit | Baseline or reference value | Reference year | Target (2029) | Source of data | Comments |
| 3 | RSO2.2 | ERDF | Less developed | RCR31 | Total renewable energy produced (of which: electricity, thermal) | MWh/year | 0 | 2021 | 340 | Ministries |  |
| 3 | RSO2.2 | ERDF | More developed | RCR31 | Total renewable energy produced (of which: electricity, thermal) | MWh/year | 0 | 2021 | 92 | Ministries |  |
| 3 | RSO2.2 | CF | Entire Slovenia | RCR31 | Total renewable energy produced (of which: electricity, thermal) | MWh/year | 0 | 2021 | 55 | Ministries |  |

##### Indicative breakdown of the programme resources (EU) by type of intervention

Table 4: Dimension 1 – intervention field

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority no. | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |
| 3 | ERDF | Less developed | RSO2.2 | 047 | 34,500,000 |
| 3 | ERDF | More developed | RSO2.2 | 047 | 6,500,000 |
| 3 | ERDF | Less developed | RSO2.2 | 048 | 32,682,343 |
| 3 | ERDF | More developed | RSO2.2 | 048 | 8,319,821 |
| 3 | ERDF | Less developed | RSO2.2 | 055 | 12,869,771 |
| 3 | ERDF | More developed | RSO2.2 | 055 | 6,351,792 |
| 3 | CF | Entire Slovenia | RSO2.2 | 055 | 13,433,041 |

Table 5: Dimension 2 – form of financing

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority no. | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |
| 3 | CF | Entire Slovenia | RSO2.2 | 01 | 13,433,041 |
| 3 | ERDF | Less developed | RSO2.2 | 01 | 80,052,114 |
| 3 | ERDF | More developed | RSO2.2 | 01 | 21,171,613 |

Table 6: Dimension 3 – territorial delivery mechanism and territorial focus

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority no. | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |
| 3 | CF | Entire Slovenia | RSO2.2 | 33 | 13,433,041 |
| 3 | ERDF | Less developed | RSO2.2 | 33 | 80,052,114 |
| 3 | ERDF | More developed | RSO2.2 | 33 | 21,171,613 |

Table 7: Dimension 6 – ESF+ secondary themes

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority no. | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |

Table 8: Dimension 7 – ESF+\*, ERDF, Cohesion Fund and JTF gender equality dimension

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority no. | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |
| 3 | CF | Entire Slovenia | RSO2.2 | 03 | 13,433,041 |
| 3 | ERDF | Less developed | RSO2.2 | 03 | 80,052,114 |
| 3 | ERDF | More developed | RSO2.2 | 03 | 21,171,613 |

**\*** In principle, 40% for the ESF+ contributes to gender tracking. 100% is applicable when Member State chooses to use Article 6 ESF+ Regulation as well as programme specific actions in gender equality.

#### Specific objective RSO2.3. Developing smart energy systems, grids and storage outside the Trans-European Energy Network (TEN-E)(ERDF) (Cohesion Fund)

##### Interventions of the Funds

Related types of actions:

|  |
| --- |
| Facilitating energy communities at the level of electricity distribution networks is an important step towards attaining binding objectives in the field of RES, which follows the European trends of transition to a low-carbon society. The NECP is based on the assumption that new energy technologies, particularly in the fields of EE, RES and local energy supply, will be crucial to successfully tackling climate change and must enable the attainment of objectives at costs that the economy can bear. The key is to invest in projects that will increase energy production from RES and support energy self-sufficiency, and in projects for the conversion of surplus electricity from RES and for connecting networks for the needs of energy storage during conversion.  Therefore, investments in the following key measures will be accelerate under this specific objective:   * *Investments in accelerating new energy communities, the conversion of surplus electricity from RES and for connecting networks for the needs of energy storage*: these measures are recognised as key challenges according to the NECP and without them, green transformation is not possible, i.e.:   + Promoting first energy communities in the field of the use of energy from RES in the local environment, which also facilitates extended self-sufficiency through the community and is essential for the transition to a low-carbon society. The measure will promote the creation of communities that rely on RES in the local environment, which will produce and supply energy, and may also provide aggregation or other commercial energy services. Participation in energy communities will be available to all end customers, including those in low income or vulnerable households. The measure also foresees technical and personnel support to establish a scheme to promote the development of local energy communities and other projects at the local level.   + Promoting investments and technologies for the conversion of surplus energy from RES and connecting networks for the needs of energy storage during conversion: the purpose is to support investments in the conversion of surplus electricity into another form of energy (e.g. heat) or energy products such as hydrogen, synthetic methane, biogas, etc. for own needs in energy-intensive industry and the sale of produced surpluses. As part of the measure, various options and technologies for storing and converting surplus electricity from RES will be supported. In this area, Slovenia has already identified key challenges within the NECP, where it noted that the gas and electricity sectors must be integrated. The sufficiency of supply in various seasons, the storage of surplus electricity from RES by integrating sectors and suitable resources will have to be provided. In accordance with the NECP, the measure is part of a comprehensive strategy for the energy system transformation and the development of individual sectors to attain energy and climate objectives.   Slovenia wishes to actively participate in the development of centralised and decentralised solutions and support the implementation of as many energy storage facility projects as possible by 2030, including the installation of battery capacity and other storage facilities in the transmission and distribution network, thermal stores in district heating systems, and the use of pipeline systems for storing surplus electricity in the form of SNP/H2.  Investments will support the seasonal storage of renewable energy. Renewable gases will have to be stored even for short periods or compensation for shorter fluctuations in consumption within the day will have to be provided (within the storage capacity of the transmission pipeline, thermal stores, etc.), which are significantly more facilitated by the pipeline system and district heating systems than the electricity system. Energy conversion will optimise the construction of the electricity and pipeline networks, as the network that is most appropriate in the given conditions can be used for energy transmission. This will reduce the investment costs of the transition to a climate-neutral society. To achieve the largest possible share of RES in the gross final energy consumption by 2030, a sufficient amount of various energy storage facilities, suitable in terms of technology, size and storage time, connected to the transmission or distribution network is planned to be constructed in accordance with the NECP, which will facilitate the storage of as much energy as possible for daily electricity needs in the Slovenian electricity system.  Within the RRP, investments will be made in the modernisation of the low-voltage distribution network for the integration of scattered RES production sources in the form of the distribution network renovation and new transformer stations, and both will be prepared to be integrated into advanced networks. While the RRP includes the promotion of new large-scale electricity generation facilities from RES, primarily hydro- and geothermal power plants, and directs unused funds to the construction of solar power plants on public buildings, it is focused, within the framework of this programme, on supporting private investments in community self-sufficiency from RES and investments in the storage and conversion of surplus electricity from RES, thereby eliminating the risk of double financing.  To formulate the final content of the measures, and the criteria for their selection and implementation, the relevant mitigation measures and, to the greatest extent possible, the relevant recommendations in accordance with the strategic environmental assessment, which are listed in the annex Mitigation Measures and Recommendations, will be taken into account. The recommendations of the study “Facilitating Renewable Energy Deployment In Electricity Sector Of Slovenia« (Request For Service REFORM/SC2021/091)[[145]](#footnote-145) will be reasonably taken into account. None of the measures foreseen has a significant adverse impact on any of the six environmental objectives, taking into account the technical screening criteria listed in annex DNSH. |

Main target groups:

|  |
| --- |
| Target groups: enterprises, public sector, households, local communities, cooperatives, institutions.  Beneficiaries: enterprises, public sector, local communities, institutions, cooperatives. |

Measures to protect equality, inclusion and non-discrimination:

|  |
| --- |
| When planning, implementing and monitoring measures, the principles of gender equality, equal opportunities and non-discrimination will be respected in accordance with national legislation (Equal Opportunities for Women and Men Act, Protection Against Discrimination Act, Equalisation of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities Act), the EU legal order, in particular the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU, the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and the principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights, and relevant international documents for the protection of human rights, in particular the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Within the framework of the ECP 2021–2027 Programme, equal opportunities and the fight against discrimination based on various personal circumstances (e.g. gender, age, disability, race, ethnic origin, nationality and religion, sexual orientation) will be provided horizontally and vertically, as much as possible. This will also take into account the Procedural rules for providing the horizontal enabling condition “Effective application and implementation of the Charter of Fundamental Rights” and the Action Programme for Persons with Disabilities 2022–2030, and other relevant documents that will be created as part of implementation. If necessary, administrative capacity training will be provided to implement the principles of equal opportunities and non-discrimination. This principle will also be taken into account within the framework of the management and control system. The Monitoring Committee will be notified of any identified discrepancies at least once a year. |

Indication of the specific territories targeted, including the planned use of territorial tools:

|  |
| --- |
| Under this specific objective, the use of territorial tools is not foreseen. |

The interregional, cross-border and transnational actions:

|  |
| --- |
| Under this specific objective, the implementation of interregional, cross-border and transnational actions is not planned, as these are measures to promote energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions primarily intended for target groups in the territory of Slovenia. |

Planned use of financial instruments:

|  |
| --- |
| The use of grants is foreseen. In accordance with the results of the analysis of the preliminary assessment of market needs and financing gaps in the market for the implementation of financial instruments in the 2021–2027 programming period (July 2022), the use of financial instruments under this specific objective is not foreseen. When using grants, an appropriately reduced rate of co-financing will be determined, which will take into account savings/revenues during the economic life of an investment, or revenue in accordance with state aid rules. |

##### Indicators

Table 2: Output indicators

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority | Specific objective | Fund | Category of region | ID | Indicators | Measurement unit | Milestone (2014) | Target (2029) |
| 3 | RSO2.3 | ERDF | Less developed | RCO22 | Additional production capacity for renewable energy (of which: electricity, thermal) | MW | 0 | 24 |
| 3 | RSO2.3 | ERDF | More developed | RCO22 | Additional production capacity for renewable energy (of which: electricity, thermal) | MW | 0 | 6 |
| 3 | RSO2.3 | CF | Entire Slovenia | RCO22 | Additional production capacity for renewable energy (of which: electricity, thermal) | MW | 0 | 15 |
| 3 | RSO2.3 | ERDF | Less developed | RCO105 | Solutions for electricity storage | MWh | 0 | 2 |
| 3 | RSO2.3 | ERDF | More developed | RCO105 | Solutions for electricity storage | MWh | 0 | 1 |
| 3 | RSO2.3 | CF | Entire Slovenia | RCO105 | Solutions for electricity storage | MWh | 0 | 2 |

Table 3: Result indicators

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority | Specific objective | Fund | Category of region | ID | Indicator | Measurement unit | Baseline or reference value | Reference year | Target (2029) | Source of data | Comments |
| 3 | RSO2.3 | ERDF | Less developed | RCR34 | Roll-out of projects for smart energy systems | Projects | 0 | 2021 | 16 | Ministries |  |
| 3 | RSO2.3 | ERDF | More developed | RCR34 | Roll-out of projects for smart energy systems | Projects | 0 | 2021 | 4 | Ministries |  |
| 3 | RSO2.3 | CF | Entire Slovenia | RCR34 | Roll-out of projects for smart energy systems | Projects | 0 | 2021 | 11 | Ministries |  |

##### Indicative breakdown of the programme resources (EU) by type of intervention

Table 4: Dimension 1 – intervention field

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority no. | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |
| 3 | ERDF | Less developed | RSO2.3 | 053 | 33,002,978 |
| 3 | ERDF | More developed | RSO2.3 | 053 | 5,997,912 |
| 3 | CF | Entire Slovenia | RSO2.3 | 053 | 15,000,000 |

Table 5: Dimension 2 – form of financing

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority no. | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |
| 3 | ERDF | Less developed | RSO2.3 | 01 | 33,002,978 |
| 3 | ERDF | More developed | RSO2.3 | 01 | 5,997,912 |
| 3 | CF | Entire Slovenia | RSO2.3 | 01 | 15,000,000 |

Table 6: Dimension 3 – territorial delivery mechanism and territorial focus

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority no. | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |
| 3 | ERDF | Less developed | RSO2.3 | 33 | 33,002,978 |
| 3 | ERDF | More developed | RSO2.3 | 33 | 5,997,912 |
| 3 | CF | Entire Slovenia | RSO2.3 | 33 | 15,000,000 |

Table 7: Dimension 6 – ESF+ secondary themes

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority no. | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |

Table 8: Dimension 7 – ESF+\*, ERDF, Cohesion Fund and JTF gender equality dimension

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority no. | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |
| 3 | ERDF | Less developed | RSO2.3 | 03 | 33,002,978 |
| 3 | ERDF | More developed | RSO2.3 | 03 | 5,997,912 |
| 3 | CF | Entire Slovenia | RSO2.3 | 03 | 15,000,000 |

**\*** In principle, 40% for the ESF+ contributes to gender tracking. 100% is applicable when Member State chooses to use Article 6 ESF+ Regulation as well as programme specific actions in gender equality.

#### Specific objective RSO2.4. Promoting climate change adaptation and disaster risk prevention and resilience, taking into account eco-system based approaches (ERDF) (Cohesion Fund)

##### Interventions of the Funds

Related types of actions:

|  |
| --- |
| According to experts, the increasing trend towards climate-related natural disasters by frequency, intensity and the extent of the damage caused is expected to continue in Slovenia. Despite preventive actions, such disasters cannot be fully prevented or forecast; therefore, we must prepare well for them with suitable preventive structural and non-structural measures, enhance our preparedness, and respond promptly and adequately if a natural disaster strikes. We will focus on climate-related natural disasters that pose a significant risk[[146]](#footnote-146), i.e. floods, wildfires, glaze ice, and implement the following measures:   * *Reducing flood risk in areas of important impacts of floods, which show the highest level of preparedness for implementation*: 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, Slovenian addressed flood risk with the Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment (2011) and the Flood Risk Management Plan (July 2017) (hereinafter: FRMP) and the updated Flood Risk Management Plan that is being drafted. In 2019, Slovenia adopted the updated Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment[[147]](#footnote-147). In Slovenia, 86 areas of potential significant flood risk (hereinafter: APSFR) were recognised. Individual measures will be harmonised with the FRMP[[148]](#footnote-148) and planned with ecosystem approaches to take into account the simultaneous maintenance of good water status as much as possible. Similar to the 2014–2020 period, major measures (hydrotechnical, ecosystem and non-structural) will be implemented within the framework of the European Cohesion Policy, which will contribute the most to reducing the flood risk in APSFR and are of exceptional importance for Slovenia. These measures will be logically complemented by the implementation of minor measures within the framework of the RRP and national resources. The measures will take into account all the required mitigating measures to maintain good water status and protect the environment and flood risk areas by adjusting land use, taking into consideration the guidelines from the FRMP and the Water Management Plan. As part of non-structural measures, documentation will also be drafted to prepare projects to reduce flood risk with the associated bases and obtaining the right to build for their future construction-related implementation. When planning, the objectives of the NMP and the provisions derived from the management plans for protected areas or provisions from the acts of their insurance are taken into account during hydrological studies and analyses at a Natura 2000 site. Nature-based solutions are being sought within the framework of supported investments for structural flood protection measures, while part of the funds will be allocated to the implementation of ecosystem measures, particularly at Natura 2000 sites (watercourse renaturation, protection of flooding areas by adapting land use, etc.).   Based on the experience from the ECP 2007–2013 and 2014–2020, special attention will be paid to the preparedness of projects to ensure quality implementation without significant delays.  Depending on the funds available and the level of project preparedness, the ERDF funds in the 2021–2027 period will be used to support a project to reduce flood risk in the basin of:   * Savinja River: the continuation and completion of the project to ensure flood safety in the Savinja River basin, i.e. the completion of Phase I projects and the continuation of priority investments for the comprehensive flood protection regulation of the Savinja River basin with its tributaries. The scope of measures and their exact nature will be determined on the bases of the Comprehensive hydrological hydraulic study of the entire Savinja River basin, which will take into account the flood protection measures in the Savinja River basin implemented between 2007 and 2013. The project will be implemented in two sets:   - Set 1: non-structural part (designing and obtaining the right to build, obtaining a building permit and siting);  - Set 2: construction, whereby nature-based solutions will have priority.   * If the said project will not utilise all the available grants in the planned scope of the framework due to time constraints, these funds may be used to finance projects in the Drava River basin and other basins in APSFR, particularly those with the greatest risk of erosion in watercourses and where flood protection investments are ready to be implemented and are urgently needed as a priority and included in the FRMP.   Depending on the funds available and the level of project preparedness, the CF funds in the 2021–2027 period will be used to support a project to reduce flood risk in the basin of:   * Vipava River (in the area of the Vrtojbica Stream – anticipated implementation of Phase II of the project) and other basins, particularly those with the greatest risk of erosion in watercourses and where flood protection investments are ready to be implemented and are urgently needed as a priority and included in the FRMP. * *Upgrading the system for alerting to, and raising awareness of, weather emergencies and adapting to them in a changed climate*: The main objective of the measure is to upgrade and expand the operational system with new products (including a mobile app) to provide early information to residents on catastrophic weather events, and climate data and projections for long-term adaptation to changed climate conditions. The monitoring and forecasting of such events, alerting residents thereof, and providing adequate technical, infrastructural and other capacities for preparedness and response in extreme events are crucial. These capacities include updating online content for informing and alerting the public, extreme event risk assessments, upgrading measurement and information infrastructures for constant monitoring and forecasting of meteorological, hydrological and oceanographic conditions (19 renovated measuring sites, developing and upgrading tools for effective notifications and alerting, renovating the infrastructure of the radar centre on the Lisca Hill, installing a high-altitude climate observatory, etc.). The measure complements the other two measures under this specific objective, but also covers a field the other two do not. Notification of weather emergencies includes all climate-related extreme events, among which special attention is paid to floods. * *Measures to respond to climate-related natural disasters*: The objective of the measure is to provide conditions for an effective, prompt and safe response to climate-related natural disasters, which include suitable equipment, good training and infrastructure that supports the operation of units for response to such disasters. In accordance with the National Disaster Risk Assessment, version 2.0[[149]](#footnote-149), and past experiences, the measure will focus on floods, wildfires and glaze ice, which pose the highest risk, while, at the same time, the conditions to respond to them are insufficient. Specialised equipment and technical means for response to floods (up to five specialised vehicles), large wildfires (up to ten vehicles (road tankers) and ten specialised roll-off containers for extinguishing large wildfires, and other equipment and technical means for aerial firefighting and firefighting on inaccessible terrain and for the supply of fire extinguishing agents) and glaze ice (up to ten specialised vehicles (turntable ladders) and 40 specialised roll-off containers for glaze ice) will be provided, and a sub-centre for training for glaze ice by designing and implementing training programmes for up to 1,000 Slovenian and 100 foreign candidates will be established. Various disasters require different specialised equipment for response (e.g. road tankers for large fires and turntable ladders for glaze ice, which cannot be used for floods; there is also different specialised equipment used according to the type of disaster, such as water pumps for floods, chainsaws, aggregates for glaze ice, etc.), which will be deployed in areas where the risk of such disasters is the highest (in accordance with the National Disaster Risk Assessment, version 2.0). Suitable infrastructure will also be provided for which units that respond to glaze ice will be trained. The training infrastructure for glaze ice will be located in the area of ​​significant glaze ice risk (southern Slovenia), i.e. in the area that is most forested and where the consequences of such disasters (in terms of chain accidents and economic damage caused as a result of glaze ice) are the most devastating.   To formulate the final content of the measures, and the criteria for their selection and implementation, the relevant mitigation measures and, to the greatest extent possible, the relevant recommendations in accordance with the strategic environmental assessment, which are listed in the annex Mitigation Measures and Recommendations, will be taken into account. By its nature, none of the measures foreseen has a significant adverse impact on any of the six environmental objectives, taking into account the technical screening criteria listed in annex DNSH. |

Main target groups:

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| Target groups: residents and local communities.  Beneficiaries: Slovenian Environment Agency, Slovenian Water Agency, ministries, Administration for Civil Protection and Disaster Relief, protection, rescue and relief forces, local communities and potential other beneficiaries who may significantly contribute to attaining the objectives of this specific objective. |

Measures to protect equality, inclusion and non-discrimination:

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| --- |
| When planning, implementing and monitoring measures, the principles of gender equality, equal opportunities and non-discrimination will be respected in accordance with national legislation (Equal Opportunities for Women and Men Act, Protection Against Discrimination Act, Equalisation of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities Act), the EU legal order, in particular the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU, the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and the principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights, and relevant international documents for the protection of human rights, in particular the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Within the framework of the ECP 2021–2027 Programme, equal opportunities and the fight against discrimination based on various personal circumstances (e.g. gender, age, disability, race, ethnic origin, nationality and religion, sexual orientation) will be provided horizontally and vertically, as much as possible. This will also take into account the Procedural rules for providing the horizontal enabling condition “Effective application and implementation of the Charter of Fundamental Rights” and the Action Programme for Persons with Disabilities 2022–2030, and other relevant documents that will be created as part of implementation. If necessary, administrative capacity training will be provided to implement the principles of equal opportunities and non-discrimination. This principle will also be taken into account within the framework of the management and control system. The Monitoring Committee will be notified of any identified discrepancies at least once a year.  During the implementation of structural measures, the facilities will also meet technical requirements with which they are adapted to be non-discriminatory against all forms of temporary or permanent disability and are adapted to vulnerable population groups. |

Indication of the specific territories targeted, including the planned use of territorial tools:

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| --- |
| Under this specific objective, the use of territorial approaches is not foreseen. |

The interregional, cross-border and transnational actions:

|  |
| --- |
| The measures to reduce flood risk in areas of significant flood risk, which show the highest level of preparedness for implementation, will have the greatest impact on the area where the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR) is implemented, Priority Area 5 “Environmental risk management” and on Pillar 3 of the EU Strategy for the Adriatic-Ionian Region (EUSAIR) “Environmental quality”. The measure to upgrade the system for alerting to, and raising awareness of, weather emergencies and adapting to them in a changed climate will contribute to the implementation of all three macro-regional strategies, in which Slovenia participates, i.e. the EUSAIR, the EUSDR and the EU Strategy for the Alpine Region (EUSALP), as the measure is planned at the state level. Measures to respond to climate-related natural disasters are planned at the state level or the level of individual areas of significant climate-related natural disaster risk, which are geographically dispersed within all three macro-regions of which Slovenia is part. Measures related to providing specialised equipment for floods will have the greatest impact on the Danube macro-region, which corresponds to the activities within Priority Area 5 “Environmental risk management” of the EUSDR. The greatest positive impacts of measures to strengthen competence, preparedness and response to large wildfires and glaze ice are expected mainly in areas where the EUSAIR is implemented, and, to a certain extent, also in areas where the EUSALP is implemented (activities related to preparedness and response to glaze ice). The measure, or more specifically the glaze ice sub-centre where foreign units will also train, is expected to have cross-border effects. The foreseen cross-border or macro-regional effects of the measure correspond to the position of the working group at the EUSDR level and the position of DG REGIO on establishing training infrastructure. In parallel with the implementation of the measures from the ECP 2021-2027, bilateral activities will be carried out to prepare or upgrade cross-border protocols or plans for response to floods, large wildfires and glaze ice. |

Planned use of financial instruments:

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| --- |
| The use of grants is foreseen. In accordance with the results of the analysis of the preliminary assessment of market needs and financing gaps in the market for the implementation of financial instruments in the 2021–2027 programming period (July 2022), the use of financial instruments under this specific objective is not foreseen. The proposed measures do not generate revenues or savings, which was established on the basis of past experience in implementing comparable measures in the 2007–2013 and 2014–2020 financial frameworks, due to which the use of financial instruments is not sensible or appropriate. These are measures related to activities of institutions that are part of public administration and the protection, rescue and relief system, do not carry out commercial activities, and the funds for their operations are limited and provided from the state budget. |

##### Indicators

Table 2: Output indicators

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority | Specific objective | Fund | Category of region | ID | Indicators | Measurement unit | Milestone (2014) | Target (2029) |
| 3 | RSO2.4 | CF | Entire Slovenia | RCO24 | Investments in new or upgraded disaster monitoring, preparedness, warning and response systems against natural disasters | EUR | 1,300,000 | 13,500,000 |
| 3 | RSO2.4 | CF | Entire Slovenia | RCO25 | Coastal strip, river bank and lakeshore flood protection newly built or consolidated | Km | 0 | 2 |
| 3 | RSO2.4 | ERDF | Less developed | RCO25 | Coastal strip, river bank and lakeshore flood protection newly built or consolidated | Km | 0 | 3 |
| 3 | RSO2.4 | CF | Entire Slovenia | RCO26 | Green infrastructure built or upgraded for adaptation to climate change | Hectares | 0 | 126,690 |
| 3 | RSO2.4 | CF | Entire Slovenia | RCO28 | Area covered by protection measures against wildfires | Hectares | 0 | 108,827 |
| 3 | RSO2.4 | CF | Entire Slovenia | RCO121 | Area covered by protection measures against climate related natural disasters (other than floods and wildfire) | Hectares | 0 | 126,690 |
| 3 | RSO2.4 | CF | Entire Slovenia | 3 | Area covered by protection measures against floods | Hectares | 2,820 | 4,700 |

Table 3: Result indicators

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority | Specific objective | Fund | Category of region | ID | Indicator | Measurement unit | Baseline or reference value | Reference year | Target (2029) | Source of data | Comments |
| 3 | RSO2.4 | CF | Entire Slovenia | RCR35 | Population benefiting from flood protection measures | Persons | 0 | 2021 | 3,550 | Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment of the Republic of Slovenia |  |
| 3 | RSO2.4 | ERDF | Less developed | RCR35 | Population benefiting from flood protection measures | Persons | 0 | 2021 | 5,400 | Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment  of Republic of Slovenia |  |
| 3 | RSO2.4 | CF | Entire Slovenia | RCR36 | Population benefiting from wildfire protection measures | Persons | 0 | 2021 | 193,760 | National Disaster Risk Assessment (version 2.0) |  |
| 3 | RSO2.4 | CF | Entire Slovenia | RCR37 | Population benefiting from protection measures against climate related natural disasters (other than floods or wildfire) | Persons | 0 | 2021 | 44,797 | National Disaster Risk Assessment (version 2.0) | Residents who received protective measures against glaze ice and natural disasters |

##### Indicative breakdown of the programme resources (EU) by type of intervention

Table 4: Dimension 1 – intervention field

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority no. | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |
| 3 | CF | Entire Slovenia | RSO2.4 | 058 | 22,638,000 |
| 3 | ERDF | Less developed | RSO2.4 | 058 | 109,313,122 |
| 3 | CF | Entire Slovenia | RSO2.4 | 059 | 16,648,000 |
| 3 | CF | Entire Slovenia | RSO2.4 | 060 | 10,444,000 |

Table 5: Dimension 2 – form of financing

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority no. | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |
| 3 | CF | Entire Slovenia | RSO2.4 | 01 | 49,730,000 |
| 3 | ERDF | Less developed | RSO2.4 | 01 | 109,313,122 |

Table 6: Dimension 3 – territorial delivery mechanism and territorial focus

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority no. | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |
| 3 | CF | Entire Slovenia | RSO2.4 | 33 | 49,730,000 |
| 3 | ERDF | Less developed | RSO2.4 | 33 | 109,313,122 |

Table 7: Dimension 6 – ESF+ secondary themes

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority no. | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |

Table 8: Dimension 7 – ESF+\*, ERDF, Cohesion Fund and JTF gender equality dimension

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority no. | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |
| 3 | CF | Entire Slovenia | RSO2.4 | 03 | 49,730,000 |
| 3 | ERDF | Less developed | RSO2.4 | 03 | 109,313,122 |

**\*** In principle, 40% for the ESF+ contributes to gender tracking. 100% is applicable when Member State chooses to use Article 6 ESF+ Regulation as well as programme specific actions in gender equality.

#### Specific objective RSO2.5. Promoting access to water and sustainable water management (ERDF) (Cohesion Fund)

##### Interventions of the Funds

Related types of actions:

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| --- |
| In the field of ​​access to water and sustainable water management, the objective is to improve the quality of public services in the field of drinking water supply, and the discharge and treatment of waste water, and meet the requirements of European directives; therefore, we will prioritise the construction of the missing waste water discharge and treatment infrastructure, and of a suitable drinking water supply infrastructure. The planned measures include:   * *Eliminating inconsistencies in agglomerations with a total load equal to, or greater than, 2,000 PE* in accordance with the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC) for the field of waste water discharge and treatment: Agglomerations that do not meet the requirements of the said directive are to be equipped in accordance with the Operational Programme for the discharge and treatment of municipal waste water adopted by the Government on 17 September 2020[[150]](#footnote-150). The Operational Programme applies to the entire territory of the Republic of Slovenia and is one of the key implementing acts for attaining objectives in the field of water protection against pollution by the discharge of urban waste water. As part of the measure, the 2021–2027 European Cohesion Policy funds will be allocated to the construction and renovation of the missing infrastructure for the discharge and treatment of urban waste water in agglomerations with a total load equal to, or greater than, 2,000 PE. Further investments will be made from the 2014–2020 European Cohesion Policy and the needs of local communities will be taken into account as the measures will be implemented with the regional development approach. The measures will complement the measures within the RRP, whereby the financing scheme will be primarily aimed at providing funds for equipping agglomerations whose total load is less than 2,000 PE and which were not entitled to co-financing from cohesion funds; nevertheless, in the national legislation in accordance with the Decree on the discharge and treatment of urban wastewater and the Operational Programme for the discharge and treatment of municipal waste water, they constitute a significant part of the public service infrastructure intended for the provision of discharge and treatment services and are prescribed to be equipped with public sewage.      * *Promoting sustainable water management by regulating water supply systems for over 10,000 inhabitants*: Funds will be allocated to address the key areas of drinking water supply identified within the Operational Programme for drinking water supply for the 2022–2027 period. Due to unsecured backup drinking water reservoirs and certain drinking water reservoirs for the systems of public water supply, their provision will be addressed where the problem is most pressing, particularly in the area of ​​Slovenian Istria and the outskirts of the Karst. Due to lack of backup drinking water reservoirs and certain drinking water reservoirs for the systems of public water supply, the drinking water supply is unreliable, which is exhibited in insufficient quantities, poor quality and health inadequacy of drinking water, and as high deviations in the demand for drinking water of more than 30% during drought and seasonal fluctuations. In addition, the focus will be on solving the problem of water losses and the age of water supply systems. The systematic renovation of pipelines is crucial for reducing water losses, which, due to the age and inadequacy of the materials, require the costly elimination of defects, repairs and renovation of the infrastructure. Throughout the country, measures (within the ECP Programme or complementary) will be promoted to reduce the consumption of drinking water using various approaches, such as the use of economical and efficient devices, the capture and use of rain and waste water, and the reuse of grey water, with the aim of using water more efficiently. As part of the RRP, the financing scheme will be primarily intended to providing funds for investments in water supply systems which provide water to less than 10,000 residents.   To formulate the final content of the measures, and the criteria for their selection and implementation, the relevant mitigation measures and, to the greatest extent possible, the relevant recommendations in accordance with the strategic environmental assessment, which are listed in the annex Mitigation Measures and Recommendations, will be taken into account. By its nature, none of the measures foreseen under this specific objective has a significant adverse impact on any of the six environmental objectives, taking into account the technical screening criteria listed in annex DNSH. |

Main target groups:

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| --- |
| Target groups: end users of services (residents).  Beneficiaries: local communities, environmental protection public utilities, ministries, public institutes in the field of environment and water management. |

Measures to protect equality, inclusion and non-discrimination:

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| --- |
| When planning, implementing and monitoring measures, the principles of gender equality, equal opportunities and non-discrimination will be respected in accordance with national legislation (Equal Opportunities for Women and Men Act, Protection Against Discrimination Act, Equalisation of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities Act), the EU legal order, in particular the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU, the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and the principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights, and relevant international documents for the protection of human rights, in particular the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Within the framework of the ECP 2021–2027 Programme, equal opportunities and the fight against discrimination based on various personal circumstances (e.g. gender, age, disability, race, ethnic origin, nationality and religion, sexual orientation) will be provided horizontally and vertically, as much as possible. This will also take into account the Procedural rules for providing the horizontal enabling condition “Effective application and implementation of the Charter of Fundamental Rights” and the Action Programme for Persons with Disabilities 2022–2030, and other relevant documents that will be created as part of implementation. If necessary, administrative capacity training will be provided to implement the principles of equal opportunities and non-discrimination. This principle will also be taken into account within the framework of the management and control system. The Monitoring Committee will be notified of any identified discrepancies at least once a year.  During the implementation of structural measures, the facilities will also meet technical requirements with which they are adapted to be non-discriminatory against all forms of temporary or permanent disability and are adapted to vulnerable population groups. |

Indication of the specific territories targeted, including the planned use of territorial tools:

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| --- |
| Under this specific objective, addressing the regional development approach in accordance with territorial strategies (RDP) is planned for measures in the fields of waste water discharge and treatment and drinking water supply. In the first phase, the selection of operations includes decision-makers and representatives of the regions (within the councils of the regions). |

The interregional, cross-border and transnational actions:

|  |
| --- |
| The measures will contribute to the implementation of all three macro-regional strategies in which Slovenia participates, i.e. to the attainment of the objectives of Priority Area 4 “Restoring and preserving water quality” within Pillar 2 of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR), the “Reinforcing Alpine natural and cultural resources as assets of a high quality living area” Priority as part of the third objective “Ensuring sustainability in the Alps: preserving the Alpine heritage and promoting a sustainable use of natural and cultural resources” of the EU Strategy for the Alpine Region (EUSALP) and Pillar 3 of the EU Strategy for the Adriatic-Ionian Region (EUSAIR) “Environmental quality”. The implementation of interregional, cross-border and transnational actions under this specific objective is not foreseen, as it concerns measures of investment in public infrastructure systems in the territory of the Republic of Slovenia, which are primarily intended for the residents of Slovenia. |

Planned use of financial instruments:

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| --- |
| In accordance with the results of the analysis of the preliminary assessment of market needs and financing gaps in the market for the implementation of financial instruments in the 2021–2027 programming period (July 2022), the use of financial instruments under this specific objective is not foreseen. Despite the fact that the planned measures generate revenue, the use of grants is foreseen, since the revenues do not suffice to cover the estimated investment inputs of local communities required to upgrade the public service infrastructure and equip the areas. |

##### Indicators

Table 2: Impact indicators

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority | Specific objective | Fund | Category of region | ID | Indicators | Measurement unit | Milestone (2014) | Target (2029) |
| 3 | RSO2.5 | CF | Entire Slovenia | RCO30 | Length of new or upgraded pipes for the distribution systems of public water supply | Km | 0 | 50 |
| 3 | RSO2.5 | ERDF | More developed | RCO31 | Length of new or upgraded pipes for the public network for collection of waste water | Km | 0 | 84 |
| 3 | RSO2.5 | CF | Entire Slovenia | RCO31 | Length of new or upgraded pipes for the public network for collection of waste water | Km | 0 | 154 |
| 3 | RSO2.5 | ERDF | More developed | RCO32 | New or upgraded capacity for waste water treatment | Population equivalent | 0 | 17,156 |
| 3 | RSO2.5 | CF | Entire Slovenia | RCO32 | New or upgraded capacity for waste water treatment | Population equivalent | 0 | 34,361 |

Table 3: Result indicators

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority | Specific objective | Fund | Category of region | ID | Indicator | Measurement unit | Baseline or reference value | Reference year | Target (2029) | Source of data | Notes |
| 3 | RSO2.5 | CF | Entire Slovenia | RCR41 | Population connected to improved public water supply | Persons | 0 | 2019 | 90,016 | Project documentation for project |  |
| 3 | RSO2.5 | ERDF | More developed | RCR42 | Population connected to at least secondary public waste water treatment | Persons | 0 | 2018 | 15,961 | OP for urban waste water discharge and treatment |  |
| 3 | RSO2.5 | CF | Entire Slovenia | RCR42 | Population connected to at least secondary public waste water treatment | Persons | 0 | 2018 | 29,332 | OP for urban waste water discharge and treatment |  |

##### Indicative breakdown of the programme resources (EU) by type of intervention

Table 4: Dimension 1 – intervention field

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority no. | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |
| 3 | CF | Entire Slovenia | RSO2.5 | 062 | 78,430,000 |
| 3 | CF | Entire Slovenia | RSO2.5 | 066 | 76,920,000 |
| 3 | ERDF | More developed | RSO2.5 | 066 | 13,306,048 |

Table 5: Dimension 2 – form of financing

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority no. | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |
| 3 | ERDF | More developed | RSO2.5 | 01 | 13,306,048 |
| 3 | CF | Entire Slovenia | RSO2.5 | 01 | 155,350,000 |

Table 6: Dimension 3 – territorial delivery mechanism and territorial focus

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority no. | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |
| 3 | ERDF | More developed | RSO2.5 | 24 | 13,306,048 |
| 3 | CF | Entire Slovenia | RSO2.5 | 24 | 76,920,000 |
| 3 | CF | Entire Slovenia | RSO2.5 | 33 | 78,430,000 |

Table 7: Dimension 6 – ESF+ secondary themes

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority no. | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |

Table 8: Dimension 7 – ESF+\*, ERDF, Cohesion Fund and JTF gender equality dimension

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority no. | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |
| 3 | ERDF | More developed | RSO2.5 | 03 | 13,306,048 |
| 3 | CF | Entire Slovenia | RSO2.5 | 03 | 155,350,000 |

**\*** In principle, 40% for the ESF+ contributes to gender tracking. 100% is applicable when Member State chooses to use Article 6 ESF+ Regulation as well as programme specific actions in gender equality.

#### Specific objective RSO2.6. Promoting the transition to a circular and resource efficient economy (ERDF)

##### Interventions of the Funds

Related types of actions:

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| --- |
| The transition to a low-carbon circular economy is one of the key objectives of the SDS 2030 and other strategic documents of Slovenia, including the Smart Specialisation Strategy. Therefore, a comprehensive strategic project for the decarbonisation of Slovenia through the transition to a circular economy was drafted in cooperation with the European institutions EIT and JRC. As part of the said project, various programmes have been defined that relate to the promotion of circular start-ups, circular innovations in enterprises and the strengthening of five value chains that are crucial from the aspect of the transition to a circular economy (processing industry, forestry-wood chain (processing of wood and other naturally renewable resources), mobility, food, built environment). In its starting point, the project is designed to aim at interconnecting areas, as it is intended to find systemic solutions. Therefore, portfolios that will simultaneously support activities in various fields will be designed during its implementation. For the transition to a circular economy, the funds from PO 1 will be primarily used to support research and development, while the funds from PO 2 will be used for the use of new approaches in enterprises and the raising of the competence of the support environment in the field of ​​the transition to a low-carbon circular economy. In addition, the measures will be complemented by measures in the field of LLL and education. By implementing these programmes and measures, we will contribute to more efficient use of resources and better material productivity. The measures under this specific objective will therefore be complementary to the measures of the RRP.  The support will be aimed at establishing the conditions for the transition to a low-carbon circular economy, particularly through the introduction of low-carbon and circular business models, which can be supported by the introduction of digital technologies, which will help enterprises to effortlessly defy the challenges and pressures on the competitiveness of their business, which are the result of the rising prices of raw materials and energy products. When implementing the measure, priority will be given to supporting those solutions that will contribute the most to increasing added value and to the production of products that demonstrate a low carbon footprint during their lifetime.  Under this specific objective, the measures will be focused on:   * *Promoting support environment services for the green and digital transition through the centre for policy making and the centre for green, creative and smart development (note in accordance with the Slovenian Industrial Strategy 2021–2030), and circular innovation processes and efficient use of resources in enterprises (introduction of circular business models and new low-carbon products, processes and technologies to strengthen value chains supported by digitisation)*, where support for the following measures is foreseen:   + Support for the establishment, operation and services of the centre for policy making and the centre for green, creative and smart development (e.g. training, mentoring, services for enterprises, prototyping and testing innovative solutions, etc.) to strengthen stakeholders in a supportive and innovative environment, with knowledge in fields crucial for the development of solutions and business models for the transition of enterprises to a low-carbon circular economy (to support the green and digital transition).   + Introducing circular business models (such as material tracking, environmentally acceptable equipment) with the support of digitisation.   + Introducing new products with a low carbon footprint, processes and technologies to strengthen value chains with an emphasis on natural renewable materials that enable the cascading principle.   Only projects in the field of sustainable economy and entrepreneurship will be supported, which in their operation include circular economy solutions for establishing circular material flows, minimising waste, waste water, pollutant and greenhouse gas emissions, noise emissions during production/provision of services throughout the lifetime of products. Considering the nature of the measures, no significant negative environmental impacts are expected from the aspect of the principles of the DNSH, taking into account the said technical screening criteria. Regardless of the aforementioned, to formulate the final content of the measures, and the criteria for their selection and implementation, the relevant mitigation measures and, to the greatest extent possible, the relevant recommendations in accordance with the strategic environmental assessment, which are listed in the annex Mitigation Measures and Recommendations, will be taken into account. |

Main target groups:

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| --- |
| Target groups: residents, local communities, enterprises, wood processing industry, public utility companies, non-governmental organisations, the public administration.  Beneficiaries: enterprises, other stakeholders in the wood chain, local communities, public utility companies, ministries responsible for the public administration and the economy, chambers and regional development agencies. |

Measures to protect equality, inclusion and non-discrimination:

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| --- |
| When planning, implementing and monitoring measures, the principles of gender equality, equal opportunities and non-discrimination will be respected in accordance with national legislation (Equal Opportunities for Women and Men Act, Protection Against Discrimination Act, Equalisation of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities Act), the EU legal order, in particular the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU, the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and the principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights, and relevant international documents for the protection of human rights, in particular the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Within the framework of the ECP 2021–2027 Programme, equal opportunities and the fight against discrimination based on various personal circumstances (e.g. gender, age, disability, race, ethnic origin, nationality and religion, sexual orientation) will be provided horizontally and vertically, as much as possible. This will also take into account the Procedural rules for providing the horizontal enabling condition “Effective application and implementation of the Charter of Fundamental Rights” and the Action Programme for Persons with Disabilities 2022–2030, and other relevant documents that will be created as part of implementation. If necessary, administrative capacity training will be provided to implement the principles of equal opportunities and non-discrimination. This principle will also be taken into account within the framework of the management and control system. The Monitoring Committee will be notified of any identified discrepancies at least once a year. |

Indication of the specific territories targeted, including the planned use of territorial tools:

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| --- |
| Territorial approaches are not foreseen as part of the measures under this specific objective. |

The interregional, cross-border and transnational actions:

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| --- |
| The foreseen measures follow the comprehensive strategic project for the decarbonisation of Slovenia through the transition to a circular economy and the Slovenian Industrial Strategy, and do not anticipate any direct implementation of cross-border, transnational and interregional actions. The implementation of activities, particularly within the framework of the centre for green, creative and smart development, will also be related to, and connected with, cross-border, international initiatives, such as Circular 4.0. The centre is also planned to act as a regional centre for cooperation with neighbouring countries in the field of circular economy.  With its activities and networks of macro-regional stakeholders on the one hand, and national coordinators and thematic members of the pillars on the other, the EUSAIR Facility Point will raise awareness of the importance of the circular economy in the region. This also applies to activities related to the centre. The current structure of EUSAIR (capacity building and internationalisation through existing networks) will be used to establish the centre. The EUSAIR innovation community has already been established and initial promotional activities have been carried out. |

Planned use of financial instruments:

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| --- |
| In accordance with the preliminary assessment of market needs and financing gaps in the market for the implementation of financial instruments in the 2021–2027 programming period (July 2022), a gap was established in the field of measures to promote circular innovation processes and efficient use of resources in enterprises. Financial instruments (hereinafter: FI) are planned to be used, despite the fact that most refundable instruments for the financing of enterprises will be provided from national sources in the 2021–2027 period. The programme contains an indicative amount of funds intended for FI in combination with grants. |

##### Indicators

Table 2: Impact indicators

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority | Specific objective | Fund | Category of region | ID | Indicators | Measurement unit | Milestone (2014) | Target (2029) |
| 3 | RSO2.6 | ERDF | Less developed | RCO01 | Enterprises supported (of which: micro, small, medium, large) | Enterprises | 0 | 236 |
| 3 | RSO2.6 | ERDF | More developed | RCO01 | Enterprises supported (of which: micro, small, medium, large) | Enterprises | 0 | 86 |
| 3 | RSO2.6 | ERDF | Less developed | RCO02 | Enterprises supported by grants | Enterprises | 0 | 165 |
| 3 | RSO2.6 | ERDF | More developed | RCO02 | Enterprises supported by grants | Enterprises | 0 | 57 |
| 3 | RSO2.6 | ERDF | Less developed | RCO03 | Enterprises supported by financial instruments | Enterprises | 0 | 23 |
| 3 | RSO2.6 | ERDF | More developed | RCO03 | Enterprises supported by financial instruments | Enterprises | 0 | 12 |
| 3 | RSO2.6 | ERDF | Less developed | RCO04 | Enterprises with non-financial support | Enterprises | 0 | 71 |
| 3 | RSO2.6 | ERDF | More developed | RCO04 | Enterprises with non-financial support | Enterprises | 0 | 29 |

Table 3: Result indicators

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority | Specific objective | Fund | Category of region | ID | Indicator | Measurement unit | Baseline or reference value | Reference year | Target (2029) | Source of data | Notes |
| 3 | RSO2.6 | ERDF | Less developed | RCR03 | Small and medium-size enterprises (SMEs) introducing product or process innovation | Enterprises | 0 | 2022 | 134 | MGRT |  |
| 3 | RSO2.6 | ERDF | More developed | RCR03 | Small and medium-size enterprises (SMEs) introducing product or process innovation | Enterprises | 0 | 2022 | 39 | MGRT |  |
| 3 | RSO2.6 | ERDF | Less developed | RCR19 | Enterprises with higher turnover | Enterprises | 0 | 2022 | 31 | MGRT |  |
| 3 | RSO2.6 | ERDF | More developed | RCR19 | Enterprises with higher turnover | Enterprises | 0 | 2022 | 18 | MGRT |  |

##### Indicative breakdown of the programme resources (EU) by type of intervention

Table 4: Dimension 1 – intervention field

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority no. | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |
| 3 | ERDF | Less developed | RSO2.6 | 075 | 36,893,100 |
| 3 | ERDF | More developed | RSO2.6 | 075 | 13,622,600 |
| 3 | ERDF | Less developed | RSO2.6 | 076 | 4,680,000 |
| 3 | ERDF | More developed | RSO2.6 | 076 | 2,150,000 |

Table 5: Dimension 2 – form of financing

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority no. | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |
| 3 | ERDF | Less developed | RSO2.6 | 01 | 28,693,100 |
| 3 | ERDF | More developed | RSO2.6 | 01 | 8,652,600 |
| 3 | ERDF | Less developed | RSO2.6 | 03 | 6,440,000 |
| 3 | ERDF | More developed | RSO2.6 | 03 | 3,560,000 |
| 3 | ERDF | Less developed | RSO2.6 | 05 | 6,440,000 |
| 3 | ERDF | More developed | RSO2.6 | 05 | 3,560,000 |

Table 6: Dimension 3 – territorial delivery mechanism and territorial focus

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority no. | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |
| 3 | ERDF | Less developed | RSO2.6 | 33 | 41,573,100 |
| 3 | ERDF | More developed | RSO2.6 | 33 | 15,772,600 |

Table 7: Dimension 6 – ESF+ secondary themes

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority no. | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |

Table 8: Dimension 7 – ESF+\*, ERDF, Cohesion Fund and JTF gender equality dimension

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority no. | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |
| 3 | ERDF | Less developed | RSO2.6 | 03 | 41,573,100 |
| 3 | ERDF | More developed | RSO2.6 | 03 | 15,772,600 |

**\*** In principle, 40% for the ESF+ contributes to gender tracking. 100% is applicable when Member State chooses to use Article 6 ESF+ Regulation as well as programme specific actions in gender equality.

#### Specific objective RSO2.7. Enhancing protection and preservation of nature, biodiversity and green infrastructure, including in urban areas, and reducing all forms of pollution (ERDF) (Cohesion Fund)

##### Interventions of the Funds

Related types of actions:

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| --- |
| Measures to improve the state of biodiversity in the Natura 2000 network and other priority conservation areas are intended for priority Natura 2000 areas to improve the state of species and habitat types, and, to a lesser extent, to regulate by visiting the most polluted parts of nature and investing in green infrastructure in the urban environment. Investments will focus on:   * *Measures to improve the state of biodiversity in the Natura 2000 network and other priority conservation areas*: the following activities will be supported with investments:   + Improving the conservation status of the habitats of species and habitat types in Natura 2000 sites, which do not have a favourable conservation status. Due to the fragmentation of habitats, measures will also have to be implemented at critical points outside Natura 2000 sites with the aim of improving ecological connectivity and ensuring a functioning green infrastructure. Priority areas, species and habitat types and framework measures will be defined in the new governmental Natura 2000 Management Programme for the 2022–2028[[151]](#footnote-151) period, which will be adopted by the end of 2022. Activities will continue to be supported from the 2014–2020 financial framework and all other efforts to stop the biodiversity decline will be complemented. When interpreting the importance of preserving biodiversity, synergies with the areas of cultural heritage and green tourism in Slovenia will be sought. Therefore, investment funds will be intended for the following concrete measures on the ground:     - restoring and improving ecosystems;     - activities to improve ecological connectivity,     - managing invasive alien species;     - rehabilitating inadequate arrangements and eliminating the harmful consequences of inadequate waste water discharge.   + Providing high-quality interpretation of parts of nature that are maintained for visitors for the purpose of raising public awareness.   + Improving the state of valuable natural features which are exposed to excessive stress due to increased visits and interest. In particular, the following concrete measures will be implemented on the ground:     - arranging infrastructure for supervision, directing visits and limiting the use of parts of nature;     - improving the regulation of the general and special use of valuable natural features ​​for harmless visiting and viewing, or physical protection of valuable natural features ​​that may be threatened by viewing and visiting;     - digitisation and ICT measures. * *Improving the notification and warning system of citizens about outdoor air pollution*: To ensure compliance with Slovenia’s obligations from the provisions of Directive (EU) 2016/2284 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the reduction of national emissions of certain atmospheric pollutants (NEC Directive), the measuring network for monitoring outdoor air quality will be expanded in accordance with the Operational Air Pollution Control Programme. The national measuring network currently comprises 21 measuring points, i.e. most measuring points are in major Slovenian cities and urban municipalities (implemented in the ECP 2021-2027); however, there are also populated areas of Slovenia where measurements are not yet being carried out. In the new financial framework of the ECP 2021–2027, eight new air pollution measuring points will be set up in areas of Slovenia that have not yet been covered. All measurements will constitute input data for air quality modelling throughout ​​Slovenia; therefore, the implementation of the measure will facilitate the suitable planning of policies and measures for air protection even in areas where they have not existed until now. A mobile station will be established to periodically monitor the quality of the outside air in areas where there are no permanent measurements or where extreme events could occur, which will facilitate measurements in accordance with quality and public information standards. As part of the measure, an information point will also be established to display data on air quality, which will be intended for all citizens. The said data on air quality will also be crucial from the aspect of checking the effectiveness of measures and identifying additional measures to ensure compliance with Slovenia’s obligations under the NEC Directive in accordance with the Operational Air Pollution Control Programme. * *Measures to provide and improve green infrastructure, residents’ access to green infrastructure in urban areas and the greening of cities*: 55% of the population of Slovenia live in urban settlements (SURS), greater concentration and density of the population and orientation towards the internal development of settlements prior to spreading to new areas are an ever increasing challenge to maintain and improve the quality of life and the environment in towns and cities. The Urban Agenda for the EU partnership addressed the challenge of providing quality and usability of urban green areas, and highlighted the need to invest in providing accessible and attractive green and blue urban infrastructure, taking into account the principle of using nature-based solutions. The measures support the attainment of the objective set in the new proposal for the national spatial policy to prevent excessive urban densification by achieving or maintaining at least 40% of the share of public and open green areas in the development area of a settlement[[152]](#footnote-152).   Support will be provided to the following measures:   * + Improving the quality and usability of the existing, and establishing new, green infrastructure, publicly accessible green areas and natural structures in towns and cities, and connecting blue-green corridors to provide ecosystem services.   + Land consolidation of urban green areas with the possibility of land purchase, whereby the purchased land will be part of the measure to provide public green and blue areas and not an independent measure.   + Greening built-up areas in towns and cities, for example greening public open spaces, green roofs, green vertical surfaces, etc.   + Raising awareness and involving local residents in the establishment and improvement of green infrastructure and green areas, and measures to green towns and cities.   To formulate the final content of the measures, and the criteria for their selection and implementation, the relevant mitigation measures and, to the greatest extent possible, the relevant recommendations in accordance with the strategic environmental assessment, which are listed in the annex Mitigation Measures and Recommendations, will be taken into account. Considering the completed compliance assessment with the DNSH principle, none of the measures, by its nature, foreseen under this specific objective has a significant adverse impact on any of the six environmental objectives, taking into account the technical screening criteria listed in annex DNSH. |

Main target groups:

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| --- |
| Target groups: managers of protected areas and Natura 2000 areas, public institutes, local communities, enterprises, agricultural holdings, non-governmental organisations, ministries, regional development agencies, residents, users of green and revitalised areas, owners of agricultural holdings.  Beneficiaries: Slovenian Environment Agency, managers of protected areas and Natura 2000 areas, public institutes, local communities, enterprises, non-governmental organisations, ministries and regional development agencies. |

Measures to protect equality, inclusion and non-discrimination:

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| --- |
| When planning, implementing and monitoring measures, the principles of gender equality, equal opportunities and non-discrimination will be respected in accordance with national legislation (Equal Opportunities for Women and Men Act, Protection Against Discrimination Act, Equalisation of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities Act), the EU legal order, in particular the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU, the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and the principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights, and relevant international documents for the protection of human rights, in particular the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Within the framework of the ECP 2021–2027 Programme, equal opportunities and the fight against discrimination based on various personal circumstances (e.g. gender, age, disability, race, ethnic origin, nationality and religion, sexual orientation) will be provided horizontally and vertically, as much as possible. This will also take into account the Procedural rules for providing the horizontal enabling condition “Effective application and implementation of the Charter of Fundamental Rights” and the Action Programme for Persons with Disabilities 2022–2030, and other relevant documents that will be created as part of implementation. If necessary, administrative capacity training will be provided to implement the principles of equal opportunities and non-discrimination. This principle will also be taken into account within the framework of the management and control system. The Monitoring Committee will be notified of any identified discrepancies at least once a year.  During the implementation of structural measures, the facilities will also meet technical requirements with which they are adapted to be non-discriminatory against all forms of temporary or permanent disability and are adapted to vulnerable population groups. |

Indication of the specific territories targeted, including the planned use of territorial tools:

|  |
| --- |
| Under the specific objective, urban development and the regional development approach in accordance with needs, stemming from territorial strategies (amended/ new SUS and RDP), will be addressed within the framework of measures to provide and improve green infrastructure, residents’ access to green infrastructure in urban areas, and the greening of cities in both cohesion regions. The said measures will be fully aimed at taking action in the urban environment, whereby the share of funds intended for urban municipalities was determined on the basis of demonstrated needs and will be implemented within the framework of the ITI mechanism. The remainder of the available funds will be allocated to other towns and cities within the framework of regional development with the DRR mechanism, presumably within a separate tender carried out by the Ministry to promote more complex innovative projects of providing green infrastructure in towns and cities. In the first phase, representatives of towns and cities (within the ZMOS and city councils of urban municipalities) and decision makers and representatives of regions (within regional councils) are included in the selection of operations. Complementary implementation of the measures will be provided by national development coordination for territorial approaches. |

The interregional, cross-border and transnational actions:

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| --- |
| *Measures to improve the state of biodiversity in the Natura 2000 network and other priority conservation areas*:  - are complementary to the LIFE integrated project for enhanced management of Natura 2000 in Slovenia (LIFE17 IPE/SI/000011);  - complementarity with cross-border and other programmes will be sought, particularly in the restoration of ecosystems, improved ecological connectivity and more efficient management of Natura 2000 sites.  The measure to *improve the notification and warning system of citizens about outdoor air pollution* is partly complementary to LIFE-IP PREPAIR (LIFE15 IPE IT 013) – Impacts of measures of the Po Valley on air quality, in which Slovenia participates as a partner.  All activities and measures planned and implemented in this field will have to be in accordance with the PAF and the Natura 2000 Management Programme for Slovenia. |

Planned use of financial instruments:

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| --- |
| Based on the preliminary assessment of market needs and financing gaps in the market for the implementation of financial instruments in the 2021–2027 programming period (July 2022), it was established that the use of financial instruments (FI) is possible to promote urban development (along with SO RSO5.1) based on the successful implementation of FI in this field in the 2014–2020 period and the gap identified in the study Proposal for the creation of an urban development fund.  Measures planned under this specific objective cannot be financed from financial instruments, since these are measures that do not generate cash flow from revenues from the project to repay loans received from financial instruments, only grants are planned to be used but FI are not. |

##### Indicators

Table 2: Impact indicators

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority | Specific objective | Fund | Category of region | ID | Indicators | Measurement unit | Milestone (2014) | Target (2029) |
| 3 | RSO2.7 | ERDF | Less developed | RCO36 | Green infrastructure supported for other purposes than adaptation to climate change | Hectares | 3 | 11.3 |
| 3 | RSO2.7 | ERDF | More developed | RCO36 | Green infrastructure supported for other purposes than adaptation to climate change | Hectares | 1 | 5.9 |
| 3 | RSO2.7 | ERDF | Less developed | RCO37 | Area of Natura 2000 sites covered by protection and restoration measures | Hectares | 0 | 700 |
| 3 | RSO2.7 | ERDF | More developed | RCO37 | Area of Natura 2000 sites covered by protection and restoration measures | Hectares | 0 | 800 |
| 3 | RSO2.7 | CF | Entire Slovenia | RCO39 | Area covered by systems for monitoring air pollution installed | Hectares | 85,000 | 170,300 |
| 3 | RSO2.7 | ERDF | Less developed | 4 | Innovative interventions in the field of promoting urban greening | Number | 0 | 2 |
| 3 | RSO2.7 | ERDF | More developed | 4 | Innovative interventions in the field of promoting urban greening | Number | 0 | 3 |

Table 3: Result indicators

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority | Specific objective | Fund | Category of region | ID | Indicator | Measurement unit | Baseline or reference value | Reference year | Target (2029) | Source of data | Notes |
| 3 | RSO2.7 | CF | Entire Slovenia | RCR50 | Population benefiting from measures for air quality | Persons | 0 | 2021 | 168,536 | Beneficiary (according to SURS) | No. residents who live in the municipalities where new devices will be installed |
| 3 | RSO2.7 | ERDF | Less developed | RCR95 | Population having access to new or improved green infrastructure | Persons | 0 | 2021 | 146,000 | SURS | Assessment based on the MOP methodology |
| 3 | RSO2.7 | ERDF | More developed | RCR95 | Population having access to new or improved green infrastructure | Persons | 0 | 2021 | 95,000 | SURS | Assessment based on the MOP methodology |
| 3 | RSO2.7 | ERDF | Less developed | 3 | At least 50% of the target species and habitat types from the list of priority projects (and 75% from each project) specified in the Natura 2000 Management Programme must improve their conservation status | Total “units” in poor condition | 180 | 2020 | 90 | Natura 2000 standard form; Natura 2000 Management Programme for the 2022–2028 period (NMP) | At least 50% of the target species and habitat types from the list of priority projects (and 75% from individual measuring project) specified in the Natura 2000 Management Programme must improve their conservation status |
| 3 | RSO2.7 | ERDF | More developed | 3 | At least 50% of the target species and habitat types from the list of priority projects (and 75% from each project) specified in the Natura 2000 Management Programme must improve their conservation status | Total “units” in poor condition | 100 | 2020 | 50 | Natura 2000 standard form; Natura 2000 Management Programme for the 2022–2028 period (NMP) | At least 50% of the target species and habitat types from the list of priority projects (and 75% from individual measuring project) specified in the Natura 2000 Management Programme must improve their conservation status |

##### Indicative breakdown of the programme resources (EU) by type of intervention

Table 4: Dimension 1 – intervention field

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority no. | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |
| 3 | CF | Entire Slovenia | RSO2.7 | 077 | 2,550,000 |
| 3 | ERDF | Less developed | RSO2.7 | 078 | 29,611,978 |
| 3 | ERDF | More developed | RSO2.7 | 078 | 14,049,602 |
| 3 | ERDF | Less developed | RSO2.7 | 079 | 22,421,699 |
| 3 | ERDF | More developed | RSO2.7 | 079 | 14,095,942 |

Table 5: Dimension 2 – form of financing

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority no. | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |
| 3 | CF | Entire Slovenia | RSO2.7 | 01 | 2,550,000 |
| 3 | ERDF | Less developed | RSO2.7 | 01 | 52,033,677 |
| 3 | ERDF | More developed | RSO2.7 | 01 | 28,145,544 |

Table 6: Dimension 3 – territorial delivery mechanism and territorial focus

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority no. | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |
| 3 | ERDF | Less developed | RSO2.7 | 02 | 11,970,440 |
| 3 | ERDF | More developed | RSO2.7 | 02 | 4,677,209 |
| 3 | ERDF | Less developed | RSO2.7 | 24 | 10,451,259 |
| 3 | ERDF | More developed | RSO2.7 | 24 | 6,992,393 |
| 3 | ERDF | Less developed | RSO2.7 | 33 | 29,611,978 |
| 3 | ERDF | More developed | RSO2.7 | 33 | 16,475,942 |
| 3 | CF | Entire Slovenia | RSO2.7 | 33 | 2,550,000 |

Table 7: Dimension 6 – ESF+ secondary themes

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority no. | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |

Table 8: Dimension 7 – ESF+\*, ERDF, Cohesion Fund and JTF gender equality dimension

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority no. | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |
| 3 | CF | Entire Slovenia | RSO2.7 | 03 | 2,550,000 |
| 3 | ERDF | Less developed | RSO2.7 | 03 | 52,033,677 |
| 3 | ERDF | More developed | RSO2.7 | 03 | 28,145,544 |

**\*** In principle, 40% for the ESF+ contributes to gender tracking. 100% is applicable when Member State chooses to use Article 6 ESF+ Regulation as well as programme specific actions in gender equality.

### Priority 4: Sustainable urban mobility

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| --- |
| This is a priority dedicated to youth employment |
| This is a priority dedicated to social innovative actions |
| This is a priority dedicated to support to the most deprived persons under the specific objective set out in point (m) of Article 4(1) of the ESF+ Regulation\* |
| This is a priority dedicated to support to the most deprived persons under the specific objective set out in point (l) of Article 4(1) of the ESF+ Regulation |
| * This is a priority dedicated to urban mobility specific objective set out in point (viii) of Article 3(1)(b) of the ERDF and Cohesion Fund Regulation |
| This is a priority dedicated to digital connectivity specific objective set out in point (v) of Article 3(1)(a) of the ERDF and Cohesion Fund Regulation |

**\*** If marked, go to section 2.1.1.2.

#### Specific objective RSO2.8. Promoting sustainable multimodal urban mobility, as part of transition to a net zero carbon economy (ERDF)

##### Interventions of the Funds

Related types of actions:

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| --- |
| Investments in sustainable urban mobility will help to increase the share of sustainable modes of transport in the daily commute of residents and reduce GHG emissions. Transport contributes to almost a third of the latter in Slovenia and is an important cause of air pollution in towns and cities. In addition, energy use in transport in 2020 is 58% higher than in 2000, particularly due to increased road traffic, which constitutes as much as 97% of transport. In 2019, transport accounted for 40% of final energy consumption. Compared to 2005, the share is higher by more than eight percentage points.[[153]](#footnote-153) A permanent solution to this challenge is the transition to sustainable mobility with low CO2 and air pollutant emissions and low energy consumption with an emphasis on active mobility; therefore, measures will be focused on the stated fields. The key role will be held by the improvement of the PPT and the improvement of the connection between the various transport systems, between which transfer is still difficult, as there are no transfer points between the different transport systems, or they are not sufficiently convenient. Some entry points to the PPP are also not adequately equipped with parking spaces for bicycles and cars. Cross-border mobility in towns and cities located near the national border is also a pressing problem, as the local transport systems on both sides of the border are not coordinated. Measures will also be aimed at increasing the use of alternative energy vehicles, which currently constitute a low share, among private users, commercial and public entities. In addition to measures to improve public passenger transport by introducing zero-emission vehicles, it is crucial to provide an adequate charging infrastructure for alternative energy sources for various types of vehicles (e-bikes, passenger cars, commercial vehicles, etc.). Shifting towards sustainable mobility will significantly contribute to the reduction of noise and various pollutants, and the transformation of space, and to other environmental pressures and health risks, thus contributing to a better quality of life, particularly in towns and cities.  The transition to a low-carbon society in the field of transport is governed by the Strategy in the field of market development for the establishment of suitable infrastructure as regards alternative fuels in the transport sector in the Republic of Slovenia[[154]](#footnote-154), which was adopted by the Government of the Republic of Slovenia on 12 October 2017 (hereinafter: Strategy). According to the proposal of the Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Regulation (AFIR), the strategy in the field of infrastructure for alternative fuels in transport will be recast by 2024. As part of the RRP reform, the Ministry of Infrastructure is preparing an organic law in the field of infrastructure for alternative fuels in transport, which is expected to come into force in the second half of 2023. It is not only about the electrification of transport, but also about a series of transitional technological and technical measures to achieve the desired final state in transport, i.e. sustainable transport without fossil fuels. The Strategy foresees a set of legal and regulatory measures, demonstration projects, awareness-raising and promotional activities, and direct financial incentives to provide a suitable charging infrastructure, and the co-financing of differences in the price of diesel-powered vehicles and alternative fuel vehicles.  Under this specific objective, two sets of measures are foreseen in accordance with the aforementioned:   * *Infrastructure for sustainable mobility in urban areas:* based on two Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans (hereinafter: SUMP) and Sustainable Urban Strategy (hereinafter: SUS), priorities will be precisely identified, and funds will be primarily allocated to infrastructure for multimodal door-to-door passenger transport. The backbone of the system must be PPT and should be complemented by cycling connections and pedestrian infrastructure with an emphasis on access to PPT stops and transfer points from cars to PPT or carpooling or other active forms of transport. Investments in sustainable mobility will help to increase the share of sustainable modes of transport in the daily commute of residents. A greater share of the use of sustainable modes of transport will help to reduce GHG emissions and other pollutants from transport and thus improve the quality of life. The planned measures include:   + Investments in the construction and adaptation of traffic areas for sustainable transport modes: dedicated areas for PPT (e.g. yellow lanes, stops, adaptations for priority driving at crossroads) and the infrastructure of multimodal hubs or transfer points between various forms of mobility; constructing and remodelling pedestrian infrastructure, particularly for access to public transport stations and stops and schools, including traffic calming devices and measures for pedestrian safety; constructing high-quality separate cycling areas and other cycling infrastructure, including infrastructure for charging e-bikes.   + Investments in digitisation for sustainable mobility: using intelligent transport systems to manage multimodal sustainable mobility; implementing pilot projects as part of the sustainable parking policy measure, traffic restriction in city centres and incentive for the use of modern technologies for efficient mobility management (e.g.: establishing traffic optimisation systems in towns and cities with priority treatment of PPT, cyclists and pedestrians; establishing access systems to travel information for users, including the computerisation of parking management; establishing conditions for cross-border mobility, i.e. particularly the connection of PPT with transfer points in neighbouring countries; establishing records of public e-charging stations in the spatial information system; establishing a travel data system for multimodal routes, which would include, in addition to PPT, alternative forms of transport in towns and cities, including information on services intended for, or adapted to, people with disabilities, and car parks). * *Promoting the use of alternative fuels in towns and cities* (electricity or hydrogen-powered PPT vehicles and publicly owned charging infrastructure): measures will be aimed at establishing or supplementing the network of charging or supply points for alternative-powered vehicles with an emphasis on vehicles for the provision of public utility services, for example for the needs of implementing PPT in towns and cities, and the establishment of a charging or supply infrastructure for alternative fuels for the needs of implementing green urban logistics. The measures will be designed on the basis of an investment need analysis in the area where alternative fuels are being introduced in transport, which will be prepared by the end of 2022 as part of the reform of the Recovery and Resilience Plan, with the aim of ensuring suitable geographical coverage throughout Slovenia, including outside urban areas and TEN-T networks. In this case, the funds for these measures will be primarily aimed at urban areas, while the RRP and CEF funds are intended to be used outside these areas.   To formulate the final content of the measures, and the criteria for their selection and implementation, the relevant mitigation measures and, to the greatest extent possible, the relevant recommendations in accordance with the strategic environmental assessment, which are listed in the annex Mitigation Measures and Recommendations, will be taken into account. By its nature, none of the measures foreseen under this specific objective has a significant adverse impact on any of the six environmental objectives, taking into account the technical screening criteria listed in annex DNSH. |

Main target groups:

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| --- |
| Target groups: enterprises, public sector, households, local communities, cooperatives, institutions, individuals.  Beneficiaries: urban municipalities, legal entities under public law partially/wholly owned or founded by urban municipalities. |

Measures to protect equality, inclusion and non-discrimination:

|  |
| --- |
| When planning, implementing and monitoring measures, the principles of gender equality, equal opportunities and non-discrimination will be respected in accordance with national legislation (Equal Opportunities for Women and Men Act, Protection Against Discrimination Act, Equalisation of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities Act), the EU legal order, in particular the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU, the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and the principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights, and relevant international documents for the protection of human rights, in particular the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Within the framework of the ECP 2021–2027 Programme, equal opportunities and the fight against discrimination based on various personal circumstances (e.g. gender, age, disability, race, ethnic origin, nationality and religion, sexual orientation) will be provided horizontally and vertically, as much as possible. This will also take into account the Procedural rules for providing the horizontal enabling condition “Effective application and implementation of the Charter of Fundamental Rights” and the Action Programme for Persons with Disabilities 2022–2030, and other relevant documents that will be created as part of implementation. If necessary, administrative capacity training will be provided to implement the principles of equal opportunities and non-discrimination. This principle will also be taken into account within the framework of the management and control system. The Monitoring Committee will be notified of any identified discrepancies at least once a year.  During the implementation of structural measures, the facilities will also meet technical requirements with which they are adapted to be non-discriminatory against all forms of temporary or permanent disability and are adapted to vulnerable population groups. |

Indication of the specific territories targeted, including the planned use of territorial tools:

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| --- |
| Under the specific objective, urban development in all 12 urban municipalities are planned to be addressed with the assistance of the ITI territorial approach, taking into account the demonstrated needs within the framework of the prepared territorial strategies (amended/new SUMP and SUS). In the first phase, representatives of towns and cities (within the ZMOS and city councils of urban municipalities) are included in the selection of operations. |

The interregional, cross-border and transnational actions:

|  |
| --- |
| The measures are also addressed within the EU Strategy for the Adriatic-Ionian Region (EUSAIR), where the flagship Adriatic-Ionian multimodal corridors are under the topic of intermodal connections with the outskirts, which focuses on the Adriatic-Ionian cycle route, which should run along the entire Adriatic basin, including intermodal services to support bicycle travel. The Ministry of Infrastructure has three thematic coordinators for EUSAIR at the level of the ministry, who participate at EUSAIR meetings and coordinate the transfer of information in both directions. |

Planned use of financial instruments:

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| --- |
| The use of grants is foreseen. In accordance with the results of the analysis of the preliminary assessment of market needs and financing gaps in the market for the implementation of financial instruments in the 2021–2027 programming period (July 2022), the use of financial instruments under this specific objective is not foreseen. The proposed measures do not generate revenues or savings, due to which the use of financial instruments is not sensible or appropriate. |

##### Indicators

Table 2: Impact indicators

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority | Specific objective | Fund | Category of region | ID | Indicators | Measurement unit | Milestone (2014) | Target (2029) |
| 4 | RSO2.8 | ERDF | Less developed | RCO58 | Dedicated cycling infrastructure supported | Km | 2 | 22 |
| 4 | RSO2.8 | ERDF | More developed | RCO58 | Dedicated cycling infrastructure supported | Km | 2 | 20 |
| 4 | RSO2.8 | ERDF | Less developed | RCO59 | Alternative fuels infrastructure (refuelling/recharging points) | Refuelling/recharging points | 0 | 23 |
| 4 | RSO2.8 | ERDF | More developed | RCO59 | Alternative fuels infrastructure (refuelling/recharging points) | Refuelling/recharging points | 0 | 25 |
| 4 | RSO2.8 | ERDF | Less developed | RCO60 | Cities and towns with new or modernised digitised urban transport systems | Cities and towns | 0 | 1 |
| 4 | RSO2.8 | ERDF | More developed | RCO60 | Cities and towns with new or modernised digitised urban transport systems | Cities and towns | 0 | 1 |

Table 3: Result indicators

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority | Specific objective | Fund | Category of region | ID | Indicator | Measurement unit | Baseline or reference value | Reference year | Target (2029) | Source of data | Notes |
| 4 | RSO2.8 | ERDF | Less developed | RCR62 | Annual users of new or modernised public transport | Users/year | 0 | 2021 | 337,500 | MZI |  |
| 4 | RSO2.8 | ERDF | More developed | RCR62 | Annual users of new or modernised public transport | Users/year | 0 | 2021 | 360,000 | MZI |  |
| 4 | RSO2.8 | ERDF | Less developed | RCR64 | Annual users of dedicated cycling infrastructure | Users/year | 0 | 2021 | 600,000 | MZI |  |
| 4 | RSO2.8 | ERDF | More developed | RCR64 | Annual users of dedicated cycling infrastructure | Users/year | 0 | 2021 | 520,000 | MZI |  |

##### Indicative breakdown of the programme resources (EU) by type of intervention

Table 4: Dimension 1 – intervention field

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority no. | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |
| 4 | ERDF | Less developed | RSO2.8 | 81 | 15,672,561 |
| 4 | ERDF | More developed | RSO2.8 | 81 | 6,694,692 |
| 4 | ERDF | Less developed | RSO2.8 | 82 | 4,000,000 |
| 4 | ERDF | More developed | RSO2.8 | 82 | 2,000,000 |
| 4 | ERDF | Less developed | RSO2.8 | 83 | 9,600,000 |
| 4 | ERDF | More developed | RSO2.8 | 83 | 3,950,000 |
| 4 | ERDF | Less developed | RSO2.8 | 84 | 2,000,000 |
| 4 | ERDF | More developed | RSO2.8 | 84 | 1,000,000 |
| 4 | ERDF | Less developed | RSO2.8 | 86 | 6,000,000 |
| 4 | ERDF | More developed | RSO2.8 | 86 | 3,000,000 |

Table 5: Dimension 2 – form of financing

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority no. | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |
| 4 | ERDF | Less developed | RSO2.8 | 01 | 37,272,561 |
| 4 | ERDF | More developed | RSO2.8 | 01 | 16,644,692 |

Table 6: Dimension 3 – territorial delivery mechanism and territorial focus

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority no. | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |
| 4 | ERDF | Less developed | RSO2.8 | 02 | 37,272,561 |
| 4 | ERDF | More developed | RSO2.8 | 02 | 16,644,692 |

Table 7: Dimension 6 – ESF+ secondary themes

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority no. | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |

Table 8: Dimension 7 – ESF+\*, ERDF, Cohesion Fund and JTF gender equality dimension

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority no. | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |
| 4 | ERDF | Less developed | RSO2.8 | 03 | 37,272,561 |
| 4 | ERDF | More developed | RSO2.8 | 03 | 16,644,692 |

**\*** In principle, 40% for the ESF+ contributes to gender tracking. 100% is applicable when Member State chooses to use Article 6 ESF+ Regulation as well as programme specific actions in gender equality.

### Priority 5: Sustainable cross-regional mobility and connectivity

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| --- |
| This is a priority dedicated to youth employment |
| This is a priority dedicated to social innovative actions |
| This is a priority dedicated to support to the most deprived persons under the specific objective set out in point (m) of Article 4(1) of the ESF+ Regulation\* |
| This is a priority dedicated to support to the most deprived persons under the specific objective set out in point (l) of Article 4(1) of the ESF+ Regulation |
| This is a priority dedicated to urban mobility specific objective set out in point (viii) of Article 3(1)(b) of the ERDF and Cohesion Fund Regulation |
| This is a priority dedicated to digital connectivity specific objective set out in point (v) of Article 3(1)(a) of the ERDF and Cohesion Fund Regulation |

**\*** If marked, go to section 2.1.1.2.

#### Specific objective RSO3.1. Developing a sustainable, climate resilient, intelligent, secure, sustainable and intermodal TEN-T (Cohesion Fund)

##### Interventions of the Funds

Related types of actions:

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| The measures will help to reduce GHG emissions in the most crucial sector, i.e. transport. The Transport Development Strategy of the Republic of Slovenia by 2030 (hereinafter: TDS)[[155]](#footnote-155) and the Resolution on the National Programme for the Development of Transport of the Republic of Slovenia until 2030[[156]](#footnote-156) are key strategic documents that determine the required measures in the field of transport until 2030 based on the results of expert transport, functional, environmental, social and other analyses. Most selected measures are based on a special analytical instrument, i.e. the national transport model, which takes into account the current and future transport network supply and the current and expected future transport demand. The specific objective of the TDS is to improve transport links with neighbouring countries and to coordinate with neighbouring countries, which means ensuring sufficient capacity of the network that also meets TEN-T standards and improves the safety of the road infrastructure. In accordance with the requirements of the European TEN-T regulation (Regulation (EU) No 1315/2013), the Republic of Slovenia has undertaken to achieve standards on the TEN-T core network by 2030. In addition, Slovenia provides a systematic inspection process for the safety of the road infrastructure, which takes place in all phases of road infrastructure planning and operation in accordance with the Directive 2008/96/EC.  The measures under this specific objective selected on the basis of forecasts of traffic flows, traffic safety, environmental impacts and social acceptability are measures that, in addition to national strategic importance, also have a high European added value, as they represent important sections of the TEN-T network. First and foremost, investments will be made in the modernisation of the railway infrastructure in the Mediterranean and Baltic-Adriatic corridors (Regulation (EU) No 1316/2013), which will also contribute to fulfilling the commitments arising from the EU TEN-T Regulation. These are measures that relate not only to infrastructure, but also to organisation, traffic management and traffic safety. When selecting the measures, efforts were made to maximise the utilisation of the existing transport infrastructure capacity.  In line with the aforementioned, the following two sets of measures are foreseen:   * *Investments in the modernisation and upgrading of the TEN-T railway network to improve the efficiency of passenger and freight transport to achieve TEN-T standards and the withdrawal of transit freight traffic from city centres and urban settlements*; the following investments are foreseen:   + *Upgrading the state border–Dobova–Zidani Most railway line – Phase 1 – State border–Dobova–Sevnica section*: The state border–Dobova–Sevnica section is part of the TEN-T core network and the Mediterranean corridor and constitutes the main railway connection between Slovenia and Croatia. The line facilitates an axle load of 22.5 t, but it has deteriorated due to the age and wear of the elements of the superstructure and substructure, as have the elements of the rolling stock. Freight trains up to a maximum length of 570 m can be operated on the section in question. The throughput capacity of the track is critical, and it deteriorates further during the closure of one track. Due to the level access to the platforms, the protection of passengers at stations and stops must be ensured. Individual level crossings of the railway line with the road are still located on the main station tracks, inside the switches for incoming and outgoing trains.   After the upgrade, the following will be realised in the section in question: the bottleneck from the aspect of meeting the TEN-T requirements will be eliminated; the operation of longer freight trains will be provided, the travelling speed of trains and track capacity will be increased, interoperability will be provided and the requirements of technical specifications will be met, traffic safety will be improved, noise pollution in settlement areas will be reduced, accessibility of individual regions and interregional connections will be enhanced.  As part of the project’s Phase 1, 33.7 km of railway lines will be upgraded, i.e. five stations (Dobova, Brežice, Krško, Brestanica and Blanca), a stop (Libna), and the state border–Dobova, Dobova–Brežice, Brežice–Krško, Krško–Brestanica, Brestanica–Blanca and Blanca–Sevnica sections will be upgraded. The works will include the upgrading of the superstructure and substructure to ensure the track category D4 and the clearance gauge, the extension of the station tracks for the possibility of operating 740 m long trains, the upgrading of the existing platform infrastructure with the provision of grade-separated access for persons with functional disabilities and cyclists, the upgrading of signal security and telecommunication devices, the abolition of 12 level crossings with roads and implementation of noise protection measures.   * + The upgrading of the railway line on the Ljubljana–Kranj section and the railway stations Kranj, Podnart, Lesce–Bled, Žirovnica and Slovenski Javornik, which is a bottleneck on the public railway infrastructure in Slovenia and in both TEN-T corridors (Mediterranean and Baltic-Adriatic), is classified as a backup project on the TEN-T railway network. * *Projects on national roads based on their positive impact on traffic safety*: Measures of modern construction and a new intelligent transport system (hereinafter: IITS) will greatly improve the existing state of the road infrastructure and solve problems in congested areas. The following measure is foreseen:   + *Reconstructing the first tube of the Karavanke Tunnel*: The existing Karavanke Tunnel is a one-tube two-way tunnel that connects Slovenia and Austria. The tunnel tube was built in 1991. Due to the lower traffic density, only the western tube was built at the time, and the tunnel was planned to be upgraded to a double tube later. The second tunnel tube is currently under construction. Based on the results of the main inspections, a detailed damage catalogue was prepared, which provides a comprehensive overview of the condition of the first tunnel tube. Several deficiencies were identified, including damage to the inner lining or tunnel arch, damage to the carriageway structure and curbs, etc. Most of the recorded anomalies were eliminated. It was agreed with the Austrian side that the reconstruction of the existing tube of the Karavanke Tunnel will commence as soon as the new tube of the tunnel starts operating. By then, certain parts of the tunnel will have exceeded their useful life; therefore, a comprehensive reconstruction or replacement of these systems must be planned. If the first tube of the Karavanke Tunnel is not reconstructed, the closure or partial closure of the tunnel due to the deformation of the invert arch, the need for rehabilitation of the drainage system and other elements can be realistically expected. In this case, the diversion of traffic from one tunnel tube to two will not be possible; therefore, the situation will not be significantly better than it is now even after the construction of the new tube. Traffic will still have to be two-way in one tube despite the fact that the new tube is designed for one-way traffic and, for example, does not have emergency bays on the west side of the carriageway (in the direction of Slovenia). This greatly affects traffic flow and safety on the motorway network and the rest of the road network. Considering the trend of increasing traffic, which has already exceeded the values ​​from 2019, ever-increasing congestion in front of the tunnel and on the rest of the road network is to be expected, since part of the traffic in this case would definitely be diverted to national roads and the Štajerska motorway section, which is congested as it is.   Where appropriate or relevant, the New European Bauhaus initiative will be taken into account, successfully integrating the principles of sustainability, aesthetics and inclusion to find accessible, inclusive, sustainable and attractive solutions to climate challenges. To formulate the final content of the measures, and the criteria for their selection and implementation, the relevant mitigation measures and, to the greatest extent possible, the relevant recommendations in accordance with the strategic environmental assessment, which are listed in the annex Mitigation Measures and Recommendations, will be taken into account. By its nature, none of the measures foreseen under this specific objective has a significant adverse impact on any of the six environmental objectives, taking into account the technical screening criteria listed in annex DNSH. |

Main target groups:

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| --- |
| Target groups: transport infrastructure operators, goods and passenger transport operators, enterprises, public sector, local communities, residents.  Beneficiaries: Slovenian Infrastructure Agency (DRSI), Motorway Company of the Republic of Slovenia (DARS). |

Measures to protect equality, inclusion and non-discrimination:

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| --- |
| When planning, implementing and monitoring measures, the principles of gender equality, equal opportunities and non-discrimination will be respected in accordance with national legislation (Equal Opportunities for Women and Men Act, Protection Against Discrimination Act, Equalisation of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities Act), the EU legal order, in particular the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU, the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and the principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights, and relevant international documents for the protection of human rights, in particular the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Within the framework of the ECP 2021–2027 Programme, equal opportunities and the fight against discrimination based on various personal circumstances (e.g. gender, age, disability, race, ethnic origin, nationality and religion, sexual orientation) will be provided horizontally and vertically, as much as possible. This will also take into account the Procedural rules for providing the horizontal enabling condition “Effective application and implementation of the Charter of Fundamental Rights” and the Action Programme for Persons with Disabilities 2022–2030, and other relevant documents that will be created as part of implementation. If necessary, administrative capacity training will be provided to implement the principles of equal opportunities and non-discrimination. This principle will also be taken into account within the framework of the management and control system. The Monitoring Committee will be notified of any identified discrepancies at least once a year.  During the implementation of structural measures, the facilities will also meet technical requirements with which they are adapted to be non-discriminatory against all forms of temporary or permanent disability and are adapted to vulnerable population groups. |

Indication of the specific territories targeted, including the planned use of territorial tools:

|  |
| --- |
| Under this specific objective, the use of territorial tools is not foreseen. |

The interregional, cross-border and transnational actions:

|  |
| --- |
| The measures for the development of the TEN-T intermodal network are complementary to the objectives and activities which are part of the EU macro-regional strategies, of which Slovenia is also part. Within the framework of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR), particularly of Priority Area 1b (to improve mobility and multimodality – rail, road and air links), the proposed projects contribute to improving connectivity and reducing differences between the transport network of the states in the macro-region. This particularly applies to projects along the Western Balkans Transport Corridor, newly proposed in the revised proposal for the TEN-T regulation, i.e.: a) upgrading of the state border–Dobova–Zidani Most railway line, b) upgrading of the railway line on the Ljubljana-Kranj section and c) reconstruction of the first tube of the Karavanke Tunnel (the existing motorway tunnel). For the successful implementation of the reconstruction project of the first tube of the Karavanke Tunnel, we cooperate with the Federal Land of Carinthia and individual ministries of the Republic of Austria, such as: the Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs, the Federal Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology, the Federal Ministry of Finance and the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Austrian motorway operator ASFINAG.  In addition, the said projects are important for connecting the outskirts with ports within the EU Strategy for the Adriatic-Ionian Region (EUSAIR), while for the implementation of the EU Strategy for the Alpine Region (EUSALP), they are important in the light of better cross-border connections and the development of intermodal transport. |

Planned use of financial instruments:

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| --- |
| The use of grants is foreseen. In accordance with the results of the analysis of the preliminary assessment of market needs and financing gaps in the market for the implementation of financial instruments in the 2021–2027 programming period (July 2022), the use of financial instruments under this specific objective is not foreseen. The proposed measures do not generate revenues or savings, due to which the use of financial instruments is not sensible or appropriate. |

##### Indicators

Table 2: Impact indicators

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority | Specific objective | Fund | Category of region | ID | Indicators | Measurement unit | Milestone (2014) | Target (2029) |
| 5 | RSO3.1 | CF | Entire Slovenia | RCO45 | Length of roads reconstructed or modernised – TEN-T | Km | 0 | 4 |
| 5 | RSO3.1 | CF | Entire Slovenia | RCO47 | Length of new or upgraded rail – TEN-T | Km | 0 | 33.7 |

Table 3: Result indicators

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority | Specific objective | Fund | Category of region | ID | Indicator | Measurement unit | Baseline or reference value | Reference year | Target (2029) | Source of data | Notes |
| 5 | RSO3.1 | CF | Entire Slovenia | RCR59 | Freight transport on rail | Tonnes-km/year | 254,000,000 | 2021 | 266,000,000 | DRSI |  |
| 5 | RSO3.1 | CF | Entire Slovenia | RCR56 | Time savings due to improved road infrastructure | Working days per person/year | 0 | 2021 | 23,500 | DARS |  |

##### Indicative breakdown of the programme resources (EU) by type of intervention

Table 4: Dimension 1 – intervention field

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority no. | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |
| 5 | CF | Entire Slovenia | RSO3.1 | 092 | 32,210,000 |
| 5 | CF | Entire Slovenia | RSO3.1 | 100 | 251,930,000 |

Table 5: Dimension 2 – form of financing

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority no. | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |
| 5 | CF | Entire Slovenia | RSO3.1 | 01 | 284,140,000 |

Table 6: Dimension 3 – territorial delivery mechanism and territorial focus

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority no. | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |
| 5 | CF | Entire Slovenia | RSO3.1 | 33 | 284,140,000 |

Table 7: Dimension 6 – ESF+ secondary themes

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority no. | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |

Table 8: Dimension 7 – ESF+\*, ERDF, Cohesion Fund and JTF gender equality dimension

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority no. | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |
| 5 | CF | Entire Slovenia | RSO3.1 | 03 | 284,140,000 |

**\*** In principle, 40% for the ESF+ contributes to gender tracking. 100% is applicable when Member State chooses to use Article 6 ESF+ Regulation as well as programme specific actions in gender equality.

#### Specific objective RSO3.2. Developing and enhancing sustainable, climate resilient, intelligent and intermodal national, regional and local mobility, including improved access to TEN-T and cross-border mobility (ERDF) (Cohesion Fund)

##### Interventions of the Funds

Related types of actions:

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| --- |
| According to the TDS, the key objective of this specific objective is to improve national and regional connections within Slovenia. The changes and additions to the National Transport Development Programme from June 2021 put an even greater emphasis on sustainable transport, particularly those infrastructural arrangements that will help to provide the conditions for greater use of all forms of sustainable mobility and strengthen the development of public passenger transport (hereinafter: PPT), where accessibility must not be compromised, where road and car are the only choice or provide access to the first transfer points of PPT. In 2022, a public passenger transport management company will be established, the task of which will be to manage interurban PPT. Adequate connectivity at all levels is crucial for the efficiency of the public transport system, so all PPT projects at the local and regional levels will be coordinated with the public passenger transport management company when it is operational.  The amended National Transport Development Programme includes projects on the regional railway network to provide low-emission, safe and resilient daily mobility to passengers in the regions. The key objective is to upgrade the network so that the railway will provide the backbone transport network where it already exists and which will be connected to the road transport network, PPT, P + R systems and cycling infrastructure. The upgrading of regional lines is planned primarily through electrification and speed increases, modern rail traffic management systems, and information equipment and accompanying measures (car parks, bike racks) at stations and stops for passenger-friendly services. The electrification of regional railway lines will further reduce pollution, and above all, bring relief to the road network, which will directly contribute to approaching carbon neutrality. Shorter travel times and punctual timetables on railways and other measures (transfer points, bike racks, coordinated timetables, etc.), which are the basis of the entire transport system, will increase the attractiveness of PPT and ensure sustainable mobility.  Therefore, the selected measures related to the construction of development axes and other regional connections to improve access to the TEN-T network are priority projects on the regional railway network and the construction of the national cycling network. The coordination and effectiveness of these measures will be ensured by horizontal transport planning measures.  In line with the aforementioned, the following measures are foreseen:   * *Upgrading the Maribor – Ruše railway line*: The measure will increase the capacity of the railway infrastructure, including upgrading railway stations as multimodal hubs, which will provide a more sustainable mode of transport. Interoperability, more efficient management and better traffic safety will also be provided.   The proposed measure includes: (1) arrangement of the Maribor Tezno–Maribor Studenci railway triangle; (2) upgrading of the line on the Maribor–Ruše section, and of three stations and five stops, as part of which the electrification of a 10 km long section is planned, and (3) arrangement of signal security and telecommunication devices on the Maribor–Ruše section.  Backup projects for the regional railway infrastructure include *the upgrading of the Dolenjska line* (state border–Metlika–Ljubljana regional line), and the upgrading of stations and stops in the area of the Eastern Slovenia cohesion region from the Ivančna Gorica station to the Birčna vas station.   * *Third development axis – south: Novo mesto–Maline (Stage I – stages 1 and 2*): The construction of a new expressway between the A2 connection near Novo mesto to the Osredek connection at a length of 5.05 km. Today, the main connection in the area under consideration is the G2-105 Novo mesto–Metlika–MP Metlika road, which passes through settlements and does not meet the needs of modern long-distance road connections and, as a result, does not provide sufficient traffic safety. In the area of ​​Novo mesto, AADT on the G2-105 road was between 12,809 and 19,256 vehicles/day, and the share of heavy goods vehicles was between 3.2% and 5.5% in 2016. Between 2011 and 2016, there were 115 traffic accidents on the G2-105 road in the area of ​​stages 1+2, of which 37 resulted in minor and two in serious injuries. The objectives of the project are to reduce traffic in Novo mesto, thereby accelerating further economic development in and around Novo mesto and improving traffic safety and air quality in Novo mesto. Traffic loads on the existing road network will decrease in 2035 due to the construction of an expressway. The share of heavy goods vehicles on the existing road network will also decrease, which will result in a relative reduction of GHG emissions. In 2035, the total GHG emissions on the transport network in Novo mesto will negligibly increase, which is a result of the expected improvement in the technical characteristics of vehicles and a greater number of electric cars. At the same time, GHG emissions on the rest of the road network in Novo mesto (without the new expressway) will decrease by 17%, resulting from the positive remote impact of the expressway. The total impact of the operation of the new state road on GHG emissions is thus assessed as insignificant or positive. * *Further work on the third development axis: Dramlje–Šentjur section*: The Dramlje-Šentjur connecting road is part of the planned middle section of the third development axis – connection between the A1 motorway (Savinjska region) and the A2 motorway (Dolenjska region). The connecting road is a connection between Bizeljsko and Kozjansko and the motorway network on the one hand and with the Republic of Croatia and Posavje on the other. As part of the project, a new road connection will be built on the section between the Dramlje connection to the A1 motorway past Šentjur to the G2-107 road at a total length of 5.8 km. On the three road sections that meet in Šentjur, AADT (average annual daily traffic) amounted to between 9,500 and 11,500 vehicles in 2019, and between 7,800 and 10,100 vehicles in 2020 due to restrictions during the pandemic. The share of heavy goods vehicles was between 10 and 13% in 2019, and higher in 2020, i.e. between 11 and 24%. The construction of a new road connection is expected to improve traffic safety. Between 2016 and 2020, there were 124 traffic accidents on the road sections that will be replaced by the new road, of which five resulted in serious and 43 in minor injuries. The operation of the connecting road will also reduce noise pollution in the nearest residential buildings, particularly in the settlements of Trnovec, Dole and Šentjur. The area along the new connecting road is sparsely populated, and noise protection measures will be implemented in areas where the noise limit values ​​will be exceeded. * *National cycling network*: The construction or the upgrading of cycling connections within the national cycling network is planned to improve connections with urban centres and particularly to PPT hubs, which will promote multimodality in making sustainable daily journeys from the starting point to the destination. By building cycling connections, we want part of the journeys currently made by cars to be made by bicycles, e-bikes or with bicycle/train or bus intermodality. With this approach, we want to cover short routes suitable for cycling and long routes suitable for a bicycle/train or bus combination. Changing the mode of travel from a car to a bicycle or a bicycle and PPT combination constitutes a direct reduction in GHG emissions. The national cycling network in Slovenia was defined in 2018 and has an estimated total length of 4,000 km. The total length of the existing cycling infrastructure of the national network was only 365 km. Projects are in progress to build an additional 400 km by the end of 2023. The measures will include the construction of missing sections of the national network, primarily near towns and cities. * *Non-infrastructural sustainable mobility measures at the horizontal level:* The preparation of regional integrated transport strategies, the updating of integrated transport strategies at the local level and the establishment of regional mobility centres for the promotion and management of sustainable mobility in the regions based on pilot projects are planned; support for education, awareness-raising and information of various target groups about sustainable mobility will also be implemented; incentives for the implementation of measures based on mobility plans at the level of institutions and the certification system of sustainable mobility-oriented employers; incentives for the implementation of measures based on parking policy plans at the level of towns and cities and regions and their implementation; and incentives for the management of city logistics at local and regional levels, including in the form of support for demonstration projects. In this regard, incentives for innovative digital solutions (e.g. carpooling, on-call transport integrated into the system and the introduction of group transport) are particularly important, as they will complement public transport and facilitate greater occupancy of free seats in all means of transport. The development of advanced solutions (digitalisation in transport), which facilitates real-time monitoring of data on the occupancy and location of vehicles and thus optimal route planning, will contribute to that. * *Sustainable mobility infrastructure at the local level*: On the basis of the adopted integrated transport strategies (ITS), priorities will be precisely identified in municipalities with urban settlements and in regions, and funds will be primarily allocated to infrastructure for multimodal door-to-door passenger transport. PPT must be the backbone of the system and complemented with solutions for the first and last kilometre. These are primarily bicycle connections and pedestrian infrastructure with an emphasis on access to PPT stops and points of transfer from a car to PPT or carpooling. Investments in sustainable mobility will help to increase the share of sustainable modes of transport in the daily commute of residents. A greater share of the use of sustainable modes of transport will help to reduce GHG emissions and other air pollutants from transport and thus improve the quality of life. The planned measures include:   + Arranging PPT stations and stops.   + Rearranging the pedestrian infrastructure, particularly for access to schools and PPT stations and stops, including devices and measures to calm traffic for pedestrian safety.   + Constructing high-quality separate cycling areas and other cycling infrastructure, including infrastructure for charging e-bikes and parking spaces for bikes, particularly safe bike racks for e-bikes next to public infrastructure, for example schools, municipalities, business zones, railway and bus stations and stops, to promote the use of ordinary and e-bikes for daily commute.   + Infrastructure of transfer points between various forms of mobility. * *Sustainable mobility organisation at the local level*: On the basis of the adopted integrated transport strategies (ITS), priorities will be precisely identified in municipalities with urban settlements and in regions. The funds will be allocated to measures for better traffic management in towns and cities and regions to increase the attractiveness of sustainable modes of transport and discourage users from excessive car use. The planned measures include:   + Using intelligent transport systems to manage multimodal sustainable mobility.   + Implementing pilot projects within the framework of the sustainable parking policy measure, limiting traffic in city centres and using advanced technologies for mobility management.   + Incentives for the use of advanced technologies for effective mobility management (e.g. establishing traffic optimisation systems with preferential treatment of PPT, cyclists and pedestrians; establishing systems for accessing travel information for users, including the computerisation of parking management; establishing conditions for cross-border mobility or, above all, connections between PPT and transfer points in neighbouring countries).   Where relevant, the implementation of measures will comply with the New European Bauhaus initiative to successfully integrate the principles of sustainability, aesthetics and inclusion to find accessible, inclusive, sustainable and attractive solutions to climate challenges. To formulate the final content of the measures, and the criteria for their selection and implementation, the relevant mitigation measures and, to the greatest extent possible, the relevant recommendations in accordance with the strategic environmental assessment, which are listed in the annex Mitigation Measures and Recommendations, will be taken into account. By its nature, none of the measures foreseen has a significant adverse impact on any of the six environmental objectives, taking into account the technical screening criteria listed in annex DNSH. |

Main target groups:

|  |
| --- |
| Target groups: enterprises, public sector, households, local communities, cooperatives, institutions, regional development agencies, individuals.  Beneficiaries: Slovenian Infrastructure Agency (DRSI), Družba za avtoceste v Republiki Sloveniji (DARS), local communities, state administration, institutions, regional development agencies, enterprises. |

Measures to protect equality, inclusion and non-discrimination:

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| --- |
| When planning, implementing and monitoring measures, the principles of gender equality, equal opportunities and non-discrimination will be respected in accordance with national legislation (Equal Opportunities for Women and Men Act, Protection Against Discrimination Act, Equalisation of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities Act), the EU legal order, in particular the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU, the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and the principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights, and relevant international documents for the protection of human rights, in particular the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Within the framework of the ECP 2021–2027 Programme, equal opportunities and the fight against discrimination based on various personal circumstances (e.g. gender, age, disability, race, ethnic origin, nationality and religion, sexual orientation) will be provided horizontally and vertically, as much as possible. This will also take into account the Procedural rules for providing the horizontal enabling condition “Effective application and implementation of the Charter of Fundamental Rights” and the Action Programme for Persons with Disabilities 2022–2030, and other relevant documents that will be created as part of implementation. If necessary, administrative capacity training will be provided to implement the principles of equal opportunities and non-discrimination. This principle will also be taken into account within the framework of the management and control system. The Monitoring Committee will be notified of any identified discrepancies at least once a year.  During the implementation of structural measures, the facilities will also meet technical requirements with which they are adapted to be non-discriminatory against all forms of temporary or permanent disability and are adapted to vulnerable population groups. |

Indication of the specific territories targeted, including the planned use of territorial tools:

|  |
| --- |
| Under the specific objective, the regional development approach stemming from needs in the drafted territorial strategies (RDP) is to be addressed. In the first phase, the selection of operations includes decision-makers and representatives of the regions (within the councils of the regions).  The measures planned within the ERDF funds under this specific objective are foreseen only in the Eastern Slovenia cohesion region, as the greatest needs are shown in this cohesion region. |

The interregional, cross-border and transnational actions:

|  |
| --- |
| The implementation of interregional, cross-border and transnational actions is not planned under this specific objective, as these are measures to promote all forms of sustainable mobility and strengthen public passenger transport, including providing better access to the TEN-T network, which are primarily intended for target groups in the territory of Slovenia. |

Planned use of financial instruments:

|  |
| --- |
| In accordance with the results of the analysis of the preliminary assessment of market needs and financing gaps in the market for the implementation of financial instruments in the 2021–2027 programming period (July 2022), the use of financial instruments under this specific objective is not foreseen. The proposed measures do not generate profit, therefore, there is no possibility of savings or return of refundable funds. In addition, the projects are not prepared for refundable funds due to various circumstances (e.g. underdeveloped market, etc.); therefore, only the use of grants is foreseen. |

##### Indicators

Table 2: Impact indicators

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority | Specific objective | Fund | Category of region | ID | Indicators | Measurement unit | Milestone (2014) | Target (2029) |
| 5 | RSO3.2 | ERDF | Less developed | RCO44 | Length of new or upgraded roads – non-TEN-T | Km | 0 | 10.85 |
| 5 | RSO3.2 | ERDF | Less developed | RCO48 | Length of new or upgraded rail – non-TEN-T | Km | 0 | 10 |
| 5 | RSO3.2 | ERDF | Less developed | RCO53 | New or modernised railway stations and stops | Stations and stops | 0 | 8 |
| 5 | RSO3.2 | CF | Entire Slovenia | RCO58 | Dedicated cycling infrastructure supported | Km | 6 | 120 |

Table 3: Result indicators

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority | Specific objective | Fund | Category of region | ID | Indicator | Measurement unit | Baseline or reference value | Reference year | Target (2029) | Source of data | Notes |
| 5 | RSO3.2 | ERDF | Less developed | RCR56 | Time savings due to improved road infrastructure | Working days per person/year | 0 | 2021 | 76,800 | DARS |  |
| 5 | RSO3.2 | ERDF | Less developed | RCR58 | Annual users of newly built, upgraded, reconstructed or modernised railways | Passenger-km/year | 1,302,000 | 2021 | 1,416,000 | DRSI |  |
| 5 | RSO3.2 | CF | Entire Slovenia | 1 | Annual users of dedicated cycling infrastructure | Users | 0 | 2021 | 180,000 | MZI |  |

##### Indicative breakdown of the programme resources (EU) by type of intervention

Table 4: Dimension 1 – intervention field

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority no. | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |
| 5 | ERDF | Less developed | RSO3.2 | 089 | 68,141,540 |
| 5 | ERDF | Less developed | RSO3.2 | 102 | 37,746,941 |
| 5 | CF | Entire Slovenia | RSO3.2 | 081 | 41,000,000 |
| 5 | CF | Entire Slovenia | RSO3.2 | 083 | 61,000,000 |
| 5 | CF | Entire Slovenia | RSO3.2 | 109 | 19,002,680 |

Table 5: Dimension 2 – form of financing

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority no. | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |
| 5 | ERDF | Less developed | RSO3.2 | 01 | 105,888,481 |
| 5 | CF | Entire Slovenia | RSO3.2 | 01 | 121,002,680 |

Table 6: Dimension 3 – territorial delivery mechanism and territorial focus

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority no. | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |
| 5 | ERDF | Less developed | RSO3.2 | 33 | 105,888,481 |
| 5 | CF | Entire Slovenia | RSO3.2 | 33 | 54,502,680 |
| 5 | CF | Entire Slovenia | RSO3.2 | 24 | 66,500,000 |

Table 7: Dimension 6 – ESF+ secondary themes

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority no. | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |

Table 8: Dimension 7 – ESF+\*, ERDF, Cohesion Fund and JTF gender equality dimension

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority no. | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |
| 5 | ERDF | Less developed | RSO3.2 | 03 | 105,888,481 |
| 5 | CF | Entire Slovenia | RSO3.2 | 03 | 121,002,680 |

**\*** In principle, 40% for the ESF+ contributes to gender tracking. 100% is applicable when Member State chooses to use Article 6 ESF+ Regulation as well as programme specific actions in gender equality.

### Priority 6: Skills and responsive labour market

|  |
| --- |
| * This is a priority dedicated to youth employment |
| This is a priority dedicated to social innovative actions |
| This is a priority dedicated to support to the most deprived persons under the specific objective set out in point (m) of Article 4(1) of the ESF+ Regulation\* |
| This is a priority dedicated to support to the most deprived persons under the specific objective set out in point (l) of Article 4(1) of the ESF+ Regulation |
| This is a priority dedicated to urban mobility specific objective set out in point (viii) of Article 3(1)(b) of the ERDF and Cohesion Fund Regulation |
| This is a priority dedicated to digital connectivity specific objective set out in point (v) of Article 3(1)(a) of the ERDF and Cohesion Fund Regulation |

**\*** If marked, go to section 2.1.1.2.

#### Specific objective ESO4.1. Improving access to employment and activation measures for all jobseekers, in particular young people, especially through the implementation of the Youth Guarantee, for long-term unemployed and disadvantaged groups on the labour market, and for inactive people, as well as through the promotion of self-employment and the social economy (ESF+)

##### Interventions of the Funds

Related types of actions:

|  |
| --- |
| To provide suitable and sufficient personnel for employers’ future needs, Slovenia will have to pay special attention and provide adapted activities to the demographic of unemployed persons, particularly to long-term unemployed persons, elderly people and less educated persons (including persons with the ISCED 3 level of education), and to jobseekers and persons whose employment or self-employment is at risk, particularly from the aspect of ensuring adequate competences for an easier transition to the labour market and shortening the duration of unemployment. The empowerment of the said target groups in the labour market must be enhanced from the aspect of knowing their rights arising from employment relationships to ensure their social security, particularly when they could be faced with atypical forms of work, disguised employment relationships or precarious work. A prerequisite for the measures under this SO to be effective is to create new and higher-quality jobs, whereby special attention will have to be paid to the strengthening of digital competences, knowledge for green transition and the circular economy, and for social development in general[[157]](#footnote-157), and to additional measures to promote youth employment and the employment of long-term unemployed persons.  It is also crucial to ensure social security for employees in non-standard forms of work, eliminate disguised employment relationships and precarious work on the one hand, and to create new and higher-quality jobs and measures to promote youth employment and the employment of long-term unemployed persons on the other.  The following measures will be supported under the specific objective ESO4.1:   * *Implementing active employment policy (AEP) measures* to effectively and quickly promote access to employment for the target groups of elderly people, less educated persons, persons with disabilities and inactive persons during their employment period through activation by training and education of unemployed persons and employment incentives (subsidies for employment, payment of part of salaries, etc.). The content of informal training or formal education for unemployed persons will be defined or more adapted to the needs of employers, particularly at the local level of regional offices of the ZRSZ, taking into account sustainability and green jobs, automation and digitisation of jobs. The identification of employers’ needs in the search for suitable personnel will be enhanced through SO ESO4.2 measures as part of the planned *development and upgrade of the platform for long-term prediction of competences or knowledge and skills* required in the labour market and the network of offices for employers at the ZRSZ. Depending on employers’ needs, people will be involved in targeted training.   In the 2021–2027 period, employment incentives will be even more connected with previous training or job trial and follow-up after employment of unemployed persons from the most vulnerable target groups[[158]](#footnote-158), i.e. to ensure suitable competences for employers’ needs and consequently more stable/long-term employment or prevent long-term unemployment.  To attain the goals of the European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan and the national objectives of Slovenia 2030, the measures will be aimed mainly at reducing long-term unemployment and unemployment of less educated persons and prolonging the work activity, particularly of elderly people, for whom involvement in lifelong learning will be crucial to adapt to the digitisation and automation of jobs. The measures will be designed taking into account territorial inequalities. Depending on the needs, the funds will be allocated in both cohesion regions with the intensity being slightly higher in the Eastern Slovenia cohesion region.  The measures will also address labour market integration of migrants through the inclusion of individuals in the AEP programmes, which will provide access to employers. Men and women will be treated equally and included in the measures. The measures will also address the most vulnerable groups of women and men.   * *Implementing programmes for the retention in the labour market of those groups whose employment or self-employment is at risk or temporary, the reduction and prevention of precariousness and the prevention of transition back to unemployment for target groups facing atypical forms of work*, i.e.:   + Programmes for the retention in the labour market of those groups whose (self-)employment is at risk, temporary or precarious, which prompt the inclusion of employees in various forms of information, motivation, career counselling, training or education (where inclusion in training and education programmes in the field of green, sustainable, digital and other contents, which will be adapted to the needs of the labour market, will be facilitated). This will facilitate the transition to new jobs or new employment or increase employment opportunities for employees and precarious workers whose employment is at risk or who face atypical forms of work. In this way, people will be promptly activated and their transition to open unemployment will be prevented.   + Addressing the problem of youth precariousness in the labour market by establishing a supportive environment in the youth sector and implementing pilot projects on the ground. As part of the supportive environment, suitable awareness raising and empowerment of young people and actors in the youth sector (organisations and youth workers) and information for the general public about the issue of precariousness among young people will be provided. As part of the implementation of pilot projects on the ground, authorised organisations in the youth sector will also provide support to young people in raising awareness of precariousness, facing the consequences of precariousness, and precarious forms of employment within the framework of training. Activities will be based on the principles and methods of quality youth work. The measure will be implemented at the national level to provide systemic support at this level. * *Measures to promote self-employment and the social economy, i.e.:*   + Developing and professionalising the social economy to increase employment opportunities in the social economy sector, improve the competences of employees and create high-quality and safe jobs, and increase the sector’s ability to apply social innovation to work or business models that will be supported in SMEs or social enterprises. The measure will be aimed at establishing a supportive environment, a mentorship system and direct support for the development of social economy entities or persons involved in measures to promote the development of services and goods with social impact. The measures will complement the incentives of SMEs and social economy entities, and facilitate their better access to the market and creation of new jobs. Professionalisation will also focus on the use and development of digital competences, new business models and skills for creating and measuring the social effects of social enterprises or the effects of developed social innovations.   + Training programmes to promote female entrepreneurship, creativity, entrepreneurship and innovation among young people and implement new business models, including support for sustainable labour market integration: for women and young people who want to become entrepreneurs, support is required before entering the entrepreneurial path and after the establishment of an enterprise. Intensive and longer free training will facilitate the acquisition of competences to empower women and young people for entrepreneurship, including an emphasis on specific competences linked to global trends.   Based on the experience from the 2014–2020 period regarding the support of special target groups (young people, women) with subsidies and stimulating effects, these target groups will be supported in the 2021–2027 period so as to provide subsidies from PO 1 for commencing an entrepreneurial journey, and these target groups will be able to upgrade their competences through training, mentorship, etc. within PO 4. A combination of incentives also shows good results in other measures or added value to the direct financial incentive. In this way, we attempt to address complementary content with various funds to achieve better results.   * + As part of the feasibility study of social impact bonds in Slovenia, two pilot projects were identified, including a project to promote the employment of young people not in education, employment, or training in tourism. The implementation of the said pilot project, which would improve access to employment for young people, would be necessary to test the new approach in practice and to attract private investors to the implementation of such projects in the future. The same approach would be used to promote female entrepreneurship.   By their nature, these are measures that do not have a predictable negative impact on environmental objectives, which would be related to the direct and primary indirect impacts of the measure in its life cycle or such impacts are insignificant, making them consistent with the DNSH principle. |

Main target groups:

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| --- |
| Target groups are as follows:   * unemployed with a high risk of long-term unemployment, long-term unemployed, particularly persons with low education (ISCED 3 or less), persons above 50 years of age; * employees whose employment is at risk due to various changes or is precarious; * young people between 18 and 29 years of age, and youth workers; * disadvantaged workers, severely disadvantaged workers and workers with disabilities as specified in Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014; * potential female entrepreneurs and new entrepreneurs, ministries, implementing institutions; * potential young entrepreneurs and new entrepreneurs, ministries, implementing institutions; * disadvantaged workers and severely disadvantaged workers pursuant to the Social Entrepreneurship Act (hereinafter: ZSocP); * social enterprises and the social economy entities pursuant to the ZSocP; * NGOs.   Beneficiaries: ZRSZ, JŠRIPS, social and educational service providers, NGOs, ministries, implementing institutions, organisations in the youth sector, cultural entities, SMEs, research organisations, incubators, social economy entities, young people, potential female entrepreneurs, regional development agencies and chambers. |

Measures to protect equality, inclusion and non-discrimination:

|  |
| --- |
| The principles of gender equality, inclusion and non-discrimination will be respected at all levels in accordance with national legislation (Equal Opportunities for Women and Men Act, Protection Against Discrimination Act, Equalisation of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities Act), the EU legal order, in particular the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU, the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and the principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights, and relevant international documents for the protection of human rights, in particular the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.  Measures to improve access to employment and activation measures for all jobseekers, particularly young people, long-term unemployed persons and disadvantaged groups in the labour market and inactive persons are consistent with the objective of the Sustainable Development Strategy, as they promote the development of a democratic, socially inclusive, and just society that respects fundamental rights and cultural diversity, creates equal opportunities, and combats all forms of discrimination. The measures support the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights – Chapter I: Equal opportunities and access to the labour market, as the principles of non-discrimination and inclusion regardless of gender, race or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability or sexual orientation will be taken into account. Inclusion in the measures will provide unemployed persons, particularly long-term unemployed and less educated persons (ISCED 3 or less) and persons above 50 years of age, with better opportunities for employment or safe employment and, as a result, a way out of social disadvantage. The measures will have a lasting positive impact on the careers of individuals, as they will use the acquired knowledge to manage their own careers autonomously and gain access to more permanent employment. The measures will preserve jobs that would otherwise be at risk due to the consequences of the epidemic or other reasons. This will ensure the economic and social security of employees in jobs at risk. On the other hand, the measures in the field of ​​addressing the problem of precariousness of young people in the labour market (15 to 29 years of age) will largely lower their exposure to precarious forms of work. Training programmes to promote female entrepreneurship, creativity, entrepreneurship and innovation among young people will contribute to the long-term integration of women and young people into the labour market. |

Indication of the specific territories targeted, including the planned use of territorial tools:

|  |
| --- |
| Under this specific objective, the use of territorial tools is not foreseen. |

The interregional, cross-border and transnational actions:

|  |
| --- |
| The interregional, cross-border and transnational actions are not foreseen under this specific objective, as these are measures intended for unemployed persons and persons whose employment or self-employment is at risk for an easier transition to the labour market and shortening the duration of unemployment. Therefore, the needs or specifics of the residents of Slovenia must be primarily taken into account. |

Planned use of financial instruments:

|  |
| --- |
| The use of grants is foreseen. In accordance with the results of the analysis of the preliminary assessment of market needs and financing gaps in the market for the implementation of financial instruments in the 2021–2027 programming period (July 2022), the use of financial instruments under this specific objective is not foreseen. The proposed measures do not generate revenues or savings, due to which the use of financial instruments is not sensible or appropriate. |

##### Indicators

Table 2: Impact indicators

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority | Specific objective | Fund | Category of region | ID | Indicators | Measurement unit | Milestone (2014) | Target (2029) |
| 6 | ESO4.1 | ESF+ | Less developed | EECO02 | Unemployed, including long-term unemployed | Persons | 4,890 | 24,468 |
| 6 | ESO4.1 | ESF+ | More developed | EECO02 | Unemployed, including long-term unemployed | Persons | 1,223 | 6,097 |
| 6 | ESO4.1 | ESF+ | Less developed | EECO19 | Number of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises supported | Enterprises | 59 | 141 |
| 6 | ESO4.1 | ESF+ | More developed | EECO19 | Number of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises supported | Enterprises | 7 | 16 |

Table 3: Result indicators

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority | Specific objective | Fund | Category of region | ID | Indicator | Measurement unit | Baseline or reference value | Reference year | Target (2029) | Source of data | Notes |
| 6 | ESO4.1 | ESF+ | Less developed | EECR04 | Participants in employment, including self-employment, upon leaving | Persons | 8,869 | 2020 | 9,222 | MDDSZ |  |
| 6 | ESO4.1 | ESF+ | More developed | EECR04 | Participants in employment, including self-employment, upon leaving | Persons | 6,955 | 2020 | 2,317 | MDDSZ |  |

##### Indicative breakdown of the programme resources (EU) by type of intervention

Table 4: Dimension 1 – intervention field

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority no. | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |
| 6 | ESF+ | Less developed | ESO4.1 | 134 | 112,315,721 |
| 6 | ESF+ | More developed | ESO4.1 | 134 | 14,865,783 |
| 6 | ESF+ | Less developed | ESO4.1 | 136 | 7,604,000 |
| 6 | ESF+ | More developed | ESO4.1 | 136 | 2,324,000 |
| 6 | ESF+ | Less developed | ESO4.1 | 138 | 6,170,000 |
| 6 | ESF+ | More developed | ESO4.1 | 138 | 690,000 |

Table 5: Dimension 2 – form of financing

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority no. | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |
| 6 | ESF+ | Less developed | ESO4.1 | 01 | 126,089,721 |
| 6 | ESF+ | More developed | ESO4.1 | 01 | 17,879,783 |

Table 6: Dimension 3 – territorial delivery mechanism and territorial focus

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority no. | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |
| 6 | ESF+ | Less developed | ESO4.1 | 33 | 126,089,721 |
| 6 | ESF+ | More developed | ESO4.1 | 33 | 17,879,783 |

Table 7: Dimension 6 – ESF+ secondary themes

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority no. | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |
| 6 | ESF+ | Less developed | ESO4.1 | 08 | 9,774,000 |
| 6 | ESF+ | More developed | ESO4.1 | 08 | 2,194,000 |
| 6 | ESF+ | Less developed | ESO4.1 | 09 | 109,515,721 |
| 6 | ESF+ | More developed | ESO4.1 | 09 | 14,885,783 |
| 6 | ESF+ | Less developed | ESO4.1 | 01 | 6,800,000 |
| 6 | ESF+ | More developed | ESO4.1 | 01 | 800,000 |

Table 8: Dimension 7 – ESF+\*, ERDF, Cohesion Fund and JTF gender equality dimension

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority no. | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |
| 6 | ESF+ | Less developed | ESO4.1 | 01 | 1,770,000 |
| 6 | ESF+ | More developed | ESO4.1 | 01 | 430,000 |
| 6 | ESF+ | Less developed | ESO4.1 | 02 | 124,319,721 |
| 6 | ESF+ | More developed | ESO4.1 | 02 | 17,449,783 |

**\*** In principle, 40% for the ESF+ contributes to gender tracking. 100% is applicable when Member State chooses to use Article 6 ESF+ Regulation as well as programme specific actions in gender equality.

#### Specific objective ESO4.2. Modernising labour market institutions and services to assess and anticipate skills needs and ensure timely and tailormade assistance and support for labour market matching, transitions and mobility (ESF+)

##### Interventions of the Funds

Related types of actions:

|  |
| --- |
| The modernisation of labour market institutions and services and the modernisation of their services will facilitate better coordination of supply and demand, anticipation of skill needs, transitions and mobility in the labour market and, above all, adequate training of employees in labour market institutions. Additional digitisation and rationalisation of work processes, development of new services, strengthening of the integration of all stakeholders in the labour market are planned, as also highlighted in the Proposal for a Joint Employment Report from the Commission and the Council accompanying the Communication from the Commission on the Annual Sustainable Growth Strategy 2020[[159]](#footnote-159).  About half of inactive young people who are not registered as unemployed are NEET. This is a particularly vulnerable target group of young people who have neither education or professional qualifications nor suitable work experience and competences; therefore, this group needs adapted measures to be successfully integrated into the labour market and society, avoiding more permanent long-term consequences for individuals and society  Under the specific objective ESO4.2, most measures will address the fields stated below, which will comply with the objective of climate neutrality and digital transition:   * *Developing and upgrading the labour market platform for long-term forecasting of knowledge and skills* required in the labour market: the measure is intended to establish a comprehensive and systematic tool for skills forecasting for individual occupations; therefore, instruments will be developed and upgraded as part of the measure, such as the labour market platform for skills forecasting, which will be a tool supported by advanced technology and methodology for three key fields of personnel development: (i) mid- to long-term forecasting of needs for occupations and competences; (ii) identification of gaps in occupations and competences in accordance with forecasts and discrepancies in real time; and (iii) proposal for placement of relevant competences in existing and potential new education/training programmes in accordance with the needs of the labour market/gaps identified in occupations and competences. * *Modernising services and integrating labour market institutions* for faster, more efficient and targeted implementation of measures in the field of active employment policy to reduce discrepancies in the labour market more effectively. The following measures are planned to be implemented in the said field:   + Strengthening the network of offices for employers at the ZRSZ, which provide employers with services in accordance with the “one-stop shop” principle. The needs point to the necessity of introducing new advisory services for employers, which will exploit the possibilities of digitisation, and promote inclusivity and diversity in the workplace, social responsibility and permanent employment, and connecting with employers’ associations at national and regional levels. This will support the needs of employers in finding suitable personnel.   + Modernisation of services in labour market institutions: the key objective is to establish an “advanced employment platform” that effectively connects employers and jobseekers and the institution’s advisers. The measure ensures coordinated, directed and connected work of key institutions in the labour market (such as ZRSZ, JŠRIPS, social work centres and others that can contribute to improving the situation in the labour market), which will enable the problem of long-term unemployment to be effectively addressed and new labour market challenges to be managed. The aforementioned requires networking and cooperation between institutions in the labour market, and consideration of individual needs at the ZRSZ including in cooperation with other institutions. According to the results of the OECD analysis in the framework of the project “Active employment policy aiming to reduce long-term unemployment in Slovenia”, it is crucial for the ZRSZ to enhance the provision of remote services (such as online services, telephone, e-mail), improve the training/ability of the ZRSZ to provide advice, strengthen profiling services for unemployed persons, and further adapt programmes and services. * *Continued operation of the EURES network of national coordination offices*, which works to support worker mobility when entering the EU labour market. By providing services, the EURES network will contribute to informing and raising awareness of mobile workers of their rights and provide support in career decisions in the event of a desire for mobility and in dealing with the situation in the EU labour market. The foreseen measure provides “active support in employment”. This will in turn support the needs of employers in finding suitable personnel. The Slovenian EURES will participate in the activities of the European Labour Authority in promoting and providing fair mobility for workers in the EU and the ALMA initiative (in this context, the National Mobility Scheme for NEET will be implemented; considering the characteristics of the NEET target group and the issue of employment of young people between 18 and 35 years of age, which is related to long-term unemployment, this problem is detected in all statistical regions of Slovenia), which will contribute to the realisation of the European Pillar of Social Rights, Chapter II “Fair working conditions”.   By their nature, these are measures that do not have a predictable negative impact on environmental objectives, which would be related to the direct and primary indirect impacts of the measure in its life cycle, or such impacts are insignificant, making them consistent with the DNSH principle. |

Main target groups:

|  |
| --- |
| Target groups: ZRSZ, institutions operating in the labour market (e.g. SURS, CPI, UMAR, JŠRIPS, social work centres, Labour Inspectorate, etc.), jobseekers, including NEET, employers, social partners, NGOs, employers’ associations.  Beneficiaries: ZRSZ, JŠRIPS and social work centres. |

Measures to protect equality, inclusion and non-discrimination:

|  |
| --- |
| The principles of gender equality, inclusion and non-discrimination will be respected during the implementation of all activities in accordance with national legislation (Equal Opportunities for Women and Men Act, Protection Against Discrimination Act, Equalisation of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities Act), the EU legal order, in particular the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU, the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and the principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights, and relevant international documents for the protection of human rights, in particular the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Within the framework of the ECP 2021–2027 Programme, equal opportunities and the fight against discrimination based on various personal circumstances (e.g. gender, age, disability, race, ethnic origin, nationality and religion, sexual orientation) will be provided horizontally and vertically, as much as possible. This will also take into account the Procedural rules for providing the horizontal enabling condition “Effective application and implementation of the Charter of Fundamental Rights” and the Action Programme for Persons with Disabilities 2022–2030, and other relevant documents that will be created as part of implementation. If necessary, administrative capacity training will be provided to implement the principles of equal opportunities and non-discrimination. This principle will also be taken into account within the framework of the management and control system. The Monitoring Committee will be notified of any identified discrepancies at least once a year.  The EURES services will be open to all EU/EEA and Swiss Confederation citizens, regardless of gender and status, and support the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights - Chapter I: Equal opportunities and access to the labour market. It will promote the equality of inclusion in the national mobility scheme or non-discriminatory access to services.  When implementing the measures, the principle of gender equality will be taken into account. The measures will also address the most vulnerable groups of women and men. |

Indication of the specific territories targeted, including the planned use of territorial tools:

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| --- |
| Under this specific objective, the use of territorial tools is not foreseen. |

The interregional, cross-border and transnational actions:

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| --- |
| EURES (EURopean Employment Services) is a network of employment services, and their national members and partners in the 27 EU Member States and Switzerland, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway. Participating in the EURES network means being part of a network of more than 1,000 EURES advisers from the stated 31 countries, through which advice and job placement in the European labour market, and information on life and work in the EU/EGP Member States and Switzerland are provided. The EURES services go beyond the boundaries of the programme area, as they are open to all EU/EEA and Swiss Confederation citizens. Participation in the network of EURES coordination offices covers various forms of connection, such as regular meetings, participation in workshops, etc. |

Planned use of financial instruments:

|  |
| --- |
| In accordance with the results of the analysis of the preliminary assessment of market needs and financing gaps in the market for the implementation of financial instruments in the 2021–2027 programming period (July 2022), the use of financial instruments under this specific objective is not foreseen. The use of financial instruments is not sensible or appropriate, since the proposed measures do not generate revenues or savings. The use of grants is foreseen, as the beneficiaries are public institutes that implement measures at the national level, for which they obtain national funds or other dedicated funds, such as project funds, and do not have market activities that could be used to cover loans from financial instruments. |

##### Indicators

Table 2: Impact indicators

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority | Specific objective | Fund | Category of region | ID | Indicators | Measurement unit | Milestone (2014) | Target (2029) |
| 6 | ESO4.2 | ESF+ | Less developed | EECO18 | Number of public administrations or public services supported | Entities | 11 | 11 |
| 6 | ESO4.2 | ESF+ | More developed | EECO18 | Number of public administrations or public services supported | Entities | 7 | 7 |

Table 3: Result indicators

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority | Specific objective | Fund | Category of region | ID | Indicator | Measurement unit | Baseline or reference value | Reference year | Target (2029) | Source of data | Notes |
| 6 | ESO4.2 | ESF+ | Less developed | 5 | Annual number of registered users of the portal | Number | 0 | 2021 | 97,500 | Beneficiary and eMA2 |  |
| 6 | ESO4.2 | ESF+ | More developed | 5 | Annual number of registered users of the portal | Number | 0 | 2021 | 97,500 | Beneficiary and eMA2 |  |

##### Indicative breakdown of the programme resources (EU) by type of intervention

Table 4: Dimension 1 – intervention field

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority no. | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |
| 6 | ESF+ | Less developed | ESO4.2 | 139 | 17,640,000 |
| 6 | ESF+ | More developed | ESO4.2 | 139 | 6,370,000 |

Table 5: Dimension 2 – form of financing

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority no. | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |
| 6 | ESF+ | Less developed | ESO4.2 | 01 | 17,640,000 |
| 6 | ESF+ | More developed | ESO4.2 | 01 | 6,370,000 |

Table 6: Dimension 3 – territorial delivery mechanism and territorial focus

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority no. | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |
| 6 | ESF+ | Less developed | ESO4.2 | 33 | 17,640,000 |
| 6 | ESF+ | More developed | ESO4.2 | 33 | 6,370,000 |

Table 7: Dimension 6 – ESF+ secondary themes

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority no. | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |
| 6 | ESF+ | Less developed | ESO4.2 | 02 | 17,640,000 |
| 6 | ESF+ | More developed | ESO4.2 | 02 | 6,370,000 |

Table 8: Dimension 7 – ESF+\*, ERDF, Cohesion Fund and JTF gender equality dimension

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority no. | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |
| 6 | ESF+ | Less developed | ESO4.2 | 02 | 17,640,000 |
| 6 | ESF+ | More developed | ESO4.2 | 02 | 6,370,000 |

**\*** In principle, 40% for the ESF+ contributes to gender tracking. 100% is applicable when Member State chooses to use Article 6 ESF+ Regulation as well as programme specific actions in gender equality.

#### Specific objective ESO4.4. Promoting the adaptation of workers, enterprises and entrepreneurs to change, active and healthy ageing and a healthy and well-adapted working environment that addresses health risks (ESF+)

##### Interventions of the Funds

Related types of actions:

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| --- |
| Social and demographic changes and the low level of employment between the ages of 55 and 64 dictate a comprehensive approach to adapting jobs, particularly for older employees to provide a high-quality, safe and healthy work environment in enterprises and the public sector, and promote worker involvement in management. The key to attaining these objectives is the cooperation of social partners and other institutions operating in the field of the labour market, and the advocacy of labour rights. Measures to improve the quality of the work environment and working conditions and to promote LLL, particularly flexible options for upgrading and reskilling for everyone, taking into account entrepreneurial and digital skills, better anticipation of changes and demands for new skills based on the needs of the labour market, facilitate career transitions, and promote professional mobility and intergenerational cooperation, with an emphasis on the transfer of knowledge and skills between generations will contribute to extending the employment period, particularly for elderly persons. The contents of training or training courses will be adapted to the needs of various sectors and industries. The contents of general competence upgrades will also be included, which will enable the development of the knowledge and skills of employees in various industries, and will be linked to the promotion of employee involvement in management.  Specific objective ESO4.4 will provide support for measures focused on the following fields:   * *Raising the quality of the work environment and working conditions to also extend the employment period, particularly for elderly people, including in the public sector*. Measures in this field will be focused on:   + Providing decent work to prevent conflicts, advocating and promoting more stable forms of employment or work to reduce precariousness: information, advice and training of stakeholders in the labour market will raise awareness of the existing legal bases on which the performance of work is based and promote worker involvement in management through the indirect promotion of works councils through campaigns, training and education. A place will be established for the cooperation of social partners and the provision of substantive support in the implementation of their activities (meaningful integration with the work of the Economic and Social Council). Also foreseen is the direct strengthening of the competences and capacities of social partners in the field of collective bargaining and for their effective cooperation in the drafting of public policies important for the labour market or the identification and addressing of current and future challenges in the labour market. At the same time, the objective is to improve the competences of social partners in strengthening the rule of law and the legal profession, such as the amicable resolution of disputes, and their competence for conducting effective social dialogue at all levels.   + An integrated approach to health and safety at work by training employers to promote health and safety at work and adapt workplaces and processes, particularly for elderly people and persons with disabilities. Investments in safer and healthier workplaces are planned, as one of the key challenges in this field is to take more decisive action in the field of health and safety at work towards reducing psychosocial risks and other illnesses due to high work intensity by also taking into account the changed conditions (e.g. the right to digital disconnection).   In the implementation of measures to ensure decent work and health and safety at work, the participation of social partners is foreseen to work as partners and also, in certain parts, as providers of measures. Within the framework of the project, social partners would also have the opportunity to receive training and exchange good practices in the field of health and safety at work to develop their competences in the said field and their role in informing, training and raising awareness among employees of various aspects of health and safety at work.   * + A comprehensive advisory and support service prior to and after retirement with an emphasis on prolonging employment and reactivating elderly people (providing comprehensive information, education and upgrading of existing communication channels (ZPIZ) and adaptation of internal processes).   + Improving working conditions and prolonging the employment of employees in the prison system: for employees who encounter unpredictable, stressful situations in their work on a daily basis to be able to maintain integrity and respect human rights in their work, and at the same time, provide the reintegration, health and safety of prisoners, a competence model for all employees in the prison system must be established (developed) and implemented, which will provide specific knowledge, skills and motivation for work in demanding conditions. The aforementioned will be provided by the implementation of suitable education or training for this target group. * *Promoting intergenerational cooperation with an emphasis on the transfer of knowledge and skills between generations:*    + Support for enterprises for prolonging employment by managing and adapting workplaces (investments in safer and healthier workplaces) and processes for older employees: activities will be implemented through the promotion of prolonging the employment of older employees by strengthening their competences, eliminating stereotypes about them and empowering employers to manage an ageing workforce (continuation of the programme Comprehensive Support for Companies for Active Aging of Employees – ASI), strengthening the competences of workers for the intergenerational transfer of knowledge, and including young people in professional work.   The measures will be aimed at increasing the level of employment, particularly among elderly people between 55 and 64 years of age, particularly less educated persons. A greater contribution to the rate increase, favouring a particular target group of employees, should not be a guiding principle; instead, the guiding principle should be the principle of an inclusive labour market for everyone, which is important for the recovery after the COVID-19 epidemic.   * + Introducing new approaches in dealing with people at work and developing specific activities related to changing demographic trends and, consequently, the ageing of employees in the state administration (transformation of the function of employee management in the state administration, the elements of which sensibly include dealing with intergenerational relations (changing organisational culture, motivation, flexibility, mobility and diversity within the state administration, which will favour older employees); eliminating stereotypes about older employees (viewing older employees as a valuable workforce with useful and important skills), intergenerational transfer of knowledge and other competences for more effective inclusion of young people in professional work; empowering state administration bodies to manage an ageing workforce (strengthening competences/training leaders and people responsible for personnel development to manage a generationally diverse workforce); analysing and balancing the employee age profile (preparation of a model for attracting young people to the state administration)).   By their nature, these are measures that do not have a predictable negative impact on environmental objectives, which would be related to the direct and primary indirect impacts of the measure in its life cycle or such impacts are insignificant, making them consistent with the DNSH principle. |

Main target groups:

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| --- |
| Target groups: institutions in the labour market, public and private sectors, social partners, NGOs, employers (public and private sectors), employees (mainly above 50 years of age and less educated), public institutions involved in the preparation and implementation of policies in the field of active ageing, employees in the prison system and others who can contribute to the attainment of the objectives of this specific objective with their activities.  Beneficiaries: foundations, social partners, NGOs, ZPIZ, JŠRIPS, Labour Inspectorate, URSIKS, ministries responsible for public administration and labour. |

Measures to protect equality, inclusion and non-discrimination:

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| --- |
| The principles of gender equality, inclusion and non-discrimination will be respected during the implementation of all activities in accordance with national legislation (Equal Opportunities for Women and Men Act, Protection Against Discrimination Act, Equalisation of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities Act), the EU legal order, in particular the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU, the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and the principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights, and relevant international documents for the protection of human rights, in particular the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Within the framework of the ECP 2021–2027 Programme, equal opportunities and the fight against discrimination based on various personal circumstances (e.g. gender, age, disability, race, ethnic origin, nationality and religion, sexual orientation) will be provided horizontally and vertically, as much as possible. This will also take into account the Procedural rules for providing the horizontal enabling condition “Effective application and implementation of the Charter of Fundamental Rights” and the Action Programme for Persons with Disabilities 2022–2030, and other relevant documents that will be created as part of implementation. This principle will also be taken into account within the framework of the management and control system.  Measures to promote the adaptation of workers, enterprises and entrepreneurs to changes, active and healthy ageing, and a working environment that addresses health risks comply with the principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights, i.e. Principle 5 Secure and adaptable employment, Principle 8 Social dialogue and involvement of workers, and Principle 10 Healthy, safe and well-adapted work environment and data protection. Individual projects will promote permanent employment, the amicable resolution of disputes between workers and employers, and provide information, raise awareness and provide direct support to key stakeholders in the labour market. The activities of the measures will take into account the principle of gender equality and equal opportunities in the treatment and inclusion of workers regardless of gender, race or nationality, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation. All workers must be guaranteed a safe and healthy and flexible working environment, and the right to fair and equal treatment with special attention to gender-specific needs. |

Indication of the specific territories targeted, including the planned use of territorial tools:

|  |
| --- |
| Under this specific objective, the use of territorial tools is not foreseen |

The interregional, cross-border and transnational actions:

|  |
| --- |
| The interregional, cross-border and transnational actions are not foreseen under this specific objective, as these are measures intended for employees and to provide a healthy and safe work environment in Slovenia. |

Planned use of financial instruments:

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| --- |
| In accordance with the results of the analysis of the preliminary assessment of market needs and financing gaps in the market for the implementation of financial instruments in the 2021–2027 programming period (July 2022), the use of financial instruments under the stated specific objective is not foreseen. The use of grants is foreseen, since these are proposed measures implemented by public or non-governmental institutions or non-profit organisations that do not have market activities and do not generate revenues or savings, as a result of which the use of financial instruments is not possible, and the only appropriate form of financing is grants. |

##### Indicators

Table 2: Impact indicators

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority | Specific objective | Fund | Category of region | ID | Indicators | Measurement unit | Milestone (2014) | Target (2029) |
| 6 | ESO4.4 | ESF+ | Less developed | EECO05 | Employed, including self-employed | Persons | 2,173 | 10,895 |
| 6 | ESO4.4 | ESF+ | More developed | EECO05 | Employed, including self-employed | Persons | 1,136 | 5,705 |
| 6 | ESO4.4 | ESF+ | Less developed | 7 | Number of projects in the field of health and safety at work (in cooperation with social partners) | Number | 1 | 1 |
| 6 | ESO4.4 | ESF+ | More developed | 7 | Number of projects in the field of health and safety at work (in cooperation with social partners) | Number | 1 | 1 |

Table 3: Result indicators

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority | Specific objective | Fund | Category of region | ID | Indicator | Measurement unit | Baseline or reference value | Reference year | Target (2029) | Source of data | Notes |
| 6 | ESO4.4 | ESF+ | Less developed | 6 | Participants who obtain a certificate of completed training upon leaving | Number | 10,011 | 2020 | 15,642 | Beneficiary and eMA2 |  |
| 6 | ESO4.4 | ESF+ | More developed | 6 | Participants who obtain a certificate of completed training upon leaving | Number | 6,937 | 2020 | 8,058 | Beneficiary and eMA2 |  |
| 6 | ESO4.4 | ESF+ | Less developed | 7 | Number of enterprises involved in interventions referred to in the risk assessment | Number | 0 | 2020 | 153 | Beneficiary and eMA2 |  |
| 6 | ESO4.4 | ESF+ | More developed | 7 | Number of enterprises involved in interventions referred to in the risk assessment | Number | 0 | 2020 | 147 | Beneficiary and eMA2 |  |

##### Indicative breakdown of the programme resources (EU) by type of intervention

Table 4: Dimension 1 – intervention field

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority no. | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |
| 6 | ESF+ | Less developed | ESO4.4 | 144 | 1,950,000 |
| 6 | ESF+ | More developed | ESO4.4 | 144 | 250,000 |
| 6 | ESF+ | Less developed | ESO4.4 | 147 | 21,742,000 |
| 6 | ESF+ | More developed | ESO4.4 | 147 | 7,300,000 |

Table 5: Dimension 2 – form of financing

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority no. | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |
| 6 | ESF+ | Less developed | ESO4.4 | 01 | 23,692,000 |
| 6 | ESF+ | More developed | ESO4.4 | 01 | 7,550,000 |

Table 6: Dimension 3 – territorial delivery mechanism and territorial focus

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority no. | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |
| 6 | ESF+ | Less developed | ESO4.4 | 33 | 23,692,000 |
| 6 | ESF+ | More developed | ESO4.4 | 33 | 7,550,000 |

Table 7: Dimension 6 – ESF+ secondary themes

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority no. | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |
| 6 | ESF+ | Less developed | ESO4.4 | 09 | 21,247,000 |
| 6 | ESF+ | More developed | ESO4.4 | 09 | 6,584,000 |
| 6 | ESF+ | Less developed | ESO4.4 | 07 | 2,445,000 |
| 6 | ESF+ | More developed | ESO4.4 | 07 | 966,000 |

Table 8: Dimension 7 – ESF+\*, ERDF, Cohesion Fund and JTF gender equality dimension

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority no. | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |
| 6 | ESF+ | Less developed | ESO4.4 | 02 | 23,692,000 |
| 6 | ESF+ | More developed | ESO4.4 | 02 | 7,550,000 |

**\*** In principle, 40% for the ESF+ contributes to gender tracking. 100% is applicable when Member State chooses to use Article 6 ESF+ Regulation as well as programme specific actions in gender equality.

#### Specific objective ESO4.5. Improving the quality, inclusiveness, effectiveness and labour market relevance of education and training systems including through validation of non-formal and informal learning, to support acquisition of key competences including entrepreneurial and digital skills, and by promoting the introduction of dual-training systems and apprenticeships (ESF+)

##### Interventions of the Funds

Related types of actions:

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| --- |
| In line with the Country Report – Slovenia 2019, Annex D and the SDS 2030, the measures will be intended to improve the quality and effectiveness of education and training, and their suitability for the labour market, and also to support the acquisition of the key competences by upgrading the model of working with talented people and career orientation. Also crucial are strengthening the competences of professionals in various fields and cooperation between schools, employers and other social partners, and establishing a comprehensive support environment for students. A connection to the S5 will also be logical.  In line with the aforementioned, the following fields will be supported:   * Enhancing key competences such as digital, language, entrepreneurial, intercultural, citizenship, mathematical and natural science, and personal and social competences, multilingualism, reading and media literacy, cultural awareness and expression, creativity, computational thinking, critical thinking, a healthy attitude towards oneself, preventing violence and addiction, and global learning and education for sustainable development (ESD) to maintain the ranking of Slovenian students in the top quarter of countries in the PISA study. To systematically introduce interdisciplinary and (cross)curricular links with an emphasis on the active role of students, flexible forms of learning and partnerships with stakeholders from the environment (also in the field of cultural and artistic education) will be promoted. The problem of inequality in the achievements of boys and girls, which is pronounced in reading literacy, will be addressed. The role of school libraries, which support the educational process and persons involved, will also be enhanced. Transversal competences, which facilitate a better social and emotional aspect of comprehensive personal development, will be strengthened, and the issue of space to ensure the individuals’ work-life balance will be addressed. * *Improving the quality and effectiveness of education and training*, i.e.:   + Digitally transforming education, which includes schools’ digital strategy, strengthening pedagogical digital competences and expanding their communities to exchange and evaluate good practice, introducing new subjects pertaining to the basics of computing and informatics, creatively using technologies, developing and establishing new pedagogical models using e-contents, improving knowledge in the field of cyber security and AI in accordance with the EC’s Digital Education Action Plan[[160]](#footnote-160). The measures will complement the contents of the RRP, which are intended for systemic changes in the development of digital competences and the basics of computing and informatics with an emphasis on lessons.   + The system of professional and *career development of professionals and managers in education* will be upgraded: initial and further education, mentorship, introduction to the occupation and work, career path planning and management, promotion of, and support for, principals. To strengthen the reputation of this occupation and to co-create a learning community, promotional activities will be carried out, and support will be established for the digitisation of procedures related to the career path. Training will also be updated and implemented. Professionals and managers will be trained to transfer knowledge using modern methods/approaches with an emphasis on experiential learning, competences that must be developed in the participants of the training (e.g. creativity, solving problem tasks, responsible citizenship, sustainable development, cooperation, etc.) and connecting with the local environment. They will also be empowered to work with children with special needs by developing alternative paths (based on experience from the 2014–2020 period), and to provide a safe and stimulating learning environment (preventing and dealing with violence, intercultural coexistence, a healthy and creative way of life, addiction prevention, etc.).   The results from past projects, e.g. concepts and experiences in the field of introduction to the occupation (Learning to be a teacher, First job), quality (quality standards of professional learning and performance of professionals, and management of kindergartens and schools) and support to principals (Management of innovative learning environments) will be taken into account. Based on the experience from targeted professional training for professionals in education and training for direct work with specific students with special needs, the concept will also be used in other content areas in the 2021–2027 period. In this way, educational institutions will be supported in responding to their current needs, thereby strengthening the learning community, providing a safe and stimulating learning environment for each individual, and improving the quality and efficiency of the education system.     * *Enhancing the suitability of the education system for the labour market* in two key intervention fields:   + Improving the responsiveness of vocational and professional education to the needs of the labour market, the cooperation of educational institutions with employers or social partners will be enhanced. Vocational and professional education programmes and short programmes in the field of professional training will be developed and implemented. The activities will be aimed at preparing professionals for high-quality curriculum planning and implementation. By enhancing the cooperation between employers and social partners in the educational process, young people will enter the labour market with more practical skills. Adequately trained personnel will provide effective practical training. Vocational and professional education will be promoted.   + Establishing a comprehensive support environment at higher education institutions focused on the student and activities for the successful and prompt completion of studies (following students from enrolment to graduation and employment, career counselling, tutoring system, assistance with international mobility, support for students with special needs or special status, organisation of practical training for students, development of student competences through extracurricular activities, monitoring the satisfaction of students and graduates, etc.). Higher education teachers and professionals will be trained to develop innovative learning environments based on new ICT and introduce new teaching practices. To obtain horizontal skills, and social, emotional, digital and other competences, various forms of practical training of students in a real work environment will be promoted during their studies: problem-based learning in the form of project work with the (non-)economy, non-profit, non-governmental sector within the framework of pilot projects, checking the possibility of organising long-term practical training, etc.). * *Measures in the field of lifelong career guidance (LCG):*   + Strengthening career centres for young people will enable them to receive appropriate professional and career counselling during and after schooling. From the aspect of ensuring quality career paths, young people must be informed about and encouraged into occupations that have personnel shortages, and be provided with information on occupations of the future and possible career paths, and their chances of entering the labour market must be enhanced. In career centres for young people, the emphasis will be on providing professional help to young people so that they can seek and choose a career path, and on identifying the needs and specifics of the local environment and regions, particularly by connecting with local schools and employers. Special attention will be paid to NEET.   + Promoting the development of new content in educating talented students and improving existing approaches for more flexible forms of learning: by improving or by expanding the network of institutions that provide activities for talented people, better quality and diverse work with them will be provided. As a result, more talented people will receive tailored support.   + Measures in the field of scholarships for specialised occupations in culture: they upgrade the policy of regular scholarships and are intended for (in)formal education abroad. They support international mobility, making contacts, and support a more efficient entry to the labour market. Beneficiaries are students who are unemployed, or whose income is not sufficient to cover the costs of studying abroad (including the socially disadvantaged, as their monthly income does not exceed the statutory minimum wage in the Republic of Slovenia). Educational institutions in the field of culture in the Republic of Slovenia are specialised, so certain programmes cannot be studied, and study programmes are not implemented/organised in all the required fields of cultural arts. Scholarships will enable suitable education, the acquisition of suitable knowledge, and the development of talents, thus filling the gaps with knowledge that individuals cannot acquire during their education in Slovenia, or are upgraded. This would prevent the exclusion of talented socially disadvantaged Slovenian artists and contribute to the international recognition of Slovenian culture.   By their nature, these are measures that do not have a predictable negative impact on environmental objectives, making them consistent with the DNSH principle. |

Main target groups:

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| --- |
| Target groups: children, pupils, secondary school and university students, graduates, educational institutions, organisations providing higher professional education, higher educational institutions, public organisations for adult education, private organisations providing education programmes, professionals and managers in education, mentors of on-the-job training, associations and communities in education, employers, employers’ associations, chambers, professionals in cultural institutions, and artists.  Beneficiaries: ministry, educational institutions, organisations providing higher professional education, higher educational institutions, public organisations for adult education, private organisations providing education programmes, public institutes, public agencies, public funds, public research institutes, employers, employers’ associations, chambers, providers and mentors of on-the-job training, associations and communities in education, non-governmental organisations, and other institutions recognised as beneficiaries in accordance with the legislation or relevant selection procedures. |

Measures to protect equality, inclusion and non-discrimination:

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| --- |
| Pursuant to Article 2 of the Organisation and Financing of Education Act[[161]](#footnote-161), the fundamental objectives of the education system in Slovenia will be taken into account when implementing measures in the field of the education system, above all ensuring the optimal development of individuals regardless of personal circumstances (gender, social and cultural origin, religion, race, ethnic origin, nationality, and physical and mental constitution or disability). In the planning, implementation and monitoring of measures, transparent and non-discriminatory inclusion or equal opportunity for participation or access will be ensured. The measures will contribute to the objectives of the European Pillar of Social Rights. Equal opportunities will be guaranteed for all stakeholders in education (learners, educators, researchers in measures to reduce the digital divide, etc.), and other (didactic) aspects of equality and equal opportunities (different motivations of stakeholders, effective forms of positive discrimination, particularly in the field of reading literacy, to reduce the gender gap, providing a safe and stimulating learning environment) will be actively taken into account.  All young people can participate in the measures – the inclusion of women in occupations that are still considered more “masculine” in society today will be promoted, and special attention will be paid to young people with special needs in school. We will also focus specifically on young dropouts (NEET). In the long term, the measures will contribute to competences for the future, a lower unemployment rate and, consequently, to a lower number of people being at risk of poverty and social exclusion, and to the promotion of equality by reducing the gender gap in knowledge.  Career orientation measures, including the enhancement of career centres for young people, comply with the objective of the Sustainable Development Strategy, as they promote the development of a democratic, socially inclusive, cohesive, and just society that respects fundamental rights and cultural diversity, creates equal opportunities, and combats all forms of discrimination. |

Indication of the specific territories targeted, including the planned use of territorial tools:

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| --- |
| Under this specific objective, the use of territorial tools is not foreseen. |

The interregional, cross-border and transnational actions:

|  |
| --- |
| Investments in measures in the field of ​​the education system will also contribute to measures within macro-regions. The activities will be logically combined with activities in various cross-border programmes (particularly ISO build up mutual trust by promoting measures related to people-to-people projects). The measures will be implemented in the field of ​​the quality of ethnic education for the Italian and Hungarian national communities in Slovenia, and the Slovenian national communities in Italy and Hungary, and will be aimed at connecting the national communities on both sides of the border to strengthen integration, and the transfer of knowledge and good practices. The activities complement the planned Interreg programmes Italy–Slovenia and Slovenia–Hungary.  The measures will also contribute to the flagship project of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR) “European Quality Assurance in Vocational Education and Training National Reference Points”, the objectives of which are to contribute to better educational outcomes and competences, enhance the involvement of vocational education and training students in reviewing and improving vocational education and training programmes, improve the capacity of vocational education and training schools to use the quality assurance mechanism and its instruments, focus on additional elements of the new EQAVET, and develop international cooperation in quality assurance in vocational education and training by providing support for peer collaboration in the EU. |

Planned use of financial instruments:

|  |
| --- |
| The use of grants is foreseen. In accordance with the results of the analysis of the preliminary assessment of market needs and financing gaps in the market for the implementation of financial instruments in the 2021–2027 programming period (July 2022), the use of financial instruments under this specific objective is not foreseen. The proposed measures do not generate revenues or savings, due to which the use of financial instruments is not sensible or appropriate. These are measures related to the public education system, the operation of which is funded from the state budget. As a rule, educational institutions do not have market activity or it is very limited and dedicated, therefore, they cannot borrow money on the market. |

##### Indicators

Table 2: Impact indicators

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority | Specific objective | Fund | Category of region | ID | Indicators | Measurement unit | Milestone (2014) | Target (2029) |
| 6 | ESO4.5 | ESF+ | Less developed | EECO05 | Employed, including self-employed | Persons | 1,378 | 12,768 |
| 6 | ESO4.5 | ESF+ | More developed | EECO05 | Employed, including self-employed | Persons | 1,222 | 11,983 |
| 6 | ESO4.5 | ESF+ | Less developed | EECO07 | Young people between 18 and 29 years of age | Persons | 28 | 20,679 |
| 6 | ESO4.5 | ESF+ | More developed | EECO07 | Young people between 18 and 29 years of age | Persons | 12 | 41,681 |
| 6 | ESO4.5 | ESF+ | Less developed | EECO18 | Number of public administrations or public services supported | Entities | 247 | 1,053 |
| 6 | ESO4.5 | ESF+ | More developed | EECO18 | Number of public administrations or public services supported | Entities | 216 | 925 |

Table 3: Result indicators

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority | Specific objective | Fund | Category of region | ID | Indicator | Measurement unit | Baseline or reference value | Reference year | Target (2029) | Source of data | Notes |
| 6 | ESO4.5 | ESF+ | Less developed | 8 | Share of supported organisations that have successfully integrated project results to improve knowledge, skills and competences into their development plans within four weeks of the end of the operation | Percentage | 85 | 2020 | 80 | Beneficiary, MIZŠ, MK |  |
| 6 | ESO4.5 | ESF+ | More developed | 8 | Share of supported organisations that have successfully integrated project results to improve knowledge, skills and competences into their development plans within four weeks of the end of the operation | Percentage | 85 | 2020 | 80 | Beneficiary, MIZŠ, MK |  |
| 6 | ESO4.5 | ESF+ | Less developed | 9 | Share of young people between 18 and 29 years of age who received a certificate of successfully completed activities upon leaving | Percentage | 95 | 2020 | 57 | Beneficiary, MIZŠ |  |
| 6 | ESO4.5 | ESF+ | More developed | 9 | Share of young people between 18 and 29 years of age who received a certificate of successfully completed activities after participating | Percentage | 95 | 2020 | 57 | Beneficiary, MIZŠ |  |
| 6 | ESO4.5 | ESF+ | Less developed | 10 | Share of participants who received a certificate upon leaving | Percentage | 95 | 2020 | 95 | Beneficiary, MIZŠ, MK |  |
| 6 | ESO4.5 | ESF+ | More developed | 10 | Share of participants who received a certificate upon leaving | Percentage | 95 | 2020 | 95 | Beneficiary, MIZŠ, MK |  |
| 6 | ESO4.5 | ESF+ | Less developed | 20 | Share of secondary school and university students involved in vocational and professional education four weeks after the end of the operation | Percentage | 67 | 2020 | 69 | Beneficiary, MIZŠ |  |
| 6 | ESO4.5 | ESF+ | More developed | 20 | Share of secondary school and university students involved in vocational and professional education four weeks after the end of the operation | Percentage | 67 | 2022 | 69 | Beneficiary, MIZŠ |  |

##### Indicative breakdown of the programme resources (EU) by type of intervention

Table 4: Dimension 1 – intervention field

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority no. | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |
| 6 | ESF+ | Less developed | ESO4.5 | 145 | 13,515,000 |
| 6 | ESF+ | More developed | ESO4.5 | 145 | 5,640,000 |
| 6 | ESF+ | Less developed | ESO4.5 | 148 | 11,364,700 |
| 6 | ESF+ | More developed | ESO4.5 | 148 | 4,562,200 |
| 6 | ESF+ | Less developed | ESO4.5 | 149 | 55,135,200 |
| 6 | ESF+ | More developed | ESO4.5 | 149 | 19,112,700 |
| 6 | ESF+ | Less developed | ESO4.5 | 150 | 14,152,000 |
| 6 | ESF+ | More developed | ESO4.5 | 150 | 12,532,000 |
| 6 | ESF+ | Less developed | ESO4.5 | 151 | 1,001,900 |
| 6 | ESF+ | More developed | ESO4.5 | 151 | 418,100 |

Table 5: Dimension 2 – form of financing

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority no. | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |
| 6 | ESF+ | Less developed | ESO4.5 | 01 | 95,168,800 |
| 6 | ESF+ | More developed | ESO4.5 | 01 | 42,265,000 |

Table 6: Dimension 3 – territorial delivery mechanism and territorial focus

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority no. | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |
| 6 | ESF+ | Less developed | ESO4.5 | 33 | 95,168,800 |
| 6 | ESF+ | More developed | ESO4.5 | 33 | 42,265,000 |

Table 7: Dimension 6 – ESF+ secondary themes

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority no. | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |
| 6 | ESF+ | Less developed | ESO4.5 | 01 | 5,355,000 |
| 6 | ESF+ | More developed | ESO4.5 | 01 | 1,680,000 |
| 6 | ESF+ | Less developed | ESO4.5 | 02 | 23,381,500 |
| 6 | ESF+ | More developed | ESO4.5 | 02 | 9,202,400 |
| 6 | ESF+ | Less developed | ESO4.5 | 09 | 66,432,300 |
| 6 | ESF+ | More developed | ESO4.5 | 09 | 31,382,600 |

Table 8: Dimension 7 – ESF+\*, ERDF, Cohesion Fund and JTF gender equality dimension

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority no. | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |
| 6 | ESF+ | Less developed | ESO4.5 | 01 | 17,788,365 |
| 6 | ESF+ | More developed | ESO4.5 | 01 | 13,919,000 |
| 6 | ESF+ | Less developed | ESO4.5 | 02 | 77,380,435 |
| 6 | ESF+ | More developed | ESO4.5 | 02 | 28,346,000 |

**\*** In principle, 40% for the ESF+ contributes to gender tracking. 100% is applicable when Member State chooses to use Article 6 ESF+ Regulation as well as programme specific actions in gender equality.

#### Specific objective ESO4.7. Promoting lifelong learning, in particular flexible upskilling and reskilling opportunities for all taking into account entrepreneurial and digital skills, better anticipating change and new skills requirements based on labour market needs, facilitating career transitions and promoting professional mobility (ESF+)

##### Interventions of the Funds

Related types of actions:

|  |
| --- |
| To achieve greater inclusion of individuals in lifelong education and learning (hereinafter: LLL), particularly of less educated and less qualified persons and elderly people, better professional competences of employees, and an effective career orientation system, the establishment of digital educational resources and high-quality didactic software, and the reduction of the digital gap, measures to attain the objectives of this specific objective will be aimed at:   * Implementing *support activities for LLL*: a nationwide campaign will be implemented, particularly for adults from various vulnerable groups (elderly people, migrants, prisoners, less educated persons or persons with a lack of competence, unemployed persons, etc.). The awareness of the importance of participating in lifelong learning to enter or be competitive in the labour market, personal development, and participating in the community will be raised. The purpose of the measures is: to reinforce the positive attitude towards LLL, which brings progress in the personal, social and work fields; to increase involvement in various forms of vocational education and training to obtain higher or new education, and basic and professional competences; to improve general knowledge; to connect and establish a learning community. Modern approaches and tools for high-quality and effective implementation of promotional, animation and informational activities and teaching aids will be developed. Interministerial cooperation will be enhanced, and various stakeholders in the labour market, social partners and non-governmental organisations at national and local levels will be involved. To achieve greater synergy in the implementation of activities, the cooperation of various ministries that are active in the field of adult education (MIZŠ, MGRT and MDDSZ) is foreseen. Using various tools (such as individual learning accounts), all adults will be able to develop their skills throughout the entire employment period. * *Professional and development tasks will be carried out in the field of*: information and advisory activities for adults (also in secondary education, which proved to be understaffed within the framework of the international project); validations; the assessment and development of quality in adult education, and professional and development tasks in the field of lifelong career orientation in higher professional education with the aim of greater employability of graduates, enhancing the importance of lifelong education, cooperation between higher professional schools and employers, keeping records, etc. The measure also addresses the implementation of training to empower employees in SMEs in particular, which have few resources intended for training or little knowledge to deal with rapid changes in the market. The purpose of such training will be to develop and enhance the competences required to successfully enter the labour market with the aim of increasing awareness of lifelong learning and lifelong career orientation. * *Measures to obtain secondary school education and a new occupation for different levels, qualifications and reskilling, professional development and training, acquiring and increasing literacy level and basic abilities, and improving general education, including digital and other key competences for LLL*:   + Developing and implementing programmes for various target groups of adults, which ensure the acquisition and improvement of literacy level and basic abilities, and the improvement of general education for employment or more efficient performance of work, personal development, active citizenship, green transition and social inclusion, with an emphasis on less educated persons, adults with a lack of skills and elderly people. The measure will contribute to greater involvement of adults in LLL and improve the competences that individuals need for the labour market. The measure will facilitate the flexibility of the programmes in relation to excess work supply (complementarity with the RRP: increasing literacy level and basic abilities by implementing training in accordance with new public programmes in the field of financial literacy).   + Developing and implementing programmes of further vocational education and training, taking into account employment trends or labour market needs, technological development, green transition, social changes, etc. The measures will primarily include training and upskilling programmes, and study upskilling programmes in accordance with the Bases for the preparation of education programmes of lower and secondary vocational education, and programmes of secondary professional education and the Bases for the preparation of higher education study programmes; programmes of further professional upskilling to upgrade the competences of employees with specific knowledge and labour needs. The measure will also include training and upskilling programmes for employees in the public sector with an emphasis on training managers and other public employees to reduce the gap in the field of basic and professional competences to solve the challenges of the future. It will also include programmes prepared by schools for enterprises or together with enterprises. By joining the said programmes, the participants will be provided with many opportunities to improve basic and professional competences, for greater employability and mobility between fields of work, and personal development, and to function in modern society.   + Encouraging adults to raise their educational level to the secondary and higher education level, which facilitates the acquisition of vocational, professional and higher education, including the acquisition of a new title of vocational and professional education (reskilling) at various levels with an emphasis on shortage occupations. The measure will raise the educational level of the population (complementarity with systemic regulation: primary school level is provided as part of the public service in adult education). This will contribute to the objectives of the European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan and facilitate a more flexible filling of the redundant positions that will become available.   + Strengthening the competences of young people for greater employability and active citizenship through quality youth work: the key project activity is the implementation of training to strengthen the competences of young people between 15 and 29 years of age for greater employability and active citizenship, which will be carried out by organisations in the youth sector. Innovative forms of youth work will be promoted, which will have wider effects in the field of quality youth work and youth policy, and young people not in education, employment, or training (NEET) will also be encouraged to participate in the activities. The results from the 2014–2020 period show that young people improved their employability and active citizenship with the competences acquired in past comparable measures.   Employers and participants involved in the measures in the 2014-2020 period recognised the positive effects of the measures. The interim evaluation showed that employees need specific skills, such as digitisation, artificial intelligence, smart production, green jobs, etc. Therefore, measures will continue in the 2021–2027 period, and contribute to the greater involvement of adults in LLL and the improvement of the competencies adults need for the labour market, their personal development, active citizenship, green transition, and social inclusion.   * *Raising the quality of the adult education system, particularly in two intervention fields:*   + The development of e-materials, other materials and applications for programmes in vocational and professional, and adult education, including programmes for employees in the public sector: for the needs of acquiring basic, professional and key skills, the development of e-contents with various formats and accessibility options on the Internet (via portals, e-classrooms, platforms, applications, etc.) will be promoted. The lack of suitable e-materials and e-contents proved to be one of the crucial shortcomings during the COVID-19 epidemic, particularly in adult education.   + Strengthening the competence of adult educators: the needs of adult educators for new competencies will be determined, national points for the training needs of adult educators will be established, their competences will be upgraded with a special emphasis on the digitisation of learning and education, sustainable development, new approaches to remote learning, ICT tools, etc. Complementary to the preceding indent, e-training programmes will be prepared, and learning materials and resources will be developed to support the e-training of adult educators, thereby strengthening their didactic and ICT skills. Furthermore, professional development of adult educators will also be provided through practice in various fields of target groups and with ICT support, and their career development and professional mobility will be promoted. When implementing the measure, cooperation with social partners, other ministries and non-governmental organisations at state and local levels will be enhanced.   By their nature, these are measures that do not have a predictable negative impact on environmental objectives, which would be related to the direct and primary indirect impacts of the measure in its life cycle, or such impacts are insignificant, making them consistent with the DNSH principle. |

Main target groups:

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| --- |
| Target groups are as follows:   * all adults with emphasis on vulnerable target groups (above 45 years of age, less educated, less qualified, migrants, prisoners, etc.); * adults who require upskilling or training, qualifications or reskilling due to the needs of the labour market or the workplace; * individuals between 15 and 29 years of age to develop the competences they need for better employability (including in the field of culture and art) and active citizenship.   Beneficiaries: educational organisations (public adult education organisations, secondary schools, higher professional schools, inter-company training centres, private organisations), communities and associations in the field of education and training, NGOs and their associations, organisations in the youth sector, the Slovenian Institute of Adult Education, the Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Vocational Education and Training, JŠRIPS, Judicial Training Centre, the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Slovenia, the Administration Academy, social partners and other institutions that will be recognised as beneficiaries in accordance with the legislation or relevant selection procedures. |

Measures to protect equality, inclusion and non-discrimination:

|  |
| --- |
| The principles of gender equality, inclusion and non-discrimination will be respected during the implementation of all activities in accordance with national legislation (Equal Opportunities for Women and Men Act, Protection Against Discrimination Act, Equalisation of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities Act), the EU legal order, in particular the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU, the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and the principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights, and relevant international documents for the protection of human rights, in particular the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Within the framework of the ECP 2021–2027 Programme, equal opportunities and the fight against discrimination based on various personal circumstances (e.g. gender, age, disability, race, ethnic origin, nationality and religion, sexual orientation) will be provided horizontally and vertically, as much as possible. This will also take into account the Procedural rules for providing the horizontal enabling condition “Effective application and implementation of the Charter of Fundamental Rights” and the Action Programme for Persons with Disabilities 2022–2030, and other relevant documents that will be created as part of implementation. This principle will also be taken into account within the framework of the management and control system. The Monitoring Committee will be notified of any identified discrepancies at least once a year.  In accordance with the principles of public interest in adult education and with the vision of the Resolution on the National Programme of Adult Education in the Republic of Slovenia 2021-2030 (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia [*Uradni list RS*], No. 49/22), all adult residents of Slovenia will have, at all stages of their lives, the same opportunities and incentives for quality learning and education for their holistic development and coexistence with nature. Experience from the 2014–2020 programming period shows that the need for education and training is present not only among elderly people and less educated persons, but also among other target groups, for example among individuals with higher education, who nevertheless have lower abilities in certain areas (e.g. digital literacy); therefore, the measures in the programme are intended to provide all adults with an opportunity to participate in education with attention given to the aspect of gender equality. Individual measures will be used to emphasise access for people with fewer opportunities, but the measures will be aimed at the involvement of all adults. |

Indication of the specific territories targeted, including the planned use of territorial tools:

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| --- |
| Under this specific objective, the use of territorial tools is not foreseen. |

The interregional, cross-border and transnational actions:

|  |
| --- |
| Investments in increased involvement in lifelong training will also contribute to measures within macro-regions. The activities will be logically combined with activities in various cross-border programmes (particularly ISO build up mutual trust by promoting measures related to people-to-people projects).  The measures planned in the field of LLL will stimulate individual learners to be included in LLL, thus empowering them to decide to take part in Erasmus+ programmes. This will help to provide individuals with a variety of learning opportunities. The planned measures will also have an impact on the personnel in adult education and education providers, who could make more informed decisions on the internationalisation and institutional development of adult education providers and other organisations active in the field of adult education, which is made possible by the Erasmus+ programme.  The content of the measures planned under the specific objective coincide with, and support, the planned flagships of the EU Strategy for the Adriatic-Ionian Region (EUSAIR) Therefore, within the framework of the flagship projects “Promotion, sustainability and competitiveness in fisheries through education, research and development” and “Support, coordination for the improvement of marinas and blue growth services”, measures to develop skills, and improve the level of skills and expertise for the maritime sector workforce will be supported. |

Planned use of financial instruments:

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| --- |
| The use of grants is foreseen. In accordance with the results of the analysis of the preliminary assessment of market needs and financing gaps in the market for the implementation of financial instruments in the 2021–2027 programming period (July 2022), the use of financial instruments under this specific objective is not foreseen. The proposed measures do not generate revenues or savings, due to which the use of financial instruments is not sensible or appropriate. The intended beneficiaries of the planned measures are organisations in education (public organisations for adult education, secondary schools, higher professional schools, inter-company training centres, communities and associations in education, non-governmental organisations and their associations, organisations in the youth sector, the Slovenian Institute of Adult Education, the Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Vocational Education and Training, Public Scholarship, Development, Disability and Maintenance Fund), which, as a rule, do not have market activity or it is very limited and dedicated, therefore, they cannot borrow money on the market. |

##### Indicators

Table 2: Impact indicators

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority | Specific objective | Fund | Category of region | ID | Indicators | Measurement unit | Milestone (2014) | Target (2029) |
| 6 | ESO4.7 | ESF+ | Less developed | EECO01 | Total number of participants | Persons | 10,978 | 59,004 |
| 6 | ESO4.7 | ESF+ | More developed | EECO01 | Total number of participants | Persons | 7,532 | 40,751 |

Table 3: Result indicators

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority | Specific objective | Fund | Category of region | ID | Indicator | Measurement unit | Baseline or reference value | Reference year | Target (2029) | Source of data | Notes |
| 6 | ESO4.7 | ESF+ | Less developed | EECR03 | Participants gaining a qualification upon leaving | Persons | 74,708 | 2020 | 10,800 | Beneficiary, MIZŠ, MP |  |
| 6 | ESO4.7 | ESF+ | More developed | EECR03 | Participants gaining a qualification upon leaving | Persons | 74,708 | 2020 | 10,800 | Beneficiary, MIZŠ, MP |  |

##### Indicative breakdown of the programme resources (EU) by type of intervention

Table 4: Dimension 1 – intervention field

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority no. | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |
| 6 | ESF+ | Less developed | ESO4.7 | 151 | 53,980,000 |
| 6 | ESF+ | More developed | ESO4.7 | 151 | 15,988,500 |

Table 5: Dimension 2 – form of financing

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority no. | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |
| 6 | ESF+ | Less developed | ESO4.7 | 01 | 53,980,000 |
| 6 | ESF+ | More developed | ESO4.7 | 01 | 15,988,500 |

Table 6: Dimension 3 – territorial delivery mechanism and territorial focus

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority no. | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in) |
| 6 | ESF+ | Less developed | ESO4.7 | 33 | 53,980,000 |
| 6 | ESF+ | More developed | ESO4.7 | 33 | 15,988,500 |

Table 7: Dimension 6 – ESF+ secondary themes

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority no. | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |
| 6 | ESF+ | Less developed | ESO4.7 | 10 | 53,980,000 |
| 6 | ESF+ | More developed | ESO4.7 | 10 | 15,988,500 |

Table 8: Dimension 7 – ESF+\*, ERDF, Cohesion Fund and JTF gender equality dimension

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority no. | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |
| 6 | ESF+ | Less developed | ESO4.7 | 02 | 53,980,000 |
| 6 | ESF+ | More developed | ESO4.7 | 02 | 15,988,500 |

**\*** In principle, 40% for the ESF+ contributes to gender tracking. 100 % is applicable when Member State chooses to use Article 6 ESF+ Regulation as well as programme specific actions in gender equality.

#### Specific objective RSO4.2. Improving equal access to inclusive and quality services in education, training and lifelong learning through developing accessible infrastructure, including by fostering resilience for distance and on-line education and training (ERDF)

##### Interventions of the Funds

Related types of actions:

|  |
| --- |
| To improve infrastructure for the implementation of the educational process and provide ICT infrastructure to support the digitisation of pedagogical and administrative work related to study activities, and to support the operation of organisations in the youth sector, measures under this specific objective will be aimed at:   * *Investments in existing and new facilities in education*, which will enable the modernisation of the outdated building stock in this area, and provide additional capacities for pupils, students, teachers and professionals, which will meet the modern requirements of the educational process, the strengthening of multidisciplinary education and the development of innovative personnel, along with project and target-oriented educational work. The building stock of educational institutions is extremely large and the needs are great, therefore funds to ensure the physical conditions for the implementation of the educational process are essential. Investments are foreseen in critical educational and higher education infrastructure, which have an important multiplier effect, as they contribute to the higher quality of the educational process and greater resilience of the educational system. The investments will comply with the Strategy for the Greening of Education and Research Infrastructure, which will be prepared as part of the RRP reform by the end of 2022, which will contribute to the green transition. Priority will be given to the understaffed areas, particularly the lack of professionals in education and STEAM occupations, which is also pointed out by the European Commission in Country Report – Slovenia 2022. Data on the age structure of teachers show that one third of primary school teachers and half of secondary school teachers are above 50 years of age, meaning that over a third of primary and secondary school teachers will have to be replaced in the next 15 years. In rural areas, however, there is already a shortage of teachers of subjects such as science, technology, engineering and mathematics. The initial training of employees in education is crucial. In line with the aforementioned, investments in the education infrastructure of the University of Maribor as part of the Innovum innovation platform are proposed as a priority. The funds are entirely planned in the Eastern cohesion region, which is characterised by demographic, social and economic conditions that hinder the development of the region’s potential. Investments in education infrastructure will create the required conditions for multiplier effects, which will enhance the development of the Eastern Slovenia cohesion region. These are investments that will have synergic effects with investment proposals within SO RSO1.1, which will create a comprehensive support environment for facing the challenges of society in the field of education, and research and development. Where relevant, the implementation of measures will comply with the New European Bauhaus initiative to successfully integrate the principles of sustainability, aesthetics and inclusion to find accessible, inclusive, sustainable and attractive solutions to climate challenges. Pursuant to the Organisation and Financing of Education Act[[162]](#footnote-162) and the Resolution on National programme of higher education 2030[[163]](#footnote-163), we will, by investing in the development of public education infrastructure, contribute to measures to achieve strategic objectives in the field of quality, which are particularly focused on introducing the topic of solidarity, quality of work, social security, social cohesion, the inclusion of vulnerable and marginal groups, non-discrimination and similar. The measure complements the two measures in the field of strengthening the suitability of the education system for the labour market under the SO ESO4.5. * Providing suitable *information and communication technology in public higher education institutions and public higher education libraries* to support the digitisation of the higher education study process in the classroom and remotely, and the administrative work directly related to it. Adequate ICT (infrastructure and equipment) in higher education institutions will be provided to improve the quality of the study process and increase the resilience of the remote learning process. The provision of equipment and infrastructure services complements the establishment of a comprehensive support environment in higher education institutions focused on the student and activities for the successful and prompt completion of studies (measure under the SO ESO4.5), and the development of digital competences of students or graduates within the framework of the reform and investment in the RRP. * Providing suitable *ICT infrastructure and equipment in organisations in the youth sector*, which will ensure the basic conditions for the implementation and development of quality youth work and informal education to additionally enhance young people’s competences for greater employability and active citizenship through quality youth work (measure under the SO ESO4 .7).   To formulate the final content of the measures, and the criteria for their selection and implementation, the relevant mitigation measures and, to the greatest extent possible, the relevant recommendations in accordance with the strategic environmental assessment, which are listed in annex Mitigation Measures and Recommendations, will be taken into account. In accordance with the Technical guidance on the application of ‘do no significant harm’, the impact of each planned measure on the environmental objectives was assessed and it was concluded that none of the planned measures under this specific objective has a significant adverse impact on any of the six environmental objectives, taking into account the technical screening criteria listed in annex DNSH. |

Main target groups:

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| --- |
| Target groups: educational institutions, higher educational institutions, public higher education libraries, organisations in the youth sector and other stakeholders.  Beneficiaries: educational institutions, higher educational institutions, public higher education libraries, organisations in the youth sector and other stakeholders. |

Measures to protect equality, inclusion and non-discrimination:

|  |
| --- |
| The principles of gender equality, inclusion and non-discrimination will be respected during the implementation of all activities in accordance with national legislation (Equal Opportunities for Women and Men Act, Protection Against Discrimination Act, Equalisation of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities Act), the EU legal order, in particular the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU, the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and the principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights, and relevant international documents for the protection of human rights, in particular the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Within the framework of the ECP 2021–2027 Programme, equal opportunities and the fight against discrimination based on various personal circumstances will be provided horizontally and vertically, as much as possible. This will also take into account the Procedural rules for providing the horizontal enabling condition “Effective application and implementation of the Charter of Fundamental Rights” and the Action Programme for Persons with Disabilities 2022–2030, and other relevant documents that will be created as part of implementation. This principle will also be taken into account within the framework of the management and control system.  Under this specific objective, the construction of buildings will facilitate accessibility through architectural adaptability for all population groups, particularly for persons with disabilities. At the same time, investments in the education and higher education infrastructure will provide accessibility for all students in accordance with the basic principles of education. In accordance with national legislation and strategic documents (ZOFVI and ReNPVŠ30), we will, by investing in the development of this infrastructure, contribute to the objectives of providing quality education or study accessible to all EU citizens at all levels of education, regardless of the individual’s personal circumstances, as the measures are particularly focused on the established topics of solidarity, quality of work, social security, social cohesion, the inclusion of vulnerable and marginal groups, non-discrimination and similar. The measure to provide ICT infrastructure in higher education and organisations in the youth sector will ensure greater accessibility to the services provided by the relevant institutions, which will in turn enable greater involvement of young people in tertiary and informal education. |

Indication of the specific territories targeted, including the planned use of territorial tools:

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| --- |
| From the aspect of regions, the funds under this specific objective are planned only for the Eastern Slovenia cohesion region, as the latter lags behind the Western Slovenia cohesion region in terms of development, and is characterised by demographic, social and economic conditions that hinder the development of the region’s potential. Therefore, the required conditions for multiplier effects must be created, which will enhance the development of the Eastern Slovenia cohesion region. An additional reason from the aspect of higher education infrastructure is that as many as 44% of students who have permanent residence in the Eastern Slovenia cohesion region study at higher education institutions in the Western Slovenia cohesion region. The measures will ensure adequate infrastructure and equipment, including ICT, in higher education institutions, which will provide greater access to higher education in the region where students live, which is easier for the socially disadvantaged, who may decide to study in the Eastern Slovenia cohesion region. Under this specific objective, the use of territorial approaches is not foreseen. |

The interregional, cross-border and transnational actions:

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| --- |
| The interregional, cross-border and transnational actions are not foreseen under this specific objective, as these are investment measures in public educational institutions that operate in the territory of the Republic of Slovenia and are intended primarily for residents of Slovenia. |

Planned use of financial instruments:

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| --- |
| The use of grants is foreseen. In accordance with the results of the analysis of the preliminary assessment of market needs and financing gaps in the market for the implementation of financial instruments in the 2021–2027 programming period (July 2022), the use of financial instruments under this specific objective is not foreseen. The proposed measures do not generate revenues or savings, due to which the use of financial instruments is not sensible or appropriate. These are measures that refer to public educational institutions and organisations in the youth sector, most of which are state-owned or are non-governmental organisations and do not have market activity or it is very limited and dedicated, therefore, they cannot borrow money on the market. |

##### Indicators

Table 2: Impact indicators

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority | Specific objective | Fund | Category of region | ID | Indicators | Measurement unit | Milestone (2014) | Target (2029) |
| 6 | RSO4.2 | ERDF | Less developed | RCO67 | Classroom capacity of new or modernised childcare facilities | Persons | 0 | 500 |
| 6 | RSO4.2 | ERDF | Less developed | 11 | Organisations supported to integrate new ICT equipment and services | Number | 2 | 38 |

Table 3: Result indicators

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority | Specific objective | Fund | Category of region | ID | Indicator | Measurement unit | Baseline or reference value | Reference year | Target (2029) | Source of data | Notes |
| 6 | RSO4.2 | ERDF | Less developed | RCR71 | Annual users of new or modernised education facilities | Users/year | 0 | 2022 | 500 | Beneficiary, MIZŠ |  |
| 6 | RSO4.2 | ERDF | Less developed | 18 | Share of organisations that have integrated new ICT equipment and services into education and training processes | Percentage | 0 | 2022 | 100 | Beneficiary, MIZŠ |  |

##### Indicative breakdown of the programme resources (EU) by type of intervention

Table 4: Dimension 1 – intervention field

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority no. | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |
| 6 | ERDF | Less developed | RSO4.2 | 043 | 18,390,000 |
| 6 | ERDF | Less developed | RSO4.2 | 044 | 3,179,061 |
| 6 | ERDF | Less developed | RSO4.2 | 123 | 9,436,000 |
| 6 | ERDF | Less developed | RSO4.2 | 124 | 1,795,000 |

Table 5: Dimension 2 – form of financing

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority no. | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |
| 6 | ERDF | Less developed | RSO4.2 | 01 | 32,800,061 |

Table 6: Dimension 3 – territorial delivery mechanism and territorial focus

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority no. | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |
| 6 | ERDF | Less developed | RSO4.2 | 33 | 32,800,061 |

Table 7: Dimension 6 – ESF+ secondary themes

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority no. | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |

Table 8: Dimension 7 – ESF+\*, ERDF, Cohesion Fund and JTF gender equality dimension

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority no. | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |
| 6 | ERDF | Less developed | RSO4.2 | 03 | 32,800,061 |

**\*** In principle, 40% for the ESF+ contributes to gender tracking. 100% is applicable when Member State chooses to use Article 6 ESF+ Regulation as well as programme specific actions in gender equality.

### Priority 7: Long-term care and health, and social inclusion

|  |
| --- |
| This is a priority dedicated to youth employment |
| * This is a priority dedicated to social innovative actions |
| This is a priority dedicated to support to the most deprived persons under the specific objective set out in point (m) of Article 4(1) of the ESF+ Regulation\* |
| * This is a priority dedicated to support to the most deprived persons under the specific objective set out in point (l) of Article 4(1) of the ESF+ Regulation |
| This is a priority dedicated to urban mobility specific objective set out in point (viii) of Article 3(1)(b) of the ERDF and Cohesion Fund Regulation |
| This is a priority dedicated to digital connectivity specific objective set out in point (v) of Article 3(1)(a) of the ERDF and Cohesion Fund Regulation |

**\*** If marked, go to section 2.1.1.2.

#### Specific objective ESO4.8. Fostering active inclusion with a view to promoting equal opportunities, non-discrimination and active participation, and improving employability, in particular for disadvantaged groups (ESF+)

##### Interventions of the Funds

Related types of actions:

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| --- |
| Under the specific objective ESO4.8, the measures will address the following fields:   * *Promoting the social inclusion of persons exposed to the risk of poverty or social exclusion with identified labour market barriers*: Social activation programmes will be implemented to increase social, functional and work competences for persons from the target groups of long-term unemployed persons, recipients of social assistance benefit in cash, temporarily unemployed persons, migrants, etc., who face complex social issues that prevent them from entering the labour market; a programme of training workshops, the purpose of which is the integration of vulnerable target groups into social entrepreneurship, and the development of activities and employment in existing social enterprises, and the Project-based learning for young adults programme, which is intended for young adults NEET who need an active solution to the problem to be included back into school or enter the labour market. * *Measures to support an easier transition of young people with special needs to the labour market* through various forms of assistance, as young people with special needs have problems transitioning to the next level of education or the labour market due to their deficits, and therefore need additional encouragement from professionals. The measure complements the measure for a faster entry of young people to the labour market, which will be implemented as part of the RRP, and measures in the field of social inclusion of children with special needs under the SO ESO4.11. * *Training for prisoners* to obtain secondary school education and qualifications, reskilling and further professional training, programmes of national vocational qualifications and other informal training and education programmes for prisoners. The measure enables a faster integration to the labour market after serving a prison sentence. * *Employment, training and promotion of the social inclusion of members of vulnerable social groups in the field of culture*, whereby the principle of equal opportunities will also be taken into account, preventing social exclusion.   By their nature, these are measures that do not have a predictable negative impact on environmental objectives, which would be related to the direct and primary indirect impacts of the measure in its life cycle, or such impacts are insignificant, making them consistent with the DNSH principle. |

Main target groups:

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| --- |
| Target groups:   * unemployed and inactive persons who face obstacles in entering the labour market or in joining AEP measures; * unemployed and inactive persons who are not yet long-term unemployed persons, but for whom the ZRSZ assessed a need for intensive and in-depth treatment prior to being included in the AEP or the labour market; * persons under 30 years of age, with special needs; * prisoners; * minority ethnic communities; * persons with disabilities.   Beneficiaries: ZRSZ, URSIKS and providers of measures selected as part of a public tender or public call (e.g. public and private organisations, NGOs, etc.). |

Measures to protect equality, inclusion and non-discrimination:

|  |
| --- |
| The principles of gender equality, inclusion and non-discrimination will be respected during the implementation of all activities in accordance with national legislation (Equal Opportunities for Women and Men Act, Protection Against Discrimination Act, Equalisation of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities Act), the EU legal order, in particular the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU, the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and the principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights, and relevant international documents for the protection of human rights, in particular the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. As part of the programme, equal opportunities and the fight against discrimination based on different personal circumstances will also be ensured horizontally and vertically within the framework of the management and supervision system, and the Procedural rules for providing the horizontal enabling condition “Effective application and implementation of the Charter of Fundamental Rights” and the Action Programme for Persons with Disabilities 2022–2030, and other relevant documents that will be created as part of implementation will be taken into account.  The measures will include helping to reduce poverty and promoting social inclusion, equal opportunities will be guaranteed for everyone regardless of personal circumstances, and special attention will be paid to reducing barriers for people with disabilities. The objectives of the measures will be aimed at strengthening the employability, integration and empowerment of vulnerable social groups to implement the principle of equal opportunities and prevent social exclusion.  Within the framework of the measure for prisoners, equal treatment will be ensured, as the activity of the measure will include persons serving a prison sentence regardless of gender, sexual orientation, disability, age, religion or belief, race or ethnic origin. Marginalised persons serving prison sentences who are far from the labour market will also be included in the measures to implement training for prisoners to obtain secondary school education and qualifications, reskilling and further professional training, programmes of national vocational qualifications and other informal training and education programmes for prisoners with the aim of enabling them to have the best possible socio-economic integration in employment and all other areas of life after serving their sentence. |

Indication of the specific territories targeted, including the planned use of territorial tools:

|  |
| --- |
| Under this specific objective, the use of territorial tools is not foreseen. |

The interregional, cross-border and transnational actions:

|  |
| --- |
| Under this specific objective, the implementation of interregional, cross-border and transnational actions is not possible, as the key objectives of the measures under this specific objective are the employment, training and promotion of social inclusion of members of vulnerable social groups who live in the Republic of Slovenia, particularly in the area where they live, as these facilitate local integration and social inclusion at the primary level. |

Planned use of financial instruments:

|  |
| --- |
| In accordance with the results of the analysis of the preliminary assessment of market needs and financing gaps in the market for the implementation of financial instruments in the 2021–2027 programming period (July 2022), the use of financial instruments under this specific objective is not foreseen. The proposed measures do not generate revenues or savings, due to which the use of financial instruments is not sensible or appropriate. In line with the aforementioned, the use of grants is foreseen. |

##### Indicators

Table 2: Impact indicators

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority | Specific objective | Fund | Category of region | ID | Indicators | Measurement unit | Milestone (2014) | Target (2029) |
| 7 | ESO4.8 | ESF+ | Less developed | EECO02 | Unemployed, including long-term unemployed | Persons | 1,095 | 5,752 |
| 7 | ESO4.8 | ESF+ | More developed | EECO02 | Unemployed, including long-term unemployed | Persons | 520 | 2,718 |
| 7 | ESO4.8 | ESF+ | Less developed | EECO04 | Inactive | Persons | 375 | 1,500 |
| 7 | ESO4.8 | ESF+ | More developed | EECO04 | Inactive | Persons | 250 | 1,000 |

Table 3: Result indicators

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority | Specific objective | Fund | Category of region | ID | Indicator | Measurement unit | Baseline or reference value | Reference year | Target (2029) | Source of data | Notes |
| 7 | ESO4.8 | ESF+ | Less developed | EECR02 | Participants in education or training upon leaving | Persons | 1,175 | 2020 | 1,362 | Beneficiaries |  |
| 7 | ESO4.8 | ESF+ | More developed | EECR02 | Participants in education or training upon leaving | Persons | 697 | 2020 | 793 | Beneficiaries |  |
| 7 | ESO4.8 | ESF+ | Less developed | EECR04 | Participants in employment upon leaving | Persons | 820 | 2020 | 843 | Beneficiaries |  |
| 7 | ESO4.8 | ESF+ | More developed | EECR04 | Participants in employment upon leaving | Persons | 221 | 2020 | 235 | Beneficiaries |  |

##### Indicative breakdown of the programme resources (EU) by type of intervention

Table 4: Dimension 1 – intervention field

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority no. | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |
| 7 | ESF+ | Less developed | ESO4.8 | 151 | 1,190,000 |
| 7 | ESF+ | More developed | ESO4.8 | 151 | 240,000 |
| 7 | ESF+ | Less developed | ESO4.8 | 153 | 25,970,000 |
| 7 | ESF+ | More developed | ESO4.8 | 153 | 6,180,000 |
| 7 | ESF+ | Less developed | ESO4.8 | 154 | 1,640,000 |
| 7 | ESF+ | More developed | ESO4.8 | 154 | 720,000 |

Table 5: Dimension 2 – form of financing

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority no. | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |
| 7 | ESF+ | Less developed | ESO4.8 | 01 | 28,800,000 |
| 7 | ESF+ | More developed | ESO4.8 | 01 | 7,140,000 |

Table 6: Dimension 3 – territorial delivery mechanism and territorial focus

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority no. | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |
| 7 | ESF+ | Less developed | ESO4.8 | 33 | 28,800,000 |
| 7 | ESF+ | More developed | ESO4.8 | 33 | 7,140,000 |

Table 7: Dimension 6 – ESF+ secondary themes

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority no. | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |
| 7 | ESF+ | Less developed | ESO4.8 | 09 | 28,800,000 |
| 7 | ESF+ | More developed | ESO4.8 | 09 | 7,140,000 |

Table 8: Dimension 7 – ESF+\*, ERDF, Cohesion Fund and JTF gender equality dimension

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority no. | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |
| 7 | ESF+ | Less developed | ESO4.8 | 02 | 28,800,000 |
| 7 | ESF+ | More developed | ESO4.8 | 02 | 7,140,000 |

**\*** In principle, 40% for the ESF+ contributes to gender tracking. 100% is applicable when Member State chooses to use Article 6 ESF+ Regulation as well as programme specific actions in gender equality.

#### Specific objective ESO4.11. Enhancing equal and timely access to quality, sustainable and affordable services, including services that promote the access to housing and person-centred care including healthcare; modernising social protection systems, including promoting access to social protection, with a particular focus on children and disadvantaged groups; improving accessibility including for persons with disabilities, effectiveness and resilience of healthcare systems and long-term care services (ESF+)

##### Interventions of the Funds

Related types of actions:

|  |
| --- |
| The outbreak of the COVID-19 epidemic exposed the shortcomings of the care system, particularly for elderly people; therefore, it is imperative to upgrade the information infrastructure of social care facilities, which will facilitate prompt and targeted access to data. Increasing problems in health care pointed out by the UMAR in the 2021 Development Report will have to be addressed with comprehensive and targeted measures. Preventive programmes (including sports) must be enhanced, and programmes adapted to the needs of elderly people and support for measures to strengthen social innovation for a faster response to rapidly changing social needs must be established.  The following measures will be supported:   * *Enhancing social care services*   + Measures to improve the quality of services in social care facilities: modernising the social care system and protecting children and families with the aim of greater efficiency, accessibility and quality of services for users in accordance with the 2017 Family Code. A system for evaluating the needs of social care users will be established, education and training of professionals and programmes to enhance parental competences will be carried out, a model for evaluating and measuring the effects of individual services/programmes will be established, and the information system for unified record keeping will be upgraded.   + Measures to support the transition from institutional care to home-care by providing social care and community services: ensuring the coordination of all actors who provide social care services and programmes; support on the ground by providing education for employees in social care in accordance with the principles of deinstitutionalisation; consultations, awareness raising and promotion of the deinstitutionalisation process; preventing institutionalisation and strengthening community services; and relocating and transforming the operation of social care.   + Measures to digitise the data storage and use system in social care facilities, which will optimise work, improve communication, and ensure high personal data security and transparency of service provision. * *Strengthening the resilience of the long-term care system and measures for the early detection of dementia:*   + Measures to strengthen the competence of employees for high-quality, safe and user-oriented provision of services, establish a simulation centre that will enable the acquisition of clinical experience in a safe environment without putting users at risk; measures for verified training for work in health care and long-term care; measures to enhance dental treatment, particularly for elderly people; measure to establish a model of medicine preparation with the help of information support and technology.   + Measures for the early detection of dementia, including programmes to provide integrated treatment and care in the field of mental health between all services and occupations, and education/training programmes to increase competences to recognise, and work with, people with dementia.      * *Strengthening the field of mental health and taking action in the field of drugs:*   + Implementing measures for the horizontal integration of all stakeholders and the integration of existing programmes in the field of illegal drugs and their providers. Measures and activities for medical rehabilitation and comprehensive recovery of illegal drug users, including users of new psychoactive substances, will be developed.   + Mental health will be strengthened through measures to promote mental health, early identification of problems, better access to specialist services, integrated treatment of mental disorders in the community, and psychosocial rehabilitation of persons according to their needs. The measure will complement the RRP, where investments will be made in the education of educators, the development and dissemination of established and effective programmes for the promotion of mental health and the prevention of mental disorders exclusively in children and adolescents and young adults, particularly in the post-COVID period.      * *Enhancing the field of emergency medical services (hereinafter: EMS*): targeted training in the field of health care in the event of major disasters will contribute to the provision of quality treatment on the ground and the reduction of general practitioners’ workload in EMS. To provide access to victims of cardiac arrest and other emergencies in rural environments as rapidly as possible, the system of first responders will also be developed through training. The measure will complement measures under the SO RSO4.5 and the RRP, where investments in infrastructure will be made.      * *Strengthening the digital literacy of employees in health care and long-term care*, and strengthening the health literacy of the population, which will crucially contribute to a better functioning of the health system and the competence of individuals to be part of the health system. The measure will complement the RRP, where the digital transformation of health care will be supported by establishing information solutions, and crucial training for concrete IT solutions for health care personnel will be facilitated. * *Preventive activities in health care and management of age-related frailty:*   + Establishing a system that will ensure systematic identification (geriatric assessment) and the most optimal care of patients who are frail, have multiple long-term conditions, and are exposed to the risk of developing incapacity or loss of autonomy (screening tools, training in the field of frailty, screening aids, preventive and curative interventions). A comprehensive approach provided by an interdisciplinary team is required. In this way, the share of malnourished and functionally less capable elderly residents and patients will be reduced, and a healthy lifestyle of at-risk population groups, such as elderly people and patients, will be promoted. The action will complement the RRP, where personnel competences will be primarily addressed.   + The measure of preventive activities in health care foresees the development and testing of new programmes and services aimed at the preventive treatment of high-risk groups of the population (people with a high risk of developing chronic diseases, people with chronic diseases). Secondary and tertiary prevention at the primary level must be addressed, and the role of local communities in ensuring a better lifestyle for individuals and the implementation of integrated treatment of chronic patients must be enhanced (the connection between the health care activity and the local community, NGOs and local groups for health promotion, which we established in the previous financial framework, the need for holistic rehabilitation, and the inclusion of patients with chronic diseases developed in the operation “Increasing health literacy in Slovenia”). Objective of the measure: to develop, test and implement new secondary and tertiary prevention interventions in health education centres, and train providers. By redirecting preventive programmes and follow-up of patients with chronic diseases to the primary health level, i.e. postponing the occurrence of chronic noncommunicable diseases to a later period of life, the innovative approach responded to the new needs of the population with an emphasis on meeting the needs of the most vulnerable groups and with the aim of reducing health inequalities. A community approach in all health care centres with the goal of reducing health inequality will also be established. The action will complement SO RSO4.5, where investments in infrastructure will be made.   + The said preventive programmes in health care will be upgraded with sports and recreational, and preventive programmes to promote the health and activation of all generations, since, in accordance with the EU Physical Activity Guidelines, daily professionally guided exercise is recommended; therefore, the inclusion of individuals in exercise programmes will be promoted, thus contributing to an increase in the proportion of persons who actively participate in sports. * *Providing a supportive environment for the development and implementation of new services, products and models to address social challenges in an innovative way*, within which measures will be implemented to strengthen the active participation of the non-governmental sector, the economy and state institutions in addressing common challenges (a long-lived society, deinstitutionalisation, community care, etc.). The establishment of centres for social innovation is foreseen, which will stimulate the development of new solutions, the evaluation of their effectiveness, and the pilot dissemination of successful social innovations to provide various integrated services, including the development of the informal economy. * *Measures for the social inclusion of persons with disabilities*: Supportive environments to improve their social inclusion, establish quality services, and monitor the development of social inclusion services will be established, thus ensuring a more independent life with support; special attention will be paid to persons with a mild intellectual disability, for whom support services will be developed to facilitate their more effective employment.   By their nature, these are measures that do not have a predictable negative impact on environmental objectives, which would be related to the direct and primary indirect impacts of the measure in its life cycle, or such impacts are insignificant, making them consistent with the DNSH principle. |

Main target groups:

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| --- |
| Target groups: care providers in facilities and support providers in the community, and social care professionals (public and private sector, NGOs), ministries responsible for work, family and social affairs and health, users of long-term care and health activities, organisations that can contribute to improvements in the field of work with families and their individuals family members (including cultural institutions), users from individual fields of work in social and disability care, and families, individuals, prisoners, persons involved in healthy lifestyle programmes.  Beneficiaries: social care facilities, ministries, social work centres, IRSSV, NGOs, public institutes, educational institutions, umbrella sports organisations, providers of long-term care and health activities, organisations that can contribute to improvements in the field of work with families and their individual family members (including cultural institutions), users from individual fields of work in social and disability care, and families. |

Measures to protect equality, inclusion and non-discrimination:

|  |
| --- |
| The principles of gender equality, inclusion and non-discrimination will be respected at all levels in accordance with national legislation (Equal Opportunities for Women and Men Act, Protection Against Discrimination Act, Equalisation of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities Act), the EU legal order, in particular the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU, the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and the principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights, and relevant international documents for the protection of human rights, in particular the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Within the framework of the ECP 2021–2027 Programme, the Procedural rules for providing the horizontal enabling condition “Effective application and implementation of the Charter of Fundamental Rights” and the Action Programme for Persons with Disabilities 2022–2030, and other relevant documents will also be taken into account. This principle will also be taken into account within the framework of the management and control system.  The measure of sports and recreational and preventive programmes to strengthen health and activate all generations will reduce health inequalities.  All interested parties regardless of personal circumstances will be involved in measures to improve the quality of services provided by social care facilities and measures to support the transition from institutional care to home-care, and preventive measures in health care. The most vulnerable groups of the population will be included in the measures in a way that takes into account their specific needs and the aspect of gender, and that they are approached in their local environments and in accordance with the principles of deinstitutionalisation and international and EU documents in the field of the rights of persons with disabilities. Non-discrimination and equal opportunities for people with disabilities will also be ensured horizontally, as the provision of accessibility for people with disabilities will be promoted when selecting projects. The measures contribute to the attainment of the third target of the EPSR – “social protection and inclusion”. In accordance with the EC recommendation from the EPSR Action Plan, measures are used to strengthen the social security network and access to support services for all who need them. The measure to raise the quality of service provision in social care facilities is one of two key activities (together with the measure of multigenerational centres under the SO ESO4.12) in the field of social care for the implementation of the Council Recommendation establishing a European Child Guarantee, which is Principle 11 of the EPSR on protection from poverty. |

Indication of the specific territories targeted, including the planned use of territorial tools:

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| --- |
| The interregional, cross-border and transnational actions are not foreseen under this specific objective, as these are investment measures in public health care institutions that operate in the territory of the Republic of Slovenia and are intended primarily for residents of Slovenia. |

The interregional, cross-border and transnational actions:

|  |
| --- |
| The interregional, cross-border and transnational actions are not foreseen under this specific objective, as these are systemic investment measures and are intended primarily for residents of the entire Slovenia. |

Planned use of financial instruments:

|  |
| --- |
| In accordance with the results of the analysis of the preliminary assessment of market needs and financing gaps in the market for the implementation of financial instruments in the 2021–2027 programming period (July 2022), the use of financial instruments under the stated specific objective is not foreseen. The use of grants is foreseen, as these are systemic measures implemented by public institutions, whereby the proposed measures do not generate revenues or savings, due to which the use of financial instruments is not sensible or appropriate. |

##### Indicators

Table 2: Output indicators

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority | Specific objective | Fund | Category of region | ID | Indicators | Measurement unit | Milestone (2014) | Target (2029) |
| 7 | ESO4.11 | ESF+ | Less developed | EECO18 | Number of public administrations or public services supported | Entities | 11 | 107 |
| 7 | ESO4.11 | ESF+ | More developed | EECO18 | Number of public administrations or public services supported | Entities | 6 | 63 |
| 7 | ESO4.11 | ESF+ | Less developed | EECO08 | Participants above 54 years of age | Persons | 0 | 3,000 |
| 7 | ESO4.11 | ESF+ | More developed | EECO08 | Participants above 54 years of age | Persons | 0 | 1,500 |

Table 3: Result indicators

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority | Specific objective | Fund | Category of region | ID | Indicator | Measurement unit | Baseline or reference value | Reference year | Target (2029) | Source of data | Notes |
| 7 | ESO4.11 | ESF+ | Less developed | 11 | Number of qualified professionals | Number | 33 | 2020 | 570 | Beneficiary and eMA2 |  |
| 7 | ESO4.11 | ESF+ | More developed | 11 | Number of qualified professionals | Number | 15 | 2020 | 320 | Beneficiary and eMA2 |  |
| 7 | ESO4.11 | ESF+ | Less developed | 12 | Number of qualified users in health care | Number | 0 | 2021 | 2,730 | Beneficiary and eMA2 |  |
| 7 | ESO4.11 | ESF+ | More developed | 12 | Number of qualified users in health care | Number | 0 | 2021 | 1,820 | Beneficiary and eMA2 |  |

##### Indicative breakdown of the programme resources (EU) by type of intervention

Table 4: Dimension 1 – intervention field

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority no. | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |
| 7 | ESF+ | Less developed | ESO4.11 | 131 | 6,620,000 |
| 7 | ESF+ | More developed | ESO4.11 | 131 | 3,910,000 |
| 7 | ESF+ | Less developed | ESO4.11 | 158 | 40,478,001 |
| 7 | ESF+ | More developed | ESO4.11 | 158 | 9,044,518 |
| 7 | ESF+ | Less developed | ESO4.11 | 160 | 22,100,000 |
| 7 | ESF+ | More developed | ESO4.11 | 160 | 10,900,000 |
| 7 | ESF+ | Less developed | ESO4.11 | 161 | 10,500,000 |
| 7 | ESF+ | More developed | ESO4.11 | 161 | 4,500,000 |

Table 5: Dimension 2 – form of financing

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority no. | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |
| 7 | ESF+ | Less developed | ESO4.11 | 01 | 79,698,001 |
| 7 | ESF+ | More developed | ESO4.11 | 01 | 28,354,518 |

Table 6: Dimension 3 – territorial delivery mechanism and territorial focus

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority no. | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |
| 7 | ESF+ | Less developed | ESO4.11 | 33 | 79,698,001 |
| 7 | ESF+ | More developed | ESO4.11 | 33 | 28,354,518 |

Table 7: Dimension 6 – ESF+ secondary themes

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority no. | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |
| 7 | ESF+ | Less developed | ESO4.11 | 02 | 6,620,000 |
| 7 | ESF+ | More developed | ESO4.11 | 02 | 3,910,000 |
| 7 | ESF+ | Less developed | ESO4.11 | 08 | 1,028,001 |
| 7 | ESF+ | More developed | ESO4.11 | 08 | 950,400 |
| 7 | ESF+ | Less developed | ESO4.11 | 09 | 61,550,000 |
| 7 | ESF+ | More developed | ESO4.11 | 09 | 18,994,118 |
| 7 | ESF+ | Less developed | ESO4.11 | 10 | 10,500,000 |
| 7 | ESF+ | More developed | ESO4.11 | 10 | 4,500,000 |

Table 8: Dimension 7 – ESF+\*, ERDF, Cohesion Fund and JTF gender equality dimension

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority no. | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |
| 7 | ESF+ | Less developed | ESO4.11 | 02 | 79,698,001 |
| 7 | ESF+ | More developed | ESO4.11 | 02 | 28,354,518 |

**\*** In principle, 40% for the ESF+ contributes to gender tracking. 100% is applicable when the Member State chooses to use Article 6 ESF+ Regulation as well as programme specific actions in gender equality.

#### Specific objective ESO4.12. Promoting social integration of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion, including the most deprived persons and children (ESF+)

##### Interventions of the Funds

Related types of actions:

|  |
| --- |
| The purpose of the social care system in Slovenia is to provide individuals and families with social security and social inclusion. Long-term social exclusion and poverty can have lasting effects for individuals and families, and for society, and are passed down from one generation to the next. The state’s task is to ensure social security, protection and inclusion of families, particularly children and elderly people, and to prevent or reduce the risk of poverty through various mechanisms. Particularly important are various forms of assistance (services, programmes, social transfers, etc.), which must be of high quality, widely available, and diverse.  Under the specific objective ESO4.12, the measures focused on the following will be supported:   * Social inclusion programmes for changing the habits of individuals towards developing social competences, acquiring or strengthening social and functional knowledge to solve social and life situations, strengthening social integration in the social environment, competences for problem solving, informing about the possibilities of inclusion in other programmes, etc. Certain programmes will support the implementation and upgrading of the already existing social care programmes of non-governmental organisations for more concrete activation of target groups, while at the same time a network of social care programmes will be established, which will enable their implementation in areas that remain uncovered today. * *Social inclusion measures for persons with special needs*, i.e.   + Establishing and expanding appropriate movement and recreation programmes for persons with disabilities to promote social inclusion and integration in society and protect vulnerable target groups from poverty (inclusion of sportspersons with various levels of disabilities). Part of the measure will be aimed at expanding the network of exercise activity providers adapted to persons with disabilities. The second part will be dedicated to the suitable training of professionals who will be able to implement adapted exercise programmes in a high-quality manner, and to establishing a quality base of sports activity providers for all persons with disabilities, and providing sportspersons with disabilities with access to high-quality training, which will also enable them to participate in the highest level sports competitions for persons with disabilities.   + Upgrading measures in the field of social inclusion of children with special needs. The upgrading of the system of renting didactic and other aids and equipment for work with children with special needs, and the development of adapted aids and tools for acquiring skills and knowledge for high-quality independent life (including work) of individuals with special needs are planned. In accordance with the 2021–2024 Action Plan for the drafting of a proposal for the incorporation of Slovenian sign language in preschool, primary and secondary education, activities will be carried out, which will comprehensively address the identified aspects of education of the deaf and hard of hearing, i.e. the content of education programmes and mechanisms that are necessary and support their implementation. The measure complements measures to support an easier transition of young people with special needs to the labour market under the SO ESO4.8. * *Implementing the measures of a multigenerational centre network and multifunctional Roma centres:*   + A multigenerational centre network will be established, which will provide various programmes in the local environment for all social groups, particularly for persons at high risk of social exclusion and poverty, i.e. families – particularly those with a low socio-economic status, single-parent families, elderly people, particularly those from socially disadvantaged backgrounds, children and young people with special needs, migrants, Roma and persons with disabilities. They will involve all generations and strengthen the integration of public institutions, non-governmental organisations, cultural institutions, social enterprises and municipalities in each geographical unit, particularly in small and remote local communities, where free, preventive programmes are not provided by local communities and the state. The programmes to be implemented will be intended for all vulnerable target groups who are socially excluded and at risk of exclusion regardless of age, gender, nationality, etc.   + In accordance with the National Programme of Measures of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for Roma for the 2021–2030 period, additional measures will be implemented to improve the integration of the Roma community: within the framework of strengthening the network of multi-purpose Roma centres, new and upgraded multipurpose Roma centres will be established, in which activities to acquire new knowledge and competences that will enable more successful integration of Roma in the labour market, to improve the quality of life, to promote and strengthen their integration in the wider community, and to establish trust with the local residents; multipurpose Roma centres will connect with the local community and professional organisations, such as the Employment Service, social work centres, health organisations, educational organisations. The activities and programmes to be implemented in the multipurpose Roma centres will be adapted to the specific needs of the Roma population and located in areas with a greater concentration of this population.   The measure will be sensibly connected with activities aimed at improving the integration of Roma children in the education system with the aim of greater social inclusion and easier access to the labour market. The objective of the measure will be attained by further work in the field of education and social inclusion of Roma by complementing already existing systemic measures as derived from the concept of educational work in Roma settlements, which was created as the final result of the Together for Knowledge project, by increasing the social and cultural capital in the Roma settlement, educating and training teachers to work in a multicultural environment, promoting language learning (Romani and Slovenian) among Roma children and their parents.  All measures aimed at the Roma target group are planned in accordance with the National Programme of Measures of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for Roma for the 2021–2030 period.   * *Implementing various activities in the field of prisoners and persons on probation:*   + A pilot drug-free unit will be established in prisons as part of the comprehensive treatment of addiction with the aim of establishing and maintaining abstinence and preventing relapse, adopting a critical attitude towards the use of psychoactive substances, recognising behavioural patterns, and learning to solve problems in a socially acceptable way, strengthening work habits, responsibilities, establishing contact with family members – strengthening the social network and planning inclusion in assistance programmes (therapeutic communities, etc.) after serving the prison sentence. Suitable spatial (separate rooms) and personnel conditions will be provided, and special programmes to help convicts addicted to illegal drugs will be developed and implemented. Daily activities (therapeutic, work, educational, sports, etc.) important for maintaining abstinence will take place in the drug-free unit.   + Developing work competences and special programmes for prisoners, minors in correctional institutions, and persons on probation focusing on greater social inclusion: the activities include developing and implementing a model for the integration of prisoners with restrictions for active integration in society with the upgrading of the occupational therapy model, which will support prisoners’ gradual, targeted, individual adaptation to the work environment and working conditions, and developing work skills, skills, endurance, competences and resocialisation, and including prisoners in work while they serve a prison sentence. Communication with foreign prisoners will be improved with the aim of reducing isolation and promoting the resocialisation and integration of third-country nationals. Special programmes will include the development and implementation of programmes for addiction treatment, anger management, non-violent communication, social skills training, the development of programmes for perpetrators of domestic violence, perpetrators of sexual offences and other narrowly specialised treatments for solving personality problems which cause people to commit crimes. Activities will be carried out regardless of gender, race and sexual orientation. * *Measures to improve the integration of immigrants in the education system*: Within the framework of the integration of immigrants, support will be provided for them to further develop knowledge of Slovenian as a second language by developing methods, didactic aids and learning materials, and finding innovative ways with a special emphasis on the training of professionals to work with immigrant children, and by establishing a stimulating environment for their parents.   Support programmes will be coordinated with local public libraries and other cultural institutions.  By their nature, these are measures that do not have a predictable negative impact on environmental objectives, which would be related to the direct and primary indirect impacts of the measure in its life cycle, or such impacts are insignificant, making them consistent with the DNSH principle. |

Main target groups:

|  |
| --- |
| Target groups are as follows:   * families; persons with low work intensity; persons, particularly children and young people, who are at risk of social exclusion; elderly people, particularly those from socially disadvantaged backgrounds; families in which poor parenting skills were detected; children and young people with special needs; migrants and refugees, including their families, particularly children and young people and women from these families; Roma families, particularly children and young people and women from these families; single-parent families; persons with disabilities; * adult women from other cultural backgrounds with language barriers; * educational institutions, professionals and managers in educational organisations; * prisoners; vulnerable group of minors who have been ordered to be sent to a juvenile facility; and persons on probation.   Beneficiaries: educational institutions, public institutes, non-governmental organisations, social protection institutions, URSIKS, UPRO, social work centres, umbrella sports organisations, and others who, through their work and engagement, can help to implement measures or contribute to improving the situation of individuals (public and private contractors). |

Measures to protect equality, inclusion and non-discrimination:

|  |
| --- |
| The principles of gender equality and equal opportunities will be respected at all levels in accordance with national legislation (Equal Opportunities for Women and Men Act, Protection Against Discrimination Act, Equalisation of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities Act), the EU legal order, in particular the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU, the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and the principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights, and relevant international documents for the protection of human rights, in particular the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Within the framework of the ECP 2021–2027 Programme, equal opportunities and the fight against discrimination based on various personal circumstances will be provided horizontally and vertically, as much as possible. This will also take into account the Procedural rules for providing the horizontal enabling condition “Effective application and implementation of the Charter of Fundamental Rights” and the Action Programme for Persons with Disabilities 2022–2030, and other relevant documents that will be created as part of implementation. This principle will also be taken into account within the framework of the management and control system.  Measures comply with the objective of the Sustainable Development Strategy “social equality and cohesion”, as they promote the development of a democratic, socially inclusive, cohesive, healthy, safe and just society that respects fundamental rights and cultural diversity, creates equal opportunities, and combats all forms of discrimination. The activities will take into account the principles of non-discrimination and inclusion regardless of gender, race or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability or sexual orientation. Projects will be prepared specifically for the specific needs of vulnerable groups, particularly of elderly single women, persons with disabilities, Roma, migrants and women from these families, to prevent intersectional discrimination and reduce inequality. Activities for their empowerment and information will be carried out. Certain activities will be adapted to the target groups to make access to services as easy as possible. The measures will contribute to all three main targets of the EPSR Action Plan: employment, adult training, and reducing poverty and social exclusion. In the field of social care in the Republic of Slovenia, the measures are one of the two key activities for the implementation of the Council Recommendation establishing a European Child Guarantee. |

Indication of the specific territories targeted, including the planned use of territorial tools:

|  |
| --- |
| Under this specific objective, the use of territorial tools is not foreseen. |

The interregional, cross-border and transnational actions:

|  |
| --- |
| The interregional, cross-border and transnational actions are not foreseen under this specific objective, as these are measures address the needs of vulnerable groups in Slovenia. |

Planned use of financial instruments:

|  |
| --- |
| The use of grants is foreseen. In accordance with the results of the analysis of the preliminary assessment of market needs and financing gaps in the market for the implementation of financial instruments in the 2021–2027 programming period (July 2022), the use of financial instruments under this specific objective is not foreseen. The proposed measures do not generate revenues or savings, due to which the use of financial instruments is not sensible or appropriate. |

##### Indicators

Table 2: Impact indicators

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority | Specific objective | Fund | Category of region | ID | Indicators | Measurement unit | Milestone (2014) | Target (2029) |
| 7 | ESO4.12 | ESF+ | Less developed | 12 | Number of individuals involved in social inclusion promotion projects | Number | 1,090 | 4,330 |
| 7 | ESO4.12 | ESF+ | More developed | 12 | Number of individuals involved in social inclusion promotion projects | Number | 758 | 2,820 |
| 7 | ESO4.12 | ESF+ | Less developed | 8 | Number of supported multigenerational centres | Number | 11 | 11 |
| 7 | ESO4.12 | ESF+ | More developed | 8 | Number of supported multigenerational centres | Number | 5 | 5 |

Table 3: Result indicators

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority | Specific objective | Fund | Category of region | ID | Indicator | Measurement unit | Baseline or reference value | Reference year | Target (2029) | Source of data | Notes |
| 7 | ESO4.12 | ESF+ | Less developed | 13 | Number of hours of activity in multigenerational centres after completion of implementation | Number | 48,000 | 2020 | 92,400 | Beneficiaries and eMA2 |  |
| 7 | ESO4.12 | ESF+ | More developed | 13 | Number of hours of activity in multigenerational centres after completion of implementation | Number | 24,000 | 2020 | 42,000 | Beneficiaries and eMA2 |  |

##### Indicative breakdown of the programme resources (EU) by type of intervention

Table 4: Dimension 1 – intervention field

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority no. | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |
| 7 | ESF+ | Less developed | ESO4.12 | 160 | 2,010,000 |
| 7 | ESF+ | More developed | ESO4.12 | 160 | 950,000 |
| 7 | ESF+ | Less developed | ESO4.12 | 163 | 42,319,000 |
| 7 | ESF+ | More developed | ESO4.12 | 163 | 15,609,482 |

Table 5: Dimension 2 – form of financing

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority no. | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |
| 7 | ESF+ | Less developed | ESO4.12 | 01 | 44,329,000 |
| 7 | ESF+ | More developed | ESO4.12 | 01 | 16,559,482 |

Table 6: Dimension 3 – territorial delivery mechanism and territorial focus

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority no. | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |
| 7 | ESF+ | Less developed | ESO4.12 | 33 | 44,329,000 |
| 7 | ESF+ | More developed | ESO4.12 | 33 | 16,559,482 |

Table 7: Dimension 6 – ESF+ secondary themes

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority no. | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |
| 7 | ESF+ | Less developed | ESO4.12 | 09 | 44,329,000 |
| 7 | ESF+ | More developed | ESO4.12 | 09 | 16,559,482 |

Table 8: Dimension 7 – ESF+\*, ERDF, Cohesion Fund and JTF gender equality dimension

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority no. | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |
| 7 | ESF+ | Less developed | ESO4.12 | 02 | 44,329,000 |
| 7 | ESF+ | More developed | ESO4.12 | 02 | 16,559,482 |

**\*** In principle, 40% for the ESF+ contributes to gender tracking. 100% is applicable when Member State chooses to use Article 6 ESF+ Regulation as well as programme specific actions in gender equality.

#### Specific objective RSO4.3. Promoting the socio-economic inclusion of marginalised communities, low income households and disadvantaged groups including people with special needs, through integrated actions including housing and social services (ERDF)

##### Interventions of the Funds

Related types of actions:

|  |
| --- |
| Regarding the care for people who need the assistance of others for their daily life (elderly people, vulnerable groups and people with special needs), Slovenia is ranked among the more institutionalised countries characterised by a high level of formal care. This is a result of an increase in the capacity of institutional care, while the development of community-based social care stagnates. In recent years, the concept of deinstitutionalisation or care in the community has again become relevant for Slovenia on the basis of EU policies. [[164]](#footnote-164) The objective of the Resolution on the national social assistance programme 2013–2020[[165]](#footnote-165) is to change the ratio between users of community and institutional forms of social care, and to increase the share of users of community services and reduce the share of users of institutional forms of social care. The Resolution will be upgraded by the Strategy of the Republic of Slovenia for Deinstitutionalisation in Social Care 2023–2033, which will be person centred, and will aim to add new services adapted to the capabilities and needs of users and provide as many options for their provision at home or in the community as possible.  In line with the aforementioned, the measure planned under this specific objective will be designed in accordance with the gap analysis, and the results of the mapping of infrastructure, services and needs also at the microregional level with special attention paid to territorial inequalities, potential spatial segregation, and demographic changes. In accordance with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), a review of decisions for priority investments will be made based on an assessment of individual needs. Mapping will be based on a review of the current number of residential institutions (including residential institutions in the community) and non-residential family communities of services, taking into account territorial inequalities and demographic challenges. All investments in social infrastructure will fully comply with the requirements of the CRPD, including General Comment No. 5 and the conclusions of the CRPD Committee, while taking into account the principles of equality, freedom of choice, the right to live independently, accessibility, and the prohibition of all forms of segregation. In addition, each investment will ensure accessibility in line with the latest EU accessibility standards. Investments will have to demonstrate compliance with the deinstitutionalisation strategy, and the relevant EU political and legal frameworks for respect for human rights, i.e. the CRPD and General Comment No. 5, the European Pillar of Social Rights, and the Strategy for the rights of persons with disabilities 2021–2030. Investments will follow the deinstitutionalisation strategy, so that they do not contribute to the creation of new environments that are not fully in line with the CRPD. According to the partnership principle, independent bodies for fundamental rights and human rights organisations will be involved in all phases of programming, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of investments in social and health infrastructure to ensure respect for the principles of independent living, non-segregation, and non-discrimination in accordance with the CRPD and the Charter.  Under the specific objective RSO4.3, measures will be supported that will focus on:   * *Investments in social infrastructure*, which will be intended for integrated community services and forms of care and will contribute to the inclusion of individuals in the community and, consequently, to a more independent life and ensuring a better quality of life for the target groups. Within the RRP, the measure “Ensuring a safe living environment for persons who depend on the assistance of others” will be implemented by investing in new institutional capacities for the care of elderly people, while within the framework of the ERDF funds, investments will be made in the purchase and adaptation of social infrastructure for adults and children with disabilities, including infrastructure in the field of long-term care, which will be implemented as a priority in the following fields:   + Establishing housing groups for the transition from institutions to independent living in the community: the measure will support providers of integrated community-based services that provide a transitional service of integrated care by accommodation in smaller residential units. The measure will be implemented in such a way that free housing capacities across the country will be used if they are suitable for accommodating people, and in accordance with the rules and guidelines of deinstitutionalisation with respect for the fundamental rights of individuals.   + Day care centres for people with dementia and other forms of cognitive decline: the measure addresses the challenge of establishing centres that will provide day care for elderly people, in which individuals can join for any number of days and hours (eight hours or less), thus receiving the opportunity to stay in their home environment, which will reduce the need for them to go into institutions, and prevent deterioration of health and possible hospitalisation, etc., which complies with the objective of transitioning from institutional to community-based services. Consideration will also be given to the possibility of intergenerational integration and the integration of activities with the local environment. This measure will be linked to the measure of strengthening social care services under the SO ESO4.11, for which personnel training in day care centres and assistance to relatives will be provided.   + Permanent housing units for the temporary solution of the housing needs of vulnerable target groups will be intended to temporarily meet the housing needs of vulnerable groups, such as homeless people, evicted families and individuals, people with mental health problems, migrants, etc., who find themselves in a crisis and require immediate accommodation until the situation in the home environment is properly resolved. The measure will be implemented in accordance with the deinstitutionalisation guidelines with respect for the fundamental rights of individuals.   To formulate the final content of the measures, and the criteria for their selection and implementation, the relevant mitigation measures and, to the greatest extent possible, the relevant recommendations in accordance with the strategic environmental assessment, which are listed in annex Mitigation Measures and Recommendations, will be taken into account. In accordance with the Technical guidance on the application of ‘do no significant harm’, it was concluded on the basis of responses to questions from the check list that none of the planned measures under this specific objective has a significant adverse impact on any of the six environmental objectives, taking into account the technical screening criteria listed in annex DNSH. Where relevant, the implementation of measures will comply with the New European Bauhaus initiative. |

Main target groups:

|  |
| --- |
| Target groups are as follows:   * individuals and families who are temporarily unable to live independently and cannot stay at home, and other vulnerable groups; * community service providers, special social care institutions, education, work and care centres, local communities, housing funds; * persons with dementia and other forms of decline in cognitive functions and their relatives, users of home help and social services, employees of newly established day care centres.   Beneficiaries: nursing homes, local communities, social care programme and service providers, community service providers, funds, etc. |

Measures to protect equality, inclusion and non-discrimination:

|  |
| --- |
| The principles of gender equality, inclusion and non-discrimination will be respected during the implementation of all activities in accordance with national legislation (Equal Opportunities for Women and Men Act, Protection Against Discrimination Act, Equalisation of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities Act), the EU legal order, in particular the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU, the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and the principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights, and relevant international documents for the protection of human rights, in particular the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Within the framework of the ECP 2021–2027 Programme, equal opportunities and the fight against discrimination based on various personal circumstances (e.g. gender, age, disability, race, ethnic origin, nationality and religion, sexual orientation) will be provided horizontally and vertically, as much as possible. This will also take into account the Procedural rules for providing the horizontal enabling condition “Effective use and implementation of the Charter of Fundamental Rights” and the Action Programme for Persons with Disabilities 2022–2030, the Strategy of the Republic of Slovenia for Deinstitutionalisation in Social Care 2023–2033 (being drafted), and other relevant documents that will be created as part of implementation. If necessary, administrative capacity training will be provided for their implementation. This principle will also be taken into account within the framework of the management and control system.  Measures comply with the objective of the Sustainable Development Strategy “Social equality and cohesion”, as they promote the development of a democratic, socially inclusive, cohesive, healthy, safe and just society that respects fundamental rights and cultural diversity, creates equal opportunities, and combats all forms of discrimination. The activities within the measures will take into account the principle of non-discrimination and inclusion regardless of gender, race or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability or sexual orientation. The measures contribute to the attainment of the targets stated in Chapter 3.3 of the European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan, as they will ensure an efficient and sufficient scope of the social security network and access to support services and contribute to eliminating the intergenerational cycle of deprivation. The measures in the field of deinstitutionalisation and day centres for people with dementia will indirectly strengthen gender equality. |

Indication of the specific territories targeted, including the planned use of territorial tools:

|  |
| --- |
| The use of territorial approaches is not foreseen under the specific objective. The measures under this specific objective will only be implemented in the Eastern Slovenia cohesion region as the latter lags behind the Western Slovenia cohesion region in terms of development, and is characterised by demographic, social and economic conditions that hinder the development of the region’s potential. |

The interregional, cross-border and transnational actions:

|  |
| --- |
| The interregional, cross-border and transnational actions are not foreseen under this specific objective, as they include investments in public social infrastructure in the territory of Slovenia, which is intended for residents of Slovenia. |

Planned use of financial instruments:

|  |
| --- |
| The use of grants is foreseen. In accordance with the results of the analysis of the preliminary assessment of market needs and financing gaps in the market for the implementation of financial instruments in the 2021–2027 programming period (July 2022), the use of financial instruments under this specific objective is not foreseen. The proposed measures do not generate revenues or savings, due to which the use of financial instruments is not sensible or appropriate. |

##### Indicators

Table 2: Impact indicators

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority | Specific objective | Fund | Category of region | ID | Indicators | Measurement unit | Milestone (2014) | Target (2029) |
| 7 | RSO4.3 | ERDF | Less developed | 13 | Number of units to be invested in | Units | 0 | 50 |

Table 3: Result indicators

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority | Specific objective | Fund | Category of region | ID | Indicator | Measurement unit | Baseline or reference value | Reference year | Target (2029) | Source of data | Notes |
| 7 | RSO4.3 | ERDF | Less developed | 21 | Number of users per year using new units | Users/year | 0 | 2021 | 2,386 | Beneficiary |  |

##### Indicative breakdown of the programme resources (EU) by type of intervention

Table 4: Dimension 1 – intervention field

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority no. | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |
| 7 | ERDF | Less developed | RSO4.3 | 127 | 18,650,000 |

Table 5: Dimension 2 – form of financing

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority no. | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |
| 7 | ERDF | Less developed | RSO4.3 | 01 | 18,650,000 |

Table 6: Dimension 3 – territorial delivery mechanism and territorial focus

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority no. | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |
| 7 | ERDF | Less developed | RSO4.3 | 33 | 18,650,000 |

Table 7: Dimension 6 – ESF+ secondary themes

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority no. | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |

Table 8: Dimension 7 – ESF+\*, ERDF, Cohesion Fund and JTF gender equality dimension

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority no. | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |
| 7 | ERDF | Less developed | RSO4.3 | 03 | 18,650,000 |

**\*** In principle, 40% for the ESF+ contributes to gender tracking. 100% is applicable when Member State chooses to use Article 6 ESF+ Regulation as well as programme specific actions in gender equality.

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#### Specific objective RSO4.5. Ensuring equal access to health care and fostering resilience of health systems, including primary care, and promoting the transition from institutional to family-based and community-based care (ERDF)

##### Interventions of the Funds

Related types of actions:

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| --- |
| Investments in health care will cover the construction and reconstruction of public health care institutions, and the purchase of equipment. The purpose of the investments is to ensure better accessibility for residents to health care services and disease prevention to maintain the health and independent living of residents. The measures will particularly cover investments in satellite emergency centres and on-call positions, which continuously provide the most urgent health services, and mental health centres, and other investments in public health care institutions that provide health care services for health promotion and disease prevention. The investments will also cover the purchase of expensive medical equipment, which is crucial for providing optimal medical treatment to patients. The mapping of needs in health care and long-term care, and the “Together for a Healthy Society” Resolution indicate wider needs for investments than are made possible by the European Cohesion Policy funds; therefore, only some of them are addressed, which enable greater accessibility for the local population and are related to actions within the framework of the ESF funds[[166]](#footnote-166).  Satellite emergency centres are a form of outpatient emergency medical services (EMS) and are professionally and organisationally linked to the emergency centre operating in their area. Eleven satellite centres are planned to be established throughout Slovenia. Using the European Cohesion Policy funds, at least six satellite emergency centres are planned to be built or upgraded in existing public health care institutions.  In addition to satellite emergency centres, the Republic of Slovenia needs medical care for residents in locations where, in addition to 24-hour EMS in the form of mobile units in emergency doctor vehicles, the initial care of emergency states is carried out in the EMS clinic and medical services are provided, for which residents would otherwise be forced to visit emergency centres and unnecessarily increase their workload. These are so-called out-of-hours services. The establishment of at least eight out-of-hours services is foreseen with the European Cohesion Policy funds. In certain cases, it will involve construction, and in others, existing public health are institutions will be extended. Both measures complement actions with the ESF funds under the SO ESO4.11, within which personnel competences will be enhanced in particular.  Within the framework of the Resolution on the National Mental Health Programme 2018−2028, a network of mental health centres is being established, in which various expert teams work. Mental health centres for children and adolescents and mental health centres for adults are being established. The guiding principle of mental health centres is to ensure equal access to services and programmes for all groups of people in a certain area and it is a deinstitutionalisation approach. The network of multidisciplinary mental health centres for children and adolescents provides local accessibility, early, professional and multidisciplinary treatment of children and adolescents (0–19 years of age) with mental health problems and of their parents as part of basic health care and in close cooperation with other services, school professionals, teachers and professionals in social work centres. Mental health centres for adults (for people above 19 years of age) are an organisational structure that, through preventive and treatment services, improves access to mental health services and responds to the needs of the adult population, including elderly people. Through flexible and connected interventions, they reach individuals with common mental disorders, people with severe and recurrent mental disorders, people with dementia and other mental disorders in old age, people suffering from alcohol dependence, and the most vulnerable individuals who are at risk of suicide. The European Cohesion Policy funds are used to build or upgrade existing public health institutions to expand the network of mental health centres for children and adolescents, and adults. The action will be related to SO ESO4.11 and the RRP, and it will focus on the education of educators, the dissemination of established and effective programmes for the promotion of mental health and the prevention of mental disorders exclusively in children and adolescents and young adults.  By introducing new preventive approaches in all clinics at the primary level, equal access to preventive programmes is ensured for everyone with a special emphasis on the accessibility of programmes for vulnerable groups. Health care centres must provide comprehensive preventive and curative activities for the needs of the local population. Preventive programmes at the primary level were upgraded and expanded to a certain extent by means of the European cohesion funds in the 2014–2020 financial framework. To successfully prevent and manage chronic diseases and other conditions, particularly in light of the specific needs of vulnerable groups and elderly people, who do not benefit fully from preventive services, 25 health promotion centres were established. There are currently 28 active health promotion centres in the Republic of Slovenia. To strengthen primary health care, it is crucial to further expand health promotion centres. The actions will complement the ESF funds under the SO ESO4.11.  In addition to personnel, medical equipment in public health care institutions is crucial for providing optimal medical care. Due to the outdated expensive medical equipment and lack thereof, the optimal implementation of health care activities is not possible. Such equipment includes particularly: magnetic resonance imaging, computerised topography, positron emission tomography, gamma camera or nuclear medicine device, diagnostic X-ray devices for mammography, radiotherapy devices, X-ray devices and ultrasound devices. Considering the fact that the need to purchase medical equipment is increasing, the Republic of Slovenia intends to purchase medical equipment for the specialist treatment of patients with the European Cohesion Policy funds.  Where relevant, the implementation of measures will comply with the New European Bauhaus initiative. To formulate the final content of the measures, and the criteria for their selection and implementation, the relevant mitigation measures and, to the greatest extent possible, the relevant recommendations in accordance with the strategic environmental assessment, which are listed in annex Mitigation Measures and Recommendations, will be taken into account. In accordance with the Technical guidance on the application of ‘do no significant harm’, it was concluded on the basis of responses to questions from the check list that none of the planned measures under the SO RSO4.5 has a significant adverse impact on any of the six environmental objectives, taking into account the technical screening criteria listed in annex DNSH. |

Main target groups:

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| --- |
| Target groups and beneficiaries: Ministry of Health, public health care institutions, social care institutions and local communities. |

Measures to protect equality, inclusion and non-discrimination:

|  |
| --- |
| The principles of gender equality, inclusion and non-discrimination will be respected during the implementation of all activities in accordance with national legislation (Equal Opportunities for Women and Men Act, Protection Against Discrimination Act, Equalisation of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities Act), the EU legal order, in particular the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU, the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and the principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights, and relevant international documents for the protection of human rights, in particular the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Within the framework of the ECP 2021–2027 Programme, equal opportunities and the fight against discrimination based on various personal circumstances (e.g. gender, age, disability, race, ethnic origin, nationality and religion, sexual orientation) will be provided horizontally and vertically, as much as possible. This will also take into account the Procedural rules for providing the horizontal enabling condition “Effective application and implementation of the Charter of Fundamental Rights” and the Action Programme for Persons with Disabilities 2022–2030, and other relevant documents that will be created as part of implementation. This principle will also be taken into account within the framework of the management and control system.  The principles of gender equality, equal opportunities and non-discrimination will be respected in the planning, implementation and monitoring of the measures. At the same time, investments in health care infrastructure and equipment will ensure accessibility for everyone, particularly the most vulnerable people, in accordance with the basic principles. In accordance with national legislation and strategic documents, we will, by investing in the development of this infrastructure, contribute to the objectives of providing quality health care accessible to all EU citizens, as the measures are particularly focused on the established topics of solidarity, quality of work, social security, social cohesion, the inclusion of vulnerable and marginal groups, non-discrimination and similar. Above all, we provide access to the widest population by reaching out to residents in their local environment. During the implementation of structural measures, the facilities will also meet technical requirements, with which they are adapted to be non-discriminatory against all forms of temporary or permanent disability and are adapted to vulnerable population groups. |

Indication of the specific territories targeted, including the planned use of territorial tools:

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| --- |
| The measures will be implemented only in the Eastern Slovenia cohesion region, since the lag of this region in development is greater than in the Western Slovenia cohesion region, and consequently, the health of the population is poorer in this region according to various determinants. Under this specific objective, the use of territorial approaches is not foreseen. |

The interregional, cross-border and transnational actions:

|  |
| --- |
| The interregional, cross-border and transnational actions under this specific objective are not planned, as these are investment measures in public health care institutions that operate in the territory of the Republic of Slovenia and are intended primarily for residents of Slovenia. |

Planned use of financial instruments:

|  |
| --- |
| The use of grants is foreseen. In accordance with the results of the analysis of the preliminary assessment of market needs and financing gaps in the market for the implementation of financial instruments in the 2021–2027 programming period (July 2022), the use of financial instruments under this specific objective is not foreseen. The proposed measures do not generate revenues or savings, due to which the use of financial instruments is not sensible or appropriate. These are measures that refer to public health care institutions, most of which are state or municipality-owned and do not have market activity or it is very limited and dedicated, therefore, they cannot borrow money on the market. |

##### Indicators

Table 2: Impact indicators

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority | Specific objective | Fund | Category of region | ID | Indicators | Measurement unit | Milestone (2014) | Target (2029) |
| 7 | RSO4.5 | ERDF | Less developed | RCO69 | Capacity of new or modernised health care facilities | Persons/year | 0 | 123,000 |

Table 3: Result indicators

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority | Specific objective | Fund | Category of region | ID | Indicator | Measurement unit | Baseline or reference value | Reference year | Target (2029) | Source of data | Notes |
| 7 | RSO4.5 | ERDF | Less developed | RCR73 | Annual users of new or modernised health care facilities | Users/year | 0 | 2021 | 112,000 | MZ |  |

##### Indicative breakdown of the programme resources (EU) by type of intervention

Table 4: Dimension 1 – intervention field

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority no. | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |
| 7 | ERDF | Less developed | RSO4.5 | 043 | 17,500,000 |
| 7 | ERDF | Less developed | RSO4.5 | 044 | 17,500,000 |
| 7 | ERDF | Less developed | RSO4.5 | 129 | 23,780,000 |

Table 5: Dimension 2 – form of financing

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority no. | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |
| 7 | ERDF | Less developed | RSO4.5 | 01 | 58,780,000 |

Table 6: Dimension 3 – territorial delivery mechanism and territorial focus

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority no. | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |
| 7 | ERDF | Less developed | RSO4.5 | 33 | 58,780,000 |

Table 7: Dimension 6 – ESF+ secondary themes

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority no. | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |

Table 8: Dimension 7 – ESF+\*, ERDF, Cohesion Fund and JTF gender equality dimension

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority no. | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |
| 7 | ERDF | Less developed | RSO4.5 | 03 | 58,780,000 |

**\*** In principle, 40% for the ESF+ contributes to gender tracking. 100% is applicable when Member State chooses to use Article 6 ESF+ Regulation as well as programme specific actions in gender equality.

### Priority 8: Sustainable tourism and culture

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| --- |
| This is a priority dedicated to youth employment |
| This is a priority dedicated to social innovative actions |
| This is a priority dedicated to support to the most deprived persons under the specific objective set out in point (m) of Article 4(1) of the ESF+ Regulation\* |
| This is a priority dedicated to support to the most deprived persons under the specific objective set out in point (l) of Article 4(1) of the ESF+ Regulation |
| This is a priority dedicated to urban mobility specific objective set out in point (viii) of Article 3(1)(b) of the ERDF and Cohesion Fund Regulation |
| This is a priority dedicated to digital connectivity specific objective set out in point (v) of Article 3(1)(a) of the ERDF and Cohesion Fund Regulation |

**\*** If marked, go to section 2.1.1.2.

#### Specific objective RSO4.6. Enhancing the role of culture and sustainable tourism in economic development, social inclusion and social innovation (ERDF)

##### Interventions of the Funds

Related types of actions:

|  |
| --- |
| The measure is intended for investments in the revival of cultural heritage and its inclusion among tourism products and services Culture and cultural identity, evaluated in the image and products and services of Slovenian tourism, is the innovative factor that can crucially contribute to perfecting the value chain, and significantly increasing added value and sustainability in Slovenian tourism. Such measures are an important part of the structural changes required for a more productive and stable tourism ecosystem that will be able to adapt even in unexpected crises. The supported measures will strengthen social cohesion through greater accessibility to cultural heritage and contribute to greater added value of the tourism sector by adding to the cultural products and services and improving the living environment in the less developed region of Eastern Slovenia. Under this specific objective, we want to achieve the preservation, protection and revival of cultural heritage for future generations, ensure the accessibility of heritage for everyone, and create new jobs that will be attractive particularly to young people. We will enrich the cultural heritage with tourism products and services, which will accelerate tourism development in the less developed region, producing multiplier effects on economic development.  The measure addresses the following challenges identified in the evaluation of the past strategic period of tourism and culture, in the analysis of the state of Slovenian tourism and cultural heritage, and with a view to the future, i.e.:   * Insufficient added value is achieved in the Slovenian tourism industry and in the overall provision of tourism products and services. * The quality of services and experiences as part of tourism products and services is too low. * Tourism seasonality is increasing and exceeds the EU average. * The volume and quality of personnel do not follow the development and market needs of the tourism industry. * There is a noticeable lack of authentic cultural elements among tourism products and services and the image of tourist destinations. * Slovenian tourism lags behind in international competitiveness. * Tourism depends on many other activities and the environment in terms of providing comprehensive and high-quality experiences and achieving results, which are not sufficiently included in the Slovenian tourism system and do not follow the requirements for the growth and competitiveness of Slovenian tourism. * Tangible and intangible cultural heritage constitutes an extraordinary development potential and a valuable resource for economic growth, employment and social cohesion in Slovenia. Investments in the reconstruction of Slovenian cultural heritage facilities affect the income of the Slovenian economy with a multiplication factor of 2.945. The impact on added value is 1.236. Activating the potential of cultural heritage as a strategic resource is based on the modern concept of cultural heritage, which recognises the tangible and intangible heritage of ancestors, and respectfully modernises it and places it in modern life, thus evaluating and interpreting it and giving it new contexts. * Heritage has a strong social component, is an important element of social inclusion, a common good, and a valuable feature of the living environment. Therefore, it is an important element of the public space. By reviving it, we increase the value of common spaces intended for all residents and visitors. Communities living with heritage can also recognise the original and marketable ways of dealing with it, which go beyond the importance of local and regional environments and contribute to the cultural diversity and richness in Europe and the world. Cultural heritage facilities and sites produce environmental and social capital, turning into drivers of economic activity, knowledge centres, focal points of creativity, spaces of cooperation between communities, and places of social inclusion. The carefully nurtured heritage creates a friendly environment for all kinds of activities. At the same time, its diversity is a source of new creativity.   The key challenges are therefore to preserve and protect cultural heritage for future generations (including the preservation of knowledge and skills required for the preservation of cultural heritage), ensure the accessibility of heritage for all citizens and visitors (including vulnerable groups), and activate the potential of cultural heritage for sustainable development and increasing added value in Slovenian tourism.  Measures will be implemented in the following fields:   * *Revitalisation and restoration of cultural heritage*: The restoration, preservation and revitalisation of cultural heritage, and the promotion of activities for better access to heritage. Support will be allocated to projects including: small-scale investments in the renovation, restoration, integral revitalisation of cultural monuments owned by the state or local communities with a work programme or management plan; activities to promote and enhance (cultural) tourism, and better (physical, informational) accessibility to heritage for all residents and visitors, including persons with various disabilities. The projects will comply with the guidelines of the European framework for action on cultural heritage and the ICOMOS European Quality Principles, pursue the objectives of the Cultural Heritage Strategy 2020–2023[[167]](#footnote-167), and contribute to the key development policies and measures of the Slovenian Tourism Strategy 2022–2028[[168]](#footnote-168).   In the public tender for local communities, the delimitation between the RRP and the programme will be taken into account, i.e. projects of higher value (above EUR 1 million excluding VAT) are financed within the RRP while projects of lower value (up to EUR 1 million excluding VAT) are financed within the programme. The expected result is cultural heritage restored and revitalised, and accessible to the public.   * *Investing in the development of comprehensive tourism products in the form of authentic tourist experiences*[[169]](#footnote-169):   + Between 2022 and 2028, Slovenian tourism will develop and operate with the “a little more and much better” strategy, which leads to a moderate increase in capacities, and a significant improvement in the quality and added value of Slovenian tourism, taking into account sustainable aspects, the evaluation of cultural identity, effective digital transformation, and all limiting factors.   + Investments in the development of comprehensive tourism products in the form of authentic tourist experiences will be promoted to improve the reputation and quality of tourist destinations in Eastern Slovenia. By investing in the creation of tourist content, the existing cultural heritage, and their inclusion among tourism products and services, new, more attractive jobs will be created, higher added value will be sustainably achieved, and the quality of services and experiences will increase. The development of year-round tourism products will contribute to reducing tourism seasonality. By ensuring the sustainable development of destinations, we will contribute to improving the quality of life of the local residents and the acceptability of tourism for the local environment by following the guidelines of the European Commission's proposal for the Transition Pathway for Tourism (TPT).   In parallel, knowledge and skills will be enhanced within PO 1 in the field of digitisation, green tourism, sustainable development and destination management based on the EU Pact for Skills in the field of tourism, and investments in public tourism infrastructure within the RRP will be supported.   * + For tourists to have a high-quality user experience and to sustainably achieve a higher added value, permanent investments must be made in the preservation and evaluation of natural and cultural heritage in tourism, its effective management and marketing, and also in suitable financing sources, which is one of the most important challenges related to the attainment of the strategic objectives of tourism by 2028.   To formulate the final content of the measures, and the criteria for their selection and implementation, we will consider the relevant mitigation measures and, to the greatest extent possible, the relevant recommendations in accordance with the strategic environmental assessment, which are listed in the annex Mitigation measures and recommendations, and, where appropriate, New European Bauhaus guidelines for the development of more attractive, sustainable and inclusive forms of solutions to climate challenges. In accordance with the Technical guidance on the application of ‘do no significant harm’, it was concluded on the basis of responses to questions from the check list that none of the planned measures under this specific objective has a significant adverse impact on any of the six environmental objectives, taking into account the technical screening criteria listed in annex DNSH. |

Main target groups:

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| --- |
| Target groups: local communities, tourists and visitors (domestic and foreign), citizens, non-governmental organisations (private institutes, private institutions, societies and associations of societies), public institutes, economic operators, other stakeholders in culture and tourism.  Beneficiaries: ministries, local communities, public institutes, managers of cultural monuments, NGOs, local communities operating in the area of ​​leading tourist destinations or public institutes operating in tourism and established by local communities, associations of societies, public-private partnerships between local communities and economic operators in tourism or/and civil society organisations. |

Measures to protect equality, inclusion and non-discrimination:

|  |
| --- |
| Slovenia undertakes to respect the principles of gender equality, equal opportunities and non-discrimination during the implementation of all activities in accordance with national legislation (Equal Opportunities for Women and Men Act, Protection Against Discrimination Act, Equalisation of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities Act), the EU legal order, in particular the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU, the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and the principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights, and relevant international documents for the protection of human rights, in particular the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, since gender equality is a fundamental value of the EU and a fundamental right and a key principle of the European Pillar of Social Rights. Pursuant to Article 12 of the Equal Opportunities for Women and Men Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia [*Uradni list RS*], Nos. 59/02, 61/07 – ZUNEO-A, 33/16 – ZVarD and 59/19), all genders will be treated equally in all the foreseen fields. In the design and implementation of tenders and public procurement, transparency and respect for the legal orders of the EU and the Republic of Slovenia will be fully ensured by the use of clear, objective and non-discriminatory conditions and criteria for the selection of applications. The Procedural rules for providing the horizontal enabling condition “Effective use and implementation of the Charter of Fundamental Rights” and the Action Programme for Persons with Disabilities 2022–2030, and other relevant documents that will be created as part of implementation will also be taken into account. If necessary, administrative capacity training will be provided to implement the principles of equal opportunities and non-discrimination. This principle will also be taken into account within the framework of the management and control system. The Monitoring Committee will be notified of any identified discrepancies at least once a year. |

Indication of the specific territories targeted, including the planned use of territorial tools:

|  |
| --- |
| The measures will be implemented only in the Eastern Slovenia cohesion region, since the lag of this region in development is greater than in the Western Slovenia cohesion region. Tourism is not equally developed in both cohesion regions, as more revenues from tourism is generated in the Western Slovenia cohesion region with attractive tourism products. The Eastern Slovenia cohesion region has a rich cultural heritage, which has not yet been successfully integrated among tourism products and services; therefore, the measures will be primarily aimed at strengthening the cooperation of culture and tourism in the Eastern Slovenia cohesion region to eliminate the said inequalities between the cohesion regions.  Under this specific objective, the use of territorial approaches is not foreseen. |

The interregional, cross-border and transnational actions:

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| --- |
| To promote diverse tourism products and services, and sustainable and responsible tourism, FLAGSHIP 5: “Development of sustainable  and thematic cultural routes/connecting cultural routes in EUSAIR (AIR CULTURAL ROUTES)” within the macro-regional strategy (MRS) (EUSAIR) is supported. The MRS in cooperation with European Institute of Cultural Routes provides an implementation structure for the design of projects with contents verified by experts and stakeholders from the field of culture and tourism of all countries, whose objective will be certified cultural tourism products. In this way, projects grow from national to international projects, and gain quality and visibility. The measures under RSO4.6 have a similar substantive basis in the planned measures in all four cross-border and transnational programmes (e.g. TP Central Europe, Interreg IPA Adrion and Euro-MED). Cross-border cooperation programmes aim to support small-scale cultural heritage (owned by municipalities of local importance) restoration projects, which are upgraded in terms of content and connected into common cross-border tourism products or destinations. The purpose of revitalisation and restoration of cultural heritage under RSO4.6 is to support renovation, restoration and integrated revitalisation projects of cultural heritage owned by municipalities of local and national importance (with a work programme or management plan) in the Eastern Slovenia cohesion region. The planned measures of transnational programmes are a good basis for the promotion of cultural creative industries in the function of innovative cultural heritage revitalisation in cross-border programmes, the MRS and RSO4.6 through the drafting of strategies and action plans, which address solutions in the field of creative tourism in a wider geographical programme area. Synergies between the Interreg programmes and RSO4.6 will be promoted as part of two coordination mechanisms, i.e. management body networks the macro-regional level and within the framework of the programme monitoring committee, whose member will also be a representative of the Interreg programmes in which institutions from Slovenia take part. |

Planned use of financial instruments:

|  |
| --- |
| The use of grants is foreseen. In accordance with the results of the analysis of the preliminary assessment of market needs and financing gaps in the market for the implementation of financial instruments in the 2021–2027 programming period (July 2022), the use of financial instruments under the stated specific objective is not foreseen. The proposed measures do not generate revenues or savings, due to which the use of financial instruments is not sensible or appropriate. |

##### Indicators

Table 2: Impact indicators

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority | Specific objective | Fund | Category of region | ID | Indicators | Measurement unit | Milestone (2014) | Target (2029) |
| 8 | RSO4.6 | ERDF | Less developed | RCO77 | Number of cultural and tourism sites supported | Cultural and tourism sites | 0 | 16 |

Table 3: Result indicators

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority | Specific objective | Fund | Category of region | ID | Indicator | Measurement unit | Baseline or reference value | Reference year | Target (2029) | Source of data | Notes |
| 8 | RSO4.6 | ERDF | Less developed | RCR77 | Visitors of cultural and tourism sites supported | Visitors/year | 1,836,769 | 2019 | 1,928,607 | SURS |  |

##### Indicative breakdown of the programme resources (EU) by type of intervention

Table 4: Dimension 1 – intervention field

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority no. | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |
| 8 | ERDF | Less developed | RSO4.6 | 165 | 5,857,100 |
| 8 | ERDF | Less developed | RSO4.6 | 166 | 13,804,652 |

Table 5: Dimension 2 – form of financing

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority no. | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |
| 8 | ERDF | Less developed | RSO4.6 | 01 | 19,661,752 |

Table 6: Dimension 3 – territorial delivery mechanism and territorial focus

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority no. | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |
| 8 | ERDF | Less developed | RSO4.6 | 33 | 19,661,752 |

Table 7: Dimension 6 – ESF+ secondary themes

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority no. | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |

Table 8: Dimension 7 – ESF+\*, ERDF, Cohesion Fund and JTF gender equality dimension

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority no. | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |
| 8 | ERDF | Less developed | RSO4.6 | 03 | 19,661,752 |

**\*** In principle, 40% for the ESF+ contributes to gender tracking. 100% is applicable when Member State chooses to use Article 6 ESF+ Regulation as well as programme specific actions in gender equality.

### Priority 9: Sustainable development of local areas

|  |
| --- |
| This is a priority dedicated to youth employment |
| This is a priority dedicated to social innovative actions |
| This is a priority dedicated to support to the most deprived persons under the specific objective set out in point (m) of Article 4(1) of the ESF+ Regulation\* |
| This is a priority dedicated to support to the most deprived persons under the specific objective set out in point (l) of Article 4(1) of the ESF+ Regulation |
| This is a priority dedicated to urban mobility specific objective set out in point (viii) of Article 3(1)(b) of the ERDF and Cohesion Fund Regulation |
| This is a priority dedicated to digital connectivity specific objective set out in point (v) of Article 3(1)(a) of the ERDF and Cohesion Fund Regulation |

**\*** If marked, go to section 2.1.1.2.

#### Specific objective RSO5.1. Fostering the integrated and inclusive social, economic and environmental development, culture, natural heritage, sustainable tourism, and security in urban areas (ERDF)

##### Interventions of the Funds

Related types of actions:

|  |
| --- |
| Pursuant to the Spatial Management Act (ZUREP-3), bases set by the EU to achieve zero net growth of built-up land[[170]](#footnote-170), dialogue with towns and cities, and the findings of partnerships of the Urban Agenda for the EU – on the sustainable use of space and nature-based solutions[[171]](#footnote-171) and on culture and cultural heritage[[172]](#footnote-172), investments must be made in renovation and revitalisation of built-up areas for greener, inclusive and productive[[173]](#footnote-173) Slovenian towns and cities. Measures to renovate towns and cities are multidimensional – economic, environmental, climate, social. To promote the efficient use of space in towns and cities, measures stemming from the revised/new sustainable urban strategies of urban municipalities will be supported.  As part of measures to renovate and revitalise free and underutilised buildings in the public interest, renovate cultural heritage and other facilities, renovate and create new open public spaces, the following will be supported:   * the implementation of construction and other construction-related works, which include new construction, reconstruction, small-scale reconstruction, etc., and the demolition and construction of buildings and other construction engineering facilities, the arrangement of the physical surroundings of buildings, and the purchase of real estate and land, when necessary for the implementation of renovation and revitalisation projects of empty and underutilised buildings in the public interest, the renovation of cultural heritage and other facilities, and the renovation and creation of new open public spaces; * the renovation of existing and the creation of new public spaces in accordance with nature-based solutions; * the preparation of expert bases, including a design competition or one of its alternative forms to find urban, landscape and architectural solutions, the preparation of project documentation and other documents required for the implementation of the investment; * public involvement in the preparation and implementation of renovation investments.   As part of the measures for the revitalisation of towns and cities, integrated urban development projects, which will address the comprehensive renovation of the selected area and will focus on preparing a new generation of urban renovation projects, will be supported. The measure is linked exclusively to integrated projects that derive from the RCO76 impact indicator, which is used for a comprehensive approach and the inclusion of local residents and the general public in the preparation of urban renovation projects with an emphasis on the revitalisation of free and underutilised areas. As part of these measures, the following will be supported:   * raising awareness and active involvement of local residents; * the preparation of expert bases, including a design competition or one of its alternative forms to find urban, landscape and architectural solutions, the preparation of project documentation and other documents required for the implementation of the investment; * small-scale activities for the ad-hoc revitalisation of the selected area with the involvement of local residents, including the rental and arrangement of premises and small-scale investments in urban equipment, such as the arrangement of community spaces and surroundings (e.g. benches, tables, etc.), the marking of spaces (e.g. boards, floor markings, etc.).   To select projects, the following general principles must be taken into account:   * In accordance with the principle of internal urban development, the renovation and revitalisation of free and underutilised, in some cases even environmentally degraded, built-up areas is carried out. * Priority is given to projects that support activities for the economic and social revitalisation of urban areas and the creation of new creative and business centres. * Projects must pursue the objectives of the sustainable urban strategies of urban municipalities.   To formulate the final content of the measures, and the criteria for their selection and implementation, the relevant mitigation measures and, to the greatest extent possible, the relevant recommendations in accordance with the strategic environmental assessment, which are listed in annex Mitigation Measures and Recommendations, will be taken into account. The New European Bauhaus principles will also be taken into account. In accordance with the Technical guidance on the application of ‘do no significant harm’, a compliance assessment of the planned measures with the DNSH principle was carried out. It was established that none of the measures has a significant adverse impact on any of the six environmental objectives, taking into account the technical screening criteria listed in annex DNSH. |

Main target groups:

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| --- |
| Target groups: residents and visitors of cities and towns, local communities, managers of public areas and buildings, non-governmental organisations in the field of promoting urban development and revitalisation of cities, knowledge institutions and the economy.  Beneficiaries: local communities, public institutes and other public bodies and institutions, public and private enterprises performing public functions. |

Measures to protect equality, inclusion and non-discrimination:

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| --- |
| The principles of gender equality, equal opportunities and non-discrimination will be respected in all measures, since gender equality is a fundamental value of the EU and a fundamental right and a key principle of the European Pillar of Social Rights. Pursuant to Article 12 of the Equal Opportunities for Women and Men Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia [*Uradni list RS*], Nos. 59/02, 61/07 – ZUNEO-A, 33/16 – ZVarD and 59/19), all genders will be treated equally in all the foreseen fields. In the design and implementation of tenders and public procurement, transparency and respect for the legal orders of the EU and the Republic of Slovenia will be fully ensured by the use of clear, objective and non-discriminatory conditions and criteria for the selection of applications.  The Procedural rules for providing the horizontal enabling condition “Effective use and implementation of the Charter of Fundamental Rights” and the Action Programme for Persons with Disabilities 2022–2030, and other relevant documents that will be created as part of implementation will also be taken into account. If necessary, administrative capacity training will be provided to implement the principles of equal opportunities and non-discrimination. This principle will also be taken into account within the framework of the management and control system. The Monitoring Committee will be notified of any identified discrepancies at least once a year. |

Indication of the specific territories targeted, including the planned use of territorial tools:

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| --- |
| Under the specific objective, urban development will be addressed with territorial approaches, starting from the contents of territorial strategies (amended/new SUS) in 12 urban municipalities. In the first phase, representatives of towns and cities (within the ZMOS and city councils of urban municipalities) are included in the selection of operations. |

The interregional, cross-border and transnational actions:

|  |
| --- |
| Close cross-border cooperation is particularly important in towns and cities and urban areas bordering neighbouring countries, as it contributes to quality coexistence. Residents need diverse and high-quality contents, and new forms of socialising that makes the public aware of the wider potential of creative development. To this end, measures to facilitate access to public space, create new public spaces, and support cultural and other urban initiatives that promote multiculturalism and cross-border integration will be implemented. Conditions will be ensured for the preparation and implementation of connected cross-border territorial investments focusing on the urban regeneration of the common cross-border area and the establishment of infrastructures in the European Capital of Culture 2025. Synergies between the Interreg programmes and RSO5.1 will be promoted as part of a coordination mechanism, i.e. within the framework of the programme monitoring committee, whose member will also be a representative of the Interreg programmes in which institutions from Slovenia take part. |

Planned use of financial instruments:

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| --- |
| In accordance with the results of the analysis of the preliminary assessment of market needs and financing gaps in the market for the implementation of financial instruments in the 2021–2027 programming period (July 2022), it was found that the potential use of financial instruments (FI) in the field of urban development is sensible, which is based on the good experience of FI providers in the 2014-2020 period and the gap identified in the study “Proposal for the creation of an urban development fund”, which addresses the long-term financing of urban development projects and recommends the use of FI. The study found a gap in this thematic area for the target group of public and private entities that work for the public benefit. In line with the aforementioned, the use of FI is planned under this specific objective. In addition, the use of grants is proposed for projects in which the possibility of generating funds from stable cash flows during implementation will be demonstrated. |

##### Indicators

Table 2: Impact indicators

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority | Specific objective | Fund | Category of region | ID | Indicators | Measurement unit | Milestone (2014) | Target (2029) |
| 9 | RSO5.1 | ERDF | Less developed | RCO76 | Integrated projects for territorial development | Projects | 0 | 4 |
| 9 | RSO5.1 | ERDF | More developed | RCO76 | Integrated projects for territorial development | Projects | 0 | 2 |
| 9 | RSO5.1 | ERDF | Less developed | RCO75 | Strategies for integrated territorial development supported | Contributions to strategies | 8 | 8 |
| 9 | RSO5.1 | ERDF | More developed | RCO75 | Strategies for integrated territorial development supported | Contributions to strategies | 4 | 4 |

Table 3: Result indicators

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority | Specific objective | Fund | Category of region | ID | Indicator | Measurement unit | Baseline or reference value | Reference year | Target (2029) | Source of data | Notes |
| 9 | RSO5.1 | ERDF | Less developed | 22 | Area of ​​renovated free and underutilised areas | Square metres | 0 | 2020 | 37,500 | MOP |  |
| 9 | RSO5.1 | ERDF | More developed | 22 | Area of ​​renovated free and underutilised areas | Square metres | 0 | 2020 | 6,500 | MOP |  |

##### Indicative breakdown of the programme resources (EU) by type of intervention

Table 4: Dimension 1 – intervention field

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority no. | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |
| 9 | ERDF | Less developed | RSO5.1 | 169 | 44,760,000 |
| 9 | ERDF | More developed | RSO5.1 | 169 | 12,330,000 |

Table 5: Dimension 2 – form of financing

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority no. | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |
| 9 | ERDF | Less developed | RSO5.1 | 01 | 38,760,000 |
| 9 | ERDF | More developed | RSO5.1 | 01 | 10,330,000 |
| 9 | ERDF | Less developed | RSO5.1 | 03 | 6,000,000 |
| 9 | ERDF | More developed | RSO5.1 | 03 | 2,000,000 |

Table 6: Dimension 3 – territorial delivery mechanism and territorial focus

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority no. | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |
| 9 | ERDF | More developed | RSO5.1 | 01 | 4,000,000 |
| 9 | ERDF | Less developed | RSO5.1 | 02 | 44,760,000 |
| 9 | ERDF | More developed | RSO5.1 | 02 | 8,330,000 |

Table 7: Dimension 6 – ESF+ secondary themes

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority no. | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |

Table 8: Dimension 7 – ESF+\*, ERDF, Cohesion Fund and JTF gender equality dimension

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority no. | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |
| 9 | ERDF | Less developed | RSO5.1 | 03 | 44,760,000 |
| 9 | ERDF | More developed | RSO5.1 | 03 | 12,330,000 |

**\*** In principle, 40% for the ESF+ contributes to gender tracking. 100% is applicable when Member State chooses to use Article 6 ESF+ Regulation as well as programme specific actions in gender equality.

#### Specific objective RSO5.2. Fostering the integrated and inclusive social, economic and environmental local development, culture, natural heritage, sustainable tourism and security, in areas other than urban areas (ERDF)

##### Interventions of the Funds

Related types of actions:

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| --- |
| Community-led local development (CLLD) will be implemented in the areas of established local action groups (LAGs) in accordance with local development strategies (LDSs), which will be supported by the ERDF funds. CLLD will be implemented as a joint approach of funds in the ERDF and the EAFRD throughout the country. This is an upgrade of measures from the 2014–2020 period, as it was found that, regardless of the fact that these are small-scale projects, the approach enables the realisation of numerous challenges in different environments and greater flexibility in attaining objectives and responds to the actual needs of local areas.  When preparing LDSs, the LAGs will have to stem from the key challenges identified in each homogeneous geographical area. Investments will be aimed at *creating an inclusive society and further integrated socio-economic development in the areas of LAGs* with special attention paid to reducing differences between socio-economically disadvantaged persons and areas. Thematic areas of action will depend on the identification of the needs of the local partnership and will be justified in the LDS. In addition, measures will be prepared and implemented in accordance with the “bottom-up” principle.  By involving stakeholders in the preparation, decision making and implementation of projects, the human potential and innovation of the residents of these areas will be developed and enhanced.  LDSs are expected to address support for sustainable forms of local entrepreneurship, innovation in the use of local resources, tourism, the protection of natural and cultural heritage, the revitalisation of public areas for common use, prevention and health protection, intergenerational cooperation, the strengthening of competences, care for elderly people, young people and other disadvantaged groups, and social inclusion.  With a “bottom-up” approach, stakeholders at lower levels will be actively involved due to their better knowledge of local challenges and potentials, which will be crucial for reducing development differences at the local level.  CLLD projects within the ERDF will improve the quality of life of local residents, provide suitable access to services in urban centres and in rural areas, improve long-term care and preventive health measures, and promote intergenerational cooperation, strengthening competences and care for disadvantaged groups. The areas of LAGs will also be more recognisable in the field of local entrepreneurship, the innovative use of local resources, (eco)tourism, and the preservation of natural diversity and cultural heritage.  CLLD projects will contribute to the attainment of LDS objectives, environmental sustainability, social sustainability, innovation, equal involvement of various partners, and higher added value of the areas of LAGs.  To formulate the final content of the measures, and the criteria for their selection and implementation, the relevant mitigation measures and, to the greatest extent possible, the relevant recommendations in accordance with the strategic environmental assessment, which are listed in annex Mitigation Measures and Recommendations, will be taken into account. In accordance with the Technical guidance on the application of ‘do no significant harm’, a compliance assessment of the planned measures under this SO with the DNSH principle was carried out. It was established that none of the measures has a significant adverse impact on any of the six environmental, objectives, taking into account the technical screening criteria listed in annex DNSH. |

Main target groups:

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| --- |
| Target groups: individual entrepreneurs, legal entities under public and private law, young people (dropouts, addicts, juvenile delinquents, children and adolescents from families in which violence is present, etc.) and other vulnerable groups (elderly people, female victims of violence, migrants, members of ethnic minorities, etc.), long-term unemployed persons, elderly people, non-governmental organisations, local interest groups or other associations.  Beneficiaries: local action groups (LAG), individual entrepreneurs, legal entities under public and private law from the area of LAG. |

Measures to protect equality, inclusion and non-discrimination:

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| --- |
| The principles of gender equality, equal opportunities and non-discrimination will be respected in all measures, since gender equality is a fundamental value of the EU and a fundamental right and a key principle of the European Pillar of Social Rights. Pursuant to Article 12 of the Equal Opportunities for Women and Men Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia [*Uradni list RS*], Nos. 59/02, 61/07 – ZUNEO-A, 33/16 – ZVarD and 59/19), all genders will be treated equally in all the foreseen fields. In the design and implementation of tenders and public procurement, transparency and respect for the legal orders of the EU and the Republic of Slovenia will be fully ensured by the use of clear, objective and non-discriminatory conditions and criteria for the selection of applications.  The Procedural rules for providing the horizontal enabling condition “Effective use and implementation of the Charter of Fundamental Rights” and the Action Programme for Persons with Disabilities 2022–2030, and other relevant documents that will be created as part of implementation will also be taken into account. If necessary, administrative capacity training will be provided to implement the principles of equal opportunities and non-discrimination. This principle will also be taken into account within the framework of the management and control system. The Monitoring Committee will be notified of any identified discrepancies at least once a year.  Considering the number of projects within a thematic area of ​​action concerning a greater involvement of young people, women and other vulnerable groups, it was found that the needs for the inclusion of these target groups also remain great and vital in the 2021–2027 period. The approach enables the realisation of numerous challenges in different environments and greater flexibility in attaining objectives, and responds to the actual needs of local areas, including the needs of female victims of violence, migrants, members of ethnic minorities. |

Indication of the specific territories targeted, including the planned use of territorial tools:

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| --- |
| Community-led local development (CLLD) will be throughout Slovenia. All types of territories will be addressed. Representatives of LAGs are involved in the first phase of the selection of operations. |

The interregional, cross-border and transnational actions:

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| --- |
| The interregional and transnational actions may include cooperation projects between LAGs if this is cooperation between LAGs within the same country or from different countries. Cooperation projects are primarily intended for knowledge and experience exchange through the implementation of CLLD. Despite the fact that the projects are selected on the basis of LDSs and the needs of the local environment, cooperation projects can further support the implementation of CLLD. |

Planned use of financial instruments:

|  |
| --- |
| The use of grants is foreseen. In accordance with the results of the analysis of the preliminary assessment of market needs and financing gaps in the market for the implementation of financial instruments in the 2021–2027 programming period (July 2022), the use of financial instruments under this specific objective is not foreseen. The use of financial instruments under this specific objective is not suitable, as the instrument for the implementation of community-led local development (CLLD) will be used, within which grants are only expected to be used in projects suitable for financial instruments, similar to the 2014–2020 period. These are projects of lower value to meet the needs of the local environment, in which public institutions, municipalities and associations are involved. CLLD projects do not generate such revenues as would make refundable funds possible. |

##### Indicators

Table 2: Impact indicators

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority | Specific objective | Fund | Category of region | ID | Indicators | Measurement unit | Milestone (2014) | Target (2029) |
| 9 | RSO5.2 | ERDF | Less developed | RCO80 | Community-led local development strategies supported | Strategies | 25 | 25 |
| 9 | RSO5.2 | ERDF | More developed | RCO80 | Community-led local development strategies supported | Strategies | 12 | 12 |

Table 3: Result indicators

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority | Specific objective | Fund | Category of region | ID | Indicator | Measurement unit | Baseline or reference value | Reference year | Target (2029) | Source of data | Notes |
| 9 | RSO5.2 | ERDF | Less developed | 23 | Residents at the local level benefiting from improved and more balanced local development | Number | 0 | 2021 | 1,113,506 | SURS |  |
| 9 | RSO5.2 | ERDF | More developed | 23 | Residents at the local level benefiting from improved and more balanced local development | Number | 0 | 2021 | 993,492 | SURS |  |

##### Indicative breakdown of the programme resources (EU) by type of intervention

Table 4: Dimension 1 – intervention field

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority no. | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |
| 9 | ERDF | Less developed | RSO5.2 | 169 | 22,842,812 |
| 9 | ERDF | More developed | RSO5.2 | 169 | 5,297,973 |

Table 5: Dimension 2 – form of financing

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority no. | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |
| 9 | ERDF | Less developed | RSO5.2 | 01 | 22,842,812 |
| 9 | ERDF | More developed | RSO5.2 | 01 | 5,297,973 |

Table 6: Dimension 3 – territorial delivery mechanism and territorial focus

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority no. | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |
| 9 | ERDF | Less developed | RSO5.2 | 16 | 22,842,812 |
| 9 | ERDF | More developed | RSO5.2 | 16 | 5,297,973 |

Table 7: Dimension 6 – ESF+ secondary themes

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority no. | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |

Table 8: Dimension 7 – ESF+\*, ERDF, Cohesion Fund and JTF gender equality dimension

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority no. | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |
| 9 | ERDF | Less developed | RSO5.2 | 03 | 22,842,812 |
| 9 | ERDF | More developed | RSO5.2 | 03 | 5,297,973 |

**\*** In principle, 40% for the ESF+ contributes to gender tracking. 100% is applicable when Member State chooses to use Article 6 ESF+ Regulation as well as programme specific actions in gender equality.

### Priority 10: Restructuring of coal regions

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| --- |
| This is a priority dedicated to youth employment |
| This is a priority dedicated to social innovative actions |
| This is a priority dedicated to support to the most deprived persons under the specific objective set out in point (m) of Article 4(1) of the ESF+ Regulation\* |
| This is a priority dedicated to support to the most deprived persons under the specific objective set out in point (l) of Article 4(1) of the ESF+ Regulation |
| This is a priority dedicated to urban mobility specific objective set out in point (viii) of Article 3(1)(b) of the ERDF and Cohesion Fund Regulation |
| This is a priority dedicated to digital connectivity specific objective set out in point (v) of Article 3(1)(a) of the ERDF and Cohesion Fund Regulation |

**\*** If marked, go to section 2.1.1.2.

#### Specific objective JSO8.1.: Just Transition Fund

##### Interventions of the Funds

Related types of actions:

|  |
| --- |
| The just transition concept is intended to help regions and people deal with the social, employment, economic and environmental impacts of the transition to the EU energy and climate targets by 2030 and the climate-neutral economy by 2050 based on the Paris Agreement. It deals with the balanced transition of four key areas, i.e. energy, the environment, human resources, and the economy. These are extremely complex, long-term and financially demanding projects, as they include changing the image of an entire region, not only environmentally and economically, but also from educational and social aspects.  On 13 January 2022, the Government of the Republic of Slovenia adopted the Coal Exit Strategy for the area of ​​both coal regions, i.e. Savinjska-Šaleška (hereinafter: **SAŠA**) and **Zasavje**.It contains a more detailed analysis of needs in four identified areas: energy, ​​human resources and the establishment of social infrastructure, the economy, and the environment.  On this basis, a territorial just transition plan (hereafter: TJTP) for both regions was drafted and determines the types of planned operations to attain the objectives defined in accordance with the recorded development needs.  In the **Territorial Just Transition Plan for the SAŠA Region**, the energy restructuring of the region is one of the key challenges and also the basis for its decarbonisation. To attain the objective of a **just energy transition**, three sets of measures were identified:   * reorganising the district heating system, which will provide an affordable source of energy for heating and cooling while maintaining air quality; * improving energy efficiency in the business sector, which will be supported within support for productive investments (Strategic objective 3) in combinations with activities for decarbonisation, material efficiency, job creation, etc.; * promoting the use of RES.   To attain the objective of **employment and skills for all**, the following measures were identified:   * enhanced implementation of quality and accessible learning; * lifelong career orientation and training of unemployed persons and jobseekers; * introducing circular contents into the educational system.   The attainment of the objective of **sustainable, flexible and diverse economic development** is the basis for a successful and fair restructuring of the region towards climate neutrality and the efficient use of raw materials. Funds from the Just Transition Fund (hereinafter: JTF) will therefore be allocated to support the following (sets of) measures:   * investments in research, development and innovation, and production capacity in small and medium-sized enterprises (mainly the manufacturing sector). As part of this measure, support will be allocated to those strategic enterprises that will be a pillar of economic and social stability in the region due to coal exit; * developing a start-up ecosystem, and promoting enterprises with the potential for rapid growth, including economic business infrastructure; and * productive investments other than investments in SMEs.   To attain the objective of the **gradual rehabilitation and revitalisation of spatially and environmentally degraded areas** related to coal mining and the use of coal, the measures stated below will be implemented in compliance with the “polluter pays” principle and by carrying out mining rehabilitation works within the framework of mining legislation, which will be carried out in accordance with the act/ programme on closing the mine:   * dismantling and changing the purpose of facilities related to the use of coal required for investments in increasing the production capacity from RES (Stara elektrarna – Velenje, Block 1–3 – Šoštanj, Block 4 – Šoštanj, Cooling tower 4 – Šoštanj).   The planned measures are complemented by measures within the framework of the “investment for growth and jobs” objective, other financial instruments, and the other two pillars of the Just Transition Mechanism, and two acts that are being drafted: on the gradual closure of the Velenje Coal Mine and on the economic restructuring of the SAŠA region.  For better regional connectivity and sustainable mobility, funds from other programme funds and other resources will be allocated to implement measures:   * sustainable local mobility with an emphasis on public passenger transport; and * ensuring conditions for a better connectivity of the region.   In the **Territorial Just Transition Plan for the Zasavje Region**, the following types of measures were foreseen:  Reducing GHG emissions in the region will contribute to the decarbonisation of the entire business sector in the country. To achieve the greatest possible contribution to the national objectives, the funds from this fund will be used to support the activities of the measures below within the framework of the objective of **exploiting the potential for decarbonisation of the region**:   * producing various RES technologies; * improving energy efficiency in the business sector.   The attainment of the objective of **sustainable, flexible and diverse economic development** is the basis for a successful and fair restructuring of the region towards climate neutrality and the efficient use of raw materials. The planned combination of measures will focus on the economic restructuring of the region in accordance with the NECP and the S5, and the regional development programme of Zasavje towards the transition to a low-carbon, circular, digitised economy by exploiting or transforming existing activities related to past coal-intensive economic activity. Funds from the JTF will therefore be allocated to support the following (sets of) measures:   * investments in research, development and innovation, and production capacity in small and medium-sized enterprises (mainly the manufacturing sector); * developing a start-up ecosystem, and promoting enterprises with the potential for rapid growth, including economic business infrastructure; and * productive investments other than investments in SMEs.   To attain the objective of **highly motivated and qualified residents**, supports will be allocated to the following measures:   * enhanced implementation of quality and accessible learning; * lifelong career orientation; * introducing circular contents into the educational institutions.   The measures are complementary and linked to supporting measures under the relevant policy objectives within the framework of the “investment for growth and jobs” objective and other financial instruments, and the other two pillars of the Just Transition Mechanism.  To **improve intra- and extra-regional connectivity**, funds from other funds of the programme and Pillar 3 of the Just Transition Mechanism will be used to support the following measures:   * promoting investments in sustainable local mobility with an emphasis on public passenger transport; and * developing and modernising the region’s connections for the needs of economic growth.   Where relevant, the implementation of measures will comply with the New European Bauhaus initiative. To formulate the final content of the measures, and the criteria for their selection and implementation, the relevant mitigation measures and, to the greatest extent possible, the relevant recommendations in accordance with the strategic environmental assessment, which are listed in annex Mitigation Measures and Recommendations, will be taken into account. It was established that none of the measures has a significant adverse impact on any of the six environmental objectives, taking into account the technical screening criteria listed in annex DNSH. Each investment/operation in the field of providing wood biomass for the production of thermal energy for district heating will be additionally evaluated through the DNSH rules for forest management and will ensure that the increased use of wood biomass will not increase felling in forests that would turn them into plantations or increase the import of wood biomass from other countries. |

Main target groups:

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| Target groups: enterprises, regional development partnerships, the public sector, pupils, secondary school students, educational institutions and individuals in the areas specified in regional plans.  Beneficiaries: enterprises, cooperatives, public institutes (educational institutions, public research institutes, ZRSZ), supporting environment institutions, regional development partnerships, non-profit organisations and local communities in the areas specified in regional plans. |

Measures to protect equality, inclusion and non-discrimination:

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| The principles of gender equality, equal opportunities and non-discrimination will be respected in all measures, since gender equality is a fundamental value of the EU and a fundamental right and a key principle of the European Pillar of Social Rights. Pursuant to Article 12 of the Equal Opportunities for Women and Men Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia [*Uradni list RS*], Nos. 59/02, 61/07 – ZUNEO-A, 33/16 – ZVarD and 59/19), all genders will be treated equally in all the foreseen fields. In the design and implementation of tenders and public procurement, transparency and respect for the legal orders of the EU and the Republic of Slovenia will be fully ensured by the use of clear, objective and non-discriminatory conditions and criteria for the selection of applications. |

Indication of the specific territories targeted, including the planned use of territorial tools:

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| --- |
| Under this specific objective, the use of territorial tools is not foreseen.  Two coal regions are beneficiaries under the stated specific objective, i.e.:  - Savinjsko-Šaleška (SAŠA) – the narrower and wider areas are part of the NUTS 3 area (SI034 Savinjska). The municipalities in the narrower and wider area are defined in the TJTP SAŠA;  - Zasavje the wider area is NUTS3 (SI035 Zasavje); the narrower area is part of the NUTS 3 area (SI035 Zasavje). The municipalities in the narrower area are defined in the TJTP Zasavje. |

The interregional, cross-border and transnational actions:

|  |
| --- |
| Under this specific objective, the implementation of interregional, cross-border and transnational actions is not foreseen. In a broader sense, the investments that will be made in both TJTPs will contribute to the contents of macro-regional strategies in the fields of the economy, energy, the environment, and human resources.  The two coal regions have been cooperating with each other throughout the preparation of documents for coal exit, and particularly during the preparation of TJTPs. Further cooperation is also foreseen; certain activities of the Just Transition Centre, which will operate in each region, will be common. Representatives of both regions actively participate on the Just Transition Platform. |

Planned use of financial instruments:

|  |
| --- |
| The use of financial instruments under this specific objective is not foreseen, as the JTF constitutes Pillar 1 of the Just Transition Mechanism, which is complemented by pillars 2 and 3, i.e. grants to support just transition projects. |

##### Indicators

Table 2: Impact indicators

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority | Specific objective | Fund | Category of region | ID | Indicators | Measurement unit | Milestone (2014) | Target (2029) |
| 10 | JSO8.1 | JTF | Entire Slovenia | RCO01 | Enterprises supported (of which: micro, small, medium, large) | Enterprises | 0 | 60 |
| 10 | JSO8.1 | JTF | Entire Slovenia | RCO02 | Enterprises supported by grants | Enterprises | 0 | 35 |
| 10 | JSO8.1 | JTF | Entire Slovenia | RCO10 | Enterprises cooperating with research organisations | Enterprises | 15 | 35 |
| 10 | JSO8.1 | JTF | Entire Slovenia | RCO20 | District heating and cooling network lines newly constructed or improved | km | 0 | 6.3 |
| 10 | JSO8.1 | JTF | Entire Slovenia | RCO22 | Additional production capacity for renewable energy (of which: electricity, thermal) | MW | 0 | 82 |
| 10 | JSO8.1 | JTF | Entire Slovenia | RCO38 | Surface area of rehabilitated land supported | Hectares | 0 | 2.955 |
| 10 | JSO8.1 | JTF | Entire Slovenia | EECO02 | Unemployed, including long-term unemployed | Persons | 642 | 2,400 |
| 10 | JSO8.1 | JTF | Entire Slovenia | EECO03 | Long-term unemployed | Persons | 364 | 1,296 |
| 10 | JSO8.1 | JTF | Entire Slovenia | EECO06 | Number of children below 18 years of age | Persons | 10 | 48 |
| 10 | JSO8.1 | JTF | Entire Slovenia | EECO08 | Number of participants of 55 years of age and above | Persons | 222 | 868 |
| 10 | JSO8.1 | JTF | Entire Slovenia | EECO09 | With lower secondary education or less (ISCED 0-2) | Persons | 220 | 840 |
| 10 | JSO8.1 | JTF | Entire Slovenia | EECO10 | With upper secondary (ISCED 3) or post-secondary education (ISCED 4) | Persons | 314 | 1,224 |
| 10 | JSO8.1 | JTF | Entire Slovenia | EECO11 | With tertiary education (ISCED 5 to 8) | Persons | 84 | 312 |
| 10 | JSO8.1 | JTF | Entire Slovenia |  | Number of organisations involved in development projects to improve knowledge, skills and competences | Number | 10 | 39 |
| 10 | JSO8.1 | JTF | Entire Slovenia |  | Maintained areas for economic activity | ha | 0 | 33.6 |

Table 3: Result indicators

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority | Specific objective | Fund | Category of region | ID | Indicator | Measurement unit | Baseline or reference value | Reference year | Target (2029) | Source of data | Notes |
| 10 | JSO8.1 | JTF | Entire Slovenia | RCR01 | Jobs created in supported entities | Annual FTE | 0 | 2022 | 395 | Monitoring, MGRT, MIZŠ, MZI |  |
| 10 | JSO8.1 | JTF | Entire Slovenia | RCR32 | Additional operational capacity installed for renewable energy | MW | 0 | 2022 | 82 | MZI |  |
| 10 | JSO8.1 | JTF | Entire Slovenia | EECR01 | Participants engaged in job searching upon leaving | Persons | 0 | 2022 | 1,440 | Monitoring, MDDSZ | Final indicator (increased for inactive and other participants) provided by ZRSZ |
| 10 | JSO8.1 | JTF | Entire Slovenia | EECR02 | Participants in education or training upon leaving | Persons | 0 | 2022 | 600 | Monitoring, MDDSZ | Final indicator (increased for inactive and other participants) of ZRSZ |
| 10 | JSO8.1 | JTF | Entire Slovenia | EECR03 | Participants gaining a qualification upon leaving | Persons | 0 | 2022 | 96 | Monitoring, MDDSZ |  |
| 10 | JSO8.1 | JTF | Entire Slovenia | EECR04 | Participants in employment, including self-employment, upon leaving | Persons | 0 | 2022 | 480 | Monitoring, MDDSZ |  |

##### Indicative breakdown of the programme resources (EU) by type of intervention

Table 4: Dimension 1 – intervention field

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority no. | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |
| 10 | JTF | Entire Slovenia | JSO8.1 | 004 | 40,258,600 |
| 10 | JTF | Entire Slovenia | JSO8.1 | 010 | 9,210,000 |
| 10 | JTF | Entire Slovenia | JSO8.1 | 011 | 5,210,000 |
| 10 | JTF | Entire Slovenia | JSO8.1 | 020 | 29,320,000 |
| 10 | JTF | Entire Slovenia | JSO8.1 | 021 | 40,230,000 |
| 10 | JTF | Entire Slovenia | JSO8.1 | 022 | 28,470,000 |
| 10 | JTF | Entire Slovenia | JSO8.1 | 048 | 19,800,000 |
| 10 | JTF | Entire Slovenia | JSO8.1 | 052 | 2,600,000 |
| 10 | JTF | Entire Slovenia | JSO8.1 | 053 | 5,200,000 |
| 10 | JTF | Entire Slovenia | JSO8.1 | 054 | 9,200,000 |
| 10 | JTF | Entire Slovenia | JSO8.1 | 055 | 9,250,000 |
| 10 | JTF | Entire Slovenia | JSO8.1 | 073 | 15,640,000 |
| 10 | JTF | Entire Slovenia | JSO8.1 | 074 | 14,000,000 |
| 10 | JTF | Entire Slovenia | JSO8.1 | 086 | 10,400,000 |
| 10 | JTF | Entire Slovenia | JSO8.1 | 134 | 3,030,000 |
| 10 | JTF | Entire Slovenia | JSO8.1 | 145 | 1,987,500 |
| 10 | JTF | Entire Slovenia | JSO8.1 | 149 | 4,967,500 |

Table 5: Dimension 2 – form of financing

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority no. | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |
| 10 | JTF | Entire Slovenia. | JSO8.1 | 01 | 248,773,600 |

Table 6: Dimension 3 – territorial delivery mechanism and territorial focus

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority no. | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |
| 10 | JTF | Entire Slovenia. | JSO8.1 | 33 | 248,773,600 |

Table 7: Dimension 6 – ESF+ secondary themes

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority no. | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |
| 10 | JTF | Entire Slovenia. | JSO8.1 | 01 | 170,000 |
| 10 | JTF | Entire Slovenia. | JSO8.1 | 09 | 2,860,000 |
| 10 | JTF | Entire Slovenia. | JSO8.1 | 10 | 4,675,000 |

Table 8: Dimension 7 – ESF+\*, ERDF, Cohesion Fund and JTF gender equality dimension

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority no. | Fund | Category of region | Specific objective | Code | Amount (in EUR) |
| 10 | JTF | Entire Slovenia. | JSO8.1 | 03 | 241,068,600 |
| 10 | JTF | Entire Slovenia. | JSO8.1 | 02 | 7,705,000 |

**\*** In principle, 40% for the ESF+ contributes to gender tracking. 100% is applicable when Member State chooses to use Article 6 ESF+ Regulation as well as programme specific actions in gender equality.

# Financial plan

## Transfers and contributions

Programme changes and transfers are not foreseen.

## JTF: allocation in the programme and transfers

### JTF allocation to the programme prior to transfers by priority

Transfers from the JTF are not foreseen.

### Transfers to the JTF as complementary support

Transfers to the JTF as complementary support are not foreseen.

## Transfers between categories of region resulting from the mid-term review

Transfers between categories of region within the programme are not foreseen.

## Transfers back

Transfers back are not foreseen.

## Financial appropriations by year

Table 10: Financial appropriations by year

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Fund | | Category of region | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | 2026 | | 2027 | | Total |
| Financial appropriation without flexibility amount | Flexibility amount | Financial appropriation without flexibility amount | Flexibility amount |
| ERDF | | More developed | 0 | 70,408,132 | 71,421,682 | 65,044,910 | 66,099,685 | 27,387,417 | 27,387,417 | 27,936,114 | 27,936,115 | 383,621,472 |
| Less developed | 0 | 223,212,956 | 226,426,485 | 206,216,785 | 209,557,165 | 86,823,679 | 86,823,679 | 88,551,541 | 88,551,540 | 1,216,163,830 |
| Total | | | 0 | 293,621,088 | 297,848,167 | 271,261,695 | 275,656,850 | 114,211,096 | 114,211,096 | 116,487,655 | 116,487,655 | 1,599,785,302 |
| ESF | | More developed | 0 | 20,415,639 | 20,894,675 | 28,794,253 | 29,292,738 | 11,968,911 | 11,968,910 | 12,228,224 | 12,228,224 | 147,791,574 |
| Less developed | 0 | 67,995,674 | 69,514,319 | 94,557,707 | 96,138,019 | 39,580,881 | 39,580,881 | 40,402,970 | 40,402,970 | 488,173,421 |
| Total | | | 0 | 88,411,313 | 90,408,994 | 123,351,960 | 125,430,757 | 51,549,792 | 51,549,791 | 52,631,194 | 52,631,194 | 635,964,995 |
| JTF | Article 3 JTF Regulation resources |  | 0 | 19,353,124 | 19,663,993 | 19,981,080 | 20,304,509 | 8,412,367 | 8,412,368 | 8,580,614 | 8,580,615 | 113,288,670 |
| Article 4 JTF Regulation resources | 0 | 72,138,556 | 73,297,317 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 145,435,873 |
| Total | | | 0 | 91,491,680 | 92,961,310 | 19,981,080 | 20,304,509 | 8,412,367 | 8,412,368 | 8,580,614 | 8,580,615 | 258,724,543 |
| Cohesion Fund | | N/A | 0 | 122,688,976 | 124,659,728 | 126,669,895 | 128,720,267 | 53,330,135 | 53,330,136 | 54,396,738 | 54,396,738 | 718,192,613 |
| Total | | | 0 | 596,213,057 | 605,878,199 | 541,264,630 | 550,112,383 | 227,503,390 | 227,503,391 | 232,096,201 | 232,096,202 | 3,212,667,453 |

## Total financial appropriations by fund and national co-financing

Table 11: Total financial allocations by fund and national contribution

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| JTF specific objective number or technical assistance | Priority | Basis for calculation Union support (total eligible cost or public contribution) | Fund | | Category of region\* | Union contribution (a)=(b)+(c)+(i)+(j) | Breakdown of Union contribution | | | | National contribution (d)=(e)+(f) | Indicative breakdown of national contribution | | Total (g)=(a)+(d) | Co-financing rate (h)=(a)/(g) |
| Union contribution | | Flexibility amount | | Public (e) | Private (f) |
| Without technical assistance pursuant to Article 36(5) CPR | For technical assistance pursuant to Article 36(5) CPR | Without technical assistance pursuant to Article 36(5) CPR | For technical assistance pursuant to Article 36(5) CPR |
| (b) | (c) | (i) | (j) |
| PO 1 | Priority 1 | Public/total | ERDF | | More developed | 245,530,715 | 203,016,216 | 7,105,568 | 34,211,528 | 1,197,403 | 368,296,073 | 158,885,908 | 209,410,165 | 613,826,788 | 0.4 |
| Less developed | 486,743,241 | 402,466,770 | 14,086,337 | 67,816,555 | 2,373,579 | 85,895,867 | 35,378,845 | 50,517,022 | 572,639,108 | 0.85 |
| PO 1 | Priority 2 | Public/total | ERDF | | More developed | 4,221,500 | 3,490,532 | 122,169 | 588,212 | 20,587 | 6,332,250 | 6,118,116 | 214,134 | 10,553,750 | 0.4 |
| Less developed | 16,129,440 | 13,336,730 | 466,786 | 2,247,270 | 78,654 | 2,846,372 | 2,750,118 | 96,254 | 18,975,812 | 0.85 |
| PO 2 | Priority 3 | Public/total | ERDF | | More developed | 98,397,049 | 81,359,257 | 2,847,574 | 13,710,356 | 479,862 | 147,595,574 | 63,591,320 | 84,004,254 | 245,992,623 | 0.4 |
| Less developed | 360,712,536 | 298,257,474 | 10,439,011 | 50,257,054 | 1,758,997 | 63,655,154 | 36,333,408 | 27,321,746 | 424,367,690 | 0.85 |
| Cohesion Fund | | N/A | 302,921,367 | 251,203,915 | 6,280,098 | 44,329,126 | 1,108,228 | 53,456,712 | 53,456,712 | 0 | 356,378,079 | 0.85 |
| PO 2 | Priority 4 | Public/total | ERDF | | More developed | 17,227,256 | 14,244,297 | 498,550 | 2,400,395 | 84,014 | 25,840,884 | 25,840,884 | 0 | 43,068,140 | 0.4 |
| Less developed | 38,577,100 | 31,897,723 | 1,116,420 | 5,374,838 | 188,119 | 6,807,724 | 6,807,724 | 0 | 45,384,824 | 0.85 |
| PO 3 | Priority 5 | Public/total | ERDF | | More developed | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |  |
| Less developed | 109,594,577 | 90,618,980 | 3,171,663 | 15,269,501 | 534,433 | 19,340,220 | 19,340,220 | 0 | 128,934,797 | 0.85 |
|  | Cohesion Fund | | N/A | 415,271,246 | 344,372,417 | 8,609,309 | 60,770,263 | 1,519,257 | 73,283,162 | 73,283,162 | 0 | 488,554,408 | 0.85 |
| PO 4 | Priority 6 | Public/total | ERDF | | More developed | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |  |
| Less developed | 33,948,063 | 28,070,174 | 982,456 | 4,729,887 | 165,546 | 5,990,835 | 5,990,835 | 0 | 39,938,898 | 0.85 |
| Public/total | ESF | | More developed | 93,655,414 | 75,309,335 | 3,012,373 | 14,743,948 | 589,758 | 140,483,121 | 140,483,121 | 0 | 234,138,535 | 0.4 |
| Less developed | 329,233,341 | 264,702,623 | 10,588,104 | 51,867,898 | 2,074,716 | 58,100,002 | 58,100,002 | 0 | 387,333,343 | 0.85 |
| PO 4 | Priority 7 | Public/total | ERDF | | More developed | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |  |
| Less developed | 80,140,050 | 66,264,314 | 2,319,251 | 11,165,686 | 390,799 | 14,142,362 | 14,142,362 | 0 | 94,282,412 | 0.85 |
| Public/total | ESF | | More developed | 54,136,160 | 43,531,473 | 1,741,259 | 8,522,527 | 340,901 | 81,204,240 | 81,204,240 | 0 | 135,340,400 | 0.4 |
| Less developed | 158,940,080 | 127,787,350 | 5,111,493 | 25,039,651 | 1,001,586 | 28,048,250 | 28,048,250 | 0 | 186,988,330 | 0.85 |
| PO 4 | Priority 8 | Public/total | ERDF | | More developed | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |  |
| Less developed | 20,349,913 | 16,826,456 | 588,926 | 2,835,296 | 99,235 | 3,591,162 | 3,591,162 | 0 | 23,941,075 | 0.85 |
| PO 5 | Priority 9 | Public/total | ERDF | | More developed | 18,244,952 | 15,085,775 | 528,002 | 2,542,198 | 88,977 | 27,367,428 | 27,367,428 | 0 | 45,612,380 | 0.4 |
| Less developed | 69,968,910 | 57,854,242 | 2,024,898 | 9,748,570 | 341,200 | 12,347,455 | 12,347,455 | 0 | 82,316,365 | 0.85 |
| JTF | Priority 10 | Public/total | JTF | Article 3 JTF Regulation resources |  | 113,288,670 | 92,592,007 | 3,703,680 | 16,339,407 | 653,576 | 19,992,119 | 5,766,957 | 14,225,162 | 133,280,789 | 0.85 |
| Article 4 JTF Regulation resources |  | 145,435,873 | 139,842,186 | 5,593,687 | 0 | 0 | 25,665,155 | 7,403,410 | 18,261,745 | 171,101,028 | 0.85 |
|  | |  | Total ERDF | | More developed | 383,621,472 | 317,196,077 | 11,101,863 | 53,452,689 | 1,870,843 | 575,432,209 | 281,803,656 | 293,628,553 | 959,053,681 | 0.4 |
| Less developed | 1,216,163,830 | 1,005,592,863 | 35,195,748 | 169,444,657 | 5,930,562 | 214,617,151 | 136,682,129 | 77,935,022 | 1,430,780,981 | 0.85 |
|  | |  | Total ESF | | More developed | 147,791,574 | 118,840,808 | 4,753,632 | 23,266,475 | 930,659 | 221,687,361 | 221,687,361 | 0 | 369,478,935 | 0.4 |
| Less developed | 488,173,421 | 392,489,973 | 15,699,597 | 76,907,549 | 3,076,302 | 86,148,252 | 86,148,252 | 0 | 574,321,673 | 0.85 |
|  | |  | JTF | Article 3 JTF Regulation resources |  | 113,288,670 | 92,592,007 | 3,703,680 | 16,339,407 | 653,576 | 19,992,119 | 5,766,957 | 14,225,162 | 133,280,789 | 0.85 |
| Article 4 JTF Regulation resources |  | 145,435,873 | 139,842,186 | 5,593,687 | 0 | 0 | 25,665,155 | 7,403,410 | 18,261,745 | 171,101,028 | 0.85 |
|  | |  | Total Cohesion Fund | |  | 718,192,613 | 595,576,332 | 14,889,407 | 105,099,389 | 2,627,485 | 126,739,874 | 126,739,874 | 0 | 844,932,487 | 0.85 |
|  | |  | Total | |  | 3,212,667,453 | 2,662,130,246 | 90,937,614 | 444,510,166 | 15,089,427 | 1,270,282,121 | 866,231,639 | 404,050,482 | 4,482,949,574 | 0.72 |

# Enabling conditions

Table 12.a: Horizontal enabling conditions

| Horizontal enabling  conditions | Fund | Specific objective | Fulfilment of  enabling  condition | Criteria | Fulfilment of criteria | Reference to relevant documents | Justification |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Effective monitoring mechanisms of the public procurement market | CF, ERDF, ESF+ | ALL | Yes | Monitoring mechanisms are in place that cover all public contracts and their procurement under the Funds in line with Union procurement legislation. That requirement includes: | | | | |
| 1. Arrangements to ensure compilation of effective and reliable data on public procurement procedures above the Union thresholds in accordance with reporting obligations under Articles 83 and 84 of Directive 2014/24/EU and Articles 99 and 100 of Directive 2014/25/EU. | Yes | Legal bases:  - [Public Procurement Act](http://www.pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=ZAKO7086) (hereinafter: ZJN-3) and related implementing regulations, in particular [Rules on types and method of collection of data for the annual statistical report on the award of public contracts](http://www.pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=PRAV12700).  Both regulations are also available at: https://ejn.gov.si/sistem/zakonodaja/veljavni-predpisi.html  Statistical reports for each individual year are available at: https://ejn.gov.si/direktorat/porocila-in-analize.html | Pursuant to Article 113 of the ZJN-3, the ministry responsible for public procurements monitors the use of public procurement rules. If it establishes violations or systemic problems or receives data on them, it alerts the Budget Supervision Office, the Court of Audit, the National Review Commission, the Competition Protection Agency or the Commission for the Prevention of Corruption. In addition, the ministry reports on the results of such monitoring to the EC every three years. Reports constitute public information.  Pursuant to Articles 106–108 of the ZJN-3, the ministry responsible for public procurements prepares an annual statistical report on public procurements awarded in the Republic of Slovenia on the basis of notices on public procurements awarded in the previous year published on the public procurement portal or in the Official Journal of the European Union and reported statistical data on recorded procurements. The ZJN-3 also stipulates the content of statistical reports and the breakdown of data. |
| 2. Arrangements to ensure the data cover at least the following elements: (a) quality and intensity of competition: names of winning bidder, number of initial bidders and contractual value;  (b) information on final price after completion and on participation of SMEs as direct bidders, where national systems provide such information. | Yes | <https://www.enarocanje.si/> | All the required data are part of the public procurement notices published by contracting authorities on the public procurement portal, which constitutes a unified access to public procurement information and ensures the publication of all essential data related to the public procurement procedure (i.e. public procurement notices, tender documents, decisions on awarding contracts, notices on awarding contracts, which also contain information on the participation of SMEs, etc.). |
| 3. Arrangements to ensure monitoring and analysis of the data by the competent national authorities in accordance with Article 83(2) of Directive 2014/24/EU and Article 99(2) of Directive 2014/25/EU. | Yes | [Public Procurement Act](http://www.pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=ZAKO7086) | Pursuant to paragraph one of Article 114 of the ZJN-3, the monitoring of the application of public procurement rules under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Public Administration, which, if it finds or receives data indicating individual violations or systemic problems, informs the competent national authorities, which deal with them appropriately. This information is collected and, if necessary, identified in various ways, e.g. through annual statistical reporting; initiatives of various stakeholders, particularly education and training; through the established single point of contact for assistance to contracting authorities and business entities (the so-called [Help centre](https://ejn.gov.si/direktorat/pomoc-uporabnikom.html)), the single contact centre of the state administration for technical assistance via telephone and written consultations, etc. |
| 4. Arrangements to make the results of the analysis available to the public in accordance with Article 83(3) of Directive 2014/24/EU and Article 99(3) Directive 2014/25/EU. | Yes | The Slovenian report together with the reports of other Member States is available on the website of the European Commission: <https://ec.europa.eu/growth/single-market/public-procurement/country-reports_en>.  All statistical reports on awarded public procurements in the Republic of Slovenia, in which the Ministry of Public Administration analyses the status of public procurements for each year, are available at <https://ejn.gov.si/direktorat/porocila-in-analize.html> | The monitoring results of the application of public procurement rules are part of national reporting to the European Commission every three years. Reports constitute public information. For greater transparency of the monitoring results, the Ministry of Public Administration will also publish a link to the said Commission website in the Reports and Analysis section of its website (together with the national annual statistical reports already published as presented in point 1).  All decisions and reports adopted by various state authorities (National Review Commission for Reviewing Public Procurement Award Procedures, Commission for the Prevention of Corruption, Court of Audit of the Republic of Slovenia) are published on their websites each within the scope of their competence in the field of public procurement as so-called advocates of the public interest based on the act governing legal protection in public procurement procedures. In addition to findings, the reports contain recommendations to improve the systemic regulation of public procurement. |
| 5. Arrangements to ensure that all information pointing to suspected bid-rigging situations is communicated to the competent national bodies in accordance with Article 83(2) of Directive 2014/24/EU and Article 99(2) of Directive 2014/25/EU. | Yes | [Public Procurement Act](http://www.pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=ZAKO7086) (ZJN-3) | Pursuant to the ZJN-. (Article 114), the MJU monitors the application of public procurement rules. If it establishes violations or systemic problems or receives data on them, it alerts the competent authorities (the Budget Supervision Office, the Court of Audit, the National Review Commission, the Competition Protection Agency (AVK) or the Commission for the Prevention of Corruption), which take suitable action. This obligation stems from an act, therefore no additional agreements are concluded. State authorities must respect all relevant positive laws, including rules of operation and procedural rules. The ZJN-3 defines exclusion grounds related to the restriction of competition (Article 75).  The computerisation of the public procurement procedure also has a preventive effect. High transparency (the publication of notices, contract award decisions, contracts, bidding prices) is one of the crucial measures used to combat collusion. The MJU and the AVK regularly monitor the status of the public procurement system. The AVK advocates public interest in terms of competition and advises contracting authorities. Training on the recognition and reporting of concerted practices in public procurement procedures was conducted and is publicly available.  Also see Criteria 1 and 3. |
| Tools and capacity for effective application of State aid rules | CF, ERDF, ESF+ | ALL | Yes | Managing authorities have the tools and capacity to verify compliance with State aid rules: | | | | |
| 1. For undertakings in difficulty and undertakings under a recovery requirement. | Yes | [Monitoring of State Aids Act](http://www.pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=ZAKO3849)  [Recovery of unlawful aid (europa.eu)](https://ec.europa.eu/competition-policy/state-aid/procedures/recovery-unlawful-aid_en) | Prior to being granted aid, beneficiaries must submit a statement that it is not a company in difficulty. Aid granting authorities have various methods of checking whether a beneficiary is a company that is not in difficulty. The most commonly used method is a statement by the beneficiary that the company is not in difficulty. All granting authorities carry out subsequent supervision (random or systematic). Some of them have pre-prepared tables with all the data from Article 2(18) of the GBER. Most granting authorities check financial statements in advance prior to awarding aid. If there are many applications (e.g. 100) and it is difficult to check the statements in advance, the granting authority checks the beneficiary’s statement subsequently. All schemes in the legal bases contain a provision on subsequent supervision – if the beneficiary has provided incorrect/false information, they must return the aid. In addition, the Internal Audit Service or Budget Supervision Office, in randomly selected cases, check that the conditions for granting aid have been met, including the status of a company in difficulty. The SSDP will include the obligation to monitor the status of a company in difficulty as a mandatory element of notification. Managing authorities at the SSDP receive information regarding recovery orders. The state aid register is open to the general public. |
| 2. Through access to expert advice and guidance on State aid matters, provided by State aid experts of local or national bodies. | Yes |  | The State Aid Monitoring Division (MF) regularly provides training on the issue of state aid for aid granting authorities at central and local levels. Such training includes the basics of state and general procedures (notification of aid to the MF, reporting on state aid) and targeted training on special topics, such as state aid and cohesion policy, infrastructural aid, rescuing and restructuring.  A network of contact points has been established in all major aid granting authorities (ministries, public funds and public agencies). The purpose of a contact point is to establish a connection between the State Aid Monitoring Division (state aid experts responsible for a specific field, i.e. research, development and innovation) and an individual aid granting authority (i.e. the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport) to ensure mutual exchange of information on current issues, the exchange of knowledge, advice and a quick resolution of open issues. |
| Effective application and implementation of the Charter of Fundamental Rights | CF, ERDF, ESF+ | ALL | Yes | Effective mechanisms are in place to ensure compliance with the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union (‘the Charter’) which include: | | | | |
| 1. Arrangements to ensure compliance of the programmes supported by the Funds and their implementation with the relevant provisions of the Charter. | Yes | Procedural rules for providing the horizontal enabling condition “Effective application and implementation of the Charter of Fundamental Rights” (procedural rules prepared by the MA). | The Procedural rules specify the implementation framework of this condition, which was carried out in the programming phase and will be monitored in all implementation phases (including supervision, evaluation, etc.). The measures from the Procedural rules will be included in the drafting of national regulations (the Slovenian regulation on the implementation of the ECP 2021–2027, which defines the rules for the use of EU funds, the rules of procedure for the establishment of the Monitoring Committee), rules and documents of the MA (description of the management and supervision system, instructions and guidelines, check list) and other managing activities.  The Centre for Human Rights and other relevant institutions (e.g. the Human Rights Department at the MZZ, the Advocate of the Principle of Equality, the Information Commissioner, etc.) will be members of the inter-ministerial commission/project group, which will constantly participate in the handling of complaints and their resolution (see Criterion 2). Violations will be handled in accordance with applicable human rights protection procedures. In accordance with the Administrative Capacity Building Plan, persons who will participate in monitoring the implementation of the Charter will receive appropriate training throughout the entire period, which will presumably be organised in cooperation with the Centre for Human Rights. |
| 2. Reporting arrangements to the monitoring committee regarding cases of non-compliance of operations supported by the Funds with the Charter and complaints regarding the Charter submitted in accordance with the arrangements made pursuant to Article 69(7). | Yes | Procedural rules for providing the horizontal enabling condition “Effective application and implementation of the Charter of Fundamental Rights”. | Representatives of human rights protection bodies and equality bodies will be included in the Monitoring Committee.  The rules of procedure stipulate that, once a year at its regular meeting, the Monitoring Committee is informed of complaints and their content, the identified discrepancies in the context of operations supported by the funds, and appropriate corrective action to prevent the repetition of violations.  The responsible person of the MA will report to the Monitoring Committee, which will draft a report based on information collected during management checks and findings of audits and EU/national supervisory institutions and other sources as part of reports on violations of the Charter and complaints regarding the Charter and on the initiative and with the help of members of the inter-ministerial/project group, which will probably meet twice annually (see Criterion 1). The national regulation defining the rules for spending European Union funds establishes a legal basis for ensuring effective legal protection in the event of non-compliance with the Charter. The SVRK website is upgraded with an online form for complaints pursuant to paragraph seven of Article 69 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060. |
| Implementation and application of the United Nations Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities in accordance with Council Decision 2010/48/EC | CF, ERDF, ESF+ | ALL | Yes | A national framework to ensure implementation of the UNCRPD is in place that includes: | | | | |
| 1. Objectives with measurable goals, data collection and monitoring mechanisms. | Yes | [Action Programme for Persons with Disabilities 2022–2030](https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.gov.si%2Fassets%2Fministrstva%2FMDDSZ%2FInvalidi%2FAPI-2022-2030%2FAction_programme_for_Persons_with_Disabilities_2022_2030.docx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK) (API) | In October 2021, the Government of the Republic of Slovenia adopted the Action Programme for Persons with Disabilities 2022–2030 (API) the purpose of which is to promote, protect and provide the full and equal enjoyment of the human rights of persons with disabilities, and promote their dignity. On 7 April 2022, the API Monitoring Committee was established.  It is composed of a group of representatives of all relevant ministries, expert organisations, the National Council of Disability Organisations of Slovenia, and other disability organisations, and the Slovenian Federation of Pensioners’ Organisations. The task of the Committee is to draft annual reports on the API implementation for the Government of the Republic of Slovenia. The reporters record all the activities carried out during the year as part of the foreseen 13 goals and 120 measures of the API. The opinion on the Commission’s annual report is provided by the Council for Persons with Disabilities (an advisory, independent tripartite body established on the basis of Article 33 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the EU Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021–2030), which is also responsible for promoting and monitoring the implementation of the Act ratifying the Convention and the API. |
| 2. Arrangements to ensure that the accessibility policy, legislation and standards are properly reflected in the preparation and implementation of the programmes. | Yes | [Action Programme for Persons with Disabilities 2022– 2030](https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.gov.si%2Fassets%2Fministrstva%2FMDDSZ%2FInvalidi%2FAPI-2022-2030%2FAction_programme_for_Persons_with_Disabilities_2022_2030.docx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK)  [Equalisation of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities Act](http://www.pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=ZAKO3849) | Organisations responsible for monitoring the implementation of the Convention have participated/will participate in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the programme. Compliance with the Convention was also checked in the programming process, as various organisations from this field were involved in the preparation of the programme (see the partnership principle).  Compliance of operations with the Convention will be checked on the basis of the criteria contained in check lists defined in the MA Instructions. The procedures and tasks of the authorities will be specified in the Description of the implementation management and supervision system programme.  The Administrative Capacity Building Plan foresees training and education of key stakeholders in this field, which will be prepared in cooperation with the API Monitoring Committee and other relevant experts. |
| 3. Reporting arrangements to the monitoring committee regarding cases of non-compliance of operations supported by the Funds with the UNCRPD and complaints regarding the UNCRPD submitted in accordance with the arrangements made pursuant to Article 69(7). | Yes | [Action Programme for Persons with Disabilities 2022– 2030](https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.gov.si%2Fassets%2Fministrstva%2FMDDSZ%2FInvalidi%2FAPI-2022-2030%2FAction_programme_for_Persons_with_Disabilities_2022_2030.docx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK) | The Managing Authority will appoint a person responsible for monitoring and drafting an annual report on the discrepancies identified during management checks, audits, complaints submitted online, findings of the API Monitoring Committee, and corrective action carried out. It will present the report in cooperation with the MDDSZ and other departments at the annual Monitoring Committee meeting.  The report will contain information on the identified discrepancies and complaints, content and corrective action carried out.  Complaints will also be collected by the MA, which is why a complaint form based on paragraph seven of Article 69 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 will be published on its website. |

Table 12 b: Thematic enabling conditions

| Enabling  conditions | Fund | Specific objective | Fulfilment of  enabling  condition | Criteria | Fulfilment of criteria | Reference to relevant documents | Justification |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1.1 Good  management  of national or  regional smart  specialisation  strategy | ERDF | RSO1.1: Developing and enhancing research and innovation capacities and the uptake of advanced technologies  RSO1.2: Reaping the benefits of digitisation for citizens, companies, research organisations and public authorities  RSO1.3: Enhancing sustainable growth and competitiveness of SMEs and job creation in SMEs, including by productive investments  RSO1.4: Developing skills for smart specialisation, industrial transition and entrepreneurship | Yes | The Smart Specialisation Strategy was submitted to the EC together with programme documents for informal review. The comments of the EC require an upgrade of the text and another informal transmission of the S5 text to the EC. After receiving comments from the EC, the S5 will be verified accordingly. Then it will be presented to the Government of the Republic of Slovenia and formally published online. The fulfilment of the criteria set by legal bases is shown for each criterion. By preparing an action plan on how to address criteria 2 and 3, we estimate that this enabling condition is suitably met. | | | |
| 1. The latest analysis of challenges for dissemination of innovation and digitisation. | Yes | [Expert analysis as a basis for the Smart Specialisation Strategy, Final report, 23 December 2020](https://www.gov.si/assets/vladne-sluzbe/SVRK/S4-Slovenska-strategija-pametne-specializacije/Studijakonkurencnosti-slovenskega-gospodarstva-po-panogah_dejavnostih-in-raziskovalnih-dejavnosti-na-podlagi-najnovejsih-podatkov.pdf)  [Empirically Led Internationalisation of S3, An Investigation Based on Micro-Data for the Country of Slovenia, 5. 3. 2020](https://www.gov.si/assets/vladne-sluzbe/SVRK/S4-Slovenska-strategija-pametne-specializacije/Studija-o-slovenskem-prostoru-znanja-slovenski-davcni-politiki-in-tujih-neposrednih-investicijah-ter-vkljucenosti-v-globalne-verige-vrednosti.pdf) | The purpose of the analysis is to use the latest data to update calculations carried out in current analytical bases for the drafting or revising of the Smart Specialisation Strategy.  The objective of the second study was to analyse the areas of knowledge, products and skills in the Republic of Slovenia, thus identifying the main national and international players who can participate in the development of the Republic of Slovenia in accordance with the S5. |
| 2. Existence of competent regional or national institution or body,  responsible for the management of the smart specialisation strategy. | Yes | SVRK systematisation  Source: SVRK Personnel Service | The shortcomings Slovenia has regarding the second and third criteria of enabling good management of the national smart specialisation strategy will be eliminated in accordance with the prepared action plan (Appendix S5 Action Plan), which determines steps, institutions and milestones for implementation.  Major changes are a result of the Scientific Research and Innovation Activities Act (adopted in November 2021). Changes are also foreseen in accordance with the EC recommendations “TF Reform Contract REFORM/SC2020/100 implementing framework contract No SRSS/2018/01/FWC/002 of Slovenia’s innovation ecosystem”. Additionally, it is planned that the S5 group will be strengthened within the SVRK to focus more on analytical skills. |
| 3. Monitoring and evaluation tools to measure performance towards the objectives of the strategy. | Yes | Target Research Programme 2019 (CRP 2019) “Monitoring and assessing the effects of strategic development and innovation partnerships” (Source: SVRK)  Target Research Programme 2021 (CRP 2021) Preparing the methodology and assessing the effectiveness  of the measures from S4/5 (Source: SVRK)  eMA 2 – Computer system | Implementation is monitored and evaluated through the instrument of Target Research Programmes, in which the SVRK, the MGRT and the MIZŠ participate.  Implementation, monitoring and evaluation based on them are and will be enabled in the e-MA umbrella information system.  The S5 covers not only the ECP funds, but also other financing sources: national funds – public and private, which is shown in the S5 text. The data, which are not part of the ECP, are based on the assessments of the relevant divisions in individual areas. The S5 implementation will be monitored through the e-MA2 system in the ECP part and based on the reporting of individual divisions that contributed estimates for Chapter 7 *Finance* of the Slovenian Smart Specialisation Strategy. |
| 4. Functioning of stakeholder co-operation (“entrepreneurial discovery  process”) | Yes | The online workshops of the Slovenian Smart Specialisation Strategy were successfully completed – [over 900 participants actively participated in the design of the renewed S5](https://www.eu-skladi.si/portal/sl/po-2020/priprava-programskih-dokumentov-1/slovenska-strategija-pametne-specializacije). | Stakeholders were invited to participate in the renewal of the S5 from the beginning of the process in June 2020 and participated throughout; ten public webinars in individual priority areas of the S5 are highlighted – recordings are available.  The process is permanently open to all interested stakeholders via a special e-mail address [s5.svrk@gov.si](mailto:s5.svrk@gov.si), to which they can send suggestions, opinions, criticisms, and comments |
| 5. Actions necessary to improve national or regional  research and innovation systems, where relevant. | Yes | Final report of the REFORM project “Strengthening the Innovation Ecosystem in Slovenia” ([Link to document](https://mnz-my.sharepoint.com/:w:/g/personal/tjasa_stamcar_gov_si/EaCDbMz8cjNOuevCM1pZhDMB0cRJjYH0UfuxGwZps7yaxg?rtime=c-e1JH492kg)) | REFORM “Strengthening the Innovation Ecosystem in Slovenia” project implementation – the recommendations will be implemented on the basis of the final version of the project recommendations. The S5 text is harmonised with the project findings. |
| 6. Where relevant, actions to support industrial transition. | Yes | Project: National Smart Factory Demonstration Centre (Source: SVRK)  Just transition in Zasavje and the SAŠA region – territorial just transition plans (both in preparation) | The National Smart Factory Demonstration Centre (NDC PT) is a strategic instrument devised on distributed systems, which will provide enterprises, particularly SMEs, with an efficient access to new technologies, practical training, and knowledge transfer from scientific and research environments in the real industrial environment, taking into account the good practice principle. The NDC PT will constitute a demonstration environment for the application and implementation of Industry 4.0 principles and key enabling technologies, and the development and test environment for high-tech products, technologies and services for manufacturing and start-up companies and research institutions. |
| 7. Measures for enhancing cooperation with partners outside a given  Member State in priority areas supported by the smart specialisation  strategy. | Yes | Support documents of the renewed S5: International cooperation analysis (Source: SVRK)  Special chapter of S5 | The document describes how Slovenia strengthened multilateral and bilateral international cooperation at strategic, programme and project levels between 2014 and 2021 to enhance the positioning of Slovenian innovation stakeholders in regional and global value chains (outward internationalisation), strengthen research and development departments and the competences of employees in enterprises and knowledge institutions, and attract top foreign personnel and high-tech companies (inward internationalisation). |
| 1.2 National or  regional  broadband  plan | ERDF | RSO1.5: Enhancing digital  connectivity | Yes | A national or regional broadband plan is in place  which includes: | | | |
| 1. An assessment of the investment gap that needs to be addressed to ensure that all Union citizens have access to very high capacity networks (1), based on:  (a) a recent mapping (2) of existing private and public  infrastructure and quality of service using standard  broadband mapping indicators;  (b) a consultation on planned investments in line with  State aid requirements. | Yes | Mapping by the state regulator AKOS: <https://gis.akos-rs.si/>  Mapping by the Mapping Authority: <https://egp.gu.gov.si/egp/>  Public consultation on state aid for 2019 and 2021: <https://www.gov.si/teme/elektronske-komunikacije/>  [Gigabyte Infrastructure Development Plan by 2030](https://www.gov.si/assets/vladne-sluzbe/SDP/Dokumenti/Nacrt.pdf) | The assessment of the investment gap is part of the Gigabyte Infrastructure Development Plan by 2030 adopted by the Government of the Republic of Slovenia on 25 August 2022.  Mapping and public consultations on the planned investments are carried out prior to each public tender for co-financing the construction of next-generation broadband networks or will be carried out prior to the implementation of other measures to promote connectivity, which will be co-financed from public funds. |
| 2. The justification of planned public intervention on the basis of  sustainable investment models that:  (a) enhance affordability and access to open,  quality and future-proof infrastructure and  services;  (b) adjust the forms of financial assistance to the identified  market failures;  (c) allow for a complementary use of different forms of financing  from Union, national or regional sources. | Yes | Proposal for a new [Electronic Communications Act (ZEKom-2) – draft in discussion](https://www.dz-rs.si/wps/portal/Home/zakonodaja/izbran/!ut/p/z1/04_Sj9CPykssy0xPLMnMz0vMAfIjo8zivSy9Hb283Q0N3E3dLQwCQ7z9g7w8nAwsnMz1w9EUGAWZGgS6GDn5BhsYGwQHG-pHEaPfAAdwNCBOPx4FUfiNL8gNDQ11VFQEAAXcoa4!/dz/d5/L2dBISEvZ0FBIS9nQSEh/?uid=1D2556C0C73D5B29C1258841006E12CA&db=pre_zak&mandat=IX&tip=doc) | The market analysis of needs is ongoing.  Based on market interest and the results of public tenders, the measures proposed in the ECP 2021–2027 Programme will enhance access to open and high-quality infrastructure and services. The AKOS will monitor the openness of the infrastructure. The draft of the new Electronic Communications Act (ZEK) includes the necessary provisions, also from the aspect of commissions.  In addition to funds allocated in the MFF for 2021–2027, funds are also planned for the RRP. Measures to prevent double funding will be implemented systematically. |
| 3. Measures to support demand and use of very high  capacity networks, including actions to facilitate their  roll-out, in particular through the effective implementation of the Directive 2014/61/EU  of the European Parliament and of the Council. | Yes | Currently applicable [Electronic Communications Act](http://pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=ZAKO6405)  (ZEKom-1)  [Connectivity Toolbox](https://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/dae/redirection/document/86972)  [Implementation Report of](https://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/dae/redirection/document/86972)  [the Republic of Slovenia](https://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/dae/redirection/document/86972) | Directive 2014/61/EU  of the European Parliament and of the Council was transposed to the Slovenian legislation with the currently applicable ZEKom-1.  The European Electronic Communications Code will be transposed to the Slovenian legislation with the ZEKom-1, which is currently undergoing the first reading of the ordinary legislative procedure in the National Assembly. Following general discussion, the National Assembly, on 1 July 2022, adopted the decision that the proposal for the ZEKom-2 is suitable for further consideration; therefore, the legislative procedure continues, and the draft act is expected to be adopted in the coming months.  A full report on measures to support demand and use of very high capacity networks is available as part of the “Connectivity Toolbox Implementation Report of the Republic of Slovenia”. |
| 4. Technical assistance and expert advice mechanisms, such as a Broadband Competence Office, to reinforce  the capacity of local stakeholders and advise  project promoters. | Yes | Broadband Competence Office: <https://www.gov.si/teme/elektronske-komunikacije/> | The Broadband Competence Office (BCO) operates within the Office of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for Digital Transformation. Its objective is to provide support for local stakeholders in the field of broadband infrastructure. |
| 5. A monitoring mechanism based on standard  broadband mapping indicators. | Yes | Mapping by the Mapping Authority: <https://egp.gu.gov.si/egp/> | A monitoring mechanism based on standard broadband mapping indicators has been established and is freely available. |
| 2.1. Strategic policy  framework  to support  energy efficiency  renovation of  residential and  non-residential  buildings | ERDF and CF | RSO2.1: Promoting energy efficiency and reducing greenhouse gas emissions | No | 1. A national long term renovation strategy to support the renovation  of the national stock of residential and non-residential buildings  is adopted, in line with the requirements of Directive (EU) 2010/31/EU of the European  Parliament and of the Council, which:  (a) entails indicative milestones for 2030, 2040 and 2050;  (b) provides an indicative outline of financial resources to support  the implementation of the strategy;  (c) defines effective mechanisms for promoting investments in  building renovation. | Yes | [Long-term Strategy for Energy Renovation of Buildings by 2050](https://www.energetika-portal.si/fileadmin/dokumenti/publikacije/dseps/dseps_2050_final.pdf) | 1. The documents specifies the indicators and milestones for 2030, 2040 and 2050. Milestones contributing to the Union’s energy efficiency targets under Directive 201227EU are also included. The milestones are defined in the document on pages 11 and 12. 2. The Strategy lists investments and financing sources by sectors. In addition to the existing instruments, new instruments are also planned to attain the demanding objectives of the NECP. Funds are defined on page 86 and refer to state and other resources.   Promotion and awareness mechanisms are defined in the Strategy. Chapter 4 of the Strategy sets out policies and measures to promote energy-efficient renovations. The measures include promotional activities. |
| 2. Energy efficiency improvement measures to achieve  required energy savings | No | [Integrated National Energy and Climate Plan](https://www.energetika-portal.si/fileadmin/dokumenti/publikacije/nepn/dokumenti/nepn_5.0_final_feb-2020.pdf) (NECP), p. 89 | The NECP defines policies and measures to promote energy-efficient renovations on legal and strategic bases for defining objectives. Development measures are defined, i.e. horizontal and specific for residential buildings, public buildings, and the buildings of the private service sector and complementary policies.  Also included is an overview of policies and measures in the field of wider renovation, which covers the promotion of energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy sources in buildings in general, households, and in public buildings. |
| 2.2 Governance  of the energy  sector | ERDF and CF | RSO2.1: Promoting energy efficiency and  reducing greenhouse gas emissions  RSO2.2: Promoting renewable energy in accordance with Renewable Energy Directive (EU) 2018/2001  including the sustainability criteria  set out therein  RSO2.3: Developing smart energy systems, grids and storage outside the Trans-European Energy Network | Yes | The integrated national energy and climate plan is notified to the Commission, in accordance with Article 3 of Regulation (EU) 2018/1999 and consistent with the long-term greenhouse gas emission reduction objectives under the Paris Agreement, which includes: | | | |
| 1. All elements required by the template set out in Annex I to Regulation  (EU) 2018/1999. | Yes | [Act on Energy Efficiency](http://www.pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=ZAKO8136) (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia [*Uradni list RS*], No. 158/20) | The obligation to achieve energy savings and the methodology are prescribed by the Act on Energy Efficiency and the Decree on energy savings requirements (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia [*Uradni list RS*], Nos. 96/14 and 158/20 – ZURE). It is specified in more detail in the Rules on the methods for determining energy savings (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia [*Uradni list RS*], No. 57/21). |
| 2. An outline of envisaged financial resources and mechanisms for measures  promoting low-carbon energy. | Yes | [Integrated National Energy and Climate Plan](https://www.energetika-portal.si/fileadmin/dokumenti/publikacije/nepn/dokumenti/nepn_5.0_final_feb-2020.pdf) (NECP), p. 214 | Slovenia has prepared its NECP in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2018/1999 of 11 December 2018 on the Governance of the Energy Union and Climate Action. An overview of investment needs is available in paragraph 5.3.  In the process of programming political interventions and instruments/measures listed in the NECP, it was estimated that the total investments for the 2021–2030 period should amount to approx. EUR 28.4 billion, including investments in transport infrastructure and sustainable mobility.  As part of the planning of the cohesion funds for the 2021–2027 period, EUR 600 to 700 million are planned for NECP activities. |
| 2.3 Effective  promotion of the use  of renewable energy  across sectors and across the Union | ERDF and CF | RSO2.2: Promoting renewable energy in accordance with Renewable Energy Directive (EU) 2018/2001  including the sustainability criteria set out therein | Yes | Measures are in place which ensure: | | | |
| 1. Compliance with the 2020 binding national renewable  energy target and with this share of renewable  energy as a baseline up to 2030 or adoption of  additional measures in the event that the baseline is not maintained over any one-year period in accordance with the Directive (EU) 2018/2001 and  Regulation (EU) 2018/1999. | Yes | Data of the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia available at <https://www.stat.si/StatWeb/Field/Index/5>  Agreement on Statistical Transfer of Energy from Renewable Sources between the Republic of Slovenia and the Czech Republic | Slovenia has achieved the RES 2020 target; 24.14% was achieved in the Republic of Slovenia, and the rest through statistical transfer with the Czech Republic.  Slovenia notified the European Commission of the agreement on statistical transfer in December 2021. |
| 2. In accordance with the requirements of Directive (EU) 2018/2001 and Regulation (EU) 2018/1999, an increase of the share of renewable energy in the heating and cooling sector in line with Article 23 of Directive (EU)  2018/2001. | Yes | [Integrated National Energy and Climate Plan](https://www.energetika-portal.si/fileadmin/dokumenti/publikacije/nepn/dokumenti/nepn_5.0_final_feb-2020.pdf) (NECP), p. 138 | In 2021, the Act on the Promotion of the Use of Renewable Energy Sources (ZRSOVE) was adopted, which attains the objective of increasing the share of energy from renewable sources in the heating and cooling sector by approximately 1.3 percentage points as an annual average calculated for the periods between 2021 and 2025 and between 2026 and 2030, commencing with the share of energy from renewable sources in this sector in 2020. If this objective is not attained, it is published in the integrated national energy and climate progress report pursuant to Article 20 of Regulation (EU) 2018/1999. The ministry responsible for energy submits to the European Commission a justification including the measures to help attain the objective.  It was established during the preparation of the NECP that it will be difficult to attain the tentative objective of 1.3 percentage points due to the already implemented measures, and it is realistically estimated at 0.7 percentage points. A new NECP is already being prepared, which will define complementary measures in other areas, especially in the field of ​​electricity generation, energy from RES, and transport, and also the ban on the installation of fossil fuel boilers (Article 53 of the Act on the Promotion of the Use of Renewable Energy Sources). |
| 2.4 Effective  disaster risk  management framework | ERDF and CF | RSO2.4: Promoting climate change  adaptation and  disaster risk prevention and  resilience, taking into account  eco-system based approaches | Yes | A national or regional disaster  risk management plan, established on the basis of risk assessments, taking due account  of the likely impacts of climate change and the existing  climate adaptation strategies, is in place and includes: | | | |
| 1. Description of key risks, assessed in accordance with Article 6(1) of Decision No 1313/2013/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council (6), reflecting the current and evolving risk profile with an indicative 25 to 35 years timespan. The assessment shall build, for climate-related risks, on climate change projections and scenarios. | Yes | [National disaster risk assessment, version 2.0](https://www.gov.si/assets/organi-v-sestavi/URSZR/Datoteke/Ocene-tveganja-za-nesrece/drzavna-ocena-tveganj-za-nesrece-2.0_2018_za-splet.pdf)  The national disaster risk assessment has been prepared on the basis of current and changing risks. It is amended periodically in accordance with the Decree implementing the Decision on the Union Civil Protection Mechanism or when an existing risk changes or a new one emerges. Due to the foreseen amendments to the Resolution on the National Programme for Protection against Natural and Other Disasters, the national disaster risk assessment will also be amended at the beginning of 2023. | In accordance with Article 6(1) of the Decision No 1313/2013/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council, crucial risks are included in the national disaster risk assessment, according to which floods present the greatest risk. A high risk of floods stems from the high probability of their occurrence and of their severe consequences for residents, the economy, society, politics and cultural heritage. In addition to floods, the competent national authorities recognise other important risks of climate-related disasters, such as large wildfires and storms with hail or glaze ice on the basis of past disasters and climate projections. Large wildfires and storms with accompanying phenomena, taking into account climate projections for the coming decades, pose a great risk for the Republic of Slovenia, since the probability of their occurrence is very high with otherwise minor consequences or damage caused, and changes in the areas where such disasters usually occur are also evident due to climate change. The expansion of areas where large wildfires and storms occur in the coming years and decades could lead to significantly higher material and other damage in larger geographical areas. |
| 2. Description of the disaster prevention, preparedness and response  measures to address the key risks identified. The measures shall be  prioritised in proportion to the risks and their economic  impact, capacity gaps, effectiveness and  efficiency, taking into account possible alternatives. | Yes | [National disaster risk assessment, version 2.0](https://www.gov.si/assets/organi-v-sestavi/URSZR/Datoteke/Ocene-tveganja-za-nesrece/drzavna-ocena-tveganj-za-nesrece-2.0_2018_za-splet.pdf)  Amendments to the risk management capability assessment in December 2020. The assessment is amended periodically in accordance with the Decree implementing the Decision on the Union Civil Protection Mechanism or when an existing risk changes or a new one emerges. Due to the foreseen amendments to the Resolution on the National Programme for Protection against Natural and Other Disasters, the risk management capability assessment will be amended at the beginning of 2023. | Planning and implementing prevention, preparedness and response measures to floods, large wildfires, hailstorms and glaze ice are defined in the risk management capability assessment and further in individual assessments of individual risks. The national assessment includes data on administrative (coordination, expertise, methodology, communication and information), technical (equipment, supplies, infrastructure, ICT technical support) and financial capacities. Response measures at various levels are detailed in response plans for individual risks. |
| 3. Information on financing resources and mechanisms available for covering the operation and maintenance costs related to prevention,  preparedness and response. | Yes | [Resolution on the National Programme for Protection against Natural and Other Disasters 2016–2022 (ReNPVNDN16-22),](http://www.pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=RESO116)  Data on financial resources and mechanisms for prevention, preparedness and response will also be included in the new resolution for the 2023–2028/2030 period, which is being prepared, and in the upgraded risk management capability assessment. The data will be supplemented by EU sources and mechanisms during the period of validity of the said bases (the RRP, the ECP, etc.). | The Resolution on the National Programme for Protection against Natural and Other Disasters 2016-2022 contains detailed information regarding financial resources and mechanisms on an annual level for the field of protection against natural and other disasters (the financing of prevention, preparedness, activities and response capabilities). Resources and mechanisms include the state budget (for regular tasks of prevention, preparedness and response, in accordance with legislation), state reserves in the event of major natural and other disasters (mainly the equipment of protection, rescue and relief forces), European cohesion and other funds (for specific projects, in the 2014–2020 period for upgrading the public information and alarm system), funds from the Fire Fund (for the modernisation of training infrastructure). Financial resources will also be included in the risk management capability assessment. The RRP will be added as a new financing source, and new priorities in the field of natural and other disasters in the 2021–2027 period within the framework of the European Cohesion Policy as a potential financing source and other possible sources in the current period will be added. |
| 2.5 Updated  planning for  required investments in  water and  wastewater  sectors | ERDF and CF | RSO2.5: Promoting access to water and  sustainable water  management | No | For each or both sectors, a national investment  plan is in place and includes: | | | |
| 1. An assessment of the current state of implementation of Council Directive 91/271/EEC (8) and of Council Directive 98/83/EC (9). | No | On 17 September 2020, the Government adopted the [Operational Programme for the discharge and treatment of urban waste water](https://www.gov.si/novice/2020-09-17-odlocitve-32-redne-seje-vlade-republike-slovenije-s-podrocja-ministrstva-za-okolje-in-prostor)  On 21 April 2022, the Government adopted the [Operational Programme for drinking water supply for the 2022–2027 period](https://www.gov.si/teme/javna-sluzba-oskrbe-s-pitno-vodo/) | The Operational Programme for the discharge and treatment of urban waste water includes the current implementation status of Council Directive 91/271/EEC of 21 May 1991 concerning urban waste-water treatment for the 2018 reference year.  The Operational Programme for drinking water supply for the 2022–2027 period was adopted for the field of drinking water supply. Council Directive 98/83/EC on the quality of water intended for human consumption has been transposed into the Rules on drinking water. The deadline for the transposition of the content of Directive (EU) 2020/2184 into Slovenian legislation is 12 January 2023. Due to the content of recast Directive (EU) 2020/2184 under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Health, a new regulation for the field of drinking water is being prepared. In the autumn, a draft will be submitted for coordination, and the directive will be transposed with a regulation by the deadline (12 January 2023). |
| 2. The identification and planning of any public investments, including  an indicative financial estimation:  (a) required to implement the Directive 91/271/EEC, including a prioritisation with regard to the size of agglomerations and the environmental impact, with investments broken down for each  wastewater agglomeration;  (b) required to implement Directive 98/83/EC;  (c) required to match the needs stemming from Directive  (EU) 2020/2184 (10), regarding in particular the revised quality  parameters set out in Annex I of that Directive. | No | [Operational Programme for the discharge and treatment of urban waste water](https://www.gov.si/novice/2020-09-17-odlocitve-32-redne-seje-vlade-republike-slovenije-s-podrocja-ministrstva-za-okolje-in-prostor)  On 21 April 2022, the Government adopted the [Operational Programme for drinking water supply for the 2022–2027 period](https://www.gov.si/teme/javna-sluzba-oskrbe-s-pitno-vodo/) | A) The Operational Programme for the discharge and treatment of urban waste water contains a financial assessment of the investment costs of the measures required to equip agglomerations with a total load equal to or greater than 2,000 PE. The estimated funds required for the construction of public sewage networks amount to 276.4 million, and to 56.3 million for the construction or reconstruction of waste water treatment plants. The total value of the required funds is thus estimated at 332.7 million. The Operational Programme also contains the order of priorities for the implementation of measures. The first priority is agglomerations which, based on a preliminary compliance assessment, are assessed as non-compliant with Articles 3, 4 and 5 of Council Directive 91/271/EEC concerning urban waste water treatment.  B) The Operational Programme for drinking water supply for the 2022–2027 period requires funds in the amount of 621.7 million, of which 486 million is required to reduce water losses in public water supply systems, and 58.6 million for the construction of new public water supply systems.  C) The transposition of Directive (EU) 2020/2184 into Slovenian legislation is under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Health and is planned by 12 January 2023. |
| 3. An estimate of investments needed to renew existing wastewater  and water supply infrastructure, including networks, based on their age and  depreciation plans. | Yes | On 17 September 2020, the Government adopted the [Operational Programme for the discharge and treatment of urban waste water](https://www.gov.si/novice/2020-09-17-odlocitve-32-redne-seje-vlade-republike-slovenije-s-podrocja-ministrstva-za-okolje-in-prostor)  On 21 April 2022, the Government adopted the [Operational Programme for drinking water supply for the 2022–2027 period](https://www.gov.si/teme/javna-sluzba-oskrbe-s-pitno-vodo/). | The Operational Programme for the discharge and treatment of urban waste water and the Operational Programme for drinking water supply for the 2022–2027 period contain an estimate of the lengths of the sewage and water supply networks which must be reconstructed after the end of the depreciation period. |
| 4. An indication of potential sources of public financing, when needed to complement user charges. | Yes | On 17 September 2020, the Government adopted the [Operational Programme for the discharge and treatment of urban waste water](https://www.gov.si/novice/2020-09-17-odlocitve-32-redne-seje-vlade-republike-slovenije-s-podrocja-ministrstva-za-okolje-in-prostor)  On 21 April 2022, the Government adopted the [Operational Programme for drinking water supply for the 2022–2027 period](https://www.gov.si/teme/javna-sluzba-oskrbe-s-pitno-vodo/) | The planned investments for the Operational Programme for the discharge and treatment of urban waste water contain all potential financing sources (EU funds, national funds, municipal funds).  The Operational Programme for drinking water supply for the 2022–2027 period contains all potential financing sources (EU funds, national funds, municipal funds). The Operational Programme for drinking water supply for the 2022–2027 period estimates that 456 million is required for investments in the reconstruction of water supply systems based on their age and depreciation plans. |
| 2.6 Updated  planning for  waste management | ERDF and CF | RSO2.6: Promoting the transition to a circular  and resource efficient economy | Yes | One or more waste management plans as referred to in Article 28  of Directive 2008/98/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council (11) are in place, covering  the entire territory of the Member State, and include: | | | |
| 1. An analysis of the current waste management situation in the  geographical entity concerned, including the type, quantity and source of  waste generated and an evaluation of their future development taking into account the expected impacts of measures set out in the waste prevention programmes  developed in accordance with Article 29 of Directive 2008/98/EC. | Yes | On 28 April 2022, the Government of the Republic of Slovenia adopted the [Operational plan for waste management (2022)](https://www.gov.si/assets/ministrstva/MOP/Operativni-programi/op_odpadki_2022.pdf) with Decision no. 35401-2/2022/5. | The Operational plan for waste management, which was submitted to JASPERS for evaluation, contains an analysis of the composition of mixed municipal waste, on the basis of which a national assessment of the composition of municipal waste and recycling in the primary category was prepared. |
| 2. An assessment of existing waste collection schemes, including the material and territorial coverage of separate collection  and measures to improve its operation, as well as the need for new  collection schemes. | Yes | On 28 April 2022, the Government of the Republic of Slovenia adopted the [Operational plan for waste management (2022)](https://www.gov.si/assets/ministrstva/MOP/Operativni-programi/op_odpadki_2022.pdf) with Decision no. 35401-2/2022/5. | The programme, which contains an analysis of the efficiency of municipal and other waste management based on the 2018 reference year, and scenarios of possible development for the next 20 years, was submitted for review to JASPERS. |
| 3. An investment gap assessment justifying the need for the closure of  existing waste installations and additional or upgraded waste infrastructure, with an information of  the sources of revenues available to meet operation and maintenance costs. | Yes | On 28 April 2022, the Government of the Republic of Slovenia adopted the [Operational plan for waste management (2022)](https://www.gov.si/assets/ministrstva/MOP/Operativni-programi/op_odpadki_2022.pdf) with Decision no. 35401-2/2022/5. | The programme, which contains an overview of existing and planned infrastructure upgrades, was submitted for review to JASPERS. The closure of existing plants (landfills in the Republic of Slovenia) is regulated by the legislation in the field of waste landfills, which also includes the obligation of the operator to provide a financial guarantee for the implementation of the measures specified by an environmental permit, for the period of operation, and after the closure, of the landfill. |
| 4. Information on the location criteria for how future site locations identification  will be determined and on the capacity of future waste treatment installations. | Yes | On 28 April 2022, the Government of the Republic of Slovenia adopted the [Operational plan for waste management (2022)](https://www.gov.si/assets/ministrstva/MOP/Operativni-programi/op_odpadki_2022.pdf) with Decision no. 35401-2/2022/5. | The programme contains information on location criteria (in particular the accessibility of suitable transport infrastructure and the possibility of integration into existing district heating systems, where devices as a heat source replace devices that use fossil fuels). The programme also clearly defines the capacity with the demonstrated capacity deficit of such devices (140,000 t per year) with the achieved recycling targets in accordance with Directive 2008/98/EC and the fulfilment of the conditions (factors) specified in the Commission document COM(2017) 34 final to assess the capacity needs for energy recovery from waste. |
| 2.7 Prioritised action  framework for  the necessary conservation  measures  involving  Union co-financing. | ERDF and CF | RSO2.7: Enhancing protection and preservation of nature, biodiversity and green infrastructure, including in urban areas, and reducing all forms of pollution | Yes | For interventions supporting nature conservation measures in connection with Natura 2000 areas within the scope of Council Directive  92/43/EEC: A priority action framework pursuant to Article 8  of Directive 92/43/EEC is in place and includes all elements required by the template for the priority action framework for 2021-2027 agreed by the Commission and the Member States, including the identification of the priority measures and an estimate of financing needs. | Yes | [Prioritised Action Framework for Slovenia](http://www.natura2000.si/fileadmin/user_upload/Dokumenti/LIFE_IP_NATURA_SI/Rezultati/C.3.4_IP_PAF_Slovenia_2021-2027_finalV2.pdf) (PAF): the amended version was sent to the European Commission in January 2021.  More detailed objectives and measures will be defined in the Natura 2000 Management Programme for the 2022–2028 period (NMP): activities for the preparation of the NMP take place within the framework of the LIFE integrated project Natura.si. | All required elements of the PAF proposal are taken into account in the proposal submitted to the European Commission. The chapters of the PAF submitted to the European Commission contain summaries of the definitions of priority measures with a financial assessment and potential financing sources. The list of priority projects will be prepared with the approval of the Natura 2000 Management Programme by the Government of the Republic of Slovenia (by the end of 2022). |
| 3.1 Comprehensive  transport planning  at the appropriate level | ERDF and CF | RSO2.8: Promoting sustainable multimodal urban mobility, as part of transition to  a net zero carbon economy  RSO3.1: Developing a sustainable,  climate resilient, intelligent,  secure, sustainable  and intermodal TEN-T  RSO3.2: Developing and enhancing sustainable,  climate resilient, intelligent  and intermodal national, regional  and local mobility,  including  improved access to  TEN-T and cross-border  mobility | Yes | Multimodal mapping of existing and planned  infrastructures, except at local level, until 2030 is in place which: | | | |
| 1. Includes economic assessment of the planned investments, underpinned by demand analysis and traffic modelling, which should  take into account the anticipated impact of the opening of  the rail services markets. | Yes | [Transport Development Strategy of the Republic of Slovenia](https://www.gov.si/assets/ministrstva/MzI/Dokumenti/Strategija-razvoja-prometa-v-Republiki-Sloveniji-do-leta-2030.pdf)  [Resolution on the National Programme for the Development of Transport of the Republic of Slovenia until 2030 (ReNPRP30)](http://www.pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=RESO115)  [Resolution Amending the Resolution on the National Programme for the Development of Transport of the Republic of Slovenia until 2030 (ReNPRP30-A)](https://www.uradni-list.si/glasilo-uradni-list-rs/vsebina/2021-01-1886?sop=2021-01-1886) | In the Transport Development Strategy of the Republic of Slovenia, the capacities of the existing transport infrastructure with solutions that do not require large financial investments (traffic management systems, the introduction of intelligent transport systems, small investments) were utilised. If this did not produce satisfactory results, we focused on larger investments. In such cases (using the transport model), the projects were designed in accordance with the suitable procedure for making feasibility studies, with which potential alternatives are also evaluated. Environmental, spatial and social acceptability are also taken into account. Project selection must be justified with a cost-benefit analysis (CBA).  In 2022, the MZI is preparing a revision and update of the already approved Transport Development Strategy of the Republic of Slovenia, which will also take into account the objectives set by the NECP, the European Green Deal, the Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy, and other strategic documents. A draft will be prepared, and an opinion obtained on the need to carry out a strategic environmental assessment.  Slovenia has already established a single European railway area and opened domestic passenger services. The next updates will also take into account the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. |
| 2. Is consistent with the transport related elements of the integrated national  energy and climate plan. | Yes | [Integrated National Energy and Climate Plan](https://www.energetika-portal.si/fileadmin/dokumenti/publikacije/nepn/dokumenti/nepn_5.0_final_feb-2020.pdf) (NECP) | The Integrated National Energy and Climate Plan of the Republic of Slovenia (NECP) provides an overview of the current state of the energy system and policy and sets national targets for each of the five dimensions of the Energy Union, and suitable policies and measures to meet these targets. It pays special attention to the targets for 2030 for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, energy from renewable sources, energy efficiency, and electricity interconnection.  In 2022, a revision will be carried out and a proposal will be prepared to update the Transport Development Strategy of the Republic of Slovenia, which will also take into account the objectives set by the Integrated National Energy and Climate Plan of the Republic of Slovenia (NECP), the European Green Deal, the Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy, and other national and European strategic documents. |
| 3. Includes investments in TEN-T core network corridors, as  defined by the CEF Regulation, in line with the respective  TEN-T core network corridors work plans. | Yes | See Criterion 1. | The starting points of the strategy of Chapter 2 defines the criteria and deadlines for the implementation of the future TEN-T network in accordance with the TEN-T Regulation and compares the TEN-T criteria for the core network and the actual state of infrastructure in the Republic of Slovenia.  The specific objective of the Transport Development Strategy is to improve transport links with neighbouring countries and to coordinate with neighbouring countries, which means ensuring sufficient network capacity that also meets TEN-T standards. To follow the requirements of the European TEN-T Regulation (Regulation (EU) No 1315/2013), we undertook to achieve TEN-T standards on the TEN-T core network by 2030, in particular a minimum of 22.5 t axle load, 100 km/ h line speed, the possibility of running 740 m long trains, and the implementation of the ERTMS. The lines of the core network in the Republic of Slovenia fully comply with the nominal track width and are fully electrified. |
| 4. For investments outside the TEN-T core network corridors, including in cross-border sections, ensures complementarity by providing  sufficient connectivity of the urban networks, regions and local communities to the core TEN-T and its nodes. | Yes | See Criterion 1. | Another specific objective of the Transport Development Strategy is to improve national and regional links within Slovenia The national programme foresees the preparation of projects on development axes that connect different regions with the TEN-T core network. The updated national transport development programme (ReNPRP30-A) focuses on the regional railway network, which is an important segment of transport system development in the Republic of Slovenia. In most cases, the capacities of lines must be rapidly upgraded, and stations and stops must be modernised and connected with other modes of transport. The key objective is to provide such network upgrades that the railway will provide a so-called backbone transport network where it already exists. Urgent measures on the public railway infrastructure must be prioritised in spatial planning procedures and the conditions for the investments to commence must be provided. Plans for sustainable mobility in towns and cities at the regional level will also be prepared to upgrade measures from local ITSs, which go beyond the competence of local authorities and provide a comprehensive approach to common transport problems at the regional level. |
| 5. Ensures interoperability of the rail network, and, where relevant, reports on the deployment of ERTMS according to Commission  Implementing Regulation (EU) 2017/6 (13). | Yes | [Technical Specifications for Interoperability](http://www.azp.si/pages/si/zakonodaja/evropski-predpisi/tehnicne-specifikacije-za-interoperabilnost.php) | The national implementation plan for technical specifications for interoperability related to the structural ‘control-command and signalling’ subsystem was sent to the European Commission in February 2018 and will be reviewed and supplemented at least every five years. The European Commission and other Member States will be notified of any changes related to the interoperability development on the Slovenian railway network. The purpose of the document is to provide an outline of the railway infrastructure and vehicles operated by the SŽPP and SŽ-TP and provide an accurate timetable for equipping both lines and vehicles with the ETCS and the GSM-R, and class B decommissioning systems. All information about the relevant railway infrastructure is available in the railway infrastructure register.  Since the adoption of the SDS, the introduction of the ERTMS in Slovenia has made particular progress. All the lines in the Mediterranean Corridor in Slovenia, which should be built by 2023, are under construction or are already in operation. The introduction of the ERTMS is also progressing in the Baltic-Adriatic Corridor. In Slovenia, the entire length, which should be in operation by 2023, is under construction or already in operation. Only the line connecting Ljubljana and Pragersko is delayed. |
| 6. Promotes multimodality, identifying needs for multimodal or  transhipment freight and passengers  terminals. | Yes | See Criterion 1. | The national programme foresees the development of the network into intermodal nodes and agglomerations in accordance with demand (R.40). Nodes on the TEN-T network have the best opportunities to develop logistics freight-related activities, while Ljubljana and Maribor have the potential to establish multimodal platforms of passenger agglomerations. However, Slovenia could also provide a broader approach to freight transport and the transition of passengers from one mode of transport to another. For this purpose, potential points of passage for passengers and goods between different modes of transport must be identified. Where necessary and effective, intermodal passenger platforms should be established to increase the use of public passenger transport or ensure adequate connection of logistic freight terminals with different modes of transport if there is a commercial interest. The said activities will be easier to implement on the basis of the Integrated Transport Planning Act, which will allow the continuation of the process that commenced with the drafting of integrated transport strategies in the past financial period with the help of cohesion policy funds. |
| 7. Includes measures relevant for infrastructure planning aiming at  promoting alternative fuels, in line with the relevant  national policy frameworks. | Yes | [Strategy on market development for the establishment of adequate infrastructure related to alternative fuels in the transport sector in the Republic of Slovenia](https://www.energetika-portal.si/fileadmin/dokumenti/publikacije/alternativna_goriva/strategija_alternativna_goriva_final.pdf)  [Action Programme for alternative transport fuels](https://www.gov.si/assets/ministrstva/MzI/Dokumenti/Akcijski-program-za-alternativna-goriva-v-prometu.doc)  [Decree establishing the infrastructure for alternative transport fuels](http://www.pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=STRA76) | Slovenia transposed Directive 2014/94/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 October 2014 on the deployment of alternative fuels infrastructure into national legislation with the Decree establishing the infrastructure for alternative transport fuels. To speed up the use of alternative fuels in transport, in 2017 the Government of the Republic of Slovenia adopted the Strategy on market development for the establishment of adequate infrastructure related to alternative fuels in the transport sector in the Republic of Slovenia and the related Action Programme for alternative transport fuels. It includes measures for vehicles, alternative fuels infrastructure, normative regulations, etc. Due to an unsuitable national legal framework, Slovenia has not yet attained national objectives in the field of alternative fuels in transport. Slovenia is an active partner in the IDACS project, which is a support measure of the CEF programme. As part of the project, Slovenia established the National Registration Office for ID codes in the field of charging infrastructure for electric vehicles and enabled the exchange of static and dynamic data on charging points with the national access point, which was optimised and upgraded on a new domain: www.nap.si. |
| 8. Presents the results of the assessment of road safety risks in line with existing national road safety strategies, together with a mapping of the  affected roads and sections and by ensuring the prioritisation of the corresponding investments. | Yes | [Resolution on](https://www.gov.si/assets/ministrstva/MzI/Dokumenti/Resolucija-o-nacionalem-programu-varnosti-cestnega-prometa-za-obdobje-od-2013-do-2022.pdf)  [the National](https://www.gov.si/assets/ministrstva/MzI/Dokumenti/Resolucija-o-nacionalem-programu-varnosti-cestnega-prometa-za-obdobje-od-2013-do-2022.pdf)  [Road Safety from](https://www.gov.si/assets/ministrstva/MzI/Dokumenti/Resolucija-o-nacionalem-programu-varnosti-cestnega-prometa-za-obdobje-od-2013-do-2022.pdf)  [2013 to 2022](https://www.gov.si/assets/ministrstva/MzI/Dokumenti/Resolucija-o-nacionalem-programu-varnosti-cestnega-prometa-za-obdobje-od-2013-do-2022.pdf) | The National Programme on Road Traffic Safety is a strategic document that provides a vision and objectives for priority areas and enables the adoption of measures to effectively ensure road traffic safety. To determine the criteria for the inclusion of individual projects in the six-year operational plan for investments in transport and transport infrastructure, the parameters provided by the Resolution on the National Programme for the Development of Transport of the Republic of Slovenia until 2030, which also includes the state of transport safety, must be taken into account. In accordance with Directive 2008/96/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 November 2008 on road infrastructure safety management, Slovenia provides a systematic assessment of road infrastructure safety, which takes place in all phases from the planning to the operation of road infrastructure. The Slovenian Infrastructure Agency annually determines places with a high rate of traffic accidents for the last three years on the basis of traffic accident data. This is the basis for investment plans, interventions and measures.  The Resolution on the National Road Safety from 2013 to 2022 will be adopted by the end of 2022. |
| 9. Provides information on financing resources corresponding  to the planned investments and required to cover operation  and maintenance costs of the existing and planned infrastructures. | Yes | [Six-year roadmap for investments in transport and transport infrastructure](https://www.gov.si/assets/ministrstva/MzI/6-letni-plan-nacrta-vlaganj-v-promet-in-infrastrukturo-2019-2025/Operativni-nacrt-od-2020-do-2025.xlsx)    [Explanation of the proposal for the investment plan in transport and transport infrastructure for the 2020–2025 period](https://www.gov.si/assets/ministrstva/MzI/6-letni-plan-nacrta-vlaganj-v-promet-in-infrastrukturo-2019-2025/Obrazlozitev-predloga-nacrta-vlaganj-v-promet-in-prometno-infrastrukturo-za-obdobje-od-2020-do-2025.pdf) | The national programme foresees quite stable investments for investments, and the maintenance and operation of the system over a long period, amounting to between 600 and 700 million per year. This facilitates speedier attainment of the objectives of the transport system, particularly the attainment of strategic objectives: to improve mobility and accessibility, supply to the economy, and traffic safety, and to reduce energy consumption in transport, costs for users and operators, and environmental pollution. In addition, investments by private investors (e.g. concessionaires) in the amount of approximately EUR 300 million per year are planned for a longer period.  The six-year operational plan for investments in transport or transport infrastructure determines concrete activities (projects) based on expert priorities, realisation costs, and exact implementation deadlines. The plan will be updated this year and, in addition to the list of projects, it will contain data on their contribution to the objectives (reduced greenhouse gases, noise and air pollution, traffic flow, higher speeds, etc.). |
| 4.1 Strategic policy framework  for active  labour market policies | ESF+ | ESO4.1: Improving access to employment and activation measures for all jobseekers, in particular youth, especially through the implementation of the Youth Guarantee, for long-term  unemployed and disadvantaged groups on the labour market, and for  inactive people, as well as through  promoting self-employment  and the social economy  ESO4.2: Modernising labour market institutions and services to assess and anticipate skills needs and ensure timely and tailormade assistance and support for labour market matching, transitions and mobility | Yes | A strategic policy framework for active labour market policies in the light of the Employment guidelines is in place and includes: | | | |
| 1. Arrangements for conducting jobseekers’ profiling and assessment of their needs. | Yes | 1. [Guidelines for implementing AEP measures 2021–2025](https://www.gov.si/teme/aktivna-politika-zaposlovanja/) (AEP)  2. [Labour Market Regulation Act (ZUTD) (pisrs.si)](http://pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=ZAKO5840)  3. [Strategy of Employment Service of Slovenia by 2025](https://www.ess.gov.si/_files/14928/Poslovni_nacrt_2022.pdf), which includes the summary of the strategy). The entire document has not been published. | Article 113 of the ZUTD stipulates that an employment plan must be implemented. A more detailed profiling of jobseekers, and individual assessment of goals and needs is carried out by the ZRSZ on the basis of [Rules on the registration in and deregistration from records, the employment plan, rights and obligations in seeking employment and overseeing persons registered in the records](http://www.pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=PRAV10452) (Articles 35–44). This criterion is also partially covered in point 9.2 of the Strategy of ZRSZ by 2025, which was adopted on 22 September 2021. The ZRSZ is preparing additional tools for assessing the needs of jobseekers. |
| 2. Information on job vacancies and employment opportunities, taking into account the needs of the labour market. | Yes | [Labour Market Regulation Act – ZUTD](http://pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=ZAKO5840) | Article 7 of the ZUTD stipulates that vacancies or types of work must be published by the Employment Service.  Article 16 in relation to articles 18 and 19 of the ZUTD stipulate that information on job opportunities is provided to unemployed persons. |
| 3. Arrangements for ensuring that its design, implementation, monitoring and review is conducted in close cooperation with relevant stakeholders. | Yes | 1. [Guidelines for implementing AEP measures 2021–2025](https://www.gov.si/teme/aktivna-politika-zaposlovanja/) (AEP)  2. [Labour Market Regulation Act – ZUTD](http://pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=ZAKO5840) | Article 36 of the ZUTD stipulates the bases for implementing AEP measures. The AEP Guidelines for the planning five-year period, which proved reasonable and acceptable in view of the rapidly changing labour market, was adopted by the Government of the Republic of Slovenia on 7 January 2021, after prior consultation with other social partners based on the national development priority and investment programme, and other strategic documents of the Republic of Slovenia.  The AEP plan is prepared on the basis of the AEP Guidelines for the budget period adopted by the Government of the Republic of Slovenia at the proposal of the MDDSZ. In inter-ministerial coordination, the MDDSZ informs the social partners, who can provide their opinion. |
| 4. Arrangements for monitoring, evaluation and review of active labour market policies. | Yes | 1. [Guidelines for implementing AEP measures 2021–2025](https://www.gov.si/teme/aktivna-politika-zaposlovanja/) (AEP)  2. [Labour Market Regulation Act – ZUTD](http://pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=ZAKO5840) | To monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the AEP 2021–2025 measures, ten indicators have been defined, which, together with the baseline and target values, are listed separately for each objective.  On the basis of Article 145 of the ZUTD, the MDDSZ annually informs the Government of the Republic of Slovenia and other social partners with a report on the implementation of measures under this act. The reports contain an overview of the situation in the labour market, and a description of individual measures/programmes and their effectiveness. The social partners (the Economic and Social Council) are also informed in advance of the report, which is adopted by the Government of the Republic of Slovenia, and can provide their opinion on it. |
| 5. For youth employment interventions, evidence-based and targeted pathways towards young people not in employment,  education or training including outreach measures based on quality requirements,  taking into account criteria for quality apprenticeships and traineeships, including in  the context of Youth Guarantee schemes implementation. | Yes | 1. [Guidelines for implementing AEP measures 2021–2025](https://www.gov.si/teme/aktivna-politika-zaposlovanja/) (AEP)  2. [National Programme for Youth 2013–2022](http://www.pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=RESO93)  3. [Public Interest in Youth Sector Act](http://www.pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=ZAKO5834) | Youth Guarantee is now part of the AEP Guidelines and one of the main objectives in the AEP implementation between 2021 and 2025. Objective 3 of the AEP Guidelines addresses a rapid activation of young people, particularly NEET, in the labour market.  Preventive and additional activities of the Youth Guarantee, which are not part of the AEP and indirectly affect the successful transition of young people to the labour market, are defined in the [National Programme for Youth 2013–2022](http://www.pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=RESO93). Pursuant to the provision of Article 16 of the [Public Interest in Youth Sector Act](http://www.pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=ZAKO5834), a new programme for the next nine years will be drafted, which will contain a new activity framework. For young people, including those who support the Youth Guarantee activities. |
| 4.3 Strategic policy framework for the  education and  training system at  all levels. | ERDF  ESF+ | RSO4.2: Improving equal access to inclusive and quality services in education, training and lifelong learning through developing accessible infrastructure, including by fostering resilience for distance and on-line education and training  ESO4.5: Improving the quality,  inclusiveness, effectiveness and  labour market relevance of  education and training systems  including through validation of non-formal and  informal learning, to support acquisition of key  competences including entrepreneurial and digital skills, and by promoting the introduction of dual-training systems and apprenticeships  ESO4.7: Promoting lifelong learning, in particular flexible upskilling and reskilling opportunities for all taking into account entrepreneurial and digital skills, better anticipating change and new skills requirements based on labour market needs, facilitating career transitions and promoting professional mobility | Yes | A national or regional strategic policy framework for  the education and training system is in place and includes: | | | |
| 1. Evidence-based systems for skills  anticipation and forecasting. | Yes | [Strategy of Employment Service of Slovenia by 2025](https://www.ess.gov.si/_files/14928/Poslovni_nacrt_2022.pdf), which includes the summary of the strategy). The whole document is not published and is attached: | In Slovenia, a system for short-term forecasting of knowledge and skills has already been developed and established (through two projects: “Employment Forecast” (the ZRSZ conducts an employment forecast twice a year to gain insight into labour market trends, assess needs and identify gaps in employment) and “Occupational Barometer” (predicts the labour market supply-demand relationship for the coming year). Medium and long-term forecasting of needs will be partially developed within the framework of the “Skills Forecasting Platform” (Phase 1), which is implemented with the ESF 2014–2020 funds until 2023. Further development (Phase 2) will be carried out in the 2021–2027 period. With the ESF+ funds, the institutional cooperation of key stakeholders for the further development of LLL, LCG, scholarship and employment policies will be established.  In its employment strategy, the ZRSZ plans to develop and implement a new service model by developing digital operations, adapt processes and prepare employees for the transition to a new service model, and establish long-term forecasting of labour market needs through a modern employment platform and new digital services. |
| 2. Graduate tracking mechanisms and services for quality  and effective guidance for learners of all ages. | Yes | [Organisation and Financing of Education Act](http://pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=ZAKO445) (ZOFVI)  [Placement of Children with Special Needs Act](http://pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=ZAKO5896)  [Higher Education Act](http://pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=ZAKO172) (ZViS)  [Adult Education Act](http://pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=ZAKO7641) (ZIO-1)  [Strategy of the Republic of Slovenia for short-cycle higher vocational education 2020–2030](http://pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=STRA77)  [Resolution on National programme of higher education 2030](http://www.pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=RESO139)  [Resolution on the National Programme of Adult Education in the Republic of Slovenia 2022–2030](http://www.pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=RESO138)  and other legislation in the field of education. | In accordance with the legislation (ZOFVI), the Ministry can obtain data on the employability of students and graduates of higher schools who have completed an educational programme or graduated in the past five years (data for employed and unemployed persons) for the purposes of statistical and scientific and research analysis. A record and analytical information system of higher education in the Republic of Slovenia (e-VŠ) has also been established, the “Records” module of which is part of the system for monitoring the employability of higher education graduates (ZVis). For high-quality and effective counselling and career management of students of all ages, the legislation defines the tasks of counselling services in the entire education vertical, including career counselling in cooperation with the ZRSZ, and the preparation and implementation of individualised programmes for children with special needs. In the field of adult education (ZIO-1), counselling activities are carried out in which adults are advised to document acquired competences in non-formal and informal learning for personal development, further education and integration into the labour market. Within the ECP 2021–2027, the development of career counselling is also foreseen. |
| 3. Measures to ensure equal access to, participation in  and completion of quality, affordable, relevant,  non-segregated and inclusive education and training,  and acquisition of key competences  at all levels including higher education. | Yes | [White Paper on Education in the Republic of Slovenia](https://pismenost.acs.si/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Bela-knjiga-o-vzgoji-in-izobra%C5%BEevanju-v-RS-2011.pdf)  Sectoral legislation defining the individual level of education  [Strategy of the Republic of Slovenia for short-cycle higher vocational education 2020–2030](http://pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=STRA77)  Resolution on National programme of higher education 2030  [Resolution on the National Programme of Adult Education in the Republic of Slovenia 2022– 2030](http://www.pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=RESO138)  [Criteria for selecting candidates in the event of limited enrolment in programmes of secondary vocational education, secondary professional and technical education, and grammar schools](https://www.gov.si/assets/ministrstva/MIZS/Dokumenti/Srednja-sola/Razpis-za-vpis-v-srednje-sole-in-dijaske-domove/Razpis_2019_20/Merila_vpis_srednje_4_7_08.doc) | Sectoral legislation defines the following as the key objectives of education and training: to ensure optimal development, provide equal opportunities for everyone regardless of personal circumstances by taking into account the principles of development of individuals, ensure general education and the acquisition of an occupation, and provide the highest possible level of quality education to as many residents as possible. In the case of limited enrolment, the same criteria apply to all candidates. The said resolutions and strategies that have already been adopted include additional measures to ensure equal access to quality, relevant and inclusive education and training. In the field of acquiring and strengthening key competences, the objectives of education are primarily to educate for mutual tolerance, promote awareness of gender equality, develop competences for active participation in a democratic society, and educate for sustainable development. Therefore, everyone has the right to quality education for lifelong learning and continuous personal and professional development, with the aim to develop key abilities or skills. |
| 4. A coordination mechanism covering all levels of education and  training, including higher education, and a clear  assignment of responsibilities between the relevant national and/or  regional bodies. | Yes | [Organisation and Financing of Education Act](http://pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=ZAKO445)  [Higher Education Act](http://pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=ZAKO172)  [Resolution on the National Programme of Adult Education in the Republic of Slovenia 2022– 2030](http://www.pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=RESO138)  [Decision on the establishment and competences of the Council of the Republic of Slovenia for Student Issues](http://www.pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=SKLE506)  and other legislation in the field of education | Legislation and implementing acts determine authorities, their powers, and the management of procedures for the preparation of state-approved educational programmes and a clear delimitation of powers between the authorities.  The ZOFVI clearly defines the role of expert councils for general, vocational, professional and adult education. The Expert Council of the Republic of Slovenia for General Education determines and provides an opinion on programmes in the field of vocational and professional education for members of the Italian and Hungarian national communities, and on subject and examination knowledge catalogues in the part that refers to general education subjects or content in vocational or professional education. In the field of higher education, the Council for Higher Education is an advisory body of the minister, which monitors all areas of education and ensures the consistency and coordination of all levels of education and training. In its work, the Council for Higher Education cooperates with expert councils for individual fields of education and science and technology and the Slovenian Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (NAKVIS). |
| 5. Arrangements for monitoring, evaluation and review of the strategic policy framework. | Yes | [Organisation and Financing of Education Act](http://pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=ZAKO445)  [National Quality Assurance Framework in Education](https://www.eqavet-nrp-slo.si/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Nacionalni_okvir_Kakovost_Feb_2017-7.pdf)  [Vocational Education Act](http://pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=ZAKO4325)  [Higher Vocational Education Act](http://pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=ZAKO4093)  [Higher Education Act](http://pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=ZAKO172)  [Adult Education Act](http://pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=ZAKO7641)  Resolution on National programme of higher education 2030  [Resolution on the National Programme of Adult Education in the Republic of Slovenia 2022– 2030](http://www.pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=RESO138) | The system of determining and assuring education quality is based on internal quality assessment or self-evaluation of educational organisations. Together with the existing self-evaluation, the various forms of external evaluation that are already in place will be preserved (Inspectorate of the Republic of Slovenia for Education and Sport, national examinations, (vocational) matura, international comparative assessment of students’ achievements in individual fields of learning through international research, national evaluation studies, procedures for updating educational work).  The Quality and Evaluation Council (ZOFVI) is responsible for determining and assuring quality in kindergartens and schools at the national level; in the field of higher education, the ZVSI determines a committee for monitoring and assuring quality in higher professional schools, and in accordance with the ZVis, the quality of higher education institutions and study programmes evaluated by higher education institutions (self-evaluation) and the NAKVIS (external evaluation). With the latter, it ensures the coordination of higher education and higher professional education. |
| 6. Measures to target low-skilled, low-qualified  adults and those with disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds and upskilling pathways. | Yes | [Resolution on the National Programme of Adult Education in the Republic of Slovenia 2022– 2030](http://www.pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=RESO138)  [Organisation and Financing of Education Act](http://pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=ZAKO445)  [Adult Education Act](http://pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=ZAKO7641) | In accordance with international recommendations, applicable legislation in this field, and a strategic document in preparation, Slovenia addresses the said measures in the field of adult education. The basis for the preparation of concrete measures will be determined with the adoption of a new national programme. The objectives are to increase the involvement of adults in lifelong education and learning, raise the level of basic abilities and improve general education, raise the educational level of adults, increase the skills of the population to successfully respond to the needs and demands of the labour market, and to enhance support activities for learning and inclusion in education.  According to the ZIO-1, less educated and other vulnerable groups should be encouraged to receive education and learn. To this end, the proposal for a new national adult education programme by 2030 stipulates the creation of new training programmes aimed at integrating hard-to-employ categories (elderly people, less educated and qualified workers, immigrants with inadequate qualifications) and vulnerable population groups (physically, mentally or socially disadvantaged). |
| 7. Measures to support teachers, trainers and  academic staff as regards appropriate learning methods,  assessment and validation of key competences. | Yes | [Organisation and Financing of Education Act](http://pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=ZAKO445)  [Kindergartens Act](http://pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=ZAKO447)  [Basic School Act](http://pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=ZAKO448)  [Gimnazija Act](http://pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=ZAKO450)  [Higher Vocational Education Act](http://pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=ZAKO4093)  [Strategy of the Republic of Slovenia for short-cycle higher vocational education 2020–2030](http://pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=STRA77)  [Higher Education Act](http://pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=ZAKO172)  Resolution on National programme of higher education 2030  [Adult Education Act](http://pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=ZAKO7641)  [Resolution on the National Programme of Adult Education in the Republic of Slovenia 2022– 2030](http://www.pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=RESO138)  and implementing regulations | In accordance with the ZOFVI and other sectoral laws for individual levels of education, and implementing regulations, the basic framework of competences of professionals in educational institutions and the conditions for teaching are defined. The Collective Agreement for the Education Sector in the Republic of Slovenia defines in more detail in-service training, upskilling and training for employees in institutions or employers in education.  In addition, public institutes (ZRSŠ, CPI, ACS, RIC) were established to carry out activities and tasks, and are responsible for the monitoring of professionals, teaching methods and training. Regular training of professionals in education enhances their competences, which are important for quality educational work due to constant changes in the nature of educational work. In the field of higher education, the NAKVIS checks institutional pedagogical support and the connection with the internal quality assurance system. |
| 8. Measures to promote mobility of learners and staff and  transnational collaboration of education and training providers,  including through recognition of learning outcomes and  qualifications. | Yes | [Organisation and Financing of Education Act](http://pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=ZAKO445)  [Decision establishing the Center for Mobility and European Education and Training Programmes as a public institute](http://www.pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=SKLE9495)(CMEPIUS)  [Higher Vocational Education Act](http://pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=ZAKO4093)  [Strategy of the Republic of Slovenia for short-cycle higher vocational education 2020–2030](http://pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=STRA77)  [Higher Education Act](http://pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=ZAKO172)  Resolution on National programme of higher education 2030  [Adult Education Act](http://pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=ZAKO7641)  [Resolution on the National Programme of Adult Education in the Republic of Slovenia 2022– 2030](http://www.pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=RESO138)  [Assessment and Recognition of Education Act](http://pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=ZAKO5284)  [Slovenian Qualifications Framework Act](http://pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=ZAKO6958)  [Act Regulating the Procedure for the Recognition of Professional Qualifications for Practising Regulated Professions](http://www.pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=ZAKO7077) | Slovenian legislation and strategic documents promote the mobility of students and the international cooperation of experts. The CMEPIUS was established for a successful implementation of mobility.  Within the framework of all three strategic documents (which will be valid until 2030), special attention is paid to the promotion of international cooperation, improvement through transnational cooperation and the transfer of good practices.  In accordance with international treaties or directives, frameworks for the assessment and recognition of education and the recognition of professional qualifications have been established.  The Assessment and Recognition of Education Act regulates the assessment of education, and determines the competent authority, regulates the procedure and criteria, and determines the authority for the recognition of foreign education for the purpose of further education. The Slovenian Qualifications Framework Act regulates the placement of qualifications from the SQF in the European Qualifications Framework for lifelong learning and the qualifications frameworks in the European Higher Education Area. The Act Regulating the Procedure for the Recognition of Professional Qualifications for Practising Regulated Professions defines the recognition procedures in such cases. |
| 4.4 National  strategic policy  framework for social  inclusion and  poverty  reduction | ESF+  ERDF | ESO4.8: Fostering active inclusion with a view to promoting equal opportunities, non-discrimination and active participation, and improving employability, in particular for disadvantaged groups  RSO4.3: Promoting the socio-economic inclusion of marginalised communities, low income households and disadvantaged groups including people with special needs, through integrated actions including housing and social services | Yes | A national or regional strategic policy or  legislative framework for social inclusion and poverty reduction is in place  that includes: | | | |
| 1. Evidence-based diagnosis of poverty and social  exclusion, including child poverty, in particular as regards  equal access to quality services for children in vulnerable situations as well as homelessness, spatial and educational  segregation, limited access to essential services and infrastructure, and the specific needs of vulnerable people of all  ages. | Yes | 1. [Resolution on the national social assistance programme 2022-2030](http://www.pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=RESO137) (ReNPSV21-30) (adopted on 23 March 2022)  2. [Social Assistance Act](http://pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=ZAKO869) | The ReNPSV 2021–2030 determines the collection of data for areas identified by the SURS and OSTAT (EUROSTAT?). Based on the data, short-term measures are defined in the National Social Assistance Programme Implementation Plan (NIP). In addition, research in the field of poverty, which is carried out by the Social Protection Institute (IRSSV) on the basis of the [Social Assistance Act](http://pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=ZAKO869), helps to identify the problems. The needs for social care services were mapped by the MDDSZ on 15 February 2021. The objectives of the ReNPSV21-30 respond to the identified social problems and challenges which the changed demographic, economic and social circumstances pose in the social care system in Slovenia. When defining the objectives, they are the bases for the functioning of the social care system, the evaluation of the ReNPSV13-20 realisation, and key circumstances and factors, which will presumably (information and projections) affect the social care system until 2030, and the challenges of developing the system. |
| 2. Measures to prevent and combat segregation in all  fields, including social protection, inclusive labour markets and access to quality services for vulnerable people, including migrants and refugees. | Yes | 1. [Resolution on the national social assistance programme 2022-2030](http://www.pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=RESO137) (ReNPSV21-30) (adopted on 23 March 2022)  2. [Social Assistance Act](http://pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=ZAKO869) | Pursuant to Article 2 of the Social Assistance Act, the Resolution on the national social assistance programme is adopted, which defines the bases, objectives and strategies of social care in the identified fields. The national implementation plan is prepared by the national coordination group appointed by the Government of the Republic of Slovenia. The implementation plan defines the measures to attain the objectives defined in the resolution in more detail. |
| 3. Measures for the shift from institutional to family- and community-based care. | Yes | [Resolution on the national social assistance programme 2022-2030](http://www.pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=RESO137) (ReNPSV21-30) (adopted on 23 March 2022) | During the implementation period of the ReNPSV21–30, the emphasis in the field of institutional accommodation with care will be on the transition from institutions to community-based life and care (deinstitutionalisation; particularly for people with special needs). One of the objectives of the Resolution is “to change the ratio between users of community-based social care and users of institutional care, i.e. to increase the share of users of community-based care and reduce the share of users of institutional care". To attain this objective, measures are defined, such as services for maintaining an independent life at home and active integration into the community (community-based services), and services for independent life at home and active integration into the community (community services), which prolong life at home and prevent social exclusion. |
| 4. Arrangements for ensuring that its design, implementation, monitoring and review is conducted in close cooperation with relevant stakeholders, including social partners and relevant  civil society organisations. | Yes | [Resolution on the national social assistance programme 2022-2030](http://www.pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=RESO137) (ReNPSV21-30) (adopted on 23 March 2022) | Chapter 5 of the ReNPSV21–30 defines the implementation and monitoring of the realisation of the Resolution. Within one month of the adoption of the ReNPSV21–30, the Government of the Republic of Slovenia appoints a national coordination group. The national coordination group is composed of representatives of contractors in the field of social care (including representatives of non-governmental organisations proposed by them), representatives of user groups, representatives of the local community and of various general government sectors, and a representative of the Social Protection Institute of the Republic of Slovenia (hereinafter: IRSSV). The regular annual monitoring of the implementation of ReNPSV21-30 and the associated national implementation plans is carried out by the IRSSV, to which individual providers of services and programmes, which are part of the public service network, the providers of measures defined in the implementation plans, the competent ministries, and other services in charge of implementing individual parts of the National Social Assistance Programme 2022–2030 report. |
| 4.6 Strategic policy framework for  health and long-term  care | ERDF  ESF+ | RSO4.5: Ensuring equal access to health care and fostering resilience of health systems, including primary care, and promoting the transition from institutional to family-based and community-based care  ESO4.11: Enhancing equal and timely access to quality, sustainable and affordable services, including services that promote the access to housing and person-centred care including healthcare; modernising social protection systems, including promoting access to social protection, with a particular focus on children and disadvantaged groups; improving accessibility including for persons with disabilities, effectiveness and resilience of healthcare systems and long-term care services | Yes | A national or regional strategic policy framework for  health is in place that contains: | | | |
| 1. Mapping of health and long-term care needs, including in terms of medical and care staff, to ensure  sustainable and coordinated measures. | Yes | Mapping of needs in the field of health care and long-term care, including in terms of medical personnel, to ensure sustainable and coordinated measures of the European Cohesion Policy 2021–2027. | The needs mapping document, which was adopted on 13 September 2022, contains data on the investment needs of public health care institutions and long-term care in Slovenia. The document was informally coordinated with the EC. |
| 2. Measures to ensure the efficiency, sustainability, accessibility and affordability of health and long-term care services,  including a specific focus on individuals excluded from  the health and long-term care systems, including  those who are hardest to reach. | Yes | [Resolution on the National Health Care Plan 2016–2025 (ReNPZV16–25)](http://www.pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=RESO102) | The Resolution on the National Health Care Plan 2016–2025 (ReNPZV16–25) addresses measures to achieve an efficient, sustainable and financially accessible health system and long-term care system. The objectives of the system optimisation stated in the resolution are: integrated and comprehensive treatment; equal access to quality and safe care as close as possible to residents; orientation towards preventive health care; better connection between the levels of health care and social care; taking into account the changing health needs of the ageing population; and orientation towards users and their empowerment. They will be attained by evenly and fairly charging insured persons for contributions, dispersing resources for the financing of health care, and introducing or abolishing treatment methods based on a transparent system. |
|  | 3. Measures to promote community and family-based services through de-institutionalisation, including prevention and primary care, home-care and community-based services. | Yes | [Resolution on the National Health Care Plan 2016–2025 (ReNPZV16–25)](http://www.pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=RESO102) | The Resolution on the National Health Care Plan 2016–2025 addresses measures to strengthen and protect health and prevent disease. It is based on the Health in All Policies approach and the strengthening of public health activities at the primary level. The objectives of the measures are disease prevention, early disease detection, and the reduction of health inequalities. |

# Programme authorities

Table 13: Programme authorities

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Programme authorities | Name of the institution | Contact name | E-mail |
| Managing authority | Government Office for Development and European Cohesion Policy | Matjaž Dragar | gp.svrk@gov.si |
| Audit authority | Ministry of Finance, Budget Supervision Office of the Republic of Slovenia | Gregor Greif | mf.unp@gov.si |
| Body receiving payments from the European Commission | Ministry of Finance, EU/CA Funds Management Division | Evelyn Filip | gp.mf@gov.si |
| Body receiving payments from the European Commission in the case of technical assistance pursuant to Article 36(5) of CPR | Ministry of Finance, EU/CA Funds Management Division | Evelyn Filip | gp.mf@gov.si |
| Accounting function in case this function is entrusted to a body other than the managing authority | Ministry of Finance, EU/CA Funds Management Division | Evelyn Filip | gp.mf@gov.si |

The repartition of the reimbursed amounts for technical assistance pursuant to Article 36(5) CPR if more bodies are identified to receive payments from the Commission

Table 13A: The portion of the percentages set out in point (b) of Article 36(5) CPR that would be reimbursed to the bodies which receive payments from the Commission in case of technical assistance pursuant to Article 36(5) CPR (in percentage points)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Ministry of Finance | 100% |

# Partnership

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| Slovenia pays a great deal of attention to the implementation of the partnership principle when drafting programme documents and implementing programmes. By including partners in the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of projects that receive EU funds, we make sure that the funds are spent where they are most needed and in the best possible way, as all relevant aspects are taken into account when devising and implementing the most effective investment strategies.  The partnership is organised and implemented pursuant to Article 8 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 and the European code of conduct on partnership in the framework of the European Structural and Investment Funds set out in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 240/2014.  The programme is planned, implemented, monitored and evaluated in cooperation with the competent regional, local, city and other public authorities, economic and social partners, representatives of civil society, and other interested stakeholders for the implementation of EU funds, particularly groups with a higher risk of discrimination and social exclusion.  Partners are provided with prompt information and ongoing cooperation through the single online portal of EU funds [www.evropskasredstva.si](http://www.evropskasredstva.si), interactive consultant Ema, events and consultations announced in advance, including the publication of questions, initiatives and answers from consultations with stakeholders on the said portal. In accordance with the code of meetings of the monitoring committee and other forms of cooperation.  During the drafting of the programme, the partners are involved mainly in the analysis and definition of needs and priorities, the allocation of available funds, and the determination of the implementation method.  During the programming period, the exchange of experience and mutual learning will be promoted, and the role of the partners and the effectiveness of the partnership during the programming period will be assessed at the end of the programming period.  **Measures taken to involve relevant partners in the drafting of programmes and their amendments:**  Partners and the general public can be directly involved in the preparation of programme documents via the online form at [perspektive.eu-skladi.si/](https://perspektive.eu-skladi.si/), and all relevant information about European funds is provided by interactive consultant Ema on the new single online portal www.evropskasredstva.si or the free phone number 080 20 23. The dates of physical and virtual consultations are promptly published on the said online portal. Questions, initiatives and answers from consultations with stakeholders are also published on the said portal. Partners and the interested public are encouraged to participate through calls in the monthly e-newsletter [Vizija kohezija](https://eu-skladi.si/sl/aktualno/e-novice) and via [social networks](https://www.facebook.com/svrk.si/).  **Measures planned to ensure the participation of partners in the programme implementation:**  During the entire programming period, partners will be actively involved in the implementation process by participating in the Monitoring Committee. Interactive consultant Ema will be available to them at all times on the single online portal [www.evropskasredstva.si](http://www.evropskasredstva.si) or the free phone number 080 20 23.  The partnership principle is described in more detail in the document: The partnership principle in the preparation of programme documents for the implementation of the ECP 2021-27 and the implementation of the programme. |

# Communication and visibility

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| The main purpose of the communication strategy of the European Cohesion Policy (hereinafter: ECP) in Slovenia is to provide information to the public and its active involvement. The internal public, the general public, (potential) beneficiaries, partners and the media are informed of the possibilities, conditions and method for obtaining funds from the European Structural and Investment Funds, and of the effects and results of the ECP in Slovenia.  In the 2021–2027 programming period, Slovenia will be divided into two cohesion regions, i.e. Eastern and Western. Communication activities will be uniform from the aspect of implementation and adjusted to the interests of target groups in each cohesion region from the aspect of contents. Stakeholders and partners will be actively involved in the promotion of the ECP, including through the annual event “EU Project, My Project”, good stories, presentations of good practices, mini social campaigns as part of the “Europe in my region” campaign, and presentations at events and fairs. A certain part of project communication will be adapted in the field announced within the framework of the selected theme of the European Year.  In the first half of the 2021–2027 period, the focus will be on informing the public of innovations in the implementation of the ECP and of the possibilities of co-financing, and promoting the involvement of stakeholders in the utilisation of European funds. The programme documents will be presented, and their understanding will be ensured with the help of interactive consultant Ema on the online portal www.evropskasredstva.si, who will promptly answer any questions from the interested public. EU priority areas for the 2021–2027 period will also be communicated independently and in relation to Slovenian policy objectives, advantages and benefits of being a member of the EU. In the second half, greater emphasis will be placed on building a positive perception of the ECP in the general public by communicating good results, whereby the “main ambassadors” will be successful projects and their stories.  The aim of the communication activities is to maintain the share of respondents who positively assess the ECP above 90% and the share of 85% of respondents who know at least one project co-financed with the European funds, which will be annually measured with an independent online opinion poll. Respondents will also be asked about the informative value of the used communication channels and proposals for improvements, and about the EU priorities and policies in connection with co-financed projects. In 2024 and 2027, an online opinion poll will be carried out, in which applicants and beneficiaries will be included. Occasionally, a quick survey of event attendees will be carried out using an anonymous questionnaire.  To successfully implement communication activities, various communication tools will be used, which will be adapted to the target groups, the content and the implementation of the ECP, and current trends. Considerable emphasis will be placed on digital communication channels, particularly on the online portal www.evropskasredstva.si. The Facebook and Instagram profiles of EU funds will still be used as communication tools. At the end of 2020, there were 5,728 followers on FB, and around 450 on IG. By the end of the 2021–2027 period, we want to double the number of followers on FB and increase it by four times on IG. We will also strengthen the LinkedIn channel.  Particular focus will be placed on bringing the ECP closer to young people. This will be achieved through social networks, Instagram in particular, the long-term introduction of the ECP content in the learning process in primary and secondary schools, and participation in the ASOC project. The sandwich generation will be reached via Facebook, employees, employers and entrepreneurs via a LinkedIn profile, while the older generation will primarily be addressed live, e.g. by participating at fairs. Beneficiaries, potential beneficiaries and agencies will be informed monthly via the monthly e-newsletter Vizija kohezija. At the end of 2020, there were 2,305 e-newsletter recipients; we want to double this number by the end of the 2021–2027 period.  Special attention will be paid to the communication of operations of strategic importance. When communicating the contents of operations of strategic importance, we will follow the EC manual Communicating Operations of Strategic Importance in 2021–2027. The tasks of the beneficiaries will be determined with rules, which will include opening or closing events, guided tours, workshops and other activities with the participation of the external public, media activities and communication via social networks.  Funds for the implementation of communication activities at the system level will be provided in the amount of 0.2% of the programme. It is expected that 30% of the funds will be allocated to production, advertising and other digital activities in the media and on social networks, 30% to the organisation of, and participation in, events, 20% to promotional products, publications and other printed materials including graphic design and delivery, 5% to the implementation of opinion polls and management of the online portal, and the remainder to other support activities, including the possibility of financing the employment of communicators within the INFORM-SI network.  Pursuant to Article 48 of the Regulation, Marjanca Scheicher and Beti Blagus will be in charge of programme communication. |

# Use of unit costs, lump sums, flat rates and financing not linked to costs

Table 14: Use of unit costs, lump sums, flat rates and financing not linked to costs

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| Intended use of Articles 94 and 95 of CPR | YES | NO |
| From the adoption, the programme will make use of reimbursement of the Union contribution based on unit costs, lump sums and flat rates under the priority in accordance with Article 94 CPR (if yes, fill in Appendix 1) |  | √ |
| From the adoption, the programme will make use of reimbursement of the Union contribution based on financing not linked to costs in accordance with Article 95 CPR (if yes, fill in Appendix 2) |  | √ |

**Appendix 3**

# List of planned operations of strategic importance with a timetable (Article 22(3) of CPR)

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| **PO1, RSO1.1: the upgrade of the key research infrastructures** from 2014–2020 is planned from 2023 for greater competitiveness of the economy, and scientific, research and innovation environment. The measure includes the upgrade of the RIUM (Q4 2028), the upgrade of HPC capacity and the purchase of state-of-the-art research equipment (Q4 2027), the establishment of the INNOVUM Technology Innovation Centre, and the construction of a new Faculty of Mechanical Engineering (Q4 2029).  **PO2, RSO2.4: ensuring flood safety in the Savinja River basin** is a continuation of the first phase of the project, which will actually ensure the required flood safety, as larger urban areas are still at risk of flooding. A building permit is expected to be obtained in 2024, construction work is expected to commence in 2025, and construction is expected to be completed in 2029.  **PO3, RSO3.1: the upgrade** of the 33.7 km long **state border–Dobova–Zidani Most** **railway line** (state border–Dobova–Sevnica section), which is part of the Mediterranean TEN-T corridor, will increase throughput capacity, train travel speed and traffic safety, and reduce noise pollution in settlement areas, thus contributing to the elimination of the bottleneck of the main transport railway connection between Slovenia and Croatia. Due to its size, the measure will be implemented in batches from Q3 2023 to Q3 2028.  **PO4, ESO4.2: modernising services and integrating labour market institutions** (Q2 2023–Q4 2028) include strengthening the network of offices for employers to support employers in finding suitable personnel, and modernising services in labour market institutions. The key objective is to establish a skills forecasting platform, which will effectively connect employers, jobseekers and the ZRSZ consultants.  **PO5, RSO5.1:** in 2025, the European Capital of Culture **GO! 2025** will be represented by Nova Gorica and Gorica, the goal of which is to become a cross-border European capital of culture. Investments in the renovation of Trg Europa and the construction of a multi-purpose facility and EPICentre are planned from Q3 2022 to Q3 2024.    **PO6, JSO8.1:** **in the Zasavje region**, capacity building in the field of RDI is crucial, making the establishment of the Carbon-Free Technologies Demonstration and Training Centre by Q4 2025 also crucial; the Centre will support research into carbon-free technologies for the transition to a modern green industry. In **the SAŠA region**, the transition to a **new generation of district heating**, which will be economically and environmentally sustainable and independent of coal, will take place. |

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142. The area of digital connectivity will build on the actual needs that will be identified in the Gigabit Infrastructure Development Plan by 2030 that was approved by the government on 25 August 2022 and fully complies with the EU digital targets. [↑](#footnote-ref-142)
143. If the study is not prepared in time, the stated guiding principle will not be taken into account for operations that will begin prior to the preparation of the study. [↑](#footnote-ref-143)
144. Wood not suitable for industrial processing and waste wood. [↑](#footnote-ref-144)
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152. The objective will be operationalised in the national policy after the adoption of the new spatial policy. The baseline value is determined on a case-by-case basis (for individual settlements) as part of the planning process. Therefore, it is neither ascertainable nor determined at the national level. [↑](#footnote-ref-152)
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