



12 February 2016

**Embedding in ESIF programmes
Case Slovenia**

SHORT DESCRIPTION OF THE EMBEDDING PROCESS IN SLOVENIA

The embedding process in Slovenia is defined with 2 key strategic documents in relation to ESIF:

- PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT between Slovenia and the European Commission for the period 2014–2020 and
- Operational Programme for the Implementation of the EU Cohesion Policy in the Period 2014-2020

and on operational level by

- CRITERIA FOR THE SELECTION OF OPERATIONS WITHIN Operational Programme for the implementation of the cohesion policy for the period 2014-2020, April 17, 2015

Decisions incorporated in mentioned strategic/operational documents were guided by political leadership reflected in the decisions of the Government of the Republic Slovenia adopted at the different occasions when discussing (gradual) involvement of the Republic of Slovenia in three EU macroregional strategies, EUSDR, EUSAIR and EUSALP.

In this context the Government of the Republic of Slovenia decided that the Government Office for Development and European Cohesion Policy (responsible for EU Funds coordination) shall, when possible and appropriate support in the context of ESIF embedding of macroregional projects with visible value added.

In addition the Government of the Republic of Slovenia also decided that the ESIF technical assistance may be used on "ad hoc" basis during the 2014-2020 programming period for activities associated with the implementation of EU macro-regional strategies provided there is no such support already assured in the context of transnational cooperation programmes 2014-2020.

In order to assure smooth implementation of decisions taken, following governance arrangements at the national level were adopted:

- Regular reporting of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs appointed as National Coordinator to the Government of the Republic of Slovenia on EU macro-regional strategies;
 - On the basis of NC report and recommendations the government adopts main political orientation, strategic guidelines and mandate for the representatives of the Republic of Slovenia into the work of the EUSDR Priority Areas, EUSAIR Thematic Steering Groups and EUSALP Action Groups; at least two times per year; Spring / Autumn NC Report

- Once per year the Government represented by the MFA-NC informs the National Parliament with the Spring Report to be discussed by joint session of the NP Standing Committees for EU Affairs and for Foreign Policy;
- Regular inter-ministerial coordination headed by the MFA-NC;
- Regular reporting of the MFA-NC at the OP - Monitoring Committee meetings;
- At hoc meetings of the MFA-NC with different stakeholders and regional, local representatives;
- Functioning of the Single Stakeholders Platform for all 3 macroregional strategies, (operated by interested private stakeholders) <http://eregion.eu/>

ELEMENTS OF THE KEY DOCUMENTS IN RELATION TO THE EMBEDDING PROCES

PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT between Slovenia and the European Commission for the period 2014–2020

DESCRIPTION OF THE INTEGRATED APPROACH TO TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT

3.1.4 The main priority areas for cooperation in the field of macro-regional and sea basin strategies

- the preparation and implementation of water management plans and preparation of detailed water management plans for cross-border river basins (rivers Soča with Vipava, Drava, Mura, Sava and its tributaries),
- the preparation and implementation of plans to reduce flood risks in cross-border river basins (rivers Soča with Vipava, Drava, Mura, Sava and its tributaries),
- improving mobility and multimodality – road, rail, sea, river and air links,
- providing a favourable status of species and habitat types within NATURA 2000,
- developing a high-quality green tourism offer based on active nature conservation and the integration of natural and cultural potential,
- support for the capacities of SMEs for growth and integration in innovation processes, especially through the transition to a low-carbon economy in all sectors

The coordination of the preparation of macro-regional strategies is the responsibility of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, while the coordination and implementation of individual elements of strategies and the preparation of projects are the responsibility of individual ministries. For the period after 2014, an enhanced role of inter-ministerial coordination of macro-regional strategies has been envisaged within the committee framework, where all ESI funds are to be considered with a view to achieving better complementarity and synergy effects as a result of participation in EU macro-regional strategies.

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

Arrangements for interregional and transnational actions, within the operational programme, with beneficiaries located in at least one other Member State

Slovenia will participate in the implementation of three EU macro-regional strategies, namely the EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region, EU Strategy for the Danube Region and the EU Strategy for the Alpine Region. The coordination of the activities of implementing the macro-regional strategies takes place at the level of the National

Coordinator (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) together with the coordinators of the priority areas under the macro-regional strategies, which are mandated by the Government of the Republic of Slovenia

The contributions to the implementation of the EU macro-regional strategies will be coordinated and assessed in the framework of the OP ECP and the ETC programmes. The competence for the implementation of the OP ECP and all the ETC programmes lies with the Government Office for Development and European Cohesion Policy, which will significantly improve the coordination of the Funds.

Horizontal principles for the selection of projects/programmes

The selection of projects/programmes will be based on two sets of principles, namely the horizontal principles, which will be applied in the selection of projects/programmes for all priority axes, and the specific principles, which are identified under each priority axis in the relevant section....Where relevant, the projects/programmes will also have to take into account:

- *added value in the framework of the EU macro-regional strategies*

Actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the corresponding specific objectives

Technical assistance will also finance other costs incurred on an “ad hoc” basis during the 2014-2020 programming period implementation, including activities associated with the implementation of EU macro-regional strategies.

CRITERIA FOR THE SELECTION OF OPERATIONS WITHIN Operational Programme for the implementation of the cohesion policy for the period 2014-2020; April 17, 2015

In order to ensure the greatest possible contribution of the Funds, OP specified horizontal and guiding principles that will facilitate the planning process at the level of preparation and OP implementation, conditions for determining eligibility; quality assurance and evaluation criteria for selection method/ selection of operations of the OP. That framework will facilitate sectorial, territorial and macro-regional coordination and cohesiveness in achieving the goals of the OP.

As Slovenia will participate in the implementation of the three EU macro-regional strategies (Adriatic-Ionian, Danube and Alpine), ... it will be ensured that the operations will take into account the added value and contributions to the EU macro-regional context. Where relevant, and irrespective to defined evaluation criteria under priority axis it is possible to define additional selection criteria such as the impact of the project on the territory of EU macro-regional strategies, contribution to the macro-regional objectives or to one or more specific objectives/targets of respective macro regional Action Plan.