

Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic

# Operational Programme Quality of Environment

for 2014-2020 period

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## **1. Operational Programme Strategy**

### **1.1 OP contribution strategy to the EU strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth and for economic, social and territorial cohesion achievement**

#### **1.1.1 OP strategy description for its contribution to the EU strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth and for economic, social and territorial cohesion achievement**

Operational programme Quality of Environment (hereinafter referred to as “OP QE”) is a programming document of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter referred to as “SR”) for drawing aid from the EU Structural Funds and the Cohesion Fund in the programming period 2014 - 2020 in the area of sustainable and efficient resource use ensuring environmental protection, active adaptation to climate change and promotion of an energy efficient, low-carbon economy.

The OP QE Strategy, i.e. the selection of thematic objectives and respective investment priorities, as well as definition of specific objectives, results and activity/intervention types, was set up to:

- Support fulfilment of the priorities defined in the document Europe 2020 - A strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth (hereinafter referred to as “Europe 2020 strategy”)<sup>1</sup> and to contribute towards achievement of the National Reform Programme of the Slovak Republic’s goals (hereinafter referred to as “NRP SR”), as well as the requirements resulting from the EU legislation in the area of energy sector and environment;
- Respect the needs and challenges at the national, resp. regional levels, which must be responded to, and focus on addressing them with the aim of ensuring sustainable and efficient use of resources, including energy resources.

The fundamental basis in identifying the relevant thematic objectives and investment priorities of the OP QE were:

- Strategic documents of the EU and SR concerning Cohesion Policy (Europe 2020 Strategy and NRP SR),
- Requirements, commitments, priorities and targets resulting from concept documents and relevant legal regulations of the EU and SR in the area of energy efficiency and renewable energy sources (hereinafter referred to as “RES”) use, as well as for environmental protection (the so-called environmental acquis),
- Conducted analyses of the current status of the environment and energetics at the national, resp. regional level,

taking into account:

- The recommendations of the European Commission (hereinafter referred to as “EC”) specified in the Position Paper of the EC to the development of the 2014-2020 Partnership Agreement and Programmes in Slovakia (hereinafter referred to as “EC Position Paper”), as well as in the Partnership Agreement of the Slovak Republic for 2014-2020 (hereinafter referred to as “Partnership Agreement” or “PA SR”);

- Experiences and lessons learnt from the programming period 2007 - 2013, resulting from the implementation of the Operational Programme Environment (hereinafter referred to as “OP E”) and the Operational Programme Competitiveness and Economic Growth (hereinafter referred to as “OP CEG”) in the area of energetics (see Annex No 1);
- Conclusions and recommendations outlined in the ex ante evaluation of the OP QE (see Annex No 5).

The **global objective** of the OP QE is to support sustainable and efficient resource use ensuring environmental protection, active adaptation to climate change and promotion of an energy efficient, low-carbon economy.

To achieve the above said global objective, following three basic thematic objectives<sup>2</sup> (hereinafter referred to as “TO”) were incorporated into the OP QE investment strategy:

- *Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors (TO 4),*
- *Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and management (TO 5),*
- *Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency (TO 6).*

#### **Characteristics of the OP QE strategy in terms of its contribution to the achievement of the Europe 2020 Strategy priorities**

The fundamental baseline for the OP QE investment strategy are the priorities defined in the Europe 2020 strategy:

- Smart growth: developing an economy based on knowledge and innovation,
- Sustainable growth: promoting a more resource efficient and more competitive economy,
- Inclusive growth: fostering a high-employment economy delivering social and territorial cohesion.

The overall focus of the OP QE investment strategy and the resulting selection of thematic objectives, which are an integral part of it, is directly interrelated with one of the three core priorities of the Europe 2020 strategy, namely “*Sustainable growth: promoting a more resource efficient and more competitive economy*”.

The OP QE strategy has been developed to promote sustainable growth through selection of thematic objectives and their respective IP as well as through specific objectives and activities, and specifically to:

- Achieve environmentally sustainable use of respective environmental components, especially through the support for IP under TO 6;
- Contribute to more efficient use of natural resources and their sustainable management;
- Contribute to reducing the negative effects of climate change and strengthen adaptation to it;
- Contribute to more efficient use of energy resources through IP focused on promotion of energy efficiency in the corporate sector as well as in the public infrastructure under the TO 4;
- Support sustainable use of energy resources through IP focused on use of renewable energy resources under the TO 4;

- Promote environment-friendly technologies and thereby mitigate worsening of environment quality, namely through IP under the TO 4 and TO 6;
- Ensure desirable conditions for population and for economic activities through prevention of risks resulting from climate change, in particular through IP under the TO 5.

The OP QE investment strategy aims to support sustainable growth, i.e. to ensure environmentally sustainable economic development and “green” economic growth, characterised by quality environmental infrastructure resilient to climate change and allowing preservation of respective environmental elements in satisfactory condition for future generations.

The focus of the OP QE strategy is thereby in line with priorities of the Europe 2020 strategy which, among other things, emphasizes importance of economic growth promotion policies to be long-term sustainable not only in financial and social terms but also in environmental ones.

Investment priorities and interventions, including the support for all administrative capacities in relation to the rescue forces of the Integrated Rescue System that are proposed within the TO 5 and represent a tool to cope with challenges related to climate change, also contribute towards fulfilment of Europe 2020 strategy’s main objectives.

Promoted investment priorities within the TO 5 and TO 6 also take into account priorities of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (hereinafter referred to as “Danube strategy”)<sup>3</sup>.

With its TO 4 interventions the OP QE strategy contributes towards fulfilment of Europe 2020 strategy’s measurable targets in the area of *climate change and energy sustainability*, namely the “20/20/20” (i.e. to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 20 % compared to 1990 levels or even by 30 %, if the conditions are right; to increase the share of renewable energy sources in final energy consumption to 20 %; and to reduce energy consumption by 20 % by 2020).

**The OP QE investment strategy has the potential also to contribute to smart growth which promotes knowledge and innovation-based economy development and for that reason ranks among priorities of the Europe 2020 strategy.**

The mentioned potential can be seen especially within TO 4 since investments focused on lesser use of carbon and more efficient resource use in the industry are linked to research and innovation. In that way, support for the shift towards a low-carbon, energy-efficient economy is applied also in line with the idea of the main initiative “*Innovation Union*”, and so the mutually complementary priorities of smart and sustainable growth become interconnected.

**The OP QE investment strategy, focusing on support for environment infrastructure accessibility and quality development as one of the factors influencing the level of regional development and standard of living of the population, and fostering social inclusion, also contributes to inclusive growth as one of the goals of the Europe 2020 strategy.**

The OP QE strategy also draws from the need of meeting the basic objectives of the **NRP SR** which was drafted on the basis of a request by the European Council that the member states should identify their most important macro-structural hurdles hampering growth and to propose policies for their elimination in order to ensure desirable conditions for sustainable and balanced development and employment growth<sup>4</sup>.

The OP QE investment strategy, with its general focus and respective selection of thematic objectives, is directly interlinked with the NRP SR.

One of the measures under structural priorities, specifically mentioned in the NRP SR 2013, is the “*Environmental sustainability and energetics*”. The content of this measure is to support economic growth which is long-term sustainable not only in financial and social terms but also in environmental ones. The policy of so-called green growth, as one of the Europe 2020 strategy priorities and also of the OECD, is focused on making use of cleaner energy sources that prevent environmental degradation, a shift to a low-carbon economy, and gradual reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution.

Total indicative anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions in 2012 (expressed as CO<sub>2</sub> equivalents) reached 42,719.88 Gg<sup>5</sup>. Compared to 1990 decreased by 41.4 %, year on year by 4.4 %. Within the objectives set out in the NPR SR, GHG emissions of the SR in sectors outside the ETS<sup>6</sup> can be increased by 2020 by max. of 13 % compared to 2005 while following the established annual limits. So far it is still able to maintain the so called decoupling<sup>7</sup>. The intensity of reducing carbon intensity will, in the light of the limited remaining potential, still fall and costs of technological abatement measures will be still higher. In the next period it will therefore be necessary to concentrate mainly on win-win measures in improving energy efficiency and reducing consumption. Although Slovakia has not yet available a comprehensive low-carbon development strategy until 2030, current sectoral emission projections have been used in defining the objectives and in selecting particular mitigation activities for their fulfilment.

The aim of the NPR SR in the field of RES use is to ensure increase the share of RES in final energy consumption to 14% by 2020. SR target value for energy efficiency for the 2014 - 2020 period has been adjusted according to the requirements of the Directive 2012/27/EU and listed in the NPR SR 2013<sup>8</sup>. Based on the updated data published by the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter referred to as “Statistical Office” or “SO SR”) the target value has been clarified in 2014. Energy efficiency target by 2020 expressed as a FEC represents 23% and as a PEC represents 20%.

Table 1

	Annual target		Three-year target (non-cumulative)		2020 target (cumulative)		
	GWh/year	TJ/year	GWh	TJ	GWh	TJ	%
Energy efficiency target – FEC saving	949	3 416	2 846	10 247	26 565	79 695	23
Energy efficiency target – PEC saving	1 484	5 344	4 453	16 031	41 563	124 689	20
Energy efficiency target expressed in a FEC and PEC target level in 2020							
Energy efficiency target - to achieve the FEC level in 2020					105 TWh	378 PJ	
Energy efficiency target - to achieve the PEC level in 2020					191 TWh	686 PJ	

Source: Energy Efficiency Action Plan for 2014 - 2016 with a perspective to 2020, adopted by Slovak Government Resolution No. 350/2014 of 9 July 2014.

The measures under TO 4 shall support broad spectrum of activities such as installation of equipment for the use of RES, reduction of energy consumption in enterprises, improving energy efficiency of buildings, improving the quality of heat supply through efficient systems of centralized heat supply, as well as activities focused on promotion of low-carbon strategies, including plans of sustainable energetics at the national, regional and local level. These measures also take into account **Council’s recommendations 2013 on NRP SR**<sup>9</sup> within the meaning of which is necessary to improve energy efficiency, particularly in buildings and industry. The recommendations for identified areas - industry and buildings were reflected in the OP QE within the IP 2 and 3 of the Priority axis 4.

As for activities under TO 4, the OP QE represents a direct projection of the measurable targets of Europe 2020 strategy for *climate and energy* (“20/20/20”) and of the NRP SR

priority area “Green growth and energetics”, and ensures support in their mutual interconnection and complexity. Support for improving energy efficiency and RES use also contributes to the shift to a low-carbon economy characterised by reduction of greenhouse gas emissions production.

The OP QE investment strategy, with its focus on promoting efficient use of resources, shift to a low-carbon economy, higher use of energy from renewable resources and promotion of energy efficiency, displays a direct relevance to the EU initiative “**Resource-efficient Europe**”. At the same time there is also an interlinking with the initiative “**An integrated industrial policy for the globalisation era**”, contributing to the stimulation of investments aimed at lower carbon use and resource efficiency in industry. In terms of relevance the synergy with the national policies for enterprises support with emphasis on SME is important, in particular by mean of the **Strategy for research and innovation for smart specialisation of the Slovak Republic**<sup>10</sup>, where sustainable energy along with environment have been identified as the areas of specialisation in terms of available scientific and research capacities.

Within the OP QE strategy, in the area of technical assistance, recommendation No. 6 concerning reduction of corruption contained in the draft of Council recommendation on **Slovakia’s 2014 national reform programme and delivering a Council opinion on Slovakia’s 2014 stability programme**, was taken into account<sup>11</sup>.

**Characteristics of the OP OE strategy in terms of its contribution to the achievement of economic, social and territorial cohesion**

Environmental quality and efficient resource and energy use rank among the factors driving regional development and competitiveness. The area of sustainable and efficient resource use, which is included in the OP QE investment strategy, has in terms of its significance and overall impact on the economy of the SR a potential to contribute to improving the competitiveness, create secondary employment and significantly contribute towards protecting and saving natural resources.

Investment priorities under TO 4, 5 and 6 combine environment quality improvement and investments in clean technologies. They put emphasis on increasing the efficiency of natural resources use, including energy resources, as well as to limit the increase in greenhouse gas emissions, which is an essential preventive measure aimed at reducing the adverse effects of climate change and at the same time it is complemented by support for adaptation measures for climate change adaptation as well as to strengthen the intervention capacity to manage disasters emerging from climate change, especially floods, and thus contributing to reduction of economic damage caused by floods. All these aspects demonstrate the **contribution of the OP QE investment strategy to economic growth**.

With regard to the OP QE investment strategy, its contribution to economic growth should also be noted. The contribution results from support for building and improving energy and environmental infrastructure, which creates potential for private and public sector development as it creates conditions for territorial amenities and investment. The environment, quality of life, pollution levels, energy supply systems, environmental infrastructure, in particular water supply systems or waste collection represent elements which are essential for attracting investments, employment in the regions and potential export.

The basic infrastructure - energy or environmental, whose support is part of the OP QE investment strategy, is taken for granted by most of the foreign investors. Its absence or deficiencies in the level of its development make a region less attractive and may ultimately result in great social and economic losses.

The importance of basic infrastructure to ensure economic development is also underlined in the Europe 2020 strategy in which, in the context of the lessons learnt from the current crisis, it is stated that: *“for some Member States it is more difficult to ensure sufficient funding for basic infrastructure needed not only to develop their own economies but also to achieve their full participation in the single market”*<sup>12</sup>.

**Contribution of the OP QE strategy to economic growth** lays in the fact that particular investment priorities which form part of the strategy:

- Can ensure long-term sustainability of economic growth through more efficient use of natural resources, including energy ones;
- Contribute to reducing energy intensiveness of the economy and thereby support its competitiveness;
- Contribute to the long-term energy sustainability by increasing the share of low-carbon and carbon-free electricity production and the share of RES in heat production;
- Result in savings to property due to prevention of environmental risks, ensuring disasters protection caused by climate change, especially against floods or landslides, and thus limit the potential damage;
- Reduce certain types of economic costs (e.g. health-care expenditures, costs connected with pollution elimination);
- Contribute to the reduction of resource intensiveness of economy, among other things through promotion of waste reuse, recycling and recovery;
- Promote the use of green technologies in enterprises by implementing Best Available Techniques (hereinafter referred to as “BAT”);
- Create opportunities for resuming business activities in remediated environmental burden sites;
- Help create the conditions for investment and business activities development, followed by the possibility of job creation including “green” jobs.

**Contribution of the OP QE strategy to the territorial development of regions and promotion of territorial cohesion** can be expressed through:

- Support of diversification of energy sources and thereby contribute to reducing energy “vulnerability” and dependency by the regions;
- Protection of land against the effects of limited local extreme effects of climate change;
- Balanced territorial development in terms of energy and environmental infrastructure coverage;
- Opportunities for environment quality improvement and of the health conditions of population in regions;
- Protection of natural resources (e.g. drinking water) directly affecting the territorial development of regions and helps to prevent population migration due to adverse living conditions;
- regeneration of damaged natural environment, protection, revitalisation and restoration of eco-systems in burdened, degraded as well as protected areas to improve provision of eco-system services;
- Mitigation of air pollution of local character;
- Restriction of land depreciation by e.g. illegal waste dumps, through development of infrastructure for separate collection of waste;
- Re-integration of rehabilitated land for its further;
- Increase of the land value and attractiveness for other activities, respectively for further development.

Besides the direct impact on the condition of the individual environment components, the support for environmental infrastructure has also its **social dimension**, particularly manifested in the fact that:

- Equipment of territory with environment infrastructure increases its attractiveness for the population, has a positive impact on its health and standard of living;
- Environmental infrastructure ensures access of the population to basic environmental services with the aim of increasing its standard of living, improving its health status and increasing people's life expectancy;
- Completion and improvement of environment infrastructure quality (particularly in the area of drinking water supply, purification and sewage water treatment, as well as waste management) and improvement of its accessibility contribute to reduction of social exclusion;
- Creation of job opportunities during the construction works as well as through environmental services operation contributes to employment growth.

Thus, by fulfilling its goals, the OP QE not only contributes to the sustainability of growth but also has the potential to contribute to inclusive growth which ensures social and territorial cohesion and belongs to priorities of the Europe 2020 strategy.

#### *1.1.1.1 Development needs and disparities and how they are addressed in the OP*

##### **The need to support waste management in compliance with the waste management hierarchy**

The amount of waste produced in the SR has a fluctuating nature. In 2012, almost 8.7 mil. tons of waste was produced, representing an annual decrease of about 20%. The predominant waste management method was landfilling (46 %), followed by material recovery (32 %). Energy recovery from waste is negligible in Slovakia. In 2012, it accounted for about 3 %.

Municipal waste production has grown at a slower pace than private final consumption. The amount of produced municipal waste (MW) reached 1,747 million tons in 2012, representing year to year decrease by 1,1 %. The amount of MW produced has a fluctuating, slightly growing trend. Production of MW per capita (323 kg / capita) is low, compared to EU member states, and below the EU average. Only about 13 % of the produced MW was recycled in the SR in 2012. The predominant MW management method was landfilling, representing 74 %. Landfilling (about 86 %) also prevailed in case of dealing with mixed MW. Energy recovery from mixed MW is around 13 %. Separate waste collection has been introduced to most municipalities in the SR. Its efficiency, however, doesn't reach satisfactory parameters. Nonetheless, it can be stated, that the level of separate collection has an upward trend.

Production of hazardous waste (HW) has a downward trend in the SR. In 2012, waste producers submitted to the authorities dealing with HW about 2.1 % less HW for recovery and disposal compared to 2011 (371,553.28 tons vs. 379,628.73 tons in 2011). The total amount of HW produced has a slightly downward trend, including reduction of HW amount disposed through landfilling. In terms of share of landfilled HW to HW produced, a slowly increasing trend can be observed.

The actual numbers of sorted, recycled and otherwise recovered waste can be higher, as problems with evidence of the quantity of waste produced and handled persist in Slovakia.

According to the Waste Framework Directive, the SR is obliged to increase preparation for re-use and recycling of household waste such as paper, metal, glass and plastics, and possibly from other sources too (if the other sources contain waste similar to the households' one), by at least 50% by weight. Another essential need in the field of MW handling is to achieve a reduction of the amount of landfilled biodegradable waste (BDW) through activities such as BDW recovery as well as supporting reduction of the overall amount of mixed MW disposed of at landfills. In line with the Directive 1999/31/EC, the target is to reduce the amount of landfilled BDW to 35 % by 2020, of the total amount (weight) of biodegradable MW produced in 1995. Other objectives, resulting from the acquis, that Slovakia has to meet in waste management sector, are applicable to individual waste streams - electrical and electronic equipment waste, packaging waste, used batteries and accumulators and old vehicles.

The strategic goal of waste management in Slovakia is to move away from waste-landfilling, respectively to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill and to increase the rate of waste recovery, particularly through waste recycling. In compliance with the waste management hierarchy, Waste Management Programme of the SR and the Waste Prevention Programme, and for the purpose of fulfilling the requirements of the environmental acquis, the OP QE contains activities to achieve the mentioned strategic goal. Having taken into account the high share of BDW in mixed MW, there is an actual need for the prevention of biodegradable MW production; by promoting home composting or anaerobic decomposition facilities. In the area of waste prevention, environmental awareness raising plays an important role. Reducing the amount of landfilled waste is related to the effective functioning of MW separate collection, developed infrastructure for mechanical and biological treatment of mixed MW, for recycling and other recovery of sorted waste and individual waste streams, as well as the recycling of hazardous waste.

#### **The need to ensure good water status and safe drinking water**

There were 1,760 surface water bodies defined in Slovakia, with a total length of 19,046.2 km. According to the Water Plan of the SR data, 63.7 % of them are in very good and good environmental conditions and 95 % are in good chemical conditions.

For the purpose of evaluating the status of surface water bodies, 103 sites were monitored. Rest of the water bodies were evaluated on the basis of risk assessment, whether or not the good condition will be achieved.

In the case of groundwater, 101 groundwater bodies have been identified; while 75 of them are monitored<sup>13</sup>. 62 groundwater bodies are in good chemical conditions, 13 are in poor ones. In terms of quantitative status, 5 bodies were classified as poor.

In line with the Water Act and the WFD, it is necessary to increase the reliability of evaluation and gradually have most of the water bodies, resp. sites or objects monitored. In 2012, in line with the Water Act and the WFD, 41 % of Slovakia's water bodies were monitored. Certain improvements in monitoring occurred in the 2009 - 2012 period, when the number of monitored sites for surface waters evaluation increased (to 774). In the II. planning period (2016 - 2021) it is necessary, according to the relevant regulations, to have other, previously unmonitored, water bodies monitored too and to increase the reliability of evaluation, as well as to re-verify the status of the waters, resp. to assess whether the measures taken have been effective. At the same time, it is necessary to obtain reliable information by monitoring, to propose new measures on water status improvement.

In line with the WFD, the aim is to implement measures to achieve good status of all waters by 2015, resp. 2021, however, no later than by 2027. The instrument for accomplishing the WFD goals is the Water Plan of the SR, which includes Danube and Vistula river basin management plans. An important instrument, enabling effectiveness evaluation of the carried out measures, and if necessary an adoption of new measures, is the surface and groundwater status monitoring, governed by the Water Act in application of the Article 8 of the WFD.

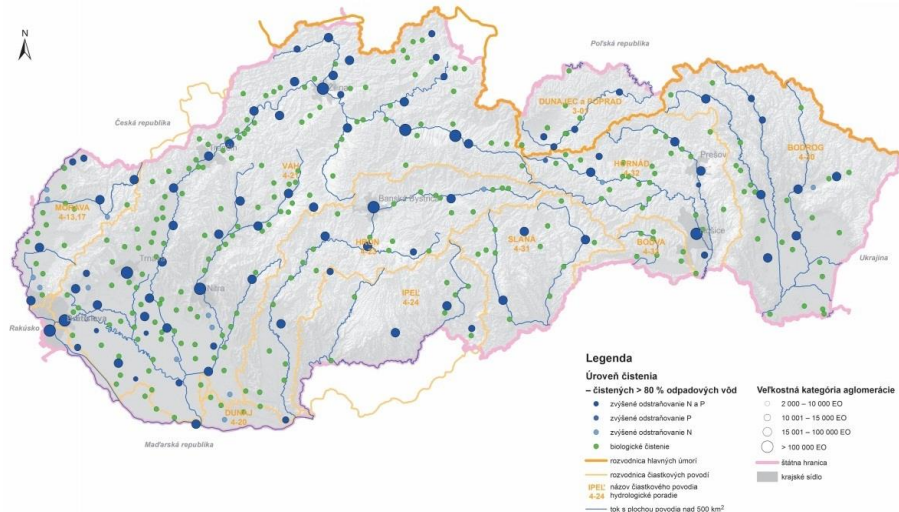
**Figure 1**  
River basin districts at the national level



Source: Water Plan of the SR, 2009

One of the primary sources of surface water pollution is untreated or poorly treated urban waste waters. The requirements resulting from Council Directive 91/271/EEC for discharge and treatment of urban waste waters in agglomerations above 2,000 p.e., commitments to be met by Slovakia until 31 December 2015, will not be fully satisfied. By 31.12.2012<sup>14</sup> was for the Article 3 of the Directive (assessment of sewer systems in agglomerations above 2,000 p. e.) achieved compliance to 88 % and for the Article 4 of the Directive (assessment of biological disposal of pollution at WWTPs in agglomerations above 2,000 p. e.) 85 % of the overall pollution from agglomerations above 2,000 p. e. was treated as required. In compliance with the Article 5(2) of the Directive (assessment of stricter disposal of pollution at WWTPs in agglomerations above 10,000 p. e.) 64 % of the total generated pollution from agglomerations above 10,000 p. e. were treated to a reference period. According to the latest analysis, there was a great progress in meeting the Directive 91/271/EEC requirements in agglomerations above 10,000 p. e. Out of 81 agglomerations above 10,000 p. e., 50 agglomerations are in compliance with the Article 5 of the Directive. Similarly, in agglomerations with population from 2,000 to 10,000 p. e., progress has been made in achieving compliance in the field of discharge and treatment of urban waste waters. 127 agglomerations with population from 2,000 to 10,000 p. e. are in compliance with the Articles 3, and 4 of the Directive. Moreover, there are currently projects in the process of implementation, financed through the OP E and relating to approximately 109 agglomerations above 2 000 p.e., that will, after their completion and commissioning, comply with requirements of Directive 91/271/EEC.

**Figure 2**  
**Discharge of waste waters from agglomerations - perspective until year 2015**



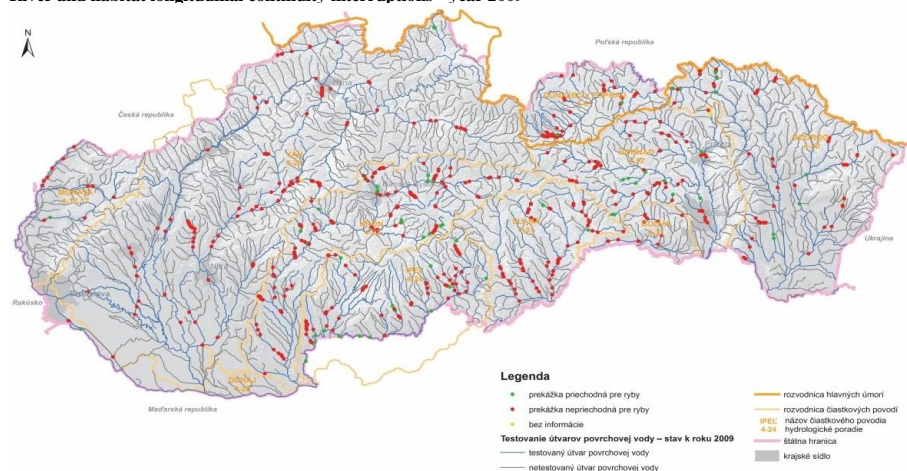
Source: Water Plan of the SR, 2009

SR also has agglomerations below 2,000 p. e. in the protected water management areas with large – capacity ground water sources where good water status has not been identified or where the water body has been identified as a risk and by reason of their protection against pollution from contaminated or poorly treated waste waters, measures have to be implemented within them to eliminate pollution from point sources. Protection of important protected water management areas are subject to the Act on Protected areas of Natural water Accumulation.

Sufficiency of drinking water natural sources is an advantage of Slovakia. Ground water sources are used for the majority (80 %) of the drinking water supply to the population, and only 20 % of the drinking water comes from surface sources. Results of laboratory water tests showed that only 68 % of small supplied areas were in compliance with the requirements of Council Directive 98/83/EC. The problem of Slovakia is that most of the facilities used for water treatment have been in operation for 30 years or longer. They are obsolete structurally and technologically and they use procedures that do not comply with the current requirements and trends. It is therefore necessary to take measures to improve the reliability of the treatment of water abstracted from large-capacity sources of surface waters in order to increase the safety of drinking water provided by drinking public water supplies, to increase efficiency and reduce the energy intensity of the whole process of water treatment. The positive thing in the field of drinking water supply to the population is that the share of population supplied with drinking water has been growing year on year. The number of municipalities with drinking public water supply reached 2,348 in 2011 (out of the total number of 2,890 municipalities), which accounts for 81.2 % of all municipalities in Slovakia.

Analysis of the state of waters in watercourses indicated existence of hydro morphological changes of the riverbed structures caused by building structures on water flow, which reduce the throughput. At the time when these structures were implemented on watercourses, the WFD wasn't in force. Currently, there is a need to ensure the throughput of watercourses by building water ramps and water slides and to ensure the natural character of the watercourse wherever it is technically possible and economically feasible.

**Figure 3**  
River and habitat longitudinal continuity interruptions - year 2009

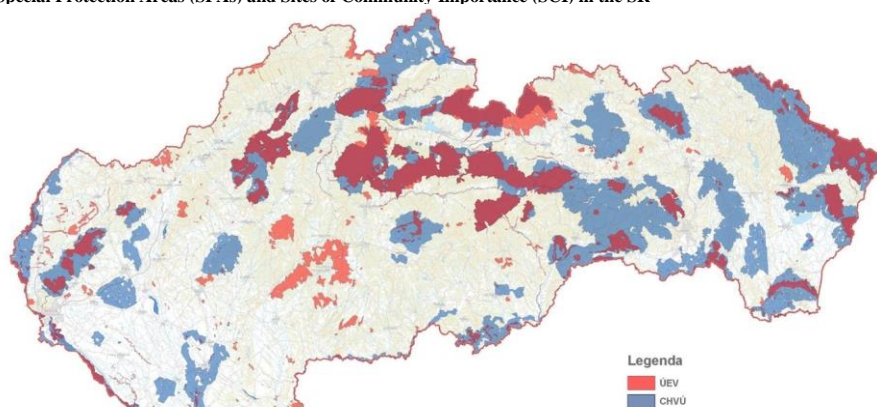


Source: Water Plan of the SR, 2009

### The need for protection and restoration of biological diversity especially in the Natura 2000 network, as well as support for ecosystem services

Slovak Republic has a large diversity of species, ecosystems, landscapes and a large area of protected areas on one hand, while similarly to other EU Member States it faces development activities and the lack of means to protect the natural values on the other hand. The Slovak Republic has met the obligation of the EU Member States stipulated in the Article 3 of the Habitats Directive by declaring all 41 Special Protection Areas<sup>15</sup> and 309 out of 473 Sites of Community Importance<sup>16</sup>. The SR has not so far met the obligation to declare the rest of the areas Sites of Community Importance (deadline for declaring 159 Sites of Community Importance has already expired)<sup>17</sup>. From the negotiations with the EC in 2012 obligation arose to define further locations for 21 habitats and 33 species of community interest.

**Figure 4**  
Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Sites of Community Importance (SCI) in the SR



Source: State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic, Banská Bystrica 2014

The current EU commitments in biodiversity protection are set out in the EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy. The main issues are completion of the Natura 2000 network and ensuring appropriate care for these areas, supporting green infrastructure, restoring ecosystems and their services and a higher involvement of sectors and the public. The Strategy also emphasizes partnership and synergies with other international conventions<sup>18</sup>.

The ultimate goal of the EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy is to improve the conservation status of habitats of community interest by 100 % and the conservation status of species of community interest by 50 % until 2020. According to the report under the Article 17 of the Habitats Directive as of 2013, 24 % of habitats and species of community interest were in a favourable condition and 17 % was in an unknown condition. The rest of habitats and species were in an unfavourable condition. The target of the EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy<sup>19</sup> was transposed to the SR conditions in the draft Prioritised Action Framework for Financing Natura 2000 in the Slovak Republic for the EU programming period 2014 - 2020 (hereinafter referred to as "PAF"), which was drafted on the basis of the Article 8 of the Habitats Directive.

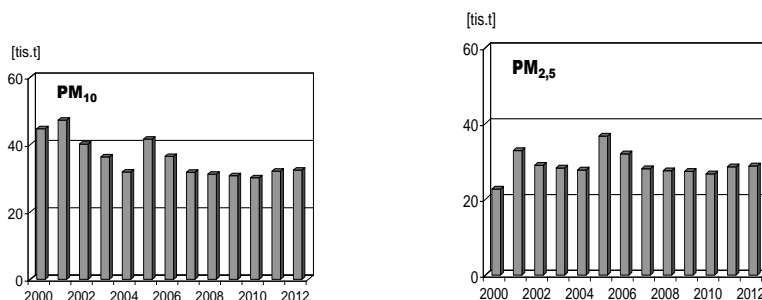
The PAF contains activities that are broken down into activities implemented in protected areas and outside them, where the support of green infrastructure, including the territorial system of ecological stability will be crucial. Green infrastructure will contribute not only to biodiversity conservation but also to mitigation of climate change effects and to flood protection. The mentioned activities require the involvement of key actors in addressing the issue of wildlife conservation (e.g. owners and users of land) as well as support from the public.

Besides the international commitments for conservation of biological diversity, it is necessary to take into account the national legislation, strategies and specific priorities of nature and landscape conservation.

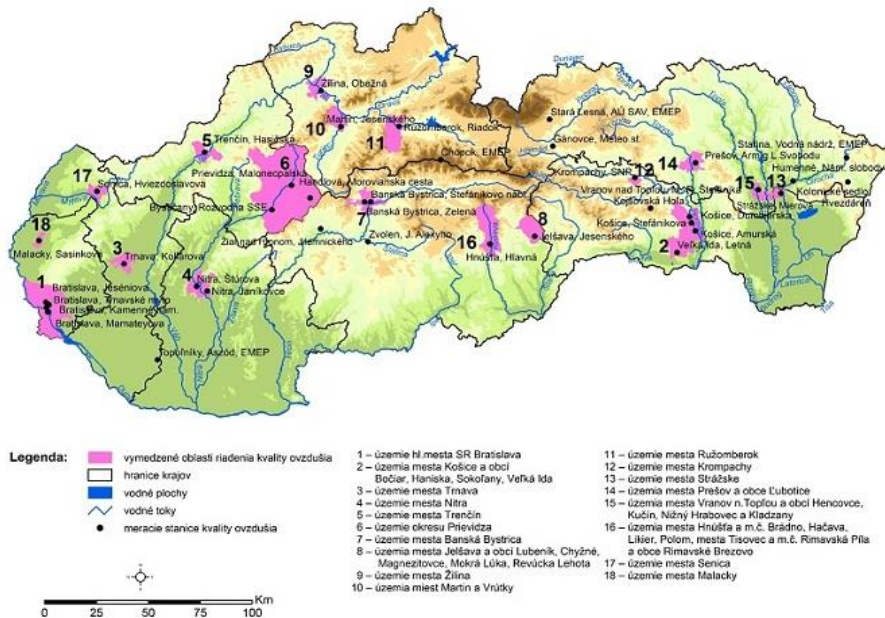
#### **The need for air protection and improvement of air quality**

Despite the decreasing trend in the overall amount of pollutant emissions released into the air, that has been observed in the SR since 1990, the air pollution remains to be a significant environmental factor with negative effects on human health and ecosystems. 18 air quality management areas were defined in 2012<sup>20</sup> in which limit values of some pollutants are being exceeded. The most significant problem identified is the air pollution from solid particulate matter (PM<sub>10</sub>, PM<sub>2.5</sub>).

#### **Development trends of emissions PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub> 2000 - 2012**



**Figure 5**  
Air quality management areas in the SR



Source: Air quality assessment in the SR in 2012, SHI

The targets of the Directive 2008/50/EC closely relate to the fulfilment of commitments in the field of emissions reduction of air pollutants, therefore it is necessary to focus on the air pollution caused by other pollutants too. Besides the PM particles, so called precursor substances of secondary particles (particularly the SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub>) are also of importance from the air quality point of view. The revised Gothenburg Protocol sets out the national emission reduction commitments applicable from 2020 (by 57 % for SO<sub>2</sub>, by 36 % for NO<sub>x</sub>, by 18 % for VOC, by 15 % for the NH<sub>3</sub> and by 36 % for the PM<sub>2,5</sub> compared to 2005), which are included in the proposed directive<sup>21</sup> prepared within the framework of EU Air Quality Package.

A dominant share on the total PM emissions has the heating sector. The contribution of industry to the production of the PM emissions is also of importance in many emission-loaded areas. As regards the total SO<sub>2</sub> a NO<sub>x</sub> emissions, which are the precursors of secondary dustiness, dominant (SO<sub>2</sub>), resp. significant share (NO<sub>x</sub>) have the large and medium air pollution sources. The impact of produced emissions on the immission situation in the SR was subject to analysis within a separate study<sup>22</sup>.

To reduce the concentration of air pollutants in the air, it is necessary to continue in implementation of measures at the air pollution sources and to support measures for further reduction of air pollutant emissions into the air, beyond the set requirements, as well as measures aimed at reaching the compliance with the requirements of the proposed new EU directives<sup>23</sup>. Special attention should be paid to measures implemented at the important air pollution sources in emission-loaded regions, while the emitted pollutants may also burden distant areas.

Also significant are awareness raising activities in the area of air protection which inform about the importance and means of implementation of the necessary and reasonable measures to improve air quality in practice (e.g. correct practice of using local heating units).

A precondition for setting up effective measures for air protection is a quality and well-operating system for air monitoring, projections and inventory of emissions and air pollution sources, including the reporting system on air quality.

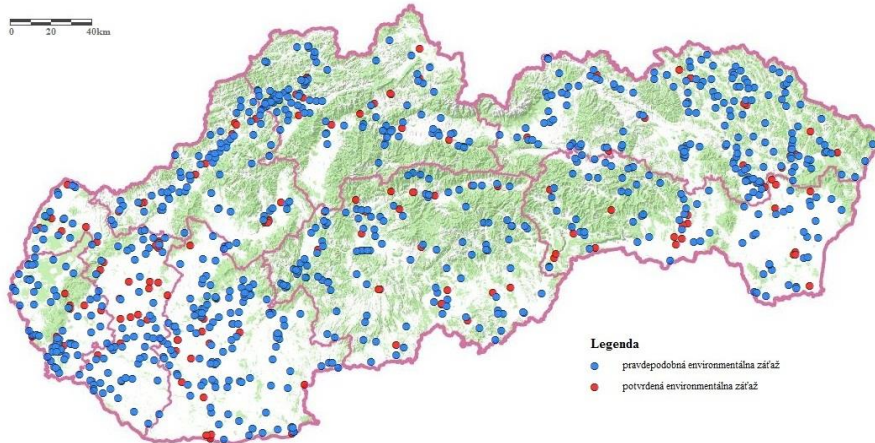
### **Remediation of environmental burdens as a precondition for reuse of the rehabilitated sites**

A systemic inventarisation of environmental burdens on the SR identified about 1,200 sites that constitute a hazard to people's health and the environment, of which 250 are of high risk. In those sites, long-term and uncontrolled releases of hazardous substances contaminating the individual components of the environment took place, negatively affecting the health of the population in the area.

Given the recent lack of legislation on remediation of environmental burdens, in accordance with the "polluter pays" principle, as well as due to complicated rules on the state aid provision in the area of contaminated sites rehabilitation, only a small number of high-risk environmental burdens have been remediated to this date. Due to the permanent threat to public health and environment quality, it is necessary to continue to implement measures to tackle them.

At the same time, based on the results of surveys and monitoring of environmental burdens, which were used as supporting materials for the revision of the State Remediation Programme of Environmental Burdens, preconditions for reuse of the rehabilitated sites for further economic development were created.

**Figure 6**  
**Confirmed and presumed environmental burdens in the SR (March 2014)**



Source: Information system environmental burdens (<http://envirozataze.enviroportal.sk>), 2014

The support for sustainable use of natural resources through the development of environmental infrastructure will be implemented by the means of the following investment priorities within the OP QE strategy:

*Thematic objective 6 - Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency*

- a) Investing in the waste sector to meet the requirements of the Union's environmental acquis and to address needs, identified by the Member States, for investment that goes beyond those requirements;
- d) Investing in the water sector to meet the requirements of the Union's environmental acquis and to address needs, identified by the Member States, for investment that goes beyond those requirements;
- e) Protecting and restoring biodiversity and soil and promoting ecosystem services, including through Natura 2000, and green infrastructure;
- f) Taking action to improve the urban environment, to revitalise cities, regenerate and decontaminate brownfield sites (including conversion areas), reduce air pollution and promote noise-reduction measures.

**Climate change, its consequences and the need for active adaptation**

In the SR, as in the rest of the world, impacts of climate change and its adverse effects on various areas are increasingly noticeable. The national reports of SR on climate change, which are drawn up under the commitments adopted under the Articles 4 and 12 of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and under the Kyoto Protocol, indicate that climate change will bring along more frequent occurrence of extreme weather (heat waves with average daytime air temperatures over 24°C) and also more frequent occurrence and longer duration of dry periods, alternating with episodes of high rainfall, which will have a significant impact on ecosystems, economic and social sectors. Minimisation of adverse social, economic and environmental consequences can be achieved by appropriate proactive adaptation measures. SR Adaptation Strategy to the adverse effects of climate change<sup>24</sup> is the first comprehensive document of the SR in this area. Based on the scenarios and analysis of adverse effects of climate change, it provides information about how to reduce vulnerability and on proactive adaptation.

**Flood risks associated with climate change**

One of the most negative impacts of climate change is occurrence of a few day episodes with high rainfall and also more frequent occurrence of very strong local storms. The national reports of SR on climate change show that the major problem in Slovakia is the violation of water retention ability of the landscape and more and more frequent occurrence of flood conditions on river flows threatening adjacent areas. Floods occur mainly due to protracted precipitation caused by regional rainfalls intervening large areas, but also due to torrential rains affecting smaller areas, especially in the spring months, with short duration times, but with large, highly variable intensity. Preventive measures for flood protection significantly contribute towards prevention of flood resulting damage, resp. mitigation of the damage scale. Implementation of these measures supports the goals of the Danube Strategy<sup>25</sup>.

Preventive measures for flood protection represent the implementation of technical measures and adjustments made directly to watercourses, and also non-technical measures (e.g. the use of green infrastructure in landscape) in the river basins aimed at slowing water runoff from basin into watercourses. The measures will be implemented in accordance with the Act on Flood Protection, which is transposed Directive 2007/60/EC. Based on preliminary flood risk assessment, flood maps identifying regions with significant flood hazard or risk presence were elaborated. In these areas preventive measures for flood protection will be implemented in line with the flood risk management plans, which shall determine the necessary measures to eliminate this risk. Natural flood risk management measures should be considered prior to

grey infrastructure projects for flood prevention and protection as a better environmental option (or as complementary to minimize Grey Infrastructure impacts) provided that they are equally or more effective in terms of meeting the objectives according to Article 1 of the Directive 2007/60/EC. It is also necessary to consider the supported projects in terms of environmental impact assessment, while taking account of the requirements resulting from the WFD and the Habitats Directive.

Active adaptation to climate change also requires efficient water management and support for restoration of the natural water cycle in the landscape. At the time of excessive precipitation, it is necessary to retain the water in the landscape and prevent its fast runoff into local streams, so to avoid flooding. Landscape retained water, consequently, in the dry season, mitigates the negative impacts of drought by gradual replenishment of local streams. Such measures support water supply to the population, industry and agriculture and contribute to ensuring the ecological needs of watercourse and ecosystems.

#### **The need to consider flood risks in spatial planning and in construction**

For the purpose of considering geographical areas with flood risks in spatial planning, as a precondition for adequate use of the territory and prevention of damage creation, the Act on Flood Protection established the obligation to draw up and regularly update the flood risk management plans, including preliminary flood risk assessment, preparation of flood hazard maps and flood risk maps. Those provisions transposed into the Slovak law the basic tasks laid down in the Directive 2007/60/EC on flood risks assessment and management. The SR flood hazard maps and the flood risk maps were drawn up to 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2013 and will need to be periodically reviewed and updated if needed.

#### **The need for management of emergencies affected by climate change**

In relation to risk management and emergency management SR obligations are defined in strategic documents such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change<sup>26</sup>, the Lisbon Treaty's Solidarity Clause<sup>27</sup>, EU strategies in the area of health protection<sup>28</sup> and the recommendations stemming from the White Paper on "Adapting to climate change: Towards a European framework for action"<sup>29</sup>, EU Internal Security Strategy to build resistance against natural and other catastrophes<sup>30</sup> as well as in the EC risk assessment and mapping guidelines for disaster management<sup>31</sup>.

Any emergency causes slowdown of economic growth, particularly of small economies, such as that of the SR. The need to reduce the level of risk and to limit the effects of emergencies in the SR is solved by the identification of the main risks and the strengthening of emergency management capacities to manage emerged emergencies. Emergency risk reduction covers preparedness, effects mitigation and prevention. The aim is to increase the resilience to emergencies, which relies on risk management knowledge, capacity building for disaster risk management and emergency management and on the use of the IT technologies.<sup>32</sup>

In recent years the emphasis shifted from resolving post-emergency situation to applying a comprehensive approach minimizing the emergency risk. In 2005, 168 governments adopted an Action Plan from Hyogo 2005 - 2015: Building the resilience of nations and communities to emergencies, whose implementation is fully supported by the SR.

The need to ensure the protection of territory by the civil protection mechanisms is also highlighted by the "EU mechanism for civil protection", that should be primarily focused on the protection of individuals, but also on the environment and property, including cultural heritage. The purpose of the EP and the Council "EU mechanism for civil protection"<sup>33</sup>

includes protection against all kinds of natural and man-made disasters and emergencies, including emergencies causing threat and environmental damage or threat to life and human health.

Climate change has a negative impacts on the environment, population and also on all sectors of the Slovak economy, its production, employment in these sectors and it decreases the economy performance as a whole, and represents a threat for the environmental, social and economic area<sup>34</sup>. Verified flood-related damages in the SR in 2010 amounted to 480.9 million EUR. Economic damages caused by fires reached 0.6 % of GDP in 2012, whereas the direct damage amounted to 410.0 million EUR. In the last decade the SR registers damages in the amount over 1.4 billion EUR.

The impacts of climate change on the economy performance will be significant and from a long term perspective can significantly influence the country development potential and sustainability. According to long term future development projectionsthe non-implementation of the adaptation measures could lead to a slowdown of the economy (2050) at the level of annual GDP from 0.4 to 0.7 %. On the other hand, the implementation of the appropriate adaptation measures can reduce the impacts to 0.10 - 0.15 % of the GDP.

**The need of management of risks affected by climate change**

In case action is not taken to avoid global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, total costs and negative impacts of climate change will be equivalent to at least 5 % and may reach up to 20 or more percent of global GDP per annum.<sup>35</sup> On the contrary, reduction of the most devastating climate change impacts would require only 1 % of global GDP per annum. Climate change has a significant impact on the economic situation of all subjects in the SR.

Based on the national risk analysis, the statistics of emergencies and crises situations <sup>36</sup>, Integrated Rescue System(hereinafter referred to as “IRS”) rescue units realised deployment and partners involved in risk resulting from climate change management, as well as on other statistical data it is clear that the likelihood of potential emergencies affected by climate change is rising. These are indentified as risks within the Adaptation strategy of the SR to the adverse effects of climate change and will be a part of National risk assessment plan.

The number of emergencies resulting from sectoral analyses and available statistics point out to two climate change affected risk categories<sup>37</sup>:

- a) **caused by geophysical and hydrological risks (slope deformations and floods)**
- b) **caused by meteorological and climate risks (torrential rains, storms, extreme temperatures, snowstorms, droughts, fires)**

According to new legislative requirement<sup>38</sup> a regional risk assessments will be developed, aligned to the above-mentioned two categories. The risk management of each of the mentioned category will guarantee the existence and regular update of the National Risk Management Strategy and the Regional Risk Management strategies.

Emergencies resulting from unforeseen events have a particular effect on citizens, disruption or destruction of buildings and critical infrastructure, as well as significant impacts on the Slovak economy.

Table 2

Climate change impacts	Estimated costs	Estimated benefits	Priority
------------------------	-----------------	--------------------	----------

on human protection	+++	+++++	1.
on ecosystem protection	++++	++++	2.
on infrastructure protection	+++++	+++	3.
on entrepreneurs protection	++	++	4.
on buildings protection	++++	+	5.

Source: MoI of SR

Systematic risk management will ensure the protection of health and life of a population, protection of ecosystems, transport safety, internal safety and cross-border and international risk management cooperation, as well as the removal of the aftermath of emergencies according to the above-mentioned prioritization.

### **Risks related to landslides and the need for their remediation**

In relation to floods, an important fact is that there are 21,790 slope deformations in Slovakia, 21,600 of which are landslides accounting for more than 5.25 % of the SR territory. Common causes of slope deformations are climate factors in combination with erosion caused by watercourses, seepages and buoyancy effects of groundwaters. The ongoing climate change has significantly negative impact on landslides occurrence, especially in areas not affected by landslides in the past. Strong local rainfalls contribute towards more frequent occurrence of more extreme manifestations of landslides causing economic damage and threat to health and lives of the local population. Due to extraordinary heavy precipitation in the first half of 2010, and extreme precipitation and floods in 2011 - 2013, more than 600 new slope deformations arose, resp. became active again in Slovakia.

### **Risks related to drought and associated deficit of water sources**

Longer dry periods cause in several areas problems with the availability of drinking water from local sources. Therefore, in such deficient areas, it is important to locate, attest and safeguard reliable sources of drinking and service water. Quality geological and hydrogeological surveys are needed to plan foundation of new water sources. Surveys are equally essential in defining deficit areas. Only 19 % of the SR territory has been examined by a comprehensive hydrogeological survey, 54 % of the territory has been partially examined, and 27 % of the territory has not been examined at all by the end of 2013. Since the earlier hydrogeological survey has been conducted unevenly across the SR territory and planned survey should reflect effects of the advancing climate change, the new survey must therefore cover territories already examined by hydrogeological survey.

### **The need for increased IRS units effectiveness**

The level of social security of the EU/SK citizens is rated with rapidity, quality and availability of services provided to the population in situations when it is directly endangered life, health, property or environment or another condition as a result of which the affected entity would have to provide urgent assistance. Services for the population in rescue operations in the SR provide the IRS, as the coordinated action of its units in ensuring their preparedness and in implementing of actions and measures related to the provision of assistance in case of distress.

The basic IRS rescue units include Fire and Rescue Service, Medical Rescue Service providers, control chemical civil protection laboratories, Mountain Rescue and Mining Rescue Services. Slovak Police units, participating on providing urgent emergency assistance in distress within the scope of the Police tasks, have a specific position. Within the IRS also

act the legal entities, civil society organizations and organizations dealing with the provision of assistance, rescue and humanitarian activities, as well as other rescue units and they represent significant added value necessary to ensure availability of a wide range of forms of support and service in the context of risk management.

Annually the IRS units provide assistance to more than 59,400 people in average, affected by natural disaster in the SR. Year on year the increasing total number of IRS rescue units interventions by more than 2.26 % (in 2012 compared to 2011) is indirectly caused by the increasing number of emergencies affected by climate change.

Based on the data registered by the Central monitoring and control centre 362 incidents were recorded in 2013. Of the total number the highest representation have the emergencies caused by floods and heavy snow (49 %, respectively 20 % of all emergencies). An increasing trend is also confirmed by the corresponding declaration of emergencies (146 in 2013) within the whole Slovak Republic territory.

However it is possible to inform about an emergency only 36.66 % of inhabited territory covered by audible alarm electronic sirens and other early warning system is not established in the SR. This fact has a negative effect on registered average IRS rescue units interventions duration related to climate change (except floods) of which in 2013 amounted to 108 min/intervention in average

Strengthening of particular emergency management tools, prevention of their origination and early reaction provision will complete the current activities of the SR in provision of population and environment protection public services following the Adaptation strategy of the SR to the adverse effects of climate change and National risk assessment plan. It is also required to strengthen the SR possibilities in the context of assistance and solidarity at cross-border and international level in mutual assistance of countries during natural disasters and emergencies according to Decision (EU) No 1313/2013 on a Union Civil Protection Mechanism. The support for climate change impacts active adaptation and risk and emergency management will be implemented under the OP QE strategy through the following IP:

*Thematic objective 5 – Promoting climate change adaption, risk prevention and management:*

- a) Supporting adaptation to climate change investments, including ecosystem-based approaches,
- b) Promoting specific risks management investments, ensuring disaster prevention and developing disaster management systems.

### **Supporting the shift towards energy efficient low-carbon economy in all sectors**

Until 2020 the SR has to provide for fulfilling its obligations and implementation of measures in the area of RES, energy efficiency and greenhouse gas emissions arising from legal regulations of the EU in the area of environment and energy.

Support for sustainable and efficient use of energy sources will be provided within the framework of the OP QE implemented by the means of investment priorities falling under TO4, which will complement measures implemented within the framework of other thematic objectives of the OP. In the area of energy first of all air quality requirements are to be taken into account<sup>39</sup>.

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

According to Directive 2009/28/EC the mandatory renewable energy target for the SR is to achieve 14 % share of energy from RES in gross final energy consumption by 2020. The intermediate goal of 8.2 % for years 2011 – 2012 was fulfilled. In the year 2012 this goal

represented 10.4 %. Despite the progress of this goal the share of RES in the whole energetic mix has stayed low and the SR exhibits high level of dependence on import of fossil fuels, which are especially used for heat generation. There is a lack of targeted financial support for prospective technologies for heat generation from RES<sup>40</sup>; heat generation will therefore be the main goal.

The existing DH system provides appropriate conditions for increasing the amount of heat from RES, especially from biomass and geothermal energy. Among biomass alternatives biomass in the form of woody biomass prevails - 33 PJ, while its energy potential including fast growing wood is 50 PJ. The promotion will prioritize waste biomass and biodegradable part of waste the use of which is insufficient. Agricultural biomass represents the highest potential in waste biomass (with 46.5 PJ), in particular cereal straw.<sup>41</sup>

Sustainability of biomass use will be provided by support for plants with improved efficiency and by giving priority to plants with lower installed capacity. The support will be provided in line with the Strategy for reduction of PM<sub>10</sub> as well as with the relevant EU and national biomass sustainability related documents<sup>42</sup> and legislation<sup>43</sup>. As for electricity and heat generation, low-emission facilities to use biomass will be supported. At the same time, efficiency of the heat supply system will be increasing. Use of geothermal energy in DHS is rather low in view of its long-term return. Heat pumps for local heating are not a very widespread technology in SR, because they also require a higher initial investment than e.g. a gas furnace.

According to *The National Renewable Energy Action Plan* (NREAP) by 2020 heat generation from RES is to raise to 34 PJ, while about 15 PJ of heat is to be supplied from DH systems. This will help to increase the share of heat from RES from 8.7 % in 2012 to 14.6 % in 2020. The support will provide for the competitiveness of heat generation from RES compared to the use of fossil fuels.

Achieving the goal of 14% is also based on the increase of share of electricity from RES. The share of electricity from RES has gradually increased also due to fixed purchase prices and has reached 20.1% in 2012. In the year 2020 the share of 24% is planned. Purchase prices increase the electricity prices for industry and other end consumers; we may therefore expect further restrictions in promotion of electricity generation from RES which will depend on meeting the objectives for individual technologies and it will be based on decreasing the advantages for these technologies so that the electricity generation from them becomes market-oriented. However, maintenance of the financial support is necessary for meeting the binding target in 2020. Since 2014, with regard to the current legislation<sup>44</sup>, the principle will apply saying that who will obtain investment support for construction or reconstruction of a facility, cannot use operational advantages through the purchase prices mechanism.

An emphasis will also be laid on promotion of introduction of innovative technical solutions which include an increase in flexible production<sup>45</sup> and accumulation of energy in harmony with RIS3. Promotion of these solutions is in line with the Strategic Energy Technology Plan (SET plan)<sup>46</sup> the key challenges of which have become preparation of highly competitive renewable energy technologies.

Sustainable and innovative approach lies in support for construction of small-scale renewable energy installations for electricity generation for households. Innovative approach is based on the principle that the proposed conditions for the construction of small-scale plants and the criteria of financial support will motivate households to use as much electricity produced from such sources as possible. The electricity which households will not be able to consume in real time, or accumulate it for their own use in any suitable form, will be provided free of charge to a regional distribution system<sup>47</sup>. This approach increases their energy self-

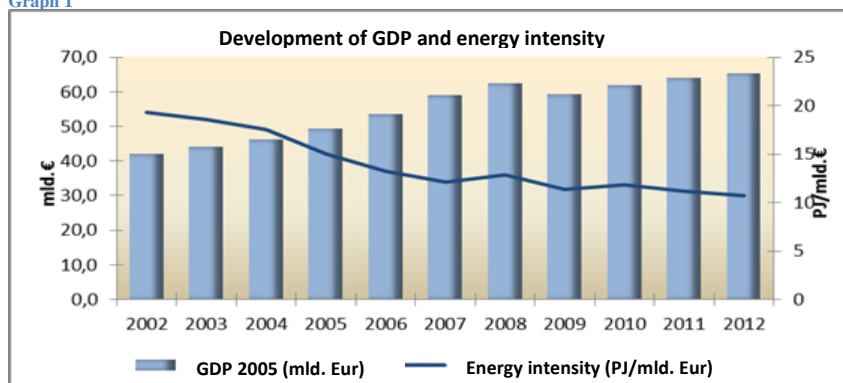
sufficiency and reduces the influence of variable RES on the electricity supply system. In the framework of support for small-scale renewable energy systems installation of plants for heat generation will also be supported. Measures aimed at small-scale renewable energy installations will not only help to increase the share of RES but also indirectly help to create new jobs; therefore, they must be implemented throughout the SR.

Projects for using biomass including production of biogas and biomethane, geothermal energy and support for small-scale RES installations bring substantial regional benefits in the form of indirect job creation.

### Improving energy efficiency

Energy intensity, the ratio of the gross domestic energy consumption and the gross domestic product, is an important economic indicator. Development in the years 2001 – 2005, when the SR reduced energy intensity by about 26 %, proved substantial progress in reducing energy intensity. This trend also continued in the years 2005 – 2010 when energy intensity dropped by more than 20%, which represents the highest decrease within the EU. Although the SR has achieved the average energy intensity of V4 countries, in the year 2011 the energy intensity of the SR was 2.4 times higher than the average in EU-27<sup>48</sup> and even 2.7 times higher than the energy intensity of developed economies in the region<sup>49</sup>.

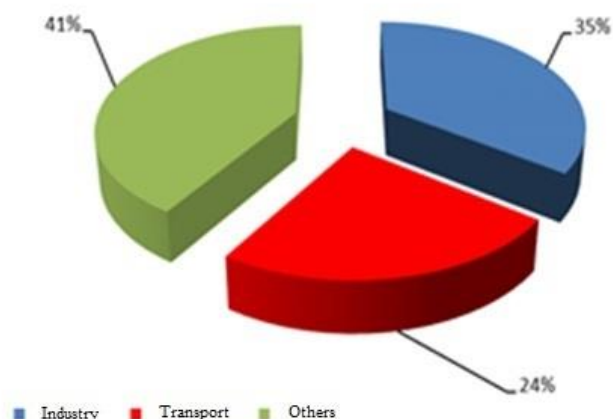
Graph 1



Source: The Statistical Office of the SR, MoEcon SR

The trend of decreasing the energy consumption continued also in 2012 in which the final energy consumption amounted to 105 307 GWh. The Y-o-Y decrease in energy consumption amounted to 3 261 GWh. As for the structure of energy consumption, industry and transport sectors (graph 2).

Graph 2



Source: The Statistical Office of the SR

In line with requirements of the Directive 2012/27/EU, the potential of energy savings for individual sectors has been determined in order to meet the objectives as a part of preparation of the Energy Efficiency Action Plan for the years 2014-2016 with a perspective to 2020<sup>50</sup>:

Table 3

Potential of energy savings with an expectations to the 2020	Reduction of primary energy consumption
	GWh
Buildings <sup>51</sup>	2 653
Industry	2 728
Public sector <sup>52</sup>	1 555
Transport	1 020
Appliances	767
Horizontal measures	31
Transformation, transmission and distribution of energy	1 584
Total	10 338

Source: MoEcon SR

The measures proposed in the OP QE are based on this NEEAP and they will contribute towards fulfillment of the Slovak energy savings targets set up to 2020

### Industry

One of the most important sectors of the national economy the SR, in which energy intensity has been reduced is **industry**. This reduction has especially been achieved by introducing innovative technologies and by increasing the share of industrial sectors with higher added value. Mandatory use of a system of energy audits and application of low-cost measures identified by these audits has also had substantial impact on the reduction of energy consumption in industry. Despite the abovementioned activities the share of industry on the final energy consumption in the SR is relatively high (about 40 %) compared to the average value in EU-27 (about 26 %).

Among the activities implemented in the area of energy efficiency, either based on introducing energy audits or by the means of support mechanisms<sup>53</sup>, the most frequently used measures included renovation and modernization of industrial premises, existing heating/power plants; systems for production and distribution of compressed air, and heating/power distributions systems.

Based on an extensive discussion with professional and general public by the means of various seminars, congresses and professional workshops a conclusion has been drawn that these measures should also be addressed in future policies for energy efficiency in industry.

Although based on the common EU indicators of energy savings according to the national action plans the SR achieved planned energy savings in years 2008 - 2010, the evaluation of the Energy Efficiency Action Plan of the SR for the years 2008 - 2010 identified from two various financial mechanisms concrete projects for improving energy efficiency in industry with energy savings about 180.5 GWh with total investment intensity of about 26.4 mil. EUR, which represents about 55 % of the planned savings in industry. The Energy Efficiency Action Plan of the SR for the years 2011 - 2013 achieved energy savings amounting to 297 GWh to which funding of measures from OP CaEG contributed significantly.

#### *Public buildings*

Based on the monitoring of energy certification of buildings one can tell that in the 2008–2010 period improvements of thermal-technical properties of buildings saved about 10 GWh<sup>54</sup>. Hydraulic regulation of heating systems including temperature control valves on heating units also substantially contribute to reducing heat consumption.

There are around 15 thousand **public buildings** in Slovakia, i.e. buildings owned by the government, self-governing regions, or municipalities. Due to them being rather obsolete, their operation technical equipment being obsolete and beyond its service life, and the indebtedness of the public sector as well, the current state of these buildings is often unsatisfactory. Due to the lack of financial funds for maintenance repairs some buildings and their equipment are in disrepair<sup>55</sup> which represents substantial energy losses. Some public institutions have already carried out renovation of their buildings<sup>56</sup>. Within the framework of the pilot project “Energy Efficiency in Public Buildings” the average savings have been over 40 % of energy consumption before the renovation. However, the current support mechanisms and allocated financial funds are insufficient to cover all potential energy savings in the public sector<sup>57</sup>.

In accordance with Directive 2010/31/EU all new public buildings completed in 2019 or later and all buildings completed in 2021 or later should meet the requirements for nearly zero energy consumption, while substantially renovated buildings should also meet these requirements, if it is technically, functionally, and economically feasible. The requirements in question have also been taken into account in the National plan for increasing the number of nearly zero-energy buildings.<sup>58</sup>

According to Article 5 of Directive 2012/27/EU starting with year 2014 it will be necessary to provide for renovation of the buildings of the central bodies of public administration. This renovation will concern buildings that do not meet minimum requirements for energy performance of buildings according to Directive 2010/31/EU. From the point of energy efficiency each year it will be necessary to renovate such number of buildings that will result in energy savings corresponding to savings in the case of renovation of 3% of the total floor area of the buildings above 500 m<sup>2</sup>, later above 250 m<sup>2</sup>. The strategy for the purposes of the Article 5 of the Directive is contained in the Notification Report to the alternative approach pursuant to the Article 5 of the Directive 2012/27/EU on energy efficiency.

Activities planned within the OP QE are fully in line with the long-term building renovation strategy<sup>59</sup> and they will contribute towards fulfillment of the targets of this strategy.

The basis for the implementation of measures in the area of energy efficiency in the sector of buildings will be the results of the national project “Support for instruments for the introduction and optimization of measures in the area of energy efficiency and the preparation of an analysis of potential energy savings in public buildings”. The output of this project will be 250 energy audits of public buildings<sup>60</sup> which will provide important data about the current situation, potential energy savings and possible solutions in the sector of public buildings.

#### *Consultancy, information spreading and awareness-raising*

An important prerequisite of achieving the goals of Europe 2020 strategy in the area of energy efficiency is the educational level of professionals in the area of energy and related areas, as well as appropriate awareness of the general public. It is necessary to raise the general public's **awareness of energy efficiency** beginning with children and ending with professionals by the means of organizing information campaigns on energy efficiency, implementation of projects for consulting, and raising awareness by employees in the public administration and local self-administration of energy efficiency with the aim to monitor and evaluate energy savings, as well as to propose measures for efficient spending of public funds in the area of energy efficiency. Raising awareness of basic financing and available financial instruments will help to improve energy efficiency and develop RES. Within the framework of a national project financed from the OP CEG informing and consulting on efficient use of energy and use of RES including promoting awareness by the general public are supported. The project includes several partial activities, whose outputs are described in more detail in Appendix 1.

#### *Low-carbon strategies*

An important feature of the situation in the SR is the absence of **local and regional sustainable energy action plans focused on sustainable energy** which should form inseparable parts of low-carbon strategies for all types of territories, in particular for urban areas, and they should be connected to the low-carbon strategy of SR which is being prepared. At the present time most municipalities have only prepared policies for development of thermal energy sector according to the Act on thermal energy sector. In respect to changes in demand for usable heat municipalities should play a decisive and indispensable role in the stabilization of the heat market by more efficient use of land management and building permits in providing for economically acceptable and environmentally acceptable means of heat supply heat based on prepared or updated policies for development of thermal energy sector, which will be a part of wider plans for sustainable energy<sup>61</sup>. In this respect it is necessary to pursue activities on the regional and local levels that will not only support policies for development of thermal energy sector, but also comprehensive strategic documents aimed at energy savings – Plans for energy efficiency, which will achieve compliance with requirements stipulated in Directive 2012/27/EU.

#### *District heating systems based on the demand for usable heat*

In the SR about 20% of electricity is produced by **high efficiency cogeneration of heat and power (CHP)** based on the demand for usable heat, i.e. environmentally friendly technologies with positive impact on primary energy sources consumption. As high efficiency CHP is related to usable heat, in 2007 the share of electricity generated by high efficiency CHP in the SR decreased mainly for the following reasons:

- Implementation of policy for energy efficiency reduces demand for usable heat, especially in the residential and communal sectors, as well as in industry. Demand for air conditioning has risen in minimum extent.
- Heat distribution networks of DHSs are oversized and technically worn out.
- Increase in use of RES in heating and hot water preparation<sup>62</sup> and the large scale nationwide penetration of natural gas in the SR, reasonable prices of natural gas, and available highly efficient furnaces started the trend of getting disconnected from DHSs, which reduces potential usable heat from high efficiency CHP.
- Due to the increase in use of RES in electricity generation the demand for the so called regulation electricity has started to grow, which is especially provided by CHP plants, which reduces the overall efficiency, i.e. the proportion of electricity produced by high efficiency CHP.
- The economic crisis followed by the gas crisis have also had a negative impact on the proportion of electricity produced by high efficiency CHP<sup>63</sup>.

Primary energy sources savings by combined generation of electricity and heat have gradually risen, but the reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions has not followed these primary energy sources savings. This is especially caused by the proportion of natural gas, nuclear fuel, and biomass on the total primary energy sources savings. Based on the results of an analysis of the new draft Energy Policy of the SR one can tell that the production of usable heat according to types of sources is about 130–140 PJ. The highest proportion of heat generation belongs to individual heat sources, where the highest proportion belongs to natural gas, which reflects the high penetration of natural gas in Slovakia. The share of other primary energy sources<sup>64</sup> participate in heat generation in individual heat sources represent less than one percent.

In the following years an increased volume of investments into **district heating systems** is expected, mainly into thermal plants combusting solid fuels arising from the need for renovation of equipment for heat generation in relation to meeting stricter emission limits that will be in force from 2016. Changes of rules for greenhouse gas emissions trading will also have an impact on the economy of heat generation.

Necessary renovation of technically and economically obsolete DHSs as well as a transition of heat distribution systems<sup>65</sup>. Using financing of renovation and modernization of DHSs from the structural funds will make possible to adapt heat distribution and sources to the demand for usable heat which is mainly decreased as a result of implementation of measures focused on energy consumption of buildings, e.g. by thermal insulation. Measures for development of DHSs will also provide for compliance with the European strategy in the area of energy savings, which is presented in the new Directive 2012/27/EU.

Policy in the area of efficient heat supply will be especially aimed at:

- sustainable centralized heat supply, i.e. safe, dependable, efficient, and environmentally sustainable heat supply;
- increase in the proportion of heat from high efficiency cogeneration of electricity and heat;
- increase in the energy efficiency of heat generation, distribution and supply.

Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy will be provided within the framework of the OP QE implemented by the means of the following investment priorities:

*Thematic objective 4 – Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors*

- a) Promoting the production and distribution of energy derived from renewable sources;
- b) Promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy use in enterprises;

- c) Supporting energy efficiency, smart energy management and renewable energy use in public infra-structure, including in public buildings, and in the housing sector;
- e) Promoting low-carbon strategies for all types of territories, in particular for urban areas, including the promotion of sustainable multimodal urban mobility and mitigation-relevant adaptation measures;
- g) Promoting the use of high-efficiency co-generation of heat and power based on useful heat demand.

Selection of thematic objectives and respective investment priorities has also been assessed in the framework of the OP QE ex ante evaluation, carried out in application of the Article 55 of the General Regulation. In the final report from the OP QE ex ante evaluation the evaluator stated that the proposed TO and IP selection is justified, it takes into account the priorities set out in the relevant strategic documents at national and EU level.

In the process of the OP QE preparation, the following key recommendations of ex ante evaluation have been considered:

- Clearly state the overall objective of the OP;
- Consider revision of specific objectives that lack necessary details or where relevant revise/ change activities in order to contribute to the achievement of the relevant objectives;
- Finalize the draft of the OP regarding the Priority axis 3 - add analysis of the current situation, specific activities, relevant and measurable indicators;
- Consider conditions for the support of small hydropower plants to avoid damage to the river ecosystems, and support the construction of electricity generating facilities from small renewable energy sources only under the condition that it will not be implemented in places where CHS are available;
- Update the mutual interactions and agree the demarcation lines between operational programmes.

The final report from the OP QE ex ante evaluation, including the executive summary, is given in Annex No 5.

OP QE draft, as a strategic document with a nationwide scope, was assessed in terms of its anticipated impacts on the environment under the Act on environmental impact assessment (SEA). SEA process has been conducted from August 2013 - March 2014. The SEA final opinion on the OP QE draft, as well as documentation of each step of the process, is available to the public within the EIA / SEA information system at [www.enviroportal.sk](http://www.enviroportal.sk).

### 1.1.2 Justification for the selection of thematic objectives and investment priorities

Table 4 Justification for the selection of thematic objectives and investment priorities

Selected thematic objective	Selected investment priority	Justification for selection
<b>6 Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency</b>	6a) Investing in the waste sector to meet the requirements of the Union's environmental acquis and to address needs, identified by the Member States, for investment that goes beyond those requirements	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) <i>Waste Management Programme of the SR for 2011-2015 (adopted in 2012)</i></li> <li>2) <i>Waste Prevention Programme of the SR for 2014-2018 (adopted in 2013)</i></li> <li>3) <i>Waste Act, transposing Waste Framework Directive, Directive 1999/31/EC, Directive 2006/66/EC, Directive 2000/53/EC</i></li> <li>4) <i>Act on packaging, transposing Directive 94/62/EC</i></li> <li>5) <i>Directive 2012/19/EU</i></li> <li>6) <i>National Reform Programme of the SR 2014</i></li> <li>7) <i>Low efficiency of municipal waste sorting</i></li> <li>8) <i>High share of BDW disposed of by landfilling</i></li> <li>9) <i>Need to increase the level of environmental awareness in the field of waste prevention, separate collection and recycling</i></li> <li>10) <i>Poor quality data on waste handling, dysfunctional information system on the production and waste handling</i></li> </ol>
	6b) Investing in the water sector to meet the requirements of the Union's environmental acquis and to address needs, identified by the Member States, for investment that goes beyond those requirements	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) <i>Water Framework Directive</i></li> <li>2) <i>Water Act</i></li> <li>3) <i>Act on Protected areas of Natural water Accumulation</i></li> <li>4) <i>Act on drinking public water supplies and public sewage systems transposing directives 91/271/EEC and 98/83/EC</i></li> <li>5) <i>National Programme of the SR for implementation of Directive 91/271/EEC concerning urban waste-water treatment as amended by Commission Directive 98/15/EC and Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council (EC) No 1882/2003</i></li> <li>6) <i>Water Plan of the SR (adopted in 2010), which includes Danube and Vistula river basin management plans</i></li> <li>7) <i>Development plan for drinking public water supplies and public sewage systems for the territory of SR (adopted in 2006)</i></li> <li>8) <i>Danube Strategy</i></li> <li>9) <i>Need to address unsatisfactory chemical and ecological status of surface and groundwaters</i></li> <li>10) <i>Need to address unsatisfactory quality of drinking water</i></li> </ol>

		<p>11) <i>Need to address insufficient monitoring of waters</i></p> <p>12) <i>Concept for protection of Europe's water resources</i></p>
6d) Protecting and restoring biodiversity and soil and promoting ecosystem services, including through Natura 2000, and green infrastructure		<p>1) <i>Act on nature and landscape protection transposing the Habitats Directive and Birds Directive</i></p> <p>2) <i>EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020</i></p> <p>3) <i>Updated National Biodiversity Strategy to 2020</i></p> <p>4) <i>Updated Programme on Wetland Management in Slovakia for 2008-2014 and the Action Plan</i></p> <p>5) <i>Prioritised Action Framework for Natura 2000 financing in the Slovak Republic in the 2014-2020 programming period</i></p> <p>6) <i>Communication for green infrastructure<sup>66</sup>;</i></p> <p>7) <i>Danube strategy<sup>67</sup></i></p> <p>8) <i>Commitment to complete the Natura 2000 and ensure adequate care of these territories</i></p> <p>9) <i>Inadequate state of knowledge of species, habitats, ecosystems and their services</i></p> <p>10) <i>The need for functioning monitoring system and reporting in the area of nature and landscape protection</i></p> <p>11) <i>Requests for increase of interdepartmental communication on addressing issues concerning nature conservation (transport, agriculture, etc.) and for public involvement</i></p> <p>12) <i>Meeting further commitments resulting from environmental acquis, international agreements and ensuring priorities at the national level</i></p>
6e) Taking action to improve the urban environment, to revitalise cities, regenerate and decontaminate brownfield sites (including conversion areas), reduce air pollution and promote noise-reduction measures		<p>1) <i>National Reform Programme of the SR 2014</i></p> <p>2) <i>Supporting the implementation of EU directives and SR legislation on emission reduction and air quality, particularly the Act on air and related legislation</i></p> <p>3) <i>Clean Air Programme for Europe<sup>68</sup></i></p> <p>4) <i>Strategy for the reduction of PM<sub>10</sub> (adopted in 2013) and programmes for air quality improvement</i></p> <p>5) <i>Adverse situation in air quality despite the overall trend of reducing emissions</i></p> <p>6) <i>Long-term exceeding of limit values for PM dust particles in multiple zones and agglomerations</i></p> <p>7) <i>Significant share of stationary sources on air pollution</i></p> <p>8) <i>Insufficient awareness on air quality (e.g. correct practice in use of local heating</i></p>

		<p>units)</p> <p>9) <i>Act on environmental burdens</i></p> <p>10) <i>Geological Act</i></p> <p>11) <i>Remediation of environmental burdens as an indispensable prerequisite for re-use of the sites for economic development</i></p> <p>12) <i>Danube strategy</i></p> <p>13) <i>Requirements for achievement of favourable water status resulting from the WFD</i></p>
<b>5 Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and management</b>	5a) Supporting investment for adaptation to climate change, including ecosystem- based approaches	<p>1) <i>Strategy of SR for adaptation to adverse effects of climate change (adopted in 2014)</i></p> <p>2) <i>Danube strategy</i></p> <p>3) <i>Act on Flood Protection, transposing Directive 2007/60/EC</i></p> <p>4) <i>Concept of Water Management Policy until 2015(adopted in 2006)</i></p> <p>5) <i>Need to slow the drainage of water from the landscape and prevent flood waves</i></p> <p>6) <i>Obligation to update flood risk management plans, including preliminary flood risk assessment and updating flood hazard maps and flood risk maps</i></p> <p>7) <i>Overheating of the landscape and increasing risk of drought</i></p>
	5b) Promoting investment to address specific risks, ensuring disaster resilience and developing disaster management systems	<p>1) <i>Implementation of EU and SR legislation in the field of risk management</i></p> <p>2) <i>Fulfillment of the goals of EU Strategy on adaptation to climate change<sup>69</sup> (measure 6 and 7)</i></p> <p>3) <i>Ensuring connectivity of services and exchange of data, knowledge/experience in the field of climate change between the SR and EU (Copernicus<sup>70</sup>, Climate-ADAPT)</i></p> <p>4) <i>Achieving the goal no. 5 of EU Internal Security Strategy</i></p> <p>5) <i>Ensuring security and minimising risks (SR Government Resolution No. 325/2013 to Security Report of SR for 2012)</i></p> <p>6) <i>Hydrogeologically surveying territory of SR and reducing adverse effects of climate change on groundwater resources after 1980</i></p> <p>7) <i>Programme of prevention and management of landslide risks (2014 - 2020)</i></p> <p>8) <i>Minimising the risk of new slope deformations (landslides)<sup>71</sup></i></p> <p>9) <i>Ensuring life, health and property protection against consequences of major incidents affected by climate change (Civil protection Act and Act on intergrated rescue system)</i></p> <p>10) <i>Elaborating adaptation strategies at regional,</i></p>

		<i>local and municipal levels (Covenant of Mayors)</i>
<b>4 Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors</b>	4a) Promoting the production and distribution of energy derived from renewable sources	<p>1) <i>National Reform Programme of the SR 2014:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Support for long term competitiveness by the means of so called green growth strategies</i></li> <li>- <i>Use of cleaner energy sources preventing degradation of the environment</i></li> <li>- <i>Transition to low-carbon economy and gradual reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution as well</i></li> <li>- <i>Stopping disproportionate increase in end prices of electricity due to strong financial promotion of RES and CHP</i></li> <li>- <i>Increase in use of RES in heat generation</i></li> <li>- <i>Target for year 2020 – Share of 14 % RES on the gross final energy consumption</i></li> </ul> <p>2) <i>Energy policy of the Slovak Republic(in preparation)</i></p> <p>3) <i>National Renewable Energy Action Plan (adopted in 2010)</i></p> <p>4) <i>Development strategy of the Slovak Republic for electricity generation from small renewable energy sources (adopted in 2013)</i></p> <p>5) <i>Strategy for reduction of PM<sub>10</sub> (adopted in 2013) and programmes for air quality improvement</i></p>
	4b) Promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy use in enterprises	<p>1) <i>Council Recommendation on the National Reform Programme 2013 of Slovakia and delivering a Council opinion on the Stability programme of Slovakia, 2012 - 2016</i></p> <p>2) <i>National Reform Programme of the SR 2014:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Increase energy efficiency and use of RES in enterprises</i></li> <li>- <i>Increase energy efficiency in industry and services</i></li> <li>- <i>Support for establishing energy management systems in industry and implementation of measures set forth in the energy audit</i></li> <li>- <i>Support for preparation of energy audits for small and medium enterprises</i></li> <li>- <i>Target for year 2020: To achieve cumulated savings of 130 PJ.</i></li> </ul> <p>3) <i>Energy policy of the Slovak Republic (in preparation)</i></p> <p>4) <i>Energy Efficiency Policy of the Slovak Republic (adopted in 2007)</i></p> <p>5) <i>Energy Efficiency Action Plan for the years 2014-2016 with a perspective to 2020 (adopted in 2014)</i></p> <p>6) <i>Directive 2012/27/EU, which requirements will</i></p>

		<i>be taken into account in the amendment of Act on energy efficiency</i>
	4c) Supporting energy efficiency, smart energy management and renewable energy use in public infrastructure, including in public buildings and in the housing sector	<p>1) <i>Council Recommendation on the National Reform Programme and delivering a Council opinion on the Stability programme of Slovakia, 2012 - 2016</i></p> <p>2) <i>National Reform Programme of the SR 2014:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Increase energy efficiency and use of RES in the public sector and in public buildings including their renovation</i></li> <li>- <i>Achieve energy savings by renovation of the buildings of the central bodies of public administration in the amount of 3% of the total floor area annually, or achieve equivalent energy savings in alternative ways</i></li> <li>- <i>Target for year 2020: Achieve cumulated savings 130 PJ</i></li> </ul> <p>3) <i>Energy Efficiency Policy of the Slovak Republic (adopted in 2007)</i></p> <p>4) <i>Energy Efficiency Action Plan for the years 2014-2016 with a perspective to 2020 (adopted in 2014)</i></p> <p>5) <i>National plan for increasing the number of nearly zero-energy buildings (adopted in 2012)</i></p> <p>6) <i>Directive 2010/31/EÚ</i></p> <p>7) <i>Directive 2012/27/EÚ</i></p> <p>8) <i>Strategy for renovation of residential and nonresidential building stock in SR (adopted in 2014)</i></p>
	4e) Promoting low-carbon strategies for all types of territories, in particular for urban areas, including the promotion of sustainable multimodal urban mobility and mitigation-relevant adaptation measures	<p>1) <i>National Reform Programme of the SR 2014:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Support for so called green growth strategies that have become one of the priorities of Europe 2020 strategy as well as of OECD</i></li> <li>- <i>Use of cleaner energy sources that will prevent degradation of the environment will mean transition to a low-carbon economy</i></li> <li>- <i>Gradual reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and air pollutants as well</i></li> </ul> <p>2) <i>Energy Efficiency Policy of the Slovak Republic (adopted in 2007)</i></p> <p>3) <i>Energy Efficiency Action Plan for the years 2014-2016 with a perspective to 2020 (adopted in 2014)</i></p> <p>4) <i>Directive 2012/27/EU</i></p> <p>5) <i>Covenant of Mayors</i></p> <p>6) <i>Low-carbon strategy of the SR (in preparation)</i></p>
	4g) Promoting the use of high-efficiency co-generation of heat and power based on	<p>1) <i>Europe 2020 strategy: Resource Efficient Europe</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Support for instruments aimed at energy savings,</i></li> </ul>

	useful heat demand	<p>2) <i>National Reform Programme of the SR 2014:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Support for so called green growth strategies that have become one of the priorities of Europe 2020 strategy as well as of OECD</i></li> <li>- <i>Transition to a low-carbon economy and gradual reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and air pollutants as well</i></li> <li>- <i>Target for year 2020: Share of 14% RES on gross final energy consumption</i></li> <li>- <i>Target for year 2020: Achieve cumulated energy savings of 130 PJ</i></li> </ul> <p>3) <i>Energy Policy of the Slovak Republic (in preparation)</i></p> <p>4) <i>Energy Efficiency Policy of the Slovak Republic (adopted in 2007)</i></p> <p>5) <i>Energy Efficiency Action Plan for the years 2014-2016 with a perspective to 2020 (adopted in 2014)</i></p> <p>6) <i>Directive 2012/27/EU</i></p>
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## 1.2 Justification for the financial allocation

The disposable allocation earmarked for the OP QE consists of financial resources from the CF and the ERDF. The total amount of this allocation was divided among relevant thematic objectives defined in the EC Position Paper, on the basis of the required amounts needed for successful implementation of activities proposed under respective investment priorities of the OP. The allocation distribution takes into account the support for the implementation of smart, sustainable and inclusive growth priorities of the Europe 2020 strategy and also of the NRP SR.

On the basis of the widest scope of the OP investment priorities, the largest share – ~~48,0249,9451,24~~ –% of the OP QE financial allocation, was earmarked for the *Thematic Objective 6 - Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency*, and therefore on the *Priority axis 1 - Sustainable use of natural resources through environmental infrastructure development*. Within the PA 1 priority is given at meeting the requirements of the environmental acquis for waste and water management, meeting SR's existing environmental commitments towards the Community (primarily in the urban waste water treatment area), as well as fulfilment of the EC Directives concerning areas such as air protection or habitats and species of Community importance conservation. The successful implementation of these requirements, commitments and Directives, together with other supported investment priorities with scheduled, financially-intensive activities, such as remediation of environmental burdens or completion of the Natura 2000 network, requires implementation of costly investments for which a major portion of the total OP allocation had to be earmarked.

~~49,6+18,85~~ –% of the OP financial allocation was earmarked for the *Thematic Objective 5 - Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and management*. This shall enable implementation of several financially-intensive investments related to climate change adaptation and ensuring resistance against risks and extraordinary events affected by climate change with the aim of minimizing the future economic losses and to maintain long-term quality of life of the population. The allocation for the Thematic objective 5, on the national level, is also based on the SR Adaptation Strategy to the adverse effects of climate change and

the National risk assessment plan. 11,310,889.58 -% of the OP financial allocation was earmarked for the *Priority axis 2 - Adaptation to the adverse effects of climate change with the focus on flood protection*. Implementation of preventive measures for flood protection is one of the most important means of proactive adaptation to climate change. Through their implementation, the requirements in the area of flood risk management, resulting from the Directive 2007/60/EC, transposed by the Act on Flood Protection, are to be fulfilled.

Within the TO 5, requirements are to be fulfilled also in terms of the Decision No 1313/2013/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on a Union Civil Protection Mechanism, the Internal Security Strategy<sup>72</sup> towards building resilience to natural and other disasters and EC Guidelines on risk assessment and mapping in the context of disaster management<sup>73</sup>. 8,317,97 -% of the OP financial allocation was earmarked for the *Priority axis 3 - Promoting risk and extraordinary events management and resilience to extraordinary events affected by climate change*. Within the PA 3, the support of activities, which have a nationwide territorial scope is planned. In the case of their implementation, eligibility of expenditure of these activities proportionately (pro rata) decreases, whereas the territory of the Bratislava region is not eligible for support from the ERDF for less developed regions<sup>74</sup>.

29,9228,69 % of the overall OP allocation was earmarked for the *Thematic Objective 4 - Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors*, supported in the framework of the *Priority axis 4 - Energy efficient, low-carbon economy in all sectors*. This allocation amount was sub-distributed among respective investment priorities on the basis of an analysis of the quantitative and qualitative characteristics of respective thematic areas concerning the implementation of the Directives 2012/27/EU, 2010/31/EU and 2009/28/EC, as well as of the analysis of needs and priorities of the SR set out in the defined OP QE strategy. Considering the large share of the public administration buildings with non-compliant thermo-technical features (especially the concrete block and prefabricated skeleton buildings), the most significant portion of the earmarked allocation, within the TO 4, will be used in line with the Council's recommendations<sup>75</sup> on the activities focused on support for energy efficiency improvement of the public buildings. A substantial part of the allocation on the TO 4 is, in line with the identified needs, assigned to support activities focused on reduction of energy intensity of enterprises<sup>76</sup>, installation of small facilities for the use of RES (up to 10 kW) and modernization and reconstruction of heat distribution networks. In the case of the implementation of activities D, E, F of the specific objective 4.4.1, that interfere with their effect the whole country, eligibility of expenditure of these activities proportionately (pro rata) decreases, whereas the territory of the Bratislava region is not eligible for support from the ERDF for less developed regions<sup>77</sup>.

2,452,52 -% of the OP QE allocation was earmarked for the Technical assistance which shall provide comprehensive support needed for successful implementation of the Programme. This part of the allocation will cover primarily direct (e.g. wages, education) and indirect (e.g. technical support, IT system) costs on employees of the Managing authority or the Intermediary bodies as well as other activities that have to be carried out in accordance with applicable EC Regulations.

To define the investment strategy for the technical assistance measures, the MA conducted an analysis of baseline and needs in this field, taking into account the experience from the programming period 2007 - 2013. In order to ensure a consistent approach at the national level, the elaboration of this analysis by the MA was based on an analysis prepared by the CCA (*Analysis of administrative capacity and effectiveness of entities responsible for ESI funds and of administrative capacity of beneficiaries*).

Table 5: Overview of the OP investment strategy

Priority axis	Fund	Union support (EUR)	Proportion of total Union support for the operational programme (%)	Thematic objective	Investment priority	Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priority	Common and programme-specific result indicators for which a target have been set
1. Sustainable use of natural resources through environmental infrastructure development	CF	<del>1 568 013 361</del> <del>528 013 361</del> <del>1 506 751 729</del>	<del>49,94 %</del> <del>48,02 %</del> <del>51,24 %</del>	6. Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency	1.1 (a) Investing in the waste sector to meet the requirements of the Union's environmental acquis and to address needs, identified by the Member States, for investment that goes beyond those requirements	1.1.1 Increasing waste recovery rate with focus on preparation of waste for re-use and recycling and promotion of waste prevention	- Share of recovered waste on the total amount of waste produced
						1.2.1 Improving the discharge and treatment of urban waste waters in agglomerations above 2,000 population equivalent in accordance with the SR commitments towards the EU	- Population connected to wastewater collection and treatment system
					1.2 (b) Investing in the water sector to meet the requirements of the Union's environmental acquis and to address needs, identified by the Member States, for investment that goes beyond those requirements	1.2.2 Increasing the reliability of the treatment of water abstracted from large-capacity sources of surface waters in order to increase the safety of drinking water provided by drinking public water supplies	- Number of population connected to drinking public water supply
						1.2.3 Creation of basis for determination of measures aimed at achieving good status of ground and surface waters	- Share of monitored water bodies on the total number of water bodies - Share of water bodies with the ensured continuity of water courses and habitats on the total number of water bodies
					1.3 d) Protecting and restoring biodiversity and soil and promoting	1.3.1 Improving conservation status of habitats and species and strengthening of	- Number of habitats and species in a favourable condition

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					ecosystem services, including through Natura 2000, and green infrastructure	biodiversity mainly in Natura 2000 network	- Number of habitats and species in an unknown condition
					1.4 (e) Taking action to improve the urban environment, to revitalise cities, regenerate and decontaminate brownfield sites (including conversion areas), reduce air pollution and promote noise-reduction measures	1.4.1 Reducing air pollution and improving air quality	- Production of PM emissions - Production of selected pollutant emissions
						1.4.2 Ensuring remediation of environmental burdens in urban environment as well as in abandoned industrial sites (including conversion areas)	- Share of remediated sites on the total number of sites with registered environmental burdens in the SR
2. Adaptation to the adverse effects of climate change with the focus on flood protection	CF	<u>293 098</u> <u>900 333 098</u> <u>900 354 360</u> <u>532</u>	<u>10,889,58 %</u> <u>11,3%</u>		2.1 (a) Supporting investment for adaptation to climate change, including ecosystem-based approaches	2.1.1 Reducing the risk of flooding and negative effects of climate change	- Number of people living in the area with existing flood risk
3. Promoting risk management, emergency management and resilience to emergencies affected by climate change	ERDF	<u>243 896 216</u> <u>260 901 369</u>	<u>7,97 %</u> <u>8,31%</u>	5. Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and management	3.1 (b) Promoting investment to address specific risks, ensuring disaster resilience and developing disaster management systems.	3.1.1 Increasing the level of preparedness to manage emergencies affected by climate change 3.1.2 Increasing the effectiveness of preventive and adaptation measures to eliminate environmental risks (except flood protection measures) 3.1.3 Increasing the effectiveness of management of emergencies affected by climate change	- Share of coverage of inhabited territory secured by early warning system - Share of surface area of rehabilitated landslide territory on the total surface of registered landslide territory of the SR - The duration of the intervention in emergency affected by climate change
4. Energy-efficient low-carbon economy in all sectors	ERDF	<u>877 772 813</u> <u>938 886 480</u>	<u>28,69 %</u> <u>29,92%</u>	4. Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors	4.1 (a) Promoting the production and distribution of energy derived from renewable sources	4.1.1 Increasing the share of RES in gross final energy consumption of the SR 4.1.2 Increase of installed capacity of RES-based small-scale installations in the	- Share of RES in gross final energy consumption of the SR - Installed electric capacity of small-scale RES facilities in households in

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						Bratislava self-governing region	the Bratislava self-governing region
					4.2 (b) Promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy use in enterprises	4.2.1 Reduction of energy intensity and increasing the use of RES in enterprises	- Energy intensity of production
					4.3 (c) Supporting energy efficiency, smart energy management and renewable energy use in public infrastructure, including in public buildings, and in the housing sector;	4.3.1 Reduction of energy consumption in the operation of public buildings	- Energy performance of public buildings
					4.4 (e) Promoting low-carbon strategies for all types of territories, in particular for urban areas, including the promotion of sustainable multimodal urban mobility and mitigation-relevant adaptation measures	4.4.1 Increasing the number of local plans and measures related to the low-carbon strategy for all types of territories	- Share of population living in areas where awareness raising regarding low-carbon measures was conducted
					4.5 (g) Promoting the use of high-efficiency co-generation of heat and power based on useful heat demand	4.5.1 Development of more efficient district heating systems based on useful heat demand	- Share of supplied heat produced by cogeneration of electricity and heat on the total heat supplied
5. Technical assistance	ERDF	77 000 000	<u>2,52 %</u> <del>2,45 %</del>	N/A	N/A	5.1.1 Ensuring effective implementation of the program	- Administrative capacities' turnover rate - Rate of compliance with time limits for payments reimbursement to beneficiaries
						5.1.2 Ensuring broad awareness of the OP and support for beneficiaries' administrative capacities building	- Properly completed projects rate - Awareness rate of support opportunities from the OP



## 2. Description of the Operational Programme's Priority Axes

### 2.1 PRIORITY AXIS 1: SUSTAINABLE USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES THROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

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

<b>Fund</b>	Cohesion fund
<b>Category of region</b>	N/A
<b>Calculation basis</b> (total contribution)	<u>1 950 733 808</u> <del>1 878 661 300</del>
<b>Category of region for outermost regions and northern sparsely populated regions</b> (where applicable)	N/A

#### 2.1.1 INVESTMENT PRIORITY 1 of Priority axis 1: 1.1 *Investing in the waste sector to meet the requirements of the Union's environmental acquis and to address needs, identified by the Member States, for investment that goes beyond those requirements*

##### 2.1.1.1 *Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priority and expected results*

#### **SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE: 1.1.1 Increasing waste recovery rate with focus on preparation of waste for re-use and recycling and promotion of waste prevention**

In compliance with the requirements of environmental acquis and in accordance with the waste management hierarchy the objective is to increase the waste recovery. The emphasis will be placed on preparation for re-use and recycling of waste. Part of the set objective is also the promotion of the waste prevention, including raising of environmental awareness on products' life-cycle and waste management hierarchy.

#### RESULTS

##### **a) Higher share of recovered waste in compliance with the waste management hierarchy**

Through implementation of activities planned under the specific objective "Increasing waste recovery rate with focus on preparation of waste for re-use and recycling and promotion of waste prevention", the share of recovered waste will increase. The capacity of separate collection systems of municipal waste will increase and their functioning will become more efficient. Measures focused on waste prevention and preparation of waste for re-use and recycling have a significant potential<sup>78</sup> and indirectly contribute to reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. Raising of environmental awareness of citizens through information campaigns aimed at promotion of waste prevention, separate collection, waste recovery and the use of environmental labels will ultimately have impact on waste management status improvement.

Table 6: Programme-specific result indicators, by specific objective 1.1.1

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region (where relevant)	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
R0001	Share of recovered waste on the total amount of waste produced	%	N/A	44,72	2012	60	MoE SR  (Report on the state of the environment of the SR)	Once per calendar year

#### 2.1.1.2 Action to be supported under the investment priority

##### **SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 1.1.1: Increasing waste recovery rate with focus on preparation of waste for re-use and recycling and promotion of waste prevention**

The above mentioned specific objective will be fulfilled through the following activities:

- A. Support of information tools aimed at waste prevention, separate collection of waste and waste recovery;
- B. Preparation for re-use and recovery of waste aimed at recycling of non-hazardous waste, including promotion of separate collection systems of municipal waste and promotion of biodegradable municipal waste prevention;
- C. Preparation for re-use and hazardous waste recycling;
- D. Development and introduction of single environmental monitoring and information system in the waste management sector.

##### **A. Support of information tools aimed at waste prevention, separate collection of waste and waste recovery**

The waste prevention is on the top level of the waste management hierarchy, as defined in the Waste Act, as amended. The total quantity of waste produced in the SR, as well as the amount of waste generated per capita fluctuates; and therefore there is still a space for waste prevention and its minimisation. The waste prevention program of the SR defines measures, necessary to fulfil its main objective, the shift from material recovery of waste to waste prevention. Among the important preventive measures, the OP aims to finance, are informing the public and stakeholders on the necessity and advantages of waste prevention, products' life-cycle, as well as promotion of voluntary environmental policy instruments, in particular the environmental management systems, including EMAS, promotion of green public procurement, products and services with the right to use the Eco label, information programmes for municipal self-governments focused mainly on the binding nature of the new waste management hierarchy and implementation of voluntary environmental policy instruments. At the same time, support will go to the environmental information and awareness raising in the field of promotion of materials produced from recycled packaging waste and waste paper, glass, plastics and multilayer combined materials and which serve for the production of packaging and other products in accordance with the Directive 94/62/EC, as well as to the information campaigns, raising the environmental awareness of the population

in the field of separate collection, increase of the recycling rate and other ways of waste recovery.

<i>Target groups:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SR residents</li> <li>- public administration entities</li> <li>- private sector entities</li> </ul>
<i>Target territories:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The entire territory of the Slovak Republic</li> </ul>
<i>Beneficiaries:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Slovak Environmental Agency, within a national project</li> <li>- central administration entities competent in the field of creation and protection of the environment<sup>79</sup></li> <li>- entities of territorial self-government<sup>80</sup></li> <li>- non-profit organisations providing services of general interest in the field of creation and protection of the environment</li> <li>- foundations involved in the field of creation and protection of the environment</li> <li>- associations of physical or legal entities involved in the field of creation and protection of the environment</li> </ul>

**B. Preparation for re-use and recovery of waste aimed at recycling of non-hazardous waste, including promotion of separate collection systems of municipal waste and promotion of biodegradable municipal waste prevention**

In order to meet the obligations resulting from the Waste Framework Directive (WFD), and in accordance with the objectives set by the Directive 1999/31/EC, it is necessary to complete the infrastructure for waste recovery in the SR, and in particular of the non-hazardous and hazardous waste recycling and recovery of biodegradable waste (BDW).

Therefore, within this activity the financial support will go to: the support of biodegradable municipal waste prevention (for example by promoting home composting and facilities for anaerobic digestion of biodegradable municipal waste in kitchen and catering facilities); the construction of new facilities for the preparation for re-use of waste; the support of separate collection of municipal waste components including the mechanical treatment of municipal waste; the construction of new facilities or reconstruction of existing facilities for recycling of non-hazardous waste including waste treatment as a part of the recycling technology (the support will focus on those types and waste streams for which the SR does not have sufficient capacities built, while their recycling is required in order to meet the WFD objectives); the construction of new facilities or reconstruction of existing facilities for BDW recovery including the biogas production used for the combined heat and power generation (including, for example, construction of facilities for composting, anaerobic digestion); the construction of new facilities or reconstruction of existing facilities for material recovery of non-hazardous waste into materials which can be used as a fuel; the construction of new facilities for mechanical-biological treatment of mixed municipal waste (MMW); environmental awareness raising and promoting awareness and publicity for separate collection of waste at the source and in the area of waste recovery as a part of investment projects.

<i>Target groups:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- entities of territorial self-government</li> <li>- state budgetary organisations and state contributory organisations</li> <li>- associations of physical or legal entities</li> <li>- non-profit organisations providing services of general interest</li> <li>- physical or legal entities authorized to do business</li> </ul>
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<i>Target territories:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The entire territory of the Slovak Republic. Territorial priorities will be based upon the existing Waste Management Programme of the SR, drawn up at the national level, upon which the Waste management programs of the Self-Governing Regions are subsequently based on</li> </ul>
<i>Beneficiaries:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The MoE SR or budgetary or contributory organisations established by the MoE SR</li> <li>- MoI SR - District Offices</li> <li>- entities of territorial self-government<sup>81</sup></li> <li>- associations of physical or legal entities</li> <li>- non-profit organisations providing services of general interest</li> <li>- physical or legal entities authorized to do business</li> </ul>

### C. Preparation for re-use and hazardous waste recycling

Due to the insufficient infrastructure of hazardous waste recovery, leading to ever-increasing proportion of disposed hazardous waste, the support of the operational program also focused on the preparation for re-use and hazardous waste recycling. Investment projects in the field of hazardous waste recovery will also be supported by information activities.

Therefore, within this activity the financial support will go to: the construction of new facilities for preparation of waste re-use; the construction of new facilities and reconstruction of existing facilities for hazardous waste recycling; raising environmental awareness and information and promoting preparation of hazardous waste re-use and in the field of hazardous waste recovery as part of investment projects.

<i>Target groups:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- entities of territorial self-government</li> <li>- state budgetary organisations and state contributory organisations dealing with waste management</li> <li>- associations of physical or legal entities</li> <li>- non-profit organisations providing services of general interest</li> <li>- physical or legal entities authorized to do business</li> </ul>
<i>Target territories:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The entire territory of the Slovak Republic. Territorial priorities will be based upon the existing Waste Management Programme of the SR, drawn up at the national level, upon which the Waste management programs of the Self-Governing Regions are subsequently based on</li> </ul>
<i>Beneficiaries:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The MoE SR or budgetary or contributory organisations established by the MoE SR</li> <li>- entities of territorial self-government<sup>82</sup></li> <li>- associations of physical or legal entities</li> <li>- physical or legal entities authorized to do business</li> </ul>

### D. Development and introduction of single environmental monitoring and information system in the waste management sector

The existing system of data collection and processing shows many errors. It is based on a considerable bureaucratic burden of business and public sectors. Poor quality data and insufficient means to process, evaluate and use the data for the needs of waste management

state administration have triggered the need to build a new, fully electronic system for data collection and processing.

<i>Target groups:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- entities of territorial self-government</li> <li>- state budgetary organisations and state contributory organisations dealing with waste management</li> <li>- associations of physical or legal entities</li> <li>- non-profit organisations providing services of general interest</li> <li>- physical or legal entities authorized to do business</li> </ul>
<i>Target territories:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The entire territory of the Slovak Republic</li> </ul>
<i>Beneficiaries:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The MoE SR or budgetary or contributory organisations established by the MoE SR</li> </ul>

### *2.1.1.3 Guiding principles for selection of operations*

In order to ensure efficient and transparent selection process of projects/operations, which will contribute to the achievement of the OP objectives in the most appropriate way, the following general principles will be applied in the project selection process:

- The support will only go to the projects assessed as appropriate and effective in relation to the baseline situation and needs identified in the given area, cost-effective, sustainable and with adequate means and capacities for their implementation;
- Projects will be selected with regard to their cost-effectiveness (Value for Money principle) in order to ensure the selection of projects whose contribution to the objectives of the OP is in relation to the funds spent the largest;
- Preference shall be given to those projects that are part of the strategy for sustainable urban development;
- Preference shall be given to those projects that are part of the RITS.

Where assistance is granted from the Funds to a large enterprise, the managing authority shall assure itself that the financial contribution from the Funds does not result in a substantial loss of jobs in existing locations within the Union.

In addition, the following specific principles will be applied under the present investment priority:

- In compliance with the waste management hierarchy the priority will be given to projects focused on biodegradable municipal waste prevention, preparation of waste for re-use and recycling;
- The support will only go to the projects that will contribute to the achievement of the objectives resulting from the currently applicable Waste Management Programme of the SR in connection with the projects' measurable indicators and requirements arising from the EU legislation in relation to individual waste streams;
- In the field of waste prevention the support will go to the projects that will contribute to the achievement of the objectives resulting from the currently applicable Waste Prevention Programme of the SR (hereinafter referred to as "WPP SR") - comparison of project's focus on the waste prevention with the objectives specified in the WPP SR;
- within the project selection process the innovative aspect of technologies going beyond the EU standards will be considered, where applicable under the existing legislation, or

possibly within the project selection process such solutions will be favoured allowing to approach or to meet the most ambitious standards resulting from the EU legislation in the respective field if the EU legislation defines the range of values that to be followed;

- The priority will be given to those technologies consistent with the criteria for determining the best available techniques (hereinafter referred to as “BAT”) - comparison of the proposed technology of waste recovery or recycling with the relevant BREF documents, e.g. “Reference Document on Best Available Techniques for the Waste Treatments Industries”;
- In the field of waste sorting and recovery/recycling, the support to the projects will be conditioned by consideration of the existing capacities and needs of waste sorting and recovery/recycling at the national, regional and local levels;
- In the field of biodegradable municipal waste prevention, the promotion of separate collection systems of municipal waste, and the preparation for re-use and recovery of waste aimed at waste recycling, the baseline situation of the municipalities listed in the currently applicable Atlas of Roma Communities will be taken into account, if relevant with regard to the production of the type of waste concerned and/or the method of waste treatment;
- In cases where the extended producer responsibility principle is applied, the support will be conditional to strict compliance with this principle, with aim to avoid double funding of expenditures.

For the purpose of uniform and objective assessment and evaluation of compliance with the above mentioned principles and conditions, project selection criteria will be defined. Approval of the project selection criteria will be the responsibility of the Monitoring Committee of the Operational Programme.

#### *2.1.1.4 Planned use of financial instruments*

Financial instruments (FIs) may be used to support the implementation of those activities where the efficient use of funds from the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF), and this particular form of aid, will be demonstrated. In the case of economically viable projects, where the return on investments or cost savings are expected, FIs represent a more appropriate form of support, avoiding market distortion. The FIs will focus on the support of those activities which do not find financing on the market, or do not find adequate financing, upon which their implementation would be efficient.

The possibility of using of revolving funds, while contributing to the objectives of the priority axis, belongs to the benefits of the use of FIs. The other benefits of using FIs include the opportunity to increase financial resources to achieve the specific objectives of the programme by means of attracting additional capital based on an appropriate setting of these instruments. Attracting additional capital is necessary also in respect to the insufficient amount from the ESIF to cover all the investment needs in the areas concerned. Participation by private investors may also contribute towards quality improvement of project implementation, and thus additionally contribute to a more efficient use of funds.

With the use of FIs, it will be possible to support the relevant activities with appropriate financial products (loans, guarantees, capital contributions, mezzanine funds and others). Specific activities, appropriate amount of funds and the conditions for the implementation of specific FIs, including the expected leverage of allocated ESI Funds, as well as combinations

with other forms of support, will be based on the ex-ante assessment of FIs, required under Article 37 (2) of General Regulation for FIs in the 2014 - 2020 programming period.

#### 2.1.1.5 Planned use of major projects

Implementation of major projects is not planned under Investment priority 1 of Priority axis 1.

#### 2.1.1.6 Common and programme-specific output indicators

**Table 7: Common and programme-specific output indicators, by investment priority and category of region (if relevant)**

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
CO17	Additional waste recycling capacity	tonnes/year	CF	N/A	197 466	Monitoring of the OP QE implementation	Once per calendar year
O0002	Additional separate municipal waste collection capacity	tonnes/year	CF	N/A	21 579	Monitoring of the OP QE implementation	Once per calendar year
O0003	Additional waste recovery capacity	tonnes/year	CF	N/A	329 676	Monitoring of the OP QE implementation	Once per calendar year
O0004	Built up single environmental monitoring and information system in the waste management sector	number	CF	N/A	1	Monitoring of the OP QE implementation	Once per calendar year
O0178	Number of implemented information activities	number	CF	N/A	322	Monitoring of the OP QE implementation	Once per calendar year

### 2.1.2 INVESTMENT PRIORITY 2 of Priority axis 1: 1.2 Investing in the water sector to meet the requirements of the Union's environmental acquis and to address needs, identified by the Member States, for investment that goes beyond those requirements

#### 2.1.2.1 Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priority and expected results

**SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 1.2.1: Improving the discharge and treatment of urban waste waters in agglomerations above 2,000 population equivalent in accordance with the SR commitments towards the EU**

The specific objective is aimed at improving the collection, treatment and discharge of urban waste waters in agglomerations above 2,000 population equivalent (p. e.) and in the protected water areas in agglomerations below 2,000 p. e. This specific objective is consistent with the requirement of the WFD to achieve good water status and with the objectives of the Directive 91/271/EEC.

## RESULTS

The expected result of the implementation of the specific measures aimed to achieve the above mentioned specific objective will be:

**a) Increased share of population connected to public sewage network**

The achievement of the results may be affected by the fact that in case the owner of a construction or the owner of a land has obtained a permit from the respective state authority for water management for other way of wastewater treatment, no obligation according to the Section 23 (2) of the Act on drinking public water supplies and public sewage systems arises to the owner to connect to the newly built public sewage system. However, in the case of proactive approach of the investor and the municipality, the conditions for the connection of producers to the newly built public sewage network do exist, under the existing legal regulations.

**b) Increased share of urban waste waters treated in compliance with the SR and the EU legislation**

**Table 8: Programme-specific result indicators, by specific objective 1.2.1**

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region (where relevant)	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
R0120	Population connected to wastewater collection and treatment system	persons	N/A	3 301 000	2012	3 851 955	MoE SR (Water management in the SR, Report on the state of the environment of the SR)	Once per calendar year

**SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 1.2.2: Increasing the reliability of the treatment of water abstracted from large-capacity sources of surface waters in order to increase the safety of drinking water provided by drinking public water supplies**

The specific objective is aimed mainly at improving the quality of drinking water through the intensification and modernisation of surface water treatment plants for large-capacity sources. To a lesser degree the support will also go to the construction of drinking public water supplies in the case of parallel construction of public sewer systems. This specific objective is consistent with the WFD and with the requirements of the Directive 98/83/EC.

**RESULTS**

The expected result of the implementation of the specific measures aimed to achieve the above mentioned specific objective will be:

**a) Increased share of population with improved drinking water supply**

Table 9: Programme-specific result indicators, by specific objective 1.2.2

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region (where relevant)	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
R0003	Number of inhabitants connected to drinking public water supply	persons	N/A	4 707 000	2012	4 850 000	(Statistical Office of the SR)	Once per calendar year

**SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 1.2.3: Creation of basis for determination of measures aimed at achieving good status of ground and surface waters**

The goal of the specific objective is the set up and specification of the basis for measures leading to the achievement of good ecological status and potential of ground and surface waters and water bodies as required by the WFD. At the same time it will contribute to ensuring hydromorphological conditions of water bodies so as to contribute to the achievement of good ecological status/potential as required by the WFD.

**RESULTS**

The expected result of the implementation of the specific measures aimed to achieve the above mentioned specific objective will be:

**a) Improved status of waters in the SR in compliance with the SR and the EU legislation**

Table 10: Programme-specific result indicators, by specific objective 1.2.3

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region (where relevant)	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
R0004	Share of monitored water bodies on the total number of water bodies	%	N/A	42,42	2012	100	MoE SR (Water Monitoring Programme in the SR)	Once per calendar year
R0005	Share of water bodies with ensured continuity of water courses and habitats on the total number of water bodies	%	N/A	1,14	2012	51	MoE SR (Water Plan of the SR, Analysis of the progress made in implementing the Programme of measures of the Water Plan of the SR)	Once per calendar year

#### *2.1.2.2 Action to be supported under the investment priority*

The investment priority aims to achieve good water status as required by the Water Framework Directive (WFD). Outcome of the IP measures will be activities leading to a reduction of groundwater and surface water pollution, increased number of population with safe drinking water supply, improved monitoring of water and creation of the conditions for achieving good ecological status of surface waters. The support for waste water discharge and treatment will directly contribute to reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from waste waters<sup>83</sup>.

##### ***SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 1.2.1: Improving the discharge and treatment of urban waste waters in agglomerations above 2,000 population equivalent in accordance with the SR commitments towards the EU***

The above mentioned specific objective will be fulfilled through the following activities:

- A. Construction of public sewage systems and waste water treatment plants in agglomerations above 2,000 population equivalent in accordance with the SR commitments towards the EU
- B. Supporting infrastructure building in the field of sewage disposal and waste water treatment contributing to the water quality improvement in the protected water management areas with large-capacity ground water sources where good water status has not been identified or where the water body has been identified as a risk

##### **A. Construction of public sewage systems and waste water treatment plants in agglomerations above 2,000 population equivalent in accordance with the SR commitments towards the EU**

Due to the need to fulfil the SR commitments derived from the Treaty on the EU Accession and the commitments derived from the Directive 91/271/EEC, it is necessary for Slovakia to complete the build-up of the infrastructure in the field of discharge and treatment of urban waste waters as the basic environmental service.

Therefore, within this activity the financial support will go to:

- the construction, expansion and capacity increase of public sewer networks in agglomerations above 10,000 p. e., the construction, expansion and capacity increase of the WWTPs in agglomerations above 10,000 p. e.;
- the construction, expansion and capacity increase of public sewer networks in agglomerations between 2,000 to 10,000 p. e., the construction, expansion and capacity increase of the WWTPs in agglomerations between 2,000 to 10,000 p. e.;
- the construction of the WWTPs in agglomerations under 2,000 p. e. provided the public sewer network is already built to a minimum of 80 % of the whole agglomeration.

Within this activity the priority will go to ensuring compliance with the requirements of the Directive 91/271/EEC according to size categories of agglomerations as follows:

1. agglomerations above 10,000 p. e.,
2. agglomerations between 5,000 to 10,000 p. e.,

3. agglomerations between 2,000 to 5,000 p. e., in cases where the discharge and treatment of urban waste waters is not in accordance with the requirements of the Directive 91/271/EEC.

The conceptual basis for addressing this issue form the following documents: the National Programme of the SR for implementation of the Directive 91/271/EEC; The plan for development of drinking public water supplies and public sewage systems for the SR territory; the plans for development of drinking public water supplies and public sewage systems of the Self-Governing Regions; Water Plan of the SR containing the Management Plans of the Danube and of the Vistula river basin district; ~~Regulation of the Slovak Government No 279/2011 Coll.~~

These activities also support the objectives of the Danube Strategy in the Priority area 4 “To restore and maintain the quality of waters”.

<i>Target groups:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SR residents</li> <li>- urban waste waters producers located in the project's target territory</li> </ul>
<i>Target territories:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The entire territory of the SR. The support will be focused primarily on the agglomerations listed in the National Programme of the SR for implementation of the Directive 91/271/EEC</li> </ul>
<i>Beneficiaries:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- municipalities</li> <li>- associations of municipalities</li> <li>- owners of the public sewage systems under the Act on drinking public water supplies and public sewage systems</li> <li>- legal entities authorized to do business in the field of public sewage systems, defined in the Act on drinking public water supplies and public sewage systems</li> </ul>

**B. Supporting infrastructure building in the field of sewage disposal and waste water treatment contributing to the water quality improvement in the protected water management areas with large-capacity ground water sources where good water status has not been identified or where the water body has been identified as a risk**

The requirement to reduce organic pollution of surface waters and pollution of surface waters by nutrients, in agglomerations under 2,000 p. e., arises from the complementary measures of the WFD. Measures to protect surface waters and ground waters naturally occurring in a protected water management areas are regulated by the Act on Protected areas of Natural water Accumulation.

Within this activity the financial support will go to:

- the construction of public sewage network and WWTPs in agglomerations under 2,000 p. e., which intervene with the protected water management areas with large-capacity ground water sources and are designed to avoid compromising of the quality and quantity of ground waters so that their utilisation will not be compromised.

The financial support does not apply to cases when it comes to construction of the WWTPs in agglomerations with the existing sewer network (built to minimum of 80 % of the whole agglomeration), as defined in the activity A.

The conceptual basis for addressing this issue is the Water Plan of the SR containing the Management Plans of the Danube and of the Vistula river basin district.

The mentioned activity also supports the objectives of the Danube Strategy in the Priority area 4 “To restore and maintain the quality of waters”.

<i>Target groups:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SR residents</li> <li>- other urban waste waters producers located in the project’s target territory</li> </ul>
<i>Target territories:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The entire territory of the SR. The support will be focused primarily on the agglomerations under 2,000 p. e. not listed in the National Programme of the SR for implementation of the Directive 91/271/EEC which will contribute to the water quality improvement in the protected water management areas with large-capacity ground water sources where good water status has not been identified or where the water body has been identified as a risk</li> </ul>
<i>Beneficiaries:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- municipalities</li> <li>- associations of municipalities</li> <li>- owners of the public sewage systems under the Act on drinking public water supplies and public sewage systems</li> <li>- legal entities authorized to do business in the field of public sewage systems, defined in the Act on drinking public water supplies and public sewage systems</li> </ul>

***SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 1.2.2: Increasing the reliability of the treatment of water abstracted from large-capacity sources of surface waters in order to increase the safety of drinking water provided by drinking public water supplies***

The above mentioned specific objective will be fulfilled through the following activity:

**A. Ensuring conditions in the area of safe drinking water supply for the SR population from drinking public water supplies**

The objective of the Directive 98/83/EC, which is a daughter directive of the WFD, is to protect human health from the adverse effects of any contamination of water intended for human consumption through ensuring its safety and purity. In line with the Directive, the support within this activity will go to:

- the intensification and modernisation of the existing surface water treatment plants in order to ensure safe drinking water, with a particular focus on solving problems with the eutrophication of waters by arsenic, antimony, microbiology and biology;
- the construction and expansion of drinking public water supplies will only be supported in the cases of parallel construction of public sewer systems according to the updated National Programme of the SR for implementation of the Directive 91/271/EEC.

The conceptual basis for addressing this issue form the following documents: The plan for development of drinking public water supplies and public sewage systems for the SR territory; the plans for development of drinking public water supplies and public sewage systems of the Self-Governing Regions; Water Plan of the SR containing the Management Plans of the Danube and of the Vistula river basin district.

<i>Target groups:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SR residents</li> <li>- other subjects (i.e. consumers of drinking water) located in the project’s target territories</li> </ul>
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<i>Target territories:</i>	- The entire territory of the SR
<i>Beneficiaries:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- municipalities</li> <li>- associations of municipalities</li> <li>- owners of the drinking public water supplies under the Act on drinking public water supplies and public sewage systems</li> <li>- legal entities authorized to do business in the field of drinking public water supplies, defined in the Act on drinking public water supplies and public sewage systems</li> </ul>

***SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 1.2.3: Creation of basis for determination of measures aimed at achieving good status of ground and surface waters***

The above mentioned specific objective will be fulfilled through the following activities:

- A. Monitoring and assessment of waters, including improvement of the monitoring network
- B. Ensuring the longitudinal and lateral continuity of watercourses and removing barriers in watercourses in order to support biodiversity and provision of ecosystem services
- C. Promoting the streamlining of tools of conceptual and informative nature applied in the area of water protection and water management

**A. Monitoring and assessment of waters, including improvement of the monitoring network**

Due to fulfilling of the commitments arising from the WFD (Article 8(2) and Annex V) and according to the requirements of the Water Act, it is necessary to complete the water monitoring system in the SR. Monitoring and assessment of waters is carried out in accordance with applicable legislation, such as the Water Act and the related Decree, Act on Protected areas of Natural water Accumulation and the existing Framework Programme on Monitoring, elaborated on the basis of the previously mentioned legislation. The water monitoring also includes a hydrological monitoring.

Within this activity the financial support will go to:

- the monitoring and assessment of the quality, status and quantity of the surface waters;
- the monitoring and assessment of the quality, status and quantity of the ground waters;
- the improvement of the monitoring network of the ground and surface waters, and provision and optimisation of the information tools in the field of water management.

The basic planning document for the performance of water status monitoring is the Water Plan of the SR (Chapter 5).

<i>Target groups:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SR residents</li> <li>- public administration entities</li> </ul>
<i>Target territories:</i>	- The entire territory of the SR.
<i>Beneficiaries:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- legal entity mandated by the MoE SR to detect the quantity, regime and quality of the surface waters and the factors effecting the surface water quality</li> <li>- legal entity mandated by the MoE SR to detect the presence, quantity, regime and quality of the ground waters according to the Water Act</li> </ul>

	- administrator of the water flows important from the water management point of view according to the Water Act
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*Note: Projects can also be implemented through the institute of partnership.*

#### **B. Ensuring the longitudinal and lateral continuity of watercourses and removing barriers in watercourses in order to support biodiversity and provision of ecosystem services**

The aim of this activity is to ensure interconnection of water bodies by elimination of hydro-morphological influences through activities, such as: the specific measures to ensure the longitudinal continuity of rivers and habitats; the restoration of the functional fish passes or bio corridors; the rebuilding of existing barriers on the watercourses to slipways and ramps or removal of obstacles. The measures will be implemented on the existing water constructions (specified in the Water Plan of the SR), primarily on the water bodies which will after the implementation of corrective measures achieve the character of a natural water body. Their implementation will be directed primarily to the areas coming from from the estuary towards the river source.

The conceptual basis for addressing this issue are Water Plan of the SR (Chapter 8.4, subchapter 8.4.1.2.), containing the Management Plans of the Danube and of the Vistula river basin district, ~~and the Regulation of the Slovak Government No 279/2011 Coll.~~

<i>Target groups:</i>	- SR residents - physical or legal entities authorized to do business, particularly in the fisheries area
<i>Target territories:</i>	- The entire territory of the SR
<i>Beneficiaries:</i>	- state organisations performing the management of the water flows and water structures - renters/borrowers of the small watercourses or their parts according to the Water Act All subjects, regardless of their legal form, that fall under the above given definition, are the eligible beneficiaries

#### **C. Promoting the streamlining of tools of conceptual and informative nature applied in the area of water protection and water management**

Given activity contributes to the increase of the level of awareness of the population and business entities in the area of water protection with the aim to improve water protection and efficient use of water resources. At the same time, the entities active in the vulnerable areas need guidance and motivation to prevent degradation of water status by pollutants.

The activity contributes towards the improvement of the level of knowledge, particularly in relation to optimising of management and efficient use of water resources and adoption of measures to achieve good water status.

The activity aims to elaborate materials that support the implementation of the WFD as well as other directives relating to the water sector in Slovakia.

Within this activity, elaboration of support materials addressing the problematic or unresolved issues of the water management is planned. Issues, which require special attention in regard to proof of correctness, resp. optimisation of some applied procedures, as well as search for new approaches, namely, for example, in the area of diffuse pollution, environmental / ecological

flows, costs of resources and environmental costs, application of modelling and statistical methods in the area of waters, etc.

The purpose of this activity is also to carry out the necessary analyses, expert assessments, surveys to identify problems, to demonstrate their effects and impacts and to determine the best, resp. the most effective and efficient environmental measures to protect human health and life, their property, animals and the environment, in order to achieve good status of all waters and their sustainability.

The conceptual basis for addressing this issue is Water Plan of the SR, containing the Management Plans of the Danube and of the Vistula river basin district, and the Blueprint to Safeguard Europe's Water Resources.

<i>Target groups:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SR residents</li> <li>- public administration entities</li> <li>- private sector entities</li> <li>- administrators of the water flows</li> </ul>
<i>Target territories:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The entire territory of the SR</li> </ul>
<i>Beneficiaries:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Slovak Environmental Agency, within a national project</li> <li>- central administration entities competent in the field of creation and protection of the environment<sup>84</sup></li> <li>- entities of territorial self-government<sup>85</sup></li> <li>- non-profit organisations providing services of general interest in the field of creation and protection of the environment</li> <li>- foundations involved in the field of creation and protection of the environment</li> <li>- associations of physical or legal entities involved in the field of creation and protection of the environment</li> <li>- Water Research Institute (WRI)</li> <li>- Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute</li> <li>- Slovak Water-Management Enterprise, state-owned enterprise</li> </ul>

### 2.1.2.3 Guiding principles for selection of operations

In order to ensure efficient and transparent selection process of projects/operations which will contribute to the achievement of the OP objectives in the most appropriate way, general guiding principles for the selection of operations, mentioned in the chapter 2.1.1.3, will be applied.

In addition, within the selected types of activities the following specific principles will be applied:

*Construction of public sewage systems and waste water treatment plants in agglomerations above 2,000 p. e. in accordance with the SR commitments towards the EU*

- support will only go to the projects addressing the discharge and treatment of urban waste waters in agglomerations which do not comply with the requirements of the Directive 91/271/EEC;
- implementation of the project has to address the discharge and treatment of urban waste waters in the whole of agglomeration in question in accordance with the requirements of the Directive 91/271/EEC;

- support will primarily go to the projects ensuring the discharge and treatment of urban waste waters specified on the list of agglomerations above 2,000 p. e., listed in the National Programme of the SR for the implementation of the Directive 91/271/EEC;
- projects will be supported according to the size category of the solved agglomeration, in the order from the largest to the smallest size category;
- implementation of the project has to bring along improvement of the urban waste water treatment and/or increase in the number of newly connected waste waters producers.

*Supporting infrastructure building in the field of sewage disposal and waste water treatment contributing to the water quality improvement in the protected water management areas with large-capacity ground water sources where good water status has not been identified or where the water body has been identified as a risk*

- support will only go to the projects addressing the discharge and treatment of urban waste waters in agglomerations under 2,000 p. e., which intervene with the protected water management areas with large-capacity ground water sources leading to reduction of threats to the quality and quantity of ground water so as not to compromise their use;
- implementation of the project has to address the discharge and treatment of urban waste waters in the whole of agglomeration;
- projects will be supported according to the size of the source of pollution, in the order from the largest source of pollution to the smallest;
- implementation of the project has to bring along reduction of pollution discharged into the recipient.

*Ensuring conditions in the area of safe drinking water supply for the SR population from drinking public water supplies*

- projects will be prioritised according to the type of water treatment plants, while the priority will be given to the surface water treatment plants.

*Monitoring and assessment of waters, including improvement of the monitoring network*

- projects will be supported pursuant to the Water Monitoring Programme in the SR, which is updated annually;
- priority will be given to the projects aimed at the monitoring and assessment of the quality, status and quantity of the surface and ground waters.

*Ensuring the longitudinal and lateral continuity of watercourses and removing barriers in watercourses in order to support biodiversity and provision of ecosystem services*

- projects will be supported in accordance with the Chapter 8.4 of the Water Plan of the SR;
- priority will be given to the succession from the estuary towards the river source.

For the purpose of uniform and objective assessment and evaluation of compliance with the above mentioned principles and conditions, project selection criteria will be defined. Approval of the project selection criteria will be the responsibility of the Monitoring Committee of the OP QE.

#### *2.1.2.4 Planned use of financial instruments*

Financial instruments (FIs) may be used to support the implementation of those activities where the efficient use of funds from the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF), and this particular form of aid, will be demonstrated. In the case of economically viable projects, where the return on investments or cost savings are expected, FIs represent a more appropriate form of support, avoiding market distortion. The FIs will focus on the support of those activities which do not find financing on the market, or do not find adequate financing, upon which their implementation would be efficient.

The possibility of using of revolving funds, while contributing to the objectives of the priority axis, belongs to the benefits of the use of FIs. The other benefits of using FIs include the opportunity to increase financial resources to achieve the specific objectives of the programme by means of attracting additional capital based on an appropriate setting of these instruments. Attracting additional capital is necessary also in respect to the insufficient amount from the ESIF to cover all the investment needs in the areas concerned. Participation by private investors may also contribute towards quality improvement of project implementation, and thus additionally contribute to a more efficient use of funds.

With the use of FIs, it will be possible to support the relevant activities with appropriate financial products (loans, guarantees, capital contributions, mezzanine funds and others). Specific activities, appropriate amount of funds and the conditions for the implementation of specific FIs, including the expected leverage of allocated ESI Funds, as well as combinations with other forms of support, will be based on the ex-ante assessment of FIs, required under Article 37 (2) of General Regulation for FIs in the 2014 - 2020 programming period.

#### *2.1.2.5 Planned use of major projects*

Due to the timetables shift of the implementation of the major projects approved during the 2007 - 2013 programming period under the OP Environment, caused by the lengthy process of their preparation and approval, as well as by delayed beginning of the construction works due to the lengthy public procurement of the contractors of construction works and construction supervision, the implementation of the second phase of the major projects approved within the Investment Priority 2 Priority Axis 1 is planned in accordance with eligible activities within given Investment priority 2, Priority axis 1 of the OP QE. The phases implemented under the previous programming period (the first phases) will be ready for use for the intended purpose stated in the EC Decision before the deadline for submission of documents on operational program closure.

The OP QE list of major projects, stated in the Section 12.1 of the OP QE, only includes phased major projects that meet the definition of a major project according to the Article 100 of the General Regulation, i.e. whose total eligible costs exceed 50 million EUR.

All major projects are aimed at fulfilling the SR commitments derived from the Treaty on the EU Accession and namely in the field of water management. The main objective of major projects is to ensure adequate collection and treatment of wastewaters, in line with the Directive 91/271/EEC, in the individual agglomerations defined in the National Programme of the SR for implementation of the Directive 91/271/EEC. Individual phases of the major projects are thus contributing, resp. will contribute to the OP objectives fulfilment, i.e. of the OP E, resp. of the OP QE.

### 2.1.2.6 Common and programme-specific output indicators

Table 11: Common and programme-specific output indicators, by investment priority and category of region (if relevant)

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
CO18	Increased number of population with improved drinking water	persons	CF	N/A	86 079	Monitoring of the OP QE implementation	Once per calendar year
CO19	Additional population served by improved wastewater treatment	population equivalent	CF	N/A	<del>242 800</del> 223 979	Monitoring of the OP QE implementation	Once per calendar year
O0006	Number of supported objects of the monitoring network of surface and ground waters	number	CF	N/A	2 295	Monitoring of the OP QE implementation	Once per calendar year
O0007	Number of assessed water bodies of surface and ground waters	number	CF	N/A	1 835	Monitoring of the OP QE implementation	Once per calendar year
O0008	Number of measures to ensure continuity of watercourses and removing barriers in watercourses	number	CF	N/A	345	Monitoring of the OP QE implementation	Once per calendar year
O0009	Number of conceptual, analytical and methodological materials	number	CF	N/A	34	Monitoring of the OP QE implementation	Once per calendar year
O0176	Number of analysed samples of surface and ground waters	number	CF	N/A	879 366	Monitoring of the OP QE implementation	Once per calendar year
O0178	Number of implemented information activities	number	CF	N/A	116	Monitoring of the OP QE implementation	Once per calendar year

### 2.1.3 INVESTMENT PRIORITY 3 of Priority axis 1: 1.3 Protecting and restoring biodiversity and soil and promoting ecosystem services, including through Natura 2000, and green infrastructure

#### 2.1.3.1 The specific objective of the investment priority and expected results

##### **SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 1.3.1: Improving conservation status of habitats and species and strengthening of biodiversity mainly in Natura 2000 network**

This specific objective is aimed at completing and ensuring coherence of the Natura 2000 network (particularly elaboration and implementation of the management plans of Natura 2000 sites); improve the condition of ecosystems ensured through functional system of monitoring and reporting on the area of nature and landscape conservation, elimination of invasive plant species and development of green infrastructure, thereby also contributing to climate change consequences mitigation and adaptation to such changes.

## RESULTS

The expected result of the implementation of measures aimed at achieving the above mentioned specific objective will be:

### a) Strengthening of biodiversity

Strengthening of biodiversity means ideally halting the biodiversity loss and maintaining and/or restoration of the favourable conservation status of habitats and species of community interest and other major components of biota of the Slovak Republic mainly through completing the Natura 2000 network and ensuring appropriate management of the Natura 2000 areas as well as other protected areas and species. Completion of the Natura 2000 network is an obligation according to the Article 4 of Habitats Directive and also one of the actions of Target 1 of the EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy (Council conclusions (2011) 244 final). This obligation also arises from paragraph 26 - 28, paragraph 54, paragraph 65 and paragraph 65a) of the Act No 543/2002 Coll. Ensuring the care of Natura 2000 network is governed in particular in the Article 6 of the Habitats Directive.

The achieving of the favourable conservation status of habitats and species is directly dependent on the designation of Sites of Community Importance as Special Areas of Conservation, approval of nature conservation documentation, supporting stakeholders and the allocation of funding, integration of conservation of habitats and species and management requirements in the key strategies of the use of landscape and water (both within Natura 2000 network and beyond) and last but not least by external factors.

Table 12: Programme specific result indicators, by specific objective

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region (where relevant)	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
R0006	Number of habitats and species in a favourable condition	number	N/A	102	2013	112	MoE SR (regular report on the evaluation of habitats and species according to the Article 17 of the Habitats Directive, resp. special report for the purpose of reporting of specific result indicator)	as to 31.12.2018, as to 31.12.2020 and as to 31.12.2023
R0007	Number of habitats and species in an unknown condition	number	N/A	69	2013	10	MoE SR (regular report on the evaluation of habitats and species according to the Article 17 of the Habitats Directive, resp. special report for the purpose of reporting of specific result indicator)	as to 31.12.2018, as to 31.12.2020 and as to 31.12.2023

#### 2.1.3.2 Action to be supported under the investment priority

##### **SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 1.3.1: Improving conservation status of habitats and species and strengthening of biodiversity mainly in Natura 2000 network**

The above mentioned specific objective will be fulfilled through the following activities:

- A. Completing Natura 2000 network and ensuring coherence of Natura 2000 network and other protected areas (including internationally protected areas) as well as protected species
- B. Maintaining and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems and their services through revitalization, restoration and development of green infrastructure
- C. Completing and improving the monitoring system of species and habitats of community interest and reporting
- D. Improving awareness raising and involving the key sectors and the general public in nature and landscape conservation

##### **A. Completing Natura 2000 network and ensuring coherence of Natura 2000 network and other protected areas (including internationally protected areas) as well as protected species**

The Slovak Republic met the obligation of the EU Member States stipulated in the Article 3 of the Habitats Directive by designation of all Special Protection Areas (defined in the Birds Directive) and more than half of the Sites of Community Importance where declared as Special Areas of Conservation (defined in the Habitats Directive). In the near future the Slovak Republic has to declare the remaining Sites of Community Importance and add new Sites of Community Importance.

This activity is aimed at the completion of the system of protected areas, ensuring ongoing maintenance and management of the protected species and areas, including Natura 2000 network and areas of international importance, negotiations on various proposals with interest groups, the designation of Sites of Community Importance, compilation of background documentation and management plans (management programmes, rescue programmes, mapping background documents, databases, scientific and other studies, methodological materials, financial plans and plans for diversification of financial resources in order to secure conservation of protected areas, communication plans, and other related documentation), as well as their implementation (practical care, purchase of land<sup>86</sup>, closing the cave entrances, related professional publications, etc.) and especially then preventing and/or avoiding all significant negative human interventions to the Natura 2000 network and to the existing green infrastructure. Implementation of conservation measures, resulting from the legislation on nature protection, from the care documents and other documentation necessary to ensure favorable conservation status of habitats and species of European importance will draw on the results achieved in the preceding OP Environment. The basic document for the given activity is PAF.

This activity also supports the Danube Strategy targets within the Priority area 6 - "To preserve biodiversity, landscapes and the quality of air and soils".

<i>Target groups:</i>	- SR residents (particularly the owners, users and visitors of the protected areas as well as the wider public, to which protected areas provide services)
<i>Target territories:</i>	- protected areas throughout the SR, in exceptional cases also the areas outside protected areas (where the conservation measures

	contribute towards the objective fulfilment)
<i>Beneficiaries:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- state budgetary and state contributory organisations set up by the MoE SR with competence in the area of nature protection</li> <li>- owners or users of land in the protected areas except for physical entities which are not authorized to do business (with the condition of the MoE professional guarantee)</li> </ul> <p>All subjects, regardless of their legal form, that fall under the above given definition, are the eligible beneficiaries</p>

*Note: Projects can also be implemented through the institute of partnership.*

#### **B. Maintaining and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems and their services through revitalization, restoration and development of green infrastructure**

Mapping and assessment of ecosystems and their services are among the tasks set by the EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy (Target 2 - by 2014 to improve knowledge about ecosystems and their services and by 2020 to restore 15 % of degraded ecosystems). The fulfilment of the task will follow in line with the EU methodology. The basic document for the given activity is PAF. It encompasses prioritisation of species and habitats, for which it is necessary to achieve improvement of a favourable status (through active management) or to maintain a favourable status (through maintaining management) in Slovakia by 2020. Specifically, as far as the wetlands are concerned, the activity contributes to the main target of the “Programme on Wetland Management in Slovakia for 2008 – 2014” and its action plan (adopted by the Slovak Government in 2007 and 2011), as well as to meeting the WFD targets.

Within this activity, the financial support will go to:

- Maintaining and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems outside the protected areas. The activity includes mainly the implementing measures (removal and opening of barriers and creation of migration corridors outside the watercourse, revitalisation and optimisation of the hydrological regime of habitats, conservation and restoration of a favourable status of wetlands) contributing to the improvement of habitats and species status, restoration of degraded ecosystems and their services.
- Elimination of invasive plant species according to the Ministry of Environment Decree No. 24/2003 Coll. and according to the strategic priorities at the national level, provided the national legislation and downstream concept document will define specific cases which can be financed through the use of EU funds. The invasive species have impact on the composition of ecosystems (as they push out the original species and reduce the biodiversity) and in interaction with other factors they cause deterioration of ecosystems' status and distort their ability to provide society-wide services. The invasive plant species are subject to the legislation contained in the Article 22 of the Habitats Directive and in the Act on nature and landscape protection. Activity's focus on invasive plant species results from their high reproductive potential, risks to human health, and also due to the fact that they represent a significant source of allergens. The aim of this activity is the systematic mapping, targeted eradication and suppressing as well as subsequent monitoring of invasive plant species.
- Support for green infrastructure elements at the local level (municipalities) which leads to the creation of strategically planned network of natural and semi-natural areas with environmental characteristics, that are created and managed in such way, that they provide a wide range of ecosystem services<sup>87</sup>. Support will also go to the elaboration of the documentation of territorial system of ecological stability at regional (RTSES) and local (LTSES) level that will create the basis for the regulation of green infrastructure

construction concept at lower levels of implementation. For the purposes of identifying natural and semi-natural areas as part of the creation of their strategically planned network, a comprehensive dynamic landscape model will also be a part of the support.

This activity also supports the Danube Strategy targets within the Priority area 6 - “To preserve biodiversity, landscapes and the quality of air and soils”.

<i>Target groups:</i>	- SR residents (particularly the owners, users and visitors of the protected areas as well as the wider public, to which protected areas provide services)
<i>Target territories:</i>	- the entire territory of the SR - preferably outside the protected areas
<i>Beneficiaries:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- state budgetary and state contributory organisations set up by the MoE SR with competence in the area of nature protection</li> <li>- The Slovak Environmental Agency (also as a beneficiary within a national project through which the aid will be granted to other entities in this area as users)</li> <li>- owners or users of land outside the protected areas except for physical entities which are not authorized to do business</li> </ul> <p>All subjects, regardless of their legal form, that fall under the above given definition, are the eligible beneficiaries</p>

*Note: Projects can also be implemented through the institute of partnership.*

### **C. Completing and improving the monitoring system of species and habitats of community interest and of the reporting**

Maintaining, resp. recovery of a favourable status of habitats and species of community interest as the main objective of the Habitats Directive requires the supervision and knowledge of the status and regular reporting to the European Commission according to the Habitats Directive (Article 2 (2), (11), (16), (17)) and the Birds Directive (Art. 9, Art. 12), and deriving from the Act on nature and landscape protection (paragraph 6, paragraph 56, paragraph 65 (1) (o), paragraph 65a (1) (t) and other). Reporting within the EU Member States is performed uniformly according to commonly agreed format so that it would be possible to perform synthesis report for individual biogeographical areas and for the whole EU. The compliance with international standards is also required for the reporting according to various international conventions on biodiversity conservation. This activity is aimed at the implementation of state-wide monitoring of species and habitats and accessibility of current data through an information system. Monitoring, as well as preparation of management plans are based on definition of favourable status for each kind of species and habitats. The completion and filling in the information system of protected species, habitats and protected areas, including areas of international importance, will be effectively used for the protection, management and assessment of plans and projects in Natura 2000 sites and other protected zones and also for making the data available to the public. The availability of information for the public is the basis for elimination of administrative burdens, environmental awareness raising and preventing conflicts to ensure the protection of natural values.

<i>Target groups:</i>	- professional and lay public (particularly in connection with the need for expert materials on the habitats, species and territories)
<i>Target territories:</i>	- The entire territory of the SR (since the monitoring and reporting is not restricted to protected areas only)

<i>Beneficiaries:</i>	- professional organisation of nature and landscape protection with nationwide scope, set up by the MoE SR under the Act on nature and landscape protection
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#### **D. Improving awareness raising and involving the key sectors and the general public in the field of nature and landscape conservation**

Raising awareness and participation of stakeholders is the action 3 of the Target 1 of the EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy and is also part of the conservation tools under the current legislation. Necessary is primarily of the implementation of communication campaigns, organising training courses and exhibitions in order to raise public awareness, including the land owners in the protected areas (e.g. meetings on management documents and specific measures), which also requires a preparation of sufficient amount of quality promotional materials and publications. Meeting the objectives of the Birds Directive and the Habitats Directive also requires improvement in awareness raising on Natura 2000 network and on species of community interest. The obligation to promote education and general awareness on the need of habitats and species of community interest also arises from the Article 22(c) of the Habitats Directive and from the provisions of the relevant international conventions.

Equally important is organising events with stakeholders aimed at clarifying interests of various interest groups and looking for common solutions leading to common intersectional procedures and other measures to eliminate conflicts and to improve awareness and inclusion of relevant stakeholders.

<i>Target groups:</i>	- SR residents (particularly the owners, users and visitors of the protected areas as well as the wider public, to which ecosystems provide services)
<i>Target territories:</i>	- The entire territory of the SR
<i>Beneficiaries:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Slovak Environmental Agency, within a national project</li> <li>- central administration entities competent in the field of creation and protection of the environment<sup>88</sup></li> <li>- entities of territorial self-government<sup>89</sup></li> <li>- non-profit organisations providing services of general interest in the field of creation and protection of the environment</li> <li>- foundations involved in the field of creation and protection of the environment</li> <li>- associations of physical or legal entities involved in the field of creation and protection of the environment</li> </ul>

#### *2.1.3.3 Guiding principles for selection of operations*

In order to ensure efficient and transparent selection process of projects/operations which will contribute to the achievement of the OP objectives in the most appropriate way, general guiding principles for the selection of operations, mentioned in the chapter 2.1.1.3, will be applied.

In addition, within the selected types of activities the following specific principles will be applied:

*Completing Natura 2000 network and ensuring coherence of Natura 2000 network and other protected areas (including internationally protected areas) as well as protected species*

- implementation of projects has to primarily bring along improvement of the status of the supported habitats and species of Community importance;
- primarily supported will be projects aimed at elaboration of protection management documents;
- favoured will be projects focused on the integrated parts of the protected area, whose implementation will ensure improvement of the status of the supported habitats and species of community interest.

*Conservation and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems and their services through revitalization, restoration and development of green infrastructure*

- primarily supported will be projects contributing to the restoration of selected types of ecosystems, as well as projects contributing to the creation of the connectivity of species and habitats and environmental elements in the settlements and rural landscape;
- in relation to invasive plant species support will go to projects focused on species designated by legislation and follow-up documents;
- regarding elaboration of territorial system of ecological stability documents, priority will be given to projects aimed at elaboration of regional territorial system of ecological stability documents, considering the need for developing a starting base for proposals regulation of building green infrastructure at lower levels.

For the purpose of uniform and objective assessment and evaluation of compliance with the above mentioned principles and conditions, project selection criteria will be defined. Approval of the project selection criteria will be the responsibility of the Monitoring Committee of the OP QE.

#### *2.1.3.4 Planned use of financial instruments*

Financial instruments (FIs) may be used to support the implementation of those activities where the efficient use of funds from the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF), and this particular form of aid, will be demonstrated. In the case of economically viable projects, where the return on investments or cost savings are expected, FIs represent a more appropriate form of support, avoiding market distortion. The FIs will focus on the support of those activities which do not find financing on the market, or do not find adequate financing, upon which their implementation would be efficient.

The possibility of using of revolving funds, while contributing to the objectives of the priority axis, belongs to the benefits of the use of FIs. The other benefits of using FIs include the opportunity to increase financial resources to achieve the specific objectives of the programme by means of attracting additional capital based on an appropriate setting of these instruments. Attracting additional capital is necessary also in respect to the insufficient amount from the ESIF to cover all the investment needs in the areas concerned. Participation by private investors may also contribute towards quality improvement of project implementation, and thus additionally contribute to a more efficient use of funds.

With the use of FIs, it will be possible to support the relevant activities with appropriate financial products (loans, guarantees, capital contributions, mezzanine funds and others). Specific activities, appropriate amount of funds and the conditions for the implementation of specific FIs, including the expected leverage of allocated ESI Funds, as well as combinations with other forms of support, will be based on the ex-ante assessment of FIs, required under Article 37 (2) of General Regulation for FIs in the 2014 - 2020 programming period.

#### 2.1.3.5 Planned use of major projects

Implementation of no major projects is planned under Investment priority 3 of Priority axis 1.

#### 2.1.3.6 Common and programme-specific output indicators

Table 13: Common and programme-specific output indicators, by investment priority and category of region (if relevant)

ID	Indicator	Measure ment unit	Fund	Category of region	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
CO23	COMMON OUTPUT Surface area of habitats supported in order to attain a better conservation status	hectares	CF	N/A	20 131	Monitoring of the OP QE implementation	Once per calendar year
O0010	Number of implemented green infrastructure elements	number	CF	N/A	390	Monitoring of the OP QE implementation	Once per calendar year
O0011	Number of newly enrolled monitored sites	number	CF	N/A	700	Monitoring of the OP QE implementation	Once per calendar year
O0012	Number of monitored sites with the increased number of monitored species or habitats	number	CF	N/A	3 000	Monitoring of the OP QE implementation	Once per calendar year
O0178	Number of implemented information activities	number	CF	N/A	645	Monitoring of the OP QE implementation	Once per calendar year

#### 2.1.4 INVESTMENT PRIORITY 4 of Priority axis 1: 1.4 Taking action to improve the urban environment, to revitalise cities, regenerate and decontaminate brownfield sites (including conversion areas), reduce air pollution and promote noise-reduction measures

##### 2.1.4.1 Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priority and expected results

In view of the conclusions of analysis of the current long-term adverse situation in the field of air protection and the environment in urban areas, the following two specific targets have been specified within this investment priority:

##### **SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 1.4.1: Reducing air pollution and improving air quality**

This specific objective is aimed at air pollution reduction and enhancement of air quality through the implementation of EU Directives in the field of air quality; in particular the Directive on national emission ceilings, as well as the Directive on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe. This target is also in compliance with measures of the Clean Air Programme for Europe<sup>90</sup> and with national priorities in the field of air quality specified in the Strategy for reduction of PM<sub>10</sub><sup>91</sup>.

#### RESULTS

The expected result of the implementation of measures aimed at achieving the above mentioned specific objective will be:

##### **a) Reducing air pollution and improving air quality**

The main objective of the support will be the implementation of measures aimed at the reduction of emission of pollutants into the air and the air quality enhancement within the meaning of requirements of the EU legislation, as well as the legislative and strategic

documents of the SR. The implementation of the technical and technological measures at air pollution sources will have direct impact on the reduction of air pollution. The activities will be focused not only on the reduction of concentrations of PM particles which represent the most significant air quality problem in the SR, but also on the reduction of other air pollutants, in particular through investment measures directly at the air pollution sources. It has to be mentioned though, that the achievement of the expected results of implemented projects, i.e. the overall reduction of air pollution in the SR and its quality improvement is under the influence of other external factors (e.g. transport, trans boundary transmissions, dust from soil and unpaved surfaces, construction activities, etc.) and air pollution sources.

The implementation of the projects aimed at enhancement of knowledge in the field of air protection will result in awareness raising in the field of air quality. The information campaigns, seminars, training courses on air protection represent a supporting measure in achieving the air quality improvement.

A necessary precondition for the implementation of the effective measures, which also contributes to the fulfilment of the requirements of the Directive on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe, is a well-operating monitoring and information system, as well as complex emission inventory.

The system of air monitoring, emission inventory and projections, inter alia, enable to identify localities with the highest priority from the air quality point of view (e.g. air quality management areas).

Table 14: Programme-specific result indicators, by specific objective 1.4.1

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region (where relevant)	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
R0122	Production of PM emissions	tonnes/year	N/A	38 640	2012	31 680	MoE SR, SHI - National emission inventories ( <a href="http://cdr.eionet.europa.eu/sk">http://cdr.eionet.europa.eu/sk</a> )	Once per calendar year
R0123	Production of selected pollutant emissions*	tonnes/year	N/A	225 879	2012	187 796	MoE SR, SHI - National emission inventories ( <a href="http://cdr.eionet.europa.eu/sk/eu/nec">http://cdr.eionet.europa.eu/sk/eu/nec</a> )	Once per calendar year

\*The indicator includes selected pollutants according to the Directive on national emission ceilings and the Directive on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe (SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub>, NH<sub>3</sub> and VOC). Particulate matter - PM (including PM<sub>2.5</sub> and PM<sub>10</sub>) are monitored separately with regard to their significant influence on the air quality in the SR.

#### **SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 1.4.2: Ensuring remediation of environmental burdens in urban environment as well as in abandoned industrial sites (including conversion areas)**

In order to avoid possible risk of danger to health of population in surrounding areas and in order to revitalize concerned industrial and conversion areas, the remediation of environmental burdens is necessary.

#### **RESULTS**

The expected result of the implementation of measures aimed at achieving the above mentioned specific objective will be:

#### a) Increased rate of recovered sites with registered environmental burdens

The aim of the investment priority and financing from the OP QE is to increase the share of recovered sites with registered environmental burdens, which represent a permanent risk of negative impact on human health and on the environment.

The main criterion for the selection of site for remediation registered in the Information system of environmental burdens is its risk level, while the priority will be put on sites with high risk level. The determination of the risk level value takes into account, among other parameters (e.g. vicinity of human settlements, surface water stream, drinking water resources, vicinity of protected areas), the results of the survey on environmental burdens, including the risk analysis and proposal of remediation limits.

Besides the industrial areas, railway depots, military sites, respectively urban areas, the implementation of measures in the field of environmental burdens is also oriented on unsecured stocks of pesticides, fuels and other chemical substances or uncontrolled hazardous-waste landfills. Remediation of environmental burden will bring along mainly the removal / elimination of present contamination from the groundwater, rock environment or soil.

The achievement of the set target will, to a large extent, depend on specific legal regulation for granting of state aid for remediation of contaminated sites, the number of eligible applicants, the extent of eligible costs and the maximum amount of aid, mainly in compliance with the “polluter pays” principle and the fact that the person which is not a polluter cannot be required to pay costs of recovery of environmental burden with unknown originator.

Table 15: Programme-specific result indicators, by specific objective 1.4.2

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region (where relevant)	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
R0009	Share of remediated sites on the total number of sites with registered environmental burdens in the SR	%	N/A	44	2013	53	Information system on environmental burdens <a href="http://envirozataze.e nviroportal.sk">http://envirozataze.e nviroportal.sk</a>	Once per calendar year

#### 2.1.4.2 Action to be supported under the investment priority

##### **SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 1.4.1: Reducing air pollution and improving air quality**

The above mentioned specific objective will be fulfilled through the following activities:

- Technological and technical measures to reduce emissions of pollutants into the atmosphere implemented at the sources of air pollution, principally in order to fulfil the requirements of the Directive on national emission ceilings for certain atmospheric pollutants and/or the Directive on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe
- Awareness raising in the field of air protection and integrated pollution prevention and control
- Improving the quality of air monitoring

**A. Technological and technical measures to reduce emissions of pollutants into the atmosphere implemented at the sources of air pollution, principally in order to fulfil the requirements of the Directive on national emission ceilings for certain atmospheric pollutants and/or the Directive on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe**

The achievement of the good air quality belongs among strategic and key tasks of air protection not only in Slovakia, but also in Europe. In terms of air quality, the main problem of the SR is the concentration of suspended particulates, especially particulate matters PM. The household heating sector produces the largest share on air pollution by PM emissions (PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub>). According to the data from the SHMI, the share on emissions generated by household heating is in particular significant in the case of PM<sub>2.5</sub> - up to 80 %, the share on total PM emissions is 49 %. Attention should also be given to the reduction of emissions of other pollutants (SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub>, VOC, NH<sub>3</sub>, etc.). Even though emissions of pollutants from air pollution sources are regulated by the legislation, the achievement of improved air quality requires not only the compliance with respective limits but to support measures for further reduction of emissions. In case of projects implemented by the operators of stationary sources of air pollution, to which legislative requirements apply, support will go to measures implemented beyond these requirements (e.g. beyond the limits where the BAT was first achieved) will be supported, which can significantly contribute not only to the overall reduction of emissions into the air, but also to the improvement of air quality in the respective region. In this regard support of all size categories of enterprises as well as households burn solid fuels in inappropriate boilers will be enabled.

Support will go to activities, in line with the “polluter pays” principle, aimed at measures implemented on stationary sources of air pollution resulting in a reduction of emission of air pollutants, especially then installation and modernisation of technologies, including changes in the technological procedures as well as replacement of the existing stationary sources of air pollution. Examples of activities eligible for support include:

- installation and modernisation of technologies to reduce emissions of pollutants from stationary sources of air pollution, especially abatement technologies and other end-of-pipe technologies (e.g. fabric filters, electrostatic precipitators, etc.);
- measures related to change of technological procedures for the purposes of reduction of air pollutants' emissions;
- projects of replacement of obsolete combustion plants in public buildings to low-emission and energy efficient combustion plants including modernisation of the heating systems, which include the change of fuel base to low-emission fuel with the exception of biomass and other renewable energy sources<sup>92</sup>. Support will only go to projects replacing combustion plants representing air pollution sources and that in those cases where it is not relevant, in terms of energy efficiency, to implement other measures to increase energy efficiency of buildings;
- projects of replacement of old solid fuel facilities in households to low-emission and energy efficient facilities, which include the change of fuel base to low-emission fuel with the exception of biomass and other renewable energy sources.

Within the above mentioned measures support will also go to measures aimed at the reduction of emissions of pollutants into the air and ensuring compliance with the requirements of the proposed Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the limitation of emissions of certain pollutants into the air from medium combustion plants (i.e. combustion plants with a rated thermal input between 1 and 50 MW), while non eligible will be

investments aimed at the reduction of greenhouse gases emissions in connection with the activities listed in Annex I of the Directive 2003/87/EC.

The above mentioned types of projects will also contribute to meeting the requirement of the Air Act and of the Act on integrated prevention and control of the environmental pollution.

<i>Target groups:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- residents of the concerned territories</li> <li>- operators of air pollution sources</li> <li>- owners of family houses, associations of apartment and non-residential premises owners/ apartment houses administrators, i.e. households</li> </ul>
<i>Target territories:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the entire territory of the SR, with the emphasis on areas requiring special air protection</li> </ul>
<i>Beneficiaries:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- operators of air pollution sources</li> <li>- central administration entities competent in the field of creation and protection of the environment<sup>93</sup></li> <li>- entities of territorial self-government – self-governing regions<sup>94</sup></li> </ul>

#### **B. Awareness raising in the field of air protection and integrated pollution prevention and control**

Information campaigns and other awareness-raising activities belong to important supporting activities. The importance of awareness raising and information campaigns relates to the need for raising awareness of general public and target groups, especially regarding the issue of local heating facilities that represent a significant source of air pollution. Awareness raising activities in the field of air protection geared to practical needs and requirements for technological procedures in terms of ensuring air protection in compliance with the EU legislation, will contribute to the application of principles aimed at reducing air pollution and improving air quality.

The support will go to awareness raising and information campaigns focused on respective categories of air pollution sources and on the issue of air quality and possibilities of air quality improvement in regions, including the issue of local heating facilities (i.e. best practice in using local heating units, fuel conditioning, combustion modes). The projects in the field of information and raising awareness will contribute to the fulfilment of obligations arising from the EU Directive on industrial emissions and Directive on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe. These measures will also contribute to the performance of tasks arising from the Air Act, as well as the achievement of the tasks arising from the Strategy for reduction of PM<sub>10</sub><sup>95</sup>.

<i>Target groups:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SR residents</li> <li>- professionally qualified persons</li> <li>- operators of pollution sources</li> <li>- public administration entities</li> <li>- private sector entities</li> </ul>
<i>Target territories:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the entire territory of the SR, primarily areas requiring special air protection</li> </ul>
<i>Beneficiaries:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Slovak Environmental Agency, within a national project</li> <li>- central administration entities competent in the field of creation and protection of the environment<sup>96</sup></li> <li>- entities of territorial self-government<sup>97</sup></li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- non-profit organisations providing services of general interest in the field of creation and protection of the environment</li> <li>- foundations involved in the field of creation and protection of the environment</li> <li>- associations of physical or legal entities involved in the field of creation and protection of the environment</li> </ul>
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### C. Improving the quality of air monitoring

Quality and well-operating system of air monitoring, or emission inventarisatation and projections serves as an important precondition for effective implementation of measures aimed at reducing air pollution and air quality improvement. Beside others it helps to identify areas of the highest priority in terms of air protection (e.g. air quality management areas). Based on the results of monitoring and model calculations of air pollution investments can be directed where they will bring the greatest effect for improvement of air quality. The information, and mainly the emission inventories, obtained not only from the National Emission Information System (NEIS), but also from the National Register of Pollution, from mobile and diffuse sources are necessary for air quality monitoring (modelling), for meeting all reporting obligations within the EU and the obligations arising from the Convention on Long-range Trans boundary Air Pollution.

The support will be aimed at:

- improving and enhancing the National Air Quality Monitoring System (NAQMS), including its upgrading, maintenance, extension and accreditation, as well as professional support. Support is foreseen for existing NAQMS off-take points, as well as creation of new off-take points at newly constructed monitoring stations, which will be incorporated into the NAQMS;
- supporting model calculations of the air pollution and chemical analyses;
- enhancing the quality of emission inventory and projections, [as well as developing methodologies for improving emission inventories and emission projections](#);
- enhancing the standard of the National Emission Information System and National Register of Pollution, including submission of reports and information in electronic format by the obliged persons. Introduction of newly applied NEIS modules is foreseen according to the requirements for informing the public and reporting obligations.

The projects aimed at enhancing the quality of model calculations of the air pollution, emission inventory and projections, as well as enhancing the standard of the National Air Quality Monitoring System (NAQMS) and the NEIS will contribute to meeting requirements of Directive on national emission ceilings (Art. 7 and 8)<sup>98</sup>. Supported projects will also be aimed at activities arising from the Regulation (EC) No 166/2006. The operations will also contribute to meeting of the requirements of Directive on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe, as well as of the Air Act and the Act on collection, storage, and dissemination of environmental information.

<i>Target groups:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SR residents</li> <li>- public administration entities</li> <li>- private sector entities</li> </ul>
<i>Target territories:</i>	- the entire territory of the SR
<i>Beneficiaries:</i>	- contributory organisation of the MoE SR entrusted with activities in the field of air protection

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- entities of territorial self-government<sup>99</sup></li> <li>- central administration entities<sup>100</sup></li> <li>- associations of physical or legal entities with coordination from the competent department of the MoE SR in the field of air protection</li> <li>- non-profit organisations providing services of general interest with coordination from the competent department of the MoE SR in the field of air protection</li> <li>- MoI SR - District Offices (fulfilling tasks according to the Act on Air)</li> </ul>
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***SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 1.4.2: Ensuring remediation of environmental burdens in urban environment as well as in abandoned industrial sites (including conversion areas)***

The above mentioned specific objective will be fulfilled through the following activities:

- A. Survey, remediation and monitoring of environmental burdens in urban environment as well as in abandoned industrial sites (including conversion areas)
- B. Awareness raising on the issue of environmental burdens

**A. Survey, remediation and monitoring of environmental burdens in urban environment and in abandoned brownfield areas (including conversion areas)**

The proposed activity will focus on remediation of environmental burdens, that are, in line with Art. 3 point t) of the Geological Act, defined as an area pollution caused by human activity, with exception of environmental damage, representing a serious risk to human health or rock environment, groundwater and soil and registered in a separate information system of environmental burdens.

Thus, when remediating an environmental burden, the contamination in the concerned area (groundwater, soil or rock environment) is eliminated<sup>101</sup>.

Within the context of this activity, that is also a continuation of analogically oriented activity within the Operational Programme Environment, will be supported especially:

- continuously update the Information System of Environmental Burdens;
- perform survey of the priority environmental burdens, including a risk analysis of contaminated sites;
- in case of more demanding or more extensive remediation activities, to arrange for the preparation of a feasibility study for such remediation;
- arrange for the performance of remediation works in compliance with the “polluter pays” principle and in compliance with the rules for granting the state aid to undertakings
- ensure monitoring of environmental burdens.

<i>Target groups:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SR residents</li> <li>- public administration entities</li> <li>- private sector entities</li> </ul>
<i>Target territories:</i>	- the entire territory of the SR
<i>Beneficiaries:</i>	- entities to which the obligation to eliminate the environmental burden passes in case the originator of the environmental burden

	<p>ceased to exist or died and it is not possible to determine the obliged person in compliance with the “polluter pays” principle<sup>102</sup>;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- organisation mandated to perform national monitoring of geological environmental factors according to the Geological Act</li> </ul>
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## B. Improving awareness raising on the issue of environmental burdens

Activities of improving awareness raising on the issue of environmental burdens will directly follow the activities in the fields of survey, remediation and monitoring of environmental burdens in urban environments and in abandoned industrial sites (including conversion areas). The objective of the information activities is raising awareness of the general public on the issue of environmental burdens including their remediation and subsequent monitoring.

<i>Target groups:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SR residents</li> <li>- public administration entities</li> <li>- private sector entities</li> </ul>
<i>Target territories:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the entire territory of the SR</li> </ul>
<i>Beneficiaries:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Slovak Environmental Agency, within a national project</li> <li>- central administration entities competent in the field of creation and protection of the environment<sup>103</sup></li> <li>- entities of territorial self-government<sup>104</sup></li> <li>- non-profit organisations providing services of general interest in the field of creation and protection of the environment</li> <li>- foundations involved in the field of creation and protection of the environment</li> <li>- associations of physical or legal entities involved in the field of creation and protection of the environment</li> </ul>

### 2.1.4.3 Guiding principles for selection of operations

In order to ensure efficient and transparent selection process of projects/operations which will contribute to the achievement of the OP objectives in the most appropriate way, general guiding principles for the selection of operations, mentioned in the chapter 2.1.1.3, including condition relating to large enterprises that the financial contribution from the ESIF will not lead to a substantial reduction in jobs in a given area within the EU.

In addition, within the selected types of activities the following specific principles will be applied:

*Technological and technical measures to reduce emissions of pollutants into the atmosphere implemented at the sources of air pollution, principally in order to fulfil the requirements of the Directive on national emission ceilings for certain atmospheric pollutants and/or the Directive on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe*

- implementation of the project has to demonstrably result in lower emissions of pollutants beyond the minimum operational requirements and conditions of the given source of air pollution;
- implementation of measures to achieve a better level of air protection, i.e. reduction of pollutants emissions into the atmosphere beyond the applicable Community standards or the more stricter requirements according to the new EU rules;

- also considered will be the level of technical and technological solution which shall ensure the maximum efficiency and effectiveness of the implemented measure given the final reduction of emissions;
- compliance with the Programmes on air quality improvement and with the Action plans to improve air quality, where relevant;
- favoured will be projects implemented in the areas of air quality management;
- favoured will be projects which demonstrate the largest contribution to improving air quality and projects demonstrating the lowest investment intensity (unit cost) given the expected reduction in emissions of pollutants monitored;
- within the project selection process the innovative aspect of technologies going beyond the EU standards will be considered, where applicable under the existing legislation, or possibly within the project selection process such solutions will be favoured allowing to approach or to meet the most ambitious standards resulting from the EU legislation in the respective field if the EU legislation defines the range of values to be followed;
- in case of projects of replacement of obsolete combustion plants in public buildings and old solid fuel facilities in households to energy efficient and low-emission combustion plants/facilities targeted on change of fuel base from coal to natural gas, the priority will be given to projects implemented in areas requiring special air protection;
- in case of projects of replacement of obsolete combustion plants in public buildings, the projects related to public buildings, where the measures to improve energy efficiency (e.g. insulation) had already been implemented, will be prioritized.

#### *Improving the quality of air monitoring*

- measures to improve the monitoring system, which is not part of the National Air Quality Monitoring System (NAQMS), must ensure compliance with the requirements of NAQMS operation;
- demonstration of capability to perform monitoring activities in the case the beneficiary is not entrusted with this activity by law (by providing supervision of experts from the competent department of the MoE SR in the field of air protection).

#### *Survey, remediation and monitoring of environmental burdens*

- projects will be implemented in line with the National programme of environmental remediation of contaminated sites;
- primarily supported will be projects aimed at addressing environmental burdens with a higher risk - the total value of classification/priority solution (value K);
- favoured will be projects focused on addressing environmental burdens threatening higher number of inhabitants;
- favoured will be projects focused on addressing environmental burdens threatening protected areas under special regulations (Act on nature and landscape protection; Act on water; Act on natural healing waters; Act on protection of monuments).

For the purpose of uniform and objective assessment and evaluation of compliance with the above mentioned principles and conditions, project selection criteria will be defined. Approval of the project selection criteria will be the responsibility of the Monitoring Committee of the OP QE.

#### 2.1.4.4 Planned use of financial instruments

Financial instruments (FIs) may be used to support the implementation of those activities where the efficient use of funds from the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF), and this particular form of aid, will be demonstrated. In the case of economically viable projects, where the return on investments or cost savings are expected, FIs represent a more appropriate form of support, avoiding market distortion. The FIs will focus on the support of those activities which do not find financing on the market, or do not find adequate financing, upon which their implementation would be efficient.

The possibility of using of revolving funds, while contributing to the objectives of the priority axis, belongs to the benefits of the use of FIs. The other benefits of using FIs include the opportunity to increase financial resources to achieve the specific objectives of the programme by means of attracting additional capital based on an appropriate setting of these instruments. Attracting additional capital is necessary also in respect to the insufficient amount from the ESIF to cover all the investment needs in the areas concerned. Participation by private investors may also contribute towards quality improvement of project implementation, and thus additionally contribute to a more efficient use of funds.

With the use of FIs, it will be possible to support the relevant activities with appropriate financial products (loans, guarantees, capital contributions, mezzanine funds and others). Specific activities, appropriate amount of funds and the conditions for the implementation of specific FIs, including the expected leverage of allocated ESI Funds, as well as combinations with other forms of support, will be based on the ex-ante assessment of FIs, required under Article 37 (2) of General Regulation for FIs in the 2014 - 2020 programming period.

#### 2.1.4.5 Planned use of major projects

Implementation of no major projects is planned under Investment priority 4 of Priority axis 1.

#### 2.1.4.6 Common and programme-specific output indicators

Table 16: Common and programme-specific output indicators, by investment priority and category of region (if relevant)

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
CO22	COMMON OUTPUT Total surface area of rehabilitated land	hectares	CF	N/A	141	Monitoring of the OP QE implementation	Once per calendar year
O0015	Number of supported accredited NAQMS off-take points	number	CF	N/A	131	Monitoring of the OP QE implementation	Once per calendar year
O0016	Number of applied NEIS modules according to requirements for informing the public and reporting obligations	number	CF	N/A	3	Monitoring of the OP QE implementation	Once per calendar year
O0017	Surface area of surveyed environmental burdens	hectares	CF	N/A	36	Monitoring of the OP QE implementation	Once per calendar year
O0018	Surface area of monitored environmental burdens	hectares	CF	N/A	446	Monitoring of the OP QE implementation	Once per calendar year
O0174	Installed capacity of low-emission installations replacing outdated combustion plants for	MW	CF	N/A	104	Monitoring of the OP QE implementation	Once per calendar year

	<i>generation of heat for heating</i>						
<i>O0177</i>	<i>Number of supported facilities of medium and large stationary sources of air pollution for the purpose of emissions reduction</i>	<i>number</i>	<i>CF</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>Monitoring of the OP QE implementation</i>	<i>Once per calendar year</i>
<i>O0178</i>	<i>Number of implemented information activities</i>	<i>number</i>	<i>CF</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>516</i>	<i>Monitoring of the OP QE implementation</i>	<i>Once per calendar year</i>

## 2.1.5 Performance framework of the Priority axis 1

Table 17: Performance framework of the Priority axis 1

Indicator type  (Key implementation step, financial, output or, where appropriate, result indicator)	ID	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Fund	Category of region	Milestone for 2018	Final target (2023)	Source of data	Explanation of relevance of indicator, where appropriate
Output indicator	CO19	Additional population served by improved wastewater treatment	population equivalent	CF	N/A	0	<del>242 800</del> 222 979	Monitoring of the OP QE implementation	Share on the allocation of the priority axis – <del>30,15 %</del> 26,86 %
Key implementation step	K0007	Additional population served by improved wastewater treatment according to the planned state of projects with completed implementation of activities	population equivalent	CF	N/A	20 505	N/A	Monitoring of the OP QE implementation	Share on the allocation of the priority axis – <del>30,15 %</del> 26,86 %
Output indicator	CO22	Total surface area of rehabilitated land	hectares	CF	N/A	0	141	Monitoring of the OP QE implementation	Share on the allocation of the priority axis – <del>12,68 %</del> 13,17 %
Key implementation step	K0019	Total surface area of rehabilitated land according to the planned status of contracted projects whose public procurement has been verified	hectares	CF	N/A	80	N/A	Monitoring of the OP QE implementation	Share on the allocation of the priority axis – <del>12,68 %</del> 13,17 %
Output indicator	O0002	Additional capacity for separation of municipal waste	tonnes/year	CF	N/A	8 632	21 579	Monitoring of the OP QE implementation	Share on the allocation of the priority axis – <del>10,91 %</del> 11,32 %
Output indicator	O0003	Additional capacity for waste recovery	tonnes/year	CF	N/A	34 579	329 676	Monitoring of the OP QE implementation	Share on the allocation of the priority axis – <del>10,36 %</del>

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								ion	10,76 %
Financial indicator	F0002	Total amount of certified expenditure after submission of request for payment to the EC	EUR	CF	N/A	376 078 000	1 950 733 808 <del>1 878 661 300</del>	ITMS / CA (MF of the SR)	

## 2.1.6 Categories of intervention

Table 18: Intervention field

Dimension 1 - Intervention field		
Fund	Cohesion fund	
Category of region	N/A	
Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
1. Sustainable use of natural resources through environmental infrastructure development	017	248 041 300
	018	16 283 900
	019	138 557 566
	020	29 017 447
	021	67 224 274
	022	483 755 945 <del>422 494 313</del>
	083	207 461 987
	084	2 127 660
	085	75 133 298
	086	75 465 957
	089	224 944 027

Table 19: Form of finance

Dimension 2 - Form of finance		
Fund	Cohesion fund	
Category of region	N/A	
Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
1. Sustainable use of natural resources through environmental infrastructure development	01	1 511 002 297 <del>1 449 740 665</del>
	02	57 011 064

Table 20: Territory type

Dimension 3 - Territory type		
Fund	Cohesion fund	
Category of region	N/A	
Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
1. Sustainable use of natural resources through environmental infrastructure development	01	252 117 984
	02	443 482 251 <del>412 851 435</del>
	03	872 413 126

		841 782 310
	07	0

Table 21: Territorial delivery mechanisms

Dimension 4 - Territorial delivery mechanisms		
Fund	Cohesion fund	
Category of region	N/A	
Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
1. Sustainable use of natural resources through environmental infrastructure development	07	1 568 013 361 <del>1 506 751 729</del>

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

N/A

## 2.2 PRIORITY AXIS 2: ADAPTATION TO THE ADVERSE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE WITH THE FOCUS ON FLOOD PROTECTION

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

<b>Fund</b>	Cohesion fund
<b>Category of region</b>	N/A
<b>Calculation basis (total contribution)</b>	344 822 236 416 894 744
<b>Category of region for outermost regions and northern sparsely populated regions (where applicable)</b>	N/A

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Formátované: Písmo: 12 b, Farba písma: Automaticky

### 2.2.1. INVESTMENT PRIORITY 1 of Priority axis 2: 2.1 Supporting investment for adaptation to climate change including ecosystem - based approaches

#### 2.2.1.1. Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priority and expected results

#### **SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 2.1.1: Reducing the risk of flooding and negative effects of climate change**

Under the influence of climate change the risk of flooding increases. Given specific objective is aimed at strengthening preventive flood protection and mitigation of their adverse effects. The specific objective is set up in line with Article 1 of the Directive 2007/60/EC and as such it aims to reduce adverse effects of flooding on human health, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity. The said specific objective also seeks to reduce the risk of environmental contamination by harmful substances in case of flooding, as well as to mitigate further negative effects of climate change - the drought, by appropriate water retention in the landscape.

#### RESULTS

The expected result of the implementation of the specific measures aimed to achieve the above mentioned specific objective will be:

#### **a) Increased level of adaptation to climate change with focus on flood protection**

Implementation of relevant prevention and adaptation measures will primarily reduce the risk of occurrence of large floods which cause significant damage to land and property or seriously threaten the populations in the affected areas. All activities which form an integral part of this specific objective are to be implemented in the context of integrated river basin management and lead to a comprehensive flood protection of the SR territory.

Table 22: Programme-specific result indicators, by specific objective 2.1.1

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region (where relevant)	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
R0010	Number of people living in the area with existing flood risk	persons	N/A	124 878	2013	110 859	MoE SR (MoE SR report on the implementation progress of the flood risk management plans	Every two calendar years starting from 2016 and as to 31.12.2023

#### 2.2.1.2. Action to be supported under the investment priority

##### **SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 2.1.1: Reducing the risk of flooding and negative effects of climate change**

The above mentioned specific objective will be fulfilled through the following activities:

#### **A. Preventive flood protection measures tied to a watercourse**

The proposed measures are based on the implementation of Article 7 (2) of the Directive 2007/60/EC which is transposed to the Slovak legal system by the Act on flood protection. Ensuring preventive measures for protection against the negative effects of extreme hydrological situations ranks among the strategic objectives defined in the Concept for water management policy of the SR by 2015 and river basin management plans of the SR. Provided the Concept for water management policy of the SR by 2015 and the River basin management plans and the measures included in them are in compliance with the WFD, defined measures, enable to provide flood protection on the areas threatened by outpouring of the water flow. Equally important basis for the implementation of measures constitute Flood risk management plans, providing they comply with the Directive 2007/60/EC, which form part of the river basin management plans and define the most appropriate type of measures for flood threatened area.

Among preventive flood protection measures tied to a watercourse such measures will be supported that reduce the maximum flow rate of floods in the river or which protect the area against flooding by water from a watercourse or inland waters, as well as measures to adjust and revitalise flows directly linked to the achievement of the required level of protection of the adjacent areas against flooding.

Individual types of preventive flood protection measures on watercourses will be specified after consideration of specific conditions in respective areas. The measures can be implemented as technical measures and adjustments on watercourses directly, such as the construction and reconstruction of water works - for example river levees, polders, flood protection lines, flow adjustments including manipulation devices, measures in the upper parts of the river basin, facilities for the pumping of internal waters as well as measures related to the use of green infrastructure such as dry polder, flue stream into the swamp. In accordance with the defined demarcation line with RDP (chap. 8), stream control in forests (under § 27 of the Act on Forests) is not supported by the OP QE.

Given activity also supports the goals of the Danube Strategy in the Priority area 5 - Managing risks to the environment.

<i>Target groups:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SR residents</li> <li>- public administration entities</li> <li>- physical or legal entities authorized to do business on the flood threatened areas.</li> </ul>
<i>Target territories:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the entire territory of the SR - areas with the existing potential of significant flood risks, or where it can be assumed that their occurrence is probable in accordance with the Article 5 of the Directive 2007/60/EC, as well as with the use of transitional measures according to Article 13(1) of the Directive and in accordance with the Act on Flood Protection</li> </ul>
<i>Beneficiaries:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- state organisations performing the management of the water flows and water structures</li> <li>- renters/borrowers of the small watercourses or their parts according to the Water Act</li> </ul> <p>All subjects, regardless of their legal form, that fall under the above given definition, are the eligible beneficiaries</p>

#### **B. Preventive flood protection measures implemented outside the watercourses**

Part of the flood protection are measures in the landscape, which need to be implemented in areas outside a watercourse, especially outside the residential areas of municipalities. These are measures that slow drainage of water from the river basin into watercourses, increase the retention capacity of the river basin or support the natural accumulation of water in suitable locations. Measures that protect the area against flooding by surface drainage which is a component of the total runoff from the river basin on the ground surface into watercourses or other water bodies.

The basis for the implementation of measures will constitute the Flood risk management plans, providing they comply with the Directive 2007/60/EC, which form part of the river basin management plans and define the most appropriate type of measures for a flood threatened area. Different types of preventive measures for flood protection on the watercourse will be determined after taking into account the specific conditions in that area. In implementing the measures, the natural surplus of water from the river basin will be distracted mainly by the surface water flows. In addition to the implementation of technical adjustments in the landscape, the measures will mainly use the ecosystem functions of the landscape allowing for slowdown in water runoff.

Within the given activity support will also go to measures of natural character utilising the green infrastructure. These include creation and restoration of hedges, restoration and replenishment of trees in the landscape, retention of water in appropriate geomorphological formations. At the same time these measures are synergetic with the activities within the *Priority axis 1, Investment priority 3: Protecting and restoring biodiversity and soil and promoting ecosystem services, including through Natura 2000, and green infrastructure*, since they may also serve as eco-corridors or multifunctional zones helping to maintain or restore healthy ecosystems.

The effective measures implemented outside watercourses include, also in the SR territory historically verified, creating systems of water collection (retention) channels (trenches), representing water structure for flood prevention according to Art. 52 (1) b) of Water Act, as they aim to capture surface runoff waters from the slopes into the built-up parts of the municipalities. These structures, generally built above the border between the residential and outside the residential areas of municipalities, direct surface runoff waters in high-risk areas,

diverting the captured water to the areas where their secure detention and drainage is possible back to watercourses with a certain time lag. Such measures may directly protect the built-up residential areas of municipalities against surface runoff waters (as result of rainfalls or snow melting) and, through distribution of runoff waters, they may reduce the maximum flow of flood waves in the watercourses for a longer period of time.

Hydromelioration measures can not be supported within the OP QE, as their aim is, as opposed to water structures for flood prevention, and in line with Art. 52 (1) f) of Water Act, to irrigate and to drain the land and to protect the land against water erosion, thus improving natural conditions for land use. Moreover, neither the forests activities aimed at construction and reconstruction of technical works for water storage for the purpose of fire protection, neither the creation of objects of flood protection that do not require a building permit, are not subject of OP QE support and these activities will be, in accordance with the demarcation line (chap. 8), supported by the RDP.

<i>Target groups:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SR residents</li> <li>- public administration entities</li> <li>- physical or legal entities authorized to do business on the flood-threatened territories</li> </ul>
<i>Target territories:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the entire territory of the SR - areas with the existing potential of significant flood risk, or where it can be assumed that their occurrence is probable in accordance with the Article 5 of the Directive 2007/60/EC, as well as with the use of transitional measures according to Article 13(1) of the Directive and in accordance with the Act on Flood Protection</li> </ul>
<i>Beneficiaries:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- public administration entities<sup>105</sup></li> <li>- associations of physical or legal entities</li> <li>- non-profit organisations providing services of general interest</li> <li>- physical or legal entities authorized to do business</li> </ul>

### C. Water retention measures in the urbanised landscape ~~(residential areas of municipalities)~~

Urbanized environment is typical with high share of the area with impermeable surface that may have significant adverse effects on natural water circulation in the landscape with these effects often exceeding the boundaries of the affected residential areas. The areas with impermeable surface quickly run off rainwater from the affected area mainly through sewage system, which causes the overload of the sewage system and of WWTPs, as well as of the recipient. Discharge of large quantities of waste water into the recipient may have subsequent negative effect on possible floods. On the other hand, the areas with impermeable surface suffer from strong overheating during hot periods, which can cause significant deterioration of the local microclimate and thus negatively influence local population. The measures allowing soaking of rainwater into the soil, in combination with green infrastructure elements, can significantly contribute to elimination of the above-mentioned adverse effects on the local environments.

Within the water retention measures, the activities for capturing and retention of rainwater ~~in urbanized landscape~~ will be supported, either through green infrastructure elements or elements of technical character. In particular, these measures encompass creation of bio-retention systems for rainwater retention (rain gardens, collection ponds, etc.), further on so-called green roofs or surface or underground reservoirs for rainwater retention (for other potential rainwater use, e.g. for watering). The support will be targeted towards measures for

soaking of rainwater, i.e. soaking elements (e.g. soaking strips, infiltration trenches, etc.) or utilization of grassing blocks.

<i>Target groups:</i>	- SR residents living in the municipalities with high proportion of built-up area
<i>Target territories:</i>	- the entire territory of the SR— <del>residential area of municipalities</del>
<i>Beneficiaries:</i>	- public administration entities <sup>106</sup> - associations of physical or legal entities - non-profit organisations providing services of general interest - physical or legal entities authorized to do business

#### **D. Updating flood hazard and flood risk maps and updating flood risk management plans**

Act No 7/2010 Coll. on flood protection sets out the obligation to draw up and update flood hazard maps and flood risk maps and simultaneously update flood risk management plans resulting from the requirement to assess geographical areas at risk of flooding in spatial planning as a prerequisite for appropriate use of particular areas and prevention of flood damages. The flood hazard and the flood risk maps as well as the flood risk management plans have to be regularly reviewed and updated due to the ongoing climate change, ongoing changes in the landscape or measures implemented.

Based on the updating of the flood risk management plans the implementation of the most efficient flood prevention measures on as well as outside watercourses will be guided.

Updated flood hazard and flood risk maps also constitute a basis for guiding of spatial planning activities.

<i>Target groups:</i>	- SR residents - public administration entities - private sector entities operating in the region
<i>Target territories:</i>	- the entire territory of the SR
<i>Beneficiaries:</i>	- administrator of the water flows important from the water management point of view

#### **E. Development of methodologies for assessment of investment risks related to adverse effects of climate change**

This activity will contribute to the cost efficiency of the implemented investments not only at regional and local levels but also at the level of individual projects. The principle is to take into account the risks of adverse effects of climate change during the preparation of an investment project and avoid the costs of recovery and restoration from damages caused by a natural disaster. Application of methodologies for assessment of risk associated with adverse effects of climate change will result in reduction of adverse economic and social impacts and will have a positive impact on economic growth.

The proposed activity is one of the measures category that aims at allowing “*Better informed decision making*” at all levels of the process, from an individual project up through local, regional and national levels.

The expected outputs from the activity are the following methodologies/guidelines:

- Socioeconomic methodologies and tools for integrated assessment of adaptation measures;

- Tools for the decision-making process such as a handbook for investors.

Development of the methodological framework for the implementation of adaptation measures will take account of uncertainties of future different sectorial developments. Application of the developed methodologies will make the decision-making process in investment plans easier and more efficient. The methodologies shall, at the end of the day, also result in a reduction of overall costs of investment projects.

<i>Target groups:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SR residents</li> <li>- public administration entities</li> <li>- private sector entities</li> </ul>
<i>Target territories:</i>	- the entire territory of the SR
<i>Beneficiaries:</i>	- central administration entities <sup>107</sup>

#### **F. Information programs on adverse effects of climate change and proactive adaptation options**

The specified activity will ensure better preparedness and capacity to respond to climate change effects at the local, regional and national levels. Awareness-raising activities and unbiased information on natural disasters risk prevention caused by climate change (floods, landslides, torrential rains, heat waves) will raise the public awareness.

Implementation of the activity will have positive impact on quality of life (e.g. when building infrastructure, planning new construction and in transport systems).

Implementation of the activity at regional and local levels through information and awareness-raising programmes will have a positive socioeconomic impact (e.g. on improvement of public health, or reduction of damage to property).

<i>Target groups:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SR residents</li> <li>- public administration entities</li> <li>- private sector entities</li> </ul>
<i>Target territories:</i>	- the entire territory of the SR
<i>Beneficiaries:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Slovak Environmental Agency, within a national project</li> <li>- central administration entities competent in the field of creation and protection of the environment<sup>108</sup></li> <li>- entities of territorial self-government<sup>109</sup></li> <li>- non-profit organisations providing services of general interest in the field of creation and protection of the environment</li> <li>- foundations involved in the field of creation and protection of the environment</li> <li>- associations of physical or legal entities involved in the field of creation and protection of the environment</li> </ul>

##### *2.2.1.3. Guiding principles for selection of operations*

In order to ensure efficient and transparent selection process of projects/operations which will contribute to the achievement of the OP objectives in the most appropriate way, general guiding principles for the selection of operations, mentioned in the chapter 2.1.1.3, will be applied.

- The support will only go to the projects assessed as appropriate and effective in relation to the baseline situation and needs identified in the given area, cost-effective, sustainable and with adequate means and capacities for their implementation;
- Projects will be selected with regard to their cost-effectiveness (Value for Money principle) in order to ensure the selection of projects whose contribution to the objectives of the OP is in relation to the funds spent the largest;
- Preference shall be given to those projects which are part of the strategy for sustainable urban development;
- Preference shall be given to those projects which are part of the RITS.

In addition, within the selected types of activities the following specific principles will be applied:

*Preventive flood protection measures tied to a watercourse and preventive flood protection measures implemented outside the watercourses*

- projects will be implemented in areas with the occurrence of potentially significant flood risk in accordance with the Article 5 of the Directive 2007/60/EC as well as with the use of transitional measures according to the Article 13(1) of the Directive;
- projects will be implemented in accordance with the Concept for water management policy of the SR by 2015, provided that they are in compliance with the WFD, and subsequently in accordance with the flood risk management plans;
- favoured will be projects of natural character (utilizing green infrastructure) prior to grey infrastructure projects as a better environmental option (or as complementary to minimize Grey Infrastructure impacts) provided that they are equally or more effective in terms of meeting the objectives according to the Article 1 of the Directive on the assessment and management of flood risks;
- favoured will be projects with a higher priority determined by prioritisation of measures in the flood risk management plans.

*Water retention measures in the urbanised landscape (~~residential areas of municipalities~~)*

- primarily supported will be projects in the areas with a lower proportion of green infrastructure, higher rate of built-up or higher density of inhabitants per km<sup>2</sup>;
- favoured will be projects combining measures for water retention with measures allowing the use of trapped water in times of drought.

*Updating flood hazard and flood risk maps and updating flood risk management plans*

- projects will be supported in the case their implementation is based on the obligations arising from the provisions of the Act on flood protection, which transposed the Directive 2007/60/EC into the Slovak law.

For the purpose of uniform and objective assessment and evaluation of compliance with the above mentioned principles and conditions, project selection criteria will be defined. Approval of the project selection criteria will be the responsibility of the Monitoring Committee of the OP QE.

#### 2.2.1.4. Planned use of financial instruments

Financial instruments (FIs) may be used to support the implementation of those activities where the efficient use of funds from the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF), and this particular form of aid, will be demonstrated. In the case of economically viable projects, where the return on investments or cost savings are expected, FIs represent a more appropriate form of support, avoiding market distortion. The FIs will focus on the support of those activities which do not find financing on the market, or do not find adequate financing, upon which their implementation would be efficient.

The possibility of using of revolving funds, while contributing to the objectives of the priority axis, belongs to the benefits of the use of FIs. The other benefits of using FIs include the opportunity to increase financial resources to achieve the specific objectives of the programme by means of attracting additional capital based on an appropriate setting of these instruments. Attracting additional capital is necessary also in respect to the insufficient amount from the ESIF to cover all the investment needs in the areas concerned. Participation by private investors may also contribute towards quality improvement of project implementation, and thus additionally contribute to a more efficient use of funds.

With the use of FIs, it will be possible to support the relevant activities with appropriate financial products (loans, guarantees, capital contributions, mezzanine funds and others). Specific activities, appropriate amount of funds and the conditions for the implementation of specific FIs, including the expected leverage of allocated ESI Funds, as well as combinations with other forms of support, will be based on the ex-ante assessment of FIs, required under Article 37 (2) of General Regulation for FIs in the 2014 - 2020 programming period.

#### 2.2.1.5. Planned use of major projects

Implementation of no major projects is planned under Investment priority 1 of Priority axis 2.

#### 2.2.1.6. Common and programme-specific output indicators

Table 23: Common and programme-specific output indicators, by investment priority and category of region (if relevant)

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
CO20	COMMON OUTPUT Population benefiting from flood protection measures	persons	CF	N/A	<del>10 615</del> 12 744	Monitoring of the OP QE implementation	Once per calendar year
O0019	Number of implemented water retention measures	number	CF	N/A	86	Monitoring of the OP QE implementation	Once per calendar year
O0020	Number of updated or newly elaborated planning background documents for flood risk management (at the SR level)	number	CF	N/A	4	Monitoring of the OP QE implementation	Once per calendar year
O0021	Number of newly elaborated methodologies for the assessment of investment risks associated with adverse effects of climate change	number	CF	N/A	10	Monitoring of the OP QE implementation	Once per calendar year
O0178	Number of implemented information	number	CF	N/A	193	Monitoring of the OP QE	Once per calendar

	activities					implementation	year
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## 2.2.2. Performance framework of the Priority axis 2

Table 24: Performance framework of the Priority axis 2

Indicator type (Key implementation step, financial, output or, where appropriate, result indicator)	ID	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Fund	Category of region	Milestone for 2018	Final target (2023)	Source of data	Explanation of relevance of indicator, where appropriate
Output indicator	CO20	Population benefiting from flood protection measures	persons	CF	N/A	0	<u>10 615</u> <del>12 744</del>	Monitoring of the OP QE implementation	Share of the allocation of the priority axis – <u>85,27 %</u> <del>87,23 %</del>
Key implementation steps	K0006	Population benefiting from flood protection measures according to the planned state of contracted projects where public procurement has been verified	persons	CF	N/A	5 735	N/A	Monitoring of the OP QE implementation	Share of the allocation of the priority axis – <u>85,27 %</u> <del>87,23 %</del>
Financial indicator	F0002	Total amount of certified expenditure after submission of request for payment to the EC	EUR	CF	N/A	108 000 000	<u>344 822 236</u> <del>416 894 744</del>	ITMS / CA (MF of the SR)	

Formátovaná tabuľka

Formátované: Podľa okraja

## 2.2.3. Categories of intervention

Table 25: Intervention field

Dimension 1 - Intervention field		
Fund	Cohesion fund	
Category of region	N/A	
Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
2. Adaptation to the adverse effects of climate change with the focus on flood protection	087	<u>293 098 900</u> <del>354 360 532</del>

Table 26: Form of finance

Dimension 2 - Form of finance		
Fund	Cohesion fund	
Category of region	N/A	
Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
2. Adaptation to the adverse effects of climate change with the focus on flood protection	01	<u>293 098 900</u> <del>354 360 532</del>
	02	0

Table 27: Territory type

Dimension 3 - Territory type		
Fund	Cohesion fund	
Category of region	N/A	
Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
2. Adaptation to the adverse effects of climate change with the focus on flood protection	01	19 085 441
	02	20 101 048
	03	<del>253 912 411</del> <del>315 174 043</del>
	07	0

Table 28: Territorial delivery mechanisms

Dimension 4 - Territorial delivery mechanisms		
Fund	Cohesion fund	
Category of region	N/A	
Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
2. Adaptation to the adverse effects of climate change with the focus on flood protection	07	<del>293 098 900</del> <del>354 360 532</del>

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

N/A

## 2.3 PRIORITY AXIS 3: PROMOTING RISK MANAGEMENT, EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND RESILIENCE TO EMERGENCIES AFFECTED BY CLIMATE CHANGE

### 2.3.0 Fund, category of region and basis for the calculation of the Union support

<b>Fund</b>	ERDF
<b>Category of region</b>	less developed regions of the SR
<b>Calculation basis (total contribution)</b>	<u>286 936 727</u> <del>306 942 790</del>
<b>Category of region for outermost regions and northern sparsely populated regions (where applicable)</b>	N/A

### 2.3.1. INVESTMENT PRIORITY 1 OF PRIORITY AXIS 3: 3.1 *Promoting investment to address specific risks, ensuring disaster resilience and developing disaster management systems*

#### 2.3.1.1. *Specific corresponding to the investment priority and expected results*

#### **SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 3.1.1: *Increasing the level of preparedness to manage emergencies affected by climate change***

Specific objective is focused on systematic measures for preparedness and prevention that contribute to the reduction of negative effects of climate change on ecological, social and economic infrastructure of the country through their comprehensive monitoring at national, regional and local level. To ensure preparedness the activities are designed in accordance with supranational strategies<sup>110</sup>, the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid<sup>111</sup> and especially with local and regional risk analysis and risk management plans.

#### **RESULTS**

The expected result of the implementation of measures aimed at achieving the above mentioned specific objective will be:

#### **a) Increased preparedness of territory for emergencies affected by climate change.**

Optimizing of existing processes of data collection, monitoring and evaluation of emergencies affected by climate change will ensure the creation of detailed and exact development models of emergencies, creation of climate change impacts forecasting and implementation of targeted and effective preventive measures. In order to ensure real-time information it is necessary to involve a wide range of partners from the public, private and non-profit sector at regional and local level.

The creation of risk management system will ensure risk evaluation, creation and implementation of action plans to minimize their impacts, continuous monitoring, evaluation,

modelling of development according to the current status as well as providing information on potential threats.

The key factor for reduction of risks related to emergencies is to build awareness and knowledge base of the risks, which requires cooperation of public administration, civil society, social and economic partners. Common objective of life and health protection as well as social and natural values (especially at local and regional level) cannot be fulfilled without the proper response to precisely addressed early warning.

The increase of preparedness for emergencies affected by climate change will be achieved by provision of addressed early information and warning system.

**Table 29: Programme-specific result indicators, by specific objective 3.1.1**

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region (where relevant)	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
R0012	Share of coverage of inhabited territory secured by early warning system	%	Less developed regions of the SR	36,66	2013	80	Statistics of the inhabited territory of the SR covered by an effective level of acoustic warning signal, distributed through final warning means + monitoring and implementation of OP QE	Once per calendar year

**SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 3.1.2: Increasing the effectiveness of preventive and adaptation measures to eliminate environmental risks (except for flood protection measures)**

The specific objective is aimed at solving secondary issues caused by the effects of climate change. These include risks associated with heavy rains which may cause, except of floods, the possible occurrence of landslides, which appear ever more frequently in the territories in where they did not occur in the past.

**RESULTS**

The expected result of the implementation of measures aimed at achieving the above mentioned specific objective will be:

**a) Reduced risk of landslides**

Due to extraordinary heavy precipitation in 2010 - 2013, more than 600 new slope deformations arose in Slovakia. Given the continuing trend of the new slope deformations increase, as well as the existence of yet (from a geological point of view) sufficiently unexplored and partially rehabilitated emergency landslides, it will be necessary to take measures for the prevention of landslides reactivation, resp. for their permanent rehabilitation in case of emergency condition. Through supporting activities aimed at prevention, survey and remediation of emergency landslides, the surface of the landslide area secured against re-landslide or rehabilitated in case of emergency landslide, will increase.

**b) Improving territory examination in terms of identification of deficit areas of drinking water sources**

Until now, the conducted hydrogeological surveys have been undertaking unevenly, partially focusing on areas with significant groundwater sources and partially on areas with reported groundwater deficits. The planned survey will fully respect the effects of on-going climate change and in that respect it will focus on defining the groundwater deficit areas and also on identifying substitute water sources for those areas. For above mentioned reason, new areas will be subjected to the new survey but existing areas with already completed hydrogeological survey must be reviewed.

**Table 30: Programme-specific result indicators, by specific objective 3.1.2**

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region (where relevant)	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
R0013	Share of surface area of rehabilitated landslide territory on the total surface of registered landslide territory of the SR	%	Less developed regions	3,5	2013	8,5	Database of slope deformations of the State Geological Institute of Dionyz Stur <a href="http://mapserver.geology.sk/zosuvy/mapviewer.jsf?width=968&amp;height=818">http://mapserver.geology.sk/zosuvy/mapviewer.jsf?width=968&amp;height=818</a>	Once per calendar year

**SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 3.1.3: Increasing the effectiveness of management of emergencies affected by climate change**

Specific objective is focused on dealing with selected emergencies and mitigation of negative climate change impacts affecting the whole territory of the SR. Mitigation of impacts will be solved through strengthening the resilience to emergencies affected by climate change comprehensively for 3 areas: people, infrastructure and ecosystems at all levels (local, regional and national level) and including the whole territory of the SR in accordance with National and regional assessment plans of nature and manmade risks. Another specific and other risks will result from the Adaptation strategy of the SR to the adverse effects of climate change and from the National risk assessment plan.

**RESULTS**

The expected result of the implementation of measures aimed at achieving the above mentioned specific objective will be:

**a) Increased effectiveness of risk management affected by climate change**

Increasing effectiveness of IRS rescue units in interventions will contribute to mitigation of emergencies impacts and to strengthening the resilience of social, economic and environmental infrastructure. It is also the result of comprehensive solution of emergencies consequences in the affected area. Quick and effective recovery after the emergency has direct impact not only on economic activity, long-term social and economic sustainability and economic growth of the territory, but also on health of the population.

Increased effectiveness will be achieved through strengthening the capacity and intervention capability of civil protection system, IRS rescue units and institutions active in providing assistance for the protection of life, health, property and environment in relation to individual identified risks.

Another result will be making tools available for support by elimination of consequences after emergencies accessible in order to ensure the continuity of basic and common functions and processes at the level of communities, infrastructure and ecosystems.

Table 31: Programme result indicators corresponding with specific objective 3.1.3

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region (where relevant)	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
R0014	The duration of the intervention in emergency affected by climate change	Minutes	Less developed regions of the SR	108	2013	87	Mol statistics on interventions + monitoring of OP QE implementation	Once per calendar year

### 2.3.1.2. Actions to be supported under the investment priority

#### **SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 3.1.1: Increasing the level of preparedness to manage emergencies affected by climate change**

The above-mentioned specific objective will be fulfilled through the following activities, which are designed in accordance with the European civil protection legislation, Adaptation strategy to the adverse effects of climate change and National risk assessment plan:

- A. Modelling the development of emergencies, monitoring and evaluation of the risks related to climate change and its impacts
  - B. Creating the systems of risk assessment and early warning and preparedness to deal with emergencies affected by climate change
- A. Modelling the development of emergencies, monitoring and evaluation of the risks related to climate change and its impacts**

Creating models of development and impacts of climate change on the SR, its regions and ecosystems is a prerequisite for development of effective measures for adaptation and response. In order to protect potentially vulnerable target groups and infrastructure they will act as optimization of risk management procedures and intervention and as basis for foreseeing of emergencies and planning and subsequent implementation of preventive measures.

Created monitoring and evaluation mechanisms and their connection with local, regional and national risks will increase resilience to negative impacts of climate change. Supporting activities focused on gathering available data and real-time data for the purpose of threat identification, assessment and modelling of impacts will lead to early information on imminent danger of vulnerable population.

Key measures will be the modernisation of risk monitoring systems, increasing the quality of emergencies development models, in order to foresee emergencies, planning and implementation of preventive measure, in order to protect potentially vulnerable target groups and infrastructure.

The effectiveness of measures will be ensured by promoting activities focused on integration of operational management, creation and development of internal security systems in accordance with the EU Internal Security Strategy and EU civil protection tools.

Within the frame of mentioned activity the financial assistance will be addressed particularly to the elaboration of National risk assessment plan and National risk management strategy, the creation of complex security risks assessment model, the setting of responsible level of particular measures of critical infrastructure protection elements, the climate change impact analysis, the support of emergency modelling, the monitoring of emergency behaviour, the assessment of intervention units deployment, etc.

<i>Target groups:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- entities of territorial self-government</li> <li>- state budgetary organisations and state contributory organisations</li> <li>- associations of physical or legal entities</li> <li>- non-profit organisations providing services of general interest</li> <li>- physical or legal entities authorized to do business</li> <li>- the SR residents</li> </ul>
<i>Target territory:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the entire territory of the SR</li> </ul>
<i>Beneficiaries:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Integrated Rescue System units</li> <li>- entities of territorial self-government<sup>112</sup></li> <li>- state budgetary organisations and state contributory organisations</li> <li>- associations of physical or legal entities</li> <li>- non-profit organisations providing services of general interest</li> </ul>

*Note: Projects can also be implemented through the institute of partnership.*

#### **B. Creating the systems of risk assessment, early warning and preparedness to deal with emergencies affected by climate change**

The effectiveness of emergency preparedness requires sufficient awareness and preparedness of the citizens, volunteers and communities that will be able in case of an identified risk to participate in preventive measures (e.g. self-protection, protection of family and community during the threat and in phase of recovery after the emergencies etc.).

In order to ensure the effectiveness of early warning systems and early response those activities will be supported that increase involvement of individuals, communities and organisations to cope with specific emergencies affected by climate change.

It is necessary to systematic involve the self-government, civil society and the wide public especially by increasing awareness and ability of target groups protection.

Supported will be activities aimed to increase awareness of adaptation, risks, possibilities of minimisation their impacts as well as activities contributing to the development of EU platform for adaptation to climate change – Climate-ADAPT and cooperation with European Database of Vulnerabilities to Natural Hazards (EVDAB).

Promoting activities to build national knowledge database of climate change impacts and ensuring the availability of collected data and created models will achieve connectivity of services and data exchange in the area of climate change between national and EU level, e.g. Copernicus programme<sup>113</sup> (Global Monitoring for Environment and Security).

Supporting activities of local and regional representatives who will contribute to data collection, will ensure the access to information on current risks and threats directly from the local to the national level in almost real time. This partnership will ensure early availability and accuracy of information for addressed early warning system of vulnerable population.

Within the frame of mentioned activity the financial assistance will be addressed particularly to: building of information and database system of natural and man-made risks, connection of built information and database system with other systems at national and international level, extension of monitoring stations networks for monitoring of biological allergenic particles concentration in ambient air, building of early warning and notification systems and supplementation of other equipment.

<i>Target groups:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- entities of territorial self-government</li> <li>- state budgetary organisations and state contributory organisations</li> <li>- associations of physical or legal entities</li> <li>- non-profit organisations providing services of general interest</li> <li>- physical or legal entities authorized to do business</li> <li>- the SR residents</li> </ul>
<i>Target territory:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the entire territory of the SR</li> </ul>
<i>Beneficiaries:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Integrated Rescue System units</li> <li>- entities of territorial self-government<sup>114</sup></li> <li>- state budgetary organisations and state contributory organisations</li> <li>- associations of physical or legal entities</li> <li>- non-profit organisations providing services of general interest</li> </ul>

*Note: Projects can also be implemented through the institute of partnership*

***SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 3.1.2: Increasing the effectiveness of preventive and adaptation measures to eliminate environmental risks (except for flood protection measures)***

Specific objective will be fulfilled through the following two activities:

A. Promoting prevention, survey and remediation of emergency landslides directly related to excessive precipitation activity

B. Hydrogeological survey focused on identification of water deficit areas and provision of sources of drinking water, their accumulation and water management balance

**A. Promoting prevention, survey and remediation of emergency landslides directly related to excessive precipitation activity**

Due to the ongoing climate change the occurrence of local extreme precipitation is on the rise on the territory of Slovakia. On the specific type of territory the local extreme precipitations significantly contribute to the mobilization of landslides even in territories which were considered safe. Assessment of the risk territories threatened by the landslides and the implementation of adaptation measures allowing, for example, effective water drainage from this territory, or detention of the water in secure areas, will reduce the risks of damage to property and lives of the population.

Within this activity the primary focus will be on the preventive measures in the territories directly threatened by the existing landslides. The activities/interventions will concentrate on the prevention of new damage creation in the affected territory (i.e. stabilisation of the active landslide to prevent health hazards and damage to property of the population on the spared territory, for example next to / under the active landslide).

Given activity will be implemented in accordance with the conceptual document *Programme of prevention and management of landslide risks (2014 - 2020)*, which determines the framework tasks and measures for a gradual reduction of landslide risks associated with floods.

Within the main activity following will be implemented:

- Identification, registration and engineering geological mapping of the slope deformations;
- Engineering geological survey of the slope deformations;
- Remediation of the slope deformations;
- Monitoring of the slope deformations.

<i>Target groups:</i>	- SR residents - public administration entities
<i>Target territories:</i>	- the entire territory of the SR
<i>Beneficiaries:</i>	- public administration entities <sup>115</sup>

**B. Hydrogeological survey focused on identification of water deficit areas and provision of sources of drinking water, their accumulation and water management balance**

On the selected territories of the SR the climate change manifests itself through occurrence of long periods without any precipitation causing serious problems associated with deficit of drinking water for the local population. It is therefore necessary to provide for replacement or new water sources, groundwaters primarily, which would secure population access to drinking water even during prolonged dry periods.

To ensure sufficient amount of drinking water sources hydrogeological survey needs to be carried out focusing on defining of groundwater deficit areas and localisation of new sources of groundwaters. Implementation of projects concerned with hydrogeological survey will increase the share of examined territory of the SR.

<i>Target groups:</i>	- SR residents - physical and legal entities authorized to do business, active in the field of survey conducting
<i>Target territories:</i>	- the entire territory of the SR
<i>Beneficiaries:</i>	- the MoE SR and budgetary or contributory organisations established by the MoE SR

***SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 3.1.3: Increasing the effectiveness of management of emergencies affected by climate change***

The above-mentioned specific objective will be fulfilled through the following activities which are designed in accordance with the European civil protection legislation, Adaptation strategy to the adverse effects of climate change and National risk assessment plan:

- A. Optimization of systems, services and strengthening the intervention capacities for management of emergencies at local and regional level
- B. Creation of technical and institutional support of specialized rescue modules

**A. Optimization of systems, services and strengthening the intervention capacities for management of emergencies at local and regional level**

Supporting measures aimed at optimization of systems, services and strengthening capacities at local and regional level will ensure the need for preparation of adaptation strategies at regional and local level and in municipalities. In relation to the specific risks in a given

territory the creation and actualization of local plans (assessment of natural and manmade risks, intervention and recovery) will be supported according to Covenant of Mayors.

Supported will be also measures aimed at exchange of experience, networking, information exchange, and their results will lead to improvement of IRS rescue units training at national and international level. Support of measures focused on creation of tools for the exchange of experience and simplification of the decision making in case of risk management and emergencies will achieve also the exchange of experience between foreign experts, particularly in cross-border area.

Support of measures aimed at supplement of special equipment necessary for early and effective intervention during specific emergencies depending on particular type of emergency will ensure shortening the duration of intervention and will decrease the negative impacts of climate change (reduce damages).

Promoting measures ensuring the infrastructure for specialized training and education in the context of risk management and emergencies will lead to systematic preparation of employees involved in the provision of relevant services in crisis situations management.

Promotion of measures focused on creation of tools for effective and adaptive learning supported by necessary technical equipment for particular form of emergency will create the baseline for optimization of systems and processes in the form of innovative ways to provide services and thus shorten the duration of the intervention.

Within the frame of mentioned activity the financial assistance will be addressed particularly to: strengthening of intervention rescue units capacities in the context of emergency management, strengthening of technical and equipment capacities for early, fast and quality handling of tasks associated with the emergency origin in the Slovak Republic and abroad, creation of effective support of intervening units using modern electronic devices and system for unified work applications management, supplementation of radio-communications infrastructure and technical means for data transfer, building of, provision of special emergency management technics, provision of material and technic equipment and rescue technics, increase the resilience of citizens and communities to disasters, support and strengthening of volunteerism in the context of civil protection and emergency management.

<i>Target groups:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- entities of territorial self-government</li> <li>- state budgetary organisations and state contributory organisations</li> <li>- associations of physical or legal entities</li> <li>- non-profit organisations providing services of general interest</li> <li>- physical or legal entities authorized to do business</li> <li>- the SR residents</li> </ul>
<i>Target territory:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the entire territory of the SR</li> </ul>
<i>Beneficiaries:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Integrated Rescue System units</li> <li>- entities of territorial self-government<sup>116</sup></li> <li>- state budgetary organisations and state contributory organisations</li> <li>- associations of physical or legal entities</li> <li>- non-profit organisations providing services of general interest</li> </ul>

*Note: Projects can also be implemented through the institute of partnership.*

## **B. Creation of technical and institutional support of specialized rescue modules**

Institutional development of specialized rescue modules in accordance with relevant EU regulations in the area of civil protection will increase professional capacities and skills of

intervention units. Supported will be projects focused on supplement of intervention capacity and increase of protection of the SR territory and territory of neighbouring countries by four civil protection modules<sup>117</sup>.

According to the highest identified level of risks related to climate change on the SR territory supported will be measures leading to ensure following modules:

- Ground forest firefighting/Ground forest firefighting using vehicles;
- Medium/Heavy urban search and rescue;
- Aerial forest fire fighting;
- Emergency temporary shelter.

Module Ground forest firefighting/Ground forest firefighting using vehicles will be used for extinction of large forest fires and vegetal fires using ground equipment and vehicles.

The main tasks of the module Medium/Heavy urban search and rescue will include search for victims located under debris and the provision of lifesaving first aid as required until handover of victims for further medical treatment.

Module Aerial forest fire fighting will be used to help in extinction of large fires and vegetal fires by performing aerial firefighting.

The main task of the module Emergency temporary shelter will be the provision of temporary emergency accommodation including the provision of essential services in the initial stages of a disaster in cooperation with existing structures, local authorities and international organisations until handover to local authorities or humanitarian organisations and also where the handover takes place, train the relevant personnel.

<i>Target groups:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- entities of territorial self-government</li> <li>- state budgetary organisations and state contributory organisations</li> <li>- associations of physical or legal entities</li> <li>- non-profit organisations providing services of general interest</li> <li>- physical or legal entities authorized to do business</li> <li>- the SR residents</li> </ul>
<i>Target territory:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the entire territory of the SR</li> </ul>
<i>Beneficiaries:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Integrated Rescue System units</li> <li>- entities of territorial self-government<sup>118</sup></li> <li>- state budgetary organisations and state contributory organisations</li> <li>- associations of physical or legal entities</li> <li>- non-profit organisations providing services of general interest</li> </ul>

*Note: Projects can also be implemented through in the institute of partnership.*

### 2.3.1.3. Guiding principles for selection of projects

In order to ensure efficient and transparent selection process of projects/operations, which will contribute to the achievement of the OP objectives in the most appropriate way, the following general principles will be applied in the project selection process:

- The support will only go to the projects assessed as appropriate and effective in relation to the baseline situation and the identified needs of risk management and emergencies, cost-effective, sustainable and with adequate means and capacities for their implementation;

- The support will only go to the projects in accordance with Adaptation strategy to the adverse effects of climate change and National risk assessment plan;
- Preference shall be given to those projects with the greatest impact on minimizing the negative impacts of risk (negative impact and probability) for a given territory;
- Preference shall be given to those projects that are part of sustainable urban development;
- Preference shall be given to those projects that are part of RITS.

In addition, the following specific principles will be applied in the project selection process:

*Hydrogeological survey focused on identification of water deficit areas and provision of sources of drinking water, their accumulation and water management balance*

- Projects will be implemented in accordance with the Concept of geological research and exploration of the territory of the Slovak Republic;
- Projects will be prioritized by hydrogeological survey in areas characterized by problems with drinking water sources;
- Preference shall be given to those projects of hydrogeological survey in areas with higher number of the people.

*Promoting prevention, survey and remediation of emergency landslides directly related to excessive precipitation activity*

- Projects will be implemented in accordance with the Programme of landslide risk prevention and management;
- Projects will be prioritized by resolving landslides with higher socio-economic risks (figure R);
- Preference shall be given to those projects aimed on resolving landslides in areas with higher number of the people.

*There will be applied following principles for other activities:*

- The support will go to the projects aimed on resolving of consequences caused by geophysical, hydrogeological, meteorological and climatological risks;
- Project has to correspond with the identified risk of climate change at national/regional level in accordance with National risk assessment plan and with Adaptation strategy to the adverse effects of climate change;
- It is anticipated involvement of professional institutions and organizations including experts from the non-profit sector and partners in the evaluation of submitted applications.

#### *2.3.1.4. The planned use of financial instruments*

Financial instruments (FIs) may be used to support the implementation of those activities where the efficient use of funds from the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF), and this particular form of aid, will be demonstrated. In the case of economically viable projects, where the return on investments or cost savings are expected, FIs represent a more appropriate form of support, avoiding market distortion. The FIs will focus on the support of

those activities which do not find financing on the market, or do not find adequate financing, upon which their implementation would be efficient.

The possibility of using of revolving funds, while contributing to the objectives of the priority axis, belongs to the benefits of the use of FIs. The other benefits of using FIs include the opportunity to increase financial resources to achieve the specific objectives of the programme by means of attracting additional capital based on an appropriate setting of these instruments. Attracting additional capital is necessary also in respect to the insufficient amount from the ESIF to cover all the investment needs in the areas concerned. Participation by private investors may also contribute towards quality improvement of project implementation, and thus additionally contribute to a more efficient use of funds.

With the use of FIs, it will be possible to support the relevant activities with appropriate financial products (loans, guarantees, capital contributions, mezzanine funds and others). Specific activities, appropriate amount of funds and the conditions for the implementation of specific FIs, including the expected leverage of allocated ESI Funds, as well as combinations with other forms of support, will be based on the ex-ante assessment of FIs, required under Article 37 (2) of General Regulation for FIs in the 2014 - 2020 programming period.

#### 2.3.1.5. The planned use of major projects

The implementation of major project is not planned under Investment priority 1 of Priority axis 3.

#### 2.3.1.6. Common output indicators and programme-specific output indicators

Table 32: Common output indicators and programme-specific output indicators, by investment priority and category of region (if relevant)

ID	Output indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
CO22	Total surface area of rehabilitated land	ha	ERDF	less developed regions of the SR	<del>197</del> 249	Monitoring of the OPQE implementation	Once per calendar year
O0022	Number of created development models of emergencies affected by climate change	number	ERDF	less developed regions of the SR	2	Monitoring of the OPQE implementation	Once per calendar year
O0023	Number of early warning systems	number	ERDF	less developed regions of the SR	2	Monitoring of the OPQE implementation	Once per calendar year
O0024	Surface of examined landslide area	ha	ERDF	less developed regions of the SR	<del>762</del> 806	Monitoring of the OPQE implementation	Once per calendar year
O0025	Surface of hydro geologically examined territory	ha	ERDF	less developed regions of the SR	21 965	Monitoring of the OPQE implementation	Once per calendar year
O0026	Number of entities with improved intervention capacity equipment	number	ERDF	less developed regions of the SR	20	Monitoring of the OPQE implementation	Once per calendar year
O0027	Number of	number	ERDF	less developed	4	Monitoring of the	Once per

	<i>created specialized rescue models</i>			<i>regions of the SR</i>		<i>OPQE implementation</i>	<i>calendar year</i>
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## 2.3.2. Performance framework of the Priority axis 3

Table 33: Performance framework of the Priority axis 3

Indicator type (Key implementation step, financial, output or, where appropriate, result indicator)	ID	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit (where appropriate)	Fund	Category of region	Milestone for 2018	Final target (2023)	Source of data	Explanation of relevance of indicator, where appropriate
Output indicator	CO22	Total surface area of rehabilitated land	ha	ERDF	less developed regions of the SR	77	<i>197</i> <del>249</del>	Monitoring of the OPQE implementation	Share on the allocation of the priority axis – <i>5,02 %</i> <del>5,06 %</del>
Output indicator	O0023	Number of early warning systems	Number	ERDF	less developed regions of the SR	1	2	Monitoring of the OPQE implementation	Share on the allocation of the priority axis – 24,19 %
Output indicator	O0027	Number of created specialized rescue modules	Number	ERDF	less developed regions of the SR	1	4	Monitoring of the OPQE implementation	Share on the allocation of the priority axis – 23,20 %
Financial indicator	F0002	Total amount of certified expenditure after submission of request for payment to the EC	EUR	ERDF	less developed regions of the SR	47 000 000	<i>286 936 727</i> <del>306 942 790</del>	ITMS / CA (MF of the SR)	

## 2.3.3. Categories of intervention

Table 34: Intervention field

Dimension 1 - Intervention field		
Fund	ERDF	
Category of region	Less developed regions	
Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
3. Promoting risk management, emergency management and resilience to emergencies affected by climate change	087	<i>243 896 216</i> <del>260 901 369</del>

Table 35: Form of finance

Dimension 2 – Form of finance		
Fund	ERDF	
Category of region	Less developed regions	
Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
3. Promoting risk management, emergency management	01	<i>243 896 216</i>

and resilience to emergencies affected by climate change		260 901 369
	02	0

Table 36: Territory type

Dimension 3 – Territory type		
Fund	ERDF	
Category of region	Less developed regions	
Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
3. Promoting risk management, emergency management and resilience to emergencies affected by climate change	01	54 920 954 <del>58 750 202</del>
3. Promoting risk management, emergency management and resilience to emergencies affected by climate change	02	78 119 653 <del>83 566 382</del>
3. Promoting risk management, emergency management and resilience to emergencies affected by climate change	03	110 855 609 <del>118 584 785</del>

Table 37: Territorial delivery mechanisms

Dimension 4 – Territorial delivery mechanisms		
Fund	ERDF	
Category of region	Less developed regions	
Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
3. Promoting risk management, emergency management and resilience to emergencies affected by climate change	07	243 896 216 <del>260 901 369</del>

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

N/A

## 2.4 PRIORITY AXIS 4: ENERGY EFFICIENT LOW-CARBON ECONOMY IN ALL SECTORS

### 2.4.0. Justification for the establishment of a priority axis covering more than one category of region, thematic objective or Fund

Use of small-scale renewable energy installations for electricity and heat generation in family and residential houses should take place throughout the whole area of the SR. Electricity surplus from one producer is small, but overall represents a considerable amount of electricity, which should be uniformly distributed throughout the area of the whole Slovakia. The electricity supply system is an interconnected system, from which it is technically impossible to exclude one single region. Based on its geographical location, it is extremely appropriate to focus the promotion of installations of facilities in the Bratislava self-governing region mainly on the use of solar energy and energy of the surroundings by heat pumps.

#### 2.4.1. Fund, category of region and calculation basis for Union support

<b>Fund</b>	European Regional Development Fund
<b>Category of region</b>	less developed regions of the SR more developed regions of the SR
<b>Calculation basis (total contribution)</b>	less developed regions of the SR <u>1 110 449 792</u> <del>+187 880 423</del> more developed regions of the SR 2 656 424
<b>Category of region for outermost regions and northern sparsely populated regions (where applicable)</b>	N/A

### 2.4.2. INVESTMENT PRIORITY 1 PRIORITY AXIS 4: 4.1 Promoting the production and distribution of energy derived from renewable sources

#### 2.4.2.1. Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priority and expected results

##### **SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 4.1.1: Increasing the share of RES in gross final energy consumption of the SR**

This specific objective is aimed at support for prospective and innovative technologies using RES, which will increase electricity and heat generation from RES. This will contribute to achieving the planned share of RES in gross final energy consumption in year 2020. Introducing these technologies will partially contribute to creating jobs and reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. The projects will also be monitored for reduction of emissions of pollutants in the air.

## RESULTS

- a) Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions
- b) Increasing the share of heat from RES in gross final energy consumption
- c) Increasing the share of electricity from RES in gross final energy consumption

Table 38 Programme-specific result indicators, by specific objective 4.1.1

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region (where relevant)	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
R0015	Share of RES in gross final energy consumption of the SR	%	less developed regions of the SR <sup>119</sup>	10.4	2012	15.5	Eurostat	Once per calendar year

### **SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 4.1.2: Increase of installed capacity of RES-based small-scale installations in the Bratislava self-governing region**

This specific objective facilitates support for construction of small-scale plants for RES in the Bratislava self-governing region. From the view of the target group there are about 65 thousand inhabited apartments in family houses in the Bratislava self-governing region, which represents 7.6% within the framework of the SR. Including the Bratislava-self-governing region into the support for construction of small-scale plants will secure their development in this region and help decrease greenhouse gas emissions in energy supplies to households.

## RESULTS

- a) Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions
- b) Increasing the share of heat from RES in gross final energy consumption
- c) Increasing the share of electricity from RES in gross final energy consumption

Table 39 Programme-specific result indicators, by specific objective 4.1.2

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region (where relevant)	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
R0115	Installed electric capacity of small-scale RES facilities in households in the Bratislava self-governing region	MW	more developed regions of the SR	0,1	2012	1	MoEcon SR	Once per calendar year

#### 2.4.2.2. Action to be supported under the investment priority

##### **SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 4.1.1: Increasing the share of RES in gross final energy consumption of the SR**

The abovementioned specific objective will be achieved by the means of the following activities:

- A. Construction of plants using biomass by the means of renovation and modernization of existing energy plants with maximum thermal input power 20 MW combusting fossil fuels;
- B. Construction of plants for:
  - biomethane production;
  - use of hydropower;
  - use of solar energy for heat generation;
  - use of air thermal, hydrothermal or geothermal energy by using heat pumps;
  - use of geothermal energy for direct heat generation and eventually also in combination with heat pumps;
  - production and energy use of biogas<sup>120</sup>, landfill gas and gas from wastewater treatment plants;
- C. Construction of small-scale plants for use of RES.

##### **A. Construction of plants using biomass by the means of renovation and modernization of existing energy plants with maximum thermal input power 20 MW combusting fossil fuels**

The proposed activity is supposed to contribute to increasing heat generation from RES. Transition from fossil fuel to biomass will focus on comprehensive projects with smart control of energy production and consumption, while priority will be given to local consumption of produced energy in real time or its accumulation as well as to plants with lower installed capacity so that the potential of available biomass will be used in the given region while respecting the condition for its sustainable use. Within this activity priority will be given to plants with power output up to 10 MW. However, due to existing plants with higher installed capacity combusting coal this limit has been set to the thermal input power of 20 MW<sub>t</sub>. Support will only be provided for low-emission plants utilizing biomass in accordance with the requirements specified in the Chapter 2.4.2.3. With regard to the significant impact of solid PM particles on the quality of air in SR, emissions of PM particles will be monitored at the project level. Selected pollutants of SO<sub>2</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub>, the decrease of which helps comply with the national emission caps<sup>121</sup>, will also be monitored.

<i>Target groups:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- private sector entities</li> <li>- central administration entities</li> <li>- entities of territorial self-government</li> <li>- non-profit organizations providing services of general interest</li> <li>- general public</li> </ul>
<i>Target territories:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- less developed regions of the SR</li> </ul>
<i>Beneficiaries:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- physical or legal entities authorized to do business</li> <li>- associations of physical or legal entities</li> <li>- central administration entities<sup>122</sup></li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- entities of territorial self-government <sup>123</sup></li> <li>- non-profit organizations providing services of general interest</li> </ul>
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#### **B. Construction of plants for:**

- biomethane production;
- use of hydropower;
- use of solar energy for heat generation;
- use of air thermal, hydrothermal or geothermal energy by using heat pumps;
- use of geothermal energy by direct heat generation and eventually also in combination with heat pumps;
- production and energy use of biogas<sup>124</sup>, landfill gas and gas from wastewater treatment plants.

Support will especially be provided to comprehensive projects for construction of plants for use of RES with smart control of energy production and consumption, while priority will be given to local consumption of produced energy in real time or by the means of accumulation.

As for construction of plants, priority will be given to plants for heat generation, which will give advantage to heat pumps, equipment utilizing geothermal energy, and equipment for cogeneration of electricity and heat.

Also in respect to use of biogas, landfill gas, and gas from wastewater treatment plants support will be provided to implementation of projects for heat generation in cogeneration plants with the aim to achieve the biggest primary energy sources savings.

As for the energy production from renewable resources, particularly low-emission facilities will be promoted in such structure that their promotion helps develop the local energy resources with the aim to ensure safety and efficiency of energy supplies for affordable prices. Small hydropower plants (SHPs) represent facilities with a positive impact on stability of the system and without an adverse impact on emissions production. Support for construction of SHPs will be possible only in compliance with the WFD, in particular with Article 4, Paragraphs 7<sup>125</sup>, 8 and 9 of the WFD this will require a proper strategic assessment of all measures and implementation of Article 4 (7) of the WFD (in particular mitigation measures), Article 6 of the Habitats Directive and the EIA Directive<sup>126</sup> at the project level. Through the environmental impact assessment and by application of Art 6 of Habitats Directive at the project level, the compliance with Habitats Directive should be ensured in order to avoid collisions with Natura 2000 sites still to be designated.

Contribution to heat generation from RES outside DHSs can come from support for production of biomethane, which will be transported to the place of heat consumption by the means of a gas distribution network. An alternative to using biomethane in cogeneration is its use in transportation. According to the National Renewable Energy Action Plan production of biomethane with energy content about 700 GWh is currently under consideration.

<i>Target groups:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- private sector entities</li> <li>- central administration entities</li> <li>- entities of territorial self-government</li> <li>- non-profit organizations providing services of general interest</li> <li>- general public</li> </ul>
<i>Target territories:</i>	- less developed regions of the SR
<i>Beneficiaries:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- physical or legal entities authorized to do business</li> <li>- associations of physical or legal entities</li> <li>- central administration entities<sup>127</sup></li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- entities of territorial self-government <sup>128</sup></li> <li>- non-profit organizations providing services of general interest</li> </ul>
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### C. Construction of small-scale plants for use of RES

Within the framework of these activities support will be provided for the following equipment:

- photovoltaic panels (electricity generation);
- wind turbines (electricity generation);
- solar thermal collectors (heat generation);
- biomass boilers (heat generation);
- heat pumps (heat generation).

The C activity is focused on promotion of small-scale facilities for family and residential houses. A small-scale plant for electricity generation is a plant with installed capacity up to 10 kW. In the case of heat generation a small-scale plant is a plant that covers energy consumption in the given building. Authorized projects will also include small-scale plants including equipment for accumulation of produced electricity or heat and a smart system controlling energy consumption.

In the area of heat generation for hot water preparation priority will be given to installation of solar thermal collectors with the average area of about 5 m<sup>2</sup>, which represents sufficient installed thermal capacity for hot water preparation for a common household in a family house. In the case of family houses support for installation of heat pumps, especially for heating, will be available. Support for biomass boilers will only be available in those locations where there is no possibility to connect the family house to a DHS and the biomass boilers is to replace furnace combusting solid fossil fuels. In the case of biomass boilers, all facilities will have to meet emission limits in compliance with requirements specified in the Chapter 2.4.2.3. In the case of photovoltaic panels for households in family houses, surplus electricity will be supplied free of charge into the distribution network, and it will be used to compensate for losses in the distribution network. The same is true for plants for electricity generation from wind energy.

In the case of plants for heating or hot water preparation, support for households in apartment houses will only be provided if heat for heating and hot water preparation is not supplied from efficient district heating systems. Volume of support will be set before each call for projects and it will be updated at least once a year depending on the development of market prices of plants for use of RES according to the installed capacity.

<i>Target groups:</i>	- owners of family houses, associations of apartment and non-residential premises owners/ apartment houses administrators, i.e. households
<i>Target territories:</i>	- less developed regions of the SR
<i>Beneficiaries:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Slovak Innovation and Energy Agency (contributory organization of the MoEcon SR as a beneficiary within a national project through which the aid will be granted to other entities as users)</li> <li>- physical or legal entities authorized to do business</li> </ul>

***SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 4.1.2: Increase of installed capacity of RES-based small-scale installations in the Bratislava self-governing region***

The abovementioned specific objective will be achieved by the means of the following activities:

**A. Construction of small-scale plants for use of RES**

Authorized projects will include systems for electricity or heat generation in small-scale plants including equipment for accumulation of electricity or heat produced in this way and a smart system for energy consumption control, as they are defined within the framework of the activity C of the specific objective 4.1.1. Support will be provided to construction of small-scale plants for use of RES in the Bratislava self-governing region, in which there are favourable conditions for use of renewable energy, especially solar energy and air thermal energy, due to its geographic location.

As for the content the eligible activity and its description are completely identical with the described eligible activity C in the specific objective 4.1.1.

<i>Target groups:</i>	- owners of family houses, associations of apartment and non-residential premises owners/ apartment houses administrators, i.e. households
<i>Target territories:</i>	- more developed region of the SR (Bratislava self-governing region)
<i>Beneficiaries:</i>	- Slovak Innovation and Energy Agency (contributory organization of the MoEcon SR as a beneficiary within a national project through which the aid will be granted to other entities as users) - physical or legal entities authorized to do business

*2.4.2.3. Guiding principles of selection of operations*

In order to ensure efficient and transparent selection process of projects/operations, which will contribute to the achievement of the OP objectives in the most appropriate way, the following general principles will be applied in the project selection process:

- The support will only go to the projects assessed as appropriate and effective in relation to the baseline situation and needs identified in the given area, cost-effective, sustainable and with adequate means and capacities for their implementation;
- Projects will be selected with regard to their cost-effectiveness (Value for Money principle) in order to ensure the selection of projects whose contribution to the objectives of the OP is in relation to the funds spent the largest;
- Preference shall be given to those projects that are part of the strategy for sustainable urban development;
- Preference shall be given to those projects that are part of the RITS;
- Preference shall be given to those projects which are a part of low-carbon strategies for all types of territories, in particular for urban areas;
- Only such projects will be supported which are not in contradiction to the Strategy for Reduction of PM<sub>10</sub><sup>129</sup> and programmes for air quality improvement.

Where assistance is granted from the Funds to a large enterprise, the MA shall assure itself that the financial contribution from the Funds does not result in a substantial loss of jobs in existing locations within the Union.

In addition, the following specific principles will be applied within the framework of selected types of activities of this IP:

*In the case of activities A<sup>130</sup> and B<sup>131</sup>:*

- in case of biomass-based boilers support will be provided for low emission plants in accordance with requirements of the proposed directive on restricting the emissions of certain air pollutants from medium-large combustion facilities<sup>132</sup> or in accordance with proposed Commission regulation implementing Directive 2009/125/EC with regard to ecodesign requirements for solid fuel boilers, where the facilities with higher energy efficiency will be supported (in case of boilers with installed capacity or thermal input, which are not covered by these documents, extrapolated values will be used for the assessment of the requirements of low-emission installations);
- in the case of projects involving biomass use it will be necessary to document meeting sustainability criteria for the use of biomass<sup>133</sup> in accordance with the recommendations in the Report from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament on sustainability requirements for the use of solid and gaseous biomass sources in electricity, heating and cooling COM(2010) 11 final and taking into account COMMISSION SWD(2014) 259 final<sup>134</sup>;
- in the case of SHP a prerequisite for the implementation of a project are measures to mitigate negative impacts on the environment, including measures to limit interference with the flow continuity of the water stream and creating barriers, arising from the process of environmental impact assessment (according to the Act on environmental impact assessment) with an emphasis on the assessment of cumulative impact of the constructions on the given water body and compliance with the requirements of Article 4, Paragraph 7, 8 and 9 of the WFD;
- priority will be given to projects, whose implementation will lead to higher use of heat in plants for cogeneration of heat and electricity;
- project selection will take into account the installed capacity of the plant, while priority will be given to plants with lower installed capacity;
- priority will be given to those projects which will use waste biomass;
- priority will be given to projects with the highest contribution towards reduction of PM emissions into the air;
- priority will be given to projects with the highest energy efficiency of energy transformation;
- priority will be given to those projects that will achieve the lowest values of investment expenses per unit of produced energy (EUR/MWh), and those projects that will achieve the lowest volume of investment expenses for the expected reduction in greenhouse gas emissions (EUR/CO<sub>2</sub>);
- support will be contingent upon an energy audit (if applicable), based on which the following will be verified in the process of evaluation:
  - calculations of planned volume of produced energy;

- calculations of reduction of greenhouse gas emissions expressed in equivalent CO<sub>2</sub>;
- technical feasibility of the proposed energy measures.

*In the case of activity C.<sup>135</sup>:*

- installation of small-scale plants for RES utilisation will be supported through national project and/or demand-oriented projects;
- support will be provided to each small-scale plant for use of RES that meets qualifying conditions for support until all allocated funds for this authorized activity have been exhausted (FIFO system – First In First Out);
- in case of installation of biomass boilers support will be provided to low-emission facilities in line with requirements of the Ecodesign Directive<sup>136</sup>, where the facilities with higher energy efficiency will be supported;
- small-scale plants for use of RES in apartment houses will be provided support based on a submitted energy audit, which will propose measures taking into account potential energy savings and subsequent construction of a plant for use of renewable energy;
- implementation of the project must not result in disconnecting households from DHSs or substantial deterioration of the parameters of DHS;
- in the case of heat generation priority will be given to projects in those areas where there are no available DHS;
- in the case of heat generation in family houses, priority will be given to those projects where implementation of the measure aimed at energy consumption decrease has been proved (documented through e.g. energy certificate, report from a regular heating system inspection, etc.).

#### *2.4.2.4. Planned use of financial instruments*

Financial instruments (FIs) may be used to support the implementation of those activities where the efficient use of funds from the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF), and this particular form of aid, will be demonstrated. In the case of economically viable projects, where the return on investments or cost savings are expected, FIs represent a more appropriate form of support, avoiding market distortion. The FIs will focus on the support of those activities which do not find financing on the market, or do not find adequate financing, upon which their implementation would be efficient.

The possibility of using of revolving funds, while contributing to the objectives of the priority axis, belongs to the benefits of the use of FIs. The other benefits of using FIs include the opportunity to increase financial resources to achieve the specific objectives of the programme by means of attracting additional capital based on an appropriate setting of these instruments. Attracting additional capital is necessary also in respect to the insufficient amount from the ESIF to cover all the investment needs in the areas concerned. Participation by private investors may also contribute towards quality improvement of project implementation, and thus additionally contribute to a more efficient use of funds.

With the use of FIs, it will be possible to support the relevant activities with appropriate financial products (loans, guarantees, capital contributions, mezzanine funds and others). Specific activities, appropriate amount of funds and the conditions for the implementation of specific FIs, including the expected leverage of allocated ESI Funds, as well as combinations

with other forms of support, will be based on the ex-ante assessment of FIs, required under Article 37 (2) of General Regulation for FIs in the 2014 - 2020 programming period.

#### 2.4.2.5. Planned use of major projects

Implementation of major projects is not planned under Investment priority 1 of Priority axis 4.

#### 2.4.2.6. Common and programme-specific output indicators

Table 40: Common and programme-specific output indicators, by investment priority and category of region (if relevant)

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
CO01	Number of enterprises receiving support	enterprises	ERDF	less developed regions of the SR	<del>19</del> 35	Monitoring the implementation of the OP QE	Once per calendar year
CO30	Additional capacity of renewable energy production	MW	ERDF	less developed regions of the SR	<del>570</del> 392	Monitoring the implementation of the OP QE	Once per calendar year
CO30	Additional capacity of renewable energy production	MW	ERDF	more developed regions of the SR	5	Monitoring the implementation of the OP QE	Once per calendar year
CO34	Estimated annual decrease of GHG emissions	t equiv. CO <sub>2</sub>	ERDF	less developed regions of the SR	<del>260 000</del> 180 000	Monitoring the implementation of the OP QE	Once per calendar year
CO34	Estimated annual decrease of GHG emissions	t equiv. CO <sub>2</sub>	ERDF	more developed regions of the SR	7 000	Monitoring the implementation of the OP QE	Once per calendar year
O0028	Number of small-scale RES-based plants	number	EFRR	less developed regions of the SR	<del>70 000</del> 55 986	Monitoring of the implementation of the OP QE	Once per calendar year
O0028	Number of small-scale RES-based plants	number	EFRR	more developed regions of the SR	3 000	Monitoring of the implementation of the OP QE	Once per calendar year
O0188	Additional capacity of RES-based electricity production	MWe	ERDF	less developed regions of the SR	<del>70</del> 49	Monitoring the implementation of the OP QE	Once per calendar year
O0188	Additional capacity of RES-based electricity production	MWe	ERDF	more developed regions of the SR	0,75	Monitoring the implementation of the OP QE	Once per calendar year
O0189	Additional capacity of RES-based heat production	MWt	ERDF	less developed regions of the SR	<del>500</del> 343	Monitoring the implementation of the OP QE	Once per calendar year
O0189	Additional capacity of RES-based heat production	MWt	ERDF	more developed regions of the SR	4,25	Monitoring the implementation of the OP QE	Once per calendar year

### 2.4.3. INVESTMENT PRIORITY 2 PRIORITY AXIS 4: 4.2 Promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy use in enterprises

#### 2.4.3.1. Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priority and expected results

##### **SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 4.2.1: Reduction of energy intensity and increasing the use of RES in enterprises**

This specific objective aims at introducing programs for support for energy audits at SMEs for objective determination of potential energy savings, based on which measures in the area of energy efficiency and use of RES will be proposed<sup>137</sup>. Support for the implementation of such measures will reduce the energy intensity of production in enterprises, which will improve their competitiveness. Monitoring and control of energy consumption will contribute to sustaining and further reducing the energy intensity of production.

#### RESULTS

##### a) Reduction of energy intensity in enterprises

Table 41 : Programme-specific result indicators, by specific objective 4.2.1

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region (where relevant)	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
R0114	Energy intensity of production	MWh/mil. Euro	Less developed regions of the SR	2 702	2012	2 170	The Statistical Office of the SR	Once per calendar year

#### 2.4.3.2. Action to be supported under the investment priority

##### **SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 4.2.1: Reduction of energy intensity and increasing the use of RES in enterprises**

The abovementioned specific objective will be achieved by the means of the following activities:

- A. Provisions for energy audits at SMEs
- B. Implementation of measures arising from energy audits

##### **A. Provisions for energy audits at SMEs**

At the present time there is an established system for mandatory energy audits depending on the final energy consumption in the SR. According to Directive 2012/27/EU energy audits are only mandatory for large enterprises, and these have to be updated each four years. An amendment of act on energy efficiency, which took into account requirements of the directive, has been canceled the requirement of energy audits for SMEs. However, in accordance with this directive it will be necessary to establish a support program for energy audits at SMEs. The proceedings of power output energy audits under the conditions in the SR are regulated by Decree<sup>138</sup>.

Support within the framework of the given activity will target preparation of energy audits by persons with specialized skills. Within the framework of these audits a set of optimum

measures involving energy, economic, and environmental evaluation will be proposed based on real measured values of energy consumption.

No less important will also be support for implementation of measures arising from the energy audits, which will be implemented within the framework of activity B or in another appropriate way.

<i>Target groups:</i>	- private sector entities
<i>Target territories:</i>	- less developed regions of the SR
<i>Beneficiaries:</i>	- physical and/or legal persons authorized to do business in industrial sectors and related services

#### **B. Implementation of measures arising from energy audits:**

- renovation and modernization of building objects in the area of industry and related services in order to reduce their energy intensity;
- renovation and modernization of existing energy plants in order to increase their energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions;
- renovation and modernization of systems for production and distribution of compressed air;
- introducing measurement and control systems including energy and environmental manager systems, especially Eco-Management and Audit Scheme, in the area of energy production and consumption in order to reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions;
- construction, modernization and renovation of energy distribution systems, or distribution systems for energy media;
- modernization and renovation of exterior lighting systems of industrial premises, but only together with other measures aimed at decreasing the electricity consumption in the enterprise;
- other measures that contribute to reducing consumption of primary energy sources.

Support for implementation of measures arising from energy audits will contribute to reducing energy intensity in enterprises and to improving their competitiveness. Priority will be given to projects aimed at energy savings at small and medium enterprises.

Measures aimed at energy savings within the framework of these activities were identified based on the implementation of measures for energy efficiency by the means of the OP CEG (2007 - 2013) and SLOVSEFF program, as well as based on the experience acquired after introducing mandatory energy audits in industry.

<i>Target groups:</i>	- private sector entities
<i>Target territories:</i>	- less developed regions of the SR
<i>Beneficiaries:</i>	- physical and/or legal persons authorized to do business in industrial sectors related services - physical and/or legal persons authorized to do business (applicable only for FI) - associations of physical or legal persons (applicable only for FI)

#### *2.4.3.3. Guiding principles for selection of operations*

In order to ensure efficient and transparent selection process of projects/operations, which will contribute to the achievement of the OP objectives in the most appropriate way, the general principles specified in chapter 2.4.2.3 will be applied in the project selection process.

In addition, the following specific principles will be applied within the framework of selected types of activities of this investment priority:

##### *Provisions for energy audits at SMEs*

- support will be given to each SME that documents meeting qualifying conditions for support until all allocated funds for this authorized activity have been exhausted (FIFO system – First In First Out).

##### *Implementation of measures arising from energy audits*

- priority will be given to projects by small and medium enterprises due to their more difficult access to instruments for financing measures for energy efficiency compared to large enterprises;
- In the case of projects involving use of biomass it will be necessary to document meeting the sustainability criteria for the use of biomass in accordance with the recommendations in the Report from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament on sustainability requirements for the use of solid and gaseous biomass sources in electricity, heating and cooling COM(2010) 11 final;
- Priority will be given to projects, whose implementation will facilitate increase in use of heat from industrial or production processes;
- Priority will be given to projects that will achieve the lowest value of ratio indicator  $Ef_{savings}$  calculated as the ratio of investment expenses on the implementation of the whole project to the volume of expected primary energy sources savings (in EUR/MWh)
- projects, which according to the energy audit, will be suitable for implementation in the form of energy services, will be supported through financial instruments;
- in the case of projects for renovation and modernization of existing energy plants combusting fuels, support will only be provided to low-emission plants in accordance with the Strategy for reduction of  $PM_{10}$ <sup>139</sup>;
- support will be contingent upon an energy audit, based on which the following will be verified in the process of evaluation:
  - calculations of planned primary energy sources savings;
  - calculations of reduction of greenhouse gas emissions expressed in equivalent  $CO_2$ ;
  - technical feasibility of the proposed energy measures;
- monitoring and verification of actually achieved energy savings ensured by the 4.4.1–F activity will also be a significant factor in implementation of measures from energy audits.

Replacement of the existing production machinery, equipment and technologies with new, more energy-efficient ones will not be the subject of support, not even in the case when it is proposed by the energy audit in the package with other measures. Replacement of production machinery, equipment and technologies will be carried out from the companies' own resources or from other support schemes.

#### 2.4.3.4. Planned use of financial instruments

Financial instruments (FIs) may be used to support the implementation of those activities where the efficient use of funds from the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF), and this particular form of aid, will be demonstrated. In the case of economically viable projects, where the return on investments or cost savings are expected, FIs represent a more appropriate form of support, avoiding market distortion. The FIs will focus on the support of those activities which do not find financing on the market, or do not find adequate financing, upon which their implementation would be efficient.

The possibility of using of revolving funds, while contributing to the objectives of the priority axis, belongs to the benefits of the use of FIs. The other benefits of using FIs include the opportunity to increase financial resources to achieve the specific objectives of the programme by means of attracting additional capital based on an appropriate setting of these instruments. Attracting additional capital is necessary also in respect to the insufficient amount from the ESIF to cover all the investment needs in the areas concerned. Participation by private investors may also contribute towards quality improvement of project implementation, and thus additionally contribute to a more efficient use of funds.

With the use of FIs, it will be possible to support the relevant activities with appropriate financial products (loans, guarantees, capital contributions, mezzanine funds and others). Specific activities, appropriate amount of funds and the conditions for the implementation of specific FIs, including the expected leverage of allocated ESI Funds, as well as combinations with other forms of support, will be based on the ex-ante assessment of FIs, required under Article 37 (2) of General Regulation for FIs in the 2014 - 2020 programming period.

#### 2.4.3.5. Planned use of major projects

Implementation of major projects is not planned under Investment priority 2 of Priority axis 4.

#### 2.4.3.6. Common and programme-specific output indicators

Table 42: Common and programme-specific output indicators, by investment priority and category of region (if relevant)

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
CO01	Number of enterprises receiving support	enterprises	ERDF	less developed regions of the SR	220	Monitoring the implementation of the OP QE	Once per calendar year
CO03	Number of enterprises receiving financial support other than grants	enterprises	ERDF	less developed regions of the SR	38	Monitoring the implementation of the OP QE	Once per calendar year
CO30	Additional capacity of renewable energy production	MW	ERDF	less developed regions of the SR	47	Monitoring the implementation of the OP QE	Once per calendar year
CO34	Estimated annual decrease of GHG emissions	t equiv. CO <sub>2</sub>	ERDF	less developed regions of the SR	90 451 <del>93 000</del>	Monitoring the implementation of the OP QE	Once per calendar year
O0029	Number of energy-	number	ERDF	less	270	Monitoring	Once per

	<i>efficiency measures implemented in the enterprises</i>			<i>developed regions of the SR</i>		<i>the implementation of the OP QE</i>	<i>calendar year</i>
00030	Number of energy audits	number	ERDF	less developed regions of the SR	200	Monitoring the implementation of the OP QE	Once per calendar year
00031	Number of established systems for measurement and control	number	ERDF	less developed regions of the SR	30	Monitoring the implementation of the OP QE	Once per calendar year
00032	Number of enterprises with a registered Eco-Management and Audit Scheme and an established system for environmental management	number	ERDF	less developed regions of the SR	30	Monitoring the implementation of the OP QE	Once per calendar year
00184	Expected PES savings in the enterprise according to the energy audit	MWh/year	ERDF	less developed regions of the SR	<del>243 161 250-000</del>	Monitoring the implementation of the OP QE	When filing the application
00185	PES savings in the enterprise	MWh/year	ERDF	less developed regions of the SR	<del>243 161 250-000</del>	Monitoring the implementation of the OP QE	Once per calendar year
00188	Additional capacity of RES-based electricity production	MWe	ERDF	less developed regions of the SR	20	Monitoring the implementation of the OP QE	Once per calendar year
00189	Additional capacity of RES-based heat production	MWt	ERDF	less developed regions of the SR	27	Monitoring the implementation of the OP QE	Once per calendar year

#### 2.4.4. INVESTMENT PRIORITY 3 PRIORITY AXIS 4: 4.3 Supporting energy efficiency, smart energy management and renewable energy use in public infrastructure, including in public buildings, and in the housing sector

##### 2.4.4.1. Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priority and expected results

##### **SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 4.3.1: Reduction of energy consumption in the operation of public buildings**

Within the framework of the investment priority one specific objective has been stipulated in regards to partial results of analyses during the preparation of the Strategy for renovation of residential and nonresidential building stock in SR<sup>140</sup>:

This specific objective is aimed at reducing the energy consumption of public buildings, i.e. buildings owned by the public administration and local self-governments. This objective is in accordance with the requirements of Directive 2010/31/EU and Directive 2012/27/EU, which

have been taken into account in the National Plan for increasing the number of nearly zero-energy buildings and in the Notification Report.<sup>141</sup>

## RESULTS

- a) Improvement of energy performance of public buildings
- b) Systematic approach to supplying heat from efficient DHSs
- c) Increasing the share of RES in energy consumption of buildings

Table 43: Programme-specific result indicators, by specific objective 4.3.1

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region (where relevant)	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
R0124	Energy performance of public buildings	kWh/(m <sup>2</sup> . year)	less developed regions of the SR	190	2012	58	Monitoring system for energy efficiency	as to 2017, 2020 and 2023

### 2.4.4.2. Action to be supported under the investment priority

#### **SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 4.3.1: Reduction of energy consumption in the operation of public buildings**

The abovementioned specific objective will be achieved by the means of the following activities:

##### **A. Improvement of energy performance of public buildings**

Reduction of the energy consumption of public buildings will be achieved by the means of:

- improving thermal-technical properties of building constructions;
- modernization of heating/air conditioning systems, systems for hot water preparation, lighting, elevators in order to reduce energy consumption;
- installation of measuring and control systems;
- changes in heat supply aimed at using efficient DHSs;
- construction of plants for use of RES to cover energy consumption in buildings.

The above-stated activity will help meet the annual energy saving target pursuant to the Article 5 of the Directive 2012/27/EU on energy efficiency which has been determined as the recovery equivalent in the amount of 3% of the total floor area of buildings of central state administration authorities ("obligatory or relevant buildings") for minimum requirements for energy performance of buildings, representing 52.17 GWh/year.<sup>142</sup>

Within this activity the financial support will be aimed at:

- reducing of energy consumption in the operation of public buildings owned/administrated by central administration entities and public institutions;
- reducing of energy consumption in the operation of public buildings owned/administrated by entities of territorial self-government.

Priority will be given to comprehensive projects, i.e. projects which will combine improvement of thermal-technical qualities of building constructions with modernization of heating/air-conditioning systems, systems of hot water preparation, lightning, electric installation or with other energy-saving measures in building which will be proposed to

decrease the energy consumption to the level of low-energy buildings, ultra-low-energy buildings and nearly zero-energy buildings<sup>143</sup>. The minimum requirements for energy performance of buildings, valid from 1 January 2016, are stricter, compared to the cost-optimum level of requirements, by approximately 18% for administrative buildings, by about 20% for school buildings<sup>144</sup> and analogically by about 18% for hospital buildings.

Besides improving energy efficiency of buildings by decreasing calculated energy demands (energy performance of buildings) above the level of minimum requirements<sup>145</sup> it will also be necessary to assess really achievable (measurable) decrease in energy consumption compared to the current situation by taking into account annual climatic conditions (degree-days). The proposed measures and their energy, environmental and economic evaluation will have to be documented with an energy audit, prepared by persons with specialized skills at least in the extent set forth in Appendix VI of Directive 2012/27/EU.

To this end energy audits of public buildings that are carried out by the Slovak Innovation and Energy Agency within the framework of the pilot project “Support for instruments to introduce and optimize measures in the field of energy efficiency of public buildings”, financed from the operational program ‘Competitiveness and Economic Growth’, will also be used. By the end of September 2015 250 audits of public buildings operated by the central bodies of public administration, municipalities and self-governing regions will have been continually prepared. Audits will be prepared for administrative buildings, school buildings, and buildings, in which health care or social care is provided. Based on the results of the pilot project this activity will be able to continue, financed by the means of investment priority 4.

Emphasis will especially be on individual proposed measures being complementary with the goal in order to achieve optimum use of potential energy savings. The priority is to reduce energy consumption and subsequently to cover necessary consumption from efficient DHSs or by the means of construction of plants for use of RES directly in buildings or in their close vicinity.

The project will also include a proposal for verification of real achieved energy savings, e.g. in the form of a special purpose energy audit. Monitoring the achieved energy savings on an annual basis will also be provided by the means of the system for energy efficiency operated by the Slovak Innovation and Energy Agency according to the act on energy efficiency.

<i>Target groups:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- central administration entities</li> <li>- entities of territorial self-government</li> <li>- public institutions</li> </ul>
<i>Target territories:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- less developed regions of the SR</li> </ul>
<i>Beneficiaries:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- central administration entities<sup>146</sup></li> <li>- entities of territorial self-government<sup>147</sup></li> <li>- public institutions</li> <li>- physical and/or legal persons authorized to do business (applicable only for FI)</li> <li>- associations of physical or legal persons (applicable only for FI)</li> </ul>

#### *2.4.4.3. Guiding principles for selection of operations*

In order to ensure efficient and transparent selection process of projects/operations, this will contribute to the achievement of the OP objectives in the most appropriate way, the general principles specified in chapter 2.4.2.3. will be applied in the project selection process.

In addition, the following specific principles will be applied under the present investment priority:

##### *Reduction of energy intensity of public buildings*

- support will be given to buildings which will be demonstrably used by the public sector for a long term with regard to the scheduled public administration reform at the national or local level,
- support to measures aimed at energy saving will be designed beyond the framework of minimum requirements for energy performance of buildings pursuant to public statutes so as to decrease the energy demand to the level of low-energy buildings, ultra-low-energy buildings and nearly zero-energy buildings;
- priority will be given to comprehensive projects with the highest primary energy sources savings per m<sup>2</sup> of the total floor area;
- priority will be given to buildings with barrier-free entrances or those where barrier-free entrance is planned to be built;
- construction of plants for use of RES in buildings will only be supported as a part of a comprehensive project for improvement of the energy efficiency of public buildings with an emphasis on minimization of negative impacts on environment protection, especially the air;
- support will not be provided to projects, which, contrary to the relevant national legislation, propose disconnecting consumers from efficient DHSs or where construction of plants for RES will increase emissions of pollutants into the air compared to the current situation in the given location;
- in the case of projects involving use of biomass it will be necessary to document meeting sustainability criteria for the use of biomass in accordance with the recommendations in the Report from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament on sustainability requirements for the use of solid and gaseous biomass sources in electricity, heating and cooling COM(2010) 11 final;
- implementation of the project must not change the character of the use of buildings, while activities which are not related to improving the energy intensity of buildings (e.g. superstructure or annex to a building) will not be accepted either;
- support will be given also to projects implemented through the use of energy services, if the provided energy audit justifies such implementation;
- intensity of support determined based on energy savings will be specified based on the results of ex ante analysis within the national project „*Support for instruments for the introduction and optimization of measures in the field of energy efficiency and the preparation of an analysis of potential energy savings in public buildings*“;
- support will be contingent upon submitting an energy audit based on which the following will be verified in the process of evaluation:

- calculations of planned annual volume of primary energy savings per m<sup>2</sup> of the total floor area;
- technical feasibility of the proposed energy measures.

#### 2.4.4.4. Planned use of financial instruments

Financial instruments (FIs) may be used to support the implementation of those activities where the efficient use of funds from the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF), and this particular form of aid, will be demonstrated. In the case of economically viable projects, where the return on investments or cost savings are expected, FIs represent a more appropriate form of support, avoiding market distortion. The FIs will focus on the support of those activities which do not find financing on the market, or do not find adequate financing, upon which their implementation would be efficient.

The possibility of using of revolving funds, while contributing to the objectives of the priority axis, belongs to the benefits of the use of FIs. The other benefits of using FIs include the opportunity to increase financial resources to achieve the specific objectives of the programme by means of attracting additional capital based on an appropriate setting of these instruments. Attracting additional capital is necessary also in respect to the insufficient amount from the ESIF to cover all the investment needs in the areas concerned. Participation by private investors may also contribute towards quality improvement of project implementation, and thus additionally contribute to a more efficient use of funds.

With the use of FIs, it will be possible to support the relevant activities with appropriate financial products (loans, guarantees, capital contributions, mezzanine funds and others). Specific activities, appropriate amount of funds and the conditions for the implementation of specific FIs, including the expected leverage of allocated ESI Funds, as well as combinations with other forms of support, will be based on the ex-ante assessment of FIs, required under Article 37 (2) of General Regulation for FIs in the 2014 - 2020 programming period.

#### 2.4.4.5. Planned use of major projects

Implementation of major projects is not planned under Investment priority 3 of Priority axis 4.

#### 2.4.4.6. Common and programme-specific output indicators

**Table 44: Common and programme-specific output indicators, by investment priority and category of region (if relevant)**

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
CO30	Additional capacity of renewable energy production	MW	ERDF	less developed regions of the SR	2	Monitoring the implementation of the OP QE	Once per calendar year
CO32	Decreased annual consumption of primary energy in public buildings	kWh/year	EFRR	less developed regions of the SR	278 900 000	Monitoring the implementation of the OP QE	Once per calendar year
CO34	Estimated annual decrease of GHG emissions	t equiv. CO <sub>2</sub>	ERDF	less developed regions of the SR	73 500	Monitoring the implementation of the OP QE	Once per calendar year
O0180	Number of	number	ERDF	less	550	Monitoring the	Once per

	public buildings at the low-energy or ultra-low-energy level or with nearly zero-energy			developed regions of the SR		implementation of the OP QE	calendar year
00183	Floor area of buildings recovered beyond the framework of minimum requirements	m <sup>2</sup>	ERDF	less developed regions of the SR	1 248 000	Monitoring the implementation of the OP QE	Once per calendar year
00187	Decreased final energy consumption in public buildings	kWh/year	ERDF	less developed regions of the SR	172 000 000	Monitoring the implementation of the OP QE	Once per calendar year

#### 2.4.5. INVESTMENT PRIORITY 4 PRIORITY AXIS 4: 4.4 Promoting low-carbon strategies for all types of territories, in particular for urban areas, including the promotion of sustainable multimodal urban mobility and mitigation-relevant adaptation measures

##### 2.4.5.1. Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priority and expected results

#### **SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 4.4.1: Increasing the number of local plans and measures related to the low-carbon strategy for all types of territories**

The aim of the specific objective is, in line with the objectives of SR aimed at implementing the Europe 2020 Strategy, to support municipalities and other public entities to adopt low-carbon strategies with clear objectives and with an impact on environmental protection<sup>148</sup> what is a basic precondition of a systemic decrease of greenhouse gas emissions, taking into account the regional and local conditions in accordance with Directive 2012/27/EU on energy efficiency. Awareness raising of all target groups in this field is another priority of this objective.

#### RESULTS

- Elaboration and implementation of regional and local low-carbon strategies including the use of energy services based on energy efficiency contract for public administration entities.
- Consultancy, information spread and monitoring of low-carbon measures for all types of territories

Table 45: Programme-specific result indicators, by specific objective 4.4.1

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region (where relevant)	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
R0125	Share of population living in areas where awareness raising regarding	%	less developed regions of the SR	8	2013	84	SIEA	as to 31.12.2018, as to 31.12.2020 and as to 31.12.2023

	low-carbon measures was conducted								
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#### 2.4.5.2. Action to be supported under the investment priority

##### **SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 4.4.1: Increasing the number of local plans and measures related to the low-carbon strategy for all types of territories**

The abovementioned specific objective will be achieved by the means of the following activities:

- A. Elaboration and implementation of low-carbon strategies for all types of territories, in particular for urban areas, including updating and implementing municipality development concepts related to thermal energy
- B. Implementation of energy and environmental management systems, including energy audits and the EU environmental management and audit scheme (EMAS)
- C. Development of energy services at the regional and local level
- D. Raising awareness of low-carbon measures especially energy efficiency and use of RES including consulting, information campaigns, professional seminars, congresses and activities for children and youth
- E. Introducing a system for regular consulting and raising awareness for public sector, energy managers, auditors, providers of energy services
- F. Extending monitoring energy efficiency and use of RES and other low-carbon measures

##### **A. Elaboration and implementation of low-carbon strategies for all types of territories, in particular for urban areas, including updating and implementing municipality development concepts related to thermal energy**

Heat and heat-producing fuels have a significant share in energy consumption and thus in the production of greenhouse gas emissions; this is the reason why municipalities should have a crucial role in stabilizing the heat market, namely by a more efficient use of land-use and building proceedings when ensuring an affordable and environmentally acceptable form of heat supply based on processed or updated municipality development concepts related to thermal energy, elaborated e.g. as a part of low-carbon strategies. Elaboration, updating and implementation of municipality development concepts related to thermal energy are in line with objectives of the Draft Energy Policy of SR, part „Heat Supply“.

The aim of the above-stated activity, in line with the national low-carbon strategy under preparation, will be to elaborate and implement regional and local low-carbon strategies or their parts, including an assessment of supplies by all available forms of usable energy, including the energy used in transportation, processed using the methodology of the action plan for sustainable energy development used in the Convention of Mayors. Emphasis should be laid on low-carbon measures, in particular energy efficiency, use of RES with regard to environmental protection mainly in relation to greenhouse gas emissions production and air pollutants emissions production. If there is a district heating system in a particular location, the low-carbon strategy must contain, as its inseparable part, an updated municipality development concept related to thermal energy, taking into consideration the decreasing demand for usable heat and determining the procedure of a following optimum adaptation to heat distribution and generation.

Support will also be provided to particular projects of low-carbon measures with the aim to obtain funding from their own budgetary funds or from available subsidy programmes, but only in the case if those are projects which directly contribute to meeting the objectives specified in the strategy. Creation of new jobs for this purpose will also be supported, focused on coordination of preparation of projects from approved strategies, while the number of jobs will be directly related to the number and extent of projects under preparation and implementation.

<i>Target groups:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- general public</li> <li>- entities of territorial self-government</li> <li>- non-profit organizations providing services of general interest;</li> <li>- private sector entities</li> </ul>
<i>Target territories:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- less developed regions of the SR</li> </ul>
<i>Beneficiaries:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- entities of territorial self-government <sup>149</sup></li> <li>- non-profit organizations providing services of general interest.</li> </ul>

#### **B. Implementation of energy and environmental management systems, including energy audits and the EU environmental management and audit scheme (EMAS)**

Implementation of energy and environmental management systems will be supported in relation to the approved low-carbon strategies or their parts, including energy audits as well as the EU environmental management and audit scheme (EMAS), which will enable the public entities to better manage their energy consumption and particularly to ensure long-term quality in energy consumption management.

<i>Target groups:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- general public</li> <li>- central administration entities</li> <li>- entities of territorial self-government</li> <li>- non-profit organizations providing services of general interest</li> <li>- private sector entities</li> </ul>
<i>Target territories:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- less developed regions of the SR</li> </ul>
<i>Beneficiaries:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- central administration entities <sup>150</sup></li> <li>- entities of territorial self-government <sup>151</sup></li> <li>- non-profit organizations providing services of general interest.</li> </ul>

#### **C. Development of energy services at the regional and local level**

Energy services cannot be provided without a thorough analysis of the existing condition in energy-consuming entities and a proposal of energy-efficiency measures. The subject of support within this activity will be elaboration of targeted energy audits with the aim to propose energy-efficiency measures paid from the savings of costs of energy.

<i>Target groups:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- general public</li> <li>- central administration entities</li> <li>- entities of territorial self-government</li> <li>- non-profit organizations providing services of general interest</li> <li>- private sector entities</li> </ul>
<i>Target territories:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- less developed regions of the SR</li> </ul>

<i>Beneficiaries:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- central administration entities <sup>152</sup></li> <li>- entities of territorial self-government <sup>153</sup></li> <li>- non-profit organizations providing services of general interest.</li> </ul>
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#### **D. Raising awareness of low-carbon measures especially energy efficiency and use of RES including consulting, information campaigns, professional seminars, congresses and activities for children and youth**

The objective of this activity is raising awareness in relation to low-carbon measures which will be connected to the national project within the framework of a national project implemented by the Slovak Innovation and Energy Agency in the form of extended individual and group communication, including above-the-line communication especially by the means of radio and television. The priority will be that all target groups know the relation between energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions and are able to roughly assess energy consumption and in the case of average or above average consumption use individual professional consulting.

Professional seminars will provide up-to-date knowledge in the area of low-carbon measures, in particular energy efficiency and use of RES to individual target groups and create a platform for presenting good examples of low-carbon strategies for all types of territories.

Due to increased demands for individual consulting it will be necessary to extend and improve the existing network of consulting centres including the acquisition of the latest foreign knowledge and experience. Intensifying activities targeting children and youth during the school year as well as during holidays will substantially increase awareness of the project and its results, especially due to a larger number of participants at such events. "Investing" into children and youth will create prerequisites for long-term sustainability of the idea of efficient use of natural sources with a minimum negative impact on the environment.

This activity will contribute to achieving goals in the area of raising awareness set forth in the Draft Energy Policy of the SR, which will be detailed in the planned *National strategy to raise awareness of energy efficiency*.

<i>Target groups:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- general public</li> <li>- central administration entities</li> <li>- entities of territorial self-government</li> <li>- private sector entities</li> </ul>
<i>Target territories:</i>	- less developed regions of the SR
<i>Beneficiaries:</i>	- Slovak Innovation and Energy Agency (contributory organization of the MoEcon SR)

#### **E. Introducing a system for regular consulting and raising awareness for public sector, energy managers, auditors, providers of energy services**

The activity is planned as a part of the national project ensured by the Slovak Innovation and Energy Agency, while support will be provided to specific systems for regular consulting and raising awareness of low-carbon measures for:

- technicians (engineers) in the area of implementation measures for energy efficiency and use of RES;
- planners in the area of implementation of measures for energy efficiency and use of RES,

- providers of energy services;
- energy managers;
- energy auditors;
- persons with specialized skills for regular inspection of heating and air conditioning systems;
- public sector employees, who deal with energy use and low-carbon measures.

The priority of specific systems for regular consulting and raising awareness will be providing information in the form of regular on consecutive professional events accompanied with providing information materials in printed and electronic forms and creating an information platform by the means of electronic communication, which will besides other contain a database of elaborated low-carbon measures for all types of territories, database of apartment houses in the SR, public buildings and enterprises, in which an energy audit took place, granting access to all data that are not subject to protection of privacy and trade secrets according to generally binding legal regulations.

The specific system for regular consulting and raising awareness by public sector employees who deal with low-carbon measures and use of energy will also include a continuation of the pilot project “Support for instruments to introduce and optimize measures in the field of energy efficiency of public buildings” in the form of preparing further audits of public buildings with an emphasis on monitoring energy consumption of such equipment for which there is no a separate measurement device installed and that could have substantial impact on energy consumption, and cooperation on establishing systems for measurement and control of energy consumption as well as establishing systems for energy and environmental management and EU schemes for environmental management and audits (Eco-Management and Audit Scheme) in public administration buildings.

When ensuring the national project, SIEA will cooperate with relevant expert associations and groups and with non-governmental non-profit organizations, exchange experience and use the knowledge from already implemented international projects or international projects under preparation, such as „BUILD UP SKILLS“.

<i>Target groups:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- general public</li> <li>- central administration entities</li> <li>- entities of territorial self-government</li> <li>- private sector entities</li> </ul>
<i>Target territories:</i>	- less developed regions of the SR
<i>Beneficiaries:</i>	- Slovak Innovation and Energy Agency (contributory organization of the MoEcon SR)

#### **F. Extending monitoring energy efficiency and use of RES and other low-carbon measures**

The subject of the support shall include monitoring of the measures implemented in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to supplement it with new modules and functionalities, including adjusting the energy efficiency monitoring system<sup>154</sup> which is operated by the Slovak Innovation and Energy Agency, to the existing data collection systems in accordance with the applicable legal regulations. The aim of such support will be in particular to decrease the administrative burden of energy consumption data providers, the implementation of low-carbon measures, in particular the measures in the field of energy efficiency and use of RES. Cooperation of the managing authorities, operation programme intermediary authorities and

monitoring system operators will create an environment suitable to improve monitoring of targets determined by energy efficiency action plans, possibly by granting a direct access to the system to representatives of managing and intermediary authorities, and by verifying the input data by the monitoring system operator, as well as by creating a possibility to import and export data between the relevant systems currently in use. A work group consisting of representatives of managing and intermediary authorities of all the relevant operational programmes will be established for this purpose so that they can be involved in systematic planning and evaluation of low carbon measures for all types of areas. Monitoring will take into account the obligations stemming from the Act on energy efficiency<sup>155</sup>.

The monitoring system will be supplemented with analytical modules that could be providing average and limit data about the consumption of various forms of usable energy, as well as data about impacts of individual activities aimed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The analytical module outputs will also include data about the size of investments per one unit of saved or produced energy and per one unit of reduction of greenhouse gas emissions classified according to criteria determined in advance, which could be used for evaluation of the submitted projects from the point of view of economic efficiency, for example. The module for use of RES will make the records about monitoring heat and electricity generation from RES more precise, in particular in connection with support of small-scale RES.

Compliance with the necessary safety rules will enable all the target groups to access certain level of the monitoring system in order to get data and in particular to compare energy consumption or project results with similar groups of energy consumers.

<i>Target groups:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- general public</li> <li>- central administration entities</li> <li>- entities of territorial self-government</li> <li>- private sector entities</li> </ul>
<i>Target territories:</i>	- less developed regions of the SR
<i>Beneficiaries:</i>	- Slovak Innovation and Energy Agency (contributory organization of the MoEcon SR)

#### 2.4.5.3. Guiding principles for selection of operations

In order to ensure efficient and transparent selection process of projects/operations, which will contribute to the achievement of the OP objectives in the most appropriate way, the general principles specified in chapter 2.4.2.3, will be applied in the project selection process.

In addition, the following specific principles will be applied under activities of specific objective:

- priority will be given to projects, that will within the framework of the proposed low-carbon strategiestarget best use local resp. regional potential of low-carbon measures energy taking into account economic profitability;
- priority will be given to projects aimed at cooperation among several subjects in the public or private sector to create possibilities for sustainable energy economy in the given area (e.g. use of waste and biomass from agricultural cooperatives, private farms, forest waste, and their preparation and use in the field of energy supply);
- priority will be given to those projects that within the framework of the proposed low-carbon strategies will also take into account tighter measures for improvement of the air quality.

#### 2.4.5.4. Planned use of financial instruments

Financial instruments (FIs) may be used to support the implementation of those activities where the efficient use of funds from the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF), and this particular form of aid, will be demonstrated. In the case of economically viable projects, where the return on investments or cost savings are expected, FIs represent a more appropriate form of support, avoiding market distortion. The FIs will focus on the support of those activities which do not find financing on the market, or do not find adequate financing, upon which their implementation would be efficient.

The possibility of using of revolving funds, while contributing to the objectives of the priority axis, belongs to the benefits of the use of FIs. The other benefits of using FIs include the opportunity to increase financial resources to achieve the specific objectives of the programme by means of attracting additional capital based on an appropriate setting of these instruments. Attracting additional capital is necessary also in respect to the insufficient amount from the ESIF to cover all the investment needs in the areas concerned. Participation by private investors may also contribute towards quality improvement of project implementation, and thus additionally contribute to a more efficient use of funds.

With the use of FIs, it will be possible to support the relevant activities with appropriate financial products (loans, guarantees, capital contributions, mezzanine funds and others). Specific activities, appropriate amount of funds and the conditions for the implementation of specific FIs, including the expected leverage of allocated ESI Funds, as well as combinations with other forms of support, will be based on the ex-ante assessment of FIs, required under Article 37 (2) of General Regulation for FIs in the 2014 - 2020 programming period.

#### 2.4.5.5. Planned use of major projects

Implementation of major projects is not planned under Investment priority 4 of Priority axis 4.

#### 2.4.5.6. Common and programme-specific output indicators

**Table 46: Common and programme-specific output indicators, by investment priority and category of region (if relevant)**

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
00030	Number of energy audits	number	ERDF	less developed regions of the SR	80	Monitoring the implementation of the OP QE	Once per calendar year
00034	Number of introduced systems for continual raising of awareness	number	ERDF	less developed regions of the SR	10	Monitoring the implementation of the OP QE	Once per calendar year
00036	Number of introduced energy management systems	number	ERDF	less developed regions of the SR	80	Monitoring the implementation of the OP QE	Once per calendar year
00050	Number of EMAS registrations and introduced environmental management systems	number	ERDF	less developed regions of the SR	10	Monitoring the implementation of the OP QE	Once per calendar year
00178	Number of performed	number	ERDF	less developed	2 500	Monitoring the implementation	Once per calendar

	information activities			regions of the SR		of the OP QE	year
00179	Number of regional and local low-carbon strategies	number	ERDF	less developed regions of the SR	50	Monitoring the implementation of the OP QE	Once per calendar year

#### 2.4.6. INVESTMENT PRIORITY 5 PRIORITY AXIS 4: 4.5 Promoting the use of high-efficiency co-generation of heat and power based on useful heat demand

##### 2.4.6.1. Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priority and expected results

##### **SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 4.5.1: Development of more efficient district heating systems based on useful heat demand**

In order to sustain and increase the proportion of supplied heat produced by highly efficient cogeneration it is necessary to support development of efficient DHSs in relation to achieving goals and meeting requirements arising from Directive 2012/27/EU on energy efficiency. For this reason within the framework of this specific goal support will especially be provided for measures aimed at construction, renovation and modernization of heat distributions systems.

#### RESULTS

##### **a) Increasing the share of supplied heat produced by cogeneration of electricity and heat**

Table 47: Programme-specific result indicators, by specific objective 4.5.1

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region (where relevant)	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
R0121	Share of supplied heat produced by cogeneration of electricity and heat on the total heat supplied	%	less developed regions of the SR	30	2012	40	System for monitoring energy efficiency	as to 2017, 2020 and 2023

##### 2.4.6.2. Action to be supported under the investment priority

##### **SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 4.5.1: Development of more efficient district heating systems based on useful heat demand**

The abovementioned specific objective will be achieved by the means of the following activities:

- A. Building, renovation and modernization of heat distribution systems
- B. Building, renovation and modernization of plants for high efficiency cogeneration of electricity and heat with maximum thermal input of 20 MW

##### **A. Building, renovation and modernization of heat distribution systems**

Neglecting investments into long-term operated DHSs increases the energy intensity of heat supply by the means of these systems. The majority of DHSs are hot water distribution systems, while steam distribution systems are especially used to supply heat to industrial

consumers. The age of most heat distribution systems is 20 – 30 years with a corresponding technical state. Due to a substantial decrease in heat consumption during last 10 years some heat distributions systems are over equipped, which has caused an increase in relative losses of heat distribution. Gradual renovation of technically and economically obsolete heat distribution systems and eventually also transition from four pipe systems to two pipe with compact heat exchanges in buildings requires increased investments into DHS. Financing reconstruction and modernization of heat distribution systems from Structural Funds will enable to optimize adjustment of the heat distribution network and heat sources to the demand for usable heat which is mainly decreased as a result of implementation of measures related to decreasing the energy intensity of buildings e.g. by thermal insulation. Measures aimed at development of DHSs will ensure implementation of measures of low-carbon strategies and harmony with the European strategy related to energy savings, represented by the new Directive 2012/27/EU.

<i>Target groups:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- private sector entities</li> <li>- central administration entities</li> <li>- entities of territorial self-government</li> <li>- households</li> </ul>
<i>Target territories:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- less developed regions of the SR</li> </ul>
<i>Beneficiaries:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- physical and/or legal persons authorized to do business</li> <li>- associations of physical or legal entities</li> <li>- central administration entities<sup>156</sup></li> <li>- entities of territorial self-government<sup>157</sup></li> </ul>

#### **B. Building, renovation and modernization of plants for high efficiency cogeneration of electricity and heat with maximum thermal input of 20 MW**

According to Directive 2012/27/EU the SR has set the cumulative goal of energy savings in the amount of 130 690 TJ for years 2014-2020, which represents about 20% reduction in primary energy sources consumption<sup>158</sup>. Measures aimed at achieving this goal will be detailed in the updated Energy Efficiency Policy of the SR, currently under preparation, and in the Energy Efficiency Action Plan for years 2014 - 2016, which will take into account experience from the implementation of Energy Efficiency Action Plan for years 2011 – 2013. Long-term measures will continuously carry on and will be complemented with new measures taken not only on the side of consumption, but also on the side of energy production and distribution so that in 2020 the planned target energy savings will be achieved. In this connection the SR plans to support measures that on the local and regional levels that will duly take into account the potential of efficient systems for heat supply or air conditioning, especially those that utilize high efficiency cogeneration of electricity and heat.

Support within the framework of the activities in question will target technologies for cogeneration of electricity and heat based on demands for usable heat, while support will not be provided for construction of plants combusting coal. In the case of projects that include facilities combusting biomass or biogas support will only be provided for cogeneration technologies themselves without any support for combustion plants.

<i>Target groups:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- private sector entities</li> <li>- central administration entities</li> <li>- entities of territorial self-government</li> <li>- households</li> </ul>
<i>Target territories:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- less developed regions of the SR</li> </ul>

<i>Beneficiaries:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- physical and/or legal entities authorized to do business</li> <li>- associations of physical or legal entities</li> <li>- central administration entities<sup>159</sup></li> <li>- entities of territorial self-government<sup>160</sup></li> </ul>
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#### 2.4.6.3. Guiding principles for selection of operations

In order to ensure efficient and transparent selection process of projects/operations, which will contribute to the achievement of the OP objectives in the most appropriate way, the general principles specified in chapter 2.4.2.3, will be applied in the project selection process.

In addition, the following specific principles will be applied within the framework of selected types of activities of this investment priority:

*Building, renovation, and modernization of heat distribution systems, and*

*Building, renovation, and modernization of plants for high efficiency cogeneration of electricity and heat with maximum thermal input of 20 MW*

- Priority will be given to projects that will achieve the lowest value of ratio indicator  $Ef_{savings}$  calculated as the ratio of investment expenses on the implementation of the whole project to the volume of expected primary energy sources savings (in EUR/MWh) (in the case of heat distribution systems);
- Priority will be given to projects that will achieve the lowest value of ratio indicator  $Ef_{production}$ , calculated as the ratio of investment expenses on the implementation of the whole project to the expected volume of energy produced by cogeneration of electricity and heat (in EUR/MWh);
- Priority will be given to those projects whose implementation will bring maximum use of heat in equipment for cogeneration of heat and electricity;
- Priority will be given to projects that will achieve the lowest value of ratio indicator  $EK_{CO_2}$ , calculated as the ratio of investment expenses on the implementation of the whole project to the expected volume of reduction in greenhouse gas emissions expressed in equivalent CO<sub>2</sub> in metric tons (in EUR/tCO<sub>2</sub>);
- Support will be contingent upon the existence of an energy audit based on which the following will be verified in the process of evaluation:
  - calculations of the planned volume of primary energy sources savings;
  - calculations of the planned volume of energy produced by cogeneration of electricity and heat;
  - calculations of reduction in greenhouse gas emissions expressed in equivalent CO<sub>2</sub>;
  - technical feasibility of the proposed energy measures.

#### 2.4.6.4. Planned use of financial instruments

Financial instruments (FIs) may be used to support the implementation of those activities where the efficient use of funds from the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF), and this particular form of aid, will be demonstrated. In the case of economically viable projects, where the return on investments or cost savings are expected, FIs represent a more appropriate form of support, avoiding market distortion. The FIs will focus on the support of

those activities which do not find financing on the market, or do not find adequate financing, upon which their implementation would be efficient.

The possibility of using of revolving funds, while contributing to the objectives of the priority axis, belongs to the benefits of the use of FIs. The other benefits of using FIs include the opportunity to increase financial resources to achieve the specific objectives of the programme by means of attracting additional capital based on an appropriate setting of these instruments. Attracting additional capital is necessary also in respect to the insufficient amount from the ESIF to cover all the investment needs in the areas concerned. Participation by private investors may also contribute towards quality improvement of project implementation, and thus additionally contribute to a more efficient use of funds.

With the use of FIs, it will be possible to support the relevant activities with appropriate financial products (loans, guarantees, capital contributions, mezzanine funds and others). Specific activities, appropriate amount of funds and the conditions for the implementation of specific FIs, including the expected leverage of allocated ESI Funds, as well as combinations with other forms of support, will be based on the ex-ante assessment of FIs, required under Article 37 (2) of General Regulation for FIs in the 2014 - 2020 programming period.

#### 2.4.6.5. Planned use of major projects

Implementation of major projects is not planned under Investment priority 5 of Priority axis 4.

#### 2.4.6.6. Common and programme-specific output indicators

Table 48: Common and programme-specific output indicators, by investment priority and category of region (if relevant)

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
CO34	Estimated annual decrease of GHG emissions	t equiv. CO <sub>2</sub>	ERDF	less developed regions of the SR	<del>280 000</del> 271 441	Monitoring the implementation of the OP QE	Once per calendar year
O0037	Number of more efficient district heating systems	number	ERDF	less developed regions of the SR	25	Monitoring the implementation of the OP QE	Once per calendar year
O0038	PES savings in district heating systems	MWh/year	ERDF	less developed regions of the SR	<del>4 000 000</del> 969 151	Monitoring the implementation of the OP QE	Once per calendar year
O0039	Volume of heat generated by highly efficient cogeneration based on the demand for usable heat	MWh/year	ERDF	less developed regions of the SR	400 000	Monitoring the implementation of the OP QE	Once per calendar year
O0040	Additional installed capacity of plants for high efficiency cogeneration of electricity and heat based on useful heat demand	MW	ERDF	less developed regions of the SR	45	Monitoring the implementation of the OP QE	Once per calendar year

#### 2.4.7. Performance framework for the priority axis 4

Table49: Performance framework of the Priority axis 4

Indicator type (Key implementation step, financial, output or, where appropriate, result indicator)	ID	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Fund	Category of region	Milestone for 2018	Final target (2023)	Source of data	Explanation of relevance of indicator, where appropriate
Output indicator	CO30	Increased capacity of energy production from renewable sources	MW	ERDF	less developed regions of the SR	160	<del>392</del> 570	Monitoring the implementation of the OP QE	share on the allocation of the priority axis appointed to less developed regions of the SR – <del>11,98 %</del> 17,70 %
Output indicator	CO30	Increased capacity of energy production from renewable sources	MW	ERDF	more developed region of the SR	1	5	Monitoring the implementation of the OP QE	share on the allocation of the priority axis appointed to more developed regions of the SR — 100%
Output indicator	O0183	Floor area of buildings recovered beyond the framework of minimum requirements	m <sup>2</sup>	ERDF	less developed regions of the SR	187200	1 248 000	Monitoring the implementation of the OP QE	share on the allocation of the priority axis appointed to less developed regions of the SR – <del>50,84 %</del> 46,81 %
Financial indicator	F0002	Total amount of certified expenditure after submission of request for payment to the EC	Euro	ERDF	less developed regions of the SR	285 242 931	<del>1 110 449 792</del> 1 187 880 423	ITMS / CA (MF of the SR)	
Financial indicator	F0002	Total amount of certified expenditure after submission of request for payment to the EC	Euro	ERDF	more developed region of the SR	823 491	2 656 424	ITMS / CA (MF of the SR)	

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## 2.4.8. Categories of intervention

Table 50: Intervention field

Dimension 1 – Intervention field		
Fund	European Regional Development Fund	
Category of region	Less developed regions of the SR	
Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
4. Energy efficient low-carbon economy in all sectors	10	65 000 000
	11	<del>18 308 360</del> 55 000 000
	12	<del>31 666 519</del> 47 671 788
	13	474 886 480
	16	<del>179 281 298</del> 185 000 000
	68	75 700 000
	70	<del>31 601 944</del> 34 300 000

Table 51: Form of finance

Dimension 2 – Form of finance		
Fund	European Regional Development Fund	
Category of the region	Less developed regions of the SR	
Priority axis	Code	Amount (in EUR)
4. Energy efficient low-carbon economy in all sectors	01	<del>813 318 662</del> 874 432 329
	04	63 125 939

Table 52: Territory type

Dimension 3 – Territory type		
Fund	European Regional Development Fund	
Category of the region	Less developed regions of the SR	
Priority axis	Code	Amount (in EUR)
4. Energy efficient low-carbon economy in all sectors	01	<del>455 893 143</del> 426 176 268
		<del>376 131 369</del> 351 613 674
	02	<del>105 533 756</del> 98 654 659
	03	

Table 53: Territorial delivery mechanisms

Dimension 4 – Territorial delivery mechanisms		
Fund	European Regional Development Fund	
Category of the region	Less developed regions of the SR	
Priority axis	Code	Amount (in EUR)
4. Energy efficient low-carbon economy in all sectors	07	<del>876 444 601</del> 937 558 268

Table 54: Intervention field

Dimension 1 – Intervention field		
Fund	European Regional Development Fund	
Category of the region	More developed region of the SR	
Priority axis	Code	Amount (in EUR)
4. Energy efficient low-carbon economy in all sectors	10	750 000
	11	270 000
	12	308 212

Table 55: Form of finance

Dimension 2 – Form of finance		
Fund	European Regional Development Fund	
Category of the region	More developed region of the SR	
Priority axis	Code	Amount (in EUR)
4. Energy efficient low-carbon economy in all sectors	01	1 328 212
	02	0

Table 56: Territory type

Dimension 3 – Territory type		
Fund	European Regional Development Fund	
Category of the region	More developed region of the SR	
Priority axis	Code	Amount (in EUR)
4. Energy efficient low-carbon economy in all sectors	01	796 927
	02	398 464
	03	132 821

Table 57: Territorial delivery mechanisms

Dimension 4 – Territorial delivery mechanisms		
Fund	European Regional Development Fund	
Category of the region	More developed region of the SR	
Priority axis	Code	Amount (in EUR)
4. Energy efficient low-carbon economy in all sectors	07	1 328 212

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

## 2.5 PRIORITY AXIS 5: TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

### 2.5.0 Justification of determining the priority axis which covers more than one category of region and more than one thematic objective or fund

The need to apply this priority axis on the entire territory of the SR results from the nature of technical assistance activities. Their main objective is to support the effective implementation of the program taking into account the fact that individual priority axes of the OP QE cover both the less and the more developed regions of the SR.

#### 2.5.1 Fund and category of region

<b>Fund</b>	European Regional Development Fund
<b>Category of region</b>	less developed regions of the SR more developed regions of the SR
<b>Calculation basis</b> ( <i>total eligible expenditure or eligible public expenditure</i> )	less developed regions of the SR: 87 462 942 more developed regions of the SR: 5 313 000

#### 2.5.2 Specific objectives and expected results

##### ***SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 5.1.1: Ensuring effective implementation of the program***

The Specific objective 5.1.1 is aimed at supporting effective and smooth implementation of the program in accordance with the relevant legislation of the SR and the EU through the development and maintaining of the stable implementation environment with appropriate set up of program's management and control systems, including adequate administrative capacities (ACs) and material and technical equipment.

#### RESULTS

- a) **Stabilised and qualified administrative capacities**
- b) **Effective system of the OP implementation**

Through implementation of the activities under this specific objective the basic precondition for ensuring stable, highly qualified and motivated ACs for MA and IB will be established by the introduction of system tools for their education, assessment and remuneration. Technical assistance funds of the OP QE will be used to finance salaries of the staff involved in the program's implementation, as well as specific training activities which will complement the key educational activities in the field of management and control system provided at the central level from the OP Technical Assistance (OP TA) funds. In contrast with the previous approach to training, the new system will contain obligatory components and will strengthen a systematic approach to MA and IB's ACs training.

By implementing the activities of the specific objective also material and technical equipment and operational support will be ensured, including appropriate information, communication

and technological infrastructure provided for effective activities performance of the MA and IBs, including communication at the national level and communication with the EC. Introduction of modern IT infrastructure for the needs of OP QE implementation follows on an OP TA specific objective in the area of support for existing public administration IS operation in the area of ESIF management (ITMS, ISUF, IS CEDIS).

The specific objective is also aimed at ensuring support in implementing particular processes of program's management and control systems including the preparation of the next programming period. External support can suitably complement internal ACs, resp. provide the necessary know-how and experience MA and IBs' AC may lack, and thereby enhance the quality of performed activities.

Management and control systems of the OP QE will be set so as to include effective and proportionate anti-fraud and anti-corruption measures in line with the relevant commitments set in the PA SR<sup>161</sup>. They will primarily include a definition of the prohibition of a conflict of interests for persons involved in the implementation process, introduction of centralised selection of evaluators provided by the CCA, introduction of price maps (through financial limits, benchmarks or unit prices), establishment of an independent institute at the national level to address applicants' submissions relating to the project approval process, extending possibilities to seek redress in case an application for support is dismissed, as well as measures aimed at increasing public control through the involvement of civil society in the OP implementation process and by making the widest possible range of data and information available. More specific measures in the area are defined by the ESIF management system for the programming period 2014 – 2020, pursuant to which are incorporated into the relevant MA's managing documentation.

All activities proposed to support effective implementation of the OP QE were defined synergistically to OP TA activities.

**Table 58: Programme-specific result indicators for specific objective 5.1.1**

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
R0116	Rate of compliance with time limits for payments reimbursement to beneficiaries	%	29,61	2014	85,00	ITMS	Once per calendar year
R0117	Administrative capacities' turnover rate	%	17,57	2013	13,00	MA, IB	Once per calendar year

#### **SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 5.1.2: Ensuring broad awareness of the OP and support for beneficiaries' administrative capacities building**

Specific objective 5.1.2 is aimed at supporting the process of information and communication in order to promote public awareness of the possibilities and results of the OP QE, as well as for the purpose of administrative capacity building of beneficiaries.

## **RESULTS**

- a) Available information on the OP for all target groups
- b) Qualified administrative capacities of beneficiaries

Increase of public awareness about support from the OP QE through the implementation of targeted information and communication activities will ultimately have the effect on increase of the absorption capacity of the program.

Implementation of information and communication activities specifically focused on beneficiaries, including the provision of consultations, methodological support and expert advice from the MA / IB in preparing and implementing the projects of beneficiaries will also be ensured within this specific objective. In addition to the above mentioned support, financed from the TA funds, beneficiaries will be able to include the costs incurred in connection with preparation and management of the project in the project budget. Thus, the conditions for high quality preparation and implementation of the projects and low error outputs of beneficiaries will be created.

**Table 59: Programme-specific result indicators for specific objective 5.1.2**

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
R0025	Awareness rate of support opportunities from the OP	%	16,31	2014	33,00	Public opinion survey	as to 31.12.2018, as to 31.12.2020 and as to 31.12.2023
R0119	Properly completed projects rate	%	91,43	2014	95,00	ITMS	Once per calendar year

### 2.5.3 Actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives

#### **SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 5.1.1: Ensuring effective implementation of the program**

The specific objective will be fulfilled through the following activities:

- A. Employee training
- B. Introduction and implementation of a fair and motivational employee remuneration system including financing of employee salaries
- C. Ensuring material and technical equipment and OP implementation operational support
- D. External services supporting the OP implementation

#### **A. Employee training**

Within this activity support for internal and external training of employees involved in the OP implementation will be provided, with the aim of improving the quality and effectiveness of the activities performed by the employees. The activity will be implemented through support for employee participation at internal (organised by the MA/IB) and external training activities (seminars, trainings, courses, professional internships focused on exchange of experience and so on).

MA/IB will finance specific training activities from the OP QE TA's funds that will complement the key educational activities in the field of management and control system provided at the central level from the OP TP funds. Comprehensive system tools for upgrading employees' skills will therefore be introduced.

The proposed system of modular training will distinguish two groups of employees:

- Employees with no previous experience in ESIF implementation and employees with less than 12 months of experience in ESIF implementation;
- Employees with more than 12 months experience in ESIF implementation. Based on this division employees will participate in appropriate training modules also in relation to their job position.

Certificates will attest the mastering of the key knowledge and skills for standardised job positions.

<i>Target groups:</i>	- Eligible employees of the MA, IB and the Payment unit for the OP QE
<i>Target territory:</i>	- The entire territory of the SR
<i>Beneficiaries:</i>	- MA for the OP QE - IB for the OP QE

#### **B. Introduction and implementation of a fair and motivational employee remuneration system including financing of employee salaries**

Financing of employee salaries, together with implementation of a fair and motivational employee remuneration system and through introduction and implementation of a quality and transparent performance evaluation system, the basic precondition for having stabilised ACs of bodies involved in the OP QE implementation will be established<sup>162</sup>. The set up employee remuneration and evaluation system will reflect the acquired knowledge and experience of the employees, especially then its application in OP implementation practice (the quality of work performed).

<i>Target groups:</i>	- Eligible employees of the MA, IB and the Payment unit for the OP QE
<i>Target territory:</i>	- The entire territory of the SR
<i>Beneficiaries:</i>	- MA for the OP QE - IB for the OP QE

#### **C. Ensuring material and technical equipment and OP implementation operational support**

Implementation of this activity will ensure adequate material and technical equipment as well as operational support for eligible bodies involved in the OP implementation, so that appropriate working conditions for their employees, as well as partners and members of the OP QE Monitoring Committee and working groups within organised meetings and negotiations were created. In order to create conditions for active participation of the partners and members of the OP Monitoring Committee and working groups in the OP implementation and monitoring, as well as in the preparation of the next programming period, reimbursement of expenditure (travel, accommodation, diets) related to their participation in the meetings and negotiations will be allowed.

Part of this activity is also to support the employee participation on foreign and domestic business trips related to the OP implementation as well as the next programming period preparation.

The support within this activity will also focus on the establishment of a functioning information and communication infrastructure using modern IT systems, including ensuring

necessary licenses and maintenance, giving MA/IBs (including the Payment unit) effective tool to support the OP implementation.

<i>Target groups:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Eligible employees of the MA, IB and the Payment unit for the OP QE</li> <li>- Partners and members of the OP QE Monitoring Committee and working groups</li> </ul>
<i>Target territory:</i>	- The entire territory of the SR
<i>Beneficiaries:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- MA for the OP QE</li> <li>- IB for the OP QE</li> </ul>

#### **D. External services supporting the OP implementation**

This activity reflects the effort to use the ACs of the bodies involved in the OP implementation efficiently and to increase the quality of the activities performed by them through the use of know-how and experience of external entities.

External capacities will be used mainly in preparation and updating of strategic, managerial and methodological documents; in preparation of analyses, evaluations, studies and expert opinions; and in providing consultations connected with particular processes related to the OP implementation (programming, management, implementation, control, monitoring and evaluation) and preparation of the next programming period, including fulfillment and fulfillment evaluation of ex ante conditionalities.

<i>Target groups:</i>	- Eligible employees of the MA, IB and the Payment unit for the OP QE
<i>Target territory:</i>	- The entire territory of the SR
<i>Beneficiaries:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- MA for the OP QE</li> <li>- IB for the OP QE</li> </ul>

#### ***SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 5.1.2: Ensuring broad awareness of the OP and support for beneficiaries' administrative capacities building***

Given specific objective will be fulfilled by the means of internal and external tools through the following activities:

- A. Information and communication tools
- B. Administrative capacities building of beneficiaries

##### **A. Information and communication tools**

Through the information and communication tools aimed at the general public and potential beneficiaries, MA / IB will ensure promotion of the OP in order to spread awareness of the possibilities and results of the support from the OP, including emphasizing the role of the European Union, as well as to strengthen the absorption capacity of the OP.

Above mentioned tools include conferences, seminars, workshops, info days, exhibitions, TV / radio spots, press releases, advertising on the Internet / in the press, elaboration of publications, providing information through the website and other activities aimed at informing the target groups, while the emphasis will be placed on feedback survey from the target groups.

Implementation of adequate information and communication measures will also increase transparency concerning financial support from the ESI Funds within the OP.

<i>Target groups:</i>	- General public and potential beneficiaries
<i>Target territory:</i>	- The entire territory of the SR
<i>Beneficiaries:</i>	- MA for the OP QE - IB for the OP QE

## B. Administrative capacities building of beneficiaries

In order to simplify the preparation and implementation of the projects and to improve the quality of beneficiaries' outcomes (including potential beneficiaries / applicants), information and communication activities specifically focused on beneficiaries, including activities aimed at disseminating examples of good practices, will be implemented through this activity. MA / IB will ensure the provision of consultations, methodological support and expert advice relating to the preparation and implementation of the beneficiaries' projects, and also at the regional level.

The support from the Technical assistance funds will supplement, in a complementary manner, the direct support for implementation of the beneficiaries' projects (outside the Technical assistance funds) involving the possibility to include the costs incurred in connection with preparation of project documentation and project's management in the project budget. These activities are also linked to the planned activities for administrative burden reduction specified in detail chapter 10.

<i>Target groups:</i>	- Beneficiaries and potential beneficiaries
<i>Target territory:</i>	- The entire territory of the SR
<i>Beneficiaries:</i>	- MA for the OP QE - IB for the OP QE

### 2.5.3.1 Common and programme-specific output indicators

Table 60: Output indicators

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value (2023) (optional)	Source of data
O0048	Number of measures taken to reduce administrative burden	number	20	Monitoring of the OP QE implementation
O0163	Number of implemented educational activities	number	60	Monitoring of the OP QE implementation
O0175	Number of administrative capacities financed from the Technical assistance	FTE	310	Monitoring of the OP QE implementation
O0178	Number of implemented information activities	number	600	Monitoring of the OP QE implementation
O0181	Number of conducted evaluations, analyses and studies	number	30	Monitoring of the OP QE implementation
O0182	Share of administrative capacities with material and technical equipment financed from the Technical assistance	%	100	Monitoring of the OP QE implementation

## 2.5.4 Categories of intervention

Table 61: Intervention field

Dimension 1 - Intervention field		
Fund	European Regional Development Fund	
Regional category	Less developed regions of the SR	
Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
5. Technical assistance	121	56 964 500
	122	5 793 000
	123	11 586 000

Table 62: Form of finance

Dimension 2 - Form of finance		
Fund	European Regional Development Fund	
Regional category	Less developed regions of the SR	
Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
5. Technical assistance	01	74 343 500
	02	0

Table 63: Territory type

Dimension 3 - Territory type		
Fund	European Regional Development Fund	
Regional category	Less developed regions of the SR	
Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
5. Technical assistance	07	74 343 500

Table 64: Intervention field

Dimension 1 - Intervention field		
Fund	European Regional Development Fund	
Regional category	More developed regions of the SR	
Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
5. Technical assistance	121	2 035 500
	122	207 000
	123	414 000

Table 65: Form of finance

Dimension 2 - Form of finance		
Fund	European Regional Development Fund	
Regional category	More developed regions of the SR	
Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
5. Technical assistance	01	2 656 500
	02	0

Table 66: Territory type

Dimension 3 - Territory type		
Fund	European Regional Development Fund	
Regional category	More developed regions of the SR	
Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
5. Technical assistance	07	2 656 500

### 3 Financing plan of the Operational Programme

#### 3.1 Financial appropriation from each fund and amounts for performance reserve

Table67: Overview of particular years defining equivalent amounts for performance reserve

	Fund	Category of region	2014		2015		2016		2017		2018		2019		2020		Total	
			Main allocation	Performance reserve	Main allocation	Performance reserve	Main allocation	Performance reserve	Main allocation	Performance reserve	Main allocation	Performance reserve	Main allocation	Performance reserve	Main allocation	Performance reserve	Main allocation	Performance reserve
(1)	ERDF	Less developed regions	148 298 264	<del>9 697 026</del> 0	155 690 427	<del>10 180 390</del> 0	163 180 886	<del>10 670 181</del> 0	170 567 133	<del>11 153 158</del> 0	178 473 645	<del>11 670 155</del> 0	186 940 718	<del>12 223 805</del> 0	191 533 244	<del>12 524 105</del> 0	1 194 684 317	<del>78 118 820</del> 0
(2)	ERDF	More developed regions	483 088	11 541	507 168	12 116	531 569	12 699	555 630	13 274	581 386	13 890	608 969	14 548	623 927	14 907	3 891 737	92 975
(3)	CF	N/A	216 128 576	13 795 441	227 628 663	14 529 489	239 252 438	15 271 432	250 287 581	15 975 803	261 615 105	16 698 837	274 225 146	17 503 733	280 308 016	17 892 001	1 749 445 525	111 666 736
(4)	Total		364 909 928	<del>13 806 982</del> <del>23 504 008</del>	383 826 258	<del>14 541 605</del> <del>24 721 995</del>	402 964 893	<del>15 284 131</del> <del>25 954 312</del>	421 410 344	<del>15 989 077</del> <del>27 142 235</del>	440 670 136	<del>16 712 727</del> <del>28 382 882</del>	461 774 833	<del>17 518 281</del> <del>29 742 086</del>	472 465 187	<del>17 906 908</del> <del>30 431 013</del>	2 948 021 579	<del>111 759 711</del> <del>189 878 531</del>

### 3.2 Financing plan of the Operational Programme specifying total amount of funds for the 2014-2020 programming period by fund and national co-financing, by programme and priority axes

Table 68: Financing plan of the operational programme

Priority axis	Fund	Category of region	Basis for calculation of Union support (Total eligible cost or public eligible cost)	Union support	National counterpart	Indicative breakdown of national counterpart		Total funding	Co-financing rate	For information EIB contributions	Main allocation (total funding less performance reserve)		Performance reserve		Performance reserve amount as proportion of total Union support
						National public funding	National private funding				Union support	National counterpart	Union support	National counterpart	
				(a)	(b)=(c)+(d)	(c)	(d)	(e)=(a)+(b)	(f)=(a)/(e)	(g)	(h)	(i)	(j)	(k)	(l)=(j)/(a)*100
Priority axis 1: Sustainable use of natural resources through environmental infrastructure development	CF	N/A	Total eligible cost (TEC)	<u>1 568 013 361</u> <u>1 506 751 729</u>	<u>382 720 447</u> <u>371 909 571</u>	<u>209 276 489 207</u> <u>958 175 678 208</u> <u>200 699 858</u>	<u>173 443 958 175</u> <u>678 208</u> <u>171 209 713</u>	<u>1 950 733 808</u> <u>1 878 661 300</u>	<u>80,38%</u> <u>80,20%</u>		<u>1 456 346 625</u> <u>1 416 346 625</u>	<u>355 464 848</u> <u>356 653 820</u> <u>349 594 997</u>	<u>111 666 736</u> <u>90 405 104</u>	<u>27 255 599</u> <u>26 066 627</u> <u>22 314 574</u>	<u>7,13%</u> <u>6,00%</u> <u>6,00%</u>
Priority axis 2: Adaptation to the adverse effects of climate change with the focus on flood protection	CF	N/A	TEC	<u>293 098 900</u> <u>354 360 532</u>	<u>51 723 336</u> <u>62 534 212</u>	<u>51 723 336</u> <u>62 534 212</u>	0	<u>344 822 236</u> <u>416 894 744</u>	85,00%		<u>293 098 900</u> <u>333 098 900</u>	<u>51 723 336</u> <u>58 782 159</u>	<u>0</u> <u>21 261 632</u>	<u>0</u> <u>3 752 053</u>	<u>0,00%</u> <u>6,00%</u>
Priority axis 3: Promoting risk management, emergency management and resilience to emergencies affected by climate change	ERDF	Less developed regions	TEC	<u>243 896 216</u> <u>260 901 369</u>	<u>43 040 511</u> <u>6 041 421</u>	<u>40 171</u> <u>20 942 971</u> <u>993</u>	<u>2 869</u> <u>302 3 069</u> <u>428</u>	<u>286 936 727</u> <u>306 942 790</u>	85,00%		243 896 216	43 040 511	<u>0</u> <u>17 005 153</u>	<u>0</u> <u>3 000 910</u>	<u>0,00%</u> <u>6,52%</u>
Priority axis 4: Energy efficient low-carbon economy in all sectors	ERDF	Less developed regions	TEC	<u>876 444 601</u> <u>937 558 268</u>	<u>234 005 191</u> <u>250 322 155</u>	<u>93 547</u> <u>893 100 070</u> <u>900</u>	<u>140 457</u> <u>298 150 251</u> <u>255</u>	<u>1 110 449 792</u> <u>1 187 880 423</u>	78,93%		876 444 601	234 005 191	<u>0</u> <u>61 113 667</u>	<u>0</u> <u>16 316 964</u>	<u>0,00%</u> <u>6,52%</u>
		More developed	TEC	1 328 212	1 328 212	1 328 212	0	2 656 424	50,00%		1 235 237	1 235 237	92 975	92 975	7,00%

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Formátované: Písmo: Nie je Tučné

Formátované: Vycentrované

Formátované: Vycentrované



Priority axis 5: Technical assistance	ERDF	Less developed regions	N/A	74 343 500	13 119 442	87 462 942
		More developed regions	N/A	2 656 500	2 656 500	5 313 000
<b>TOTAL</b>				<u>3 059 781 290</u> <del>3 137 900 110</del>	<u>728 593 639</u> <del>747 911 513</del>	<u>3 788 374 929</u> <del>3 885 811 623</del>

### 3.3 Indicative amount of support to be used for climate change objectives

Table 70: Indicative amount of support to be used for climate change objectives (Article 27(6) CPR)

Priority axis	Indicative amount of support to be used for climate change objectives (EUR)	Proportion of total allocation to the operational programme (%)
1. Sustainable use of natural resources through environmental infrastructure development (TO 6)	170 965 270	<u>5,45</u> <u>5,59</u>
2. Adaptation to the adverse effects of climate change with the focus on flood protection (TO 5a)	<u>293 098 900</u> <del>354 360 532</del>	<u>9,58%</u> <del>11,29</del>
3. Promoting risk management, emergency management and resilience to emergencies affected by climate change (TO 5b)	<u>243 896 216</u> <del>260 901 369</del>	<u>7,97%</u> <del>8,31</del>
4. Energy efficient low-carbon economy in all sectors (TO 4)	<u>877 772 813</u> <del>938 886 480</del>	<u>28,69%</u> <del>29,92</del>

## **4 Integrated approach to territorial development**

### **4.1 Community-led local development**

In accordance with the Chapter 3.1.1 of the PA SR, the tool “community-led local development” is not applied within the OP QE.

### **4.2 Integrated actions for sustainable urban development**

Although under the Chapter 3.1.3 of the PA SR, the OP QE is not relevant in relation to the integrated actions for sustainable urban development, it is possible to identify indirect contribution to support of sustainable urban development, because the support within OP QE can be granted to projects that are part of the strategy for sustainable urban development. In this respect, preference will be given to projects that are part of the strategy for sustainable urban development within relevant investment priorities of OP QE in project selection process.

### **4.3 Integrated Territorial Investment (ITI)**

In accordance with the Chapter 3.1.2 of the PA SR, the Integrated Territorial Investments are not applied within the OP QE. However it is possible to identify indirect contribution of OP QE to support of Regional integrated territorial strategies, through which the integrated territorial investments will be implemented in SR. Considering that support within OP QE can be granted to projects that are part of the Regional integrated territorial strategies, preference will be given to these projects in project selection process within relevant investment priorities of OP QE.

### **4.4 The arrangements for interregional and transnational actions, within the operational programme, with beneficiaries located in at least one other Member State**

The interregional and transnational actions are not applied within the OP QE. The OP QE complementarity with the programmes of cross-border, interregional and transnational cooperation is specified in the Section 8 of the OP QE.

### **4.5 Contribution of the planned actions under the programme to macro-regional and sea-basin strategies, subject to the needs of the programme area as identified by the Member State**

In accordance with the Partnership Agreement, the OP QE is relevant particularly in relation to the promotion of the Danube Strategy, wherein implementation of several activities of the OP QE will mainly contribute to the fulfilment of priorities of the strategy's Pillar I. "Connecting the Danube Region" and pillar II. "Protecting the Environment in the Danube Region".

In terms of energy security of the Slovak Republic and in view of sustainable development of the Danube region, construction of the energy infrastructure is necessary. This intention is linked to the priority area 2 "To encourage more sustainable energy" of the strategy's pillar I., to the objectives of which OP QE contributes by promoting the use of technologies in the field of renewable energy sources under the investment priority 1 of the Priority Axis 4.

The priority area 4 "To restore and maintain the quality of waters" of the Danube Strategy's pillar II. is reflected through activities of the OP QE investment priority "Investing in the water sector to meet the requirements of the Union's environmental acquis and to address needs, identified by the Member States, for investment that goes beyond those requirements" supported within the Thematic objective 6 - Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency. Activities supporting construction and renewal (expansion and capacity increase) of waste water treatment plants with the necessary infrastructure in line with the requirements of the Directive 91/271/EEC, as well as activities aimed at ensuring the fulfilment of the WFD environmental objectives support the achievement of the objectives of this priority area of the Danube Strategy.

The priority area 5 of the Danube Strategy "To manage environmental risks" is consistent with the overall focus of the thematic objective 5 OP QE "Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and management ". The fulfilment of the objectives of this priority area of the Danube Strategy will be supported by OP QE activities focused on flood preventive measures and activities supporting the adaptation of the civil protection system and intervention capacities of rescue services capable of supporting interventions during disasters also outside the territory of the Slovak Republic.

The priority area 6 of the Danube Strategy "To preserve biodiversity, territories and the quality of air and soils" is consistent with three investment priorities of the OP QE thematic objective 6 "Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency". The compliance can be identified particularly within the investment priority "Protecting and restoring biodiversity and soil and promoting ecosystem services, including through Natura 2000, and green infrastructure".

## **5 Specific needs of geographical areas most affected by poverty or target groups at highest risk of discrimination or social exclusion**

Although under the Chapter 3.15 of the PA SR, the OP QE is not relevant in dealing with the specific needs of geographical areas most affected by poverty or target groups at highest risk of discrimination or social exclusion, it is possible to identify the potential for positive influencing of the employment growth within the OP QE. Through application of the condition to implement the social public procurement at lower levels of the program structure, the positive effect on employment growth will be achieved. It will be possible to request the application of the social aspect of the public procurement, under the Public Procurement Act, in the implementation of selected activities of the PA 1 and PA 2. Relevant will be considered primarily those activities whose practical implementation involves actions allowing the assertion of low-skilled workers, derived primarily from among the long-term unemployed. Given the above it can be assumed that as a result of projects implementation jobs will be created for the long-term unemployed, resp. for those inhabitants who are due to various objective factors excluded from the formal labour market (e.g. members of marginalized Roma communities).

## **6 Specific needs of geographical areas which suffer from severe and permanent natural or demographic handicaps**

N/A

## 7 Authorities and bodies responsible for management, control and audit and the role of relevant partners

### 7.1 Relevant authorities and bodies

Based on the *Proposed structure of the Operational Programmes for the multiannual financial framework of the European Structural and Investment Funds for the programming period 2014 - 2020*, approved by the Government Council of SR for preparation of the Partnership Agreement 2014 - 2020 of 11 March 2013, and subsequently by the Government of the SR at its session held on 20 March 2013, the Ministry of Environment of the SR performs the function of the Managing authority for the Operational Programme Quality of Environment, and as a part of it, it is responsible for coordination of the process of its preparation.

The Government Office of the SR performed the function of the Central coordination authority, being responsible for the preparation of the Partnership Agreement for the period 2014-2020 and for the overall coordination of preparation and implementation of the operational programmes and programmes of the ESIF for the programming period 2014-2020, until 31. 05. 2017. From 1. June 2017 the Section of Central Coordination Body and the Office of Deputy Prime Minister for Investments was separated from The Government Office of the SR, creating a new Office of the Deputy Prime Minister of the SR for Investments and Informatization, which currently includes the management, coordination and supervision of the use of the European Union Funds.

The role of the Certifying authority and the Audit authority for the operational programmes and programmes of the ESIF in the programming period 2014-2020, will be performed by the Ministry of Finance of the SR, based on the Resolution of the SR Government No 318/2013 of 19 June 2013.

Table 71: Relevant authorities and bodies

Authority/body	Name of authority/body and department or unit	Head of authority/body (position or post)
Managing authority	Ministry of Environment of the SR Section of Environmental Programs and Projects	Minister of Environment of the SR
Intermediary body	Slovak Environmental Agency Section of EU Funds	General Director
Intermediary body	Slovak Innovation and Energy Agency Section of EU Structural Funds	General Director
Intermediary body	Ministry of Interior of the SR Section of European programmes	Minister of Interior of the SR
Central coordination authority	Office of the Deputy Prime Minister of the SR for Investments and Informatization Section of Central Coordination Body	Deputy Prime Minister of the SR for Investments and Informatization
Certifying authority	Ministry of Finance of the SR Section of European Funds	Minister of Finance of the SR
Audit authority	Ministry of Finance of the SR	Minister of Finance of the SR

	Section of Audit and Control	
Body to which Commission will make payments	Ministry of Finance of the SR	Minister of Finance of the SR

## 7.2 Involvement of relevant partners in the preparation of the operational programme, and the role of those partners in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the programme

### 7.2.1 The role of relevant partners in the preparation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the programme

In the initial stage of the process of OP preparation, a comprehensive analysis of environmental situation and of the energy industry in the Slovak Republic (taking into account the climate change issue) was performed in cooperation with relevant central authorities of state administration of SR, mainly with ministerial sections and departments as expert guarantors and institutions acting in the position of IAMA within the OP implementation structure ("narrow partnership"), including an analysis of requirements, obligations, objectives and priorities resulting from relevant legislative regulations and conceptual documents of EU and SR (in particular the Europe 2020 strategy and the National Programme of Reforms of SR) from which main disparities and development needs in this area resulted. At the same time an analysis of experience and lessons learnt from the implementation of the OPE and OPCaEG in the programming period 2007 – 2013 was carried out.

Taking into consideration the Position Paper of the EC to preparation of the Partnership Agreement and programmes in SR for the programming period 2014 – 2020, a framework draft of the OP investment strategy, delimiting the main funding priorities, was drawn up as a synthesis of conclusions from the aforementioned analysis.

In application of the Article 5 of the general regulation, the delegated act of the EC to the Code of Conduct for partnership and the Methodical Guideline of CCA related to preparation of Operational Programmes/programmes for the programming period 2014-20, relevant partners were involved in the OP preparation process in an effort to form a transparent environment for efficient and effective management of preparation of the OP in such a way that a partnership principle and multilevel management are applied in the whole process. For this purpose a *Working Group for preparation of the Operational Programme Quality of Environment for the programming period 2014-20* (hereinafter referred to as the "Working Group") was established by the decision of the Minister of Environment of the Slovak Republic of 11 April 2013, while the list of its members is specified in the [Chapter 12.3.1](#).

Members of the Working Group were representatives of self-governing administration, relevant ministries and other public administration authorities, entities representing the civil society and social and economic partners, including entities from the academic community ("wide partnership").

Selection of members of the working group was based on objectively assessable criteria which can be verified based on available data, including the objective belonging to the contextual framework of the OP, representative nature (extent of the represented or covered natural or legal persons), experience, involvement and active participation in the particular area (length of existence, involvement in the creation of legislative or conceptual documents in the particular areas, participation in preparing or monitoring of the OPE and the OPCaEG in the programming period 2007 – 2013, etc.).

Consultations with members of the Working Group were performed as a part of meetings of the Working Group as well as in the form of operational communication (e.g. through e-mail contact to [programovanie@enviro.gov.sk](mailto:programovanie@enviro.gov.sk)).

The final draft of the OP is also the result of active participation of the partners in OP preparation, especially in the field of definition of OP activities and beneficiaries. Comments of local and regional self-governing administration (SGA) reflected tasks fulfilled by SGA bodies in relevant area and therefore, these comments took into account mainly local conditions, requirements of local and regional economy, economic and social cohesion of areas and general growth. As far as socio-economic partners (SEP) are concerned, lot of governing associations/professional autonomies were represented in the Working Group. Representatives of large enterprises (LE), employers (EMP) and non-profit organizations (NPO) operating in area of environment and energy also took proactive approach to the preparation of the OP.

Concerning comments of partners to the PA 1, IP 1, the MA defined waste prevention as the eligible activity and deleted (removed) initial activity aimed at energy recovery of mixed municipal waste according to the proposal of NPO. In accordance with the requirement of NPO, the activity of construction/reconstruction of facilities for biodegradable waste recovery including the biogas production used for the combined heat and power generation was added to the eligible activities. On the basis of LE suggestion, projects for material recovery of industrial waste will be supported. Representatives of LE and SGA raised the proposal of supporting construction/reconstruction of facilities for disposal of hazardous waste and the proposal of elimination of illegal dumping. Mentioned proposals were not accepted due to their non-compliance with the waste management hierarchy. The proposal of EMP to finance operational costs of facilities for hazardous waste management was not accepted either. The proposal of LE to promote innovative technologies in the field of waste production prevention was not accepted, because proposed activities belong to OPRaI.

Within the PA 1, IP 2, the proposal of LE to add construction/reconstruction of industrial waste water treatment plants regarding the “polluter pays” principle and regarding the lack of eligible funding was not accepted by MA. SGA representatives required promotion of construction of public sewage systems and waste water treatment plants also in agglomerations under 2,000 p. e. The MA partially accepted this requirement with regard to the need to meet SR pre-accession commitments in this field. Support will be aimed to the construction of WWTPs only in the cases where the sewer networks are built to min. of 80 % of the whole agglomeration and public sewage systems are operated in the agglomerations under 2,000 p. e. and construction of public sewage systems only if they contribute to the water quality improvement in the protected water management areas with high capacity groundwater sources, where the poor status of waters has been identified or the water body was identified as risky. The proposal of SEP to supplement activities in the area of drinking water supply by construction/reconstruction of groundwater sources was not accepted, but mentioned activities were added to draft of IROP.

Concerning the PA 1, IP 3, the MA did not accept the suggestion of NPO to supplement activities for maintaining biodiversity and improvement of integrity of the territorial system of ecological stability in urbanized country, since they are not a priority. MA did not accept also the proposal of NPO to supplement the activity “Elaboration of a nationwide strategy of development of “green” tourism”, because tourism is not supported within the OP. Indicator “Sites of community interest declared as protected areas” was not accepted either, because it is not possible to ensure declaring of these protected areas within legislative procedure. The comment of SGA concerning the application of the integrated approach to territorial

development was also not accepted, because according to the agreements on a national level it will be realized within IROP.

Within the PA 1, IP 4, SO 1, in the field of improving the quality of air monitoring, the request of NPO to include chemical analysis into eligible activities was accepted as well as the request to extend the group of beneficiaries, which was accepted under condition of supervision by competent MoE SR department. Due to the limited OP allocation it was not possible to support whole range of measures for reduction of emission of pollutants (POL) suggested by partners. Comments and suggestions of LE, EMP and NPO concerning reduction of POL emissions from transport were not included into the OP because of transfer of related activities to other OPs. Request of EMP to define target territory at the programme level as areas requiring special air protection, particularly air quality management areas was partially accepted by the MA, as the support of activities aimed at the reduction of POL emissions matters without any spatial restriction considering the transmission of air pollution. However, air quality management areas will be emphasized in process of selection of operations. MA did not accept suggestion of NPO to add noise-reduction measures to eligible activities either, since OP prefers activities, which are directly linked with the Union's environmental acquis requirements. Limited OP allocation and need of thematic concentration were limiting factors, too.

Regarding PA 1 IP 4 SO 1 suggestions of LE and EMP to add private sector to beneficiaries in cases of remediation of environmental burdens could not be accepted in regard to "polluter pays" principle. MA did not accept suggestion to extend the range of remediated localities beyond the urban areas to all (not only abandoned) industrial localities following the definition of mentioned IP contained in CF regulation.

Within the PA 2, IP 1, SO 1, the MA did not accept the suggestion of LE to promote activities for detection of presence and quantity of the groundwaters in regard to uncertain result and existence of a risk of inefficient spending of funds. The MA did not accept proposal of SGA and NPO to change the definition of beneficiaries in the activity "Preventive flood protection measures connected with a watercourse" either, because only entities, having the watercourse in operation or borrowing watercourse from operator, may be the only beneficiaries. The MA partially accepted the proposal of NPO not to support investments causing new barriers in watercourses or longitudinal continuity interruptions, while within the OP activities including barriers removing in watercourses will be supported, too. SG "Increase volume of actively managed water runoff from SR territory" altogether with the activity "Construction of water reservoirs" was omitted from initially proposed activities within the draft of the OP. By doing this, the MA fully accepted NPO reservation on reservoirs Slatinka and Tichý Potok construction. The MA accepted NPO proposal to emphasize ecosystem approach to flood protection aimed at landscape and its preservation and revitalization and therefore the definition of mentioned activity was clarified. The proposal of SGA concerning adding of water retention measures and allowing the use of green infrastructure in the urbanized landscape (residential areas of municipalities) was accepted and a new activity was added: "Water retention measures in the urbanized landscape (residential areas of municipalities)".

When preparing the PA 2, IP 1, SG 2, the MA did not accept the request from LE to support rehabilitation of all waste facilities (not only abandoned and closed) of extractive waste, because the "polluter pays" principle allows only financing of waste facilities rehabilitation where polluter is not known or the Member State is not able to make him pay for the rehabilitation. The MA did not accept LE proposal to add the private sector among the beneficiaries either, as the competencies of the MoE arising from the Geological Act do not allow to support such activities.

Within the PA 3, in relation to activities characteristics, the MA accepted the proposals of SEP and NPO to add some beneficiaries. Within the activity “Support mitigation of climate change impacts and measures to prevent natural and technological risks”, the beneficiaries from private sector were added, including the NPO, because industrial accidents or fire may be among possible technological risks.

As far as the PA 4 is concerned, the list of beneficiaries following the proposals from NPO, LE and SGA was amended. The NGO were added as beneficiaries within the IP 4, SO 2 “Promoting low-carbon strategies for all types of territories, in particular for urban areas, including the promotion of sustainable multimodal urban mobility and mitigation-relevant adaptation measures”, for activities A to C. The NGO representatives proposed limitation or even omission of the hydropower plants construction, which was accepted by the MA due to the requirements to ensure continuity of watercourses arising from the Art. 4 (7) of the WFD. Moreover, within the promotion of small hydropower plants, the environmental impact assessment results on hydromorphological transformations of water bodies will be taken into consideration. The MA accepted NPO proposal to promote all kinds of RES, whereas instead of limited support of selected RES, all the RES will be supported with the condition of granting support for the most regionally suitable resource. The NPO proposals to: (1) add a selection of operations criterion to prioritize projects with higher share of RES, (2) promote technologies for generation and treatment (cleaning) of landfill gas and sewage treatment plant gas and (3) omit support of woody biomass, will be taken into account within definition of other program management documentation. The MA did not accept NPO proposal to give more support for demand-oriented projects targeted to publicity and awareness-raising due to decrease of the PA 4 allocation of funds. The LE proposal to omit the limitations of maximum input of appliances was not accepted by the MA, because the maximum total rated thermal input of 20 MW is set by the ERDF Regulation. The SEP proposal to omit activities related to biogas generation was not accepted, as the MA seeks to support innovative technologies too and contribute to achieve the goals of the National Renewable Energy Action Plan and the Energy Policy of SR.

As far as the information activities are concerned, the MA seeks the maximum participation and the highest professional level of these activities. Therefore, the SEA was defined as the beneficiary of these activities within the national project and the MA added other subjects, including NPO as eligible applicants. In principle, the MA accepted NPO proposal to use the green public procurement procedures in the implementation of OP activities.

The partnership principle will also be duly applied in the process of OP implementation, monitoring and evaluation, mainly through membership of the partners in the OP monitoring committee and thus in the created possibility of supervision of the partners over the process and efficiency of OP implementation. Structure of monitoring committee as well as rules of procedure and form of further participation of partners in concrete areas of OP implementation will fully take into consideration rules set down by general regulation and delegated act of the EC to the Code of Conduct for partnership. Through the membership in the OP QE Monitoring Committee a representative of a coordinator of climate change policy at the national level will also be involved in the OP QE implementation. Creating conditions for active and effective monitoring of the implementation of the OP by the partners (members of the monitoring committee) through facilitating reimbursement of expenses (travel and accommodation expenses, per diem allowances) associated with their participation at the meetings of the monitoring committee.

## **8 Coordination between the Funds, the EAFRD, the EMFF and other Union and national funding instruments, and with the EIB**

Coordination mechanism between the OP QE and other support instruments will be ensured by measures at program and project level as defined in section 2.1 of the PA.

The precondition for ensuring an efficient coordination mechanism between the OP QE and other similarly thematically targeted support instruments is the identification of the way how to achieve synergies and thus enhance the effects of interventions supported under the OP QE. This also includes the definition of clear demarcation lines or setting of an effective framework for mutual communication to ensure coordinated implementation process.

Within other programmes and financial instruments, several thematically similar activities have been identified, whose support creates preconditions to achieve complementarity and synergy with activities supported within the OP QE. This particularly regards to activities supported under the RDP, IROP, LIFE and Environmental Fund.

The summary of activities of the programmes in which complementary or synergic effect with the OP QE activities is expected, including the determination of demarcation lines, is specified below and is broken down by the TC and the IP.

### **TO 6 PRESERVING AND PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT AND PROMOTING RESOURCE EFFICIENCY**

- **IP 6a)**

In the field of waste management the OP QE will support the preparation for re-use and recovery of waste aimed at its recycling.

These activities are linked with the RDP that will support biodegradable waste recovery from animal, agricultural and food production. Applicants eligible for support from RDP<sup>163</sup> in the field of biodegradable waste recovery were excluded from support within the OP QE.

- **IP 6b)**

The OP QE will support discharging and urban waste water treatment in agglomerations above 2,000 p. e. and under 2,000 p. e. which contribute to the water quality improvement in the protected water management areas<sup>164</sup>. The construction of the drinking public water supplies will only be supported in the cases of parallel construction of public sewage systems according to the updated National Programme of the SR for implementation of the Directive 91/271/EEC.

Activities in the OP QE are synergistically and complementary supported by the RDP and the IROP.

The RDP will support the construction of public sewage systems, waste water treatment plants and drinking public water supplies within the municipalities under 1,000 p. e., except for those municipalities listed in agglomerations above 2,000 p. e. in the OP QE. Complementarily, the RDP will support investments in wastewater treatment plants for agriculture undertakings needs.

The IROP<sup>165</sup> will support construction of public sewage systems and waste water treatment plants in municipalities over 1000 p. e., except for those municipalities listed in the OP QE. The reconstruction of drinking public water supplies with the aim to minimize the leakages

in the existing drinking public water supply networks and the construction of drinking public water supplies will be implemented within the IROP, except for those supported in the cases of parallel construction of public sewer systems within the OP QE. In the IROP, the support will be provided for reconstruction of public sewage systems and investments will focus on increasing availability of the sources of underground water to secure the drinking water supply for the population.

Activities within the OP QE in the field of creating conditions for ensuring the continuity of watercourses are complemented by the OPF supporting investments leading to enhancing the competitiveness of enterprises in the field of aqua culture with the positive impact on the environment.

- **IP 6d)**

The OP QE will support conservation and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems and their services through their revitalization, restoration and development of green infrastructure. It will also enable management plans preparation (e.g. for Natura 2000 network) covering measures relating to biodiversity as well as activities connected with mapping, monitoring and research of species and habitats in protected areas with „Community interest“.

The IROP (IP 6e) will support development of green infrastructure components, but only in areas eligible within the SUD, except for the functional urban area of Bratislava region.

The RDP will complementarily provide support in the form of compensatory payments for the Natura 2000 sites, resp. selected areas of semi-natural and natural grasslands, with eligible applicants among agriculture undertakings and forest managers and their associations with legal personality.

The OP F as well as the OP QE synergically contribute to the objectives defined in the updated National Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 heading towards ensuring the favourable conservation status of water and water bound habitats and species in line with the objective to achieve good environmental status of aquatic ecosystems by 2020. As the OP F, in line with this strategy, supports aquaculture development activities with minimum adverse effects on environment, there is no overlapping of activities.<sup>166</sup>

The Cross border cooperation programs (SK-CZ, AT-SK) will support activities of mapping, monitoring and research of species and habitats, but unlike to the OP QE eligible areas will be protected areas of „national“ or „international“ interest<sup>167</sup>. Projects pointed to native crops and trees reversion will be supported complementarily, too. In case of the cross border cooperation programs SK-HU and PL-SK, the activities targeted to cultural and natural heritage excluded from OP QE will be supported.

- **IP 6e)**

The OP QE will support technological equipment and technical measures for reduction of emissions of air pollutants, which will contribute to fulfilment of EU Directives in the field of air quality. The OP QE will support survey, remediation and monitoring of environmental burdens in urban environment as well as in abandoned industrial sites, too.

The PRD will complementarily support investments for reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and ammonia from agriculture.

The OP II activities will also contribute to the air protection too, as selected measures in the field of railway transport, water and public transport will contribute to reduction of emissions production.

## **TO5 PROMOTING CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION, RISK PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT**

- **IP 5a)**

In the OP QE, the preventive flood protection measures tied to a watercourse and outside the watercourses outside the residential areas of municipalities will be supported. These measures will be implemented in areas with the flood risks. To mitigate the adverse effects of climate change, broad spectrum of measures in order to increase the water retention in the country ~~and in the residential areas of municipalities~~ will be implemented,

Activities in the field of water retention measures are synergistically and complementarily supported by the RDP and IROP.

The **RDP** will be supported stream control in forests under § 27 of the Act on Forests<sup>168</sup> construction and reconstruction of technical works for water storage in forests for the purpose of fire protection in accordance with § 27 of the Act on Forests, as well as the creation of objects of flood protection in the woods which do not require a building permit (e.g. - small wooden interleaved dykes or stone unpaved dykes on woodland providing capturing of floating material and soil, retaining water in the country or to slow water runoff). The RDP will support hydroamelioration measures in agricultural land, too. The support of the abovementioned activities within the OP QE will be excluded.

Within the **IROP**, the implementation of water retention elements in the municipalities, that are beneficiaries under the SUD, will be supported.

The activities of the OP QE **within TO 5 and TO 6** are linked with the LIFE as a complementary tool to other financial EU funds. The LIFE program may support only activities, that cannot be supported from ESIF and other financial tools on national and EU level. The LIFE program is not primarily intended to support infrastructure projects.

Within the OP QE, the implementation of so-called integrated projects may be supported, which, according to LIFE regulation, ensure the mobilization of different financial resources with the aim to implement strategies or action plans in the field of environment and climate, covering a broader geographical area.

**The Environmental Fund (EF)** as a state fund will be complementarily used to support the implementation of the environment care. The fields of interventions within the EF are based on the Act on EF, and are annually specified in more details in the so-called “details of aid activities”. The aim will be to achieve the complementarity and synergy in the field of the environment care through the OP QE and EF. At the same time, within the OP QE, a mechanism to avoid double funding of expenditures, consisting of exchange of relevant information on projects supported by the OP QE and EF, will be established.

## TO 4 SUPPORTING THE SHIFT TOWARDS A LOW-CARBON ECONOMY IN ALL SECTORS

- **IP 4a)**

The **OP QE** will enable implementation of projects focused on the use of RES, except those to be supported by the RDP. Beneficiaries under the **RDP<sup>169</sup>** will be eligible under the **OP QE** if they intend to implement projects with an installed capacity beyond thresholds set in the RDP. These beneficiaries need not to fulfil the requisite of consuming part of the energy by their own activities.

- **IP 4b)**

Within the **OP QE**, the projects focused on the reducing energy intensity at enterprises through the energy audits, energy and environmental management and implementation of measures in the field of energy efficiency will be supported. In case of implementation of measures for energy efficiency in enterprises, projects related to investments directed exclusively to own agricultural activities and/or exclusively to own activities in the field of processing, placing on the market or development of agricultural and food products, will not be eligible.

The **OP QE** activities will also be linked to the Programme **Intelligent Energy - Europe III** (IEE) that currently constitutes the main EU supporting instrument for non-technological activities in the energy sector, with aim to remove existing barriers to achieve more efficient energy management and more intense use of its alternative resources. IEE III will be implemented under the Framework Programme HORIZON 2020.

- **IP 4c)**

The **OP QE** will support projects aimed at improving energy efficiency of public buildings (buildings owned by the public administration and local self-governments) under IP 4c), except the projects with the same focus, which will be supported within RDP – LEADER measure through which the LAG strategies are implemented<sup>170</sup> and within IROP– PA 5 Community-led local development, through which the CLLD is implemented.

Within **OP QE** in all cases, the measures of increasing the energy efficiency of such buildings arising from energy audits will be supported and thus projects of reconstructions of facilities or sites of public buildings will not be supported<sup>171</sup>

In **OP QE** the priority will be given to support of state administration buildings.

Buildings, in which social care is provided, will be exclusively supported by IROP.

Complex renovation of residential buildings will be supported under the **IROP** to improve energy efficiency. Innovative low-carbon technologies and systems approach to reducing the energy intensity of buildings will be supported.

- **IP 4e)**

The **OP QE** will support development and implementation of low-carbon strategies for all the types of territories including sustainable energy plans.

It is important to achieve synergy<sup>172</sup> between low-carbon strategies for all the types of territories and RITS supported under the IROP

Activities in the field of low-carbon strategies are complementarily supported by the European territorial cooperation programmes.

Non-investment types of projects will be supported by the Central Europe Programme, e.g. studies in the field of energy efficiency as well as in the field of intelligent user applications.

## **CROSS-SECTIONAL THEMES**

- ***Support for new technologies***

The OP RI supports research and development of innovative technologies, including the areas of environment and sustainable energy identified in RIS3 SK. Use of innovative technologies in the environmental infrastructure will be eligible under the OP QE in case these technologies fulfil the eligibility criteria within the OP QE<sup>173</sup>.

- ***Support for creation of “green jobs”***

The OP HR is planning to support creation of new jobs in the environmental sector (green jobs) and employment programs in line with switch towards low-carbon economy resistant against climate changes<sup>174</sup>.

The support will be implemented through COLSAaF and labour offices by financial contribution for the abovementioned activities listed in the application form. In case a successful applicant within the OP QE implements a project in the environmental sector, he/she may apply for support from COLSAaF or labour office with aim of jobs creation.

- ***Information and awareness-raising activities***

The **OP QE** will promote awareness-raising in the fields covered by the OP QE (e.g. prevention of waste, water protection, biodiversity, air quality, adaptation to climate change, low-carbon economy, energy efficiency, RES use etc.).

These activities are additionally supported by the RDP and OP HR.

Within the **RDP**, educational activities for the benefit of farmers and foresters with a focus on the objectives set out in the RDP will be implemented.

The **OP HR** will support improving natural science literacy of students.

The **INTERREG EUROPE** Programme will support the identification of best practices in the field of research and innovation, support for SMEs in the field of shift towards a low-carbon economy and resource efficiency.

Two types of interventions will ensure the synergy: namely the platforms focused on political education<sup>175</sup> and the interregional cooperation projects whose outcomes will be the action plans describing the process of transferring the lessons learned into the national/regional OP of each included region.

- ***Cooperation with EIB***

The OP QE sets a framework for cooperation with JASPERS through cooperation agreement between MoE SR and JASPERS, as well as through agreement between MoI SR and JASPERS. These agreements are the basis for subsequent JASPERS use, depending on detailed specification of cooperation in the forms of JASPERS Action Plans. Within the OP

QE, the JASPERS initiative is intended to be used e.g. in the field of public buildings energy efficiency projects.

In relation to the PO4 activities, the EIB financing will be complementarily used in the regions not eligible for OP QE support as well as for installations with a total rated thermal input exceeding 20 MW<sup>176</sup>.

## 9 Ex-ante conditionalities

### 9.1 Applicable ex-ante conditionalities and assessment of their fulfilment

Table 72: Applicable ex-ante conditionalities and assessment of their fulfilment

Ex-ante conditionality	Priority axes to which conditionality applies	Ex-ante conditionality fulfilled (yes/no/partially)	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (yes/no)	Reference (reference to strategies, legal act or other relevant documents, incl. relevant sections, articles or paragraphs, accompanied by web-links or access to full text)	Explanations
4.1. Actions have been carried out to promote cost-effective improvements of energy end use efficiency and cost-effective investment in energy efficiency when constructing or renovating buildings.	PA 4 Energy efficient, low-carbon economy in all sectors  (TO 4, ERDF: - supporting energy efficiency, smart energy management and renewable energy use in public infrastructure, including in public buildings, and in the housing sector)	Yes	The actions are: 1. measures to ensure minimum requirements are in place related to the energy performance of buildings consistent with Article 3, Article 4 and Article 5 of Directive 2010/31/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council;	Yes	on Article 3 – paragraph 3 of the Act No 555/2005 Coll. on energy efficiency of buildings and on amendments to certain acts as amended and the Decree No 364/2012 Coll. implementing some provisions of the Act No 555/2005 Coll. on energy efficiency of buildings and on amendments to certain acts as amended  on Article 4 – paragraph 4 of the Act No 555/2005 Coll. on energy efficiency of buildings and on amendments to certain acts as amended and the Decree No. 364/2012 Coll. implementing some provisions of the Act No 555/2005 Coll. on energy efficiency of buildings and on amendments to certain acts as amended  on Article 5 – paragraph 5 of the Act No 555/2005 Coll. on energy efficiency of buildings and on amendments to certain acts as amended and the Decree No 364/2012 Coll. implementing some provisions of the Act No. 555/2005 Coll. on energy efficiency of buildings and on amendments to certain acts as amended  A study on technical and economic aspects of cost-optimal measures for energy performance of buildings was elaborated.	The MoTCRR SR has transposed Articles 3, 4 and 5 of Directive 2010/31/EU by the Act No 300/2012 Coll., amending and supplementing the Act No 555/2005 Coll. on energy efficiency of buildings and on amendments to certain acts as amended, and amending and supplementing the Act No. 50/1976 Coll. on Land-use Planning and Building Order (the Building Act) as amended (Act No 300/2012 Coll.) and the Decree No 364/2012 Coll. implementing some provisions of the Act No 555/2005 Coll. on energy efficiency of buildings and on amendments to certain acts as amended (Decree No 364/2012 Coll.). Act No 300/2012 Coll. was passed by the National Council of the SR on 18 September 2012 in the third reading, Resolution No 196. The above mentioned regulations entered into force on 1 January 2013. Details for individual articles are below:  - Article 3 of Directive 2010/31/EU - Adoption of a methodology for calculating the energy performance of buildings. Article 3 is implemented in paragraph 3 of the Act on energy efficiency of buildings.  - Article 4 of Directive 2010/31/EU - Setting of minimum energy performance requirements. Article 4 is implemented in paragraph 4 of the Act on energy efficiency of buildings, while the provisions of Directive 2010/31/EU were amended by the supplementing Act No. 300/2012 Coll.  In relation to Article 5 of Directive 2010/31/EU, the MoTCRR SR provided for the elaboration of the study “Technical and economic aspects of cost-optimal measures for energy

Ex-ante conditionality	Priority axes to which conditionality applies	Ex-ante conditionality fulfilled (yes/no/partially)	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (yes/no)	Reference (reference to strategies, legal act or other relevant documents, incl. relevant sections, articles or paragraphs, accompanied by web-links or access to full text)	Explanations
					<a href="http://www.telecom.gov.sk/index/open_file.php?file=vystateba/StatebnictvoLegislative/Rek_z_Ek_ony_555_2005.pdf">http://www.telecom.gov.sk/index/open_file.php?file=vystateba/StatebnictvoLegislative/Rek_z_Ek_ony_555_2005.pdf</a> <a href="http://www.telecom.gov.sk/index/open_file.php?file=vystateba/StatebnictvoLegislative/12_z300.pdf">http://www.telecom.gov.sk/index/open_file.php?file=vystateba/StatebnictvoLegislative/12_z300.pdf</a> <a href="http://www.telecom.gov.sk/index/open_file.php?file=vystateba/StatebnictvoLegislative/364_2012.pdf">http://www.telecom.gov.sk/index/open_file.php?file=vystateba/StatebnictvoLegislative/364_2012.pdf</a> Cost-optimal levels of minimum energy performance requirements for buildings and building elements <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/energy/efficiency/buildings/implementation_en.htm">http://ec.europa.eu/energy/efficiency/buildings/implementation_en.htm</a> (Slovakia part 1/2)	performance of buildings” to determine requirements for cost-optimal levels of energy performance according to the comparative methodology framework in the Slovak Republic. The MoTCRR SR provided for calculation of cost-optimal levels of minimum energy performance requirements for buildings according to the requirements set out in the Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 244/2012 of 16 January 2012 supplementing Directive 2010/31/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council on the energy performance of buildings by establishing a comparative methodology framework for calculating cost-optimal levels of minimum energy performance requirements for buildings and building elements. All input data and estimates used in the calculation, the results of calculations, data on referential buildings in individual categories distinguishing between new buildings and existing buildings that undergo substantial renovation were prepared according to the requirements set out in Annexes of the delegated regulation. With letter No. 08307/2013/B610-SV-28312 dated on 14 May 2013 the MoTCRR SR sent the notification “ <b>Cost-optimal levels of minimum energy performance requirements for buildings and building elements</b> ” to the Government Office of the SR. <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/energy/efficiency/buildings/implementation_en.htm">http://ec.europa.eu/energy/efficiency/buildings/implementation_en.htm</a> (Slovakia part 1/2)
			2. measures necessary to establish a system of certification of the energy performance of buildings consistent with Article 11 of Directive 2010/31/EU;	Yes	Paragraph 5 of the Act No 555/2005 Coll. on energy efficiency of buildings and on amendments to certain acts as amended and the Decree No 364/2012 Coll. implementing some provisions of the Act No 555/2005 Coll. on energy efficiency of buildings and on amendments to certain acts as amended <a href="http://www.telecom.gov.sk/index/open_file.php?file=vystateba/StatebnictvoLegislative/Rek_z_Ek_ony_555_2005.pdf">http://www.telecom.gov.sk/index/open_file.php?file=vystateba/StatebnictvoLegislative/Rek_z_Ek_ony_555_2005.pdf</a> <a href="http://www.telecom.gov.sk/index/open_file.php?file=vystateba/StatebnictvoLegislative/12_z300.pdf">http://www.telecom.gov.sk/index/open_file.php?file=vystateba/StatebnictvoLegislative/12_z300.pdf</a> <a href="http://www.telecom.gov.sk/index/open_file.php?file=vystateba/StatebnictvoLegislative/364_2012.pdf">http://www.telecom.gov.sk/index/open_file.php?file=vystateba/StatebnictvoLegislative/364_2012.pdf</a>	Article 11 is implemented in the paragraph 5 of the Act on energy efficiency of buildings, while the provisions of Directive 2010/31/EU were amended by the supplementing Act No 300/2012 Coll. concerning reference values. The above mentioned regulations entered into force on 1 January 2013.
			3. measures to ensure strategic planning on energy efficiency;	Yes	National Reform Programme of the Slovak Republic 2013 <a href="http://www.yearsania.sk/File.aspx/Index/Mater-">http://www.yearsania.sk/File.aspx/Index/Mater-</a>	In the National Reform Programme SR of 24 April 2013, Slovak Republic set indicative national energy savings targets for the year 2020 in the forms of final energy consumption and

Ex-ante conditionality	Priority axes to which conditionality applies	Ex-ante conditionality fulfilled (yes/no/partially)	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (yes/no)	Reference (reference to strategies, legal act or other relevant documents, incl. relevant sections, articles or paragraphs, accompanied by web-links or access to full text)	Explanations
			consistent with Article 3 of Directive 2012/27/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council;		<a href="#">Dokum-155091</a>	primary energy consumption. The energy efficiency target expressed in the form of the absolute value of final energy consumption in the year 2020 has been set to 435.09 PJ (10.39 Mtoe), which represents energy savings of 23% in comparison to the final energy consumption set for year 2020 in the PRIMES 2007 reference scenario. The Energy efficiency target expressed in the form of the absolute value of primary energy consumption in the year 2020 has been set to 680.62 PJ (16.26 Mtoe), which represents energy savings of 20% in comparison to primary energy consumption set for the year 2020 in the PRIMES 2007 reference scenario.
			4. measures consistent with Article 13 of Directive 2006/32/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council (3) on energy end-use efficiency and energy services to ensure the provision to final customers of individual meters in so far as it is technically possible, financially reasonable and proportionate in relation to the potential energy savings.	Yes	<p>Act No 251/2012 Coll. on energy and on amendments to certain acts as amended - paragraph 40 for the area of electricity and paragraph 76 for gas industry  <a href="http://www.mhsr.sk/19260-ext_dok/138888c?ext=orig">http://www.mhsr.sk/19260-ext_dok/138888c?ext=orig</a></p> <p>Act No 657/2004 Coll. on thermal energy sector as amended - for heating, hot water preparation and air conditioning paragraph 17 and paragraph 18  <a href="http://www.mhsr.sk/zakon-o-thermal-energy-6400/128085s">http://www.mhsr.sk/zakon-o-thermal-energy-6400/128085s</a></p>	<p>The obligation to measure energy supply with a designated meter has been stipulated for the electricity area in paragraph 40 and for the area of gas industry in paragraph 76 of the Act on Energy.</p> <p>The Slovak Republic evaluated costs and revenues of the introduction of smart metering technologies (SMT) in both above mentioned sectors, which will facilitate the control and management of the consumption. This issue is addressed in paragraphs 42 and 77 of the Act on Energy and represents the transposition of the provisions of Directive 2009/72/EC of the European Parliament and Council of 13 July 2009 concerning common rules for the internal market in electricity repealing Directive 2003/54/EC, and those of Directive 2009/73/EC of the European parliament and of the Council of 13 July 2009 concerning common rules for the internal market in natural gas and repealing Directive 2003/55/EC. In the area of heat the obligation to install designated meters or proportional heating cost distributors is stipulated in paragraph 18 of the Act on Thermal Energy Sector, unless a majority of all end heat consumers at the given point of supply do not agree on another method of sharing costs for the heat supply. The obligation to install continuous heat meters has not been introduced for the reason that such requirement would mean inappropriate expenses for the end consumer. Due to the system of regulated prices of heat for households such installation of continuous heat meters is not justified.</p> <p>Paragraph 2 of Article 13 of Directive 2006/32/EC is implemented in the area of electricity in the Regulation of the Slovak Government No 317/2007 Coll. setting the rules for functioning of market with electricity as amended and in the Regulation of the Slovak Government No 440/2011 Coll. amending and supplementing the Regulation of the Slovak</p>

Ex-ante conditionality	Priority axes to which conditionality applies	Ex-ante conditionality fulfilled (yes/no/partially)	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (yes/no)	Reference (reference to strategies, legal act or other relevant documents, incl. relevant sections, articles or paragraphs, accompanied by web-links or access to full text)	Explanations
						Government No. 317/2007 Coll. setting the rules for functioning of market with electricity as amended. In the area of gas industry provisions for statement of costs are stipulated in the Regulation of the Slovak Government No 409/2007 Coll. setting the rules for the functioning of market with gas, and in the Regulation of the Slovak Government No 2012/2010 Coll. amending and supplementing the Regulation of the Slovak Government No 409/2007 Coll. setting the rules for the functioning of market with gas. Paragraph 3 of Article 13 of Directive 2006/32/ES is implemented in paragraph 11, Article 3 of the Act on energy efficiency.
4.2. Actions have been carried out to promote high-efficiency co-generation of heat and power	PA 4 Energy efficient, low-carbon economy in all sectors  (TO 4, ERDF: - promoting the use of high-efficiency co-generation of heat and power based on useful heat demand;)	Yes	The actions are: – Support for co-generation is based on useful heat demand and primary energy savings consistent with Article 7(1) and points (a) and (b) of Article 9(1) of Directive 2004/8/EC. Member States or their competent bodies have evaluated the existing legislative and regulatory framework with regard to authorisation procedures or other procedures in order to: (a) encourage the design of co-generation units to match economically justifiable demands for useful heat output and avoid production of more heat than useful heat; and (b) reduce the regulatory and non-regulatory barriers to an	Yes	Act No 309/2009 Coll. on promotion of renewable energy sources and high-efficiency co-generation and on amendments to certain acts <a href="http://jaspi.justice.gov.sk">http://jaspi.justice.gov.sk</a> <a href="http://www.mhsr.sk/obnovitelne-zdroje-energy-a-kombinovana-vyroba/130978s">http://www.mhsr.sk/obnovitelne-zdroje-energy-a-kombinovana-vyroba/130978s</a>  Analysis of the national potential for high efficiency co-generation in the SR <a href="http://www.mhsr.sk/analiza-narodneho-potencialu-pre-highlyucinnu-kombinovanu-vyrobu-v-sr-6033/127718s">http://www.mhsr.sk/analiza-narodneho-potencialu-pre-highlyucinnu-kombinovanu-vyrobu-v-sr-6033/127718s</a>	Support for co-generation of electricity and heat is stipulated by the Act on promotion of renewable energy and high-efficiency co-generation. The Act defines useful heat according to Directive 2004/8/EC. As heat generation is a network industry in the Slovak Republic, relevant rules are stipulated in the Act on thermal energy sector and in the Act No 276/2001 Coll. on regulation in the network industries and on amendments and supplements to certain acts as amended. Support in the form of additional payments will only be provided for such amount of electricity that is generated by high efficiency co-generation and corresponds to the amount of useful heat. The amount of electricity generated by high efficiency co-generation is calculated according to the Decree No 599/2009 Coll., incorporating the Commission Decision 2008/952/EC establishing detailed guidelines for the implementation and application of Annex II to Directive 2004/8/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council and the Commission Decision 2011/877/EU establishing harmonised efficiency reference values for separate production of electricity and heat in application of Directive 2004/8/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council and repealing Commission Decision 2007/74/EC. According to the Act No 657/2004 on thermal energy sector holder of a license for heat distribution is obligated to purchase heat for the purposes of heat supply stipulated in the contract for determined or approved prices from the holder of a license for heat generation from renewable energy sources or in co-generation plants for co-generation under conditions stipulated in paragraph 21 of the Act.

Ex-ante conditionality	Priority axes to which conditionality applies	Ex-ante conditionality fulfilled (yes/no/partially)	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (yes/no)	Reference (reference to strategies, legal act or other relevant documents, incl. relevant sections, articles or paragraphs, accompanied by web-links or access to full text)	Explanations
			increase in co-generation.			
4.3. Actions have been carried out to promote the production and distribution of renewable energy sources.	PA 4 Energy efficient, low-carbon economy in all sectors  (TO 4, ERDF: - promoting the production and distribution of energy derived from renewable sources)	Yes	1. Transparent support schemes, priority in grid access or guaranteed access and priority in dispatching, as well as standard rules relating to the bearing and sharing of costs of technical adaptations which have been made public are in place consistent with Article 14, Article 16 and 16 of Directive 2009/28/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council.	Yes	Act No 309/2009 Coll. on promotion of renewable energy sources and high-efficiency co-generation and on amendments to certain acts <a href="http://www.mhsr.sk/obnovitelne-zdroje-energy-a-kombinovana-vyroba/130978s">http://www.mhsr.sk/obnovitelne-zdroje-energy-a-kombinovana-vyroba/130978s</a>	Transparent support schemes were introduced in the Act on promotion of renewable energy sources and high-efficiency co-generation. Promotion of electricity production from renewable energy and promotion of electricity production by high efficiency co-generation is provided by: a) priority 1. connection of electric power plants to the regional distribution network, 2. access to the network, 3. transmission of electricity, distribution of electricity and supply of electricity, b) purchase of the electricity by the operator of the regional distribution network, to which the producer's plant is connected directly or through the local distribution network for the price of electricity covering losses, c) additional payments, d) taking the responsibility for deviations by the operator of the regional distribution network. According to paragraph 4, article 1, letter a) of the above mentioned Act an electricity producer eligible for support has the right for a priority connection to the distribution network, priority electricity transmission, priority electricity distribution and priority electricity supply, if the electric power generation equipment meets technical requirements of the transmission system operator according to a special regulation and the safety and dependability of the operation of the system is not endangered; priority electricity transmission does not apply to electricity transmission via an connecting line. The Slovak Innovation and Energy Agency (SIEA) is responsible for dissemination of information on possibilities to use of renewable energy according to article 14(1) of Directive 2009/28/ES. This information is available to the general public at the website <a href="http://www.zitenergiou.sk">www.zitenergiou.sk</a> .  Standard rules of bearing and sharing costs for technical modifications are regulated by the Decree No 225/2011 Coll.
			2. A Member State has adopted a national renewable energy action plan consistent	Yes	National Renewable Energy Action Plan <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/energy/renewables/transparency_platform/doc/dir_2009_0028_action_plan_slovakia.zip">http://ec.europa.eu/energy/renewables/transparency_platform/doc/dir_2009_0028_action_plan_slovakia.zip</a>	The National Renewable Energy Action Plan according to the Article 4 of Directive 2009/28/ES was adopted by the Slovak Government by Resolution No 677/2010 on 6 October 2010.

Ex-ante conditionality	Priority axes to which conditionality applies	Ex-ante conditionality fulfilled (yes /no/partially)	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (yes/no)	Reference (reference to strategies, legal act or other relevant documents, incl. relevant sections, articles or paragraphs, accompanied by web-links or access to full text)	Explanations
			with Article 4 of Directive 2009/28/EC.			

Ex-ante conditionality	Priority axes to which conditionality applies	Ex-ante conditionality fulfilled (yes /no/partially)	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (yes/no)	Reference (reference to strategies, legal act or other relevant documents, incl. relevant sections, articles or paragraphs, accompanied by web-links or access to full text)	Explanations
5.1 Risk prevention and risk management: the existence of national or regional risk assessments for disaster management, taking into account climate change adaptation	PA 2 Adaptation to the adverse effects of climate change with the focus on flood protection  PA 3 Promoting risk management, emergency management and resilience to emergencies affected by climate change  (TO 5 Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and management )	<b>Partially</b>	A national or regional risk assessment with the following elements shall be in place: a) a description of the process, methodology, methods and non-sensitive data used for risk assessment as well as of the risk-based criteria for the prioritisation of investment;	<b>No</b>	Tasks fulfilled: 1. The existence of territorial analysis in terms of possible emergencies at the national and regional level, the existence of plan of civil protection of population at the regional level, Civil Protection Act: paragraphs 12 - 14 of the Act No 42/1994 Coll. on civil protection of population as amended <a href="http://jaspi.justice.gov.sk">http://jaspi.justice.gov.sk</a> Responsible authority: MoI SR Date of fulfilment: 15 March 2013  2. The analysis of available risk evaluation methods and processes Responsible authority: MoI SR Date of fulfilment: 15 March 2013  3. Selection of suitable methods, modification and adjustment to set targets Responsible authority: MoI SR Date of fulfilment: 12 April 2013	1. The territorial analysis in terms of possible emergencies in the SR is being elaborated and regularly (yearly) updated. The document is accessible at the division of crisis management of the MoI SR. The complete document is publicly not available due to sensitive information in its content. At the same time SR elaborates and on a yearly basis updates the plan of civil protection of population. With regard to the sensitive content of plans of civil protection of population, the document is confidential and only available at the division of crisis management of the MoI SR.  2. The analysis of available methods and processes consists of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the analysis of general risk management principles</li> <li>the analysis of Hazard Risk Vulnerability Assessment methods (HRVA) including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>types of vulnerability (population, critical infrastructure, environment),</li> <li>range of vulnerability quantifiers</li> <li>data collection, aggregating and processing methods</li> <li>risk assessment mechanism</li> </ul> </li> <li>in the scope of the impact analysis also social, economic, environmental and political impacts on the population are evaluated</li> </ul> 3. Selection of suitable methods, modification and adjustments to set targets  Relevant methods and solutions for vulnerability assessment in relation to specific risks were selected out of the analysed risk assessment tools and used in the model creation. The emphasis was placed on a comprehensive risk assessment in light of possible threats in the environment including potential

Ex-ante conditionality	Priority axes to which conditionality applies	Ex-ante conditionality fulfilled (yes/no/partially)	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (yes/no)	Reference (reference to strategies, legal act or other relevant documents, incl. relevant sections, articles or paragraphs, accompanied by web-links or access to full text)	Explanations
					<p>4. Amendment of risk quantifiers Responsible authority: MoI SR Date of fulfilment: 12 April 2013</p> <p>5. Elaboration of the methodology for selected risks assessment at the national level: The methodology is available on the MoI SR website <a href="http://www.minv.sk/?Dokumenty_na_stiahnutie_CO">http://www.minv.sk/?Dokumenty_na_stiahnutie_CO</a> Responsible authority: MoI SR Date of fulfilment: 30 June 2013</p> <p>6. Methods of determining risk-based investments prioritisation; Cooperation with the MoE SR in developing methodology of selected risk assessment</p>	<p>consequences of emergencies caused by e.g. combination of several risks (domino effects, synergistic effects). The output of the risk assessment will consist of the quantity definition enabling simple comparison and risk prioritization, definition of the most vulnerable territories in the SR to the natural risks and definition of possible consequences of emergencies in a specific environment, etc.</p> <p>4. Amendment of risk quantifiers</p> <p>The MoE SR provided materials necessary for specification of environmental vulnerability quantifiers. The calculation of environmental vulnerability is completed by the data related to specific risks, enabling more qualified evaluation of environmental vulnerability.</p> <p>5. Elaboration of the methodology for selected risks assessment at the national level</p> <p>The risk assessment methodology consists of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the risk assessment model in MS Excel – calculation of a score/risk value</li> <li>the risk assessment methodology – user guide (description of a process) when applying the proposed risk assessment model</li> </ul> <p>The risk assessment methodology is available on the MoI SR website under section Crisis management.</p> <p>The risk assessment methodology takes into consideration all of the three impact categories (human, economic and environmental, as well as political and social).</p> <p>The Slovak Republic signed bilateral contracts and agreements on the cooperation and mutual assistance in case of emergencies, in terms of the cross-border cooperation.</p> <p>The list of bilateral contracts and agreements is available on the MoI SR website: <a href="http://www.minv.sk/?zmluvny-system-slovenskej-republiky-pre-mimoriadne-udalosti">http://www.minv.sk/?zmluvny-system-slovenskej-republiky-pre-mimoriadne-udalosti</a></p> <p>6. Methods of defining risk-based criteria for the prioritisation of investments</p>

Ex-ante conditionality	Priority axes to which conditionality applies	Ex-ante conditionality fulfilled (yes/no/partially)	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (yes/no)	Reference (reference to strategies, legal act or other relevant documents, incl. relevant sections, articles or paragraphs, accompanied by web-links or access to full text)	Explanations
					<p>(including environmental burdens, landslides and risks related to extractive waste facilities). Responsible authority: MoI SR Date of fulfilment: 30 June 2013</p> <p>Preliminary flood risk assessment (12/2011) <a href="http://www.minzp.sk/sekcie/temy-oblasti/voda/ochrana-pred-povodnami/manazment-povodnovych-rizik/">http://www.minzp.sk/sekcie/temy-oblasti/voda/ochrana-pred-povodnami/manazment-povodnovych-rizik/</a></p>	<p>Investments prioritisation = defining priorities for risk minimization</p> <p>The risk assessment model provides a general overview of risks (quantitative risk display according to their relevance, description of territorial characteristics, consequences of emergencies). Use of these data enables risk comparing and determining priorities to minimize them (when choosing a mitigation mechanism), eventually to reduce the environmental vulnerability.</p> <p>A concept document – Programme for prevention and management of landslide risks was adopted by the Slovak Government on 18 December 2013 (Resolution No 738). Its aim is to provide complex solution related to slope activity and landslide risks. <a href="http://www.rokovania.sk/File.aspx/ViewDocumentHtml/Mater-Dokum-161227?prefixFile=m">http://www.rokovania.sk/File.aspx/ViewDocumentHtml/Mater-Dokum-161227?prefixFile=m</a></p> <p>For the extractive waste facilities related risk prevention and management a concept document was prepared - Programme of risk prevention and management for closed and abandoned waste facilities of extractive waste (2014-2020). The document was approved by the Government resolution no. 260/2014 of 28th May 2014. <a href="http://www.rokovanie.sk/Rokovanie.aspx/BodRokovaniaDetail?idMaterial=23575">http://www.rokovanie.sk/Rokovanie.aspx/BodRokovaniaDetail?idMaterial=23575</a></p> <p>Within the implementation of the Directive 2007/60/EC on the assessment and management of flood risks the maps of flood hazard and flood risk were completed. Maps were created on the DTM basis and on the basis of hydrological data in generalisation, taking into account the cartographic interpretation of output scale 1:50 000 in line with the graphical cartographic output scale of first flood risk management plans. Maps were published on the website of the MoE SR on 20 December.2013. <a href="http://www.minzp.sk/sekcie/temy-oblasti/voda/ochrana-pred-povodnami/manazment-povodnovych-rizik/povodnove-mapy.html">http://www.minzp.sk/sekcie/temy-oblasti/voda/ochrana-pred-povodnami/manazment-povodnovych-rizik/povodnove-mapy.html</a></p> <p>The preparation of flood risk management plans proceeds</p>

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						<p>according to the timetable approved at the management meeting of the MoE SR in December 2012. An inspection day in order to check the state of the preparation of first flood risk management plans was carried out by the minister of environment on 16 December 2013. Results of defining flood risk management targets and proposals of measures to meet them, including the estimation of costs for the preparation, operation, and maintenance and repairs during the entire estimated lifetime were presented.</p> <p>The implementation of the Directive 2007/60/ES proceeds in line with the set timetable.</p>
			b) a description of single-risk and multi-risk scenarios;	Yes	<p>Identification of risk scenarios including the synergistic effect and domino effect.</p> <p>The methodology is available on the website of the MI SR:  <a href="http://www.minv.sk/?Dokumenty_na_stiahnutie_CO">http://www.minv.sk/?Dokumenty_na_stiahnutie_CO</a>  Responsible authority: MoI SR  Date of fulfilment: 30 June 2013</p>	<p>Possible risk scenarios are identified and implemented in the model as environmental vulnerability quantifiers. This is the list of possible impacts of specific risks taking into account possible domino and synergistic effects showing in line with the respective risk. The outputs are incorporated in the proposed risk assessment methodology.</p>
			c) taking into account, where appropriate, national climate change adaptation strategies.	Yes	<p>Adaptation strategy of the Slovak republic to the adverse effects of climate change  <a href="http://www.rokovania.sk/Rokovanie.aspx/BodRokovaniaDetail?idMaterial=23364">http://www.rokovania.sk/Rokovanie.aspx/BodRokovaniaDetail?idMaterial=23364</a></p>	<p>The key condition to fulfil the ex-ante conditionality is the elaboration of the SR Adaptation strategy to the adverse effects of climate change.</p> <p>In July 2013, documents for individual areas/sectors were prepared by sub-coordinators, while a commenting procedure on the draft document was running in parallel.</p> <p>The draft SR Adaptation strategy to the adverse effects of climate change was published for commenting on the SHMI website <a href="http://www.shmu.sk/sk/?page=1741#x140">http://www.shmu.sk/sk/?page=1741#x140</a>, as well as on the MoE SR website between 28 August 2013 and 13 September.</p> <p>The draft of the Strategy was amended based on public comments. Set of preventive adaptation measures for respective sectors are part of the SR Adaptation strategy to the adverse effects of climate change.</p> <p>The document was submitted for the inter-ministerial commenting procedure until 26 February 2014. Received comments were assessed and incorporated, if relevant.</p> <p>On 26 March 2014, the document "SR Adaptation strategy to</p>

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						<p>the adverse effects of climate change" was consulted and passed by the Slovak Government on its 100th meeting (Resolution No 148/2014)  <a href="http://www.rokovania.sk/Rokovanie.aspx/RokovanieDetail/737">http://www.rokovania.sk/Rokovanie.aspx/RokovanieDetail/737</a></p> <p>Following the elaboration of the Adaptation Strategy, results of the environmental geological survey (survey on environmental burdens) will be implemented into the territorial analysis in cooperation with the division of geology and natural resources of the MoE SR.</p> <p>The climate change adaptation issue in the SR will be presented at the LIFE 2014-2020 workshop organised by the EC and MoE SR in 2014 (the date will be set by the EC).</p>
6.1 Water sector: The existence of a) a water pricing policy which provides adequate incentives for users to use water resources efficiently and b) an adequate contribution of the different water uses to the recovery of the costs of water services at a rate determined in the approved river basin management plan for investment supported by the programmes.	PA 1 Sustainable use of natural resources through environmental infrastructure development  (TO 6 Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency)	Partially	a) In sectors supported by the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund, a Member State has ensured a contribution of the different water uses to the recovery of the costs of water services by sector consistent with the first indent of Article 9(1) of Directive 2000/60/EC having regard, where appropriate, to the social, environmental and economic effects of the recovery as well as the geographic and climatic conditions of the region or regions affected.	Yes (partially fulfilled)	<p>Water Act: paragraph 78a of the Act No 364/2004 Coll. on water and on amendments to Act of the Slovak National Council No 372/1990 Coll. on offences as amended (Water Act) as amended  <a href="http://jaspi.justice.gov.sk">http://jaspi.justice.gov.sk</a></p> <p>Regulation of the Slovak Government No 755/2004 Coll. setting the amount of non-regulated payments, amount of fees and details related to payments for water use as amended by the Regulation of the Slovak Government No 367/2008 Coll.  <a href="http://jaspi.justice.gov.sk">http://jaspi.justice.gov.sk</a></p> <p>Water Pricing Policy adopted by the Resolution No 17 of the Slovak Government of 12 January 2011  <a href="https://it.justice.gov.sk/Attachment/vlastn%C3%BD%20materi%C3%A1l_doc.pdf?instEID=-1&amp;attEID=29620&amp;docEID=144483&amp;matEID=3384&amp;langEID=1&amp;tStamp=20101129113946687">https://it.justice.gov.sk/Attachment/vlastn%C3%BD%20materi%C3%A1l_doc.pdf?instEID=-1&amp;attEID=29620&amp;docEID=144483&amp;matEID=3384&amp;langEID=1&amp;tStamp=20101129113946687</a></p> <p>Regulatory policy for the regulatory period 2012–2016  <a href="http://www.urso.gov.sk/?q=content/%C3%BArad-regula%C4%8Dn%C3%A1-rada-">http://www.urso.gov.sk/?q=content/%C3%BArad-regula%C4%8Dn%C3%A1-rada-</a></p>	<p>With reference to the Commission's Guidance on EAC a partially non-fulfilled element of the sub-criteria "the principle of costs recovery for water services" was identified.</p> <p>The principle of cost recovery for all water services is met except for the adequate contribution for water used for irrigation, which is currently being addressed within the proposed amendment of the Water Act, followed by the amendment to the Regulation of the Slovak Government No 755/2004 Coll.</p> <p>The proposed amendment to the Water Act is subject to the complete legislative process (consideration by the National Council - NC SR).</p> <p>The amended Water Act has a positive influence on versatile water protection with the emphasis on ground waters in protected water management areas. It is set to provide for an increased protection of water resources in the Slovak Republic and for setting principles for using the water with regard to its strategic importance for the state and for the public interest.</p> <p>The authority responsible for the price regulation in the SR is the Regulatory Office for Network Industries (RONI).</p> <p>The current price regulation in the field of water management is being carried out in line with the respective legislation in force (Act No 250/2012 Coll. on regulation in network</p>

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					<a href="#">regula%C4%8Dn%C3%A1-politika</a>  Water Plan of the SR, chapter 7, <a href="http://www.vuvh.sk/rsv2/index.php?option=com_content&amp;view=article&amp;id=67&amp;Itemid=87&amp;lang=sk">http://www.vuvh.sk/rsv2/index.php?option=com_content&amp;view=article&amp;id=67&amp;Itemid=87&amp;lang=sk</a>  Analysis of achievements in implementing the Programme of measures included in the Water Plan of the SR, chap. 5 “Water services pricing policy“ <a href="http://www.vuvh.sk/rsv2/download/02_Dokumenty/Sprava2012.pdf">http://www.vuvh.sk/rsv2/download/02_Dokumenty/Sprava2012.pdf</a>	industries and Decree No 195/2013 Coll.) The pricing takes into account eligible costs and a reasonable profit, new investments and their use for the production and supply of drinking water through the drinking public water supply and the discharge and treatment of waste water through the public sewage system, including social acceptance as one of the priorities of the regulation.  One of the objectives of the approved regulatory policy for the water industry for the period 2012-2016 is the creation of legislative environment for the application of two-component prices (fixed and variable component) based on a thorough and objective analysis for its justified application, taking into account socio-economic impacts, that are currently subject of special attention paid by RONI.  Calculation of prices in the SR includes all eligible costs related to the respective water service (including costs related to the repair, maintenance and renewal of assets). In prices for drinking public water supply and discharge and treatment of waste waters through the public sewage system any cross-subsidisation was removed by 2007 (i.e. between drinking water and wastewater, respectively between the population and industry).  As for the point and diffuse sources; point sources of pollution are already addressed through fees for discharge of treated wastewater. Options for cost recovery for diffuse pollution sources from agriculture are subject to analysis and will be coordinated with other member states.
			b) The adoption of a river basin management plan for the river basin district consistent with Article 13 of Directive 2000/60/EC	<b>No</b> (partially fulfilled)	The Water Plan of the SR, chapters 5, 6 and 7, <a href="http://www.vuvh.sk/rsv2/index.php?option=com_content&amp;view=article&amp;id=67&amp;Itemid=87&amp;lang=sk">http://www.vuvh.sk/rsv2/index.php?option=com_content&amp;view=article&amp;id=67&amp;Itemid=87&amp;lang=sk</a>  The Water Plan of the SR includes two river basins management plans:  a) Management plan of the national administrative territory of the Danube river basin district (DRBD) integrating management plans of the sub-basins of this district,	The European Commission made comments on the first Water Plan of the SR containing the management plans of the national administrative territory of the Danube river basin district, as well as the Vistula river basin district. The SR takes these comments into consideration while preparing a new Water Plan of the SR (WPS) as well as the river basin management plans. The monitoring of waters was amended, completed and is carried out as follows, in accordance with the WFD requirements:  In relation to the characterization of river basin districts, reference conditions (values) were set for all relevant biological quality elements (BQE) and for all natural water

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					<p>b) Management plan of the national administrative territory of Visla (Vistula) river basin district (VRBD).</p> <p><del>Regulation of the Slovak Government No 279/2011 Coll. declaring the obligatory part of the Water Plan of the SR containing the programme of measures to meet the environmental objectives</del>  <a href="http://jaspi.justice.gov.sk">http://jaspi.justice.gov.sk</a></p> <p>Analysis of achievements in implementing the Programme of measures included in the Water Plan of the SR, chap. 5 "Water services pricing policy"  <a href="http://www.vuvh.sk/rsv2/download/02_Dokumenty/Sprava2012.pdf">http://www.vuvh.sk/rsv2/download/02_Dokumenty/Sprava2012.pdf</a></p>	<p>bodies in the period 2009-2012.</p> <p>All the relevant BQE including fish were included in the Water monitoring programme (2009-2012) for all natural water bodies. In this period, all the priority substances (41) were monitored in rivers, as well as in rivers with modified category (reservoirs, HMWB, AWB). Regular sediment monitoring to follow trends has been established since 2012. The monitoring in biota (in fish) for three selected substances (mercury, hexachlorobenzene and hexachlorobutadiene) started in 2011. In 2009-2012, hydromorphological quality elements were included into the evaluation of ecological status.</p> <p>Water monitoring programme (2010, 2011, 2012) included monitoring of selected BQE in order to derive (verify and update) classification schemes to evaluate ecological potential in surface water bodies defined as HMWB and AWB. With regard to the updated classification schemes for evaluation of ecological potential, sampling methods, as well as suitability of communities and metrics to indicate modifications in the defined HMWB and AWB were tested.</p> <p>As the Slovak Republic does not have natural lakes according to WFD criteria, Slovakia did not participate in inter-calibration comparison of lakes at the EU level – irrelevant for SR.</p> <p>Derived national classification schemes for natural water bodies were subject to inter-calibration comparison at the EU level (2009-2012) for all the relevant BQE.</p> <p>Inter-calibration of evaluation methods for ecological potential of water bodies defined as HMWB and AWB at the EU level was not realized in 2009-2012. The exceptions in relation to hydromorphological measures were applied due to technical non-feasibility regarding the date of realisation of proposed measures (by 22 December 2012) and for economic reasons – financial resources for realisation of necessary measures in the first planning cycle were not provided. Implementation of measures proposed for elimination of hydromorphological modifications (ensuring the continuity of watercourses) includes changes or modifications to existing or newly planned constructions (e.g. construction of 'bio corridors'),</p>

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						<p>which requires the necessary documentation or even property settlements in case of new constructions. In terms of time, meeting the deadline - 22 December 2012 was not feasible. Hydromorphological measures are proposed among the main activities within the OP QE 2014-2020.</p> <p>All the required information will be included in the second cycle of preparation of river basins management plans. Its implementation is being carried out in line with the WFD requirements.</p> <p>The SR prepared the Action Plan for the fulfilment of EAC in line with the timetable for the second cycle of river basins management plans preparation, accessible at:  <a href="http://www.vuvh.sk/download/RSV/11_Harmonogram/VC_harmonogram2012_fin.pdf">http://www.vuvh.sk/download/RSV/11_Harmonogram/VC_harmonogram2012_fin.pdf</a></p> <p>The evaluation of ecological state/potential and chemical state of the surface water bodies and The evaluation of quantitative state and chemical state of the groundwater bodies were completed in August 2014.</p>
6.2. Waste sector: Promoting economically and environmentally sustainable investments in the waste sector particularly through the development of waste management plans consistent with Directive 2008/98/EC, and with the waste hierarchy.	PA 1 Sustainable use of natural resources through environmental infrastructure development (TO 6 Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency)	Partially	An implementation report as requested by Article 11 (5) of Directive 2008/98/EC has been submitted to the Commission on progress towards meeting the targets set out in Article 11 of Directive 2008/98/EC.	Yes	<u>Tasks fulfilled:</u> 1. Elaboration of the report for years 2010, 2011 and 2012 in electronic form The report was sent on 26 September 2013  2. The report was elaborated pursuant to Article 11 of the Waste Framework Directive. The report was sent on 26 September 2013	<p>The fulfilment was provided pursuant to Article 11 (5) and Article 37 of the Waste Framework Directive, which stipulates the deadline by 30 September 2013.</p> <p>On 25 September 2013, the progress data with regard to meeting the targets set out in Article 11 (2) of the Waste Framework Directive for the monitored period of 2010 and 2011 including the report on data quality were sent electronically via eDAMIS web portal to Eurostat to the Environmental Data Centre on Waste.</p> <p>The report for 2010, 2011 and 2012 was submitted electronically to the EC – DG Environment and to the Permanent Representation of the SR to the EU.</p> <p>On 27 September 2013 the EC (Jutta Neusser) confirmed the reception of the report.</p>
			The existence of one or more waste management plans as required under Article 28 of Directive 2008/98/EC;	Yes	<u>Tasks fulfilled:</u> 1. WMP at the national level: <b>The Waste Management Plan of the Slovak republic for years 2011 - 2015</b> was adopted by the Slovak Government – Resolution of the Slovak Government No 69/2012 of 22	<p><u>WMP at the national level:</u>            The Waste Management Plan of the Slovak Republic for years 2011-15 (WMP SR) was adopted by the Resolution of the Slovak Government No 69/2012 of 22 February 2012. On 23 March 2012, the Waste Management Plan of the Slovak Republic for years 2011-15 was published in the Journal of the</p>

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					<p>February 2012 on Waste Management Plan of the Slovak Republic for years 2011–15. Date of fulfilment: 22 February 2012 <a href="http://www.minzp.sk/sekcije/temy-oblasti/odpady-obaly/poh/poh-2011-2015/">http://www.minzp.sk/sekcije/temy-oblasti/odpady-obaly/poh/poh-2011-2015/</a></p> <p>2. WMP at the regional level:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Nitra Region</b> – Generally binding decree of the environmental district office Nitra No 2/2013 of 17 June 2013 declaring the part of the WMP binding for the Nitra Region for 2011-15 Date of fulfilment: 30 September 2013 <a href="http://www.zbierka.sk/sk/vestnik/vestnik-ylady-sr/vyvdanie-3-2013">http://www.zbierka.sk/sk/vestnik/vestnik-ylady-sr/vyvdanie-3-2013</a></li> <li>- <b>Nitra Region</b> - notice on the amendment of the strategic document of 25 October 2013 <a href="http://www.enviroportal.sk/sk/cia/detail/program-odpadoveho-hospodarstva-nitrianskeho-kraja-na-roky-2011-2015-z">http://www.enviroportal.sk/sk/cia/detail/program-odpadoveho-hospodarstva-nitrianskeho-kraja-na-roky-2011-2015-z</a></li> <li>- <b>Kosice Region</b> - Generally binding decree of the environmental district office Kosice No 1/2013 of 14 October 2013 declaring the part of the WMP binding for the Kosice Region for 2011-15 Date of fulfilment: 14 November 2013 <a href="http://www.zbierka.sk/sk/vestnik/vestnik-ylady-sr/vyvdanie-4-2013">http://www.zbierka.sk/sk/vestnik/vestnik-ylady-sr/vyvdanie-4-2013</a></li> <li>- <b>Banská Bystrica Region</b> - Decree of the environmental district office Banská Bystrica No 1/2014 of 10 January 2014 declaring the part of the WMP binding for the Banská Bystrica Region for 2011 – 2015 <a href="http://www.zbierka.sk/sk/vestnik/vestnik-ylady-sr/vyvdanie-1-2014">http://www.zbierka.sk/sk/vestnik/vestnik-ylady-sr/vyvdanie-1-2014</a></li> <li>- <b>Prešov Region</b> - Decree of the environmental district office Prešov No 399/2013/OSZP as of 20 December 2013</li> </ul>	<p>MoE SR (Item No 2, Volume XX). In November 2012, the MoE SR (division of sectoral policies and sustainable development, letter No 8335/2012-4.2) sent the information on the fulfilment of requirements on WMP according to the Article 28 of the Waste Framework Directive to the Permanent Representation of the SR to the EU and requested passing it on to the European Commission.</p> <p><u>WMP at the regional level</u> According to the Waste Act, regional waste management plans prepared by district environmental offices in the seat of the regions follow the elaboration of the WMP SR. Pursuant to Article 5 (5) of the Waste Act, district environmental office in the seat of the region is obliged to submit a draft programme for evaluation according to a special regulation within three months after the adoption of the WMP SR. Pursuant to Article 6 of the Waste Act, municipalities and most waste producers are obliged to submitted their plans for approval to the respective state administration authority e in the field of waste management within four months after the adoption of the regional WMP. Part 2 of the WMP SR contains information on the amount of waste recovery facilities in each region as well as at the national level (Part 2.4, page 29).</p> <p>The prognosis for waste production and treatment capacities is included in the WMP at the regional level in line with Article 28 of the Waste Framework Directive. All regional WMP were checked in order to identify the content of relevant information in this regard.</p> <p>May 2013 – all district environmental offices in the seat of the region already submitted the drafted regional WMP for evaluation according to the Act on environmental impact assessment. June 2013 – public consultations in frame of the strategic assessment were held in all eight regions of the SR.</p> <p>First quarter 2014 – all eight regional district offices in the seat of the region published the binding part of the regional WMP in form of a generally binding decree.</p>

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					<p>declaring the part of the WMP binding for the Prešov Region for 2011 – 2015  <a href="http://www.zbierka.sk/sk/vestnik/vestnik-vlady-sr/vydanie-1-2014">http://www.zbierka.sk/sk/vestnik/vestnik-vlady-sr/vydanie-1-2014</a></p> <p>- <b>Žilina Region</b> - Decree of the environmental district office Žilina No 1/2014 as of 10 January 2014 declaring the part of the WMP binding for the Žilina Region for 2011 – 2015  <a href="http://www.zbierka.sk/sk/vestnik/vestnik-vlady-sr/vydanie-1-2014">http://www.zbierka.sk/sk/vestnik/vestnik-vlady-sr/vydanie-1-2014</a></p> <p>- <b>Trenčín Region</b> - Generally binding decree of the environmental district office Trenčín No 1/2013 as of 4 December 2013 declaring the part of the WMP binding for the Trenčín Region for 2011 – 2015  Date of fulfilment: 20 December 2013  <a href="http://www.minv.sk/?ciastka-5-vydana-20-12-2013">http://www.minv.sk/?ciastka-5-vydana-20-12-2013</a></p> <p>- <b>Trnava Region</b> – Decree of the environmental district office Trnava No 1/2014 of 22 January 2014 declaring the part of the WMP binding for the Trnava Region for 2011 – 2015  Date of fulfilment: 20 February 2014  <a href="http://www.zbierka.sk/sk/vestnik/vestnik-vlady-sr/vydanie-2-2014">http://www.zbierka.sk/sk/vestnik/vestnik-vlady-sr/vydanie-2-2014</a></p> <p>- <b>Bratislava Region</b> – Decree of the environmental district office Bratislava No 1/2014 as of 14 March 2014 declaring the part of the WMP binding for the Bratislava Region and districts of Senica and Skalica for 2011 – 2015  <a href="http://www.zbierka.sk/sk/vestnik/vestnik-vlady-sr/vydanie-3-2014">http://www.zbierka.sk/sk/vestnik/vestnik-vlady-sr/vydanie-3-2014</a></p>	In the near future the preparation of a new Waste Management Programme of the SR for 2016 – 2025 will begin, which will replace the current WMP SR for 2011 - 2015 and will be elaborated in accordance with the new Waste Act. Following the adoption of the new WMP SR for 2016 – 2025, the waste management programmes at the regional level will be elaborated.
			The existence of waste prevention programmes, as required under Article 29 of Directive	Yes	<p>The Waste prevention programme of the Slovak republic for years 2014 – 2018 was adopted by the Slovak Government  <a href="http://www.rokovania.sk/Rokovanie.aspx/BodRo">http://www.rokovania.sk/Rokovanie.aspx/BodRo</a></p>	The Waste Prevention Programme of the Slovak Republic for years 2014 – 2018 was adopted by the Resolution of the Slovak Government No 729/2013 at its 88th session on 18 December 2013.

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			2008/98/EC;		<a href="#">kovaniaDetail?idMaterial=23114</a>  <a href="http://www.minzp.sk/files/dokumenty/vestnik-mzp/vestnik-01-2014.pdf">http://www.minzp.sk/files/dokumenty/vestnik-mzp/vestnik-01-2014.pdf</a>	On 24 February 2014 the Waste Prevention Programme of the Slovak Republic for years 2014 – 2018 was published in the Journal of the MoE SR No 1/2014. On 5 March 2014 the Permanent Representation of the SR to the EU was requested by the MoE SR to send official information on the adoption of the Waste Prevention Programme of the Slovak Republic for years 2014 – 2018 to the general secretary of the EC.
			Necessary measures to achieve the targets on preparation for re-use and recycling by 2020 consistent with Article 11(2) of Directive 2008/98/EC have been adopted.	No	Waste Act amendment Act No 343/2012 Coll. amending and supplementing the Act No. 223/2001 Coll. on waste and on amendment to certain acts as amended Date of fulfilment: 1 January 2013 <a href="http://jaspi.justice.gov.sk">http://jaspi.justice.gov.sk</a>  Act No 434/2013 Coll. amending and supplementing the Act No. 17/2004 Coll. on charges for landfilling as amended (Charges Act) <a href="http://jaspi.justice.gov.sk">http://jaspi.justice.gov.sk</a>  WMP at the national level: WMP SR was adopted by the Resolution of the Slovak Government No 69/2012 of 22 February 2012. Date of fulfilment: 22 February 2012 <a href="http://www.minzp.sk/sekcie/temy-oblasti/odpady-obaly/poh/poh-2011-2015/">http://www.minzp.sk/sekcie/temy-oblasti/odpady-obaly/poh/poh-2011-2015/</a>	The Article 11 (2) of the Waste Framework Directive sets targets in field of the preparation for re-use and recycling, which have to be achieved by 2020, while measures for the achievement of these targets are in the responsibility of the Member State.  As regards the calculation methods for verifying compliance with the targets set out in paragraph 2 of the Article 11 of the Waste Framework Directive, SR will follow the Commission Decision 2011/753/EC, setting 4 calculation methods for targets related to the municipal waste and the method for calculation targets related to the construction and demolition waste.  With regard to the requirements of the Article 11(2) of the Waste Framework Directive, the SR has taken measures related to the amendments of the legislation in the waste management and setting out the objectives and measures in the WMP.  <u>1.Waste Act amendment</u> Act No 343/2012 Coll. amending and supplementing the Act No 223/2001 Coll. on waste and on amendment to certain acts as amended came into force on 1 January 2013. The Waste Framework Directive was transposed into the national law through the Waste Act amendment.  The SR has set following measures to meet the targets of re-use and recycling within the above amendment: - including new terms in re-use and recycling according to the Waste Framework Directive into the national law (such as re-use, preparing for re-use, treatment, recycling, by-product and end-of-waste). - introducing a new waste hierarchy pursuant to Article 4 of

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						<p>Waste Framework Directive into the national law. The basis of the waste hierarchy is waste prevention. A new aspect of the waste hierarchy is the preparation for re-use. The hierarchy is binding and to be applied to prevent or to reduce adverse effects of waste treatment, as well as to reduce the impacts of using primary resources.</p> <p>- setting waste management targets for municipal waste and construction and demolition waste. Proposed objectives in this area: “The waste management objective for municipal waste is to increase the preparation for re-use and recycling of municipal waste such as paper, metal, plastic and glass for a minimum of 50 % in weight by 2020. The waste management objective for construction and demolition wastes is to increase the preparation for re-use, recycling and other material recovery, including backfilling operations using waste to substitute other material for a minimum of 70 % in weight of originated waste; this target will apply to waste in category 17 of the Waste Catalogue [Article 68 (3e)], excluding hazardous waste and waste under the Catalogue No 17 05 04. “</p> <p>- obligation of a municipality to implement and ensure the separate collection of municipal waste for paper, plastic, metals, glass and biodegradable waste except of waste generated by kitchen operators.</p> <p>Already since 2020 the obligation of a municipality to provide for the separate collection for 4 fractions of municipal waste – paper, plastic, glass and metals, however most of the municipalities had the separate collection implemented before 2010.</p> <p><u>2.The amendment on Charges Act:</u> The Act No 434/2013 Coll. amending and supplementing the Act No 17/2004 Coll. on charges for landfilling as amended (Charges Act) came into force on 1 January 2014.</p> <p>The Act No 17/2004 Coll. was amended in 2013. In addition to putting landfilling at a disadvantage, it motivates municipalities to the introduction of separate waste collection. Based on the implemented separate collection and with regard to the amount of separated fractions, the charges for landfilling of municipal waste (MW) can be reduced. The landfilling taxes are to be continuously increasing by 2016. Within the amendment of the Charges Act, the landfill tax for selected</p>

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						<p>types of other waste (especially biodegradable waste and packaging waste) was increased, up to 30 EUR by 2016. At the same time, the landfill tax for selected types of dangerous waste was increased, up to 60 EUR by 2016.</p> <p>The amount of charges for landfilling of municipal waste was set up taking into account the partnership principle, e.g. based on the agreement between the Slovak Government and social partners (especially Union of Towns and Cities of Slovakia - UTCS) and reflects the social acceptance and economic situation in SR (Note: MoE SR suggested to increase the charges for landfilling also for MW, however, based on the Memorandum of Understanding for the application of budgetary policy aimed at financial stabilisation in public sector for 2013, between the SK Government and UTCS, the proposal was not accepted. The reasoning was that the Charges Act is currently adequate to the economic development and economic situation in the SR).</p> <p><u>3. WMP at the national level:</u> The Waste Management Plan of the Slovak Republic for years 2011-2015 (WMP SR) was adopted by the Resolution of the Slovak Government No 69/2012 of 22 February 2012. The WMP SR was drawn up in line with the Waste Framework Directive and represents the basic conceptual document on waste management setting up the mid-term waste management targets. It also contains targets and measures for biodegradable and municipal waste treatment. The main objective is to reduce municipal waste (MW) disposal on landfills, to create conditions for MW recovery and increase the separate collection of waste. Part 3.2.2 contains set measures for promoting MW re-use and recycling with the aim to meet the targets for MW treatment in line with the Waste Framework Directive.</p> <p><u>4. System of extended producer responsibility</u> The System of extended producer responsibility (EPR) is in the national legislation partially implemented since 2001, when the currently effective Waste Act was adopted. The institute of EPR was applied through the Recyclinf fund, and continuously, a system of associated organisations was created for individual waste streams, which provide for the whole system of collection and recycling of individual commodity. It</p>

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						<p>relates to the following waste streams: packaging waste, batteries and accumulators, electrical equipment and partially vehicles. Within the new Waste Act (with expected entry into force as of 1 January 2015), the means of implementation of the EPR will be specified and the currently existing EPR will be modified and extended to the responsibility of producers and importers of tires, oil, paper and cardboard, plastic and glass. The obligation of producers to provide for the commitments in waste collection, recovery and recycling through the separate collection of MW in municipalities is included in the proposed system of the EPR, with the involvement of collecting companies and of the facilities for the waste recovery.</p> <p>In the frame of the new Waste Act, stricter rules for landfilling are proposed in order to restrict, eventually prohibit the disposal on landfills for some waste streams including separated biodegradable waste and separated fractions of MW, to which the EPR applies.</p>
1. Anti-discrimination The existence of administrative capacity for the implementation and application of Union anti-discrimination law and policy in the field of the ESI Funds.	<p>PA 1: Sustainable use of natural resources through environmental infrastructure development</p> <p>PA 2: Adaptation to the adverse effects of climate change with the focus on flood protection</p> <p>PA 3: Promoting risk management, emergency management</p>	No	Arrangements in accordance with the institutional and legal framework of Member States for the involvement of bodies responsible for the promotion of equal treatment of all persons throughout the preparation and implementation of programmes, including the provision of advice on equality in ESI fund-related activities.	No	<p>Act No 575/2001 Coll. on the organisation of government activities and the organisation of central government as amended</p> <p><a href="http://www.epi.sk/Main/Default.aspx?Template=~%2FMain%2FTArticles.ascx&amp;LngID=0&amp;zzsrlnkid=4654186&amp;phContent=~%2FZzSR%2FShowRule.ascx&amp;RuleId=14927&amp;pa=13597">http://www.epi.sk/Main/Default.aspx?Template=~%2FMain%2FTArticles.ascx&amp;LngID=0&amp;zzsrlnkid=4654186&amp;phContent=~%2FZzSR%2FShowRule.ascx&amp;RuleId=14927&amp;pa=13597</a></p> <p>Anti-discrimination Act (Act No 365/2004 Coll. on equal treatment in certain areas and protection against discrimination and on amendment of certain laws as amended)</p> <p><a href="http://www.gender.gov.sk/?page_id=72">http://www.gender.gov.sk/?page_id=72</a></p>	<p>In compliance with Act No 575/2001 Coll. on the organisation of government activities and the organisation of central government as amended, the responsibility for coordination of the national policy on equal opportunities lies with the MLSAF SR. Therefore, under the PA SR for the years 2014 - 2020, the MLSAF SR should also be responsible for coordination of the horizontal principle anti-discrimination. The Department of Gender Equality and Equal Opportunities (DGEEO) is the executive body for the implementation of programmes, while the provision of advice is the responsibility of the Slovak National Centre for Human Rights (SNCHR). In compliance with Act No 365/2004 Coll. on equal treatment in certain areas and protection against discrimination and on amendment of certain laws as amended (Anti-discrimination Act), this function is performed by the SNCHR. The centre's role is to operate comprehensively in the field of human rights and fundamental freedoms. The activities of the SNCHR focus on the following areas: monitoring and evaluation of the observance of human rights and compliance with the principle of equal treatment pursuant to the Anti-Discrimination Act, research and surveys to provide information on human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the rights of the child, provision of legal</p>

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	and resilience to emergencies affected by climate change  PA 4: Energy efficient, low-carbon economy in all sectors  PA 5: Technical assistance					assistance to victims of discrimination and intolerance. Measures are currently being drafted to make the centre more effective.  The existence of a plan to consult with and involve bodies in charge of anti-discrimination and specific steps taken to facilitate active involvement of the national equality body.  The civil society will be <b>represented by partners engaged in</b> the areas of gender equality, anti-discrimination and persons with disabilities through their representative organisations, such as the National Council of Persons with Disabilities in Slovakia, civic associations Myslim-centrum kultúry Nepočujúcich, o. z. [I Think - a Culture Centre for the Deaf], Otvorne dvere, otvorne srdcia [Let's Open our Doors, Open our Hearts], Život s autizmom-LTK [Life with Autism - LTK], the Organisation of Muscular Dystrophy Patients in Slovakia, Slovak Red Cross, the Association to Help People with Mental Disabilities in Slovakia.  A list and directory of further cooperating non-governmental organisations in Slovakia dedicated to women's rights and gender equality is available on the department's website at: <a href="http://www.gender.gov.sk/?page_id=347">http://www.gender.gov.sk/?page_id=347</a>
			Arrangements for training for staff of the authorities involved in the management and control of the ESI Funds in the fields of Union anti-discrimination law and policy.	No		
2. Gender The existence of administrative capacity for the implementation and application of Union gender equality law and policy in the field of the ESI Funds.	PA 1: Sustainable use of natural resources through environmental infrastructure development  PA 2: Adaptation to the adverse	No	Arrangements in accordance with the institutional and legal framework of Member States for the involvement of bodies responsible for gender equality throughout the preparation and implementation of programmes, including the provision of advice	No	A list and directory of cooperating non-governmental organisations in Slovakia dedicated to women's rights and gender equality <a href="http://www.gender.gov.sk/?page_id=347">http://www.gender.gov.sk/?page_id=347</a>  National Gender Equality Strategy for 2009 - 2013 <a href="http://www.gender.gov.sk/?page_id=294">http://www.gender.gov.sk/?page_id=294</a>	In compliance with Act No 575/2001 on the organisation of government activities and the organisation of central government as amended, the responsibility for coordination of the national policy on gender equality lies with the MLSAF SR. Therefore, under the draft PA SR, the MLSAF SR, which formulates and implements national policy on gender equality and equal opportunities and coordinates the national system for gender equality and equal opportunities, should also be responsible for coordination of the horizontal principle gender equality; its activities in this area build on international documents binding on Slovakia and involve cooperation with the Gender Equality Committee of the Government Council

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	<p>effects of climate change with the focus on flood protection</p> <p>PA 3: Promoting risk management, emergency management and resilience to emergencies affected by climate change</p> <p>PA 4: Energy efficient, low-carbon economy in all sectors</p> <p>PA 5: Technical assistance</p>		on gender equality in ESI Fund-related activities.			<p>for Human Rights, National Minorities and Gender Equality</p> <p>The civil society will be represented by partners engaged in the areas of gender equality, anti-discrimination and persons with disabilities through their representative organisations, such as the National Council of Persons with Disabilities in Slovakia, civic associations Myslim-centrum kultúry Nepočujúcich, o. z. [I Think - a Culture Centre for the Deaf], Otvorme dvere, otvorme srdcia [Let's Open our Doors, Open our Hearts], Život s autizmom-LTK [Life with Autism - LTK], the Organisation of Muscular Dystrophy Patients in Slovakia, Slovak Red Cross, the Association to Help People with Mental Disabilities in Slovakia</p> <p>The Gender Equality Committee is a permanent expert body of the Government Council for Human Rights, National Minorities and Gender Equality (hereinafter referred to as the "Council") on issues related to gender equality and for the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, other international treaties imposing an obligation to eliminate discrimination on the grounds of sex and gender and EU legislation in this area. The Committee acts as a consultative body on matters of gender equality in compliance with the Slovak Constitution and comprises representatives of the government, professional institutions and the third sector.</p> <p>The National Gender Equality Strategy for 2009 - 2013 is available on the website of the Department of Gender Equality and Equal Opportunities. The new National Gender Equality Strategy for 2014 - 2020 is being drafted on the basis of an evaluation of the existing National Gender Equality Strategy for 2009 - 2013. The new strategy will become relevant in November 2014.</p>
			Arrangements for training for staff of the authorities involved in the management and control of the ESI Funds in the fields of Union gender equality law and policy as well as on gender mainstreaming.	No		
3.Disability	PA 1:	No	Arrangements in	No	National Programme for the Development of	The National Programme for the Development of Living

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The existence of administrative capacity for the implementation and application of the United Nations Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities (UNCPRD) in the field of the ESI Funds in accordance with Council Decision 2010/48/EC.	Sustainable use of natural resources through environmental infrastructure development  PA 2: Adaptation to the adverse effects of climate change with the focus on flood protection  PA 3: Promoting risk management, emergency management and resilience to emergencies affected by climate change  PA 4: Energy efficient, low-carbon economy in all sectors  PA 5: Technical assistance		accordance with the institutional and legal framework of Member States for the consultation and involvement of bodies in charge of protection of rights of persons with disabilities or representative organisations of persons with disabilities and other relevant stakeholders throughout the preparation and implementation of programmes.		Living Conditions of Persons with Disabilities for 2014 - 2020. <a href="http://www.rokovania.sk/Rokovanie.aspx/BodRokovaniaDetail?idMaterial=23180">http://www.rokovania.sk/Rokovanie.aspx/BodRokovaniaDetail?idMaterial=23180</a>	Conditions of Persons with Disabilities for 2014 - 2020 (Government Resolution No 25/2014 of 15 January 2014) is focused on achieving progress in the protection and exercise of the rights of persons with disabilities recognised by the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (hereinafter referred to as the "Convention"). The National Programme serves as a means for Slovakia to implement the Convention, including the institutional framework for the process of implementing and monitoring it. The document's target group are persons with disabilities who participated in the drafting of the document through their representative organisations as stipulated under Article 4(3) of the Convention. The basic objective of the National Programme is to ensure, by means of the defined tasks and measures that progress is made in the protection and exercise of the rights of persons with disabilities recognised by the Convention. Government Resolution No 25/2014 is binding on all government departments and will also be binding in respect of the new OPs. This document will subsequently be incorporated into the forthcoming OPs and its objectives regarding assistance to persons with disabilities will be applied in the OPs in the form of activities, indicators and method of evaluation. This document is Slovakia's binding and operational instrument for the implementation of the Convention.  At present, work is in progress on an amendment to the Construction Act and its implementing decrees, which will lay down the conditions related to accessibility. This act will also redefine compliance with the relevant act and its implementing decrees and the related sanctions. It has been under the process of review and incorporation of comments since summer 2013.
			Arrangements for training for staff of the authorities involved in the management and control of the ESI Funds in the fields of applicable Union and national disability law and policy, including accessibility and the practical application of	No		

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			the UNCPRD as reflected in Union and national legislation, as appropriate.			
			Arrangements to ensure monitoring of the implementation of Article 9 of the UNCPRD in relation to the ESI Funds throughout the preparation and the implementation of the programmes.	No		<p>The implementation of Art. 9 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is ensured through the <i>National Programme</i>, which dedicates a special chapter to the subject of accessibility and the measures related to it. Measures relating to this article focus above all on making buildings and transportation barrier-free and the accessibility of goods, services and information.</p> <p>The process of monitoring the fulfilment of horizontal principles will be monitored at the project level by means of monitoring reports that will include a separate document containing information about horizontal principles (i.e. description of the activities carried out, their outcomes and assessment of how they contributed to the achievement of the set objectives of horizontal principles) , as well as on-site inspections of the implementation of projects and, subsequently, evaluation of their contribution to the objectives of horizontal principles. This separate document containing information on the application of the horizontal principles will form a basis for the process of assessment of the contribution of the ESI Funds to the objectives identified in the national strategic document. A review of the level of achievement of the objectives set down in the national strategy document, including proposals for corrective measures and recommendations for achieving them, will be submitted annually to the Government. The control mechanism will be ensured by the lead authority for the horizontal principles in cooperation with MAs.</p>
4.Public procurement The existence of arrangements for the effective application of Union public procurement law in the field of the ESI Funds.	PA 1: Sustainable use of natural resources through environmental infrastructure development  PA 2: Adaptation to	No	Arrangements for the effective application of Union public procurement rules through appropriate mechanisms.	No	Act No 25/2006 Coll. on public procurement and on amendments to certain laws, as amended  <a href="http://www.uvo.gov.sk/legislativa/-/document_library_display/74gW/view/706651?_110_INSTANCE_74gW_redirect=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.uvo.gov.sk%2Flegislativa%3Fp_p_id%3D110_INSTANCE_74gW%26p_p_lifecycle%3D0%26p_p_state%3Dnormal%26p_p_mode%3Dview%26p_p_col_id%3Dcolumn-2%26p_p_col_count%3D1">http://www.uvo.gov.sk/legislativa/-/document_library_display/74gW/view/706651?_110_INSTANCE_74gW_redirect=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.uvo.gov.sk%2Flegislativa%3Fp_p_id%3D110_INSTANCE_74gW%26p_p_lifecycle%3D0%26p_p_state%3Dnormal%26p_p_mode%3Dview%26p_p_col_id%3Dcolumn-2%26p_p_col_count%3D1</a>	<b>In the area of legislation, all applicable EU directives</b> on public procurement (PP) <b>have been transposed</b> into the currently valid and applicable Act No 25/2006 Coll. on public procurement and on amendments to certain acts as amended (hereinafter as the "Public Procurement Act". <b>The new public procurement act, which will transpose newly adopted EU directives into the Slovak legal system, will be adopted within a deadline specified under a new directive.</b> Based on the 2013 amendment to the PP Act, several procedures and arrangements have been or will be designed to strengthen the competitive principle and transparency of PP

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	<p>the adverse effects of climate change with the focus on flood protection</p> <p>PA 3: Promoting risk management, emergency management and resilience to emergencies affected by climate change</p> <p>PA 4: Energy efficient, low-carbon economy in all sectors</p> <p>PA 5: Technical assistance</p>				<p>Act No 95/2013 Coll. (amendment to Act No 25/2006 Coll.)  <a href="http://www.upsvar.sk/buxus/docs/urady/VK/vo/13-z095.pdf">http://www.upsvar.sk/buxus/docs/urady/VK/vo/13-z095.pdf</a></p>	<p>processes; some of the arrangements adopted and applicable concepts introduced by the latest amendments to the act are as follows:</p> <p>- the <b>introduction of the central register of references</b> of individual tenderers that are used for demonstrating technical and professional competence of tenderers and candidates. The measure should ensure transparent demonstration of the conditions for participation as regards technical and professional competence of tenderers.</p> <p>On <u>1 March 2014</u>, the PPO established the Register of References and published the model reference in accordance with the Public Procurement Act. The register of references constitutes the PPO's information system for keeping the records of references by contracting authorities/entities concerning the supply of goods, performance of construction works or the provision of services by suppliers that were successful in the public procurement procedure.</p> <p>The register of references is published on the Office's website <a href="http://www.uvo.gov.sk/oznam-podnikatelov/-/RegisterPodnikatelov/sreferenciami">http://www.uvo.gov.sk/oznam-podnikatelov/-/RegisterPodnikatelov/sreferenciami</a></p> <p>The model reference is an electronic form available in the data collection information system.</p> <p>The primary objective of the measure is to keep records concerning the supply of goods, provision of services and construction works by means of an electronic document published in the central register. The secondary objective is to keep track of information contained in the references in order to prohibit from participation in public procurement those tenderers, candidates or suppliers with respect to which :</p> <p>a) a score of 20 or less has been obtained in at least three consecutive references.</p> <p>b) the contract, concession contract or framework agreement has been terminated by the contracting authority/entity due to a material breach of obligations on their part.</p> <p><i>Arrangement adopted.</i></p> <p>- <b>restrictions on the conclusion of amendments</b> increasing contract value The Public Procurement Act prohibits the conclusion of an amendment to the contract awarded through public procurement, where the content of such amendments would a) change the initial subject-matter of contract in a substantial manner, b) amend, in a substantial manner, the conditions which, in the initial contract award procedure,</p>

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						<p>would allow participation of other candidates or tenderers or would allow accepting other than the initially accepted tender, or c) change the price for the performance of the contract or a part thereof or would change the economic balance of the contract to the benefit of the successful tenderer.</p> <p>The PPO Council makes the decision on the proposal to determine whether the circumstances have changed to an extent that justifies the conclusion of an amendment to the contract awarded as a result of public procurement.</p> <p>The arrangement is aimed at preventing a purposeful, non-transparent increase in contract prices following the contract award. <i>Arrangement adopted</i> – introduced by the amendment to the Public Procurement Act effective from 1 July 2013.</p> <p>- the <b>possibility to cancel PP</b> if only 2 tenders or less have been received. Pursuant to the Public Procurement Act, the contracting authority and the contracting entity may also cancel the applied contract award procedure if two or less tenders have been received. Where only one tender has been received and the contracting authority or contracting entity does not cancel the contract award procedure, it shall publish through its website profile the reasons for its decision not to cancel the applied procedure.</p> <p>The arrangement is intended to increase and encourage competition and satisfy the “value for money” principle in public procurement. <i>Arrangement adopted</i> – introduced by the amendment to the Public Procurement Act effective from 1 July 2013.</p> <p>- the <b>obligation of the contracting authority to disclose</b> the relevant information and public procurement documentation in its website profile.</p> <p>Electronic repository is an information system of the Office where the contracting authority/contracting entity is required to create its profile and use it for publishing the documents and information under the Public Procurement Act, structured by the individual public procurement procedures.</p> <p>The profiles created by contracting authorities/contracting entities and the documents published in such profiles are available under the “Vestník/Journal and Zoznamy/Lists” tab on the Office's website. <a href="http://www.uvo.gov.sk/profilyvoo">http://www.uvo.gov.sk/profilyvoo</a></p> <p>The purpose of the arrangement is to increase transparency and awareness of the parties to the public procurement process and the public. In the profiles, the contracting authority publishes the documents and information concerning the</p>

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						<p>public procurement procedure (e.g. notices used in public procurement, tender documents, information concerning the opening of tenders, information on the evaluation of tenders, grounds for not cancelling the applied contract award procedure) as well as documents on compliance with the terms and conditions of awarded contracts (contracts, concession contracts, framework agreements, acceptance and delivery documents, information on amounts actually paid). <i>Arrangement adopted</i> and introduced, the electronic repository for the profiles of the contracting authority/contracting entity has been set up as of 27 February 2014.</p> <p>- <b>establishment of the PPO Council</b> to deal with appeals from tenderers against decisions on objections issued by the PPO</p> <p>The Public Procurement Act authorises the PPO Council to a) decide on appeals against Office's decisions on objections, b) decide on proposals to determine whether circumstances have changed to an extent that justifies the conclusion of an amendment to the contract awarded as a result of public procurement, c) create references upon proposal by suppliers in cases where the contracting authority or contracting entity fails to create such reference within the time limit prescribed by law, d) make decisions within the process of reviewing decisions on objections outside appeal proceedings, e) decide on prosecutor's protest in cases where the decision is made by a head of the central government body under a separate regulation.</p> <p>The arrangement seeks to introduce second-instance decision-making in terms of supervision (objections). The decisions made by the PPO Council are subsequently subject to review by the court, i.e., tenderers are not denied their rights in the public procurement process; quite the opposite, this arrangement actually reinforces their rights. The arrangement also prevents a non-transparent increase in contract prices following the award of the contract by means of amendments. <i>The arrangement has been adopted and implemented by an amendment to the Public Procurement Act effective from 1 July 2013</i></p> <p>- <b>introduction of the possibility of ex-ante control</b> of dossiers prior to publication by the contracting authority Pursuant to the Public Procurement Act, the contracting authority may request the Office to perform ex ante control</p>

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						<p>prior to the publication or commencement of public procurement procedure in the case of above-limit contract financed, even partly, from the EU funds.</p> <p>The arrangement is intended to remove the deficiencies of public procurement procedure prior to its publication and announcement. The arrangement reinforces the prevention against discriminatory/unlawful tendering conditions in public procurement which can be removed already before the publication of public procurement procedure. The objective is to reduce and eliminate deficiencies in the initial stages of the public procurement procedure prior to its announcement. <i>Arrangement adopted</i> and introduced by an amendment to the Public Procurement Act effective from 18 February 2013.</p> <p><b>- introduction of a register of persons prohibited from participation in public procurement.</b> The arrangement seeks to improve the competitive environment by excluding those entities which use unfair competition practices or do not perform their contractual obligations in a due manner. It has a preventive and repressive impact on entities breaching the principles of fair competition.</p> <p>The register is published on the Office's website: <a href="http://www.uvo.gov.sk/zoznam-podnikatelov/-/RegisterPodnikatelov/sozakazom">http://www.uvo.gov.sk/zoznam-podnikatelov/-/RegisterPodnikatelov/sozakazom</a></p> <p>The register of prohibited persons constitutes an information system of the Office which contains information on business entities prohibited from participation in public procurement. It informs the parties to the public procurement proceedings as well as the general public about entities which have been conclusively prohibited from participating in public procurement pursuant to §149(3) of the Public Procurement Act. <i>Arrangement adopted</i> – introduced as of 14 February 2014.</p> <p><b>- electronic public procurement</b> - End-to-end e-procurement as a means for modernisation of public administration is among the priorities of the SR. In accordance with Directives 2014/23/EU, 2014/24/EU and 2014/25/EU, the following will have to be adopted and ensured: a) direct and unrestricted access to procurement documents by electronic means; b) submission of tenders by electronic means; c) strengthening the role of e-Certis; d) electronic form (PAS) for tenderers and candidates to provide a proof of compliance</p>

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						<p>with selection criteria; e) electronic catalogues as a form of electronic tender; f) dynamic purchasing system recast and refined into an electronic system.</p> <p>A central purchasing body is required to implement an end-to-end e-procurement system within 36 months of entry into force of said directives, that is, by 18 April 2017. Other bodies are required to implement an end-to-end e-procurement system within 54 months of entry into force of said directives.</p> <p>The PPO currently operates an electronic public procurement system called EVO. The system will be upgraded to meet the new requirements set out in EU directives in order to simplify electronic public procurement procedures and increase their effectiveness.</p> <p>Slovak authorities will prepare a national strategy for the timely and efficient transition to end-to-end e-procurement, as called for in section 5.3 of the Commission Communication "End-to-end e-procurement to modernise public administration" (COM(2013)453 final). The strategy will set out the specific objectives to be achieved, the process to be followed, the milestones, and any necessary indicators. Adequate assistance from the SF will be made for the implementation of this strategy, in particular for the development or improvement of end-to-end e-procurement infrastructure, the strengthening of administrative capacity, training, and awareness-raising. The strategy will ensure that the most efficient and cost-effective approach to the implementation of mandatory e-procurement in Slovakia is undertaken, and that duplication at national/regional level is avoided, as it may result in interoperability problems. The overall objective should be an improved, simpler, and more efficient public procurement system. <i>Arrangement to be taken</i></p> <p>1.2 The general measures to address deficiencies identified during controls will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>increased support from the PPO</b> for organisations conducting public procurement control by means of a cooperation agreement Under the cooperation agreement, the MAs will be entitled to ask the PPO to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) provide an ex-ante evaluation of documentation for planned public procurement;</li> <li>b) provide personal consultations on a partial issue in public procurement;</li> <li>c) prepare an opinion on the compliance of partial issues in</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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						<p>public procurement with the Act on Public Procurement prior to the signing of a contract;  d) perform a public procurement control;  e) to cooperate in assessing Commission audit findings concerning public procurement.  <i>Arrangement to be taken.</i></p> <p>- <b>Introduction of a risk analysis</b> in the conduct of PP control by the MA, which identifies contract risks in terms of the necessary cooperation with the PPO (risk-carrying contracts will be subject to mandatory control by the PPO), namely by performing control in a manner set out under the Act on Public Procurement, while targeting PPO's expert support in risk-carrying public procurements will ensure an increased supervision of contracts with the potentially highest error rate. At the same time, it will eliminate a disproportionate workload of the PPO with respect to requests for control of public procurements that do not represent an increased risk in terms of their complexity or error rate and will help avoid disproportionate prolongation of controls (risky contracts will be subject to mandatory control by the PPO). The analysis itself will include a set of data to be assessed (e.g. estimated contract value, procurement procedure, existence of review procedures, scope of participation criteria, etc.); each data item will have a certain value representing the level of risk (e.g. an open procedure will be given a zero risk value, while a negotiated procedure will have a 15-point risk value). A summary value of all these partial items will represent a total risk value of a contract; based on this total value compared against an evaluation key, an MA will be entitled, not entitled or required to request the PPO to perform control over the public procurement in question. <i>Arrangement to be taken</i></p> <p>- <b>Preparation of model documents</b> used in the public procurement process (e.g. tender documents, drafts of notifications used in PP processes) and their publication and making available to the beneficiaries. The arrangement is intended to reduce error rates in public procurement by contracting authorities or contracting entities and to enhance their transparency.  As a follow-up to a new Act on Public Procurement to be adopted, model tender documents and notices to be used in public procurement will be prepared. <i>Arrangement to be taken.</i></p>

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						<p>- At the level of the management system, <b>checklists</b> for MA control will be prepared, taking into consideration specific aspects of different types of public procurement procedures (open procedures, restricted procedure, negotiated procedure, etc.) and most frequent errors in PP processes identified in the previous period of 2007 - 2013. <i>Arrangement to be taken</i></p> <p>- <b>Preparation of uniform rules</b> and requirements for PP and requirements for PP documentation. With respect to the application of the Act on Public Procurement, the PPO will provide for a transparent, consistent and foreseeable procurement framework through uniform methodological interpretations and uniform decision-making within control and review procedures.</p> <p>Under binding procedures defined in methodology and managing documents at the level of management system, to be followed by the MAs in the performance of controls as well as by beneficiaries in conducting public procurement and subsequent submission of documentation, procedures and preparation of uniform rules will be aligned (e.g., uniform control outputs, uniform requirements for beneficiaries concerning the scope of required documentation, uniform requirements on the level of publication of contract with a very low value, etc.). <i>Arrangement to be taken.</i></p> <p>- <b>Introduction of price maps, benchmarks and limits</b> to assess cost-effectiveness. At the level of the management system, an obligation will be introduced for MAs to consider a maximum amount of a non-repayable contribution sought, taking into account the system of price maps, benchmarks and limits for the most frequent and/or most relevant types of expenditure. The control of public procurement and/or of its outcome will subsequently verify whether these limits were observed. At the same time, a methodology procedure will be defined to set up these indicators in order to ensure they are set in a uniform and transparent manner. <i>Arrangement to be taken.</i></p> <p>- <b>Introduction of compulsory ex ante control</b> of documentation by the MAs (review of drafts of tender documents and tender notices prior to publication) and control of public procurement prior to the signing of a contract with a</p>

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						<p>successful tenderer. This type of control is designed to prevent and eliminate errors and deficiencies in draft documents for public procurement, thus reducing a risk of violation of the Act on Public Procurement. Arrangement to be taken</p> <p>- <b>Application of the principles of “green” and social public procurement or other aspects of PP</b> (such as support for innovation, support for SMEs, etc.) by means of legislative instruments established through the EU and Slovak legislation as part of suitable types of support. Through its provisions, the Public Procurement Act supports environmental and social aspects. The Act on Public Procurement allows to determine special conditions for the performance of contracts in particular as regards social and environmental aspects and, in relation to the procurement of motor vehicles, it allows to specify a requirement to take into account energy-related and environmental impacts of their operation during their lifespan; among the criteria for the economically most advantageous tender, it is also possible to determine the environmental aspects of the subject-matter of the contract. The legislation makes it possible to restrict the award of contracts to sheltered workshops and sheltered employment. <i>Arrangement adopted – governed by the Public Procurement Act in the long term.</i></p> <p>- <b>Introduction of cooperation with the Antimonopoly Office (AMO)</b> (enhancing competition protection by introducing cooperation of this entity with MA under the cooperation agreement). If risk factors, "red flags", are identified, the MAs will be required to ask the AMO for cooperation in the form of consultations, requests for opinion or submission of a complaint. Another area of cooperation covers the preparation of a general methodology for the PP control system and training activities for employees performing controls. The Anti-monopoly Office is responsible for competition protection in accordance with Council Regulation (EC) 1/2003 of 16 December 2002 on the implementation of the rules on competition laid down in Articles 81 and 82 of the Treaty. <i>Arrangement to be taken.</i></p> <p>Arrangements to address the main types of specific deficiencies identified by the EC are as follows:</p> <p>- <b>Amendments to contracts:</b> the amendment to the PP Act</p>

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						<p>prohibited the conclusion of amendments to contracts if these change substantially the subject-matter of the contract or the terms of the original tender, or which increase the contract value. <i>Arrangement adopted.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Conflicts of interests:</b> this issue will be addressed at the legislative and systemic levels. At the legislative level, Slovakia will fully transpose the provisions on the conflict of interests based on the new EU public procurement directive. At the level of the PP management and control system, procedures for administrative control by the MA will be defined to identify conflicts of interest and further assess and address them. <i>Arrangement to be taken.</i></li> <li>- <b>Insufficient competition</b> – only one tender submitted: The deficiency was addressed at the legislative and system level. At the legislative level, an amendment to the Act on Public Procurement enabled the contracting authority to cancel the award procedure in cases where only one or two tenders have been received. At the systemic level, this issue was addressed by modifying the management system, where the MA is required to request that the PPO oversee the whole PP process if it identifies PP in which only one tender has been received. At the same time, competition protection will be strengthened through cooperation of controlling bodies with the Antimonopoly Office. <i>Arrangement to be taken</i></li> <li>- <b>Setting the deadline for requesting tender documents:</b> The electronic forms – notices of the publication of public procurement procedure – have been modified so that the deadline for requesting the tender documents is consistent with the deadline for the submission of tenders. The above arrangement fully removed the possibility to shorten the deadline for requesting tender documents. An amendment to the Act on Public Procurement introduced an obligation to publish tender documents in the contracting authority's profile. At the same time, all beneficiaries have been instructed by the MA not to restrict candidates' access to tender documents by setting deadlines for requesting tender documents. <i>Arrangement adopted.</i></li> <li>- <b>Discriminatory tendering conditions:</b> Elimination and/or identification of discriminatory tendering conditions are covered by several of the aforementioned arrangements, such as cooperation with the PPO, ex-ante evaluation of tender notices and tender documents prior to publication, as</li> </ul>

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						well as arrangements referred to in the part concerning training of employees and use of technical assistance to introduce and apply EU public procurement rules (e.g. employee training, beneficiary training, publication and information about identified deficiencies). <i>Arrangement to be taken</i>
			Arrangements which ensure transparent contract award procedures.	No		The area of contract awarding not subject to the relevant EU directives on PP ( <b>below-threshold contracts</b> ) is covered by the PP Act itself in Slovak legislation. This provides for the obligation to proceed according to this Act in the procurement of works, goods and services for contracting authorities, contracting entities as well as individuals who are beneficiaries of grants. The procedures for these contracts are based on the basic principles of public procurement referred to in the relevant EU directives, thus ensuring transparent public procurement procedures even for contracts not falling under EU directives on public procurement. The public procurement procedures for this type of contracts will be covered by the same measures as specified, under criterion 1. <i>Arrangement adopted partially</i>
			Arrangements for training and dissemination of information for staff involved in the implementation of the ESI Funds.	No	In accordance with Government Resolution No 21/2013, the Public Procurement Office prepares in cooperation with each managing authority a report on the results of public procurement controls and audits on a semi-annual basis which is published at: <a href="http://www.rokovania.sk/Rokovanie.aspx/BodRokovaniaDetail?idMaterial=21941">http://www.rokovania.sk/Rokovanie.aspx/BodRokovaniaDetail?idMaterial=21941</a>  (e.g. <a href="http://www.opzp.sk/dokumenty/projektove-dokumenty/rozhodnutia-uvo-sr-v-procesoch-vo-v-ramci-projektov-op-zp-v-programovom-obdob-2007-2013/">http://www.opzp.sk/dokumenty/projektove-dokumenty/rozhodnutia-uvo-sr-v-procesoch-vo-v-ramci-projektov-op-zp-v-programovom-obdob-2007-2013/</a> ) or ( <a href="http://www.ropka.sk/sk/verejne-obstaravania/">http://www.ropka.sk/sk/verejne-obstaravania/</a> )  <a href="http://www.uvo.gov.sk/za-obdobie-od-1.1.2013-">http://www.uvo.gov.sk/za-obdobie-od-1.1.2013-</a>	Providing training by the CCA relating to procedures of administrative control of public procurement in the context of the management system, presentation of the most common deficiencies identified in public procurement controls. The CCA already provides training for MA/IBMA relating to procedures of administrative control of public procurement in the context of the management system, presentation of the most common deficiencies identified in public procurement controls, and interpretation of CCA methodology concerning public procurement. 179 employees received this training in 2013. In 2014, the CCA also plans to organise and provide training focused on these issues. <i>Arrangement adopted</i>  Introduction of a uniform employee training system under the ESI Funds control and management system. The MA will be required to provide regular training and seminars for all staff involved in the implementation of the funds, while making participation in this training compulsory for this staff. The training system will be set up with the focus on ensuring targeted training for a particular group of employees (e.g. PP controllers). Said training will involve seminars provided the CCA, PPO, as well as those organised by the Antimonopoly

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					<a href="#">do-30.6.2013</a>	Office on competition protection. <i>Arrangement to be taken.</i>  These forms of dissemination of information about deficiencies identified by PP controls will also be used in the 2014 - 2020 programming period, with an emphasis put on their enhanced information value.  A proposal has also been made to establish a Coordinating Committee for Cooperation In Public Procurement. This committee of experts, primarily from the CCA, PPO, CA, AA, MAs, will ensure a joint approach to the application of public procurement rules (cooperating in issuing methodology interpretations, instructions and guidelines adjusted to the needs of EU funds implementation). A clear advantage of constituting this body will be the instant identification of any serious misconduct (system-level irregularities) in MA/IBMA procedures in PP control and effective opportunities to take appropriate corrective measures to eliminate them. A uniform approach followed by all bodies and formulation of a joint statement will indirectly increase pressure for timely identification of errors in public procurement by bodies performing public procurement (this joint approach will ensure a faster and more effective response to identified errors). <i>Arrangement to be taken.</i>
			Arrangements to ensure administrative capacity for implementation and application of Union public procurement rules.	No	<i>Public Procurement Office</i>  <a href="http://www.uvo.gov.sk/domov">http://www.uvo.gov.sk/domov</a>  <i>Methodological guidelines (PPO)</i>  <a href="http://www.uvo.gov.sk/metodicke-usmernenia">http://www.uvo.gov.sk/metodicke-usmernenia</a>	The PPO provides methodical guidance to all parties involved in PP.  In order to intensify cooperation between government agencies participating in PP and competition control, this cooperation will be reinforced between the PPO and the Antimonopoly Office and at the level of ensuring administrative capacity for these bodies through technical assistance.  In the course of 2014, the increased demands for cooperation and control activities of the PPO will necessitate an increase in personnel capacity by around 25 employees, who will be recruited gradually depending on the amount of activities required by the CCA and MA.  For the purposes of more effective management of this cooperation and more consistent application of EU public procurement rules in the activities related to the implementation of EU funds, these agendas were entrusted to

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						<p>a dedicated PPO deputy chairman. <i>Arrangement adopted</i></p> <p>Using technical assistance within cooperation with the PPO to refund wage costs of employees delivering support activities for MAs, IBMAs, AA and CA under the cooperation agreement. <i>Arrangement to be taken</i></p> <p>Using technical assistance within cooperation with the PPO to refund costs of expert appraisals and expert opinions that will be necessary for delivering support activities for MAs, IBMAs, AA and CA under the cooperation agreement. <i>Arrangement to be taken</i></p> <p>Technical assistance for cooperation with the Antimonopoly Office of the SR – <i>Arrangement to be taken</i></p> <p>Methodology guidance provided by the PPO to parties involved in public procurement and publication of guidelines in a publicly accessible place – PPO's web site. <i>Arrangement adopted</i></p> <p>Technical assistance for training of beneficiaries Training will focus on beneficiaries/applicants and will be designed, for example, to present the applicable control system, to highlight contractual requirements and obligations concerning the performance of PP control and submission of documentation for control, to inform beneficiaries of most frequent deficiencies identified by PP controls while presenting examples of best practice. Training should primarily be delivered by individual MAs so that its content and focus respond to the specific aspects of a given programme (e.g., customary subject matters of procurement). <i>Arrangement to be taken</i></p>
5.State aid The existence of arrangements for the effective application of Union State aid rules in the field of the ESI Funds.	PA 1: Sustainable use of natural resources through environmental infrastructure development	<b>Partially</b>	Arrangements for the effective application of Union State aid rules.	No		The obligation to comply with aid cumulation rules (if aid is granted for the same eligible costs from different public sources or de minimis aid) and compliance with the "Deggendorf" obligation were implemented in all state and de minimis aid schemes in the 2007 – 2013 programming period. Considering that the structure of the schemes remains unchanged, these will also be included in the aid schemes for the 2014 – 2020 programming period. The introduction of measures to ensure compliance with aid

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	<p>PA 2: Adaptation to the adverse effects of climate change with the focus on flood protection</p> <p>PA 3: Promoting risk management, emergency management and resilience to emergencies affected by climate change</p> <p>PA 4: Energy efficient, low-carbon economy in all sectors</p>					<p>cumulation rules and the "Deggendorf" obligation will be overseen by the state aid coordinator by means of commenting on state aid schemes and de minimis aid schemes. The conditions for granting aid under the individual schemes will include the submission of a solemn declaration by the beneficiary relating to aid cumulation in respect of the same eligible expenditures and a solemn declaration that the beneficiary is not subject to recovery orders. The control of aid cumulation, as well as the compliance with the "Deggendorf" obligation will further be reinforced through the establishment of a central IT register for State aid having the scope and structure to be defined by a new GBER, due to come into force on 1 July 2014, and relevant EC guidelines.</p> <p>At its session on 9 April 2014, the Slovak Government approved Resolution No 156 concerning the document "Method for application of ex ante conditionalities in the preparation of an implementing mechanism for EU cohesion policy beyond 2013 in the SR" by which it strengthened the position of the MF SR as state aid coordinator (Task B.5). The relevant ministers (for ministries that act as managing authorities) were tasked to apply, in connection with the use of financial resources from the ESI Funds in the SR for the 2014 – 2020 programming period, the statements and positions of the MF SR as state aid coordinator for the pre application of state aid rules.</p> <p>Changes in aid schemes may be made only in the form of written amendments. The state aid coordinator comments on these amendments to state aid schemes and de minimis aid schemes and verifies that the changes made in the schemes conform to EU state aid rules. The mechanism for consultations between the state aid coordinator and managing authorities is in place. Managing authorities (as well as other aid grantors) may consult the state aid coordinator on aid measures either through working meetings or the relevant written communication.</p> <p>Repayable assistance through financial instruments is provided under state aid schemes or de minimis aid schemes. Such schemes are also commented upon by the</p>

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						<p>state aid coordinator and EU state aid rules must be adhered to at the level of the fund manager, financial intermediaries, co-investors, and final recipients.</p> <p>The mechanism for recovery of unlawful state aid was reformed in the Slovak Republic by Act No 102/2011 Coll. (amendment to Act on State Aid) which entered into force on 1 June 2011. This act laid down that a EC decision on unlawful state aid is a direct enforceable order under which unlawful state aid will be recovered in an enforcement procedure. Based on the EC decision on unlawful state aid and at the initiative of the state aid coordinator, the aid grantor is required to file a petition to execute the order in accordance with the Enforcement Code, within 30 days of receipt of the initiative. EC decisions on unlawful state aid are directly enforceable against the beneficiary on the date of receipt of such a decision by the SR.</p> <p>Measures are also in place to ensure the performance of controls of compliance with the GBER 2014 (<i>note: than amended by GBER 2017</i>) and with the approved schemes. State aid grantors can verify the aid eligibility and compatibility conditions (for example, the incentive effect, limitation of aid to maximum aid intensity, the conditions of eligibility of schemes, SME status as beneficiaries) under § 19 of the State Aid Act.</p> <p>Records of de minimis aid are kept by the Ministry of Finance through the information system of the Slovak Aid Monitoring Authority – IS SAMA. Access to the IS SAMA is currently provided only to the state aid coordinator (MF SR) that inputs data on the provision/receipt of de minimis aid on the basis of written notifications from the grantors/beneficiaries of de minimis aid. IS SAMA in its present form is used to ensure that newly provided aid does not exceed the de minimis aid ceiling. If de minimis aid ceiling is exceeded, the MF SR notifies the grantor to that effect. Upon receipt of updated data from de minimis aid grantor, the data in IS SAMA are adjusted. Once the IS SAMA is completed, a portal design of this information system will be implemented. The website and the possibility to browse data on aid granted will be publicly</p>

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						<p>accessible. When completed, the information system will also contain a state aid register in which summary information about each measure will be entered.</p> <p>A central IT register for State aid will be set up, having the scope and structure to be defined by a new GBER, , as well as by the relevant EC guidelines.</p>
			Arrangements for training and dissemination of information for staff involved in the implementation of the ESI Funds.	Yes		<p>The relevant training courses for staff on the application of EU state aid rules at all relevant levels (i.e. the relevant departments) have either already taken place or have been scheduled.</p> <p>A system of dissemination and exchange of information is in place for all staff applying state aid rules linked to the implementation and control of ESI funds (MAs, intermediate bodies, CAs, AAs and beneficiaries, and in case of financial instruments also the fund of funds, and the bodies implementing the financial instruments (for example: via websites, direct mail, etc.).</p> <p>In February 2013, CCA organized training aimed at the topic „Application of state aid rules in EU funds, system of managing of Structural Funds and Cohesion Fund for programming period 2007 - 2013 and Act No 528/2008 Coll. on Aid and Support provided from EU funds in practice” for all managing authorities as well as for intermediate bodies under managing authorities. Lectures on state aid rules are organised by the deputy coordinator. On its web site, the coordinator publishes the relevant legislation of the European Union in the field of state aid, reference rates, discount and interest rates for state aid recovery, as well as guidelines of the EC. All documents are publicly accessible to the staff responsible for the application of state aid rules in the implementation and management of ESI Funds.</p> <p>At present, the MF SR is drafting a training strategy on new State aid rules adopted by the EC in connection with</p>

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						<p>modernisation of State aid system, which will enter into force on 1 July 2014. The strategy will involve training which should be broken down into six separate training blocks:</p> <p>Training Block I (the concept of aid, procedural aspects, block exemptions, de minimis aid, State aid for venture capital, transport and transport infrastructure) – following an agreement with the EC, the training will take place on 27 May 2014, involving the trainers from the EC</p> <p>Training Block II (new GBER, transparency, ex post evaluation of State aid)</p> <p>Training Block III (State aid for environmental protection and energy-related issues, State aid for research, development and innovation)</p> <p>Training Block IV (calculation of the aid element for various forms of aid, services in general economic interest)</p> <p>Training Block V (training for local government representatives)</p> <p>Training Block VI (based on the requirements and current needs of aid grantors)</p> <p>The participation of trainers from the EC at the relevant training courses, including the timetable of training courses, will be discussed at a meeting with DG Competition representatives to be held in Bratislava on 26 May 2014.</p>
			Arrangements to ensure administrative capacity for implementation and application of Union State aid rules.	No		<p>MAs were requested by state aid coordinator to submit results of analyses of assessment of sufficiency of administrative capacities in the field of state aid to the MF SR by the end of September 2013. The priorities contained in the programs for the 2014 – 2020 programming period served as the basis for the preparation of said analyses. Managing authorities were familiarised with the structure of the analyses in advance by the MF SR. The analyses were</p>

Ex-ante conditionality	Priority axes to which conditionality applies	Ex-ante conditionality fulfilled (yes/no/partially)	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (yes/no)	Reference (reference to strategies, legal act or other relevant documents, incl. relevant sections, articles or paragraphs, accompanied by web-links or access to full text)	Explanations
						<p>to focus, in particular, on the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the current number of employees, i.e., headcount and names of the employees of the Mas currently responsible for the implementation of EU state aid rules (employees that have these tasks also in their job descriptions) including information about their positions,</li> <li>- the potential for increasing the current number of staff, i.e., a proposal relating to the possible increase in the number of staff,</li> <li>- justification of the increase in the number of staff in relation to the effective application of state aid under EU funds.</li> </ul> <p>Almost all authorities expressed the need to increase their number of staff by at least one employee. The need for a total of 14 additional employees was identified.</p> <p>By letter of 12 May 2014, the MF SR requested to change the OP Technical Assistance in a way that the funds under this OP could be used, if necessary, to reinforce the administrative capacity of the MF SR as state aid coordinator. The Government Office of the SR as the MA for the OP Technical Assistance accepted the request and state aid will be incorporated in the Operational Programme in the next stage of its preparation (submitted to the Government of the SR for discussion on 14 May 2014).</p> <p>The quantification of the need to reinforce the administrative capacity of the state aid coordinator with respect to the implementation of the ex-ante conditionality "State aid" as well as the establishment of methodological centres required by the EC was laid down with DG Competition representatives.</p>
6.The existence of arrangements for the effective application of Union environmental legislation related to EIA and SEA.	PA 1: Sustainable use of natural resources through environmental infrastructure development	<b>Partially</b>	Arrangements for the effective application of Directive 2011/92/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council (EIA) and of Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament	<b>No</b>	<p>Act No 24/2006 Coll. on environmental impact assessment and on amendments to certain acts as amended</p> <p>The Act is published on the web page <a href="http://jaspi.justice.gov.sk">http://jaspi.justice.gov.sk</a></p> <p>Proposal for the Act changing and amending the</p>	<p>The infringement procedure was commenced for transposition deficit in relation to Directive No 2011/92/EU (EIA).by a letter dated on 21 March 2013</p> <p>The notice states the legislation affected by the need of full and proper transposition of the EIA Directive , including legislation with missing information on measures for transposition (law governing rights and duties of affected</p>

Ex-ante conditionality	Priority axes to which conditionality applies	Ex-ante conditionality fulfilled (yes/no/partially)	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (yes/no)	Reference (reference to strategies, legal act or other relevant documents, incl. relevant sections, articles or paragraphs, accompanied by web-links or access to full text)	Explanations
	<p>PA 2: Adaptation to the adverse effects of climate change with the focus on flood protection</p> <p>PA 3: Promoting risk management, emergency management and resilience to emergencies affected by climate change</p> <p>PA 4: Energy efficient, low-carbon economy in all sectors</p>		and of the Council (SEA);		<p>Act No 24/2006 Coll. on environmental impact assessment and on amendments to certain acts as amended</p> <p><a href="http://www.rokovania.sk/Rokovanie.aspx/BodRokovaniaDetail?idMaterial=23688">http://www.rokovania.sk/Rokovanie.aspx/BodRokovaniaDetail?idMaterial=23688</a></p>	<p>authorities, proponents and public, law regulating permitting procedures). The list of respective legal acts is included in the formal Commission's communication to the minister of foreign affairs of the SR.</p> <p>With respect to identified problems, coordination with other ministries is of key importance due to the linkage between the impact assessment process and permitting procedure, as well as access of the public to justice. These areas are covered by the legislation under the competences of other ministries, especially the MoTCRR SR (Construction law, Roads law), MoI SR (Administrative code), and the Ministry of Justice of the SR (Civil procedure code).</p> <p>On 12 July 2013, the SR sent the final response to the formal notice of the Commission. The Slovak Republic therein declares executing respective legislative amendments and methodological guidance in order to eliminate the transposition deficit at the latest before the obligation to transpose the currently prepared amendment of the EIA Directive, representing significant changes compared to the current EIA Directive wording.</p> <p>Preparation of respective legislative amendments at the level of the MoE SR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- on 5 December 2013 – technical consultations on the first draft of articulated wording of respective draft legislation with representatives of DG Environment took place,</li> <li>- from 17 January 2013 to 6 February 2014 - inter-ministerial commenting procedure on the draft proposal of the act changing and amending the Act No 24/2006 Coll. on environmental impact assessment and on amendments to certain acts as amended</li> </ul> <p>After the conclusion of inter-ministerial commenting procedure and contradiction procedures, two variants of the amended Act on environmental impact assessment were submitted to the Commission for comments.</p> <p>In June 2014 the draft bill was discussed in advisory bodies of the Government of the SR.</p> <p>The draft bill was adopted by the Government of the SR on 2</p>

Ex-ante conditionality	Priority axes to which conditionality applies	Ex-ante conditionality fulfilled (yes/no/partially)	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (yes/no)	Reference (reference to strategies, legal act or other relevant documents, incl. relevant sections, articles or paragraphs, accompanied by web-links or access to full text)	Explanations
						<p>July 2014 (Resolution No. 330/2014)  <a href="http://www.rokovania.sk/Rokovanie.aspx/BodRokovaniaDetail?idMaterial=23688">http://www.rokovania.sk/Rokovanie.aspx/BodRokovaniaDetail?idMaterial=23688</a>  <a href="http://www.rokovania.sk/File.aspx/ViewDocumentHtml/Uznesenie-14217?prefixFile=u_">http://www.rokovania.sk/File.aspx/ViewDocumentHtml/Uznesenie-14217?prefixFile=u_</a></p> <p>On 16 July 2014 the document was submitted to the National Council of the SR.</p> <p>With regard to the measures for the direct application of EIA Directive, coordination meeting was held on 7 May 2014, with the participation of representatives of the CCA, MoE SR and MoTCRR SR. Best practice in the field of the re-assessment and re-permitting of projects at the MoTCRR SR were taken into account when the proposals were formulated.</p> <p>The proposal was included into the Action Plan, while its application has to be coordinated at the CCA level, horizontally for all relevant OPs.</p>
			Arrangements for training and dissemination of information for staff involved in the implementation of the EIA and SEA Directives;	No	<p>Training and communication strategy for employees involved in implementing EIA and SEA Directives including draft measures for its realisation adopted at the 7th management meeting of the MoE SR held on 7 March 2013.</p> <p><a href="http://www.sazp.sk/public/index/go.php?id=81&amp;prm3=686">http://www.sazp.sk/public/index/go.php?id=81&amp;prm3=686</a></p>	<p>The strategy is aimed at providing professional trainings of employees participating in the EIA and SEA processes.</p> <p>Professional training of employees participating in the EIA and SEA processes is designed for employees of the MoE SR, MoEcon SR, MoTCRR SR, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the SR, Ministry of Health of the SR, Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the SR, MoI SR, Ministry of Defence of the SR, and Nuclear Regulatory Authority of the SR, municipalities and the expert public. Trainings will mainly consist of lectures, workshops, seminars and conferences. Due to the fact that the infringement procedure was commenced for transposition deficit in relation to Directive 2011/92/EU (EIA), update of the training strategy is necessary to reflect the need for methodological guidance in the “transitory” period and the relevant legislative amendments.</p> <p>Following activities according to the Strategy were realised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- on 24 October 2013 - workshop held in cooperation with the MoTCRR SR, focused on project changes,</li> <li>- regularly trainings of district authorities focused on state administration activities related to environmental impact assessments:</li> <li>- Prešov and Košice regions – on 29 October 2013,</li> </ul>

Ex-ante conditionality	Priority axes to which conditionality applies	Ex-ante conditionality fulfilled (yes/no/partially)	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (yes/no)	Reference (reference to strategies, legal act or other relevant documents, incl. relevant sections, articles or paragraphs, accompanied by web-links or access to full text)	Explanations
						<p>- Banská Bystrica, Žilina and Trenčín regions - on 6 November 2013,</p> <p>- Nitra, Trnava and Bratislava regions – on 13 November 2013.</p> <p>- on 3 December 2013 - final conference of e-MAT project "Developing management tools for environmental impact assessment in cross-border regions of Austria and Slovakia"  <a href="http://www.emat-sk-at.eu/index.php/sk/abgelaufene-veranstaltung-sk/110-zaverecna-konferencia-projektu-e-mat">http://www.emat-sk-at.eu/index.php/sk/abgelaufene-veranstaltung-sk/110-zaverecna-konferencia-projektu-e-mat</a></p> <p>- on 10-11 December 2013 - training of private and legal persons for the expertise in the field of environmental impact assessment</p> <p>- on 17 December 2013 - skills examination of the expertise of private and legal entities in the field of environmental impact assessment</p> <p>27.-28 May 2014 - International conference SEA/EIA 2014  <a href="http://www.enviroportal.sk/eia-sea-posudzovanie-vplyvov-na-zp/skolenia-pre-verjnostEIA">http://www.enviroportal.sk/eia-sea-posudzovanie-vplyvov-na-zp/skolenia-pre-verjnostEIA</a></p> <p>The environmental assessment department of the MoE SR already provides methodical guidance for on-going assessment procedures at the level of the ministry as well as at the level of other respective authorities.</p>
			Arrangements to ensure sufficient administrative capacity.	Yes	<p>Analysis of administrative capacity in the area of environmental impact assessment (implementation of EIA and SEA Directives), including a proposal for measures to ensure that the capacity is sufficient, was approved at the 3rd Men SR Council meeting held on 24 January 2013.</p>	<p>Conclusions of the Analysis show that the current status of administrative capacities in environmental impact assessment is sufficient.</p> <p>At present, there is no need to revise the relevant analysis or update it on the basis of comments raised in relation to the proposal of legislative changes in Act No 24/2006 Coll.</p> <p>Within the current legislation in force, as well as within the proposed amendment of the Act No 24/2006 Coll., the administrative capacities are ensured (and no need for new capacities has arisen). In relation to the on-going amendment of the Act on environmental impact assessment, the issue of administrative capacities was addressed within the clause of impacts on the public administration budget, which is part of the proposal of the legislative amendment. The need for</p>

Ex-ante conditionality	Priority axes to which conditionality applies	Ex-ante conditionality fulfilled (yes /no/partially)	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (yes/no)	Reference (reference to strategies, legal act or other relevant documents, incl. relevant sections, articles or paragraphs, accompanied by web-links or access to full text)	Explanations
						increase in administrative capacities in the field of environmental impact assessment was not identified, i.e. current state of administrative capacities can be considered as sufficient from the quantitative point of view. It will be necessary to improve the qualitative aspects and focus on the enforcement of the quality level of the administrative capacities (by the means of trainings, workshops etc.), which also applies capacities in areas influenced by the amendment of the Act on environmental impact assessment (Building Order, Atomic Act and Mining Act).
<p>7.Statistical systems and result indicators</p> <p>The existence of a statistical basis necessary to undertake evaluations to assess the effectiveness and impact of the programmes.</p> <p>The existence of a system of result indicators necessary to select actions, which most effectively contribute to desired results, to monitor progress towards results and to undertake impact evaluation.</p>	<p>PA 1: Sustainable use of natural resources through environmental infrastructure development</p> <p>PA 2: Adaptation to the adverse effects of climate change with the focus on flood protection</p> <p>PA 3: Promoting risk management, emergency management and resilience to emergencies affected by climate change</p> <p>PA 4: Energy efficient, low-carbon economy in all sectors</p>	Partially	<p>Arrangements for timely collection and aggregation of statistical data with the following elements are in place:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the identification of sources and mechanisms to ensure statistical validation;</li> <li>- arrangements for publication and public availability of aggregated data;</li> </ul>	Yes	<i>Setup of indicators and performance framework</i> (document prepared by MA for OP QE)	<p>All the information on this criteria, including measures to ensure timely collection and aggregation of statistical data needed for reliable and effective measurement of fulfilling the OP QE objectives/results, including definition of these data, their storage and publication, are summarised in a separate document "<i>Setup of indicators and performance framework</i>".</p> <p>Set of OP QE indicators, representing the main source of data for efficient monitoring of the progress of programme implementation and for evaluation of fulfilling the programme objectives, consists of programme indicators, as well as project indicators.</p> <p>Indicators at the project level include all the output indicators defined at the programme level. In line with the intervention logic, there is an obligatory project indicator (clearly assignable) for each type of activity. Therefore, it is possible to aggregate relevant data from all the supported operations at the programme level.</p> <p>All the information on achieved indicator's values will be stored electronically within central monitoring system – ITMS, that is secured against corruption and loss of data.</p> <p>With aim to make information on indicators and realised evaluation available to the public, these information will be published annually within the annual reporting or, in case of evaluations, immediately after their completion.</p>
			<p>An effective system of result indicators including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the selection of result indicators for each programme providing information on what motivates the selection</li> </ul>	No	<i>Setup of indicators and performance framework</i> (document prepared by MA for OP QE)	<p>Managing Authority has defined the set of result indicators of the OP QE in line with requirements and criteria set in art. 3 of Annex II to the General Regulation, Art. 4 of Commission Implementing Regulation (No. 215/2014), as well as in accordance with Guidance fiche on performance framework review and reserve in 2014-2020 (May 14, 2014).</p> <p>Information on the methodology of setup of result indicators, their base and target values, as well as all obligatory attributes</p>

Ex-ante conditionality	Priority axes to which conditionality applies	Ex-ante conditionality fulfilled (yes/no/partially)	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (yes/no)	Reference (reference to strategies, legal act or other relevant documents, incl. relevant sections, articles or paragraphs, accompanied by web-links or access to full text)	Explanations
	PA 5: Technical assistance		<p>of policy actions financed by the programme;</p> <p>- the establishment of targets for these indicators;</p> <p>- the consistency of each indicator with the following requisites: robustness and statistical validation, clarity of normative interpretation, responsiveness to policy, timely collection of data;</p>			<p>(definition, measurement unit, data source, reporting frequency) are summarized in a separate document “<i>Setup of indicators and performance framework</i>”.</p> <p>Baseline and target values have been provided for all the OP QE result indicators except for one indicator used under Priority Axis 5 Technical assistance titled “<i>Awareness rate of support opportunities from the OP</i>”, as the data necessary for identification of the baseline value and setting the target value of the result indicator were not available at the time of preparation of the OP QE.</p> <p>The abovementioned document demonstrates the fact, that the result indicators were defined in line with OP QE intervention logic so that they express the quantification of desired change in the given field (i.e. so that they have a clear connection to the support strategy and so that they express the substance of expected result related to the given specific objective) and, at the same time, they meet the basic SMART criteria (each indicator is sufficiently specific, clear, measurable, statistically valid, reliable, relevant, adequately resistant to the impact of external factors and in time). When setting the result indicators, the lessons learnt from programming period 2007-2013, Commission comments and ex ante evaluation results were also taken into account.</p>
			Procedures in place to ensure that all operations financed by the programme adopt an effective system of indicators.	Yes	<i>Setup of indicators and performance framework</i> (document prepared by MA for OP QE)	<p>Information on the methodology used to ensure timely collection of data necessary to evaluate the contribution of the operations to the specific objectives and to carry out impact evaluation are summarized in a separate document “<i>Setup of indicators and performance framework</i>”.</p> <p>The main source of data for the evaluations of the contribution of the operations to the specific objectives and for the impact evaluations is the set of OP QE indicators that consists of programme indicators and project indicators.</p> <p>Indicators at the project level include all the output indicators defined at the programme level. In line with the intervention logic, there is an obligatory project indicator (clearly assignable) for each type of activity. Therefore, it is possible to aggregate relevant data from all the supported operations at the programme level.</p> <p>The link of project indicators to the program level allows to set and monitor binding objectives to be achieved by the projects implementation in order to ensure achievement of the</p>

Ex-ante conditionality	Priority axes to which conditionality applies	Ex-ante conditionality fulfilled (yes/no/partially)	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (yes/no)	Reference (reference to strategies, legal act or other relevant documents, incl. relevant sections, articles or paragraphs, accompanied by web-links or access to full text)	Explanations
						<p>OP QE objectives.</p> <p>Moreover, complementary indicators (statistical data), which are not used to monitor the progress of project implementation and are not directly connected to the relevant objectives of the OP, but may demonstrate the contribution of operations to other objectives defined at the level of the Partnership Agreement (e.g. employment increase), were defined within the OP QE.</p> <p>Other important sources of data for the realization of abovementioned evaluations are administrative and statistical sources (statistical office, tax office, etc.) and targeted surveys. The described mechanism ensures reliable and efficient measurement and evaluation of the contribution of the operations to the OP QE objectives as well as the impact evaluation (contribution of the OP QE to the results set).</p>

## 9.2 Description of actions to fulfil ex-ante conditionalities, responsible bodies and timetable

Table 73: Actions to fulfil applicable general ex-ante conditionalities

General ex-ante conditionality	Criteria not fulfilled	Actions to be taken	Deadline (date)	Bodies responsible
1. Anti-discrimination The existence of administrative capacity for the implementation and application of Union anti-discrimination law and policy in the field of the ESI Funds.	Arrangements in accordance with the institutional and legal framework of Member States for the involvement of bodies responsible for the promotion of equal treatment of all persons throughout the preparation and implementation of programmes, including the provision of advice on equality in ESI fund-related activities.	<p><b>Ensuring the institutional and strategic framework</b></p> <p><b>Reinforcing the administrative capacity of the Department of Gender Equality and Equal Opportunities at the MLSAF SR.</b></p> <p><b>Increasing the administrative capacity of the Department of Gender Equality and Equal Opportunities at the MLSAF SR.</b></p> <p>Based on a proposal for the management and control system for the 2014 - 2020 programming period we observe that due to the cross-cutting nature of tasks delivered by the coordinator for HP non-discrimination, accessibility and equality between men and women coupled with the extended scope of its competence in the new programming period, administrative capacities of the current coordinator for HP equal opportunities (HP EO) must be reinforced. An institutional mechanism for HP coordination will be developed with the focus on methodology guidance, publicity, training and educational activities, evaluation and selection process, as well as monitoring and control. An independent entity for the coordination of horizontal principles will be set up, with 7 new job positions planned to be created, plus one assistant. All job positions within</p>	1 November 2014 - attaining the optimised number of administrative capacities by creating a department for implementation of horizontal principles of non-discrimination and equality between men and women consisting of 7 full-time employees plus 1 assistant. The initial deadline 31 August 2014 was extended because of the need to approved document concerning administrative capacities and preparing of project from OP TA.	MLSAF SR

General ex-ante conditionality	Criteria not fulfilled	Actions to be taken	Deadline (date)	Bodies responsible
		the entity will be refunded under the Technical Assistance. The created job positions will focus on methodological guidance, as well as analytical, strategic, legislative and educational activities related to the implementation of both horizontal priorities within the ESI Funds. The job descriptions will be oriented at activities related to the tasks of every entity of funds with a focus on the thematic cross-sectoral aspect of the horizontal principles.		
		<p><b>Engagement of the Slovak National Centre for Human Rights as amended as an "equality body".</b>  <i>(Commission observation: Meeting a requirement under Article 13 of Directive 2000/43/EC implementing the principle of equal treatment between persons irrespective of racial or ethnic origin. )</i></p> <p>Slovakia is aware of certain problems in the functioning of the Slovak National Centre for Human Rights (SNCHR) that have repeatedly been discussed by the Government council for human rights, national minorities and gender quality. To improve SNCHR performance, the following actions are planned and implemented:</p> <p>An amendment to Act No 308/1993 Coll. on the establishment of the Slovak National Centre for Human Rights. The legislative amendment was drafted by the MJ SR and has been subject to the first-round of review procedure. The amendment should ensure more effective functioning of the SNCHR in accordance with the so-called Paris principles, as well as its role as an "equality body". The amendment is expected to be discussed by the Government of the SR in 3.Q 2014.</p> <p>Engaging the SNCHR in the enforcement of Union anti-discrimination law and policy with respect to the ESI Funds. A SNCHR representative will be a member of the working group for HP EO which is currently responsible also for HP non-discrimination and equality between men and women for the new programming period and for the fulfilment of EAC. The SNCHR will be involved in evaluation, monitoring and provision of consultancy in the field of equal treatment for entities involved in the ESI Funds.</p>	<p>30 December 2014</p> <p>30 September 2014</p> <p>The DGEEO discussed the fulfilment of EAC with the SNCHR 27 April 2014.  A meeting of the working group for HP EO to extend its membership will be held at the MLSAF SR on 27 May 2014.</p>	
		<p><b>National action plan for the prevention and elimination of discrimination</b></p> <p>In November 2011, the Government of the SR undertook to prepare a <b>Nation-wide strategy on the protection and promotion of human rights in the SR</b>. Coordination of the preparation of the strategy and its submission to the Government for discussion is in the responsibility of a deputy prime minister and minister of foreign and European affairs who is also a chairman of the Government council for human rights, national minorities and gender equality. The aim of this government paper is to refine the system of national protection and promotion of human rights,</p>	<p>30 June 2015</p> <p>31 December 2014. The initial deadline 30 June 2014 was extended because of ongoing inter-ministerial comment procedure.</p>	

General ex-ante conditionality	Criteria not fulfilled	Actions to be taken	Deadline (date)	Bodies responsible
		<p>including identification of needs and requirements of vulnerable groups. The strategy is prepared using a participatory approach. In addition to government authorities, the broadest range of non-governmental organisations and other relevant representatives of civic society will also be involved in defining the content and priorities to be pursued by the strategy. <a href="http://www.radavladyp.gov.sk/po-rokovani-rady-vlady-pre-ludske-prava-narodnostne-mensiny-a-rodovu-rovnost/">http://www.radavladyp.gov.sk/po-rokovani-rady-vlady-pre-ludske-prava-narodnostne-mensiny-a-rodovu-rovnost/</a></p> <p>The strategy should define the need to prepare various action plans and concepts, including, <i>inter alia</i>, the task to adopt a <b>National action plan for the prevention and elimination of discrimination</b> with the aim to strengthen mechanisms to comply with the principle of equal treatment in accordance with the Antidiscrimination Act.</p>	Preparation of the NAP: 30 June 2015	
	Arrangements for training for staff of the authorities involved in the management and control of the ESI Funds in the fields of Union anti-discrimination law and policy.	<p><b>Elaboration of a strategy for training and dissemination of information for staff involved in the implementation of the funds</b> and the subsequent submission of a project under the OP TA to finance the training.</p> <p>Training and education activities (courses, seminars, training, and dissemination of information to the staff involved in the use of the funds; conferences, publications and promotional printed materials, publication of reports in the national and regional/local mass media, etc., will be carried out by the lead authority for the HP for the following target groups:</p> <p>The MA staff responsible for the preparation of the OP, contact persons for the HP EO responsible for the coordination of HP EO at the level of individual operational programmes, members of the HP EO Working Group, monitoring and evaluation managers, senior management, as well as project evaluators and the staff of bodies involved in the management and control of the ESI Funds in the field of EU antidiscrimination law and policy. The training will focus on the method of evaluation and the implementation, monitoring and control process.</p> <p>Training will be provided by the DGEE in cooperation with SNCHR lecturers and representatives of civic society. <a href="http://www.radavladyp.gov.sk/po-rokovani-rady-vlady-pre-ludske-prava-narodnostne-mensiny-a-rodovu-rovnost/">http://www.radavladyp.gov.sk/po-rokovani-rady-vlady-pre-ludske-prava-narodnostne-mensiny-a-rodovu-rovnost/</a></p>	<p>31 December 2014 Initial deadline 30 June 2014 was extended because of ongoing inter-ministerial comment procedure.</p> <p>Delivery of training activities for MA's initial training: 30 June 2015.</p> <p>Training activities will continue throughout the entire programming period and will focus on specific needs of a relevant MA.</p>	
2. Gender The existence of administrative capacity for the implementation and application of Union gender equality law and policy in the field of the ESI Funds.	Arrangements in accordance with the institutional and legal framework of Member States for the involvement of bodies responsible for gender equality throughout the preparation and implementation of programmes, including the provision of advice on gender equality in ESI Fund-related activities.	<p><b>Ensuring the institutional and strategic framework</b></p> <p><b>Reinforcing the administrative capacity of the Department of Gender Equality and Equal Opportunities at the MLSAF SR.</b></p> <p>Based on a proposal for the management and control system for the 2014 - 2020 programming period we observe that due to the cross-cutting nature of tasks delivered by the coordinator for HP non-discrimination, accessibility and equality between men and women coupled with the extended scope of its competence in the new programming period,</p>	1 November 2014 - attaining the optimised number of administrative capacities by creating a department for implementation of horizontal principles of non-discrimination and equality between men and women consisting of 7 full-time employees plus 1 assistant. The initial deadline 31 August 2014 was extended because of the need to approved	MLSAF SR

General ex-ante conditionality	Criteria not fulfilled	Actions to be taken	Deadline (date)	Bodies responsible
		<p>administrative capacities of the current coordinator for HP equal opportunities must be reinforced. An institutional mechanism for HP coordination will be developed with the focus on methodology guidance, publicity, training and educational activities, evaluation and selection process, as well as monitoring and control. An independent entity for the coordination of horizontal principles will be set up, with 7 new job positions planned to be created, plus one assistant. All job positions within the entity will be refunded under the Technical Assistance. The created job positions will focus on methodological guidance, as well as analytical, strategic, legislative and educational activities related to the implementation of both horizontal priorities within the ESI Funds. The job descriptions will be oriented at activities related to the tasks of every entity of funds with a focus on the thematic cross-sectoral aspect of the horizontal principles.</p>	document concerning administrative capacities and preparing of project from OP TA.	
		<p><b>The National Gender Equality Strategy for 2014 – 2020</b></p> <p>The DGEEO is currently evaluating the fulfilment of the existing National Gender Equality Strategy for 2009 - 2013 and related NAP. Based on the tasks evaluated and in response to the need to define new activities, a new gender equality strategy and, as a follow-up, a relevant action plan, will be drafted in cooperation with civic society representatives involved in the Committee for gender equality. Both documents will highlight the need for synergies between their tasks and ESI Funds programmes, especially with respect to the OP Human Resources; concrete activities of the OP HR will be reflected in the strategy and, subsequently, in the action plan.</p>	30 November 2014	
		<p><b>Nation-wide strategy on the protection and promotion of human rights in the SR</b></p> <p>In November 2011, the Government of the SR undertook to prepare a <b>Nation-wide strategy on the protection and promotion of human rights in the SR</b>. Coordination of the preparation of the strategy and its submission to the Government of the SR for discussion is in the responsibility of a deputy prime minister and minister of foreign and European affairs of the SR who is also a chairman of the Government council for human rights, national minorities and gender equality. The aim of this government paper is to refine the system of national protection and promotion of human rights, including identification of needs and requirements of vulnerable groups. The strategy is prepared using a participatory approach. In addition to government authorities, the broadest range of non-governmental organisations and other relevant representatives of civic society will also be involved in defining the content and priorities to be pursued by the strategy.</p> <p>The strategy contains, <i>inter alia</i>, a <b>chapter on gender equality and women's rights</b>. The chapter defines the basic needs for the fulfilment of recommendations made by the Commission on the Status of Women</p>	31 December 2014. The initial deadline 30 June 2014 was because of the ongoing inter-ministerial comment procedure.	

General ex-ante conditionality	Criteria not fulfilled	Actions to be taken	Deadline (date)	Bodies responsible
		responsible for the monitoring of compliance with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) in such fields as institutional and strategic arrangements, civil and political rights, economic and social rights and dignity and bodily integrity of women. <a href="http://www.radavladyp.gov.sk/po-rokovani-rady-vlady-pre-ludske-prava-narodnostne-mensiny-a-rodovu-rovnost/">http://www.radavladyp.gov.sk/po-rokovani-rady-vlady-pre-ludske-prava-narodnostne-mensiny-a-rodovu-rovnost/</a>		
	Arrangements for training for staff of the authorities involved in the management and control of the ESI Funds in the fields of Union gender equality law and policy as well as on gender mainstreaming.	<p><b>Elaboration of a strategy for training and dissemination of information for staff involved in the implementation of the funds and the subsequent submission of a project under the OP TA to finance the training.</b></p> <p>Training and education activities (courses, seminars, training, and dissemination of information to the staff involved in the use of the funds; conferences, publications and promotional printed materials, publication of reports in the national and regional/local mass media, etc., will be carried out by the lead authority for the HP for the following target groups:</p> <p>The MA staff responsible for the preparation of the OP, contact persons for the HP EO responsible for the coordination of HP EO at the level of the individual operational programmes, members of the HP EO Working Group, monitoring and evaluation managers, senior management, as well as project evaluators and the staff of bodies involved in the management and control of the ESI Funds in the field of EU gender equality and "gender mainstreaming" law and policy. The training will focus on the method of evaluation and the implementation, monitoring and control process.</p> <p>Training will be provided by the DGEEO in cooperation with SNCHR lecturers and representatives of civic society.</p> <p>Trainings on gender equality in public administration and e-learning training on gender equality were accredited by the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the SR, under supervision of the DGEEO. Trainings are already provided for various public administration bodies and are available for the management of ESI funds.</p> <p><a href="http://www.instituttr.sk/elearning/">http://www.instituttr.sk/elearning/</a>  <a href="http://isdv.fri.uniza.sk/CourseDetail.aspx?moduleId=26750">http://isdv.fri.uniza.sk/CourseDetail.aspx?moduleId=26750</a>  <a href="http://isdv.fri.uniza.sk/CourseDetail.aspx?moduleId=26746">http://isdv.fri.uniza.sk/CourseDetail.aspx?moduleId=26746</a></p>	<p>1 November 2014 (initial deadline 30 June 2014 was extended because of the submission of application for increased financial sources from OP TA. The application was submitted to the MA for the OP TA on 19 June 2014. The project was prepared, however it can only be submitted following the approval for the increased allocation from OP TA. The training strategy will be part of the project )</p> <p>30 June 2015</p>	MLSAF SR
3. Disability The existence of administrative capacity for the implementation and application of the United Nations Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities (UNCPRD) in the field of the ESI	Arrangements in accordance with the institutional and legal framework of Member States for the consultation and involvement of bodies in charge of protection of rights of persons with disabilities or representative organisations of	<p><b>Reinforcing administrative capacities of the bodies responsible for the implementation of the UN convention</b></p> <p>Based on a proposal for the management and control system for the 2014 - 2020 programming period we observe that due to the cross-cutting nature of tasks delivered by the coordinator for HP non-discrimination, accessibility and equality between men and women coupled with the</p>	1 November 2014 - attaining the optimised number of administrative capacities by creating a department for implementation of horizontal principles of non-discrimination and equality between men and women consisting of 7 full-time employees	MLSAF SR

General ex-ante conditionality	Criteria not fulfilled	Actions to be taken	Deadline (date)	Bodies responsible
Funds in accordance with Council Decision 2010/48/EC.	persons with disabilities and other relevant stakeholders throughout the preparation and implementation of programmes.	<p>extended scope of its competence, administrative capacities of the current coordinator for HP EO, which was reflected in the foregoing EACs.</p> <p>The need to reinforce administrative capacities at the Department for the Integration of Persons with Disabilities is directly driven by the HPs which, as part of non-discrimination efforts, pay due attention to accessibility that has to be taken into consideration at the project level, as well.</p> <p><i>Other activities to fulfil the EAC:</i> Slovakia is currently working on a <b>Nation-wide strategy on the protection and promotion of human rights in the SR</b> which should also define the tasks in the field of guaranteeing the rights of people with disabilities.</p>	<p>plus 1 assistant. The initial deadline 31 August 2014 was extended because of the need to approved document concerning administrative capacities and preparing of project from OP TA.</p> <p>31 December 2014. The initial deadline 30 June 2014 was extended as the HR strategy has not been approved by the respective Governmental Council. The strategy will be re-submitted after the conclusion of contradiction procedures.</p>	
	Arrangements for training for staff of the authorities involved in the management and control of the ESI Funds in the fields of applicable Union and national disability law and policy, including accessibility and the practical application of the UNCRPD as reflected in Union and national legislation, as appropriate.	<p>Elaboration of a strategy for training and dissemination of information for staff involved in the implementation of the funds and the subsequent submission of a project under the OP TA to finance the training. The training will focus on the method of evaluation and the implementation, monitoring and control process.</p> <p>Training and education activities (courses, seminars, training, and dissemination of information to the staff involved in the use of the funds; conferences, publications and promotional printed materials, publication of reports in the national and regional/local mass media, etc., will be carried out by the lead authority for the HP for the following target groups:</p> <p>The MA staff responsible for the preparation of the OP, contact persons for the HP EO responsible for the coordination of HP EO at the level of the individual operational programmes, members of the HP EO Working Group, monitoring and evaluation managers, senior management, as well as project evaluators and the staff of bodies involved in the management and control of the ESI Funds in the field of EU law and policy on people with disabilities and application of the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities. The training will focus on the method of evaluation and the implementation, monitoring and control process.</p> <p>Training will be provided by the HP EO coordinator in close cooperation with employees responsible for the performance of tasks of a main contact point for the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which is the MLSAF SR, as well as with civic society experts.</p>	<p>1 November 2014 (initial deadline 30 June 2014 was extended because of the submission of application for increased financial sources from OP TA. The application was submitted to the MA for the OP TA on 19 June 2014. The project was prepared, however it can only be submitted following the approval for the increased allocation from OP TA. The training strategy will be part of the project )</p> <p>30 June 2015</p>	

General ex-ante conditionality	Criteria not fulfilled	Actions to be taken	Deadline (date)	Bodies responsible
	Arrangements to ensure monitoring of the implementation of Article 9 of the UNCRPD in relation to the ESI Funds throughout the preparation and the implementation of the programmes.	<p>The process of monitoring the fulfilment of horizontal principles will be monitored at the project level by means of monitoring reports that will include a separate document containing information about horizontal principles (i.e. description of the activities carried out, their outcomes and assessment of how they contributed to the achievement of the set objectives of horizontal principles), as well as on-the-spot controls of the implementation of projects and, subsequently, evaluation of their contribution to the objectives of horizontal principles. This separate document containing information on the application of the horizontal principles will form a basis for the process of assessment of the contribution of ESI Funds to the objectives identified in the national strategic document. A review of the level of achievement of the objectives set down in the national strategy document, including proposals for corrective measures and recommendations for achieving them, will be submitted annually to the Government.</p> <p>The indicators concerning the people with disabilities (assessment grid) will be part of the monitoring report – annex to the HP.</p>	<p>31 October 2014</p> <p>30 June 2014 - incorporating Article 9 of the UN Convention in all OPs</p> <p>31 December 2014 – preparation of document on implementation system including monitoring of horizontal principles</p> <p>30 April 2015 – following incorporation in the OP managing documents, application process with respect to evaluation, monitoring and control, preparation of the assessment grid.</p>	
4.Public procurement The existence of arrangements for the effective application of Union public procurement law in the field of the ESI Funds.	Arrangements for the effective application of Union public procurement rules through appropriate mechanisms.	<p>In the area of legislation, all applicable EU directives on public procurement (PP) have been transposed into the currently valid and applicable Act No 25/2006 Coll. on public procurement and on amendments to certain acts as amended (hereinafter as the “Public Procurement Act”). New public procurement legislation, which will transpose newly adopted EU directives into the Slovak legal system, will be adopted within a deadline specified under a new directive.</p> <p>Electronic public procurement: End-to-end e-procurement as a means for modernisation of public administration is among the priorities of the SR. In accordance with Directives 2014/23/EU, 2014/24/EU and 2014/25/EU, the following will have to be adopted and ensured: a) direct and unrestricted access to procurement documents by electronic means; b) submission of tenders by electronic means; c) strengthening the role of e-Certis; d) electronic form (PAS) for tenderers and candidates to provide a proof of compliance with selection criteria; e) electronic catalogues as a form of electronic tender; f) dynamic purchasing system recast and refined into an electronic system.</p> <p>A central purchasing body is required to implement an end-to-end e-procurement system within 36 months of entry into force of said directives, that is, by 18 April 2017. Other bodies are required to implement an end-to-end e-procurement system within 54 months of entry into force of said directives.</p> <p>The PPO currently operates an electronic public procurement system called EVO. The system will be upgraded to meet the new requirements set out in EU directives in order to simplify electronic public procurement procedures</p>	<p>18 April 2016</p> <p>Deadline: Within time limits set in EP and Council Directives 2014/23/EU, 2014/24/EU, 2014/25/EU</p>	<p>Public Procurement Office (PPO)</p> <p>Responsible: PPO in cooperation with OP EPA</p>

General ex-ante conditionality	Criteria not fulfilled	Actions to be taken	Deadline (date)	Bodies responsible
		<p>and increase their effectiveness.</p> <p>Slovak authorities will prepare a national strategy for the timely and efficient transition to end-to-end e-procurement, as called for in section 5.3 of the Commission Communication "End-to-end e-procurement to modernise public administration" (COM(2013)453 final). The strategy will set out the specific objectives to be achieved, the process to be followed, the milestones, and any necessary indicators. Adequate assistance from the Structural Funds will be made for the implementation of this strategy, in particular for the development or improvement of end-to-end e-procurement infrastructure, the strengthening of administrative capacity, training, and awareness-raising. The strategy will ensure that the most efficient and cost-effective approach to the implementation of mandatory e-procurement in Slovakia is undertaken, and that duplication at national/regional level is avoided, as it may result in interoperability problems. The overall objective should be an improved, simpler, and more efficient public procurement system.</p> <p>The general measures to address deficiencies identified during controls will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- increased support from the PPO for organisations conducting public procurement control by means of a cooperation agreement Under the cooperation agreement, the MAs will be entitled to ask the PPO to               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) provide an ex-ante assessment of documentation for planned public procurement;</li> <li>b) provide personal consultations on a partial issue in public procurement;</li> <li>c) prepare an opinion on the compliance of partial issues in public procurement with the Act on Public Procurement prior to the signing of a contract;</li> <li>d) perform a public procurement control;</li> <li>e) to cooperate in assessing EC audit findings concerning public procurement.</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Introduction of a risk analysis in the conduct of PP control by the MA, which identifies contract risks in terms of the necessary cooperation with the PPO, namely by performing control in a manner set out under §146(4) of the Act on Public Procurement, while targeting PPO's expert support in risk-carrying public procurements will ensure an increased supervision of contracts with the potentially highest error rate. At the same time, it will eliminate a disproportionate workload of the PPO with respect to requests for control of public procurements that do not represent an increased risk in terms of their complexity or error rate and will help avoid disproportionate prolongation of controls. The analysis itself will include a set of data to be assessed (e.g., estimated contract value, procurement procedure, existence of review procedures, scope of participation criteria, etc.); each data item will have a certain value representing the level of risk (e.g., an open</li> </ul>	<p>30 November 2014</p> <p>30 November 2014</p>	<p>CCA in cooperation with PPO</p> <p>CCA in cooperation with PPO</p>

General ex-ante conditionality	Criteria not fulfilled	Actions to be taken	Deadline (date)	Bodies responsible
		<p>procedure will be given a zero risk value, while a negotiated procedure will have a 15-point risk value). A summary value of all these partial items will represent a total risk value of a contract; based on this total value compared against an evaluation key, a MA will be entitled, not entitled or required to request the PPO to perform control over the public procurement in question.</p> <p>- Preparation of model documents used in the public procurement process (e.g. tender documents, drafts of notifications used in PP processes) and their publication and making available to aid beneficiaries. The measure is intended to reduce error rates in public procurement by contracting authorities or contracting entities and to enhance their transparency. As a follow-up to a new Act on Public Procurement to be adopted, model tender documents and notices to be used in public procurement will be prepared.</p> <p>- At the level of the management system, checklists for MA control will be prepared, taking into consideration specific aspect of different types of public procurement procedures (open procedures, restricted procedure, negotiate procedure, etc.) and most frequent errors in PP processed identified in the previous period of 2007 - 2013.</p> <p>- Preparation of uniform rules and requirements for PP and requirement for PP documentation. With respect to the application of the Act on Public Procurement, the PPO will provide for a transparent, consistent and foreseeable procurement framework through uniform methodological interpretations and uniform decision-making within control and review procedures. Under binding procedures defined in methodology and managing documents at the level of management system, to be followed by the MAs in the performance of controls as well as by beneficiaries in conducting public procurement and subsequent submission of documentation, procedures and preparation of uniform rules will be aligned (e.g., uniform control outputs, uniform requirements for beneficiaries concerning the scope of required documentation, uniform requirements on the level of publication of contract with a very low value, etc.).</p> <p>- Introduction of compulsory ex ante control of documentation by the MAs (review of drafts of tender documents and tender notices prior to publication) and control of public procurement prior to the signing of a contract with a successful tenderer. This type of control is designed to prevent and eliminate errors and deficiencies in draft documents for public procurement, thus reducing a risk of violation of the Act on Public Procurement. A MA will also cooperate with the PPO in this type of control.</p>	<p>Deadline: 31 August 2016</p> <p>Deadline: 30 November 2014</p> <p>Deadline: 30 June 2015</p> <p>Deadline: 30 November 2014</p>	<p>PPO</p> <p>CCA in cooperation with PPO</p> <p>PPO and CCA</p> <p>CCA in cooperation with PPO</p>

General ex-ante conditionality	Criteria not fulfilled	Actions to be taken	Deadline (date)	Bodies responsible
		<p>- Introduction of cooperation with the Antimonopoly Office in order to enhance competition protection by introducing cooperation of this entity with MA under the cooperation agreement. If risk factors, "red flags", are identified, the MAs will be required to ask the AMO for cooperation in the form of consultations or submission of a complaint. Another area of cooperation covers the preparation of a general methodology for the PP control system and training activities for employees performing controls. The AMO is responsible for competition protection in accordance with Council Regulation (EC) 1/2003 of 16 December 2002 on the implementation of the rules on competition laid down in Articles 81 and 82 of the Treaty.</p> <p>- Introduction of price maps, benchmarks and limits to assess cost-effectiveness. At the level of the management system, an obligation will be introduced for MAs to consider a maximum amount of a non-repayable contribution sought, taking into account the system of price maps, benchmarks and limits for the most frequent and/or most relevant types of expenditure. The control of public procurement and/or of its outcome will subsequently verify whether these limits were observed. At the same time, a methodology procedure will be defined to set up these indicators in order to ensure they are set in a uniform and transparent manner.</p> <p>- Conflict of interests: Within the meaning and for the purposes of the Act on Public Procurement, conflicts of interests can only be resolved at a vertical level, i.e., at the level of conflict between the interests of a contracting authority/contracting entity/person referred to in §7 and tenderer/candidate. Where impartial and objective performance of public procurement is at risk or disrupted, which may lead to distortions in competition or which may prejudice the principle of equal treatment of all tenderers/candidate, directly or indirectly, due to conflicting family or emotional ties, economic, political or professional interest or any other personal interests (conflict of interest), such conduct is in conflict with the fundamental principles of public procurement under §9(3) of the Act on Public Procurement. - This issue will be addressed at the legislative and system level. At the legislative level, Slovakia will fully transpose the provisions on the conflict of interests based on the new EU public procurement directive. At the level of the PP management and control system, procedures for administrative control by the MA will be defined to identify conflicts of interest and further assess and address them.</p> <p>- Insufficient competition - only one tender submitted: The deficiency was addressed at the legislative and system level. At the legislative level, an amendment to the Act on Public Procurement enabled the contracting authority to cancel the award procedure in cases where only one or two tenders have been received. At the systemic level, this issue was addressed</p>	<p>Deadline: 30 November 2014</p> <p>Deadline: 30 November 2014</p> <p>18 April 2016</p> <p>Deadline: 30 November 2014 Measures – low number of offers will be subject to risk analysis (the one offering will be obligated to submit the PP to the PPO), which introduced</p>	<p>CCA in cooperation with AMO</p> <p>CCA</p> <p>CCA in cooperation with PPO</p> <p>CCA in cooperation with PPO and AMO</p>

General ex-ante conditionality	Criteria not fulfilled	Actions to be taken	Deadline (date)	Bodies responsible
		<p>by modifying the system of management, where the MA is required to request that the PPO oversee the whole PP process if it identifies PP in which only one tender has been received. This obligation will also be transferred into a new management and control system. At the same time, competition protection will be strengthened through cooperation controlling bodies with the Antimonopoly Office.</p> <p>- Discriminatory tendering conditions: Elimination and/or identification of discriminatory tendering conditions are covered by several of the aforementioned measures, such as cooperation with the PPO, ex-ante assessment of tender notices and documentation prior to publication, as well as measures referred to in the part concerning training of employees and use of technical assistance to introduce and apply EU public procurement rules (e.g., employee training, beneficiary training, publication and information about identified deficiencies).</p> <p>- Evaluation of the effectiveness of measures under criteria 1-4</p>	<p>compulsory management system and which is currently the subject of ongoing inter-ministerial comment procedure and the second measure – cooperation with AMO – see measure Introduction of cooperation with AMO.</p> <p>The initial deadline was extended because of the large number of comments on the ESI Funds control and management system, as well as the need of serious discussion to the proposal with all stakeholders.</p> <p>Deadline: 30 June 2015</p>	<p>Responsible: depending on a specific measure contained in this Action plan</p>
	Arrangements which ensure transparent contract award procedures.	<p>The area of contract awarding not subject to the relevant EU directives on PP (below-threshold contracts) is covered by the PP Act itself in Slovak legislation. This provides for the obligation to proceed according to this Act in the procurement of works, goods and services for contracting authorities, contracting entities and individuals who are beneficiaries of grants. The procedures for these contracts are based on the basic principles of public procurement referred to in the relevant EU directives, thus ensuring transparent public procurement procedures even for contracts not falling under EU directives on public procurement. The public procurement procedures for this type of contracts will be covered by the same measures as specified, under criterion 1.</p>	<p>Deadline: 30 June 2015</p>	<p>Responsible: depending on the type of measure referred to under criterion 1</p>
	Arrangements for training and dissemination of information for staff involved in the implementation of the ESI Funds.	<p>Providing training by the CCA relating to procedures of administrative control of public procurement in the context of the management system, presentation of the most common deficiencies identified in public procurement controls.</p> <p>The CCA already provides training for MA/IBMA relating to procedures of administrative control of public procurement in the context of the management system, presentation of the most common deficiencies identified in public procurement controls, and interpretation of CCA methodology concerning public procurement. 179 employees received this training in 2013. In 2014 - 2015, the CCA also plans to organise and provide training focused on these issues; the basic module for the training of all employees is planned to be completed by 30 June 2015.</p> <p>Introduction of a uniform employee training system under the ESI Funds control and management system. The MA will be required to provide regular training and seminars for all staff involved in the implementation of the funds, while making participation in this training compulsory for this</p>	<p>Deadline: 30 June 2015</p> <p>Deadline: 30 September 2014 Currently is the Analyse of education in the process of being developed by the CCA for the programing period</p>	<p>CCA in cooperation with a relevant organisational unit of the Government Office of the SR</p> <p>CCA in cooperation with a relevant organisational unit of the Government Office of the SR</p>

General ex-ante conditionality	Criteria not fulfilled	Actions to be taken	Deadline (date)	Bodies responsible
		<p>staff. The training system will be setup with the focus on ensuring targeted training for a particular group of employees (e.g. PP controllers). Said training will involve seminars provided the CCA, PPO, as well as those organised by the Antimonopoly Office on competition protection.</p> <p>The existing forms of dissemination of information about deficiencies identified by PP controls will also be used in the 2014 - 2020 programming period, with an emphasis put on their enhanced information value.</p> <p>A proposal has also been made to establish a Coordinating Committee For Cooperation In Public Procurement This committee of experts, primarily from the CCA, PPO, CA, AA, RAs, will ensure a joint approach to the application of public procurement rules (cooperating in issuing methodology interpretations, instructions and guidelines adjusted to the needs of EU funds implementation). A clear advantage of constituting this body will be the instant identification of any serious misconduct (system-level irregularities) in MA/IBMA procedures in PP control and effective opportunities to take appropriate corrective measures to eliminate them. A uniform approach followed by all bodies and formulation of a joint statement will indirectly increase pressure for timely identification of errors in public procurement by bodies performing public procurement (this joint approach will ensure a faster and more effective response to identified errors).</p>	<p>2007 -2020 and comprehensive proposal for training in the new programming period 2014 – 2020, which will be completed on 31. October 2014.</p> <p>The overall plan of the central systematic training will be based on analysis so the date is postponed on 31. January 2015 regarding the consequent need for the implementation of public procurement for educational companies in certain areas.</p> <p>Deadline: 30 June 2015</p> <p>Deadline: 30 September 2014</p> <p>The establishment of the Coordinating Committee is also envisaged in the ESI Funds control and management system which is currently the subject of ongoing inter-ministerial comment procedure.</p> <p>Due to the large number of comments on the ESI Funds control and management system as well as the need of serious discussion of the proposals with all stakeholders, the initial deadline was extended to 30. November 2014.</p>	<p>CCA, PPO, MAs</p> <p>CCA</p>
	Arrangements to ensure administrative capacity for implementation and application of Union public procurement rules.	<p>In order to intensify cooperation between government agencies participating in PP and competition control, this cooperation will be reinforced between the PPO and the Antimonopoly Office and at the level of ensuring administrative capacity for these bodies through technical assistance.</p> <p>In the course of 2014, the increased demands for cooperation and control activities of the PPO will necessitate an increase in personnel capacity by around 25 employees, who will be recruited gradually depending on the amount of activities required by the CCA and MA.</p> <p>For the purposes of more effective management of this cooperation and more consistent application of EU public procurement rules in the activities related to the implementation of EU funds, these agendas were entrusted to</p>	Deadline: 30 June 2015	Reinforcing administrative capacities: OP TA. Consultancy on the application of EU public procurement rules: PPO

General ex-ante conditionality	Criteria not fulfilled	Actions to be taken	Deadline (date)	Bodies responsible
		<p>a dedicated PPO deputy chairman.</p> <p>Using technical assistance within cooperation with the PPO to refund wage costs of employees delivering support activities for MAs, IBMAs, AA and CA under the cooperation agreement.</p> <p>Using technical assistance within cooperation with the PPO to refund costs of expert appraisals and expert opinions that will be necessary for delivering support activities for MAs, IBMAs, AA and CA under the cooperation agreement.</p> <p>Technical assistance for cooperation with the Antimonopoly Office of the SR.</p> <p>Methodology guidance provided by the PPO to parties involved in public procurement and publication of guidelines in a publicly accessible place - PPO's web site.</p> <p>Technical assistance for training of beneficiaries</p> <p>Training will focus on beneficiaries/applicants and will be designed, for example, to present the applicable control system, to highlight contractual requirements and obligations concerning the performance of PP control and submission of documentation for control, to inform beneficiaries of most frequent deficiencies identified by PP controls while presenting examples of best practice. Training should primarily be delivered by individual MAs so that its content and focus respond to the specific aspects of a given operational programme (e.g., customary subject matters of procurement).</p>	<p>Deadline: 30 June 2015</p> <p>Deadline: 30 June 2015</p> <p>Deadline: 30 June 2015</p> <p>Deadline: 30 June 2015</p>	<p>OP TA in cooperation with CCA and PPO</p> <p>OP TA in cooperation with CCA and AMO</p> <p>PPO</p> <p>OP TA and individual MAs within their TA</p>
5. State aid The existence of arrangements for the effective application of Union State aid rules in the field of the ESI Funds.	Arrangements for the effective application of Union State aid rules.	<p>An amendment to Act No 231/1999 Coll. on State aid as amended, intended to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- strengthen the role of a State aid coordinator to make its statements and positions binding and to require each State aid provider to submit, prior to granting State aid, an application for State aid to the State aid coordinator (under Government Resolution No 156 of 9 April 2014, statements and position issued by the State aid coordinators are already binding for all MAs and IBMAs);</li> <li>- set up a legislative framework for the establishment of a central IT register for State aid which should cover individual aid and aid subject to general block exemption;</li> <li>- establish a central IT register for State aid having the scope and structure to be defined by a new GBER, due to come into force on 1 July 2014, and relevant Commission guidelines.</li> </ul>	<p>31 July 2015</p> <p>31 July 2015</p> <p>31 December 2015</p>	MF SR

General ex-ante conditionality	Criteria not fulfilled	Actions to be taken	Deadline (date)	Bodies responsible
	Arrangements to ensure administrative capacity for implementation and application of Union State aid rules.	Reinforcing administrative capacity of the State aid coordinator by 10 to 15 job positions (an increase of 100-150 %).  The State aid coordinator unit will also fulfil the role a knowledge centre to provide necessary guidance on State aid.	31 December 2014	
6.The existence of arrangements for the effective application of Union environmental legislation related to EIA and SEA.	Arrangements for the effective application of Directive 2011/92/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council (EIA) and of Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council (SEA);	Draft act supplementing act No. 24/2006  - Approval by the National Council of the SR - Planned effective date of the legislative amendment  Checking material, technical and personal resources for implementing supplementing act 30 June 2015.	30 November 2014 1 December 2014	MEn SR in cooperation with Central Coordination Body and central bodies of public administration
		Methodological guidance for competent authorities regarding the impact assessment in the "transition" period (until the amended legislative is adopted and becomes effective): - written form to respective state administrative bodies acting in the field of environmental impact assessment specifying proper use of selection criteria for the screening procedure (Annex III of the EIA directive, reflected within Annex 10 of the EIA Act), - written form to respective state administrative bodies acting in the field of environmental impact assessment specifying sound procedure for rationalisation of decisions based on screening procedure by providing information on how the standpoints of bodies and municipalities concerned were taken into account, - written form to the permission authority on how to publish the information on launching the permitting procedure, including the right on access to the complete permission request. Methodological guidance will be released on <a href="http://www.enviroportal.sk">www.enviroportal.sk</a> .  Note: MoE SR already provides for methodological guidance, particularly in form of trainings, i.e. continuously for ongoing assessment processes both at its own level, as well as at the level of respective authorities	30 September 2014	
		Adoption of a measure to support the application of the EIA Directive: Within an application procedure - in the case of applications for which a final assessment document was issued before the effective date of the amendment to the Act on Environmental Impact Assessment, compliance of the submitted project with the subject-matter of assessment will be examined. In cases where changes in the project occurred, re-assessment will be performed and, if necessary, re-permitting, as well. Measure related to the verification of compliance of the submitted project with the scope of assessment will be set out in the document "Management and control system of ESI funds for the programming period 2014-2020".	31 December 2014	
	Arrangements for training and dissemination of information for	Delivery of trainings reflecting the legislative amendments.	31 December 2014	MEn SR in cooperation with Central Coordination Body and

General ex-ante conditionality	Criteria not fulfilled	Actions to be taken	Deadline (date)	Bodies responsible
	staff involved in the implementation of the EIA and SEA Directives;			central bodies of public administration
<p>7. Statistical systems and result indicators</p> <p>The existence of a statistical basis necessary to undertake evaluations to assess the effectiveness and impact of the programmes.</p> <p>The existence of a system of result indicators necessary to select actions, which most effectively contribute to desired results, to monitor progress towards results and to undertake impact evaluation.</p>	<p>An effective system of result indicators including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the establishment of targets for these indicators;</li> </ul>	<p>Determination of the baseline and target values of the result indicator titled „Awareness rate of support opportunities from the OP “</p> <p>Baseline and target value of the indicator will be determined on the basis of public opinion survey, which will be carried out under the specific action plan provided for this indicator and which consists of the following activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- developing methodology for sampling, collection, processing and evaluation of data for 2014 or 2015, depending on the date of realization of the public opinion survey;</li> <li>- public opinion survey conducted in 2014 or 2015, depending on the date of realization of the public opinion survey;</li> <li>- synthesis of the data collected through the public opinion survey with identifying baseline value and setting target value of the indicator;</li> <li>- report to the Commission through the OP QE annual implementation report in 2016 in accordance with Article 50 CPR.</li> </ul>	31 May 2016	MA for the OP QE (MEn SR)

**Table 74: Actions to fulfil applicable thematic ex-ante conditionalities**

Thematic ex-ante conditionality	Criteria not fulfilled	Actions to be taken	Deadline (date)	Bodies responsible
5.1. Risk prevention and risk management: the existence of national or regional risk assessments for disaster management, taking into account climate change adaptation	a description of the process, methodology, methods, and non-sensitive data used for risk assessment as well as of the risk-based criteria for the prioritisation of investment;	Pursuant to Article 6 of Decision No 1313/2013/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on a Union Civil Protection Mechanism, SR will develop a risk assessment at national level and will make available to the Commission a summary of the relevant elements thereof by 22 December and every three years thereafter, based on already existing and implemented risk assessment processes and methods	22 December 2015	MoI SR
6.1. Water sector: The existence of a) a water pricing policy which provides adequate incentives for users to use water resources efficiently and b) an adequate contribution of the different water uses to the recovery of the costs of water services at a rate determined in the approved river basin management plan for investment supported by the programmes.	In sectors supported by the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund, a Member State has ensured a contribution of the different water uses to the recovery of the costs of water services by sector consistent with the first indent of Article 9(1) of Directive 2000/60/EC having regard, where appropriate, to the social, environmental and economic effects of the recovery as well as the geographic and climatic conditions of the region or regions affected.	Including the obligation to pay for the costs related to the water draw-off to irrigate agricultural land (hereinafter referred to as “irrigation”) through an adequate contribution (payment) as a payment for the costs related to water services in terms of the implementation of incentive pricing policy pursuant to Article 9 of the Water Framework Directive (hereinafter referred to as “WFD”) into the amendment to the Water Act, followed by the amendment to the Regulation of the Slovak Government No	30 December 2014	MoE SR - division of waters in cooperation with the legislation department

Thematic ex-ante conditionality	Criteria not fulfilled	Actions to be taken	Deadline (date)	Bodies responsible
		<p>755/2004 Coll. SR prepared the amendment of Water Act, which is currently under the legislative process, containing also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- a re-introduction of payments for water draw-off for irrigation, which were cancelled by a political decision in 2004</li> <li>- the respective draft amendment of the Act must firstly go through a whole legislative procedure. The follow-up will be the preparation of implementing rules - amendment of the Regulation of the Slovak Government No 755/2004 Coll.</li> </ul> <p>It has to be stated that in the SR, there exists a regulation of water management services related to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the production, distribution and drinking water supply through a drinking public water supply and discharge and wastewater treatment through the public sewage system</li> <li>- the use of hydro-energy potential of water courses</li> <li>- the energy water draw-off from water courses at water constructions,</li> <li>- the surface-water draw-off from water courses</li> </ul> <p>Regulation of the above water management services is implemented by the Regulatory Office for Network Industries (hereinafter referred to as "RONI"). The prices for all these water management services are unified for all the sectors (households, industry and agriculture). This method of regulation is stipulated in the RONI Regulatory Policy valid for the given period (currently for 2012-2016).</p>		
		Analyse and calculate environmental and resource costs (ERC), including those generated by point and diffuse pollution sources, and include them in cost recovery and pricing policy	30 December 2015	MoE SR – division of waters in cooperation with expert organisations of the ministry and in cooperation with the Ministry of agriculture and rural development SR (ministry

Thematic ex-ante conditionality	Criteria not fulfilled	Actions to be taken	Deadline (date)	Bodies responsible
		The development and testing of the proposed methodology and procedure for charging pollution from diffuse sources will be in accordance with a European Commission common recommendation for all EU Member States.		responsible for the diffuse pollution)
	The adoption of a river basin management plan for the river basin district consistent with Article 13 of Directive 2000/60/EC	Realization of the monitoring programme for a respective year based on the Framework Monitoring Programme for 2010-2015 (hereinafter only referred to as "Framework MP")	Yearly, in line with the Framework Monitoring Programme for 2010-2015	MoE SR – division of waters in cooperation with expert organisations of the ministry
		Evaluation of the progress in achieving environmental objectives and application of exemptions according to the Article 4 (particularly Article 4 (7))	30 November 2014	MoE SR – division of waters in cooperation with expert organisations of the ministry
		Verification, revision and update of the programme of measures	30 November 2014	MoE SR – division of waters in cooperation with expert organisations of the ministry
		River basin management plans pursuant to Article 13 of the WFD	30 December 2015	MoE SR – division of waters in cooperation with expert organisations of the ministry
6.2. Waste sector: Promoting economically and environmentally sustainable investments in the waste sector particularly through the development of waste management plans consistent with Directive 2008/98/EC on waste and repealing certain Directives (hereinafter "Directives on waste"), and with the waste hierarchy.	d) Necessary measures to achieve the targets on preparation for re-use and recycling by 2020 consistent with Article 11(2) of Directive 2008/98/EC have been adopted	Introduction of landfilling ban for the separated biodegradable waste with the aim to restrict the disposal of waste on landfills, in line with the targets of the Directive No 13/ 1999/EC (as from the entry of the new Waste Act into force)	31 January 2015	MoE SR
		Introduction of landfilling ban for the separated fractions of municipal waste in line with the targets of the Waste Framework Directive as regards the re-use and recycling of the municipal waste (as from the entry of the new Waste Act into force)	31 January 2015	MoE SR
		Implementation of the full principle of extended producer responsibility – the current "partial" principle of the EPR applying only for packaging waste, electric equipment, batteries and accumulators will be extended to new commodities: tires, oils, old vehicles, medicaments, paper, glass, plastic. The proposed principle of the EPR will be significantly stricter and clearer, with the involvement of all relevant bodies within the waste management structure including municipalities (in line with the provisions of	31 December 2015	MoE SR, Slovak Environmental Inspection

Thematic ex-ante conditionality	Criteria not fulfilled	Actions to be taken	Deadline (date)	Bodies responsible
		the new Waste Act)		
		Adoption of the new Waste management plan for years 2016-2025 with a strong focus on the re-use and recycling	31 December 2015	MoE SR
		Adoption of further measures to achieve the targets under the Waste Framework Directive, if necessary, based on the analysis of the achievement of targets on preparation for re-use and recycling of waste from households by 2020 and the effectiveness of measures taken so far (by evaluating the achievement of targets and measures in the Waste Management Programme for 2011-2015)	31 December 2015	MoE SR

## 10 Reduction of administrative burden for beneficiaries

Identification and elimination of causes of disproportionate administrative burden on beneficiaries<sup>177</sup> is a key precondition for creation of optimal environment for efficient, effective and transparent use of support from ESIF.

The greatest potential as well as the need for the reduction of administrative burden in providing support from ESIF in the programming period 2014 - 2020 was, based on the experience from the programming period 2007 – 2013<sup>178</sup>, identified in relation to the preparation of projects, realization of public procurement and declaring the eligibility of expenditure.

The complexity of rules and conditions related to these procedures in the programming period 2007 - 2013 caused an increased error rate on the part of beneficiaries, which resulted inter alia in high share of unapproved projects failed to comply with criteria of formal correctness (criteria for eligibility and completeness of projects), an frequent need for repetition of public procurement process, an failure to spend the whole amount of contracted funds (due to errors associated with declaration of the eligibility of expenditure), numerous requests for project change, an significant time delay in implementation of projects and in many cases also an failure to successfully complete the implementation of projects<sup>179</sup>.

Several measures in this area have been continuously adopted already in the programming period 2007 - 2013 (such as not requiring documentation demonstrating compliance with the conditions for granting support until the final phase of project selection process and thus not requiring submission of such confirmation by the majority of unsuccessful applicants; running the test version of the centralized system for requesting the documents providing information on fulfilment of certain conditions for granting support; allowing beneficiaries to submit the public procurement documentation to the managing authority to get an “ex ante” feedback before it is published, publication and regular updating of information on the most common mistakes and shortcomings in the performance of the public procurement process on the OP website).

Another system measures shall be introduced in the programming period 2014 - 2020 by the Central Coordination Authority at the central level, which will be complemented by measures introduced by the MA specifically in relation to the OP QE. The main measures to reduce the administrative burden on beneficiaries and to increase the efficiency in this area include:

Planned measure	Schedule for adoption of measure
providing qualified advice and information services at regional level to facilitate the preparation of documents related to the preparation and implementation of projects and to increase the availability of information on the funding opportunities from the ESIF; in this context, it is also planned to establish a single regional network of information centers providing consultancy and information services	following the establishment of the single regional network
simplified, uniform, easier to use and more targeted defining of the call's for proposals form and content and the related management documentation for beneficiaries with an emphasis on "user-friendly" format (where appropriate specifying practical examples of good practice and frequent deficiencies and errors)	to the date of the first call for proposal launch

reduction of the administrative burden of project preparation (reduction of the scope of the required documents) through the exchange of relevant information on applicants and projects available to public authorities via direct mutual communication, without requiring them from the applicants	to the date of the first call for proposal launch
streamlining of methods for declaration of the efficiency and effectiveness of the expenditure in regard to submitted projects and their (ex ante) verification in the project selection process through wide use of benchmarking, financial limits, unit prices, etc. instead of less efficient methods for declaring the efficiency and effectiveness of the expenditure used in the programming period 2007 – 2013, such as market research	to the date of the first call for proposal launch
publication of templates/pattern documentation for public procurement (such as tender specifications, criteria for evaluation of tenders, etc.) to disseminate examples of good practice and to minimize errors in the process of public procurement realisation	31.07.2015
establishing rules for results-oriented approach in the form of clear definition of the subject matter and results of projects and conditions for their implementation in the contract (for both parties - beneficiary and the provider) and the concentration on achieving the objectives of the project (and not on formal aspects of the execution of the contract) with elements of an incentive-sanction mechanism	to the date of the first call for proposal launch
establishing clear and effective rules of the project modification procedure enabling adequate response to the changed conditions of the project implementation	to the date of the first call for proposal launch
utilization of simplified cost options within those types of activities that are, given their nature, suitable for the usage of these options	to the date of the first call for proposal launch
rebuilding the existing IT monitoring system to a system fully taking into account the requirements for e-cohesion, the design and functionality of which will comply with the current global standards for open intelligent information systems	31.12.2015

## 11 Horizontal principles

### 11.1 Sustainable development

Sustainable development is one of the principal goals of the EU which governs all of its policies and actions. Main objective of this horizontal principle is to ensure environmental, economic and social sustainability of growth with special emphasis on environmental preservation and improvement, taking account of the “polluter pays” principle. The goals of horizontal principle Sustainable development are therefore fully in line with priorities of Europe 2020 Strategy.

Office of the Deputy Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic for Investments and Informatization (Office of the Government of the Slovak republic was until 31.5.2016) provides for analytical, assessment, strategic and methodological activities for implementation of horizontal principle Sustainable development.

The horizontal principle Sustainable development is projected into OP QE in its global objective, which is to support sustainable and efficient resource use. The priority axis and investment priorities contribute to protection and improvement of respective environmental components and, thus, the OP QE as a whole contributes to a favourable environment and sustainable resource use for next generations.

As a priority, the OP QE contributes mainly to the strengthening of the environmental aspect of the growth. However, the activities within the OP QE contribute to the socio-economic aspect of the growth, too.

The OP QE promotes activities in the area of waste management, water management, environmental and biodiversity protection as well as improvement of the urban environment, climate change mitigation and adaptation and air protection. All mentioned areas are directly linked to the principle of sustainable development.

The energy, energy efficiency and support of use of renewable energy resources within the shift towards a low-carbon economy, ranking among the principal areas of OP QE support, represent another area of key contribution to the sustainable development.

Climate change is a crucial issue. OP QE supports activities directly focusing on adaptation to climate change as well as supporting risk management and increasing disaster resilience effected by climate change and OP QE therefore becomes a key programme for attainment of the goals of the climate change policy including health and lives of populations and ecosystems protection, which greatly impact on the further healthy sustainable development/growth SR.

In line with PA, the “polluter pays” principle will be taken into account and the requirements in the field of environmental impact assessment will be met, which remain among the main instruments of the environmental policy for achievement of sustainable development.

Moreover, in compliance with PA and with aim to reduce the adverse effects on climate, to reduce the air pollution and pollution of other environmental components and with focus on energy efficiency, the OP QE will apply the green public procurement procedures<sup>180</sup>. These procedures will be set at the national level for all the programs financed through the ESIF<sup>181</sup>.

The horizontal principle Sustainable development is therefore directly integrated into the programming cycle and will be further reflected in the project selection phase and the subsequent implementation, monitoring and evaluation processes.

The OP QE will support only the projects that take account of the horizontal principle Sustainable development, that are in line with its objective or directly contribute to the achievement of its goals. The horizontal principle Sustainable development will be set as condition for selection of operations from OP QE in the call for applications and this condition will be further defined in relevant managing documentation of OP QE.

Application of this condition for selection of operations will be verified, at the project level, in the selection of operations process. During the monitoring phase, the horizontal principle Sustainable development will be monitored through monitoring reports containing relevant information on horizontal principle as well as through on the spot checks and subsequent evaluation of contribution to the horizontal principle objectives. The Managing Authority will provide the authority responsible for implementation of the horizontal principle Sustainable development with all the relevant information.

## 11.2 Non-discrimination

The main objective of the horizontal principle non – discrimination for other programmes ESIF (except ESF funds) is to ensure equal opportunities in access and use of infrastructure and services.

The purpose of the horizontal principle non-discrimination is to prevent and remove barriers leading to isolation and exclusion of people from public, political, social and working life,

based on sex, gender, age, ethnic origin, religion or belief, sexual orientation or health disability. The goal of horizontal principle Non-discrimination is also to eliminate and prevent discrimination based on the abovementioned elements. Disabled persons because of their health need individual treatment with extra accessibility options (e.g. wheelchair accesses).

The Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic is responsible for analytical, evaluation, strategic and legislation measures in promoting horizontal principle non-discrimination. The Ministry is responsible for definition of conditions for selection of operations related to the implementation of this horizontal principle and modalities of its application.

Although the OP QE is not targeted towards support of discriminated persons and introduction of compensatory measures, the horizontal principle Non-discrimination is applicable in OP QE. The implementation of this principle will be ensured by arrangements for equal access for all the persons preventing discrimination based on gender, age, ethnic origin, physical disabilities and so forth.

The OP QE will support also the projects, whose auxiliary goal will be creation of new jobs and, at the same time, the principle of Non-discrimination will be taken into account or will directly contribute to the achievement of its goals. The horizontal principle Non-discrimination will be set as condition for selection of operations from OP QE in the call for applications and this condition will be further defined in relevant managing documentation of OP QE.

Application of this condition for selection of operations will be verified, at the project level, in the selection of operations process. During the monitoring phase, the horizontal principle Non-discrimination will be monitored through monitoring reports containing relevant information on horizontal principle as well as through on the spot checks and subsequent evaluation of contribution to the horizontal principle objectives. The Managing Authority will provide the authority responsible for implementation of the horizontal principle Non-discrimination all the relevant information.

### 11.3 Equality between men and women

Equality between men and women is one of the EU principal values and is anchored in the Lisbon Treaty, recognizing rights, freedoms and principles from the legally binding Charter of Fundamental Human Rights. The Member States, as well as the European Union itself, shall abide the rights set in the Charter, when defining and implementing legal documents of the European Union.

The European Commission has elaborated a work program Strategy for equality between women and men 2010 – 2015, where the Commission bounds to strive for equality between women and men in all of its activities. The strategy emphasizes the contribution of gender equality to economic growth and promotes application of gender equality dimension. The application of gender equality is one of the main objectives of the ESIF programs for the period 2014 – 2020 in line with the Europe 2020 Strategy for smart sustainable and inclusive growth.

The Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic is responsible for analytical, evaluation, strategic and legislation measures in promoting horizontal principle Equality between men and women. The Ministry is responsible for definition of conditions for selection of operations related to the implementation of this horizontal principles and modalities of its application.

Although the OP QE is not targeted towards support of compensatory measures, the horizontal principle Equality between men and women is applicable in OP QE.

The OP QE will support also the projects, whose auxiliary goal will be creation of new jobs and, at the same time, the principle of equity between men and women for example: in a non-discriminatory equal pay for men and women for equal work of the same quality and elimination of horizontal and vertical gender segregation in the jobs market. The horizontal principle Equality between men and women will be set as condition for selection of operations from OP QE in the call for applications and this condition will be further defined in relevant managing documentation of OP QE.

Application of this condition for selection of operations will be verified, at the project level, in the selection of operations process. During the monitoring phase, the horizontal principle Equality between men and women will be monitored through monitoring reports containing relevant information on horizontal principle as well as through on the spot checks and subsequent evaluation of contribution to the horizontal principle objectives. The Managing Authority will provide the authority responsible for implementation of the horizontal principle Equality between men and women all the relevant information.

## 12 Separate elements

### 12.1 List of major projects to be implemented during programming period

Table 75: List of major projects

Project	Planned notification/submission date (year, quarter)	Planned start of implementation (year, quarter)	Planned completion date (year, quarter)	Priority Axes/Investment Priorities
WWTP - North	2014/IV	2015/I	2016/IV	Priority axis 1/IP 6b)

## 12.2 Performance framework of operational programme

Table 76: Performance framework by fund and category of region (summary table)

Priority axis	Fund	Category of region	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestone for 2018	Final target (2023)
Priority axis 1	CF	N/A	Additional capacity for separate collection of municipal waste	tonnes/year	8 632	21 579
Priority axis 1	CF	N/A	Additional capacity for recovery of waste	tonnes/year	34 579	329 676
Priority axis 1	CF	N/A	Additional population served by improved wastewater treatment	population equivalent	0	<del>242 800</del> 223 979
Priority axis 1	CF	N/A	Additional population served by improved wastewater treatment according to planned target value of projects with realized activities	population equivalent	20 505	0
Priority axis 1	CF	N/A	Total surface area of rehabilitated land	hectares	0	141
Priority axis 1	CF	N/A	Total surface area of rehabilitated land according to the planned status of contracted projects whose public procurement has been verified	hectares	80	0
Priority axis 1	CF	N/A	Total amount of certified expenditure after submission of request for payment to the EC	EUR	376 078 000	<del>1 950 733 808</del> 1 878 661 300
Priority axis 2	CF	N/A	Population benefiting from flood protection measures	persons	0	<del>12 744</del> 10 615
Priority axis 2	CF	N/A	Population benefiting from flood protection measures according to planned target value of contracted projects with verified public procurement	persons	5 735	0
Priority axis 2	CF	N/A	Total amount of certified expenditure after submission of request for payment to the EC	EUR	108 000 000	<del>344 822 236</del> 416 894 744
Priority axis 3	ERDF	Less developed regions	Total surface area of rehabilitated land	hectares	77	<del>249</del> 197
Priority axis 3	ERDF	Less developed regions	Number of early warning systems	number	1	2
Priority axis 3	ERDF	Less developed regions	Number of created specialized rescue modules	number	1	4
Priority axis 3	ERDF	Less developed regions	Total amount of certified expenditure after submission of request for payment to the EC	EUR	47 000 000	<del>286 936 727</del> 306 942 799
Priority axis 4	ERDF	Less developed regions	Increased capacity of energy production	MW	160	<del>570</del> 392

			<i>from renewable sources</i>			
Priority axis 4	ERFR	More developed region the SR	Increased capacity of energy production from renewable sources	MW	1	5
Priority axis 4	ERDF	Less developed regions	Floor area of buildings recovered beyond the framework of minimum requirements	m <sup>2</sup>	187 200	1 248 000
Priority axis 4	ERDF	Less developed regions	Total amount of certified expenditure after submission of request for payment to the EC	Euro	285 242 931	<del>1 110 449 792</del> <del>1 187 880 423</del>
Priority axis 4	ERDF	More developed region the SR	Total amount of certified expenditure after submission of request for payment to the EC	Euro	823 491	2 656 424

## 12.3 Relevant partners involved in preparation of programme

### 12.3.1 List of members of the Working Group for preparation of the Operational Programme Quality of Environment

Table77: Members of the Working Group

No	Organisation	Number of members
1.	Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic	2
2.	Ministry of Transport, Construction and Regional Development of the Slovak Republic	2
3.	Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic	1
4.	Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic	2
5.	Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic	2
6.	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic	2
7.	Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic	1
8.	Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic	3
9.	Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic	2
10.	Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic	1
11.	Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic	1
12.	Government Office of the Slovak Republic	1
13.	Bratislava Self-Governing Region	1
14.	Trnava Self-Governing Region	1
15.	Trenčín Self-Governing Region	1
16.	Nitra Self-Governing Region	1
17.	Žilina Self-Governing Region	1
18.	Banská Bystrica Self-Governing Region	1
19.	Košice Self-Governing Region	1
20.	Prešov Self-Governing Region	1
21.	Association of Towns and Villages of Slovakia	1
22.	Union of Towns and Cities of Slovakia	1
23.	Slovak Academy of Sciences	1
24.	Republic Union of Employers	1

25.	Federation of Employers' Associations of the Slovak Republic	1
26.	Club 500	1
27.	Association of Water Companies	1
28.	Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava	1
29.	University of Pavol Jozef Šafárik in Košice – Faculty of Natural Sciences	1
30.	Environmental Fund	1
31.	Slovak Innovation and Energy Agency	1
32.	Slovak Association of Heat Producers	1
33.	Slovak Gas and Oil Association	1
34.	Slovak Association for Industrial Ecology	1
35.	Slovak District Heating Association	1
36.	Slovak Union of Housing Co-operatives	1
37.	Passive Houses Institute	1
38.	Association of Construction Entrepreneurs of Slovakia	1
39.	Slovak Green Building Council	1
40.	Building Testing and Research Institute, non-profit organization	1
41.	Association for Thermal Insulation of Buildings, civic association	1
42.	Slovak Craft Industry Federation	1
43.	Union of Industrial, Research and Development Organisations	1
44.	Friends of the Earth - CEPA	1
45.	Slovak Business Agency	1
46.	Entrepreneurs Association of Slovakia	1
47.	State Housing Development Fund	1
48.	Agro-eco forum	1
49.	Slovak Chamber of Commerce and Industry	1
50.	Automotive Industry Association of the Slovak Republic	1

## 13. Annexes

### 13.1 Implementation outcomes, experiences and lessons learnt from the 2007 - 2013 programming period

Supporting interventions in environmental protection with the assistance of financial resources from EU funds (CF and ERDF) was addressed primary through the Operational Programme Environment (OP E) in Slovakia in the programming period 2007-2013. During the programming period 2007 – 2013 the energy area was addressed primary under the Operational Programme Competitiveness and Economic Growth (OP CaEG). Renovation of central public areas in floods affected municipalities as well as facilities and equipment of non-commercial rescue services were support under the Regional Operational Programme (ROP) in the given programming period.

The direction of support for interventions through EU funds in both areas of the programming period 2007-2013 followed up the historical experience from the previous programming period, took account of the results of best practices, and results from evaluations and analyses. That model has remained as a baseline for the preparation of the programming period 2014-2020.

The overall success of the selected strategy in the area of environmental protection and energy should be viewed at two levels. On one hand, there are the objectives of the relevant OP expressed through indicators. On the other hand, there is the real benefit of the interventions that should be seen through the question of to what degree the achieved results of the OP managed to effectively address the identified problems and needs of the beneficiaries, target groups and entities that were directly or indirectly affected by the interventions. The effectiveness of the interventions in the programming period 2007-2013 was affected by several factors and the Managing Authority (MA) had only partial or no effects on some of these, including on the instruments used in the implementation system or general institutional mechanisms at the national level, the preparedness of the applicants or the lengthy legislative process for adoption of adequate legislation in certain area.

#### **IMPLEMENTATION RESULTS (Status on 31 December 2013)**

##### A/ OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME ENVIRONMENT

The experience with OP E implementation during the programming period 2007–2013 from the perspective of the Ministry of Environment of SR as a Managing Authority, indicates that the general design of the OP strategy was good and it was targeted at addressing priority and the most financially demanding activities in terms of implementation of the environmental acquis for water management, flood protection, waste management, air protection, mitigation of adverse effects of climate change and environmental protection. The correct design of the strategy of OP E has also been shown by physical implementation progress, namely in terms of achieving the set objectives and results (target indicator values) as well as in terms of the OP's absorption capacity. The demand from the applicants strongly exceeded the available allocation (the requested grants were three times higher than the amount of the approved grants) which clearly indicates that the OP E objectives matched the identified problems and the actual needs of the potential applicants.

From the above it follows that in substantive terms it would be inappropriate to substantially modify the direction of the strategy for environmental infrastructure under OP E

in the programming period 2007-2013 for the programming period 2014-2020, but it should be further developed in the light of the new legislative and conceptual baseline of the EC and the SR and also take account of the current developments in the environmental sector and also because the OP E objectives are relevant in terms of the objectives of the Europe 2020 Strategy as well.

The support in the area of water management is focused on completion of public sewage systems and waste water treatment plants in agglomerations above 2,000 p. e. and most of the funding was spent in larger agglomerations which are situated in urban settings. Almost 173.45 km of new drinking water distribution systems and 728.3 km of collecting systems were built, 30 waste water treatment plants were built or reconstructed, all of which significantly contributed to the overall rate of public sewage and treatment systems in Slovak agglomerations to 31.12.2013. Once all approved OP E projects have been implemented, it is expected coverage of population for the sewage and treatment systems will go up by 266,309 p. e. while the total population covered by the sewage and treatment systems will be 1,068,562.

The drinking water supply coverage rate was 87% to 31.12.2012. Regarding safe drinking water supply coverage it is estimated that once all approved OP E projects have been implemented, the number of people with newly-built drinking water supply systems will be increased by 73,045.

The air protection interventions helped reduce the levels of emissions of air pollutants and helped improve air quality. That was achieved due to support for 103 projects, 33 of which focussed on promotion of renewable energy sources. In the area of air protection and quality improvement in public transport, support for 6 projects made public transport more environmentally-friendly, namely old diesel-engine buses were replaced by 106 new, low-emission vehicles. An important benefit in air protection and improvement of public buildings infrastructure was achieved through replacement of obsolete combustion units (such as schools and hospitals). Last but not least, the supported projects contributed to better air quality monitoring and allowed modernization of 27 monitoring stations within the National Emission Information System.

In SR in 2012 the total amount of 1,747,569.05 t of municipal waste included: 58,924.82 t of sorted paper and cardboard, 48,551.55 t of glass, 28,314.62 t of plastic materials, 12,247.77 t of metal and 95,894 t of biodegradable waste. The financial resources provided under OP E up to 31.12.2012 contributed to construction and modernization of 89 facilities for sorted municipal waste which was more than 15,000 t of additional sorted waste and accounted for more than 6% of the overall amount of sorted municipal waste in Slovakia. By 31.12.2013 the applicable figures went up to 104 built and modernized facilities and an additional 37,700 t of sorted waste. If all approved projects are implemented, there will be capacity for sorting an additional 110,000 t of municipal waste. The amount of recycled wastes in 2012 was 3,876,000 t. By 31.12.2012 were through the OP E built and modernized 83 facilities for waste recycling and 171,336.7 t were recycled, which accounts for an additional 4.4% of recycled waste in SR. By 31.12.2013 the amount of recycled waste through OP E funded projects was 316,818 t of waste and the estimated amount of recycled waste once all approved projects are implemented will be 1,088,000 tons. The supported activities allowed an increase in the amount of sorted municipal waste of 37,700 tons and recycling of more than 315,051 tons of waste per year. Supporting waste management projects allowed the closing down and reclamation of 46 waste landfills which now pose no hazard to the population and the environment.

Interventions in waste management and air protection also contributed to support of 79 small and medium-sized enterprises (SME) that generated 52 new jobs and to introduction of environment-friendly technologies. The number of created new jobs corresponds with the fact that under OP E there are limited possibilities for supporting generation of permanent job positions because of the nature and objectives of the OP.

Implementation of activities related to environmental burden allowed the development of an environmental burden information system (to collect and supply information on environmental burdens) that is an integral part of the public administration information system.

As for adaptation to climate change, the support in programming period 2007-2013 focused primarily on flood protection activities. The implementation of flood protection measures was connected especially to water streams and flood protection was put in place in an area of more than 160.85 km<sup>2</sup>.

An important benefit in the area of flood protection was the development of a national project called POVAPSYS, which is an early warning system for approaching flood risk or hazard. The POVAPSYS project is at the introductory implementation stage and outputs from the POVAPSYS project may be useful inputs for the comprehensive Early Warning System expected to be built in the programming period 2014-2020.

The implementation of more than 336 activities (events) related to nature and landscape conservation increased environmental information and awareness in the public. It can be projected that by the end of 2015 the implemented supported projects will have resulted in more than 500 events disseminating information to more than 146,000 inhabitants altogether. The events will continue to improve the awareness of the public (as well as the owners and users of the concerned land) of the Natura 2000 system and also of the biotopes and species of European importance.

#### **B/ OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME COMPETITIVENESS AND ECONOMIC GROWTH**

The objective of the OP CaEG implemented by the Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic in the programming period 2007-2013 was to ensure sustainable economic growth and employment. That objective has been ensured through synergic promotion of innovation, industry, tourism, and energy efficiency.

Energy efficiency was supported primarily under priority axis 2 Energy, which focused especially on increasing energy efficiency in energy generation, transmission and consumption, in reducing the energy intensiveness of industrial production in consumption of primary energy resources, and in increasing the use of renewable resources to support business activities. The activities supported in the new programming period should especially follow up on that portion of priority axis 2 OP CaEG. The focus of priority axis 2, in addition to the above, is also supporting the public sector in building and modernizing public lighting in municipalities and cities with the aim to reduce energy consumption and to provide counselling for effective use of energy.

Altogether 405 projects were supported under priority axis 2 for which the contracted financial resources was more than €167 million.

To increase energy efficiency on the side of the generation and consumption as well as to introduce progressive technologies in the energy sector there were 90 supported projects, 85 of which have been implemented by small and medium-sized enterprises and 5 by large enterprises in the following regions of Slovakia: BB (19), KE (18), NR (14), PO (16), TN (9),

TT (4) and ZA (10). These projects have resulted in energy savings, reducing energy intensiveness, cutting energy consumption in industries and related services, in modernization of existing energy sources, and increasing the share of renewable energy sources in total energy consumption through use of biomass, building small hydro-power plants. The implementation of the projects resulted in almost 148 TJ savings per year. Increasing energy efficiency generated 107 new jobs as a side effect.

The assessment of support of the RES use can be taken into separate consideration. In this area, more than 30 projects have been contracted with total amount of almost 30 million Eur. The total rated installed capacity of installations corresponding to RES is more than 145 MW. Installations of solar-based electricity generation were installed on non utilised areas in six projects with the total installed capacity of approx. 6,8 MW. Small hydro power plants were built in nine projects with the total installed capacity of approx. 5,9 MW. The beneficiaries applied for the lower feed-in tariff within the support of the RES-based power generation in line with then valid legislation. The decrease of the feed-in tariff of up to 16% could have been applied depending on the intensity of support provided.

Approximately one third of the projects aimed at installation of biomass boilers. Support was provided also to projects aiming at utilisation of biogas for heat and power production through cogeneration units as well as installation of a heat pump.

Altogether 314 projects were supported in the area of building and modernizing public lighting for cities and municipalities in the following regions: BB (36), KE (27), NR (61), PO (59), TN (38), TT (42) and ZA (51). The projects resulted in reducing energy intensiveness of public lighting in municipalities and cities. Supporting modernization of public lighting by 2013 resulted in a targeted reduction of energy intensiveness by more than 9 TJ per year.

The implementation of the national projects funded under OP CaEG “Promoting awareness and counselling for energy efficiency and use of renewable energy sources (RES) including increasing public awareness” with the working title “Live energy” was ensured by the Slovak Innovation and Energy Agency (SIEA). The project focused on counselling, improving information and education in energy efficiency and RES use for all categories of energy consumers including target groups such as children and youth, energy managers and energy auditors.

Counselling centres started operating in May 2010 in Trenčín, Banská Bystrica and Košice where both lay people and the professional public can receive counselling services on an individual basis and free of charge via free telephone lines (3,320 consultations), by e-mail (2,360 consultations) and through personal consultations (1,650 at centres and 2,400 at exhibitions and fairs). SIEA published 2,780,350 copies of more than 40 kinds of printed materials on energy saving and use of RES and held more than 120 specialised events for 5,650 participants. Counselling has been also offered via a website that had more than 2,200,000 visits. Energy experiments for children and youth are now used at more than 50 schools. There were 700 participants of various age groups in an energy efficiency marathon. SIEA experts visited more than 30 schools and made interactive energy presentations to more than 200 students. The national project has entered its concluding stage in terms of time but SIEA keeps getting new requests for specialized events not only from the eligible regions but also from the Bratislava self-governing region.

#### C/ REGIONAL OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME

The key objective of the ROP implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development in the programming period 2007-2013 was improving regional accessibility and

the quality of public infrastructure and amenities. The fulfilment of that goal has contributed to accomplishment of the goal of the strategic priority Infrastructure and Regional Accessibility, namely “to improve accessibility of regional infrastructure and effectiveness of related public services”.

The environmental protection-oriented interventions met under priority axis 4 ROP – Regeneration of communities that is focused on increasing the competitiveness of communities and increasing the quality and safety of public areas. That priority axis also covers support for renovation of public areas in municipalities affected by floods and support for facilities and equipment for non-commercial rescue services (fire stations and fire houses) which ensure protection (also inter alia) of the environment.

In May, June and August 2010, as a result of adverse meteorological conditions, Slovakia suffered extensive and extreme floods with destructive effects that damaged the assets of the population, municipalities and cities.

To help eliminate the flood-related damages the SR government adopted resolution No. 566/2010 of 27.08.2010 in which the state government approved an additional increase in the ROP allocation for regeneration of communities by €39,448,841 (of which €5 million was earmarked for areas with Roma settlements). The plan was to support, through ROP activities, reconstruction of infrastructure in communities that were most damaged by floods.

Under the Call for Grant Application for support and renovation of infrastructure of municipalities, the focus was on public areas at sites that were most damaged in the 2010 by floods. In line with Slovak government resolution No. 566/2010 support went to 17 projects by 31.12.2013 and the contracted funding amounted to €13,643,942.65.

Under the Call for Grant Application for development of communities with Roma settlements in rural areas for elimination of the 2010 flood-related damages and for flood protection measures in line with government resolution No. 566/2010 four projects were supported by 31.12.2013 with the total contracted amount of €1,933,315.89.

The supported projects were focused on reconstruction of local roads including transportation subsystems: for reconstruction of bridges and pedestrian bridges and follow up investment activities in local roads, walkways and bicycling routes; for construction and reconstruction of public lights, transport stops and public conveniences; for improvement of public areas and public green areas; for adjustment and control of catchment areas in built-up areas of municipalities and cities exclusively as a follow up to implementation of other investment activities which resulted in renovation and partial construction of infrastructure in municipalities to eliminate the 2010 flood-related damages and implement flood protection measures.

Priority axis 4 of ROP included measure 4.2 for enhancement of the quality and safety of public areas through reconstruction, extension and modernization of facilities of non-commercial rescue services, including procurement of equipment. The support covered the equipment/apparatus of fire stations and fire houses which were identified in the report “Area distribution of services and equipment of the Firefighting and Rescue Corps and of Municipal Firefighters – Fire Station and Fire House Sites” (this did not apply to mountain rescue services). In the programming period 2007-2013 that document served not only as the key criterion for assessment of submitted projects for their compliance with the ROP strategy but also for assessment for compliance with the principle of territorial concentration of interventions supported under structural funds.

Supporting the 176 projects for reconstruction, enhancement and modernization of facilities of non-commercial rescue services including procurement of their equipment for a total of €89,613,858.27 resulted in:

- Higher quality and quantity of equipment in the respective areas, with infrastructure facilities for non-commercial rescue services which must be active components in the system for emergency assistance (rescuing lives and protecting the health of persons, assets and environment) within 15 minutes after announcement of the emergency to a responsible fire-fighting unit;
- Elimination of inadequate conditions (many instances of severe disrepair) to ensure smooth delivery of the key activities of rescue corps;
- Elimination of high energy-intensiveness and environmentally-challenging operation and maintenance of fire stations and fire houses;
- General improvement of the prerequisites for the activities of the fire-fighting and rescue corps.

### **LESSONS LEARNT FROM THE PROGRAMMING PERIOD 2007-2013**

The implementation of the concerned operational programmes under the programming period 2007-2013 was adversely affected particularly by the following factors of a thematic and procedural nature. Regarding those factors, the experiences gathered by the managing authorities have allowed the identification of lessons to be taken into account in supporting environmental protection and energy under ESIF in the programming period 2014-2020.

#### **FACTORS OF A PROCEDURAL NATURE COMMON FOR OP E, OP CaEG AND ROP**

##### **Implementation of and verification in public procurement**

The experience with the in public procurement (PP) process verification conducted by beneficiaries indicated a high error rate in this process from the perspective of compliance with the procedures and rules of public procurement regulations. This resulted in the need to have a new competition, extend the implementation time for projects, and the actual disbursement for certain projects was delayed.

These public procurement issues can be considered as the most troubling issue and also the key challenge of a procedural nature for the programming period 2014–2020.

To reduce the error risk in PP in the programming period 2007-2013 the managing authorities for OP E, OP CaEG and ROP adopted several measures: trainings and consultations for beneficiaries, publishing and periodically updating information about the most frequent errors and shortcomings identified in reviewing the PP process by the Managing Authority and the Public Procurement Office and about the related implications; introducing the opportunity for potential beneficiaries to submit their PP-related documentation for an ex-ante assessment prior to publishing; introducing the condition of announcing PP for the key project activities as early as at the time when the grant application was submitted; and developing a checklist for PP and other methodological guides for beneficiaries. These should be used and follow also in the programming period 2014-2020. Bearing in mind unclear methodology and the above general departmental nature of the issues, it will also be necessary to adopt appropriate measures at the national level.

The public procurement verification procedures applied by the MA were not efficient enough at the beginning of the programming period and as a result there was an interruption in

the payment deadline for OP E under article 91 of Regulation No. 1083/2006 and suspension of payments for OP E followed under article 92 of the general regulations. Several measures were adopted by the MA in the course of the programming period 2007-2013 to speed up the process and improve the reliability and efficiency the public procurement verification (such as periodic training of the MA's employees responsible for checking on public procurement and intensified cooperation with the Public Procurement Office) which should be followed up in the programming period 2014-2020.

### **Setting up the monitoring process through indicators**

From the experience with measuring and reporting intervention efficiency under OP E, OP CaEG and ROP the need follows to have a more effective setting of the system of measurable indicators at programme and projects levels, especially in terms of the adequacy of the system's scope, relevance to supported activities or set of objectives, effectiveness of measuring and reporting, clarity, and the binding nature of the system. A fundamental lesson was that the indicators system should consist of the lowest possible number of representative indicators since a system with an excessively high number of indicators decreases the reporting effectiveness and distracts attention from the core of the issues/needs that are the focus of the programme's investment strategy. It is also necessary to define in advance a clear and effective mechanism for aggregation of indicators from project level to programme level in line with the principle of the intervention logics. Another identified problem was missing records from the process of setting the quantified targets of OP E which, in many instances, could provide justification of why the actually achieved values differed from the set target values. When indicators and their target values are defined there will be a need to identify and consider risk factors which may affect achievement of the set target values and subsequently actively address those risk factors in implementation of the respective programmes.

### **Making use of the potential of evaluation**

The experience from the programming period 2007-2013 indicates that incomplete use was made of the potential of evaluations under OP E, OP CaEG and ROP. Even while taking account of the weaknesses of the monitoring system and its limitations as an instrument for identification of exclusively quantitative results of interventions, the evaluation is specifically the key instrument for examining the a real added value of an OP for social and economic development in Slovakia and for improvement in ways to address the identified problems and strengthen the efficiency of OP interventions. It can be stated that when the concerned OPs were designed, the information database and adequate methodology were insufficient as not set to estimate the benefits.

For that reason, right at the beginning of the programming period 2014-2020 design of a preliminary Evaluation Plan Proposal together with the defined indicators and other data needed for effective evaluations to be monitored will be required. The evaluation area at the OP level can be further supported in the light of experience from the previous programming period 2007-2013 by putting more emphasis on evaluation outputs in terms of seeking to identify inter-relations and effects having impact on the status of the implementation as well as identifying problems which may affect the programme performance and achieving its objectives. Impact evaluation as one of the tools for identification of qualitative changes in the social and economic reality as a result of OP implementation should specifically contribute to identification of causative relations and the effects of the interventions.

## PROCESS-RELATED FACTORS SPECIFIC FOR OP E

### **Specification of the announced calls and selection of projects**

The quality of how the Calls for Application are defined is of key importance for implementation of OP E since a Call for Application is the essential regulatory instrument for quality and number of projects that are submitted by applicants. To reduce the share of projects which are not approved because they fail to meet the eligibility and project completeness criteria in the new period, compared with the programming period 2007-2013, prerequisites need to be created that will allow the potential applicants to estimate in advance how likely it is that their projects will be supported. When the Calls for Application are more specific, projects will be submitted which best correspond to the effort of achieving the objectives of the call and the OP and simultaneously minimize instances of ineffective use of capacities and resources both on the part of the applicants (quite often a majority of submitted project proposals are not approved) and on the part of the MA (needing to assess fewer project proposals) and that can be accomplished in line with the following assumption:

A more specific Calls for Application design which clearly outlines the supported priorities and their respective allocations  $\Rightarrow$  fewer submitted projects and better quality of project designs to match the specificities of the supported priorities  $\Rightarrow$  easier and faster project approval as there are fewer projects to analyse  $\Rightarrow$  smaller number of unapproved projects  $\Rightarrow$  higher success rate and effectiveness of the Calls for Application  $\Rightarrow$  saving money by the applicants and the MA.

The complexity of rules and conditions for preparation and submission of projects in the programming period 2007-2013 was seen through an undesirable loss of focus on the contents of projects and their potential benefits for the economy and the community, with more emphasis placed on the formal aspects of the projects. In this context the following has to be ensured in the programming period 2014-2020:

- Minimize the risk of failure of quality projects due to formal incompleteness by allowing the applicants to correct any shortcomings (offer clarification);
- Design an appropriate format for project application and define clear and objective assessment and selection criteria that permit objective assessment and evaluation of how much the project contributes to achievement of the OP objectives;
- Set the evaluation and selection criteria so as to put emphasis on the Value for Money principle, in other words make sure that those projects are selected which make the biggest contribution to achievement of the set objectives of the OP;
- Strengthen the employment of relevant instruments (benchmarking, unit costs, financial limits) to make sure that the best value for money and cost effectiveness are assessed in an objective way;
- Reduce the administrative burden for applicants (reconsider what documentation is needed to prove that the conditions for grants are satisfied, for example using public registries).

### **Absorption capacity**

Despite less capability of beneficiaries to take care of their portion of project co-funding due to the economic crisis of recent years, it can be stated that implementation of the OP E has shown that the absorption capacity of environmental protection interventions is much higher in Slovakia now than what the allocation was for OP E 2007-2013. The response to respective Calls for Application was that the number of Grant Application several times higher (more

than 3 times higher) than what the support from the allocation could be in specific Calls for Application.

This situation permits expected success in supporting the relevant kinds of investment in the programming period 2014-2020. Regardless of a high absorption rate it will be useful to implement instruments for further improvement of absorption capacity in the future (for example disseminating the examples of successful projects, trainings and seminars) with the secondary effect being better awareness of applicants and simultaneously fewer submissions of projects with formal or substantive shortcomings.

### **Administrative capacities**

The shortcomings in the area of administrative capacities in the programming period 2007-2013 that directly affected the effectiveness of implementation of OP E primarily included the professional level of the administrative capacities and personnel fluctuation.

Inadequate professional level of administrative capacities of the MA had negative impact on correct, timely and effective execution of activities in OP implementation. The shortcomings are related with the education/training system applied for implementation of SF and CF. In many instances the national education system displayed poor quality and quantity of the provided education/training. The training for employees was not relevant enough and failed to take full account of the actual education/training needs of the employees in terms of their jobs and in terms of the OP implementation process. The education/training activities format also failed to take into account the requirements of applying a proactive approach by those educated/trained (through activities such as simulations and case studies, analyses of specific problem areas).

When it comes to the requirement to ensure optimization and stabilization of administrative capacities, the major problem affecting effective OP implementation was fluctuation of administrative capacities. The issue of personnel fluctuation is associated with several factors but addressing those issues is not always under direct control of the MA and requires measures at the national level.

Taking account of the identified problems at the OP level and reflecting the issues at a national level it is necessary to introduce in the programming period 2014-2020 comprehensive systematic instruments for training of employees, evaluation and remuneration of administrative capacities to ensure effective OP management through skilled, competent, motivated and stable personnel. In contrast with the previous approach, the new system will include mandatory components and will strengthen a systematic approach to education/training of administrative capacities under which persons who have mastered key skills and knowledge required for standardized positions will get appropriate certificates.

### **Preparation of major projects**

A significant problem of OP E in the programming period 2007-2013 was the time delay in preparation and subsequent approval of major projects. Since major projects involve large amounts of money the delay in their preparation and approval process had negative impact on drawing funding under OP E and the need for phasing in of major projects.

The delays were primarily caused by the lengthy process of addressing the issue of financial sustainability of major projects in terms of implementation of Article 9 of the FWD, which is closely inter-related to pricing in the water management area.

MoE SR, under its scope of powers, implemented all measures to achieve a thorough transposition of all FWD articles. Under the water act amendment (effective from 1.11.2009)

MoE SR developed a proposal for a price policy that was adopted by the SR government in Resolution No. 17/201 of 12.01.2011. The price policy includes price regulation and price control that are regulated by special legal regulations. The mentioned price policy is in compliance with all effective water management regulations as well as regulation for the areas of the economy, economic relations and life cycle and takes account of the cost methodology for pricing that was set by the regulatory policy, with the FWD the “polluter pays” principle staying effective.

The approved baseline and proposals for price regulation for the upcoming regulation period 2012-2016 were designed by the Regulatory Office for Network Industries to meet the commitments of SR to the EU in the water management area, including meeting the FWD requirements.

Under the model developed by experts under the JASPERS initiative and by authors of financial and economic analyses of major projects that evaluated the effects of the new regulation policy or Decree No. 217/2011 Coll. on the financial sustainability of the projects, it follows that:

- Application of Decree No. 217/2011 Coll. should ensure meeting the requirements of article 9 (1) FWD and also ensure sustainability of the water management sector;
- Application of the maximum percentage for deductions (2%) under Decree No. 217/2011 Coll. should result in a change in the level of the funding gap of up to 10% in comparison with the estimated level in the submitted Grant Applications and for that reason the application of article 55(4) of regulation 1083/2006 is not expected.

In the programming period 2014-2020 when major projects will be prepared for specialized assistance for the applicants, there will be a need to apply a specific approach and more intensive involvement of JASPERS experts with periodic monitoring of the current status in order to be able to adopt adequate corrective measures early enough if needed.

#### PROCESS-RELATED FACTORS SPECIFIC FOR OP CaEG

##### **Delay in implementation of the financial instrument JEREMIE**

The plan has been to use the financial engineering instruments under priority axis 1 Innovation and Growth of Competitiveness. The core reasons why there has been a delay in implementation of the financial instrument JEREMIE is complicated national management: MF SR as the methodological guide, EIF as management, and the MA of the relevant OPs as assistance providers. Another troubling area was the complicated contracting structure.

A Funding Agreement was signed between the Ministry of Economy SR and EIF which regulated the OP CaEG financial framework for implementation of the JEREMIE initiative in 2009, but the first support for SMEs via the JEREMIE initiative occurred only in 2013.

The key factors hampering the implementation of the JEREMIE initiative in Slovakia, as they have been identified by the MoE SR, include:

- Complicated funding under three operational programmes (OP CaEG, OP R&D, OP BR);
- A complicated structure was chosen in Slovakia for implementation of JEREMIE (SZRF, s.r.o.) whose goal was to develop a sustainable instrument and ensure know-how transfer from EIF to Slovak institutions;
- The rules for respective OPs to ensure compliance with the EU rules for structural funds that have been set up primarily for grants caused a lot of restrictions for loans;

- Numerous restrictions at national level were also applied by the European Commission (for example only a portion of the funding can be used in the Bratislava region regardless of the fact that one-third of Slovakia's SMEs and half of its research and development activities operate in the Bratislava region);
- Time-consuming negotiations of respective contractual documents.

### **Awareness and counselling for energy efficiency and use of RES**

Taking account of the progress made in this area, it is desirable to continue developing the current activities and extend the scope to also include providers of energy services and technicians for installation of energy-saving equipment and use of RES and especially to include consistent monitoring of activities and projects in that area. In order to improve awareness and information on a continuous basis it is important to focus on the public sector since the public sector is an important driving force for stimulation of market transformation towards efficient products, buildings and services and can help trigger change in energy consumption-related behavioural patterns in citizens and enterprises. Reducing energy consumption through measures for improvement of energy efficiency can release public funds that can then be used for other purposes.

**Other measures of a procedural nature resulting from experience and lessons learned from the programming period 2007-2013 that will be applied under OP Quality of Environment to reduce the administrative burden for beneficiaries are included in chapter 10 of that document.**

### **THEME-RELATED FACTORS**

For Slovakia to meet the requirements of the environmental acquis financial support in the programming period 2014-2020 should focus on waste water sewage and treatment in medium size and smaller agglomerations above 2,000 p. e. with most of those agglomerations situated in rural areas. Support will be aimed to the agglomerations under 2,000 p. e. if they contribute to the water quality improvement in the protected water management areas with high capacity groundwater sources, where the poor status of waters has been identified or the water body was identified as risky.

In the programming period 2007-2013 the achievement of results depended on whether the owner of the structure or owner of the land had a permit from the competent state water management authority to apply a different way of waste water handling, and if that was the case, the owner was not obliged to become connected to the newly-built waste water sewage system, and for that reason individual investors and municipalities had to exert effort and create conditions to connect waste-water producers to the newly-built waste water sewage systems. It can be expected that the future effort to increase the connection rates of the population to public waste water sewage and treatment systems will not only reduce the pollution of ground and surface waters but will also significantly improve the quality of life in the concerned area and promote economic growth of the region.

In contrast with the programming period 2007-2013 regarding provision of safe drinking water for population, the emphasis now will be on provision of quality drinking water.

The key problems related to implementation in the area of air protection included the wide focus of the supported activities and considerable imbalance in terms of ascertaining how much the respective activities contributed to the achievement of the set values of indicators

of OP E, resulting in difficulties in quantification of the achieved results. Taking account of that experience and also due to the need of thematic alignment of activities, there is a need in the new programming period to narrow down the focus of air protection-related activities.

The air protection-related activities in the upcoming programming period should follow up on the activities implemented in the previous programming period with the aim to further reduce air pollution and improve air quality, with the focus on the support being in measures for direct reduction of generation of air-polluting emissions, which will clearly contribute to achievement of the targets set for this area. It also makes sense to further support measures for improvement of the quality of air monitoring systems and of informational activities with emphasis on the issue of local heating units and also on improving the awareness of integrated pollution prevention and control.

In line with the perception and implementation of the horizontal aspect of air protection and of the need to integrate the air quality issue with other areas as well, it is desirable to integrate further measures for improvement of air quality with the relevant operational programmes such as: activities for reduction of transport-related emissions in operational programmes which focus primarily on the area of transport or as an integral part of support for sustainable development of cities, including also in combination with other measures such as green cities, low-emission zones, and similar efforts. Similarly, in the area of promotion of a transition to a low-carbon economy, measures will be considered which focus on increasing energy efficiency and use of renewable energy sources where account will be taken also of the effects of the implemented measures on air quality and, at the project level; indicators will be monitored for air-polluting emissions.

In the new programming period 2014-2020 waste management needs to focus on promotion of those projects that will significantly contribute to meeting the requirements of the environmental acquis for waste management and simultaneously to comply with the waste management hierarchy set out in the framework waste directive. Support should be targeted at prevention of waste generation (especially of biodegradable waste as a component of municipal waste), preparation for re-use, separation of municipal waste, recovery of materials from waste, waste recycling and especially recycling of biodegradable waste, and reducing municipal waste landfilling through promotion of mechanical and biological treatment of waste.

The key problem in implementation of projects related to environmental burdens was the absence of a law concerning certain measures for polluted sites. Since a relevant act has been adopted and effective (1.1.2012) the new programming period can include projects of rehabilitation of polluted sites in line with the “polluter pays” principle and ensure continuing support in this area. Simultaneously, a state aid scheme will be designed for rehabilitation of polluted sites in line with the revised regulation of group exemptions since the regulation draft includes a specific category of aid, namely “aid for rehabilitation of polluted sites” which allows preparation of a state aid scheme without the notification obligation. This will permit implementation of rehabilitation of polluted sites, where it’s implementation was a state aid.

Flood protection needs to be addressed in a comprehensive way in the new programming period, in contrast with the previous one of 2007-2013, and for that reason the scope of support needs to be extended so as to include green infrastructure capable of retaining water in the landscape and to distribute water runoff from the wave effect over time and reduce flood risk. Water retention in the landscape will also eliminate adverse climate effects such as drought in long-lasting, precipitation-free periods. A significant improvement in more effective territorial focus of flood protection support will be accomplished through the use

of flood risk maps and flood hazard maps that were prepared under the programming period 2007-2013 and are available for the new programming period. Similarly, the option of using the flood risk management plan in new programming period will allow implementation of the most effective measures to eliminate the risk in flooding areas.

The implementation of activities for nature and landscape conservation, specifically those related to implementation of conservation documents under Natura 2000, also included identification of certain problems, namely the issue of settlement of the legal title to land in which the projects were to be implemented. For that reason, in the programming period 2014-2020 there will be the need to extend the scope of beneficiaries to include owners or users of land in protected areas and also allow making use of partnership arrangements. That measure will eliminate an adverse factor in ensuring management of the Natura 2000 system and also allow public involvement in nature conservation. Implementation of activities for improvement of the infrastructure for nature and landscape conservation significantly contributed to development of nature and landscape conservation facilities but the implementation of the mentioned projects did not contribute to ensuring a good status of biotopes and species of European importance. To ensure specific attention to the Natura 2000 system in the programming period 2014-2020 there is a need to abandon the implementation of activities focused solely on development of nature and landscape conservation infrastructure.

### 13.2 Abbreviations used

AC	Administrative capacities
AMO	Antimonopoly Office
BAT	Best Available Techniques
BDW	Biodegradable waste
BSGR	Bratislava Self-Governing Region
CF	Cohesion Fund
DHS	District heating system
CA	Certifying Authority
CCA	Central Coordination Authority
CHP	Combined heat and power
COLSAaF	Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family
E	Environment
EB	Environmental burden
EC	European Commission
EF	Environmental Fund
EIB	European Investment Bank
EP	European Parliament
ERDF	European Regional Development Fund
ESIF	European Structural and Investment Funds
ESF	European Social Fund
EU	European Union
FEC	Final Energy Consumption
GA	Grant application
GDP	Gross domestic product
HP	Horizontal principle
HW	Hazardous waste
ICT	Information and Communication Technologies
IP	Investment priority
IROP	Integrated Regional Operational Programme

IRS	Integrated Rescue System
LAG	Local Action Groups
LE	Legal entities
MA	Managing Authority
MoE SR	Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic
MoEcon SR	Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic
MoF SR	Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic
MoI SR	Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic
MLSAF SR	Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic
MTE	Material and technical equipment
MW	Municipal waste
NC SR	National Council of the Slovak Republic
NRP SR	National Reform Programme of the Slovak Republic
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
OP	Operational Programme
OP CEG	Operational Programme Competitiveness and Economic Growth
OP E	Operational Programme Environment
OP HR	Operational Programme Human Resources
OP QE	Operational Programme Quality of Environment
OP RI	Operational Programme Research and Innovation
PA	Priority axis
PA SR	Partnership Agreement of the Slovak Republic for 2014-2020
PAF	Prioritised Action Framework for Natura 2000 financing in the Slovak Republic in the 2014-2020 programming period
PE	Physical entities
PEC	Primary energy consumption
PES	Primary energy sources
p. e.	Population equivalent
PM	Particulate matter
PP	Public procurement
PPO	Public Procurement Office
RITS	Regional Integrated Territorial Strategy
RDP	Rural Development Programme
RES	Renewable energy sources
SHI	Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute
SME	Small and Medium Enterprises
SO SR	Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic
SR	Slovak Republic
SUD	Sustainable urban development
TO	Thematic objective
WMP	Waste Management Program
WWTP	Wastewater treatment plant

### 13.3 EU and SR legislation abbreviations used

#### **EU legislation**

- **General Regulation** - Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 laying down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion

Fund and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 as amended

- **Regulation on CF** - Regulation (EU) No 1300/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on the Cohesion Fund and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1084/2006 as amended
- **Regulation on ERDF** - Regulation (EU) No 1301/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on the European Regional Development Fund and on specific provisions concerning the Investment for growth and jobs goal and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1080/2006 as amended
- **EC Delegated Act on the European code of conduct** - Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 240/2014 of 7 January 2014 on the European code of conduct on partnership in the framework of the European Structural and Investment Funds
- **Regulation No 1083/2006** - Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 of 11 July 2006 laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund and the Cohesion Fund and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999
- **GBER 2014** - Commission Regulation (EC) No 800/2008 of 6 August 2008 declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the common market in application of Articles 87 and 88 of the Treaty (General block exemption Regulation) and with effect from 1. 7. 2014 Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014 of 17 June 2014 declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the internal market in application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty
- **GBER 2017** - Commission Regulation (EU) 2017/1084 of 14 June 2017 amending Regulation (EU) No 651/2014 as regards aid for port and airport infrastructure, notification thresholds for aid for culture and heritage conservation and for aid for sport and multifunctional recreational infrastructures, and regional operating aid schemes for outermost regions and amending Regulation (EU) No 702/2014 as regards the calculation of eligible costs
- **Regulation No 1407/2013** - Commission Regulation (EU) No 1407/2013 of 18 December 2013 on the application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union to de minimis aid
- **Regulation No 166/2006** - Regulation (EC) No 166/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 January 2006 concerning the establishment of a European Pollutant Release and Transfer Register and amending Council Directives 91/689/EEC and 96/61/EC
- **Regulation LIFE** - Regulation (EU) No 1293/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 on the establishment of a Programme for the Environment and Climate Action (LIFE) and repealing Regulation (EC) No 614/2007 as amended
- **Waste Framework Directive** - Directive 2008/98/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 November 2008 on waste and repealing certain Directives
- **Directive 1999/31/EC** - Council Directive 1999/31/EC of 26 April 1999 on the landfill of waste
- **Directive 94/62/EC** - Directive 94/62/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 December 1994 on packaging and packaging waste
- **Directive 2006/66/EC** - Directive 2006/66/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 6 September 2006 on batteries and accumulators and waste batteries and accumulators and repealing Directive 91/157/EEC
- **Directive 2012/19/EU** - Directive 2012/19/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 4 July 2012 on waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) as amended
- **Directive 2000/53/EC** - Directive 2000/53/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 September 2000 on end-of life vehicles as amended
- **WFD** - Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, of 23 October 2000, establishing a framework for the Community action in the field of water policy
- **Directive 91/271/EEC** - Council Directive 91/271/EEC of 21 May 1991 concerning urban wastewater treatment

- **Directive 98/83/EC** - Council Directive 98/83/EC of 3 November 1998 on the quality of water intended for human consumption
- **Habitats Directive** - Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora
- **Birds Directive** - Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds
- **Directive 2010/75/EU** - Directive 2010/75/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 November 2010 on industrial emissions (integrated pollution prevention and control) as amended
- **Directive 2008/50/EC** - Directive 2008/50/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 May 2008 on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe
- **Directive on national emission ceilings** - Directive 2001/81/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2001 on national emission ceilings for certain atmospheric pollutants
- **Directive 2007/60/EC** - Directive 2007/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2007 on the assessment and management of flood risks
- **Directive 2012/27/EU** - Directive 2012/27/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 on energy efficiency, amending Directives 2009/125/EC and 2010/30/EU and repealing Directives 2004/8/EC and 2006/32/EC
- **Directive 2009/28/EC** - Directive 2009/28/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 April 2009 on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources and amending and subsequently repealing Directives 2001/77/EC and 2003/30/EC
- **Directive 2010/31/EU** - Directive 2010/31/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 May 2010 on the energy performance of buildings
- **Directive 2006/32/EC** - Directive 2006/32/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 April 2006 on energy end-use efficiency and energy services and repealing Council Directive 93/76/EEC
- **Directive 2004/8/EC** - Directive 2004/8/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 February 2004 on the promotion of cogeneration based on a useful heat demand in the internal energy market and amending Directive 92/42/EEC
- **Directive 2009/125/EC** - Directive 2009/125/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 October 2009 establishing a framework for the setting of ecodesign requirements for energy-related products as amended
- **Directive 2011/92/EU** - Directive 2011/92/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 2011 on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment
- **Directive 2001/42/EC** - Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 June 2001 on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment
- **Decision 1313/2013/EU** - Decision No 1313/2013/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on a Union Civil Protection Mechanism
- **Implementing Regulation 215/2014** - Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 215/2014 of 7 March 2014 laying down rules for implementing Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund with regard to methodologies for climate change support, the determination of milestones and targets in the performance framework and the nomenclature of categories of intervention for the European Structural and Investment Funds
- **Implementing Regulation 2018/276** - Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/276 of 23 February 2018 amending Implementing Regulation (EU) No 215/2014 with regard to changes to

Formátované: Písmo: Tučné

[the determination of milestones and targets for output indicators in the performance framework for the European Structural and Investment Funds](#)

#### **SR legislation**

- **Waste Act** - Act No 223/2001 Coll. on waste and on amendments to certain acts as amended and with effect from 1. 1. 2016 Act No 79/2015 Coll. on waste and on amendments to certain acts as amended
- **Act on Packaging** – Act No 119/2010 Coll. on packaging and on amendments to Act No. 223/2001 Coll. on waste and on amendments and supplements to certain acts as amended
- **Water Act** - Act No 364/2004 Coll. on water and on amendments to Act of the Slovak National Council No 372/1990 Coll. on offences as amended (Water Act) as amended
- Act on Protected areas of Natural water Accumulation – Act No. 305/2018 on protected areas of natural water accumulation and amending and supplementing certain acts
- **Act on drinking public water supplies and public sewage systems** - Act No 442/2002 Coll. on drinking public water supplies and public sewage systems and on amendments to Act No 276/2001 Coll. on regulation in network industries as amended
- **Act on nature and landscape protection** - Act No 543/2002 Coll. on nature and landscape protection as amended
- **Forests Act** - Act No 326/2005 Coll. on forests as amended
- **Act on environmental burdens** - Act No 409/2011 Coll. on certain measures in the field of environmental burdens and on amendments to certain acts
- **Geological Act** - Act No 569/2007 Coll. on geological works (Geological Act) as amended
- **Act on air** - Act No 137/2010 Coll. on air as amended
- **Act on flood protection** - Act No 7/2010 Coll. on flood protection as amended by the Act No 180/2013 Coll.
- **Act on natural healing waters** - Act No 538/2005 Coll. on natural healing waters, natural healing spas, spa sites and natural mineral waters and on amendments to certain acts as amended
- **Act on the protection of monuments and historic sites** - Act No 49/2002 Coll. on the protection of monuments and historic sites as amended
- **Act on handling extractive waste** - Act No 514/2008 Coll. on handling of waste from extractive industry and on amendments to certain acts
- **Act on the management of state in crisis situations other than time of war and state of war** - Act No 387/2002 Coll. on the management of state in crisis situations other than time of war and state of war as amended
- **Civil Protection Act** - Act No 42/1994 Coll. on civil protection of population as amended
- **Act on integrated rescue system** – Act No 129/2002 Coll. on integrated rescue system as amended
- **Act on energy efficiency** - Act No 476/2008 Coll. on efficiency in energy use (Act on energy efficiency) and on amendments to Act No 555/2005 Coll. on energy efficiency of buildings and on amendments to certain acts as amended and with effect from 1.12.2014 Act No 321/2014 Coll on energy efficiency and on amendments to certain acts as amended
- **Act on energy efficiency of buildings** - Act No 555/2005 Coll. on energy efficiency of buildings and on amendments to certain acts as amended
- **Act on thermal energy sector** - Act No 657/2004 Coll. on thermal energy sector as amended
- **Act on Energy** - Act No 251/2012 Coll. on energy and on amendments to certain acts as amended
- **Act on promotion of renewable energy sources and high-efficiency cogeneration** - Act No 309/2009 Coll. on promotion of renewable energy sources and high-efficiency cogeneration and on amendments to certain acts

- **Act on integrated prevention and control of the environmental pollution** - Act No 39/2013 Coll. on integrated prevention and control of the environmental pollution and on amendments to certain acts as amended
- **Act on environmental impact assessment** - Act No 24/2006 Coll. on environmental impact assessment and on amendments to certain acts as amended
- **Act on collection, storage, and dissemination of environmental information** - Act No 205/2004 Coll. on collection, storage, and dissemination of environmental information and on amendments to certain acts as amended
- **Civil Service Act** - Act No 400/2009 Coll. on civil service and on amendments to certain acts as amended and with effect from 1. 6. 2017 Act No 55/2017 Coll. on civil service and on amendments to certain acts as amended
- **Public Procurement Act** - Act No 25/2006 Coll. on public procurement and on amendments to certain acts as amended and with effect from 3. 12. 2015 Act No 343/2015 Coll. on public procurement and on amendments to certain acts as amended
- **Act on budgetary rules of public administration** - Act No 523/2004 Coll. on budgetary rules of public administration and on amendments to certain acts as amended
- **Environmental fund Act** - Act No 587/2004 Coll. on Environmental fund as amended
- **State Aid Act** - Act no. 358/2015 Coll. on the modification of certain relations in the field of state aid and minimal assistance and on amendments to certain acts as amended
- **Act on contribution from the ESIF** - Act No 292/2014 Coll. on the contribution provided by the European Structural and Investment Funds and on amendments to certain acts as amended
- **Decree No 429/2009 Coll.** - Decree of the Ministry of Economy of the SR No 429/2009 Coll., laying down a procedure for carrying out energy audits, the written report content and the set of data to monitor the efficiency in energy use and with effect from 1. 8. 2015 Decree of the Ministry of Economy of the SR No 179/2015 Coll. on energy audit
- **Decree No 364/2012 Coll.** - Decree of the Ministry of Transport, Construction and Regional Development of the SR No 364/2012 Coll. implementing some provisions of the Act No 555/2005 Coll. on energy efficiency of buildings and on amendments to certain acts as amended
- **Decree No 225/2011 Coll.** - Decree of the Regulatory Office for Network Industries No 225/2011 Coll. establishing price regulation in the electricity industry and Decree of the Regulatory Office for Network Industries No 18/2017 Coll. establishing price regulation in the electricity industry and on amendments to certain acts as amended
- **Decree No 217/2011 Coll.** - Decree of the Regulatory Office for Network Industries No 217/2011 Coll. establishing price regulation in the production, distribution and supply of drinking water through the drinking public water supply and the discharge and treatment of waste water through the public sewage system and Decree of the Regulatory Office for Network Industries No 21/2017 Coll. establishing price regulation in the production, distribution and supply of drinking water through the drinking public water supply and the discharge and treatment of waste water through the public sewage system
- **Decree No 383/2018 Coll.** - Decree of the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic from 10 December 2018 on technical conditions for designing fishponds and monitoring the migration passage of fishponds
- ~~**Regulation of the Slovak Government No 279/2011 Coll.** - Regulation of the Slovak Government No 279/2011 Coll. declaring the obligatory part of the Water Plan of the SR containing the programme of measures to meet the environmental objectives~~
- **Regulation of the Slovak Government No 755/2004 Coll.** - Regulation of the Slovak Government No 755/2004 Coll. setting the amount of non-regulated payments, amount of fees and details related to payments for water use as amended by the Regulation of the Slovak Government No 367/2008 Coll.

### 13.4 Codes for categories of intervention used in the OP QE

#### Dimension 1 - Intervention field

1. INTERVENTION FIELD	
II INFRASTRUCTURE PROVIDING BASIC SERVICES AND RELATED INVESTMENT:	
<u>Energy infrastructure</u>	
010	Renewable energy: solar
011	Renewable energy: biomass
012	Other renewable energy (including hydroelectric, geothermal and marine energy) and renewable energy integration (including storage, power to gas and renewable hydrogen infrastructure)
013	Energy efficiency renovation of public infrastructure, demonstration projects and supporting measures
016	High efficiency co-generation and district heating
<u>Environmental infrastructure</u>	
017	Household waste management (including minimisation, sorting, recycling measures)
018	Household waste management (including mechanical biological treatment, thermal treatment, incineration and landfill measures)
019	Commercial, industrial or hazardous waste management
020	Provision of water for human consumption (extraction, treatment, storage and distribution infrastructure)
021	Water management and drinking water conservation (including river basin management, water supply, specific climate change adaptation measures, district and consumer metering, charging systems and leak reduction)
022	Waste water treatment
IV DEVELOPMENT OF ENDOGENOUS POTENTIAL:	
<u>Business development</u>	
068	Energy efficiency and demonstration projects in SMEs and supporting measures
070	Promotion of energy efficiency in large enterprises
<u>Environment</u>	
083	Air quality measures
084	Integrated pollution prevention and control (IPPC)
085	Protection and enhancement of biodiversity, nature protection and green infrastructure
086	Protection, restoration and sustainable use of Natura 2000 sites
087	Adaptation to climate change measures and prevention and management of climate related risks e.g. erosion, fires, flooding, storms and drought, including awareness raising, civil protection and disaster management systems and infrastructures
089	Rehabilitation of industrial sites and contaminated land
IX TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE:	
121	Preparation, implementation, monitoring and inspection
122	Evaluation and studies
123	Information and communication

#### Dimension 2 - Form of finance

2. FORM OF FINANCE	
01	Non-repayable grant
02	Repayable grant

#### Dimension 3 - Territory type

3. TERRITORY TYPE	
01	Large Urban areas (densely populated >50 000 population)
02	Small Urban areas (intermediate density >5 000 population)
03	Rural areas (thinly populated)
07	Not applicable

#### Dimension 4 - Territorial delivery mechanisms

4. TERRITORIAL DELIVERY MECHANISMS	
07	Not applicable

#### 13.5 The final report from the OP QE ex ante evaluation (in separate document)

## Footnotes

<sup>1</sup> Adopted through the Communication from the Commission COM (2010) 2020 of 3 March 2010

<sup>2</sup> According to Article 9 of the Common Provisions Regulation (hereinafter referred to as “CPR”)

<sup>3</sup> Namely the I. pillar “Connecting the Danube Region” and the II. pillar “Protecting the Environment in the Danube Region” in the following Priority Areas: 2. To encourage more sustainable energy, 4. To restore and maintain the quality of waters, 5. To manage environmental risks and 6. To preserve biodiversity, landscapes and the quality of air and soils.

<sup>4</sup> The first comprehensive programme within the Europe 2020 strategy was the NRP SR 2011 - 2014, adopted by the Resolution of the SR Government No. 256 of 20 April 2011. NRP SR 2013 was adopted by the Resolution of the SR Government No. 198 of 24 April 2013. In line with the focus of the aid from EU funds under the cohesion policy, the NRP SR set three core objectives which are crucial for Slovak economy development and require substantial funding, namely:

- Basic infrastructure;
- Human resources, employment and social inclusion;
- Science, research and innovation with emphasis on promotion of economic growth while ensuring an efficient use of resources.

These measures also take into account the EC proposal on Council’s recommendations to the NRP SR, which the Slovak Government took cognizance of in its Resolution No. 254 of 30 May 2013. These recommendations were approved by the Council of the EU on 19 June 2013.

<sup>5</sup> SR 2014 Annual Report, submitted to the EC in accordance with Article 7 of the Regulation 525/2013/EU

<sup>6</sup> transport, agriculture, population, waste management, energy and industrial resources outside the ETS

<sup>7</sup> i.e. slower growth of emissions compared with the rate of growth of GDP

<sup>8</sup> Determination of the target has been based on the PRIMES reference scenario from 2007. The basis target is 1.5% of the final energy consumption without consumption of transport for the 2010 - 2012 period.

<sup>9</sup> EU Council recommendation on Slovakia’s 2013 National Reform Programme and delivering a Council opinion on Slovakia’s Stability Programme for 2012-2016, approved under No. 10654/1/13 REV of 19 June 2013, which the Slovak Government took note of in its Resolution No. 254 of 30 May 2013.

<sup>10</sup> Document “Through knowledge towards prosperity - Research and innovation strategy for smart specialisation of the SR”, approved by Slovak Government Resolution No. 665/2013 (<http://www.rokovania.sk/Rokovanie.aspx/BodRokovaniaDetail?idMaterial=23039>), p. 53, chapter 4 - Identification of areas of specialisation for SR RIS3..

<sup>11</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/pdf/csr2014/csr2014\\_slovakia\\_sk.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/pdf/csr2014/csr2014_slovakia_sk.pdf), p. 7, recommendation No. 6.

<sup>12</sup> The NRP SR similarly emphasizes that: “the main causes of unequal regional development and creation of regional disparities in the SR territory include inadequate equipment of territory with infrastructure. Therefore, the efforts of the SR is to strengthen its position in the European competitive environment through adequately built infrastructure”.

<sup>13</sup> 26 bodies interfere with geothermal structures that are not monitored.

<sup>14</sup> National Programme of SR for implementation of the Council Directive 91/271/EEC by 31st December 2012, reported to the European Commission on 19th September 2014

<sup>15</sup> defined in the Birds Directive

<sup>16</sup> defined in the Habitats Directive

<sup>17</sup> for the areas in the Pannonian biogeographical region in November 2013 and for the areas in the Alpine biogeographical region in January 2014

<sup>18</sup> The Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage.

<sup>19</sup> including selected bird species protected under the Birds Directive

<sup>20</sup> Air quality assessment in the Slovak republic 2012, Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute

[http://www.shmu.sk/File/oko/hodnotenie/2012\\_Hodnotenie\\_KO\\_v\\_SR.pdf](http://www.shmu.sk/File/oko/hodnotenie/2012_Hodnotenie_KO_v_SR.pdf)

<sup>21</sup> Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the reduction of national emissions of certain atmospheric pollutants and amending Directive 2003/35/EC

<sup>22</sup> Identification of most important emission sources focused on large stationary sources and assessment of their impact on the air quality in the Slovak Republic, SHI 2014.

<sup>23</sup> Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the limitation of emissions of certain pollutants into the air from medium combustion plants

<sup>24</sup> Adopted by the Resolution of the SR Government No. 148/2014.

<sup>25</sup> Priority area 5 of Danube Strategy - Managing risks to the environment

<sup>26</sup> <http://unfccc.int/adaptation/items/7006.php#Stakeholder>

<sup>27</sup> The Lisbon Treaty, Solidarity clause, Article 222 TFEU

<sup>28</sup> White paper on Community strategies on health protection, COM(2007) 630

<sup>29</sup> White paper - Adapting to climate change: Towards a European framework for action, COM(2009) 147 final

<sup>30</sup> EU Internal Security Strategy in Action: Five steps towards a more secure Europe COM(2010) 673 final

<sup>31</sup> EC Risk Assessment and Mapping Guidelines for Disaster Management SEC(2010) 1626 final

<sup>32</sup> <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:52009DC0084;SK:NOT>

<sup>33</sup> Decision No 1313/2013/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on a Union Civil Protection, <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2013:347:0924:0947:EN:PDF>

<sup>34</sup> According to Special Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change - Managing the Risks of Extreme Events and Disasters to Advance Climate Change Adaptation

<sup>35</sup> Estimates based on a report "The Stern Review on the Economics of Climate Change", HM Treasury, 2006

<sup>36</sup> Paragraph 2 of Act No. 387/2002 Coll. as amended

<sup>37</sup> Categories based on "Analyses of security risks", MoI SR, Section of crises management

<sup>38</sup> Decision No 1313/2013/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on a Union Civil Protection

<sup>39</sup> e.g. compliance with the requirements of proposal for a directive on the limitation of emissions of certain pollutants into the air from medium combustion plants, fulfilment of conditions for biomass use, etc.

<sup>40</sup> For example, devices using geothermal energy, heat pumps and low-emission biomass systems

<sup>41</sup> Draft Policy of using agricultural and forestry biomass for energy purposes, adopted by Slovak Government Resolution No. 1149/2004

<sup>42</sup> Report from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament on sustainability requirements for the use of solid and gaseous biomass sources in electricity, heating and cooling COM(2010) 11 final and COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT State of play on the sustainability of solid and gaseous biomass used for electricity, heating and cooling in the EU, Brussels, 28.7.2014, SWD(2014) 259 final

<sup>43</sup> EU Renewable Energy Directive 2009/28/EC

<sup>44</sup> paragraph 6 (5) of the Act. 309/2009 Coll. on the promotion of renewable energy sources and high-efficiency cogeneration and on amendments to certain acts

<sup>45</sup> Adjustment of production to consumption (resp. regulation electricity)

<sup>46</sup> Communication from the commission to the council, the European Parliament, the European economic and social committee and the Committee of the regions "A European Strategic Energy Technology Plan" (SET-PLAN) COM(2007) 723 final

<sup>47</sup> Draft Policy for development of electricity generation from small renewable energy sources, adopted by Slovak Government Resolution No. 347 of 3 July 2013

<sup>48</sup> Energy Efficiency Action Plan for the years 2014 – 2016 with a perspective to 2020 adopted by Slovak Government Resolution No. 350/2014 of 9 July 2014

<sup>49</sup> (Austria, Germany)

<sup>50</sup> Energy Efficiency Action Plan for the years 2014-2016 with a perspective to 2020 was being elaborated in parallel with OP QE so proposed measures in OP QE are in line with it.

<sup>51</sup> All buildings (private and commercial as well) with exception of public sector buildings.

<sup>52</sup> Buildings and other energy consuming installations in the ownership of public sector.

<sup>53</sup> (e.g. the OP CEG, SLOVSEFF)

<sup>54</sup> (value based on 9 343 certificates)

<sup>55</sup> (leaking roofs, gaps and cracks in the external walls, uptight windows, insufficient insulation, obsolete hot water distribution systems, high failure rate and outages of heating systems)

<sup>56</sup> e.g. by the means of the pilot project "Energy Efficiency in Public Buildings", MunSEFF, EkoFund – Improving the Energy Efficiency of Buildings

<sup>57</sup> Subsidies are limited, and loans are not always appropriate for already considerably indebted self-governing regions and municipalities

<sup>58</sup> National plan aimed at increasing the number of nearly zero-energy buildings, the Ministry of Transport, Construction, and Regional Development of the Slovak Republic, <http://www.telecom.gov.sk/index/index.php?ids=83491>

<sup>59</sup> Strategy for renovation of residential and nonresidential building stock in SR adopted by Slovak Government Resolution No. 347/2014 of 9 July 2014

<sup>60</sup> especially administrative buildings, schools and buildings in which health and social care is provided

<sup>61</sup> At the present time municipalities do not have sufficient available personal or financial capacities to prepare comprehensive local plans in the area of energy supply. They have mostly addressed pressing problems related to renovation of public buildings and renovation and modernization of street lighting. Only as little as eight municipalities (cities) have so far taken the opportunities arising from the accession to the European Covenant of Mayors, which stipulates the obligation for local sustainable energy development.

<sup>62</sup> heat pumps, solar thermal collectors

<sup>63</sup> During the economic crisis four CHP plants with total installed capacity of 87 MWe and 271 MWt were put out of operation

<sup>64</sup> e.g. biogas, solar energy and geothermal energy

<sup>65</sup> from four pipe systems to two pipe with compact heat exchangers in buildings will entail further increase of investments into central heating systems

<sup>66</sup> Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions concerning “Green Infrastructure - Enhancing Europe’s Natural Capital” COM(2013) 249 final

<sup>67</sup> Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions concerning “The Strategy of the European Union for the Danube Region” COM(2010) 715 final

<sup>68</sup> Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions concerning “Clean Air Programme for Europe” COM(2013) 918 final

<sup>69</sup> <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2013:0216:FIN:EN:DOC>

<sup>70</sup> <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2013:347:0924:0947:SK:PDF>

<sup>71</sup> more than 600 new slope deformations (landslides) following excessive precipitation in 2010 and 2013

<sup>72</sup> EU Internal Security Strategy in Action: Five steps towards a more secure Europe COM(2010) 673 final

<sup>73</sup> EC Risk Assessment and Mapping Guidelines for Disaster Management SEC(2010) 1626 final

<sup>74</sup> Eligibility of expenditure of activities that interfere with their effect the whole country proportionately (pro rata) decreases by 4,19 %, which corresponds to the ratio of the Bratislava region area to the total area of the Slovak Republic (<http://slovak.statistics.sk/wps/portal/ext/themes/regional/bratislava>)

<sup>75</sup> Recommendation for a COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION on Slovakia’s 2013 national reform programme and delivering a Council opinion on Slovakia’s stability programme for 2012-2016, adopted under No. 10654/1/13 REV on 19 June 2013, which the SR Government took note of by the Resolution No. 254/2013

<sup>76</sup> Recommendation for a COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION on Slovakia’s 2013 national reform programme and delivering a Council opinion on Slovakia’s stability programme for 2012-2016, adopted under No. 10654/1/13 REV on 19 June 2013, which the SR Government took note of by the Resolution No. 254/2013

<sup>77</sup> Eligibility of expenditure of activities D,E,F of the specific objective 4.4.1 that interfere with their effect the whole country proportionately (pro rata) decreases by 11,16 %, which corresponds to the ratio of the population of the Bratislava region area to the total population of the Slovak republic according to the population and housing census, which was carried out in the Slovak Republic in 2011 (<http://slovak.statistics.sk/wps/portal/ext/themes/demography/census/indicators/>)

<sup>78</sup> due to the high global warming potential (GWP) of methane

<sup>79</sup> according to the Act on budgetary rules of public administration

<sup>80</sup> according to the Act on budgetary rules of public administration

<sup>81</sup> according to the Act on budgetary rules of public administration

<sup>82</sup> according to the Act on budgetary rules of public administration

<sup>83</sup> due to the high global warming potential (GWP) of methane and nitrous oxide

<sup>84</sup> according to the Act on budgetary rules of public administration

<sup>85</sup> according to the Act on budgetary rules of public administration

<sup>86</sup> Land purchase will be limited to the extent defined by the CPR (Article 69(3b)), and even then only if the given territory is located in the 3<sup>rd</sup> level, 4<sup>th</sup> level, 5<sup>th</sup> level of protection, land purchase will be necessary to achieve project goals and land will be redeemed by the state, administrated by the professional organization of nature and landscape protection with a national competence, established by the MoE SR in accordance with the Nature and Landscape Protection Act.

<sup>87</sup> Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, The European Economic and social committee and the Committee of the regions COM(2013) 249 final of 6 May 2013 Green Infrastructure (GI) - Enhancing Europe’s Natural Capital

<sup>88</sup> according to the Act on budgetary rules of public administration

<sup>89</sup> according to the Act on budgetary rules of public administration

<sup>90</sup> Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, The European Economic and social committee and the Committee of the regions COM(2013) 918 final of 18 December 2013

<sup>91</sup> Strategy for reduction of PM<sub>10</sub>, adopted by Slovak Government Resolution No. 77 of 11 February 2013, <http://enviroportal.sk/uploads/files/ovzdušie/Strategia-pre-redukciu-PM-10-1.pdf>

<sup>92</sup> Use of RES is subject of support under the Priority axis 4.

<sup>93</sup> according to the Act on budgetary rules of public administration

<sup>94</sup> according to the Act on budgetary rules of public administration

<sup>95</sup> Strategy for reduction of PM<sub>10</sub>, adopted by Slovak Government Resolution No. 77 of 11 February 2013, <http://enviroportal.sk/uploads/files/ovzdušie/Strategia-pre-redukciu-PM-10-1.pdf>

<sup>96</sup> according to the Act on budgetary rules of public administration

<sup>97</sup> according to the Act on budgetary rules of public administration

<sup>98</sup> A LIFE Project can facilitate the implementation of mentioned activities. Activities of integrated LIFE Project, provided its approval, should be aimed at international cooperation, exchange of knowledge and experience (capacity building), the exchange of data between partner countries of the given region in border regions of the SR, CZ and PL (especially emission databases with high resolution for the purpose of regional modelling) and pilot modeling tools.

<sup>99</sup> according to the Act on budgetary rules of public administration

<sup>100</sup> according to the Act on budgetary rules of public administration

<sup>101</sup> Contrary, rehabilitation of extractive waste repository includes specific procedures that will ensure its physical and chemical stability (the works include geotechnical stabilization of the repository and prevention of leak/escape of contaminants into the environment).

<sup>102</sup> At present time, in accordance with the Act on certain measures in the field of environmental burdens, such entity is a ministry designated by resolution of the Government of the SR.

<sup>103</sup> according to the Act on budgetary rules of public administration

<sup>104</sup> according to the Act on budgetary rules of public administration

<sup>105</sup> according to the Act on budgetary rules of public administration

<sup>106</sup> according to the Act on budgetary rules of public administration

<sup>107</sup> according to the Act on budgetary rules of public administration

<sup>108</sup> according to the Act on budgetary rules of public administration

<sup>109</sup> according to the Act on budgetary rules of public administration

<sup>110</sup> Resolution A/RES/58/214 of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction and resolution A/RES/58/215 on Natural Disasters and Vulnerabilities, the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015

<sup>111</sup> EU Disaster preparedness programmes and the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid, 2007

<sup>112</sup> according to the Act on budgetary rules of public administration

<sup>113</sup> <http://www.copernicus.eu/>

<sup>114</sup> according to the Act on budgetary rules of public administration

<sup>115</sup> according to the Act on budgetary rules of public administration

<sup>116</sup> according to the Act on budgetary rules of public administration

<sup>117</sup> Specification, 2010/481/EU, Euratom, <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2010:236:0005:0017:EN:PDF>

<sup>118</sup> according to the Act on budgetary rules of public administration

<sup>119</sup> Within the OP QE the indicator „Share of RES in gross final energy consumption of the SR“ is proxy for the share of RES in gross final energy consumption of less developed regions of the SR

<sup>120</sup> with the exception of cases where the use of biogas takes place within the framework of activities aimed at utilizing biodegradable waste

<sup>121</sup> Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the reduction of national emissions of certain atmospheric pollutants and amending Directive 2003/35/EC

<sup>122</sup> according to the Act on budgetary rules of public administration

<sup>123</sup> according to the Act on budgetary rules of public administration

<sup>124</sup> with the exception of cases, when the use of biogas is to take place within activities on use of biodegradable waste

<sup>125</sup> Article 4, paragraph 7 of Water Framework Directive: “Member states will not violate this guideline, if:

- the failure at achieving a good state of underground water, good ecological state, eventually good ecologic potential, or avoiding deterioration of the state of surface or underground water body was caused by new changes in physical properties of surface water body or changes in the level of underground water body, or
- the deterioration of the state of surface water body from very good to good has been caused by new sustainable development activities of the man cannot be avoided and at the same time all the following conditions are met:
  - a) all feasible steps have been made to limit unfavorable impacts on the state of the water body;
  - b) reasons for modifications and changes are explicitly mentioned and detailed in the river basin management plan required by article 13, and the goals are reevaluated each six years;
  - c) reasons for these modifications and changes stem from a paramount public interest and/or benefits of achieving the goals set forth in paragraph 1 for environment and society are outweighed by benefits of new modifications or changes for human health, sustaining human safety or sustainable development, and

d) expected benefits of these modifications or changes to the water body cannot be achieved by other means that are a substantially better environmental choice for reasons related to technical feasibility or inadequate costs.

<sup>126</sup> SHP will be assessed in accordance with the EIA Directive.

<sup>127</sup> according to the Act on budgetary rules of public administration

<sup>128</sup> according to the Act on budgetary rules of public administration

<sup>129</sup> Strategy for reduction of PM<sub>10</sub>, adopted by Slovak Government Resolution No. 77 of 11 February 2013; <http://enviroportal.sk/uploads/files/ovzdušie/Strategia-pre-redukciu-PM-10-1.pdf>

<sup>130</sup> Construction of plants using biomass by the means of renovation and modernization of existing energy plants with maximum thermal input power 20 MW combusting fossil fuels

<sup>131</sup> Construction of plants for production of bio methane, use of water energy, use air thermal, hydrothermal or geothermal energy by using a heat pump, use of geothermal energy for direct heat generation and eventually also in combination with heat pump, and production and energy use of biogas, landfill gas, and gas from wastewater treatment plants.

<sup>132</sup> Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the limitation of emissions of certain pollutants into the air from medium combustion plants (i.e. facilities with the rated thermal input from 1MW to 50MW)

<sup>133</sup> Criteria for the sustainable use of the biomass in the regions of Slovakia will be prepared at the national level before granting any support for use of biomass. This document should provide justification, including the projections (with sources of data) and earmark areas in Slovakia where the development of the market could be still suitable for the support from the EU funds for biomass use, taking also into account the impacts on air quality. This document will be provided to the public for consultation and EC for information.

<sup>134</sup> COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT State of play on the sustainability of solid and gaseous biomass used for electricity, heating and cooling in the EU, Brussels, 28.7.2014, SWD(2014) 259 final

<sup>135</sup> Construction of small-scale plants for use of RES

<sup>136</sup> Directive 2009/125/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 October 2009 establishing a framework for the setting of ecodesign requirements for energy-related products

<sup>137</sup> In the case of replacing combustion plants support will be provided exclusively for plants with low solid pollutants emissions in accordance with measures for reduction of PM<sub>10</sub> concentration set forth in the abovementioned PM<sub>10</sub> Reduction Strategy.

<sup>138</sup> Decree No 429/2009 Coll. - Decree of the Ministry of Economy of the SR No 429/2009 Coll., laying down a procedure for carrying out energy audits, the written report content and the set of data to monitor the efficiency in energy use and with effect from 1. 8. 2015 Decree of the Ministry of Economy of the SR No 179/2015 Coll on energy audit

<sup>139</sup> Strategy for reduction of PM<sub>10</sub>, adopted by Slovak Government Resolution No. 77 of 11 February 2013; <http://enviroportal.sk/uploads/files/ovzdušie/Strategia-pre-redukciu-PM-10-1.pdf>

<sup>140</sup> Strategy for renovation of residential and nonresidential building stock in SR adopted by Slovak Government Resolution No. 347/2014 of 9 July 2014

<sup>141</sup> Notification Report to the alternative approach according to Article 5 of Directive 2012/27/EU on Energy Efficiency

<sup>142</sup> Notification Report to the alternative approach according to Article 5 of Directive 2012/27/EU on Energy Efficiency

<sup>143</sup> Except the projects with the same focus, which will be supported within RDP – LEADER measure through which the LAG strategies are implemented.

<sup>144</sup> Cost-optimal levels of minimum energy performance requirements – SR: [http://ec.europa.eu/energy/efficiency/buildings/implementation\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/energy/efficiency/buildings/implementation_en.htm)

<sup>145</sup> Minimum requirements for the global indicator – upper limit of energy class B (Act No. 555/2005 Coll. on energy efficiency of buildings as amended, Decree No 364/2012 Coll. of the Ministry of Transport, Construction and Regional Development of the SR)

<sup>146</sup> according to the act on budgetary rules of public administration

<sup>147</sup> according to the act on budgetary rules of public administration

<sup>148</sup> Directive 2008/50/EC on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe, Strategy for reduction of PM<sub>10</sub> (adopted in 2013) and programmes for air quality improvement

<sup>149</sup> according to the Act on budgetary rules of public administration

<sup>150</sup> according to the Act on budgetary rules of public administration

<sup>151</sup> according to the Act on budgetary rules of public administration

<sup>152</sup> according to the Act on budgetary rules of public administration

<sup>153</sup> according to the Act on budgetary rules of public administration

<sup>154</sup> Act No. 476/2008 Coll. on energy efficiency

<sup>155</sup> Act on energy efficiency (with effect from 1.12.2014)

<sup>156</sup> according to the act on budgetary rules of public administration

<sup>157</sup> according to the act on budgetary rules of public administration

<sup>158</sup> National Reforms Program of the Slovak Republic 2013, resolution of the Government of the Slovak Republic No. 198 on April 24, 2013

<sup>159</sup> according to the act on budgetary rules of public administration

<sup>160</sup> according to the act on budgetary rules of public administration

<sup>161</sup> Slovakia pays due attention to efforts to combat corruption and fraud. The adoption of the “Strategic plan to combat corruption in the SR” created a framework for a policy solution concerning the efforts to combat corruption and fraud and, at the same time, highlights Slovakia’s commitment to continue adopting effective measures in this area. The “Strategic plan to combat corruption in the Slovak Republic” was adopted by the Government on 10 August 2011; an assessment of the measures adopted was acknowledged by the Government on 2 April 2014.

<sup>162</sup> Based on the results of the *Analysis of administrative capacities and efficiency of the bodies responsible for ESIF and administrative capacities of the beneficiaries*, elaborated by the CCA, an indicative average number of ACs needed to ensure proper and smooth implementation of the OP QE has been identified, together with support framework in the areas of management and development of ACs of the bodies involved in the OP QE implementation (see Chap. B.2 and B.4 of the given analysis). Adoption of a coherent strategy of strengthening and management of ACs is also planned by the CCA at the national level. The measures implemented under this strategy will be aimed mainly at enhancing ACs’ quality, with particular emphasis on specific areas (see Chap. 2.5 of the PA SR).

<sup>163</sup> natural and legal persons undertaking in primary production of agricultural products, processing of primary agricultural products as well as to the SMEs managing forests and to the SMEs providing services to these forests managers

<sup>164</sup> where good water status has not been identified or where the water body has been identified as a risk

<sup>165</sup> All the IROP mentioned activities will be implemented at the territory of SR, with the exception of Bratislava self-governing region.

<sup>166</sup> Synergy between OP QE and OP F will be achieved in the case of protected areas that the OP F activities will be targeted so that the aquaculture development will minimalized negative impact on the environment and at the same time by the OP QE will address the protection of those areas within the management plans. In case of IROP and OP QE the synergy will be achieved through the interaction between the creation of green infrastructure in urban areas (supported under IROP) and other elements of green infrastructure (supported under the OP QE), which will contribute to the creation of a comprehensive system of ecological stability. Synergy between RDP and OP QE will be achieved by a compensatory payment in Natura 2000 sites from RDP, that will fill activities ensuring the protection of Natura 2000 sites under the management plans, prepared from the OP QE.

<sup>167</sup> International importance - other than community interest (relevant definitions are contained in the Act on nature and landscape protection).

<sup>168</sup> e.g. building and reconstruction of small dykes, small water levels or their aggregations, adjustments of bed streams

<sup>169</sup> PE and LE engaged in agricultural primary production, micro and small enterprises in rural areas managing forests owned by private owners and their associations, municipalities and their associations and churches whose property can be considered private under the legal order of the SR as concerns its administration and dispose, micro and small enterprises in rural areas engaged in commercial fish farming, planning to carry out activities to build facilities for the use of RES and at least part of the produced energy will be consumed by the enterprise for its own agricultural production or own forestry activity or own aquaculture activity

<sup>170</sup> If the LAG includes activities to promote RES in public buildings in municipality, the concerned activities will not be eligible for support from the OP QE. This shall ensure the exchange of information between MA and LAG certificates that the project is/is not eligible under the LAG strategy.

<sup>171</sup> e.g. interior equipmen, design of the site.

<sup>172</sup> Low-carbon strategies for all the types of territories, taking into account specific regional and local conditions in the field of low-carbon measures, may assist in preparation and implementation of RITS supported under the IROP. In case of existing RITS, the low-carbon strategies will have to be aligned with objectives of the RITS.

<sup>173</sup> In the field of environmental infrastructure supported from OP QE, the innovation aspect of technologies going beyond existing European standards will be taken into account in the selection criteria – where applicable under existing rules. Alternatively, the projects allowing approximation or early adaptation of the most ambitious EU standards in case European legislation defines the range of mandatory standards will be advantaged in the selection process.

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<sup>174</sup> In relation to target group of job applicants, disadvantaged job applicants, employees, self-employed persons, employers, job services providers etc. At the same time, the ESF support will be aimed at jobs creation in the environmental sector (green jobs) for young persons under 29 years (NEET).

<sup>175</sup> ensuring capitalization of knowledge gained in the various thematic areas and encouraging their transfer to ESIF programmes

<sup>176</sup> that may be subject of energy efficiency projects and RES use

<sup>177</sup> for the purposes of this chapter, the term "beneficiary" means also "applicant" and "prospective applicant" for whom the proposed measures for reduction of administrative burden are also intended

<sup>178</sup> experience of the Central Coordination Authority and the bodies involved in the implementation of the support from the SF and CF in the programming period 2007 - 2013, including lessons learned identified through several analyzes of administrative burden undertaken in the programming period 2007 - 2013 by the Central Coordination Authority and the Ministry of the Environment of the SR

<sup>179</sup> failure to successfully complete the implementation of projects means an situation when the project is not completed properly and/or on time in line with the contract's conditions

<sup>180</sup> Green public procurement represents one of significant measures of the new public procurement policy at national level, introduced within the reform of public sector. This issue is part of departmental goals of the Ministry of Environment, because use of green public procurement when selecting the operations with reduced negative impact on environment may substantially contribute to achievement of local, regional, national and international environmental objectives.

<sup>181</sup> <http://www.rokovania.sk/File.aspx/ViewDocumentHtml/Mater-Dokum-141217?prefixFile=m>