



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA

GOVERNMENT OFFICE FOR DEVELOPMENT  
AND EUROPEAN COHESION POLICY

## COMBINED STRATEGIC & ANNUAL PROGRAMME REPORT

# ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EEA FINANCIAL MECHANISM AND NORWEGIAN FINANCIAL MECHANISM 2009 - 2014 IN SLOVENIA



**Reporting period:**

**January 2014 – December 2014**

**Prepared by:**

**National Focal Point**

**Government Office for Development and  
European Cohesion Policy**

## 1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The main objective of the funds from NOR and EEA Financial Mechanisms 2009-2014 is to contribute to reducing economic and social differences and to enhance relations between beneficiary countries and donor countries. To attain its objectives, Slovenia and the donor countries determined the following priority areas: the environment and climate change, cultural heritage, research and scholarships, human and social development and civil society.

Programmes SI01 (technical assistance and the fund for bilateral relations at national level), SI02 (EEA Financial Mechanism Programme) and SI05 (Norwegian Financial Mechanism Programme) were operated by the Ministry of Economic Development and Technology by 1 March 2014. On 1 March 2014 the new Government Office for Development and European Cohesion Policy was established and all above mentioned programmes are now managed by the Government Office for Development and European Cohesion Policy. SI03 (Funds for non-governmental organisations) is managed by the Regional Environmental Centre and the Centre for Information Service, Co-operation and Development of NGOs, SI04 (EEA and Norwegian scholarship programme) is managed by CMEPIUS and SI22 (Global fund for decent work and tripartite dialogue). Programmes SI01, SI03, SI04 and SI22 are in full implementation.

For the programmes SI02 (EEA Financial Mechanism Programme) and SI05 (Norwegian Financial Mechanism Programme) the call for proposals was published on 27 December 2013 with the deadline for submission of project proposals 28 February 2014. The documentation related to the call for project proposals was prepared and approved by the selection committee and the Financial Mechanism Office.

The selection procedures took place in November and December 2014, first for the EEA programme and then for the NOR FM programme. Consequently the year 2015 will be the year of the projects implementation. Relating to the aforementioned, it will not be possible to assess in the report for 2014 how the mechanism funds contribute to attaining the programme objectives in Slovenia.

At the beginning of June 2014 the Description of management and control systems for the EEA Financial Mechanism Programme 2009-2014 (SI02), Description of management and control systems for the Norwegian Financial Mechanism Programme 2009-2014 (SI05), Description of the management and control systems for the Slovenian Scholarship Fund (SI04) with the Report on the compliance assessment of the management and control systems of the programme operators for the Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2009-2014, the EEA Financial Mechanism 2009-2014 and the Slovenian Scholarship Fund of the Budget Supervision Office has been sent to the FMO.

Strengthening long-term bilateral cooperation is a very important overall objective of the EEA and Norway Grants. The bilateral relations with the donor countries are supported through the bilateral fund at the national level as well as at the programme level.

The cooperation between Slovenia and donor countries was also enhanced in 2014, both on national level (organisation of conferences and study visits) and programme level. On the national level the cooperation between Slovenia and the donor countries is concentrating on further cooperation in the field of mainstreaming gender equality and health issues. In addition to that a new area of cooperation has been identified, i.e. experiences in the past and future European integration. Bilateral activities on the programme level is going well and we are also aiming that the implementation of certain project will also be an important input to the strengthening of bilateral relations.

A look into the future: we will strive that figures obtained by the end of the year 2014: 199 mobilities: 102 student mobilities, 47 staff, teacher and expert mobilities, 5 researcher mobilities and approximately 45 mobilities in the school sector would be even higher. We will strive to implement three predefined projects as effectively as possible and also successfully implement projects selected in the public call for priority areas Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, Conservation and Revitalisation of Cultural and Natural Heritage, Public health initiatives, Mainstreaming gender equality and promoting work-life balance by attaining programme outcomes and outputs. We will strive to strengthen civil

society development and to enhance contribution to social justice, democracy and sustainable development, which provides appropriate response to the civil society needs in Slovenia.

## 2. ASSESSMENT OF THE EFFECT OF THE GRANTS

### 2.1 Cohesion

The global economic and financial crisis has a strong impact on the formation of policies at international and national levels. We are facing numerous challenges and long-term trends from economic and environmental to demographic ones. As stated in Slovenia's Development Strategy 2014-2020, we will have to cope with limited resources and changed circumstances also at the national level, particularly demographic and social trends (ageing population, delayed independence of young people, brain drain, limited human resources), limited natural resources and their poor management, financial constraints, and similar. As a result, it is necessary to clearly define the objectives with key priorities, quantitative indicators, financial inputs and measurable results.

In Slovenia the Government office for development and European cohesion policy (GODC) coordinates the development documents of the Republic of Slovenia, monitors the implementation of development policies and its programmes and is responsible also for the coordination of documents pertaining to development planning and compliance of national development planning programmes and the European Union and other international organisations' development documents. GODC is also managing the preparation and coordination of the strategic documents with the European Union. Coordination of the preparation of the Partnership Agreement, the Operational Programme for Cohesion Funds and of cross-border cooperation programmes takes place within one institution, which both in the documentation preparatory stage and during implementation provides for the complementarity and synergies of various funds.

As one of its key documents defining the future guidelines of its economic and social development, Slovenia drafted Slovenia's Development Strategy 2014-2020. The strategy identifies three main areas of economic development:

1. Research, development and innovation;
2. Start-up, growth and development of small and medium-sized enterprises;
3. Employment, education, training and competence (young and older).

#### Objectives and targets of Slovenia's Development Strategy

	2012	2020
Gross domestic product per capita (GDP p.c.)	17,244 EUR	24,000 EUR
Productivity growth (GDP per employee)	-1.1%	3.5%
Employment (age 20-64) - share	68,3%	75%
Value-added per employee	37,187 EUR	50,000 EUR
Ecological footprint per capita	5.21	4.9

(Source: IMAD, SORS, Global Footprint Network)

For Slovenia it is important that all funds, both national, European cohesion as a means of the donors NOR and EEA FM focus to the objectives of economic and social development.

Most of the development funds in Slovenia contributes European Cohesion Policy. In the 2014-2020 programming period, the European cohesion policy will be implemented for two objectives: **"Investments for Growth and Jobs"** and **"European Territorial Cooperation"**. Both objectives will be the main mechanisms with which the European Union will strive to meet the objectives of the Europe 2020 Strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth by creating growth and new jobs, tackling climate change and energy dependence, and reducing poverty and social inclusion.

The majority of European funds will be available within the operational programmes of the objective **"Investments for Growth and Jobs"**, which are implemented in individual Member States on the basis of

the analysis of development needs, differences and growth potentials within national borders and which contribute to the realisation of national objectives, objectives of the Europe 2020 Strategy and Territorial Agenda 2020. Unlike these programmes, the European Territorial Cooperation enables a framework for the implementation of joint measures and the exchange of policies, experience and knowledge between national, regional and local players from different Member States, since the challenges facing Member States and European regions today more and more frequently exceed national borders and call for joint action at suitable territorial levels while observing inter-ministerial harmonisation. Slovenia in the scope of European territorial Cooperation cooperates in cross border cooperation, transnational cooperation, interregional cooperation (together 13 programmes).

For the absorption of them, Slovenia has prepared a single Operational Programme. THE OP ECP 2014-2020 encompasses the two cohesion regions and the ERDF, the ESF, the Cohesion Fund, and other relevant forms of implementing instruments.

Due to the regional development potential in Slovenia in this programming period a greater emphasis will be laid on the coordinated action between national and regional levels, based on the intersection between the development documents at national and regional level.

In Slovenia, the EEA and NOR FM 2009-2014 programmes are interwoven in the general development objectives included in the strategic document, Slovenia's Development Strategy 2014-2020, and the objectives of the cohesion policy in the 2014-2020 period. Their presence is particularly important in fields where they complement the funds of the European cohesion policy. Nevertheless, the contribution of the programmes cannot be evaluated yet, since the selected projects are in the initial implementation phase and the implementation of the European Cohesion Policy 2014-2020 has not started yet, below we provide a short information of the complementarity of ECP funds and mechanisms.

Thematic objectives of the European cohesion policy in 2014-2020 period:

1. enhancing research, technological development and innovation (Slovenia earmarked 15.38% of ECP funds for this thematic objective in the 2014-2020 period);
2. increasing accessibility to ICT and its application and quality (Slovenia earmarked 2.28% of ECP funds for this thematic objective in the 2014-2020 period);
3. increasing the competitiveness of SMEs, the agricultural sector, and maritime and aquaculture sector (Slovenia earmarked 17.52% of ECP funds for this thematic objective in the 2014-2020 period);
4. supporting the transition to a low-carbon economy with low carbon emissions in all sectors (Slovenia earmarked 9.38% of ECP funds for this thematic objective in the 2014-2020 period);
5. encouraging adjustment to climate change and risk prevention and management (Slovenia earmarked 2.76% of ECP funds for this thematic objective in the 2014-2020 period);
6. preservation and environment protection and promotion of efficient use of resources (Slovenia earmarked 13.33% of ECP funds for this thematic objective in the 2014-2020 period);
7. encouraging sustainable transport and elimination of bottlenecks in key network infrastructure (Slovenia earmarked 8.75% of ECP funds for this thematic objective in the 2014-2020 period);
8. promoting sustainable and quality employment and workforce mobility (Slovenia earmarked 9.58% of ECP funds for this thematic objective in the 2014-2020 period);
9. promoting social inclusion and combating poverty and any discrimination (Slovenia earmarked 4.84% of ECP funds for this thematic objective in the 2014-2020 period);
10. investing in education, training and vocational training for skills and lifelong learning (Slovenia earmarked 5.95% of ECP funds for this thematic objective in the 2014-2020 period);
11. enhancing the institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders and efficient public administration (Slovenia earmarked 1.73% of ECP funds for this thematic objective in the 2014-2020 period).

Complementarity can therefore be determined on the thematic objectives 5, 6, 9, 10.

Financial Mechanisms in Slovenia financed activities at the following programme areas:

### **EEA Programme (SI02)**

#### **Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services**

##### **Context of the programme area**

This programme field is particularly highlighted in Slovenia's Development Strategy 2014-2020 within the establishment of a green living environment as one of the four priority areas on which Slovenia will focus until 2020. According to the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia, the country's biodiversity with many valuable natural features, preserved nature, and prudent management of natural resources in connection with preserved cultural heritage attracts 30% of foreign tourists to Slovenia.

##### **Contribution of EEA FM**

Relating to the fact that the selected applicants have not yet started implementing their projects, it is difficult to assess the end result of the EEA FM contribution to this area; however, more efficient management and monitoring of Natura 2000 sites and protection and preservation of valuable natural features within state-protected areas and co-financed public infrastructure scheme in the 2 natural parks will be enabled with the funds earmarked for the selected projects.

#### **Environmental monitoring and integrated planning and control**

##### **Context of the programme area**

For the above programme area, a predefined project, "Modernisation of spatial data infrastructure to reduce the risks and impacts of floods" was agreed on by a Memorandum of Understanding. The general project objectives are: to facilitate water management and reduce the risks and impacts of floods with improved spatial planning with the help of suitable assessments of potentially endangered areas; to improve spatial data on topography and to increase data compliance and thus related services with the requirements of the INSPIRE Directive.

##### **Contribution of EEA FM**

Environmental monitoring and integrated planning and control will contribute to reducing pressures on the environment with incentives to reduce pollution, the efficient use and management of natural resources, and development and use of products, services and technologies which are environment-friendly and respond to the challenges of climate change.

#### **Conservation and revitalisation of cultural and natural heritage**

##### **Context of the programme area**

Cultural heritage is a promising holder of integrated social and sustainable development, the promotion of cultural diversity and equal cooperation of individuals and communities in society. The objective is the protection and preservation of cultural heritage and the integration of cultural heritage in sustainable development of Slovenia. The expected results are the renovation and preservation of cultural heritage and its improved availability to the public.

The programme area of Conservation and revitalisation of cultural and natural heritage is particularly highlighted in Slovenia's Development Strategy 2014-2020 within the green living environment as one of the four priority areas on which Slovenia will focus until 2020.

Natural heritage is important for the sustainable development of tourism, whose prerequisite is suitable infrastructure for visitors which also provides natural protection from damage. The objectives for the

protection of valuable natural features are also determined in the Slovenian Resolution on National Environmental Action Plan 2005-2012.

### **Contribution of EEA FM**

Since the selected applicants have not yet started implementing their projects, it is difficult to assess the end effect of the EEA FM contribution to this area; however, more efficient conservation and preservation of valuable natural features within state-protected areas will be enabled with a special emphasis on arranging public infrastructure for visitors. If the selected applicants successfully realise their projects, three cultural monuments and public infrastructure in two national parks will be arranged with the allocated funds.

### **Funds for non-governmental organisations (SI03)**

#### **Context of the programme area**

Overall objective of the NGO Programme in Slovenia is to strengthen civil society development and to enhance contribution to social justice, democracy and sustainable development, which provides appropriate response to the civil society needs in Slovenia. Main aims of the NGO Fund are to improve NGOs' organisational development and to build their advocacy capacities. Special attention is given to supporting deficit priority areas, to promoting cross-sectoral partnerships in community development, and to encouraging ideas that are responding to the current most pressing problems in Slovenian society in order to contribute to long-term development of the NGO sector.

#### **Contribution of NOR and EEA FM**

The objective of the NGO programme is to enhance civil society and increase its contribution to social justice, democracy and sustainable development. The programme contains a special section focused on inter-ministerial partnerships, particularly with organisations at the local, regional and/or national levels when treating endangered children, youth and vulnerable groups, such as Roma.

### **EEA and Norwegian Scholarship programme (SI04)**

#### **Context of the programme area**

The holder of the programme Slovene Scholarship Fund is the Centre of the Republic of Slovenia for Mobility and European Educational and Training Programmes (CMEPIUS).

The Slovene Scholarship Fund supports international cooperation, trans-national partnerships and mobility in order to enhance the internationalisation of vocational and higher education in Slovenia. The supported project and activities will directly enhance institutional cooperation between Slovenia and the EEA countries and could thus establish long-term cooperation. The purpose of the programme for scholarships and grants in Slovenia is to increase institutional cooperation between donor country and beneficiary countries by supporting educational institutions in concluding institutional agreements on the basis of which they could enhance inter-institutional cooperation in the form of student and staff mobility, study visits, the exchange of experts or further networking.

The main national document is the Resolution on the National programme of higher education 2011-2020 in which the internationalisation of tertiary education is one of the seven fundamental objectives. The implementation of the programme for scholarships and grants perfectly suits national priority tasks in this field in Slovenia and these funds suitably supplement the programme.

#### **Contribution of NOR and EEA FM**

The objective of the programme area is to improve human capital and the knowledge base in Slovenia. The programme for scholarships and grants in Slovenia supports activities in which participants directly

enhance their knowledge and skills in academic or expert fields and thus also enhance human capital and the knowledge base in Slovenia.

The existence of the Slovene Scholarship Programme represented an important stimulus for all those Slovene educational institutions at primary, secondary and tertiary level willing to cooperate with Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein. Specifically devoted financial means were a big impetus for the realisation of these bilateral aims.

## **NOR Programme (SI05)**

### **Public health initiatives**

#### **Context of the programme area**

One of the main four priorities of Slovenia's Development Strategy 2014-2020 is an inclusive society, whereby we wish *inter alia* to increase the effectiveness of the health system and provide access to high-quality and safe medical treatment and increase the efficiency of the health protection management system. We want to reduce the risk of poverty and increase the social inclusion of the endangered and vulnerable groups of people. Slovenia is undergoing sudden changes and development challenges in all fields which are important for social progress and welfare. The Slovenian public health at top of all values, whereby health represents an important social capital which is a prerequisite for social and economic development. The health system can significantly contribute to reducing inequalities in health protection by providing equality when accessing and using health-care services. This also includes preventive and other public health programmes.

#### **Contribution of NOR and EEA FM**

The expected result of the programme area of Public health initiatives is to reduce inequalities between user groups; to reduce or prevent diseases related to lifestyle; improve health-care services in the field of mental health, i.e. by increasing capacities of public health care and cooperation between sectors, institutions, workers and civil society in order to contribute to reducing social and economic differences in the expanded EEA. The programme strives to enhance bilateral relations between the Kingdom of Norway and the Republic of Slovenia in the field of public health and in the field of inequality in protecting health by means of cooperation with the Norwegian Institute of Public Health.

The implementation of 19 projects is anticipated in the field of public health. *Inter alia* the projects will address issues of violence, autism, social exclusion and health promotion, the inclusion of the disabled in sports and sports organisations, family issues, and prevention and HIV testing among communities of men who have sexual intercourse with other men, and will contribute to enhancing healthy lifestyles among different groups of people. Furthermore, psychological consultation offices and currently available programmes for enhancing parenting competences for upbringing children will be upgraded. A dementia centre will be established and a model of supervised practice for psychologists will be implemented.

### **Mainstream gender equality and promoting work-life balance**

#### **Context of the programme area**

The objective of the programme area is to improve the situation in the Republic of Slovenia in the field of gender equality to attain objectives with the objectives of the policy on equal opportunities of women and men at the national and EU levels – equal recognition, power and participation of both genders in all fields of public and private life. The harmonisation of work and family lives makes one of the most important conditions to create actual equal opportunities for women and men in society, including relating to their active participation in professional and business decision-making.

## **Contribution of NOR and EEA FM**

The expected results in this programme area are: raised awareness and implementation of research on gender equality, facilitated harmonisation of work, private and family lives, balanced representation of both genders in decision-making in political and business fields.

The implementation of five projects concerning gender equality which focus on improving the position of women in managerial positions in business and political life and the provision of balanced work and family life are anticipated.

### **2.2 Bilateral relations**

In 2014 the funds available for bilateral relations made an important contribution to the strengthening of bilateral relations between Slovenia and the Donor States. Cooperation between the aforementioned took place at national as well as project level in various framework, namely cooperation among research institutions, universities, officials, non-governmental sector as well as politicians.

With regard to cooperation at national level, in addition to study visits, two major conferences were held in Slovenia which were well-covered by the media. The two conferences contributed to the enhanced visibility of the Norwegian and the EEA Financial Mechanism, and underlined and strengthened bilateral cooperation on various levels. Without a doubt the Fund for bilateral relations at the national level strengthen cooperation of various stakeholders within the given areas of cooperation at national level, namely Cooperation in the field of health, Cooperation in the field of gender equality, Slovenian / EEA countries experiences in the past and future European integration.

The main objective of Priority 2 “Co-operation in the field of health” is further strengthening of bilateral co-operation between Slovenian and donor countries’ ministries of health through joint conference for exchange of knowledge and best practices in the area of public health and primary health care focusing on reducing health inequalities and through study visit on public health.

For 2015 the Ministry of Health would like to implement a study visit of Slovenian experts and policy makers on public health to Norway with the aim to introduce best practices of the Norwegian Directorate of Health to Slovenian policy makers and professionals and to learn from best practices and share experience. Study visit on public health to the Norwegian Directorate of Health will strengthen cooperation between key stakeholders in implementing the Norwegian Financial Mechanism Programme 2009-2014 for Slovenia in the public health initiatives area. National decision makers and professionals who will participate in the study visit will learn from Norwegian good practices in the field of public health, reflect on practice in Slovenia and share experience. The study visit will be carried out in spring 2015.

The Ministry of Health would like to organise “the health inequalities” conference in 2015. The conference was planned for 2014 but was postponed due to the late commencement of project implementation; indeed the content of the conference relates to project results.

The main objective of priority 3 “Cooperation in the field of gender equality” is to establish and further strengthen bilateral cooperation between Slovenia, Norway, Iceland and/or Lichtenstein in the area of gender equality, more specifically between the ministries responsible for gender equality policies and other relevant organizations working in this field.

In 2014 the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities implemented a study visit to decision-making organizations at the national and local level, NGOs and others dealing with gender equality issues in Iceland, in order to exchange experiences and strengthen cooperation between key stakeholders in implementing policies, projects and programmes in the area of violence against women, men and gender equality, reconciliation of family and private life and gender equality in decision making. The study visit was carried out in August 2014.

The Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities in cooperation with the Women’s Lobby Slovenia organised an international conference “Women – 20 Years after Beijing” which took



place on 13 and 14 November 2014. The aim of the conference was to contribute to the strengthening of cooperation, exchange of experiences and best practices between the stakeholders from Slovenia, Norway, Iceland and/or Lichtenstein in the field of gender equality. The conference marked the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Beijing Platform for Action in the framework of the 4<sup>th</sup> UN Conference on Women. The signatories of the documents, including Slovenia, Norway, Iceland and Lichtenstein, committed themselves to realise the set objectives for greater equality of women and men. The conference aimed to open up a debate on what has been done and realised in the field of gender equality in Slovenia and the Donor States, what is the position of women today in comparison to 1995 in terms of the key areas of the Beijing Platform for Action. Presentation of the experiences of Norway and Iceland had a positive contribution to the exchange of ideas and to finding the adequate solutions under the gender equality policy in areas of the thematic workshops. The conference contributed to the strengthening of cooperation and exchange of views and positions regarding gender equality. The conference resulted in the adoption of a manifesto which includes proposals and demands, addressed to the Government and politicians, participating in the future gender equality policy. The adopted manifesto will contribute to the development of a national strategy for gender equality policy, which is one of the activities of the pre-defined project *Balancing the Gender Relations* which is co-financed under the Norwegian Financial Mechanism Programme 2009-2014. The adoption of the manifesto extended and strengthened the planned activities and also contributed to enhanced performance and efficiency of the Norwegian and EEA Financial Mechanism in the field of gender equality. The conference was well-attended (with over 150 participants) and well-covered by the media. Thus, the conference contributed immensely to the visibility of the area of gender equality as well as the visibility of the EEA Financial Mechanism and the Norwegian Financial Mechanism.

Consultation meeting on men and gender equality for exchange of experiences and best practices with experts from Slovenia, Iceland and/or Norway will be carried out in spring 2015, with the aim to exchange experiences and best practices in the area of men and gender equality with experts from Slovenia, Iceland and/or Norway. Target groups for the consultation meeting are experts working in the area of men and gender equality in Slovenia, Iceland and/or Norway.

The main objective of priority 4 "Slovenian / EEA countries experiences in the past and future European Integration" is to exchange Slovenian and EEA countries experiences with different models of European integration. The Slovenian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in cooperation with the National Focal Point and the Donor States under the European Economic Area (Norway, Lichtenstein and Iceland) organised a conference "Different models of past and future European integration – a look form inside and outside the EU" which took place on 16 October 2014 in Ljubljana. The conference agenda was coordinated with all three Donor States; the coordination was also the subject of the study visit by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs representatives to Oslo in February 2014. The representative of Lichtenstein and Iceland were also present at the visit to the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The aim was to define the key elements of the conference agenda and the thematic contributions by individual countries. Slovenia expressed a wish to also strengthen cooperation in other areas, for example in the field of science and technology.

The aim of the above mentioned conference was to exchange experiences and to further strengthen cooperation by giving emphasis to the experiences of small states – inside and outside the EU. The discussion also focused on the future of the EU and the most optimal forms of European integration which is being intensively transformed in light of the economic crisis.

The conference was attended by the representatives of the central public administration, faculties and institutes, foreign diplomats in Slovenia, representatives of political parties and non-governmental organisations, as well as students, representatives of the press.

The conference achieved all the planned results in compliance with the work plan of the Bilateral Fund at National Level:

- Establishing new contacts between Slovenian state administrations and the EEA Donor States' administrations, Donor States' research institutions and universities;

- Meeting of the politicians, officials, experts and representatives of non-governmental organisations, exchange of experience and views at the conference opened up new opportunities for cooperation, especially in the field of civil society inclusion in decision-making on European affairs;
- The conference and the media coverage of the conference strengthened the awareness of the relevance of the Norwegian and the EEA Financial Mechanism.

### 3 REPORTING ON PROGRAMMES

#### 3.1 Overview of Programme status

Programmes SI01 (Technical assistance and the fund for bilateral relations at national level), SI02 (EEA financial mechanism programme), SI03 (Funds for non-governmental organisations), SI04 (EEA and Norwegian scholarship programme), SI05 (Norwegian financial mechanism programme) and SI22 (Global fund for decent work and tripartite dialogue) are in full implementation.

The **SI01** programme is being operated by the Government Office for Development and European Cohesion Policy. Within the Technical assistance fund the funds are being used to cover programme management cost at the National Focal Point, the Certifying Authority and the Audit Authority.

The **SI02** programme is being operated by the Government Office for Development and European Cohesion Policy. In 2013 the documentation related to the call for project proposals for priority areas Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and Conservation and Revitalisation of Cultural and Natural Heritage was prepared and approved by the selection committee and the Financial Mechanism Office. The call for proposal was published on 27 December 2013. The deadline for submission of project proposals was 28 February 2014. In November 2014 the selection committee confirmed the list of selected projects. By implementing expected nine projects, the programme's output indicators which refer to the programme outcome will be attained: increased capacity to manage and monitor Natura 2000 sites effectively; Cultural heritage restored, renovated and protected and Cultural heritage made accessible to the public.

The third objective within the EEA Financial Mechanism is the Environmental Monitoring and Integrated Planning and Control with the objective to "Improve compliance with environmental legislation" through a pre-defined project "Modernization of Spatial Data Infrastructure to Reduce Risks and Impacts of Floods". The project is being implemented in accordance with the Project Implementation plan, in 2014 the Project Promoter submitted one report on the progress of the project.

The **SI03** programme is being operated by the Regional Environmental Centre (REC Slovenia) and the Centre for Information Service, Co-operation and Development of NGOs (CNVOS). PIA between FMO and REC Slovenia for implementation of NGO Programme SI03 was signed in April 2013, and the Programme was launched in June 2013. The first open call – Public Call for Large and Medium Projects was published in June 2013, using two stage application process. Due to intensive promotion and broad assistance to the applicants, there were 365 project ideas received in the first stage. In February 2014 the contracts were signed with 15 selected project promoters. The second open call – call for small projects was published in March 2014 where altogether 246 applications were received. In October 2014 the contracts were signed with 18 selected project promoters.

Overall objective of the NGO Programme in Slovenia is to strengthen civil society development and to enhance contribution to social justice, democracy and sustainable development, which provides appropriate response to the civil society needs in Slovenia. Main aims of the NGO Fund are to improve NGOs' organisational development and to build their advocacy capacities. Special attention is given to supporting deficit priority areas, to promoting cross-sectoral partnerships in community development, and to encouraging ideas that are responding to the current most pressing problems in Slovenian society in order to contribute to long-term development of the NGO sector.

The **SI04** programme is being operated by the Centre of the Republic of Slovenia for Mobility and European Educational and Training Programmes (CMEPIUS). The Slovene Scholarship Fund has been in progress mainly during 2014; it has become more known, Slovene institutions have become more aware and more interested in cooperating with countries that were not so popular within Lifelong learning programme for various reasons. The existence of the Slovene Scholarship Programme represented an important stimulus for all those Slovene educational institutions at primary, secondary and tertiary level willing to cooperate with Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein. Specifically devoted financial means were a big impetus for the realisation of these bilateral aims. Programme Operator managed to implement its call and all activities related in a quality way, by being flexible and adapting its procedures if needed. The PO invested much effort into being responsive to the needs of the applicants in order to bring their ideas to the project stage. The Programme evolved well in 2014 and the PO could finally start presenting first real project results that derived from this bilateral or multilateral cooperation. Moreover, in line with the overall EEA/Norway Grants strategy and objectives, the programme in Slovenia sought synergies with other initiatives and programmes, by organizing awareness raising events, thematic seminars with sustainable, useful outputs and products.

The **SI05** programme with two priority areas “Public health initiatives” and “Mainstreaming gender equality and promoting work-life balance” is being operated by the Government Office for Development and European Cohesion Policy.

The documentation related to the call for project proposals was prepared and approved by the selection committee and the Financial Mechanism Office. The call for proposals was published on 27 December 2013. The deadline for submission of project proposals is 28 February 2014.

Due to the results based approach and priority area activity focused approach in the phase of preparation of the public call it is estimated that the selected projects at the end of December 2014 (overall 24; 19 in the area of Public Health Initiatives and 5 in the field of Gender Equality) form good base to achieving programme outputs, outcomes and indicators in the following years (2015, 2016 and first months of 2017).

The predefined project: Towards Better Health and Reducing Inequities in Health is being implemented smoothly and in accordance with the Project Implementation Plan which is an appendix of the Project Contract. In 2014, the project promoter submitted two reports on the progress of the project, which referred to the project implementation period up to and including August 2014.

The predefined project: Towards Equalizing Power Relations between Woman and Men is being implemented smoothly and in accordance with the Project Implementation Plan which is an appendix of the Project Contract. In 2014, the project promoter submitted a report on the progress of the project up to and including August 2014.

The **SI22** programme is implemented by “Innovation Norway”. The implementation is horizontally for all 12 beneficiary states. The Fund finances measures which promote decent work and strengthen trilateral dialogue. The call for proposals is closed. In the Republic of Slovenia two projects have been allocated funds.

## **3.2 Individual Programme reporting**

### **3.2.1. Programme SI01 – TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND THE FUND FOR BILATERAL RELATIONS AT NATIONAL LEVEL**

The purpose of the technical assistance programme is to contribute to the management cost at the National Focal Point, the Certifying Authority and the Audit Authority related to the implementation of the EEA and the Norwegian Financial Mechanism.

#### **3.2.1.1. Overall progress as regards implementation of the Programme:**

In 2014, the following activities were performed and covered with the Technical Assistance funds:

- 3rd Annual Audit Report and Opinion prepared;
- Audit strategy prepared;
- All Requests submitted to the certifying authority certified;
- Monitoring committee organised by the National Focal Point (12 September 2014);
- Annual meeting organized by the National Focal Point (16 September 2014);
- Labour cost at the Certifying Authority and the Audit Authority;
- Participation of 1 representative of The National Focal Point and 1 representative of SI02 at the workshop on irregularities (Brussels, 17-18 March 2014);
- Meeting of the Head of the National Focal Point and the FMO, (Brussels, April 2014);
- DoRIS system training organised by the National Focal Point (Ljubljana, 7-8 July 2014);
- Participation of 2 representatives of NFP at the workshop for NPF organised by FMO (Brussels, 20 November 2014)

#### **3.2.1.3. Outputs achieved:**

- 1 representative of The National Focal Point and 1 representative of SI02 acquainted with the reporting on irregularities;
- 1 representative of the National Focal point, 2 representatives of SI02, 3 representatives of SI05, 1 representative of SI04, 2 representatives of NGO, 1 representative of the Ministry of finance acquainted with DoRIS system (Ljubljana, 7-8 July 2014);
- 2 representatives acquainted with the valuable informations and experiences of the FMO and the countries regarding bilateral relations, regulations, reporting.

#### **3.2.1.4. Potential risks that may threaten the achievement of the objectives set out in the Programme;**

The human resources management is important for efficient implementation. At each phase of implementation of EEA and Norwegian Financial Mechanism is necessary to assure an adequate number of appropriately skilled staff to carry out required tasks. In May 2014 the contact person of The National Focal Point has been replaced by another civil servant who works 100% at EEA and Norwegian Financial Mechanism. Besides that it is also important to have the support of all supporting services within the office (i.e. the legal service, public procurement service, the IT service, etc.).

#### **3.2.1.5. The need for adjustments of plans, including actions for risk mitigation;**

At the moment no adjustments of plans concerning the activities within the Technical Assistance Fund are necessary.

#### **3.2.1.6. The use of funds for bilateral relations**

In 2014, the following activities were performed and covered with the funds for bilateral relations at the national level :

- a study visit of the representatives of the Slovenian Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities to decision-making organisations at the national and local level, NGOs and others dealing with gender equality issues in Iceland, in order to exchange experiences and strengthen cooperation between key stakeholders in implementing policies, projects and programmes in the area of violence against women, men and gender equality, reconciliation of family and private life and gender equality in decision making (August 2014);
- The Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities in cooperation with the Women's Lobby Slovenia organised an international conference "Women – 20 Years after Beijing" which took place on 13 and 14 November 2014, Brdo pri Kranju.
- a study visit by The Slovenian Ministry of Foreign Affairs to Oslo in February 2014. The representative of Lichtenstein and Iceland were also present at the visit to the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The aim was to define the key elements of the conference agenda and the thematic contributions by individual countries.
- The Slovenian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in cooperation with the National Focal Point and the Donor States under the European Economic Area (Norway, Lichtenstein and Iceland) organised a

conference “Different models of past and future European integration – a look form inside and outside the EU” which took place on 16 October 2014 in Ljubljana. The conference agenda was coordinated with all three Donor States;

The proposed changes of the work plan – Fund for bilateral relations at the national level:

In 2014 the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities asked for three changes and the Ministry of Health for two changes of the work plan - Fund for bilateral relations at the national level.

Regarding Priority 2 “Co-operation in the field of health” the Ministry of Health, since the cost of the telemedicine study visit carried out in November 2013 was much lower than planned in the Work plan (only 2.573 EURO instead of 12.000 EUR), proposed to use the remaining amount for a study visit at the Norwegian Directorate of Health and the Norwegian Institute of Public Health. The proposed Slovenian participants are the representatives of the Ministry of Health and the Institute of Public Health. The Ministry of Health would like to implement a study visit of Slovenian experts and policy makers on public health to Norway with the aim of introducing best practices of the Norwegian Directorate of Health and the Norwegian Institute of Public Health to Slovenian policy makers and professionals as well as to learn from best practices and share experience. The study visit on public health to the Norwegian Directorate of Health and Norwegian Institute of Public Health will strengthen cooperation between key stakeholders in implementing the Norwegian Financial Mechanism Programme 2009-2014 for Slovenia in the public health initiatives area. The Ministry of Health then requested for two minor changes within the approved Study visit on public health. Instead of Norwegian Institute of Public Health, they would like to visit Norwegian Ministry of health and care services. The participants of the study visit would be only the representatives of the Ministry of Health, initially the representatives of the Institute of Public health were foreseen. The Ministry will carry out the study visit at the beginning of 2015.

Regarding Priority 3 “Co-operation in the field of gender equality”, the cost of the study visit carried out in June 2013 was lower than planned in the Work Plan concerning bilateral relations at the national level, so the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities proposed to use the remaining amount (5,990 EUR) for a study to visit decision-making organisations at the national and local level, NGOs and others dealing with gender equality issues in Iceland. The Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities implemented a study visit in order to exchange experiences and strengthen cooperation between key stakeholders in implementing policies, projects and programmes in the area of violence against women, men and gender equality, reconciliation of family and private life and gender equality in decision making. The study visit was carried out in August 2014.

Out of the planned EUR 5,990.00 only EUR 3,771.31 was spent for the implementation of the above mentioned study visit. The Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities asked to implement another activity within the Bilateral Fund, namely an activity which strives to enhance cooperation and exchange of experiences with the relevant players in Slovenia and Iceland at the local level. The remaining amount, which was foreseen to be spent for the implementation of the second study visited, would thus be reallocated to cover the expenses pertaining to the participation of one or several experts from Iceland at one of the thematic consultative seminars which is part of the pre-defined project “Towards Equalizing Power Relations between Women and Men” financed under the Norwegian Financial Mechanism and implemented by the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities. The objective is to upgrade the seminar with the knowledge and best practices from Iceland. The latter focuses a lot of attention to gender equality at the local level through the preparation of action plans, gender budgeting, preparation of thematic brochures, etc. The seminar is foreseen to take place in the first half of 2015. The aim of combining the activities of the pre-defined project and the activities of the Bilateral Fund at national level is to broaden and strengthen the planned

activities and thus contribute to a greater success and effectiveness of the Norwegian and the EEA Financial Mechanism in the field of gender equality.

Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities also asked to transfer 5000€ from the conferences` budget to cover the cost of the participation of foreign experts (travel, accommodation, daily subsistence) in the consultation meeting on men and gender equality. Consultation meeting on men and gender equality for exchange of experiences and best practices with experts from Slovenia, Iceland and/or Norway will be carried out in Spring 2015. Target groups for the consultation meeting are experts working in the area of men and gender equality in Slovenia, Iceland and/or Norway. The consultation meeting will be a good opportunity for capacity-building as well as to discuss initiatives and legislative framework on men and gender equality with all relevant stakeholders.

The above mentioned proposals were approved by the Donor states.

### **3.2.2. Programme SI02 – EEA FINANCIAL MECHANISM PROGRAMME**

#### **3.2.2.1. Overall progress as regards implementation of the Programme and their sub-projects;**

The EEA Financial Mechanism Programme consists of three programme areas:

- Biodiversity and ecosystem services, with the objective of “Halting biodiversity loss”,
- Conservation and revitalisation of cultural and natural heritage, with the objective of “Cultural and natural heritage for future generations safeguarded, conserved and made publicly accessible”,
- Environmental monitoring and integrated planning and control with the objective of “Improved compliance with environmental legislation”.

The main focus of work in the framework of the EEA Financial Mechanism in 2014 was on:

- establishing a system of project implementation and reporting in line with the regulations and Slovene legislation,
- concluding/signing contracts for a predefined projects,
- carrying out the whole process of selecting projects (public call) in line with the regulations and Slovene legislation.

**Predefined project: “Modernisation of spatial data infrastructure to reduce the risks and impacts of floods”** Within the programme area of Environmental monitoring and integrated planning and control, a predefined project, “Modernisation of spatial data infrastructure to reduce the risks and impacts of floods”, was initiated in 2013 with the long-term objective of facilitating water management and reducing flood risks and impacts, and increase data compliance and thus related services with the requirements of the INSPIRE Directive.

The project is being implemented in accordance with the Project Implementation Plan, which is an appendix of the Project Contract. In 2014, the Project Promoter submitted one report on the progress of the project in which the period of project implementation was captured, including April 2014.

The activities are implemented in all subprojects according to a pre-determined work plan and are verified on the basis of the interim results achieved. The general assessment of the project as a whole is that 46% of the project had been realised by the end of 2014.

General results attained as per individual subprojects are:

Subproject Geodetic Reference Framework: 40%

Subproject Topographic Database: 45%

Subproject INSPIRE: 50%

Subproject Hydrography: 40%

Total activities: 60%.

The projects for the programme areas of Biodiversity and ecosystem services and the Conservation and revitalisation of cultural and natural heritage were selected within the Public Call for proposals to co-finance projects under the Norwegian Financial Mechanism Programme 2009-2014 and the EEA Financial Mechanism Programme 2009-2014 published on 27 December 2013 in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, no. 110/2013. The deadline for the submission of proposals to co-finance projects was 28 February 2014.

The Call was divided into two sets:

SET A – Norwegian Financial Mechanism Programme 2009-2014

SET B - the EEA Financial Mechanism Programme 2009-2014

- Biodiversity and Ecosystem services (BRIES) – B.1
- Natural Heritage (NH) – B.2
- Cultural Heritage (CH) – B.3

A committee was established in narrow and extended compositions for sets A and B for the implementation of the relevant Public Call appointed with decision no. 544-13/2013/6 and amending decisions no. 544-13/2013/19 of 27 March 2014 and no. 544-13/2013/20 of 25 April 2014.

The review of the administrative suitability and eligibility of applications was conducted by the Narrow Committee for Set A and Set B.

Some 43 proposals were received for Set B (EEA Programme). The Committee first verified the suitability of marked envelopes of each received application. Of the received applications for Set B, 11 did not have suitably marked envelopes. In compliance with tender conditions, the Narrow Committee rejected these 11 applications from the total of 43 applications. The envelopes of rejected applications were not opened.

It was established that 8 applications referred to area B.1, 3 applications to area B.2 and 21 applications to area B.3. These applications were reviewed for administrative suitability and eligibility. In this phase, additional 4 applications were rejected for various reasons:

- the requested amount of non-refundable funds from co-financing of the project was lower than the lowest permitted amount of non-refundable funds of co-financing applicable to the selected area or sub-area of the tender (1x);
- the requested amount of non-refundable funds from co-financing the project exceeded 90.00% of the total eligible costs of the project. It was established upon review that the applicant was compliant with tender conditions for NGOs (1x);
- the applications in Slovenian and English were not completed in full (1x) and
- the application was not supplemented as per the request for supplementation (1x).

Table: Statistics on the completed review of the administrative suitability and eligibility of applications

	RECEIVED APPLICATIONS	DISMISSED AND REJECTED APPLICATIONS				COMPLETE APPLICATIONS	
		Unsuitably marked envelope	Administrative phase and eligibility of applications	Total dismissed/rejected applications	Share of received applications	Complete applications	Share of received applications



			phase		ons		
<b>SET B - EEA PROGRAMME</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>34.9 %</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>65.1%</b>

Some 28 applications were handed over for a quality assessment of project proposals.

Table: Applications handed over for a quality assessment for the EEA Programme

<b>SET B - EEA PROGRAMME</b>	<b>28</b>
Area B.1 – Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services	7
Area B.2 – Natural Heritage	3
Area B.3 – Cultural Heritage	18

Each application which fulfilled the administrative and eligibility criteria was assessed by two evaluators from the selected tender area. The evaluators separately scored the projects according to quality criteria for the selected tender area. After scoring, the applications were classified according to the average number of points per individual application awarded by both evaluators.

When calculating the average of the scores of both evaluators in all three tender areas of Set B, the difference between total scores of both evaluators was never greater than 30% of points as per the higher score of points, which meant that a third evaluator was not needed to assess the project.

As per the relevant public call, projects which received at least 60% of points in the quality assessment are eligible for co-financing from non-refundable funds. The projects were classified according to the number of points received.

Within the scope of the Call for proposals to co-finance projects under Norwegian Financial Mechanism Programme 2009-2014 and the EEA Financial Mechanism Programme 2009-2014, the Extended Committee held a meeting on 18 November 2014 for Set B – EEA Financial Mechanism Programme 2009-2014 and confirmed the list of priority projects for areas B.1 – Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, B.2 – Natural Heritage and B.3 – Cultural Heritage.

In area B.1, three projects were selected for co-financing, one project in area B.2 and two projects from area B.3.

As per the Committee’s decision of 18 November 2014, the remaining funds from individual areas of B.2 and B.3 were to be allocated to the next project on the list. As per the aforementioned, two projects will be co-financed in area B.2 and three projects in area B.3.

At the time of harmonising selected projects for area B.1, a surplus of funds was identified which would be allocated to the fourth project on the list in order to attain programme indicators.



We assess that by implementing expected nine projects, the programme's output indicators which refer to the programme outcome will be attained: Increased capacity to manage and monitor Natura 2000 sites effectively; Cultural heritage restored, renovated and protected and Cultural heritage made accessible to the public.

The Extended Committee (Selection Committee) at its session on 18 November 2014 confirmed the following lists of selected projects on the basis of priority lists made by external evaluators. For more information on the Extended Committee session (18 November 2014) see the minutes of the session.

#### Area: BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES (B.1)

List of approved projects

No.	Applicant	Project Title	Partnership	
			Slovenian partners	Bilateral partners
1	<b>Slovenia Forest Service</b>	Sustainable Pohorje management	Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Nature Conservation, RDA Koroška etc., Regional Development Agency for Koroška, Zreče Municipality, Ribnica na Pohorju Municipality, ALIANTA, projektno svetovanje, d.o.o. (project counselling)	/
2	<b>Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Nature Conservation (ZRSVN)</b>	People for Marsh - Biodiversity Conservation at the Ljubljana Marsh	<b>Public Institute Ljubljansko barje Nature Park (KPLB), Chamber of Agriculture and Forestry of Slovenia, Institute of Agriculture and Forestry Ljubljana (KGZS LJ), Science Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts (ZRC SAZU)</b>	/
3	<b>Slovenian Forestry Institute</b>	Governance of forest habitat types and species in the selected Natura 2000 sites along the Mura River	Slovenia Forest Service, <i>LUTRA</i> , <i>Institute for Conservation of Natural Heritage</i>	Norwegian Institute for Nature Research (NINA)

List of projects to which the surplus of funds may be allocated

No.	Applicant	Project Title	Partnership	
			Slovenian partners	Bilateral partners
4	Public Institute Krajinski park Goričko	Efficient management of extensive meadows at Natura 2000 site Goričko	<b>Chamber of Agriculture and Forestry of Slovenia</b> - Regional agricultural forestry institute Murska Sobota, DOPPS-BirdLife Slovenia, University of Maribor (Faculty of natural sciences and mathematics), Centre for cartography of fauna and flora, Centre for waste handling Puconci CEROP d.o.o.	/

#### Area: NATURAL HERITAGE (B.2)

List of approved projects

No.	Applicant	Project Title	Partnership	
			Slovenian partners	Bilateral partners
1	<b>SOLINE Pridelava soli d.o.o.</b>	Promotion of environmentally friendly visits to protected areas	Javni zavod Krajiški park Strunjan	Jotunheimen National Park / Oppland County Governor

List of projects to which the surplus of funds is allocated (as per the Committee's decision)

No.	Applicant	Project Title	Partnership	
			Slovenian partners	Bilateral partners
2	<b>Triglav National Park Public Institution</b>	Comprehensive introduction of environmentally friendly mobility in Triglav National Park for the preservation and real experiencing of nature	Bohinj Municipality, Turizem Bohinj Public Institution, <b>Kobarid Municipality, Centre for Sustainable Rural Development Kranj (CSRDKranj), Soča Valley Development Centre (SVDC)</b> , Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Institute of Slovenian Ethnology	/

### Area: CULTURAL HERITAGE (B.3)

List of approved projects

No.	Applicant	Project Title	Partnership	
			Slovenian partners	Bilateral partners
1	<b>Idrija Mercury Heritage Management Centre</b>	Idrija – smelting plant area Idrija mercury mine – 1st phase of reconstruction	Idrija Municipal Museum – Museum for the Idrija and Cerklje Regions	MAGMA GEOPARK (N)
2	<b>University of Primorska</b>	<b>Archaeology for all: revival of the Archaeological park Simonov zaliv</b>	The Institute of Diving and Underwater Activities, Arhej d.o.o., Archaeological Research and Other Intellectual Service, the Municipality of Izola	Gagarin ltd (I)

List of projects to which the surplus of funds is allocated (as per the Committee's decision)

No.	Applicant	Project Title	Partnership	
			Slovenian partners	Bilateral partners
3	Municipality of Vrhnika	Ljubljana River Experience and Exhibition Site	Museum and Galleries of Ljubljana, University of Ljubljana (Biotechnical faculty)	/

### Bilateral partnership

Due to the measure to stimulate the establishment of bilateral partnerships incorporated into the public call, the results of the public call show that 4 selected projects involve a donor bilateral partner.

Public Call area	Number of selected projects with a bilateral partnership
Biodiversity and ecosystem services (B.1)	1
Natural heritage (B.2)	0
Cultural heritage (B.3)	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4</b>

### Cross-cutting issues

The EEA Programme particularly stresses the observance of principles of the following horizontal policies when implementing projects: good governance, sustainable development and gender equality.

In their application to the call, the applicants had to define how the project would affect individual horizontal policies. They had to provide possible special models, structures or mechanisms with which the project would contribute to the realisation of horizontal policies. One of the quality criteria for assessment was the project's contribution to realising the horizontal policies.

In their project implementation plans, the selected projects had to explain how the project would affect the horizontal policies.

The principles of good governance, sustainable development, gender equality and equal opportunities have to be observed in all phases of project implementation.

#### 3.2.2.2. Progress towards expected outcomes;

We assess that by implementing approximately nine projects, the programme's output indicators which refer to the programme outcome will be attained: Increased capacity to manage and monitor Natura 2000 sites effectively; Cultural heritage restored, renovated and protected and Cultural heritage made accessible to the public.

The predefined project will contribute to attaining all the pre-determined results of the programme in the field of Environmental monitoring and integrated planning and control which contribute to achieving the programme effects – the increased exchange of information on environmental impact, status and trends between beneficiary states and other EU Member States.

<i>Project outcome = Programme output</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Target value for Programme output</i>	<i>Achieved value</i>
Establishment of modern State Geodetic Reference System compliant with the ESRS	Measured normal heights of high-order networks – no. of benchmarks	1500	0
Establishment of topographic database with respect to INSPIRE implementation rules	Extended coverage (number of sheets) of Slovenia with topographic data	2280	1950 (baseline)
INSPIRE-compliant hydrography dataset	Coverage (number of sheets) of Slovenia with full INSPIRE-compliant hydrographic data	320	0
Components of NSDI in accordance with INSPIRE requirements	INSPIRE network services for topographical data	10	0

### 3.2.2.3. Outputs achieved;

We assess that by implementing approximately nine projects, the programme's output indicators which refer to the programme outcome will be attained: Increased capacity to manage and monitor Natura 2000 sites effectively; Cultural heritage restored, renovated and protected and Cultural heritage made accessible to the public.

The following project outputs of the predefined project were achieved:

<i>Working package</i>	<i>Output</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Target value</i>	<i>Achieved value</i>
Subproject Geodetic Reference Framework	Modern national geodetic reference framework is established, compliant with the ESRS	Number of established geodetic stations of zero order	5	2
		Measuring normal heights of higher-order networks	1500	0
		Improved accuracy of geoid	<10cm	>20cm
Subproject Topographic Database	Topographic base high accuracy is established while observing implementing regulations of the INSPIRE Directive	Improved coverage of Slovenia with topographic data (no. of sheets)	2280	1950
		Conversion of large-scale topographic data into data compliant with the INSPIRE Directive (no. of sheets)	1950	1950
Subproject INSPIRE	The INSPIRE network services are prepared	Number of participants in the programme for increasing capacity	50	27
		Number of INSPIRE-themed data in the metadata system	30	23
		INSPIRE network services for topographic data	10	0
		Coverage of Slovenia with data fully compliant with the requirements of the INSPIRE Directive (no. of sheets)	320	0
Subproject Hydrography	A hydrographic database compliant with the INSPIRE Directive is established	Tools for conversion of partly compliant hydrography into a fully compliant INSPIRE hydrographic database and the base for water infrastructure management: purchased hardware and computer equipment	Available hardware and suitable programme tools	Purchased hardware and computer equipment
		Policy on upgrading, management and maintenance	Strategic documents	
Informing and notifying	Informing the target group	Conferences, workshops, website, brochures	2; 5; 1; 2	1; 2; 1; 1
Management and coordination	Coordinated project	Meetings of the project group	20	34

### 3.2.2.4. Potential risks that may threaten the achievement of the objectives set out in the Programme;

The greatest risk to the implementation of the predefined project is a delay at the beginning of the implementation of the project. We have been referring to the shorter deadline of project implementation (the project's conclusion remained the same) since the beginning of the project's implementation and proposed an extension until the end of 2016 before the Project Contract was concluded. After one year of project implementation, the management of the project prepared a new schedule for project implementation which stated the need to transfer unused funds from 2013/2014 into 2016 and the extension of the project deadline was thus proposed. An additional risk arises from the annual limits on providing funding from integral budgetary headings (co-financing of the Surveying and Mapping Authority of the Republic of Slovenia). The complexity of implementing the provisions of the INSPIRE Directive also presents a certain risk.

Risks	Mitigation actions
Delays in starting the project	Accelerating all administrative and managerial processes in order for applicants to start projects as soon as possible.
Shorter time for project implementation due to all delays	Good communication between the Programme operator and Project promoter in order intensify project activities where possible.
<p>Poor implementation/management of awarded projects/activities due to all foreseen and unforeseen risks</p> <p>Poor results and lack of sustainability</p>	<p>Preparation of a list of selected projects with estimated high to low implementation risks by the Programme operator and a well-prepared and implemented monitoring plan for 2015, 2016 and 2017.</p> <p>Rapid response to identified risk and situations and adequate response to them by the Programme operator.</p>
Failure to achieve project/programme outcomes and indicator values	Risk of not achieving programme/project outcomes and indicators values could be identified (on the basis of project monitoring and project reports) in the second half of 2015, which could lead to the possibility of modifications (if necessary) to the programme and/or Programme Agreement.
Insufficient will/interest of target groups to be involved in the project activities	Systematic and regular involvement of key target groups and good, target-based communication strategy.

### 3.2.2.5. The need for adjustments of plans, including actions for risk mitigation;

An explicit need was already expressed at the beginning of implementation that the project should be extended until the end of 2016. The reasons, which were highlighted several times, refer to the late start of the project, which the project contractor could not influence. The reasons were also presented on a study visit to Norway in November 2014.

The implementation of all activities which have to be made up for lost time due to the initial delay was rescheduled for 2015 and 2016.

### 3.2.2.6. The use of funds for bilateral relations;

Within the framework of a predefined project implemented in cooperation with partners from the donor countries, the Norwegian Mapping Authority and the Icelandic Geodetic Administration, activities in cooperation with partners from the donor countries were implemented in 2014.

In February 2014, a conference to launch the project was held which was attended by project partners from Norway and Iceland, who suggested in their contributions how they can contribute to the successful implementation of our project with their own successful experience. Guests from neighbouring Croatia were also present at the event.

After the successful launching conference, the Project Promoter organised two international workshops intended for the TOPO and INSPIRE sub-projects at which partners from Norway and Iceland were also present. The workshops took place at the Surveying and Mapping Authority of the Republic of Slovenia. The participants were able to get an insight into the state of topographic systems and the implementation of the INSPIRE Directive in all three countries.

The meeting of the project's consortium took place at the beginning of November 2014 in Oslo, attended by the management of the project and its partners from Norway and Iceland. The purpose of the meeting was a detailed familiarisation of the project partners in Iceland and Norway with the current results of all four subprojects achieved in the first year of project implementation and the verification of the anticipated programme cooperation of both partner institutions from Iceland and Norway on the project in 2015. All the above activities were financed from the funds of the predefined project.

As per the work plan of the Fund for bilateral relations, it was anticipated that other bilateral activities would be implemented which would be co-financed from this fund. However, the implementation of all anticipated activities in 2014 was moved to 2015.

SI02 - Bilateral indicators achieved by the end of 2014 (by implementing predefined project)

<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Target value</i>	<i>Achieved</i>
Number of project partnership agreements in the beneficiary public sector	2	1
Number of women involved in exchange visits between beneficiary and donor states	6	1
Number of men involved in exchange visits between beneficiary and donor states	7	4
Number of European and international networks where project and programme partners participate together	1	0
Number of joint (bilateral) articles published, written by persons from both an institution in a beneficiary and donor state, published in national or international publications, originating from a project financed by the programme.	3	0
Number of articles published in one country about the other partner country	2	0
Number of joint, sector-wide initiatives in a beneficiary or donor state beyond the programme	1	0

### 3.2.3 NGO Programme SI03

#### 3.2.3.1. Overall progress as regards implementation of the Programme and their sub-projects;

PIA between FMO and REC Slovenia for implementation of NGO Programme SI03 was signed in April 2013, and the Programme was launched in June 2013. The first open call – Public Call for Large and Medium Projects was published in June 2013, using two stage application process. Due to intensive promotion and broad assistance to the applicants, there were 365 project ideas received in the first stage. In February 2014 the contracts were signed with 15 selected project promoters. The second open call – call for small projects was published in March 2014 where altogether 246 applications were received. In October 2014 the contracts were signed with 18 selected project promoters.

Overall objective of the NGO Programme in Slovenia is to strengthen civil society development and to enhance contribution to social justice, democracy and sustainable development, which provides appropriate response to the civil society needs in Slovenia. Main aims of the NGO Fund are to improve NGOs' organisational development and to build their advocacy capacities. Special attention is given to supporting deficit priority areas, to promoting cross-sectoral partnerships in community development, and to encouraging ideas that are responding to the current most pressing problems in Slovenian society in order to contribute to long-term development of the NGO sector.

There are six priority areas covered within the NGO Programme in Slovenia. In the scope of **democracy**, we want to especially tackle the issues of good governance and transparency, participatory democracy, anti-corruption and rule of law and to support NGOs to develop their monitoring and watch-dog role, to build their skills and expertise to be regularly engaged in these issues. **Human rights**, especially the rights of minorities and marginalized groups, such as homosexuals, Roma, etc., and migrants have been

more and more at stake in the past few years. One of the challenges in this priority area is that there are a lot of NGOs that offer services to Roma people or other marginalized groups; however, advocacy for the improvement of their situation is very much needed and will be fostered in the scope of the programme. Similar to previous priority, **social inequalities** are deepening mostly due to the saving policy that hit social transfers the most. The level of poverty is increasing; people do not know how to step out of the vicious circle. Marginalized groups on this area are long-term unemployed, unemployed older workers, pensioners, especially those without family support and who are less mobile, and unfortunately also families where parents are employed in industries with minimum salaries. In the scope of both priorities we want to support activities aimed at activation of the marginalized groups. Although quite significant amount from the national budget is available for **children and youth** organisations in Slovenia also the NGO Programme is focused on active citizenship and participation of youth in political life, namely activities supporting activation of youth, since the unemployment rate among youth in Slovenia is 25 % (in 2012). Therefore, we wish to support the activities that help the youngsters to get an employment, and to support them at realizing their potential (trainings, cooperation with business sector, etc.). In the field of **environmental protection** NGO advocacy activities are much needed, since Slovenia is one of the countries facing European Commission lawsuits because of non-transformation of the EU directives, also public awareness about protection of environment is quite small. Furthermore, there are almost no funds for environmental NGOs in Slovenia. In the field of provision of **welfare and social rights**, which is rather good supported by the Ministry of labour, family and social affairs and Foundation for disabled and humanitarian organisations, we want to focus on social innovations.

One of the special aims of NGO Programme is to contribute to the long-term sustainability and capacity building of the NGO sector that's why 20% of resources is dedicated to organizational development, through different activities like mutual learning, mentoring, coaching, peer-to-peer among bigger and smaller organisations, networking between bigger and smaller organisations, coalition building, inclusion of the project activities in organizational development (creation of a strategic plan on further development of organization in respect to project activities, corresponding fundraising plan and implementation of fundraising activities, etc.).

#### **Progress on horizontal concerns**

All horizontal concerns are addressed with outcomes, the ones that are the most important for Slovenia also with outputs.

**Hate speech:** hate speech is one of horizontal issues that is especially addressed inside two priorities, democracy and human rights. In the recent years many Slovene official institutions, such as Ombudsman, Parliament, etc. expressed big concerns about increasing hate speech (against migrants, homosexuals, Roma, even Christians). For example, migrants are attacked daily on the e-forums for stealing jobs, Roma for not working and living on social support, homosexual being against nature, etc. Through capacity building activities we were encouraging applicants to address the problem of hate speech in the scope of their proposals.

**Extremism – hate crime:** Fortunately, Slovenia has not yet experienced any violent actions that could be assigned to extremism. However, some groups (e.g. Neo-Nazi) have emerged. Recently parliamentary enquiry about the existing extremist groups was established. This alone shows that the problem is emerging and that prevention activities are needed in order to avoid exclamation of this phenomenon. The issue is addressed in the scope of the human rights priority, as well as in the children and youth priority, since this is one of the issues that need to be addressed early in the individual's development.

**Racism and xenophobia** – both issues are quite pressing in Slovenia, especially against Roma and migrant workers from the region of former Yugoslavia. They are addressed with projects ideas targeted to these target groups in the scope of human rights priority.

**Homophobia** – is addressed under the priority of human rights and social equality. Homophobia



exclaimed in Slovenia when the Family law was passed in June 2011 and then put on the referendum on March 2012. Although the Family law regulated the whole spectre of family rights, including very important children’s rights, the referendum campaign focused very much on homosexual marriage and adoption of children by homosexual couples. There were also several physical attacks of the member of the gay community.

Tolerance/multicultural understanding – is the other side of the coin from hate speech. Therefore, this issue is addressed in the scope of the democracy and human rights priorities.

**Roma** – the issue of Roma is especially addressed in the priorities of human rights and social equality. Although quite a lot of work has been done in the last decade for and with Roma people, there are still big differences in majority population’s perception of Roma people and in inclusion of Roma people. This is especially the case in south-east Slovenia, where a lot of Roma settlements still don’t have running water and canalization.

**Sexual harassment** – this issue is similar to extremism, there are some emerging cases (for example, criminal complaint was issued against former state secretary of Ministry of Public Administration), but the issue has not been problematized as a big problem by NGOs and media yet. In order to avoid exclamation, prevention and awareness raising activities, addressed in the priority of human rights, are envisaged.

**Trafficking** – Slovenia is perceived as transit country. In the recent years public institutions and some NGOs have worked closely together to address this problem and help the victims. The issue is addressed in the scope of human rights priority, as well as it can be addressed under the provision of welfare and social rights.

### 3.2.3.2. Progress towards expected outcomes;

Following outcomes were defined in the Programme proposal:

<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Standard indicator</b>	<b>Baseline</b>	<b>Target</b>
<b>Active Citizenship fostered</b>	Evidence of decision-makers responding to citizens actions	0	10
<b>Cross-sectoral partnerships developed, particularly with government organisations at local, regional and / or national level</b>	Number of mechanisms fostering dialogue between citizens, civil society and local/national institutions	0	11
<b>Advocacy and watchdog role developed</b>	Number of laws, policies or practices changed or improved as a consequence of NGO advocacy activities	0	6
<b>Developed networks and coalitions of NGOs working in partnership</b>	Number of NGO networks/ platforms/ coalitions developed	0	20
<b>Empowerment of vulnerable groups</b>	Number of beneficiaries engaged in the strategic planning/ implementation of activities	0	55

As the contracts with project promoters were signed only in 2014 (in February for large and medium projects and in October for small projects) it is not relevant to analyse their content contribution to the outcomes in this stage. Detailed review of selected projects shows that all 5 outcomes are addressed and that target values were set quite realistic.



### 3.2.3.3. Outputs achieved;

As mentioned above the content analyses will be relevant in later stage when project promoters will report about their achievements. There were no pre-defined projects within NGO Programme. Following Programme outputs were defined:

Output	Output indicator(s)	Baseline	Target
NGO's monitoring and watchdog role strengthened	Number of initiatives, monitoring reports or analyses developed covering different aspects of democracy (good governance, transparency, anti-corruption, participatory democracy) and environmental issues	0	5
Citizens' participation in decision-making increased	Number of supported projects promoting active citizenship and public participation at local and national level	0	5
Local NGOs capacities strengthened	Number of organizations regularly consulting with users, beneficiaries and other stakeholders	0	5
Awareness about the key environmental issues raised	Number of new services developed in the fields of sustainable mobility, energy efficiency, renewable sources of energy and local food production	0	2
Cooperation among NGOs and governmental institutions at local and national level improved	Number of business plans developed for fostering entrepreneurship among marginal groups	0	2
National and local legislation improved	Number of advocacy initiatives for modification of legislative practice in the field of human rights developed	0	5
The role of NGOs in democratic life improved	Number of NGOs reporting increased monitoring capacity	0	10
Enhanced business initiatives among marginal groups	Number of initiatives and services developed	0	4
Community development fostered	Number of NGO coalitions in the field of environment, social services and social welfare built at local level	0	7
Bilateral cooperation strengthened	Number of partnership projects with NGOs from the donor states	0	10
Youth unemployed people empowered	Number of trainings for encouraging entrepreneurship among youth delivered	0	10
Marginal groups activated	Number of events for activation of marginal groups (Roma, LGBT, migrants, ...) delivered	0	10
Awareness on social inequalities raised among the children	Number of children involved in awareness campaigns aimed at awaking social responsibility	0	30
Horizontal concerns addressed	Number of projects dealing with donor horizontal concerns	0	15

### 3.2.3.4. Potential risks that may threaten the achievement of the objectives set out in the Programme;

FO identified several potential risks (see Annex: Risk assessment of the programme). In 2014 no mitigation of risks was needed.

#### Monitoring

##### Desk Control

Regular desk control was implemented in 2014, all mid-term reports were reviewed and eligible costs were approved. Financial transfers were made to project promoters.

### **Risk assessment report**

After the first desk control the FO prepared risk assessment report, which serves as the most important input for identification of the first on-the-spot monitoring visits. Risk assessment report focused on the: (a) activity compliance (timeliness and quality of implemented activities) and (b) financial compliance (eligibility and efficiency of the costs). Risk assessment report was provided to FMO in November 2014.

Criteria for the identification of the on-the-spot monitoring visits:

- Deviation from the planned activities and timetable
- Deviation from the financial plan
- Detected problems, described in the interim reports
- Request for additional instalment before the second interim report
- Communication with FO
- Request for monitoring visit expressed by the project promoter

Inputs:

- Interim reports
- Risk assessment report
- Discussion of the FO's staff

Monitoring activities started in December 2014, when five on-the-spot visits were performed. FO prepared monitoring reports with observations.

In 2014 an irregularity case was observed and reported to Doris.

### **3.2.3.5. The need for adjustments of plans, including actions for risk mitigation;**

At the end of 2014 FO sent the request and justification for the modification of PIA, reallocation of funds for external evaluators and additional instalment for some project promoters of medium and large projects to FMO.

#### **Modification of PIA – allocation of funds per outcomes**

After concluding both open calls and selecting the projects it was recognized that number of project received per specific outcome differed a lot. Allocation of funds for Outcomes 2, 3 and 5 differed from the planned budget for more than 10 %, that's why we requested for programme modification and reallocation of funds.

#### **Reallocation of funds for external evaluators**

Due to unexpectedly high number of received applications, FO did not manage to secure the funds for external evaluators from the planned budget line and requested budget reallocation.

#### **Additional instalments for some project promoters of medium and large projects**

Although the instalment timeline was known to project promoters from the beginning, some of the projects are of such nature that the spending is bigger at the beginning of project implementation. Therefore, at the thematic workshop, held on September 15<sup>th</sup> 2014, some project promoters expressed concern regarding the financial flow and difficult project implementation. FO requested for introduction of additional instalment.

### **3.2.3.6. The use of funds for bilateral relations**

During the application process, FO was focusing also on establishment of cooperation on the project level (facilitation of donor project partnerships) in order to foster long-term bilateral partnerships between different NGOs. It seems that Slovenia will be successful as regards bilateral relations also in the period 2009-2014 as approximately one third of the selected projects involve partners from the donor states. Several contacts were made through cooperation of FO and Norwegian Helsinki Committee (NHC), beside that the applicants who have applied in partnership with organizations from the donor states were rewarded with (up to) an additional 5 points (depending on the quality of partnership cooperation).

Bilateral indicators	Baseline	Target
Number of project partnership agreements in beneficiary civil society	0	10
Number of projects with expected shared results (both partners are involved professionally in planning and implementation and can claim credit for achieved results)	0	10
Number of articles published in one country about the other partner country	0	1

#### Bilateral fund at programme level

In 2014 the Bilateral Fund was established and the open call for bilateral cooperation was launched, which provides additional funding for networking, sharing experiences and knowledge transfer between Slovenian NGOs and organizations from the donor states. The call is a »rolling call« which means that applications shall be submitted any time during the implementation period, but not later than March 31, 2016.

The Bilateral Fund is one of the tools put in place to achieve the objective of strengthened bilateral relations between the donor and beneficiary countries and will contribute to strengthen the cooperation between the donor and the beneficiary states in the areas of mutual interest.

Organizations eligible for funding within the Bilateral Fund are project promoters from Slovenia, who are implementing projects under the NGO Programme in partnership with organizations from the donor countries at the moment of filling of the application for funding. Also organizations from the donor states who are acting as partners in supported projects under the NGO Programme are eligible for application. The funding is aimed at financing the activities which were not included in the basic financial plan and which are aimed for participation in seminars, study visits and conferences etc. in Slovenia, Norway, Iceland or Liechtenstein.

### 3.2.4. Programme SI04 - EEA AND NORWEGIAN SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME

#### 3.2.4.1. Overall progress as regards implementation of the Programme and their sub-projects;

The Slovene Scholarship Fund has been in progress mainly during 2014; it has become more known, Slovene institutions have become more aware and more interested in cooperating with countries that were not so popular within Lifelong learning programme for various reasons. The existence of the Slovene Scholarship Programme represented an important stimulus for all those Slovene educational institutions at primary, secondary and tertiary level willing to cooperate with Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein. Specifically devoted financial means were a big impetus for the realisation of these bilateral aims. Programme Operator, having long lasting experiences in managing EU programmes, managed to implement its call and all activities related in a quality way, by being flexible and adapting its procedures if needed. Most of all the PO invested much effort into being responsive to the needs of the applicants in order to bring their ideas to the project stage.

Not only has the Programme evolved well in 2014, the PO could finally start presenting first real project results that derived from this bilateral or multilateral cooperation. In line with the overall EEA/Norway Grants strategy and objectives, the programme in Slovenia sought synergies with other initiatives and programmes, by organizing awareness raising events, thematic seminars with sustainable, useful outputs and products.

Majority of mobility activities will lead to increased mutual understanding and knowledge among partners, countries, participants involved. Some of the projects have already shown an upgrade in their cooperation, starting from mobility and evolving into later inter-institutional cooperation project with concrete, shared results. Wider effects were already made possible in 2014, by organizing school

presentations of their projects, sharing their experiences, knowledge and practices and by organizing thematic seminar devoted to the preparation and implementation of joint programmes with a concrete practical manual, first time produced in such a comprehensive way.

Continuing with the same focus on national and EU area regarding internationalisation the programme Slovene scholarship fund EEA, NFM contributes to its' principal objectives and policies. The implemented measures and activities have proven to be adequate and successful at all levels of the education sector. In the year 2014 when the new EU programme Erasmus+ was set in motion the Scholarship fund resulted to be complementary and at the same time a reliable continuation of the former EU Lifelong learning programme.

Higher education institutions easily integrated the programme within their regular activities, strengthening their cooperation with institutions from the donor states. The interest shown in the Call 2014 for activities in the field of higher education has been higher than in the previous Call 2013. The activities of the scholarship fund (mobility, cooperation projects and preparatory visits) and eligible funds within each measure represent those incentives needed for the bilateral cooperation between the beneficiary and donor state to evolve, opening a dialogue about future cooperation. After the second call we have 14 mobility and 4 inter-institutional projects that predict the mobility in the range of 450 participants and cooperation with 9 partner institutions from DS and BS (see table attached - Statistics\_SI04). The number of partner institutions is larger since our applicants in Measure 2 did not have to identify their partners at the application stage because these partners vary, depending on the mobile person's interest and new bilateral agreements reached. These organisations are host institutions for student or staff mobility and based on these activities partnerships for Measure 4 (intensive programmes) are frequently formed. Intensive programmes or better said summer schools have a stronger impact in regards to the principal objectives of the programme: with the activities partners gain a better knowledge of each other and thus strengthen their partnership and the participants, students, that partake in the programme receive a significant knowledge input related to a specific topic and work closely together which ensures the enhancement of their knowledge base.

In relation to the on-going development of the program and individual project activities that are being carried out we strongly believe that the programme Scholarship objectives will be achieved. Some institutions are struggling with identifying new potential partners and there are some communicational problems but as the Programme operator we are striving to resolve them as soon as possible. The monitoring activities related to our risk and mitigation plan do anticipate these difficulties and adequate measures were scheduled – on-the spot checks/visits, regular reporting, etc. we do not anticipate any significant changes in the outputs/outcomes of the programme. As for administrative and financial changes there were no significant alterations or difficulties; changes that have occurred were promptly resolved (leave of absence of our financial administrator) and redefined in accordance with the FMO instructions (reallocation of funds).

#### **Progress on horizontal concerns**

The projects of the Slovene scholarship fund SI04 do not address directly horizontal concerns.

Cross-cutting issues were not addressed directly in the implementation of the Calls although they have been integrated in the organisation of the Programme. Good governance is ensured at the PO and at the project promoters' level. The PO is monitored also by NFP, their revision department, in order to assure accountability and transparency of the programme. Project promoters' good governance is monitored by the PO, upon application, preparation of the agreement and through the monitoring plan.

Cross-cutting issues such as environmental considerations, economic and social sustainability and gender equality are being addressed by the projects, their planned activities and results.

#### **3.2.4.2. Progress towards expected outcomes;**

The baseline for the Programme indicators was set out according to the numbers from the previous period of the Scholarship programme and the EUs' Lifelong learning programme. Since the number of mobilities and cooperation projects with the donor countries was low the POs' initiatives to implement a Scholarship programme with similar regulations and activities was considered appropriate. The numbers in mobility we can observe now and the new inter-institutional projects that have arisen reaffirm the decision taken and predict the achievement of the intended goals.

According to the numbers taken from the questionnaire that all mobile participants must complete by the end of the year 2014 there were 199 mobilities: 102 student mobilities, 47 staff, teacher and expert mobilities, 5 researcher mobilities and approximately 45 mobilities in the school sector. The latter have to be analysed in detail due to different types of projects. The regulations of the programme stipulate that each mobility must be evaluated and recognized, either in the form of ECTS, entered into the diploma supplement or taken into account in the procedures of career progression. If this is indeed the case, we will learn from the analysis of the questionnaire itself.

How many new agreements have been signed we shall also learn from the final reports due on January 31<sup>st</sup>. But the inter-institutional agreements (Measure 4) and the large number of project applications within Measure 5 indicate a strong interest in and potential for cooperation.

For example the University of Ljubljana in the Statistical table enumerates 86 mobilities of which 56 are student mobilities with a study/training agreement signed. Also the large number of staff mobilities in the project bears witness to the increased skills/competences of staff involved in mobility.

The outcome standard indicator set out for the number of joint summer schools/intensive courses organized has already been reached and the results of the final third call are not known yet – we are sure two additional IPs' will be financed. These projects have high added value and represent one of the main forms of long term cooperation in the scholarship programme. We can come to similar conclusions when reviewing projects from Measure 3 and 5. Especially with the projects within Measure 3 we have observed the continuation of cooperation into projects within Measure 5. Thus the goals of the activities of Measure 3 are not only accomplished but also upgraded.

The risk for Measure 3 was identified after the first Call – small number and poor quality of applications, but it turned out that schools are much more interested in the implementation of projects of inter-institutional cooperation thus funds were transferred from Measure 3 to Measure 5 for the Call 2014. These projects also ensure a number of joint products and services. How will we manage the risk of lack of interest for cooperation from the donor county institutions is a real-time activity and requires a rapid response from the POs' project coordinator. These issues are tackled on a daily basis.

#### **3.2.4.3. Outputs achieved;**

##### **Agreements for HE students and staff mobility formalized/existing agreements enhanced**

Currently we have 14 on-going projects from the two calls that are implementing activities in regards to mobility – student mobility for studies and internships and staff mobility for teaching and training. In accordance with the numbers approved in the agreements with the project promoters we can say with reasonable certainty that the outputs set out in the Programme proposal will be reached. Although some HEI have complained in respect to unresponsiveness and lack of interest (and unfamiliarity of the program) from the DS institutions we are trying to address these issues on time in cooperation with the national agencies and Norwegian embassy in Budapest. In the midterm reports PPs do report about on-going activities but we have included the question about new or the enhancement of existing bilateral agreements only in the final report which is due January 21<sup>st</sup> 2015. Annexed to this Annual Report is also the table with Statistical information where the data about partner institutions is stated.

Since the projects are implemented according to the experience from European mobility programs, all students are provided the acquisition of ECTS and the entry of mobility in the Diploma Supplement.

### **Joint projects identified and implemented by partner institutions**

If we focus on inter-institutional projects within Measure 4 and 5 with a total of 9 projects and 17 partners we can summarize that the output set in the Programme proposal is going to be realized. The projects address topics that are already integrated in the regular implementation of the programme and have a long term effect. Also because of the financial specifics of the projects we expect concrete results and positive feedback from the mobile participants. From the 9 projects only one had to postpone its activities (within the eligible period) because of lack of interest from students of the Norwegian partner. The remaining projects are successfully implementing their activities and enhancing their partnership cooperation.

### **Mobility programme for institutional cooperation effectively implemented**

Addressing here only projects within Measure 3 it should be noted that we observed a lack of interest from the school sector in regards to the number of applications. A rather large amount of funds was transferred within Measure 3 from the Call 2013 to the Call 2014 (52,500 EUR). For the Call 2014, according to the risk and mitigation plan, we performed additional promotional activities and addressed schools directly on national events yet still we did not receive a larger number of applications for Measure 3 but for Measure 5 the number of applications increased doubled. Therefore we transferred the funds from Measure 3 to Measure 5 (63,600 EUR) and noted that the interest from the school sector is predominantly in the area of inter-institutional cooperation which apart from some mobility of participants enables partners to work closer together, exchange good practices and work on results. Taking this into account we can estimate that the situation will be similar in the last call where we will do likewise with the aim of maximum utilization of funds and ensuring best possible impact.

#### **3.2.4.4. Potential risks that may threaten the achievement of the objectives set out in the Programme;**

According to the contractual obligations of PPs for reporting – three-month reports on ongoing activities and one midterm report for projects lasting more than 12 months, all current projects are progressing with their activities and are in implementation process in regards to their timetable. Only with two projects (Call 2013) a potential risk was identified: one where the Norwegian partner has withdrawn from the co-operation and another where they cannot find new potential partners for student and staff mobility.

For the purpose of regular monitoring of projects we have also decided on the use of an IT tool for project management named Mobius. Detailed information especially that related to indicators, outputs and outcomes, about each project is entered into the tool with the aim to facilitate monitoring and reporting.

There were some initial problems with receiving a sufficient number of applications for mobility projects for the school sector (Measure 3) but according to the trends of each call it could be deduced that there is a larger interest in the preparation and implementation of inter-institutional project (Measure 5) with the possibility of enhanced cooperation and achievement of tangible results, with a greater impact on the local and wider school environment. In regards to the latter for the 2014 Call funds from Measure 3 were transferred to measure 5 and an additional project was funded. After the second call we have 10 mobility and 5 inter-institutional projects that predict the mobility in the range of 210 participants and cooperation with 25 partner institutions from DS and BS.

#### **3.2.4.5. The need for adjustments of plans, including actions for risk mitigation;**

The only adjustment done was the reallocation of funds that was completed in September 2014 in cooperation with the FMO and NFP.



#### **3.2.4.6. The use of funds for bilateral relations**

As far as the bilateral indicators set out in the Programme Overview it can be said at this point that the objectives have been reached. In accordance with the number of Preparatory Visits – 22 have been funded and with the statistics from the projects within Measure 3 that have evolved into inter-institutional project within Measure 5 we strongly believe that basic activities have contributed toward the goal of strengthening bilateral cooperation between Slovenian and DS institutions. Since the last call was published at the end of the year 2014 the Preparatory visits will no longer serve their basic purpose so we have redesigned and upgraded them to the Study visits that are only available to institutions that have applied to any of the programme calls and were granted or rejected, or on put on the reserve list. This will enable the projects, especially those who did not receive funding, to establish and continue cooperation with the project partners and thus contribute to enhancement of bilateral relations.

The PO will continue to achieve the indicators set in the Programme Proposal, there are no changes foreseen. All of the activities planned after the final call will be focused on attaining the information about the concrete results, long-term effects and sustainability of the projects. The POs' interest is in depicting all of the elements of bilateral cooperation between Slovenian and donor partner institutions also to a wider public. Events, organized in 2014 and described in this report (section Complementary action and Information and publicity) have already been working on and tackling touched on issues/topics that can upgrade bilateral cooperation. Events in 2015 will only continue with these activities, ensuring even more synergies with other programmes and initiatives, raising awareness on the impact of these projects and showing concrete results of the strengthened bilateral cooperation between donor states and Slovenia.

#### **Complementary action**

With the help of the complementary action funds we prepared and organized a national conference addressing the issue of Joint programmes (November 20<sup>th</sup> 2014). The event, that represented synergy between Slovene Scholarship Fund, Erasmus+ and CEEPUS programme, was composed of a morning plenary session including guest speakers from the Ministry of education, National quality assurance agency, from the ENIC-NARIC Centre and a HEI representative. For the afternoon session two seminars/workshops were prepared: how to prepare and how to implement a joint degree. On the first workshop a representative from SIU, Mr. Frank Moe also actively participated with a presentation: Joint degree programs - instruments for quality enhancement (his presentation was latter published on the webpage Videolectures.net). 82 participants attended the event and they assessed the event as very useful and informative.

As accompanying material for the event a comprehensive, practical manual in Slovene language was prepared describing certain phases of the preparation and implementation of a joint programme (published also on-line).

Both activities were chosen and prepared with the intent to enhance the objectives of the programme. Joint programmes are a result of a good partnership and ensure long-term cooperation. At the same time the aim of these programmes is to offer an “upgraded” curriculum which builds on existing subjects/courses and allow students to build on the knowledge, competencies and strengthen international employability. The event and publication were evaluated as good practice for the promotion of a programme and of its activities and possible results.

### **3.2.5. Programme SI05 – NORWEGIAN FINANCIAL MECHANISM PROGRAMME**

#### **3.2.5.1. Overall progress as regards implementation of the Programme and their sub-projects;**

The main focus of work in the frame of Norwegian Financial Mechanism in 2014 was on:

- establishing the system of project implementation and reporting in line with the regulation, programme agreement and Slovene legislation,
- concluding/signing the contracts of both pre-defined projects and

- carrying out the whole process of selection of projects (public call) in line with the regulation, programme agreement and Slovene legislation.

Call for proposals to co-finance projects under the Norwegian Financial Mechanism Programme 2009-2014 and the EEA Financial Mechanism Programme 2009-2014 was published on 27 December 2014 in Uradni list RS (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia) no. 110/2014. The deadline for submitting applications expired on 28 February 2014.

The subject of the call for proposals was the selection of projects which shall be awarded grants to finance both programmes in the amount of EUR 16,886,132. For this purpose, the call for proposals was divided into two sets SET A and SET B:

SET A included Norwegian Financial Mechanism Programme 2009-2014 (hereinafter "NOR Programme"):

- Area Public Health Initiatives (PzJZ) - A.1
  - Sub-area Reducing inequalities between user groups (ZRvZmSU) - A.1.1
  - Sub-area Prevention of life-style related diseases (PBPzŽS) - A.1.2
  - Sub-area Improved mental health services (ISnPDZ) - A.1.3
- Area Gender Equality (ES) - A.2
  - Sub-area Economic decision-making (OnGP) - A.2.1
  - Sub-area Political decision-making (OnPP) - A.2.2
  - Sub-area Promoting work-life balance (UPiDŽ) - A.2.3

#### The Core and Extended Committee for Sets A and B

For the implementation of the relevant call for proposals a *Core and Extended Committee for Sets A and B* was established and appointed by the Decision no. 544-13/2013/6 and amendment of Decisions no. 544-1/2013/19 of 27 March 2014 and no. 544-13/2013/20 of 25 April 2014.

The Core Committee for Set A conducted administrative check of arrived proposals, quality assesment was made by external evaluators and the Extended Committee (Selection Committee) finally took decision on selected projects in December 2014. For more information on the selection process see Report by the Core Committee for Set A, material for Extended Committee Meeting held on 1st December 2014.

#### Statistics at the end of reviewing compliance with administrative and eligibility criteria of applications for both sets

	ALL RECEIVED APPLICATIONS (Set A and Set B)	REFUSED and REJECTED APPLICATIONS					COMPLETE APPLICATIONS	
		Inappropriately marked envelope	2. received application for the same sub-area	Admin. phase and applications eligibility phase	Total no. of refusals/rejections	Proportion in relation to the total no. of received applications	Complete applications	Proportion in relation to received applications
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>30,7%</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>69,3%</b>
<b>SET A – NOR PROGRAMME</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>29,7%</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>70,3%</b>



#### Applications submitted for the quality assessment for Set A

<b>SET A - PROGRAMME NOR</b>	<b>128</b>
<b>Area A.1 – PzJZ</b>	<b>85</b>
Sub-area A.1.1	34
Sub-area A.1.2	29
Sub-area A.1.3	22
<b>Area A.2 – ES</b>	<b>43</b>
Sub-area A.2.1	16
Sub-area A.2.2	7
Sub-area A.2.3	20

The Extended Committee (Selection Committee) on its Session held on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2014 confirmed the following lists of selected projects on the basis of priority lists made by external evaluators. For more information regarding the Extended Committee Session (1<sup>st</sup> December 2014) see the Minutes of the session.

### Sub-area: Reducing inequalities in health between user groups (A.1.1)

No.	Applicant	Project Title	Partnership		Total eligible costs of the project (EUR)	The requested amount of the grant (EUR)	The share of the grant	Average points
			Slovenian partners	Bilateral partners				
1	<b>Sports Federation for Disabled of Slovenia – Paralympic Committee of Slovenia</b>	Active, Healthy and Happy, Project for integration of disabled into sport and sport organizations, with the aim to reduce inequalities between user groups	University Rehabilitation Institute of the Republic Slovenia Soča; Sport Institute Planica Of the Republic Slovenia; Training, Education and care centre Dolfke Boštjančič Draga; Centre for education and rehabilitation of physically handicapped children and adolescence Kamnik	Special Olympics Norway	197.078,00	177.370,20	90%	81
1	<b>Centre for Health and Development Murska Sobota</b>	Potentials of inhabitants and institutions of Pomurje region in reducing health and social inequities of elderly in local environment	Emonicum Institute, Institute for healthy and active life; The Slovene Federation of Pensioners' Associations (ZDUS); Institute for sustainable development of local communities, Ljutomer; The Municipality of Razkrižje; DOSOR Elderly citizens home Ltd. Radenci	KUN centre for gender equality	599.712,00	569.726,40	95%	81
3	<b>People's University of Kočevje</b>	Cooperation for the Health of Roma People	Development and Education Centre Novo Mesto (Ric Novo Mesto); Municipality of Kocevje; Municipality of Novo Mesto; Community Health Centre Kočevje; Community Health Centre Novo Mesto; Roma Association Romano Veseli	Landsforeningen for Påførende Innen Psykisk Helse	598.388,81	568.469,36	95%	79
4	<b>Institute of Autism Spectrum Disorders</b>	Equality in health for children and youngsters with autism and their families	Alma Mater Europaea - Evropski center, Maribor; Local Community Maribor; Association for helping children with autism disorders "Školjke"	The National Autism Unit	718.090,00	646.281,00	90%	77

4	<b>Scientific Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts</b>	Recognizing and treating victims of domestic violence in health care settings: Guidelines and training for health professionals	Medical Chamber of Slovenia; Centre for Social Work Maribor; EMMA Institution, the Centre for helping victims of violence	St. Olavs University Hospital, Forensic department Brøset, Centre for research and education in forensic psychiatry		607.212,33	95%	77
6	<b>University of Ljubljana (Faculty of Social Work)</b>	Helping families in community: co-creation of desired changes for reducing social exclusion and strengthening health	Association of Friends of Youth Ljubljana Moste-Polje (AFY Moste-Polje)	Høgskolen i Sør-Trøndelag	366.871,00	348.527,00	95%	76
7	<b>ISA institut</b>	The network of counselling centres the prevention and recovery after traumatic experiences of violence and other traumatic events	Association SOS Help-Line for Women and Children – Victims of Violence; Association for Nonviolent Communication; University of Primorska, Institute Andrej Marušič, Slovenian Center for Research on Suicide; Centre for Social Work Maribor; Primary School of Koper - Counselling Centre for Children, Young People and Parents Koper; Association for The Development of Voluntary Work Novo mesto; Institute for the Development of Family Medicine (ZRDM); Primary Public Health Care Gorenjska	STIFTELSEN ALTERNATIV TIL VOLD (ATV) ("Alternative to Violence")	912.877,00	821.589,00	90%	74

The available grant funds for A.1.1 amounts to EUR 3.639.412,00; therefore, **the first six projects** could be co-financed. The total requested amount of the grant funds for the first six projects was EUR 2.917.586,29. The unused available grant funds for area A.1.1 in the amount of EUR 721.825,71 is on the basis of decision of Extended Committee offered to the next applicant on the ranking list (ISA Institute).

### Sub-area: Prevention of life-style related diseases (A.1.2)

No.	Applicant	Project Title	Partnership		Total eligible costs of the project (EUR)	The requested amount of the grant (EUR)	The share of the grant	Average points
			Slovenian partners	Bilateral partners				
1	<b>Društvo Kulturno, informacijsko in svetovalno središče LEGBITRA</b>	Partnership for prevention development and community based HIV testing for men who have sex with men in Slovenia	Association Student Cultural Centre / gay section Magnus; Association DIH – Equal under the rainbow; University of Ljubljana; University Medical Centre Ljubljana	Helseutvalget for bedre homohelse/ Gay and lesbian health Norway	409.700,00	368.700,00	89,99%	95
2	<b>Youth center Krško</b>	The Mosaic of Prevention in Posavje Region	Center for Social Work Krško; Family Institute Zaupanje; Srečanje Society; Krško Health Care Center	/	248.326,40	235.910,10	95%	87
3	<b>Adult Education Centre Jesenice</b>	Fit and healthy towards old age!	Municipality of Bled; Association of Pensioners Bled; Municipality of Bohinj; Institute of St. Martin; Municipality of Gorje; Association of Pensioners Gorje; Municipality of Jesenice; Municipality of Kranjska Gora; Commet Domovi D.O.O. Dom Viharnik; Municipality of Žirovnica; Association of Pensioners Žirovnica; Municipality of Radovljica; Adult Education Centre Radovljica	/	180.093,00	171.088,35	95%	87
4	<b>Slovenian Catholic Girl Guides and Boy Scouts Association</b>	Healthy Lifestyle of Children and Youth through Empowerment of Youth Workers and the Establishment of Rograms on aLocal Level	No excuse Slovenia; Scout Association of Slovenia – National Scout organisation; National youth Council of Slovenia; National Institute for Public Health; Radio-television Slovenia	/	463.031,00	413.031,000	89,20%	85

5	<b>National Education Institute of the Republic of Slovenia</b>	An integrated innovative approach for providing a healthy lifestyle with a focus on nutrition, physical activity, prevention and management of obesity among children, adolescents and adults, and reduction of health inequalities	National Institute of Public Health; University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Sport; Jožef Stefan Institute; University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Education; College of nursing Jesenice; University of Maribor, Faculty of Health Sciences	/	804.778,00	761.778,00	94,66%	83
6	<b>Ljubljana Healthcare Centre</b>	Upgraded Comprehensive Patient Care	University of Ljubljana, Department of Family Medicine; Municipality of Ljubljana; Nurses and Midwives Association of Slovenia; Institute Prava poteza	DNV GL AS	954.624,00	906.892,80	95%	83

The available grant funds for A.1.2 amounts to EUR 2.392.941,00; therefore, **the first five projects** could be co-financed. The total requested amount of the grant funds for the first five projects was of EUR 1.950.507,45. The unused available grant funds for area A.1.2 in the amount amount of EUR 442.434,55 is on the basis of decision of Extended Committee offered to the next applicant on the ranking list (Ljubljana Healthcare Centre).

### Sub-area: Improved mental health services (A.1.3)

No.	Applicant	Project Title	Partnership		Total eligible costs of the project (EUR)	The requested amount of the grant (EUR)	The share of the grant	Average points
			Slovenian partners	Bilateral partners				
1	<b>Institute of Criminology at the Faculty of Law Ljubljana</b>	A systemic approach to peer violence in educational institutions – model and guidelines	The Simon Jenko Primary School; Kranj Institute of Education; Daily Youth and Family Centre Škrlovec; Association for non-violent communication; Municipality of Kranj	The European Wergeland Centre (EWC)	257.832,00	244.940,40	95%	88
2	<b>National Institute of Public Health</b>	HELP TO PEOPLE, KNOWLEDGE TO EXPERTS Expanding the network of counselling centres for people in mental distress and the training of professionals on suicide prevention and strengthening mental health.	Slovenian Association for Suicide Prevention (SASP), Psychological Counselling Centre POSVET; University of Primorska, Andrej Marušič Institute, Slovenian Centre for Suicide Research; OZARA Slovenia, National Association for Quality of Life	/	841.609,00	799.528,55	95%	76

3	<b>University Medical Centre Ljubljana – University Children’s Hospital, Child Psychiatric Unit</b>	Parenting training for the prevention of behavioural problems in children - mental health for every child	Public Institute Young Dragons – Centre for quality free-time activities for children and youth; Counselling centre for Children, Adolescents and Parents Ljubljana; Centre for Social Work Ajdovščina; Centre for Training, Occupation and Care Dobrna; Centre for Social Work (CSW) Ravne na Koroškem; Community Health Centre Celje; Slovenian Association for Child and Adolescent Mental Health; Centre for Social Work Radovljica	Regional Center for Child and Youth Mental Health and Child Welfare Breivika	615.564,80	584.784,00	95%	73
4	<b>University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Arts</b>	Supervised practice of psychologists: Development of a training programme for mentors and a model of supervised practice	Slovenian Psychologists’ Association; University of Primorska, Andrej Marušič Institute; Institute for Developmental Projects in Psychological Counselling – ISA	Norsk Psykologforening (Norwegian Psychological Association)	347.600,00	299.927,00	86,29%	73
5	<b>Institute for Research, Education and Sustainable Development Celje</b>	Development of services for persons with dementia and their relatives and establishment of the Center for dementia	Univerzitetni klinični center Ljubljana, Klinični oddelek za bolezni živčevja; SPOMINČICA; Center za socialno delo Celje; Dom ob Savinji Celje	Stavanger University Hospital (Legal entity: Helse Stavanger HF)	215.800,00	194.220,00	90%	64
6	<b>Development Agency for Upper Gorenjska</b>	Establishment of mental health prevention programs	Way of light association for extension of consciousness; Psychiatric Hospital of Begunje; College of Nursing Jesenice; Community of Centres for Social Work Slovenia	/	340.300,00	323.285,00	95%	71

The available grant funds for area A.1.3 amounts to EUR 2.425.072,00; therefore, **the first five projects** could be co-financed. The total requested amount of the grant funds for the first five projects was of EUR 2.123.399,55. The unused available grant funds for area A.1.3 in the amount amount of EUR 301.672,45 is on the basis of decision of Extended Committee offered to the next applicant on the ranking list.

### Area: GENDER EQUALITY (A.2)

No.	Sub-area	Applicant	Project Title	Partnership		Total eligible costs of the project (EUR)	The requested amount of the grant (EUR)	The share of the grant	Average points
				Slovenian partners	Bilateral partners				
1	A.2.2	<b>Peace Institute</b>	Obtaining Political Equality by New Names	University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Arts; Association of local communities of Slovenia; Women's Lobby Slovenia; Institute Meta's list	Norwegian Association for Local and Regional Authorities (KS)	275.950,00	248.355,00	90%	90
2	A.2.3	<b>Peace Institute</b>	Fathers and Employers in Action	University of Ljubljana; The Association of Free Trade Union of Slovenia; Nicha d.o.o.	Reform – resource centre for men	276.750,00	249.075,00	90%	88
3	A.2.1	<b>University of Ljubljana</b>	Gender equality in distribution of economic power: Understanding and overcoming obstacles to gender equality in economic decision-making	Managers' Association of Slovenia; Slovenian Human Resource Association	BI Norwegian Business School	262.318,80	249.202,86	95%	84



4	A.2.1	<b>Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Slovenia (CCIS), Regional Chamber of Commerce Ljubljana</b>	Network for Equal Opportunities – MEMA	Meta Institute for Family and Female Entrepreneurship; Ekonomski Institut Maribor, ekonomske raziskave in podjetništvo d.o.o. (EIM); KonektOn, Center poslovnih storitev, d.o.o.; Zavod Republike Slovenije za zaposlovanje	AtheneProsjektledelse	249.981,23	237.482,16	95%	84
5	A.2.3	<b>Institute for Labour Law at the Faculty of Law, University of Ljubljana</b>	Reconciliation of Professional and Family Life in Collective Agreements: Role of Social Partners in the Promotion of Gender Equality	The Association of Free Trade Unions of Slovenia; Association of Employers of Slovenia	Fafo Institutt for arbeidslivs- og verfeldsforskning as Fafo Institute for Labour and Social Research	222.690,00	211.555,50	95%	84

The available grant funds for A.2 amounts to EUR 1.126.951; therefore, **the first four projects** could be co-financed. The total requested amount of the grant funds for the first four projects was of EUR 984.115,02. The unused available grant funds for area A.2 in the amount of EUR 142.835,98 is on the basis of decision of Extended Committee offered to the next applicant on the ranking list.

### **SI05 Predefined project: Towards Better Health and Reducing Inequities in Health**

The project is being implemented smoothly and in accordance with the Project Implementation Plan which is an appendix of the Project Contract. In 2014, the project promoter submitted two reports on the progress of the project, which referred to the project implementation period up to and including August 2014. We expect a new interim report at the end of January in which the project promoter will determine implemented activities and costs in the period from September to December 2014.

The following key **activities** were implemented in accordance with the project timeline:

- The needs assessment of different user groups of Slovenian health services has been prepared. For the purpose of this very extensive and comprehensive needs assessment intensive cooperation with users and the public as well as with health services providers has been established through focus groups and targeted interviews.
- The PP has conducted several working meetings, each with more than 100 participants. At the working meeting in May 2014, where representatives of the partner from the donor project partner state also participated, the first findings from the needs assessments were presented; 15 working groups were established for the purpose of a concentrated discussion and the formation of results (e.g. preventive examinations WG, cardiovascular diseases WG, evaluation, indicators and monitoring WG). The final findings from needs assessments were presented at working meetings in November 2014, as well as the first proposed models for new approaches to preventive health care for children and adolescents, as well as models of integrative prevention and comprehensive care for adult chronic disease patients at the primary health care level, where the emphasis was on reducing inequalities in health according to individual working groups.
- At the end of 2014 and simultaneously with the development of programmes and models, the project started developing indicators and the methodology for assessing the established programmes and models.
- Bilateral cooperation: The project promoter (PP) has established a working cooperation with donor project partner. Among others, the representatives of PP participated at the study visit carried out in April 2014 at the partner institution premises in Oslo. Their cooperation was focused on the exchange of experience and knowledge in the field of data processing with emphasis on the research of health inequalities.
- Information and publicity: the project's website was also established; regular newsletters are also published on the project's website which describe the implemented and planned events and future project achievements.

### **SI05 Predefined project: Towards Equalizing Power Relations between Women and Men**

The project is being implemented smoothly and in accordance with the Project Implementation Plan which is an appendix of the Project Contract. In 2014, the project promoter submitted a report on the progress of the project up to and including August 2014. We expect a new interim report at the end of January, where the project promoter will determine implemented activities and costs in the period from September to December 2014.

#### Description of key implemented **activities**:

- The project promoter published a competition for project image design which encompassed the design of the project logo and eight images (e.g. shapes, pictures, illustrations, caricatures) for individual content fields, i.e.: equality of women and men in political decision-making, balanced distribution of economic power and sources between women and men, economic independence and social inclusion of women and men, harmonisation of work and private life and equality in parenthood, elimination of gender stereotypes, education for gender equality, equal opportunities of women and men for good health, and the elimination of all forms of gender-based violence. The best twenty projects were exhibited at the official project opening.
- The project was officially launched with the conference Gender Equality Pays Off project which was held on 15 and 16 January 2014 at Brdo pri Kranju. The purpose of the event was to present the situation, exchange best practices with Norway and discuss future challenges in the field of gender equality.
- An analysis of national and Norwegian legislation in the field of gender equality was implemented. The analysis has shown that in the field of gender equality, Norway bases this matter on regulated and comprehensive legislation. Slovenia has regulated some areas according to the Norwegian model (e.g. introduction of quotas in politics), but it could regulate other areas without major difficulties (e.g. introduction of quotas in the business sector, financial support in the field of child protection).
- The first thematic consultation was organised on 10 April 2014, i.e. in cooperation with the Mayoress of the Municipality of Šmarješke Toplice. The reconciliation of work and private life of women who are decision-makers was the theme of the consultation. The discussion on obstacles, actions and services in the field of reconciliation of work and private life focused mostly on practical aspects (e.g. the problem of fathers in enforcing their right to paternity leave, excessively increased, especially spatial, standards in Slovenian kindergartens, daily care of the elderly).
- The second study visit to Norway was organised between 12 and 16 May 2014, i.e. including activities concerning the bilateral fund at the programme level. The study visit contributed to strengthening cooperation and the exchange of best practices between Slovenia and Norway, mostly at the local level. The delegation visited two cities, Oslo and Hamar, where they viewed two best practice examples, i.e. a Norwegian kindergarten and a centre for the elderly.
- Two seminars were organised on 11 and 12 June 2014 in collaboration with the Norwegian project partner KS (at Brdo pri Kranju and in Maribor), entitled The Realisation of Equalities between Women and Men: the Role of Local Communities. The seminar was an opportunity for those who are included in the process of policy-making and implementation at the local level, to enable them to become acquainted with the experience and best practices garnered in Norway on encouraging gender equality and thus strengthening local and national development.

#### **3.2.5.2. Progress towards expected outcomes;**

Due to the results based approach and priority area activity focused approach in the phase of preparation of the public call it is estimated that the selected projects at the end of December 2014 (overall 24; 19 in the area of Public Health Initiatives and 5 in the field of Gender Equality) form good base to achieving programme outputs, outcomes and indicators in the following years (2015, 2016 and first months of 2017).

The Predefined project: **Towards Better Health and Reducing Inequities in Health** will contribute to achieving both previously determined programme results in the field of Public Health Initiatives which contribute to achieving the programme effect – the reduction or prevention of lifestyle-related disease (Expected Outcome: Lifestyle related diseases prevented or reduced):

<i>Project outcome = Programme output</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Target value for Programme output</i>	<i>Target value for Project outcome</i>	<i>Achieved value</i>
Integrated programmes and services for life-style related chronic diseases prevention for different user groups developed and implemented	Number of actions aiming to reduce or prevent life style related diseases at national/ local level	15	2	0
Capacity of professionals for work with vulnerable groups in life-style related chronic diseases prevention improved	Number of trained professionals in life-style related chronic diseases prevention	300	100	0

This needs assessment, prepared in 2014, forms the basis in order to upgrade the preventive programme for children and youth and to develop the programme for integrated lifestyle-related disease prevention for adults. Both programmes and models were already being prepared at the end of 2014; the final outcome is under the implementation project plan expected in 2015. Effects will be reflected throughout Slovenia.

**Predefined project: Towards Equalizing Power Relations between Women and Men** contributes to achieving the previously determined programme output, i.e. in the field of Mainstreaming Gender Equality and Promoting Work-Life Balance:

<i>Project outcome = Programme output</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Target value</i>	<i>Achieved value</i>
Understanding of equal/unequal power relations between women and men increased	Number of reports disseminated to target groups	500	0
	Level of satisfaction (in %)	60	93
	Number of target audience reached (in %)	50	0
	Number of implemented policies (action plans, measures)	2	0
	Number of good practices identified and assessed	4	4

The effect will be reflected throughout Slovenia.

### 3.2.5.3. Outputs achieved;

Due to the results based approach and priority area activity focused approach in the phase of preparation of the public call it is estimated that the selected projects at the end of December 2014 (overall 24; 19 in the area of Public Health Initiatives and 5 in the field of Gender Equality) form good base to achieving programme outputs, outcomes and indicators in the following years (2015, 2016 and first months of 2017).

**The Predefined project: Towards Better Health and Reducing Inequities in Health outputs achieved:**

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Output</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Target value</i>	<i>Achieved value</i>
<b>WP1 Upgraded preventive programme in the health care of children and adolescents</b>				
1A.1	Needs assessment (HNA)	The number of HNA reports	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
1A.2	Programme and model development	The number of developed models of health-care services that are friendly to younger generations in different environments (paediatric team at the primary level, school environment, youth centre)	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>
1A.3	Preparation of indicators and the methodology for preventive programme monitoring and evaluation	The number of catalogues of indicators for programme monitoring and evaluation	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>
1A.4	Pilot testing of new models	The number of implemented pilot tests (in rural and urban environment)	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>
1A.5	Evaluation of pilot tests and programme adjustment	The number of evaluation reports on pilot tests of new approaches in the preventive health care of children and adolescents	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>
1A.6	Dissemination of results	The number of conferences on the preventive programme upgrade	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>
1B.1	Capacities and sources for preventive programmes in the health care of children and adolescents	The number of curricula for new courses in public health: 1-PH of children and adolescents; 2- Inequalities in health; 3-Monitoring and evaluation of preventive programmes	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>WP2 Integrated prevention of lifestyle related chronic diseases in adults programme</b>				
2A.1	Needs assessment (HNA)	The number of HNA reports	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
2A.2	Programme and model development	The number of programmes and models for comprehensive prevention of CD in adults	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>
2A.3	Preparation of indicators and the methodology for preventive programme monitoring and evaluation	The number of catalogues of indicators for programme monitoring and evaluation and the model for comprehensive CD prevention in adults	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>
2A.4	Pilot testing of new models	The number of implemented pilot tests (in rural and urban environment)	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>
2A.5	Evaluation of pilot tests and programme adjustment	The number of reports on the evaluation of pilot testing model with programme adjustment proposals	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>
2A.6	Dissemination of results	The number of conferences on the preventive programme upgrade	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>
2B0.1	The preparation and implementation of new courses in public health	The number of curricula and materials for new courses on the prevention of CD in adults with an emphasis on reducing inequalities	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>WP3 Informing and notifying</b>				
3.1	The preparation of different messages for	The number of publications	<b>20</b>	<b>10</b>

	the public via different communication channels			
	Exchange of information in expert public	The number of conferences	5	2
	Single information point	Website of the project	1	1

### Predefined project: Towards Equalizing Power Relations between Women and Men outputs achieved

Activity	Output	Indicator	Target value	Achieved value
1.1	Report on historical development and key challenges in EC policy	The number of printed and distributed reports	1000	0
1.2	Conference including best practice exchange – Norway	The number of press conferences held	1	1
		The number of participants	90	158
2.1	Report on the results of legislation analysis, relevant to gender equality and necessary legal changes	The number of printed and distributed reports	1000	0
2.2	Thematic consultation meetings with professionals and policy-makers to identify necessary legislative changes	The number of thematic consultation meetings	8	1
		The number of participants at thematic meetings	240	25
3.1	Prepared standardised monitoring instrument	The number of prepared monitoring instruments	1	0
3.2	Implementation of public opinion study (instrument testing)	The number of implemented public opinion studies	1	0
		Patterns in public opinion research	600	0
	Report on the implementation of public opinion study	The number of printed and distributed reports	500	0
4.1	Developed support for increased institutional qualification at the national and local level for identifying, designing and implementing policies which are sensitive to EC aspects	The number of identified and assessed best practices	2	4
		The number of best practice exchanges (2 study visits in Norway and 2 seminars in Slovenia)	4	4
		The number of participants at study visits and seminars	115	95
		Satisfaction level	60%	93%
		The ability of target groups to identify, design and implement policies sensitive to gender equality issues	4	4

5.1	Media awareness-raising campaign for target groups and the general public	The number of implemented media campaigns	1	0
		The percentage of target audience reached	50%	0
		The number of media products (TV and radio ads, posters, online tools etc.)	100	32
5.2	Information published about the project (website, FB, press releases)	The number of media products (online and media publications)	20	22

### 3.2.5.4. Potential risks that may threaten the achievement of the objectives set out in the Programme;

#### Risks connected to the project implementation

Risks	Mitigation actions
Delays in starting the project	Speeding up all the administrative and managerial processes in order for applicants to start the projects as soon as possible.
Shorten time for project implementation due to all delays	Good communication between Programme operator and Project promoter in order intensify the project activities where possible.
Poor implementation/management of awarded projects/activities due to all foreseen and not foreseen risks  Poor results and lack of sustainability	Preparation of the list of selected projects with estimated high to low implementation risks by Programme operator and well prepared and implemented monitoring plan for 2015, 2016 and 2017.  Quick reaction to the identified risk and situation and adequate response to it by Programme operator.
Not achieving project/programme outcomes and indicator values	Risk of not achieving programme/project outcomes and indicators values could be identified (on the basis of project monitoring and project reports) in the second half of 2015 which could lead to opening the possibility of modifications (if necessary) of programme and/or Programme Agreement.
Insufficient will/interest of target groups to be involved in the project activities	Systematic and regular involvement of key target groups and good, target basec communication strategy.

**Predefined project: Towards Better Health and Reducing Inequities in Health**

Since all the conditions for successful project implementation were established (especially the signing of contracts and the publication of instructions for project implementation and reporting), the project has been implemented smoothly and successfully. The contract custodian at the programme operator has regular contacts with the project manager and offers permanent support. The programme operator representative is included in the project steering committee, where the programme operator regularly monitors and controls, as well as, by using these mechanisms, monitors and steers the implementation of the project. No major risks to project implementation are expected. The specific risks to project implementation and measures to reduce them are as follows:

Risk	Measures for risk reduction
Project integrity, including a large number of planned results and included providers of services	The project team will prepare an action plan for the implementation of the project and will consistently monitor its implementation. A detailed project implementation plan will be prepared for a shorter (semi-annual) period. In addition to a project manager who directly manages the project, implementation will be consistently monitored by the consulting and steering committee.
Variation in project team members	The project team includes experts that know the content of the project, as well as experts with project management knowledge. They will be employed full time for the entire project duration. The project team comprise the core of the project. Other associates included in the project on a part-time basis and key external experts will also collaborate on the project.
Opposition by key (expert) public	From the beginning, the project will include representatives of different professional associations and individual experts who are opinion-makers in individual fields.

**Predefined project: Towards Equalizing Power Relations between Women and Men**

Since all the conditions for successful project implementation were established (especially the signing of contracts and the publication of instructions for project implementation and reporting), the project has been implemented smoothly and successfully. The contract custodian at the programme operator has regular contacts with the project manager and offers continuous support. No major risks to timely and high-quality project implementation are expected. The specific risks to project implementation and measures to reduce them are as follows:

Risks	Measures for risk reduction
Insufficient political will to adopt policies or measures at the local and national levels.	Systematic inclusion of all key players (decision-makers and policy-makers) in project activities, partner cooperation with local and national authorities and other stakeholders.



### 3.2.5.5. The need for adjustments of plans, including actions for risk mitigation;

There is no need for adjustment of plans at the moment.

### 3.2.5.6. The use of funds for bilateral relations;

Study visit to Norway on the topics of gender equality took place from 12th to 16th May 2014 and was carried out in the combination with the activities of pre-defined project. The main purpose of the visit was the presentation of the Norwegian experience in the field of gender equality to Slovene decision makers on local level.

#### SI05 - Bilateral indicators achieved by the end of 2014 (results of public call, study visit (bilateral fund) and predefined projects))

<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Baseline</i>	<i>Target</i>	<i>Achieved</i>
Number of project partnership agreements in beneficiary civil society	0	0	<b>0</b>
Number of project partnership agreements in the beneficiary private sector	0	0	<b>0</b>
Number of project partnership agreements in the beneficiary public sector	0	2	<b>2</b>
Number of projects with expected shared results (both partners are involved professionally in planning and implementation and can claim credit for achieved results)	0	2	18
Number of women involved in exchange visits between beneficiary and donor states	0	30	<b>10 +20 =30</b>
Number of men involved in exchange visits between beneficiary and donor states	0	25	<b>7 +6 =13</b>
Number of joint (bilateral) articles published, written by persons from both an institutions in a beneficiary and donor state, published in a national or international publications, originated from a project financed by the programme	0	4	<b>0</b>
Number of joint (bilateral) scientific papers written with co-researchers in at least one beneficiary and one donor state, and published in a national or international scientific publication, originated from a project financed by the programme	0	3	<b>0</b>
Number of new technologies/new practises, including IT-systems, adopted in a beneficiary state, as a result of transfer of knowledge from a donor state partner	0	2	<b>0</b>
Number of professional networks between institutions in beneficiary and donor states established and operational	0	1	<b>0</b>

#### SI05 - Bilateral indicators achieved by the end of 2014 by implementing predefined projects

<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Baseline</i>	<i>Target</i>	<i>Achieved</i>
Number of project partnership agreements in beneficiary civil society	0	0	<b>0</b>
Number of project partnership agreements in the beneficiary private sector	0	0	<b>0</b>
Number of project partnership agreements in the beneficiary public sector	0	2	<b>0</b>

Number of projects with expected shared results (both partners are involved professionally in planning and implementation and can claim credit for achieved results)	0	2	0
Number of women involved in exchange visits between beneficiary and donor states	0	30	20
Number of men involved in exchange visits between beneficiary and donor states	0	25	6
Number of joint (bilateral) articles published, written by persons from both an institutions in a beneficiary and donor state, published in a national or international publications, originated from a project financed by the programme	0	4	0
Number of joint (bilateral) scientific papers written with co-researchers in at least one beneficiary and one donor state, and published in a national or international scientific publication, originated from a project financed by the programme	0	3	0
Number of new technologies/new practises, including IT-systems, adopted in a beneficiary state, as a result of transfer of knowledge from a donor state partner	0	2	0
Number of professional networks between institutions in beneficiary and donor states established and operational	0	1	0

### Complementary action

At the beginning of December 2014 (11th to 12th) the visit of Lithuanian delegation (3 persons) took place in Ljubljana. The main focus of the visit was the exchange of information and knowledge in the field of primary health of children and youth. Both countries take part in the programme area Public Health Initiatives.

## 3 MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION

### 3.2 Management and control systems

At the beginning of June 2014 the Description of management and control systems for the EEA Financial Mechanism Programme 2009-2014 (SI02), Description of management and control systems for the Norwegian Financial Mechanism Programme 2009-2014 (SI05), Description of the management and control systems for the Slovenian Scholarship Fund (SI04) with the Report on the compliance assessment of the management and control systems of the programme operators for the Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2009-2014 and the EEA Financial Mechanism 2009-2014 and for the Slovenian Scholarship Fund of the Budget Supervision Office have been sent to the FMO.

### 3.3 Compliance with EU legislation, national legislation and the MoU

The implementation of EEA and Norway grants 2009 – 2014 will be in compliance with EU legislation, with the national legislation, focusing on public procurement and eligibility of expenditures and provisions of the Memoranda of Understanding. Environmental legislation will be fully respected.

Controls for compliance with the legislative framework will be performed by the Programme Operators, which includes the provisions for controls in the description of management and control systems, which was submitted in 2014.

### 3.4 Irregularities

In the reporting period from 1 January 2014 to 31 December 2014 no irregularities were detected. In line with no-tolerance policy on corruption and mismanagement. The National Focal Point amended the complaints mechanism in accordance with the Financial Mechanism Office recommendations and published it on the dedicated website.

### 3.5 Audit, monitoring, review and evaluation

On 18 December 2014, the Audit Authority (Budget Supervision Office of the Republic of Slovenia) issued the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Audit Report describing the work done by the Audit Authority in the period from 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014:

- In May 2014 the Audit Authority has issued unqualified opinion accompanied by the Report on the Compliance assessment of the management and control systems for Programme Operators for SI02 and SI05, European Territorial Cooperation and Financial Mechanism Office, and for SI04, Centre of the Republic Slovenia for Mobility and European Educational and Training Programmes and have sent them to the doors by email on 4 June 2014.
- In the period from 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014 the Audit Authority didn't perform any system Audits and any audits of expenditures - projects.

The Audit Plan for 2015 was submitted to the Financial Mechanism Office and the National Focal Point on 12 January 2015. According to this plan the Budget Supervision Office will perform a system audit of:

- The Ministry of Finance, Department for Management of EU Funds acting as Certifying Authority;
- CMEPIUS acting as Programme Operator for SI04 programme.

The Audit Authority will perform project audit of expenditures that incurred until 30 April 2014 (2&3 IFR of SI04). The Audit Authority will include in the sample expenditures incurred in the period from 1.May 2014 until 30 April 2015, which are declared in the intermediate financial statements and send to donors' states till 15 July 2014.

The following audits will be carried out in 2015:

Auditee	Function of the bodies	Type of Audit	Period
MF-DMEUF - CA	CA	System Audit	September-October 2015
CMEPIUS	Programme Operator for SI04	Project Audit of 2&3 IFR of SI04	January 2015
CMEPIUS	Programme Operator for SI04	System Audit	October – November 2015
Not established yet*	Project promoter	Project Audit	November-December

\*Number of audited projects and Project Promoters will be selected on the basis of assessment of the functioning of the management and control system and of value of declared expenditure incurred in the period from 1.May 2014 until 30.April 2015.

### 3.6 Information and publicity

The National Focal Point developed a Communication Strategy covering EEA and Norway Grants. The Communication strategy was approved by the Financial Mechanism Office on 13 July 2012.

Government Office for development and European cohesion policy develop the website ([www.norwaygrants.si](http://www.norwaygrants.si) and [www.eeagrants.si](http://www.eeagrants.si)), it is available in Slovenian and English and provides information on specific programmes, relevant documents (including reports, guidelines and logotypes), latest news and upcoming events.

Together with the set-up of the webpage we updated our Facebook profile EEA and Norway Grants Slovenia with more links to different events, new photos etc. The FB profile and webpage address are placed on the Government Office's webpage.

In 2015 we are planning to upgrade the above mentioned website, carried out the public procurement for the purchase of promotional materials. The promotional material will be distributed at the Norwegian and EEA financial mechanisms related events and also at upcoming workshop for the selected applicants. We will organise an event: announcement of selected projects and signing contracts and will ensure the attendance at chosen Project Promoters opening and closing ceremonies. We will monitor all events foreseen within the bilateral relations, they will also be published on our website and Facebook profile.

### 3.7 Work plan

1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2015:

- Monitoring committee;
- Annual meeting with the donors;
- Signing of contracts with selected applicants (SI02 and SI05 programmes);
- Organizing workshop for selected project promoters (SI02 and SI05 programmes);
- Organising a marking event- signing of all contract (project visit, press statement);
- Update of the webpage <http://norwaygrants.si/>;
- Carried out the public procurement for promotion material;
- Reporting on irregularities.

2<sup>nd</sup> quarter 2015

- Monitoring of the implementation of the projects for SI02 and SI05;
- Reporting on irregularities;
- Organisation of joint event (NGO, CMEPIUS) promotion of projects results and identifying common topics.

3<sup>rd</sup> quarter 2015

- Monitoring of the implementation of the projects for SI02 and SI05;
- Reporting on irregularities.

4<sup>th</sup> quarter 2015

- Monitoring of the implementation of the projects for SI02 and SI05;
- Reporting on irregularities.

## 4 SUMMARY LIST OF ISSUES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The following issues and/or recommendations concerning management and control of EEA and Norway grants 2009 – 2014 in Slovenia have been identified in 2014:

- Since the public call for SI02 and SI05 programme was published later than foreseen the available time for implementation of selected project is shorter. The Government Office for Development and European Cohesion Policy acting as a Programme Operator for SI02 and SI05 has been accordingly organised and will make every effort that the contracts with selected project promoters will be signed as soon as possible.
- In accordance with Article 6.5 of the Regulation on the Implementation of the Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2009-2014 and the Regulation on the implementation of the EEA Financial Mechanism 2009-2014 a public procurement for selecting external evaluators was published, for the purpose of quality assessment of applications, but unfortunately nobody applied. The second public procurement, which was published on July 3, is open until July 14. The limited number of experts, who also frequently co-operate as project promoters, reduces the number

of potential applicants. Consequently this means the delay in assessment of applications and providing the results of the call. It should be taken into consideration the above mentioned problems faced by small countries.

- We would like to point out that the issue was raised already at the Monitoring Committee meeting (12 September 2014) and agreed to be passed on to the donors, namely the request to postpone the implementation of projects. After concluding all the meetings with the applicants, whose projects have been selected under the public call, we have obtained a good overview of the achievements of the objectives of the programmes. Based on the above mentioned, we estimate that a possible extension of 3-6 months, especially in program areas such as biodiversity (the proposed extension period would also cover the entire season of spring-summer) is very important for achieving the objectives of the programs SI02 and SI05.

## **4 ATTACHMENTS TO THE STRATEGIC REPORT**

## Annex: Monitoring and audit plan

### Monitoring plan

Programme SI02	Monitoring action	Planned timing	Criteria for monitoring	Potential risk	Comments
	On-site monitoring visit of pre-defined project	First half of 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Projects with significant impact on the overall objective of the Programme</li> <li>- Project grant exceeds €600,000</li> <li>- projects with higher identified risk of implementation</li> </ul>	./	/
	On-site monitoring visit of 1-2 projects that has been selected in a frame of public call	Second half of 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Projects with significant impact on the overall objective of the Programme</li> <li>- Project grant exceeds €600,000</li> <li>- projects with higher identified risk of implementation</li> </ul>	/	/
Programme SI04	Monitoring action	Planned timing	Criteria for monitoring	Potential risk	Comments
	Mobility in HE Mobility in other levels of education Inter-institutional projects in HE Inter-institutional projects in school education	Every 3 months by email and on the spot checks upon random selection and additional monitoring visits upon request from project promoters As above As above As above	Projects with significant impact on the overall objective of the Programme and/or projects with higher identified risk of implementation	./	/

Programme SI05	Monitoring action	Planned timing	Criteria for monitoring	Potential risk	Comments
	Predefined projects (2)	first half of 2015	Projects with significant impact on the overall objective of the Programme	/	/
	Projects (3-5) selected in the frame of public call	second half of 2015	Projects with significant impact on the overall objective of the Programme  Projects with higher identified risk of implementation	/	/

Audit plan- Budget Supervision Office of The Republic of Slovenia

Auditee	Function of the bodies	Type of Audit	Period
MF-DMEUF - CA	CA	System Audit	September-October 2015
CMEPIUS	Programme Operator for SI04	Project Audit of 2&3 IFR of SI04	January 2015
CMEPIUS	Programme Operator for SI04	System Audit	October – November 2015
Not established yet*	Project Promoter	Project Audit	November-December

\*Number of audited projects and Project Promoters will be selected on the basis of assessment of the functioning of the management and control system and of value of declared expenditure incurred in the period from 1.May 2014 until 30.April 2015.

## 1 ATTACHMENTS TO THE STRATEGIC REPORT

### Annex: Risk assessment at the national level

The risk assessment at the national level regards risks to the two overall objectives and overall operations of the Grants.

Type of objective <sup>1</sup>	Description of risk	Likelihood <sup>2</sup>	Consequence <sup>3</sup>	Mitigation planned/done
Cohesion objective:				
Reduction of economic and social disparities	Poor implementation/management of awarded projects/activities Insufficient dissemination of results Lack of sustainability	2	1	Efficient monitoring of project implementation Additional promotion of projects results (webpage, brochure, events for presenting the results of the projects) Adequate evaluation of sustainability in projects
Bilateral objective:				
Strengthening long-term bilateral cooperation between Slovenia and donor countries	Lack of interest for co-operation with donor countries	1	1	Enhanced promotion Increase the promotion of pre-defined and other selected projects Connecting potential partners through the common point
Operational issues:	Shortage of staff	2	1	Flexibility in assuring human resources in terms of quantity and skills according to actual needs Adequate reorganisation and education of staff

<sup>1</sup> The risks should be categorised in one of 3 ways, depending on whether it poses a risk to the cohesion objective, the bilateral objective, or is more of an operational issue.

<sup>2</sup> Each risk should be described as to whether it poses a risk to the cohesion objective, the bilateral objective, or is more of an operational issue, where 4 = Almost certain (75 – 99% likelihood); 3 = Likely (50 – 74%); 2 = Possible (25 – 49%); 1 = Unlikely (1 – 24%)

<sup>3</sup> Assess the consequence(s) in the event that the outcomes and/or crucial operations are not delivered, where 4 = severe; 3 = major; 2 = moderate; 1 = minor; n/a = not relevant or insignificant.



## Annex: Risk assessment of the programme

Programme SI02	Type of objective <sup>4</sup>	Description of risk	Likelihood <sup>5</sup>	Consequence <sup>6</sup>	Mitigation planned/done
	Cohesion (Programme) outcomes:	Delays in starting the project	4	3	Accelerating all administrative and managerial processes in order for applicants to start projects as soon as possible.
		Shorter time for project implementation due to all delays	4	3	Good communication between the Programme operator and Project promoter in order intensify project activities where possible.
		Poor implementation/management of awarded projects/activities due to all foreseen and unforeseen risks  Poor results and lack of sustainability	2	2	Preparation of a list of selected projects with estimated high to low implementation risks by the Programme operator and a well-prepared and implemented monitoring plan for 2015, 2016 and 2017.  Rapid response to identified risk and situations and adequate response to them by the Programme operator.
		Failure to achieve project/programme outcomes and indicator values	1	1	Risk of not achieving programme/project outcomes and indicators values could be identified (on the basis of project monitoring and project reports) in the second half of 2015, which could lead to the possibility of modifications (if necessary) to the programme and/or Programme Agreement.
		Insufficient will/interest of target groups to be involved in the project activities	1	1	Systematic and regular involvement of key target groups and good, target-based communication strategy.
	Bilateral outcome(s):				
	Operational issues:				

<sup>4</sup> The risks should be categorised in one of 3 ways, depending on whether it poses a risk to the cohesion objective, the bilateral objective, or is more of an operational issue.

<sup>5</sup> Each risk should be described as to whether it poses a risk to the cohesion outcomes (programme outcomes), the bilateral outcome or crucial operational issues 4 = Almost certain (75 – 99% likelihood); 3 = Likely (50 – 74%); 2 = Possible (25 – 49%); 1 = Unlikely (1 – 24%)

<sup>6</sup> Assess the consequence(s) in the event that the outcomes and/or crucial operations are not delivered, where 4 = severe; 3 = major; 2 = moderate; 1 = minor; n/a = not relevant or insignificant.

Programme SIO3	Type of objective <sup>7</sup>	Description of risk	Likelihood <sup>8</sup>	Consequence <sup>9</sup>	Mitigation planned/done
	Cohesion (Programme) outcomes:	Non-achievement of the OUTCOME 1: Active citizenship fostered	1	Moderate: Difficulties in reaching the outcome	Extensive capacity building activities: Individual assistance, on-spot assistance, thematic workshops of beneficiaries; promotion through communication activities of FO
		Non-achievement of the OUTCOME 2: Cross-sectoral partnerships developed, particularly with Government institutions at local, regional and/or national level	2	Moderate: Difficulties in reaching the outcome	Extensive capacity building activities: Individual assistance, on-spot assistance, thematic workshops of beneficiaries; promotion through communication activities of FO
		Non-achievement of the OUTCOME 3: advocacy and watch-dog role developed	1	Moderate: Difficulties in reaching the outcome	Extensive capacity building activities: Individual assistance, on-spot assistance, thematic workshops of beneficiaries, additional capacity building workshop for monitoring and advocacy if needed
		Non-achievement of the OUTCOME 4: Developed networks and coalitions of NGOs working in partnership	1	Moderate: Difficulties in reaching the outcome	Extensive capacity building activities: Individual assistance, on-spot assistance, thematic workshops of beneficiaries
		Non-achievement of the OUTCOME 5: Empowerment of vulnerable groups	2	Moderate: Difficulties in reaching the outcome	Extensive capacity building activities: Individual assistance, on-spot assistance, thematic workshops of beneficiaries; promotion through communication activities of FO

<sup>7</sup> The risks should be categorised in one of 3 ways, depending on whether it poses a risk to the cohesion objective, the bilateral objective, or is more of an operational issue.

<sup>8</sup> Each risk should be described as to whether it poses a risk to the cohesion outcomes (programme outcomes), the bilateral outcome or crucial operational issues 4 = Almost certain (75 – 99% likelihood); 3 = Likely (50 – 74%); 2 = Possible (25 – 49%); 1 = Unlikely (1 – 24%)

<sup>9</sup> Assess the consequence(s) in the event that the outcomes and/or crucial operations are not delivered, where 4 = severe; 3 = major; 2 = moderate; 1 = minor; n/a = not relevant or insignificant.

	Bilateral outcome(s):	Lack of interest for donor project partnerships	2	Major: Bilateral cooperation not fostered, missed opportunity for cooperation with EEA countries	Organisation of launching event with at least 18 EEA NGOs, promotion of the skype conference – dating agency, active facilitation of partnerships, cooperation with NHC, motivation in project documentation, funds available for partnership projects
	Operational issues:	Problems with the time management in programme implementation	3	Moderate  Delays in publication of calls for proposals, evaluation and signing of the contracts, lower quality of capacity building activities	Regular meetings of the consortium, regular checking of the timetable, mutual assistance between the partners
		Low management costs vs. high oversubscription	2	Major:  There is a risk of overspending management Costs, if re-allocation will not be allowed.	Proposal for budget reallocation with clear explanation of the situation will be sent to FMO.
		Lack of interest for participation in the Selection committee	3	Moderate: Delays in establishing the SC, lower quality of SC members	Concrete presentation of the important role and influence of SC, their role and impact
		Lack of interest for cooperation as projects' evaluators	1	Lower quality of evaluators, bigger work-load of evaluators	Already well known and experienced evaluators separately invited to participate, publishing of the open call for additional evaluators
		Low quality of evaluators	1	Major: Proposed projects for funding not in line with programme's objectives and outcomes	Broad selection procedure, training for evaluators, assistance of the FO to evaluators

		Not all NGOs are informed about the grants	1	Moderate: NGOs do not have equal opportunities to apply for funding, potential good project ideas unsupported	Web page, weekly newsletters CNVOS, Facebook profile, sharing information with the NFP
		Project documentation too complex and administratively burdensome	2	Moderate: Bigger workload for NGOs, too big amount of time spent on reporting and less on content work	Study visit to Romania to share experience and to check their project documentation, checking of project documentation of other FOs, inclusion of SC and evaluators in project documentation design
		Low interest of journalist for NGO stories	2	Moderate: Projects, project promoters and NGO programme not enough presented and known to the general public	Regular contacts with journalists, selection and preparation of interesting cases and articles
		Lack of interest for capacity building activities	2	Moderate: Project applications not in line with programme's outcomes and outputs, lower quality of project applications, missed opportunities to share experience with other project promoters	Broad promotion (newsletter, webpage, FB) and presentation of benefits of capacity building activities

Programme	Type of objective <sup>10</sup>	Description of risk	Likelihood <sup>11</sup>	Consequence <sup>12</sup>	Mitigation planned/done
<b>Programme SI04</b>	Cohesion (Programme) outcomes:				
	Increased higher education student and staff mobility between Beneficiary and EEA EFTA States	<i>Lack of interest from eligible institutions</i>	2	4	Promotion/Motivation activities far in advance, organised support to institutions during application phase in time, enough time between publication of Calls and application deadline
		<i>Lack of interest from individuals</i>	2	5	Information/Promotion activities Monitoring of the beneficiary
		<i>Poor quality of applications / projects</i>	3	3	Training workshops before deadlines with presentation of the call, application form Instructions on "how to fill out an application" E-mail and phone help-desk Individual support for Measure 3
		<i>Poor implementation / management of awarded projects/activities</i>	2	2	Organised support to implementing institutions, regular reporting, monitoring activities (meetings, on-the-spot visits, phone calls) On time reporting about difficulties from PP'ss
	Increased and strengthened institutional cooperation at all levels of education sector between Beneficiary and EEA EFTA States	<i>Lack of interest from eligible institutions</i>	1	2	Promotion/Motivation activities far in advance, organised support to institutions during application phase in time, enough time between publication of Calls and application deadline
		<i>Poor quality of applications / projects</i>	1	2	Training workshops before deadlines with presentation of the call, application form Instructions on "how to fill out an application" E-mail and phone help-desk
		<i>Insufficient dissemination of results</i>	3	3	Contractual obligation for beneficiaries Thematic workshop organised Handbook on dissemination distributed Organized events – SHARE/DELI Use of study visits
		<i>Lack of sustainability</i>	3	4	Information to beneficiaries regarding different possibilities for long term cooperation E+ Encouragement to beneficiaries for establishment of bilateral agreements Identification and exchange of good practices – DELI/SHARE events Use of study visits
	Increased mobility of education sector staff at all levels of	<i>Lack of interest from eligible institutions/organisations</i>	2	2	Direct promotion via established channels Allocation of funds

<sup>10</sup> The risks should be categorised in one of 3 ways, depending on whether it poses a risk to the cohesion objective, the bilateral objective, or is more of an operational issue.

<sup>11</sup> Each risk should be described as to whether it poses a risk to the cohesion outcomes (programme outcomes), the bilateral outcome or crucial operational issues 4 = Almost certain (75 – 99% likelihood); 3 = Likely (50 – 74%); 2 = Possible (25 – 49%); 1 = Unlikely (1 – 24%)

<sup>12</sup> Assess the consequence(s) in the event that the outcomes and/or crucial operations are not delivered, where 4 = severe; 3 = major; 2 = moderate; 1 = minor; n/a = not relevant or insignificant.

	education between Beneficiary and EEA EFTA States				
		<i>Poor quality of applications / projects</i>	2	3	Training workshops before deadlines with presentation of the call, application form Instructions on "how to fill-out an application" E-mail and phone help-desk Individual support for Measure 3
Slovene scholarship fund	Bilateral outcome(s):				
	New bilateral agreements and cooperation established	<i>Lack of interest from eligible institutions/organisations</i>	2	4	Promotion/Motivation activities far in advance, organised support to institutions/individuals during application phase in time, enough time before publication of Call 2015 and application deadline
		<i>Poor quality of applications / projects</i>	3	3	Instructions on "how to fill out an application" E-mail and phone help-desk
		<i>Lack of sustainability</i>	3	4	Information to beneficiaries regarding different possibilities for long term cooperation Encouragement to beneficiaries for establishment of bilateral agreements Identification and exchange of good practices Use of study visits
Slovene scholarship fund	Operational issues:				
		Sudden change/leave of staff	2	4	Established back-up team Suitable personal staff
		Reallocation of funds	2	4	Desk check of all interim and final reports > committing projects on the reserve list, transfer of funds to other measures

Programme SI05	Type of objective <sup>13</sup>	Description of risk	Likelihood <sup>14</sup>	Consequence <sup>15</sup>	Mitigation planned/done
	Cohesion (Programme) outcomes:	Delays in starting the project	4	3	Speeding up all the administrative and managerial processes in order for applicants to start the projects as soon as possible.
		Shorten time for project implementation due to all delays	4	3	Good communication between Programme operator and Project promoter in order intensify the project activities where possible.

<sup>13</sup> The risks should be categorised in one of 3 ways, depending on whether it poses a risk to the cohesion objective, the bilateral objective, or is more of an operational issue.

<sup>14</sup> Each risk should be described as to whether it poses a risk to the cohesion outcomes (programme outcomes), the bilateral outcome or crucial operational issues 4 = Almost certain (75 – 99% likelihood); 3 = Likely (50 – 74%); 2 = Possible (25 – 49%); 1 = Unlikely (1 – 24%)

<sup>15</sup> Assess the consequence(s) in the event that the outcomes and/or crucial operations are not delivered, where 4 = severe; 3 = major; 2 = moderate; 1 = minor; n/a = not relevant or insignificant.

		Poor implementation/management of awarded projects/activities due to all foreseen and unforeseen risks  Poor results and lack of sustainability	2	2	Preparation of a list of selected projects with estimated high to low implementation risks by the Programme operator and a well-prepared and implemented monitoring plan for 2015, 2016 and 2017.  Rapid response to identified risk and situations and adequate response to them by the Programme operator.
		Failure to achieve project/programme outcomes and indicator values	1	1	Risk of not achieving programme/project outcomes and indicators values could be identified (on the basis of project monitoring and project reports) in the second half of 2015, which could lead to the possibility of modifications (if necessary) to the programme and/or Programme Agreement.
		Insufficient will/interest of target groups to be involved in the project activities	1	1	Systematic and regular involvement of key target groups and good, target-based communication strategy.
	Bilateral outcome(s):				
	Operational issues:				