



### **ANNUAL REPORT No 4**

### on the implementation of

### the Norwegian Financial Mechanism in the Republic of Slovenia

Implementation period: Date: Prepared by: September 2008 – September 2009 October 2009 National Focal Point Government Office of the Republic of Slovenia for Development and European Affairs

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#### Glossary of Acronyms

BSO	Budgetary Supervision Office
CMEPIUS	Centre of the Republic of Slovenia for Mobility and European Educational and
	Training Programmes
EEA	European Economic Area
FMO	Financial Mechanism Office
GOEA	Government Office for Development and European Affairs)
GODEA	Government Office for European Affairs)
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NFP	National Focal Point (Government Office for Development and
	European Affairs)
NGO	Non-governmental organization
PA	Paying Authority (Ministry of Finance)
REC	Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe

#### PREFACE

The purpose of the Annual Report on the implementation of the Norwegian Financial Mechanism in the Republic of Slovenia is to give comprehensive information on the implementation during the period under review. The Annual Report should provide an overview of the implementation of the mechanism and compile information which the National Focal Point has received from all interested bodies throughout the implementation period until 9 September 2009.

The present Annual Report is in compliance with the Beneficiary State monitoring and reporting guidelines on the Norwegian Financial Mechanism.

The reported period starts on 1 September 2008 and covers the period until 9 September 2009. The Annual Report includes the following issues:

- Background information
- Status of implementation of individual projects
- Status of implementation of MoU Annex C funds
- An assessment of the effects of the projects on the bilateral relations between the EEA EFTA States and Slovenia
- An assessment of the impact of projects on the cross-cutting issues
- Indicative implementation plan for the following year
- Tentative audit plan for the following year
- Overview of audits

#### **1 BACKGROUND**

#### 1.1 Relevant legislation and documents

The Republic of Slovenia became an EU Member State on 1 May 2004 after signing the Treaty of Accession to the European Union on 14 April 2003. Every new Member State of the European Union must file an application for the accession to the EEA Agreement. Slovenia filed the application on 20 December 2002. Negotiations on the EEA enlargement between the delegations of Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein, the current Member States and the new Member States of the European Union were opened on 9 January 2003 and concluded by the initialling of the Agreement on 3 July 2003.

Under the Agreement, Protocol 38 – on the EEA Financial Mechanism, the EEA EFTA countries undertake to contribute to economically weaker countries in the European Economic Area. The estimated amount allocated for the Republic of Slovenia is 6,120,000 EUR for the period 2004–2009.

On 20 April 2005 the Memorandum of understanding on the implementation of the Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2004 – 2009 established in accordance with the agreement of 14 October 2003 between the Kingdom of Norway and the European Community on a Norwegian Financial Mechanism for the period 2004 – 2009 between the Kingdom of Norway and the Republic of Slovenia was signed. The estimated amount allocated for the Republic of Slovenia is 12,474,000 EUR for the period 2004 – 2009.

#### **1.2** Implementation arrangements

#### 1.2.1 National Focal Point

The National Focal Point (NFP) for the Norwegian Financial Mechanism is the Government Office for Development and European Affairs. The Government Office for Development and European Affairs (GODEA) was established under the ordinance on the establishment, which was adopted by the Government at its regular session on 18 December 2008. It was formed by merging two former offices – the Government Office for Growth and the Government Office for European Affairs (GOEA). The NFP has the overall responsibility for the management of the Norwegian Financial Mechanism's activities in the Republic of Slovenia as described in the MoU and the Rules of Procedures, including the overall responsibility for the use of funds, financial control and audit.

The division of responsibilities within the NFP is as follows:

Name and position	Working area		
Mr Andrej Engelman,			
Deputy Director – Head of Development and	NATIONAL FOCAL POINT		
Technical Assistance Department			
Ms Hermina Golob, Secretary	CONTACT PERSON		
Ms Hermina Golob, Secretary			
Ms Mojca Mehikić, Secretary	INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS		
Mr Peter Ješovnik, Secretary	NGO FUND		
Ms Hermina Golob, Secretary			
Ms Tjaša Kalčič, Senior Adviser	TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE		
Ms Vanja Černivec, Trainee			
	FUND FOR TECHNICAL EXPERTS, CO-		
Ms Mojca Mehikić, Secretary	OPERATION AMONG EDUCATIONAL AND		
	RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS		
Ms Hermina Golob, Secretary	MONITORING, IRREGULARITIES, AUDIT		
Ms Mojca Mehikić, Secretary	MONITORING, IRREGULARITIES, AUDIT		
Ms Hermina Golob, Secretary			
Ms Mojca Mehikić, Secretary			
<b>Ms Tjaša Kalčič</b> , Senior Adviser	IMPLEMENTATION		
Ms. Vanja Černivec, Trainee			

#### Table 1:Division of responsibilities within the NFP

#### **1.2.2** Intermediate bodies

On the basis of an agreement with the FMO, the NFP delegated some tasks related to project preparation and implementation to Intermediate Bodies. Their tasks and responsibilities are defined in detail in a legal act, agreement or memorandum of understanding between the Intermediate Body and NFP.

The NFP has two intermediary bodies:

- 1. Regional Environmental Centre for Central and Eastern Europe, Country Office Slovenia (REC), for the implementation of the NGO Fund.
- 2. Centre of the Republic of Slovenia for Mobility and European Educational and Training Programmes (CMEPIUS) for the Fund for co-operation among educational and research institutions.

#### 1.2.3 Paying Authority

Further provisions on financial flows, the Paying Authority and financial management were elaborated in an agreement between the FMO and the NFP, confirmed by the EFTA States and the Republic of Slovenia by the signing of an exchange of letter between the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the NFP on 16 December 2005 following the approval of the

Paying Authority. The agreement contains provisions on the role of the National Fund and the Central Finance and Contracting Unit. The agreement puts in place an efficient payment system ensuring that funds from the Norwegian Financial Mechanism are being used efficiently and correctly and in accordance with the principles of sound financial management. The system ensures that the processing of payment claims is independent from other entities or agencies involved in the implementation of the Norwegian Financial Mechanism. On 14 August 2009 the Paying Authority issued a new version of Guidelines of Paying Authority for claims, financed from the EEA Financial Mechanism and the Norwegian Financial Mechanism with annexes.

#### 1.2.4 Auditing

Internal Audit: the main duties of Internal Audit within each of the institution are:

- to conduct internal audits of each institution involved (the GODEA and the Ministry of Finance);
- to advise the Minister or the head of institution on the matters from its own field of operation.

**Budget Supervision Office (BSO):** is an independent office in the framework of the Ministry of Finance, responsible for the audit of national and EU funds, as well as funds from the Norwegian Financial Mechanism, with no responsibilities for the implementation and management. It is responsible for the overall strategy of the financial control for all funds, annual audit plans and the approval of audit programmes and quality control of audits executed.

### Annex 1 includes a short overview of audits carried out by the Internal Audit and audits carried out by the BSO in 2009.

**Court of Audit of the Republic of Slovenia:** is the highest body for supervising state accounts, the state budget and all public spending in Slovenia. It is independent in the performance of its duties and bound by the Constitution and law. The Court of Audit Act also stipulates that the acts under which the Court of Audit exercises its powers of audit cannot be challenged before the courts or other state bodies.

#### **1.2.5 Monitoring Committee**

"Nomination of members of the Monitoring Committee for the EEA and Norwegian grants" was adopted by the government decision at its 178th regular session on 17 July 2008 (Government Decision No. 50102-13/2008/4). The Government has been changed after the parliamentary elections in October 2008. The NFP requested the relevant institutions (Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Health, Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Justice, Government Office for Local Self-Government and Regional Policy, Centre for Information Service, Co-operation and Development of NGOs and Chamber of Commerce of Slovenia) to submit the changes of members.

A meeting of the Monitoring Committee is planned to be organized in October 2009 and the conclusions will be included in the next Annual Report.

The Monitoring Committee is responsible for monitoring the course and manner of the project's progress in the frame of the Norwegian Financial Mechanism. The Monitoring Committee's responsibilities include, but are not limited to the following:

- periodical review of progress of projects;
- examination and approval of periodical reports, the use of financial resources and
- ensuring that the NFP is fully informed about the progress of projects.

#### **1.2.6 Steering Committee**

The Steering Committee has been appointed and chaired by the NFP. It is an advisory body to the NFP regarding the identification, development and selections of proposals. The Steering Committee's task is to give an opinion and recommendations to the NFP on which projects should be forwarded to the FMO. The Steering Committee concluded its work with last open call in 2008.

#### 1.3 Priority areas

Priority areas and focus areas are specified in the Annex B of the MoU on the implementation of the Norwegian Financial Mechanism:

- Protection of the environment, including the human environment, through, inter alia, the reduction of pollution and the promotion of renewable energy;
- Promotion of sustainable development;
- Conservation of European cultural heritage;
- Human resource development through, inter alia, promotion of education and training, strengthening of administrative or public service capacities of local government or its institutions and the democratic processes that support it;
- Health and childcare;
- Academic research;
- Regional policy and cross-border activities
- Implementation of Schengen Acquis and the Judiciary
- Technical Assistance.

The NFP agreed with the donors that due to limited financial allocation to the Republic of Slovenia there would be no programmes (groups of projects) and seed money facility type of assistance. In view of simplifying the administrative procedures, individual projects can be submitted as complete project applications only.

In the Annex C of the MoU on the implementation of the Norwegian Financial Mechanism special attention is given also to the financing assistance for:

- 1. NGO Fund;
- 2. Fund for co-operation among educational and research institutions and technical expert fund;
- 3. Technical Assistance Fund.

#### 1.4 Cross-cutting issues

The cross-cutting issues such as environmental sustainability, economic sustainability, social dialogue, gender equality and good governance are considered to be of crucial importance for the balanced economic and social development of the Republic of Slovenia and this is reflected in all relevant national policy documents.

Within the published open calls for proposals the applicants have been guided to follow and take into account relevant guidelines developed by the donor countries and the FMO.

Already at the early stage of selection of individual projects and projects under the NGO Fund, cross-cutting issues were very important criteria that evaluators put special emphasis on. Also the actual project selection processes have been undertaken in a highly transparent and participatory manner, including the representatives of governmental, non-governmental and private sector institutions.

Detailed information on cross-cutting issues is provided in Chapter 4.

#### 1.5 Financial breakdown

The committed amount for the EEA Financial Mechanism and the Norwegian Financial Mechanism totals 17,370,925 EUR, as shown in the table below.

### Table 2:Breakdown of committed funds for the Republic of Slovenia,<br/>totalling 17,370,925 EUR

Type of grant	Committed amount in EUR
Individual projects	14,206,166
NGO Fund	1,458,050
Fund for co-operation among educational and research institutions (incl. Technical Expert Fund)	1,298,205
Technical Assistance Fund	408,504
TOTAL	17,370,925

For the Norwegian Financial Mechanism the total net amount of the allocation for the period 2004-2009 is 11,850,300EUR. 3% of this amount has been set aside for the purposes of external monitoring and appraisal activities performed by the FMO.

The total amount of committed funds for the Norwegian Financial Mechanism is 11,613,282 EUR, out of which:

- 10,247,054 EUR for individual projects;
- 729,025 EUR for the NGO Fund;
- 432,951 EUR for the Technical expert fund, Fund for co-operation among educational and research institutions;
- 204,252 EUR for the Technical Assistance Fund.

#### 2 IMPLEMENTATION - overview of open calls 2004–2009

The below analysis concerns both financial mechanisms, the EEA Financial Mechanism and Norwegian Financial Mechanism.

#### 2.1 Individual projects

With the approval of the FMO, the NFP agreed to have continuous open calls for submission of individual project applications. During this reporting period the selection of all individual projects were completed. With the approval of the Technical expert fund and Fund for co-operation among educational and research institutions on 2 April 2009, all allocated funds for Republic of Slovenia were committed.

The deadlines for submission of applications for individual projects were:

- 30th September 2005 for the 2004 and 2005 allocation;
- 5th May 2006 for the 2006 allocation;
- 11th May 2007 for the 2007 allocation;
- 9th May 2008 for the 2008 allocation.

In the Table 3 below, the received applications are presented, according to priorities and requested amounts from the EEA Grants:

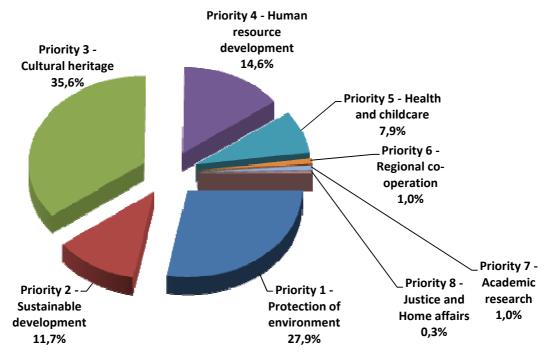
- 1. Protection of the environment, including the human environment, through, inter alia, the reduction of pollution and the promotion of renewable energy;
- 2. Promotion of sustainable development;
- 3. Conservation of European cultural heritage;
- 4. Human resource development through, inter alia, promotion of education and training, strengthening of administrative or public service capacities of local government or its institutions and the democratic processes that support it;
- 5. Health and childcare;
- 6. Academic research.
- 7. Regional policy and cross-border activities
- 8. Implementation of Schengen Acquis and the Judiciary

The applicants showed considerable interest in the field covered by Priority No. 3: Conservation of European cultural heritage (35.6% of all received applications) and Priority No. 1: Protection of the environment (27.9% of all received applications). Almost no interest was shown in the field covered by Priorities No. 6, 7 and 8.

Publication	No. of	Total amount	PRIORITY							
year	applications received	of received in M€	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
2005	41	47.70	16	5	14	2	4	0	0	0
2006	101	66.25	33	7	36	19	6	0	0	0
2007	110	60.89	28	13	40	15	11	1	1	1
2008	63	32.19	11	12	22	10	4	2	2	0
TOTAL	315	207.03	88	37	112	46	25	3	3	1
%	100%		27.9	11.7	35.6	14.6	7.9	1	1	0.3

#### Table 3: Individual projects' applications received by priorities





Following the evaluation of received applications, the majority of projects were selected in the fields covered by Priority No. 3 and No. 5, followed by Priorities No. 1 and No. 2. The data on the selected projects, according to priorities in terms of number of projects and allocations of funds, is presented in Table 4.

#### Table 4: Individual projects selected by priority

	Selected	PRIORITY					
	projects	1	2	3	4	5	
Approved projects	22	3	4	9	1	5	
%	100	13.6	18.2	40.9	4.5	22.7	
TOTAL value in EUR	14,206,166	1,430,926	2,790,683	6,413,543	497,364	3,073,650	
%	100	10.1	19.6	45.1	3.5	21.6	

List of selected individual projects by priorities is attached in Annex 1.

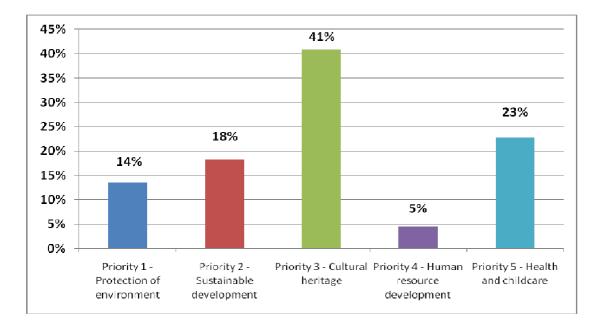
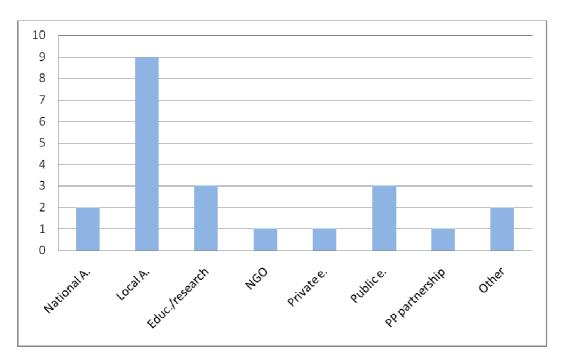


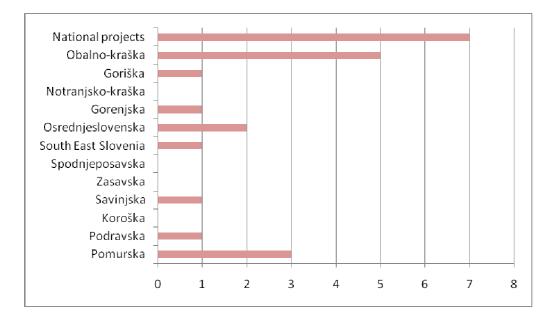
Chart 2: Selected individual projects by priority

In Annex 2 are tables showing the break-down of committed funds by type of project promoter, by priority sector and by region.



#### Chart 3: Individual projects by type of project promoter

As regards type of project promoters, the data in Annex 2 shows that the majority of selected project promoters are Local Authorities, followed by Education/research institutions and Public Enterprises.



#### Chart 4: Individual projects by regions (NUTS III level)

As regards spread of projects among regions, it should be noted, that in the Republic of Slovenia there are only 12 statistical regions on the NUTS III level. Projects have been classified according to target groups location and not the origin of project promoters. The Tables in Annex 2 shows that all projects are equally spread across Slovenia with exception of the Obalno-kraška region where 5 projects (23%) are implemented. 7 projects (32%) are national projects, because they target whole Slovenian population. Almost half of projects from the priority sector no. 3 (Conservation of European cultural heritage) are located in the Obalno-kraška region and 80% of national projects are within priority sector No. 5 (Health and childcare).

#### 2.2 NGO Fund

The purpose of the NGO Fund in Slovenia is to provide institutional capacity building support to NGOs working in the priority sectors of the Financial Mechanisms, with the overall objective to increase solidarity, create opportunities and support cooperation at the international level between the NGOs in Slovenia and the donor countries. The completed Fund includes the following activities: provide sub-projects grants, fund management and publicity.

The Intermediary is the Regional Environmental Centre for Central and Eastern Europe, Country Office Slovenia.

In Annex 3 is a list of selected sub-projects for the NGO Fund.

The total amount allocated to the NGO Block Grant is 1,715,353 EUR (85%), from which 1,458,050 EUR was allocated from the financial mechanisms and 257,303 EUR (15%) from the National Budget of the Republic of Slovenia.

The Norwegian Financial Mechanism is contributing 729.025 EUR for the NGO Block Grant, which represents 42,5% of the committed funds.

The NGO Fund strengthens civil society in Slovenia and will support activities that are within the following thematic areas:

- Protection of the environment and sustainable development;
- Development of human resources, through promotion of democratic and civil society processes, including sub-projects on topics such as non-discrimination, anti-racism, advocacy, awareness raising, human rights, gender equality, rights-based approaches, empowerment, monitoring, reporting, etc.;
- Cultural heritage conservation;
- Health and child care.

The Fund supports "people-to-people" and "soft" project activities, such as education and training, organization of conferences, seminars and other practical activities; public participation and the promotion of good governance, exchange of good practices and bilateral cooperation.

Minimum and maximum grant amount per sub project

- minimum amount of sub-project grants is € 10,000,
- maximum amount is € 50,000.

Duration of sub-projects

- minimum duration of sub-projects is 12 months,
- maximum duration of sub-projects is 18 months.

#### Open call 1:

- Launched on 1 February 2008
- Amount available 857,700 EUR
- Deadline for the appl. 2 April 2008
- Applications received **74**
- Approved projects 19
- Partners from the donor states 8

#### Open call 2:

- Launched on **11 July 2008**
- Amount available 874,124 EUR
- Deadline for the appl. 2 October 2008
- Applications received **112**
- Approved projects 21
- Partners from donor states 7

#### 2.3 Fund for co-operation among educational and research institutions

The purpose of the Fund is to increase mobility and inter-institutional cooperation between educational and research institutions in the EEA EFTA countries and Slovenia, with the overall objective of contributing to the development of the Slovene educational system in respect of lifelong learning and vocational training, and to the exchange of know-how between Slovenia and the EEA EFTA states.

The Intermediary is Centre of the Republic of Slovenia for Mobility and European Educational and Training Programmes for the Fund for co-operation among educational and research institutions.

The total amount allocated to the Fund for co-operation among educational and research institutions including Technical expert fund is 1,442,450 EUR, from which 1,298,205 EUR was allocated from the financial mechanisms and 144,245 EUR from the National Budget of the Republic of Slovenia. The amount of 114,543 EUR is allocated for the management of the fund, including monitoring, financial control and publicity / information activities and 1,327,907 EUR for funding of sub-projects for individual mobility (70%), study visits (15%) and exchange of experts (15%).

The Norwegian Financial Mechanism is contributing 432,951 EUR to the Fund, which represents 30,01% of the committed funds.

Open call for selection of sub-projects:

-	Launched on	19 June 2009
-	Amount available	1,327,907

- Deadline for the appl. **31 August 2009**
- Planned contracts signature **October 2009**

Activities under the open call for Fund are:

Eligible activities	Actions	Duration
a) Individual mobility	Student mobility for studies	1 – 12 months
	Student mobility for training (work	2 weeks – 5
	placement)	months
	Staff mobility for teaching	
	Staff mobility for training	1 – 4 weeks
	Staff mobility for research	1 – 4 weeks
	Preparatory visits	1 – 6 months
		2 – 5 days
b) Study visits (groups)		3 – 5 days
c) Exchange of experts		3 days – 2 weeks

#### 2.4 Technical Assistance Fund

Under provisions set in Annex C of the MoU on the implementation of the Norwegian Financial Mechanism and the EEA Financial Mechanism in Slovenia, the Technical Assistance Fund has been established in order to provide the assistance to the NFP and the PA in conducting the tasks related to fulfilment of obligations set up by Memoranda of Understanding.

The Grant Agreement for the Technical Assistance was signed on 5 May 2007.

The following activities and expenditures are financed from the Technical Assistance Fund: 1. Promotion seminars for the implementation of selected individual projects and public presentation of the results of the financial mechanisms;

- 2. Annual meetings with the EFTA states, held once a year;
- 3. Activities of the Monitoring Committee meetings;
- 4. Activities of the Steering Committee for the appraisal of received applications within Open calls for individual projects in the years of 2007 and 2008;
- 5. Meetings with the FMO and/or donors for approximately 15 visits of the FMO and/or donors per year;
- 6. Activities related to audits and the on-the-spot checks;
- 7. Employment in the NFP.

The total amount allocated to the Technical Assistance Fund for the NFP and the Ministry of Finance is 514,100 EUR, from which 408,504 EUR were allocated from the financial mechanisms and 105,596 EUR from the National Budget of Slovenia.

The Norwegian Financial Mechanism is contributing 204,252 EUR to the Technical Assistance Fund, which represents 39,73% of the committed funds.

#### **3 IMPLEMENTATION - Summary of commitments and disbursements**

The summary of commitments and disbursements in the chart below shows progress of the implementation of the EEA Grants and Norway Grants in the reporting period from September 2008 until September 2009.

Table 5:	Summary of commitments and disbursement on 9 September 2009
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	TOTAL	Norway Grants	EEA Grants
Committed	17,370,925	11,613,282	5,757,643
Disbursed	4,316,487	3,198,090	1,118,397

### Chart 5: Commitments and disbursements of the EEA Grants and Norway Grants (by quarters in EUR)



Despite delays in the beginning, the established management system is functioning properly as assessed by the Audit Authority (see Annex 1: Overview of audits carried out by Budget Supervision Office in 2009). The identified gaps in the previous annual report have been mostly resolved in accordance with the NFP's action plan. The following measures have been taken in the reporting period:

- 1. In February 2009, an additional employee was employed at the NFP within the Technical Assistance Fund.
- 2. Internal manual of procedures at the NFP was adopted on 11 February 2009.
- 3. Detailed Guidelines for project promoters on preparation of Project Interim Reports were distributed to project promoters on 1 October 2008. In addition, the NFP

prepared detailed lists and additional explanations for project promoters in order to help them prepare complete and correct documentation supporting PIRs. The NFP also held meetings with project promoters on a daily basis.

In comparison with the last annual report (see tables below), when the disbursement on the cut-off date 1 September 2008 represented only 3.6% of the committed funds (not covering the NGO Fund), the disbursement on the cut-off date 9 September 2009 of this year's report represents 24.8% of committed funds. The NFP received claims in the amount of 6,315,444 EUR, which represents 36.4% of the total committed funds. The NFP submitted to the Paying Authority claims for 5,216,333, which represents 30.0% of total committed funds and 82.6% of total claims received from project promoters. This means that disbursed funds in the amount of 4,316,487 EUR represent 68.3% of claims received from the Project Promoter and 82.7% of claims submitted to the Paying Authority.

On the cut-off date of the report, 1,099,111 EUR claimed by project promoters in PIRs were not checked by the NFP yet and 313,176 EUR were not certified by the Ministry of Finance - Paying Authority yet.

### Summary of commitments and disbursements (Annual Report No. 3; cut-off date <u>1 September 2008</u>)

	Committed	Claims received from PP	Claims submitted to PA	Disbursed
Amount in EUR	12,485,800	1,310,352	726,709	451,982
% of committed		10,5	5,8	3,6
% of claims received from PP			55,5	34,5
% of claims submitted to PA				62,2

Data not covering the NGO Fund

### Summary of commitments and disbursements (Annual Report No. 4; cut off date <u>9 September 2009</u>)

	Committed	Claims received from PP	Claims submitted to PA	Disbursed
Amount in EUR	17,370,925	6,315,444	5,216,333	4,316,487
% of committed		36,4	30,0	24,8
% of claims received from PP			82,6	68,3
% of claims submitted to PA				82,7

Annex 5 provides a detailed Status Report for the Republic of Slovenia on the cut off date 9 September 2009, which includes data on committed funds, according to dates and sources of grant, advance payments and the status of processing Project Interim Reports.

#### 4 ASSESSMENT OF EEA and Norway GRANTS

#### **Overall assessment**

The EEA and Norway Grants represent a new and fresh approach to co-financing projects in Slovenia, as importance is attached particularly to the added value the EEA and Norway Grants provide to the existing financing sources, since it allows the allocation of funds to target groups which otherwise could not receive funds despite their ideas and determination to pursue common objectives, e.g. children with special needs, non-governmental sector and less developed municipalities. Individual projects are evenly dispersed all over the territory of Slovenia. Projects located in the capital have wide implications for the whole country since the promoters of these projects are national institutions. All projects were extremely well received in the Slovenian regions and they were adequately presented to the wider Slovenian public who warmly accepted their results. In addition to the achieved objectives and tangible results, the mechanisms strengthened the bilateral relations between Slovenia and the donor countries at the national as well as the regional levels, in particular the project promoters have been cooperating with the Norwegian partners and we believe that the cooperation will be continued after the completion of projects as well.

The establishment of an efficient system for the implementation of financial mechanisms was a challenging task for the NFP. Our administration is quite small, and new rules and procedures, unique to these mechanisms, caused some delays in establishing a management system, which has to be in line with the national legislation. The Technical Assistance Fund gave an opportunity to employ new officials and establish a small, but very dedicated team at the NFP. Funds for the evaluation and assessment of the EEA Grants within the technical assistance activities have been earmarked in 2010. For this annual report the NFP sent questionnaire to the project promoters, which helped the NFP to carry out the assessment of cross-cutting issues for the individual projects.

The main challenges in the implementation for the project promoters are related to the fact that they are inexperienced in project management, with exception of local and national authorities, and that the rules of implementation of EEA and Norway Grants were elaborated in detail relatively late. The greatest challenge represents preparation of the first Intermediary report, while later reports improved in quality and speed of payments. On the basis of an input from project promoters (Annex 4: Cross-cutting issues - environmental, economic and social - by priorities) for the individual projects, the NFP general observations are:

- projects are in line with the European, national, regional and local strategies and documents, and are complementary to projects financed by other sources;
- objectives and results of majority of the projects are directly related to tackling crosscutting issues;
- bilateral partnerships were in some cases presented more ambitiously in applications than actually realised in the implementation phase.

The NFP plans to organise a workshop for project promoters on how to prepare a complete and correct Project Interim Reports and give them additional instructions in order to better understand and report on cross-cutting issues by the end of year 2009. The NFP will ensure continuous monitoring of cross-cutting issues at the project level, while summaries will be presented in the next annual reports.

#### 4.1 Promotion of Good Governance

With regard to good governance and anti-corruption policy as expressed in the relevant guidelines developed by the donor states and the FMO, the NFP has already promoted and intends to further promote the below outlined measures, which will be complemented by additional measures, as required.

- 1. In order to ensure transparency and the involvement of civil society in the project selection and national monitoring processes, their representatives are members of the established Steering and Monitoring Committees.
- 2. A selection of projects for grant support has been made on the basis of open calls for the submission of proposals.
- 3. As stipulated in the MoU, any procurement shall be carried out in accordance with the relevant law applicable in the Republic of Slovenia (Law on Public Procurement), transposing the provisions of the relevant EU Directives.
- 4. In order to report and claim eligible expenses, the NFP:
  - prepared Guidelines on Reporting for individual Projects with very detailed instructions;
  - conducted workshop for project promoters instructing them how to prepare reports;
  - conducted meetings with project promoters individually, instructing them how to prepare reports.
- 5. The NFP updated a web site with all relevant information as regards corruption or mismanagement of funds:
  - link to the FMO web site on "Alert mismanagement of funds";
  - the Good Governance and Anti-Corruption Policy and Guide;
  - contact details of the FMO Director and the Head of the NFP;
  - contact information to audit and control institutions supervising the FMO (EFTA Board of Auditors, the Norwegian Office of the Auditor General) and the respective national audit institutions.

#### 4.2 Publicity

Information and publicity about the assistance provided through the Norwegian Financial Mechanism intend to increase transparency and raise public awareness.

The NFP ensured that detailed information on opportunities for potential beneficiaries about the existence and functioning of the Norwegian Financial Mechanism as well as the availability of funds was communicated to special target groups and the general public by:

- maintaining the web site <u>www.eeagrants.si</u> and updating it when it deems necessary;
- participating in several seminars and conferences on funding opportunities in Slovenia;
- answering to e-mails received from potential project promoters;
- holding meetings with project promoters;
- announcements of open calls;
- holding a workshop and presentation of selected projects.

Project promoters are performing the following activities according to the Publicity Guidelines:

- billboards for investment projects (during the works);
- commemorative plaques (after the works completed);
- press conferences with info packages for the press (with details on the implementation of project, financing arrangements and donors) at the openings and closures of projects;
- brochures for the interested public;
- invitations and leaflets for households;
- television and radio broadcasts with interviews;
- articles in local and national newspapers;
- articles in local newspapers of donor states;
- web pages of project promoters includes information on project and donors;
- memorial albums of projects;
- annual expert symposiums (for specific expert topics for some projects);
- experts articles;
- lectures and expert training;
- publishing of DVDs;
- workshops and meetings to include wider public in the project results in order to achieve sustainability;
- publishing e-letters, dBlog (digital blog);
- various promotional material.

#### 4.3 Cooperation between donors and Beneficiary State

Since the beginning, the FMO has been providing all professional support for implementing mechanisms to the NFP and the Paying Authority. In this reporting period the cooperation between FMO and the Republic of Slovenia has been very intense and on a daily basis.

The Norwegian Embassy in Slovenia is playing a very important role in the promotion of financial mechanisms in Slovenia by its active participation in almost all events relating to financial mechanisms (signing contracts with project promoters, workshops for potential applicants, opening and closing ceremonies, annual meetings, site visits etc.) and has enormously strengthened bilateral relationships. Their relationship with the NFP has always been very co-operative, close and sincere.

During the entire reporting period the representatives of donor states were visiting various Slovenian institutions with the aim to present possible areas of cooperation.

The implementation of the selected individual projects (see Table below) and the NGO Fund projects (see Table 5: List of selected sub-projects for the NGO Fund) is enhancing cooperation between the donor states and the Republic of Slovenia.

No. / Title	Project Promoter	Priority	Partners from donor states	Partners' input
SI0001 LIVELY OLD TOWN- Integrated approach to the old town renewal in Gorenjska region	BSC Kranj	Conservation of European cultural heritage	Hedmark County Council, Norway	Partner from Norway actively participates in implementation of Activity 1 (Regeneration process of old towns in Gorenjska region): the partner organised conference in Hedmark) and provides 5 mentors for the regeneration process for 5 towns).
SI0028 Divača - Renovation of Skratelj's homestead into Museum of Slovene Film	Municipalit y Divača	Conservation of European cultural heritage	Den Norske Filmskolen Lillehammer Univrsity collegae	Organisation of joint international conferences and workshops in the field of cinematography and the European programme for training the professors (train the trainers) in newly renovated Museum of Slovene Film is envisaged.
SI0032 Ljubljana-Centre for the Blind and Visually Impaired	Institute for blind and partially sighted children Ljubljana	Health and childcare	Huseby resource Centre visual impairment and Deaf Blindness Oslo	Partners from Oslo attended a 5 day seminar in Ljubljana where they discussed the achievement of projects results and gave an important input of their practical experience as regards establishing programme documents of the Centre. The Slovene delegation returned a visit to Oslo in order to further discuss the project implementation.
SI0036 Establishment of the "Counselling centre for autistic spectrum disorders" institute	Center društvo za avtizem	Health and childcare	Institute of Applied Behaviour Analysis (IAA) from Norway	Since the result of the project is the establishment of a new centre, the partners from donor state will contribute to the success of the project with their extensive practical experience and will transfers their knowledge to Slovenian partners. The co- operation in both ways is envisaged and the Slovenian partners will present their experience at work with children with autistic spectrum diseases.

#### 4.4 Gender equality

The gender equality was fully considered already in the phase of preparation of the project applications. All project promoters are paying special attention to an equal and active participation of both genders in the implementation of individual projects. Project teams are aiming to be composed equally by men and women, while the equal treatment of genders within the target groups is respected.

Within the Project SI0001 Lively Old Town, donor partners also contributed to the improvement of opinion on gender equality in Gorenjska region.

#### 4.5 Compliance with strategies/documents by priorities

The Norway Grants provide complementary funding to other existing programmes in the Republic of Slovenia from other sources and are contributing to the fulfilment of the various national, regional and local priorities/programmes.

#### **1. PROTECTION OF ENVIRONMENT**

Projects:

- 1. SI0015 Energetically-economical Kindergarten
- 2. SI0030 Protection of the environment the task for all and everyone
- 3. SI0035 Change black to green

The projects are in line with priorities of the following Slovenian documents at the national, regional and local levels:

- National Development Programme 2007–2013;
- National Strategic Reference Framework 2007–2013;
- Operational programme of environmental and transport infrastructure development for the period 2007–2013;
- National Energy Efficiency Action Plan 2008–2016;
- Resolution on National programme for protection of environment 2005–2012;
- Regional Development Programme Pomurje 2007–2013;
- Regional Development Plan for Prlekija 2007–2013,
- Development Programme of Municipality of Gornja Radgona;
- Energy Plan of Municipality Gornja Radgona;
- Strategy of Municipality Moravske Toplice 2007–2013 ("Health Oasis").

#### 2. PROMOTION OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Projects:

- 1. SI0004 Establishment of the Network of GPS stations and European Spatial Reference System in Slovenia
- 2. SI0020 Sustainable supply of drinking water in the Komen Karst
- 3. SI0037 The old new Rinka The multipurpose centre for sustainable development of Solčavsko
- 4. SI0039 Science educational centre for sustainable development

The projects are in line with following Slovenian documents at the national, regional and local level:

- Slovenia's Development Strategy (2005);
- Strategy for development of basic geodetic system, adopted by the Slovenian Government;
- Operational programme Natura 2000 management programme (adopted in July 2007);
- Strategy for development of South Primorska region;
- Regional Development programme of Savinjska region 2007–2008.

#### 3. CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN CULTURAL HERITAGE

Projects:

- 1. SI0001 LIVELY OLD TOWN- Integrated approach to the old town renewal in Gorenjska region
- 2. SI0013 The Lipizzaner Museum
- 3. SI0016 Construction of the theatre and residence centre Mini teater in Ljubljana
- 4. SI0018 Restoration of Kino Šiška into Centre of Modern Arts
- 5. SI0027 Cultural Revival of City Core
- 6. SI0028 "Divača Renovation of Skratelj's homestead into Museum of Slovene Film"

The projects are in line with following Slovenian documents at the national, regional and local levels:

- National Development Programme 2007–2013;
- National programme for Culture 2008–2011;
- Strategy for development of information society in the Republic of Slovenia (si2010);
- Resolution on National Programme for Culture 2004–2007;
- Regional Development Programme of Gorenjska 2007–2013;
- Regional Development Programme for South East Region 2007–2013;

Slovenia has clear goals for conservation of its cultural heritage, as set out in our new National Programme for Culture 2008–2011, which is as an implementation document within the framework of Slovenian policies and strategies such as *Slovenia's Development Strategy 2007–2013*, National Strategic Reference Framework 2007–2013, Operational programme for strengthening regional development potentials for period 2007-2013 with the section Integration of natural and cultural potentials and certain government documents, for example Action Programme for Disabled People 2007–2013.

Public service of heritage protection lags behind other segments of our culture and is among the worst in Europe. This is reflected in general lack of attitude towards heritage, insufficient funding of its renewal and disorganisation of protection service. Cultural heritage can largely contribute to the creation of spatial solutions, because proper placement of cultural property in space increases the quality of living, and on the other hand preserves the identity of space and raises awareness of the importance of preservation of past achievements. All the projects that were selected within this priority area, fits well within the National Programme for Culture 2008-2011, in which it is stated that modern institutions (libraries, archives, museums, galleries, culture centers ...) are one of the most important instruments of modern cultural policy, necessary generators of positive attitude of the public towards culture.

The EEA and Norwegian Grants with the selected projects are contributing specifically to the following objectives of National Programme for Culture 2008-2011:

- Integrate the public service for protection and bringing it closer to users and the public

- Providing access to digital cultural content
- Preservation and revitalisation of cultural heritage at the local and regional level.

#### Examples of projects:

- 1. SI0001 Lively old town: The Project relates to the old town renewal and regeneration of five old town centres in the Gorenjska Region: Kranj, Radovljica, Skofja Loka, Trzic, and Jesenice/ Stara Sava. It aims to reverse recent, gradual economic and social decline of their old town centres. The renovation of key sites, combined with the training of public officials within these towns in the field of old town revitalisation, is intended to bring the public back into the centres by way of cultural events planned at the sites. Summary of the activities to be financed :
  - launching the old town regeneration process, including setting up teams, a start-up conference, introductory training for local project managers and facilitators, publicity campaigns, and preparation of plans for future activities;
  - Kranj's house: reconstruction of exhibition hall, multipurpose room, toilets, cellar and first floor, and purchase of multimedia and ICT equipment;
  - Culture Centre Trzic: reconstruction of main hall and supporting rooms, and purchase of furniture, upgrading of PA system;
  - Crystal hall Skofja Loka: reconstruction of main hall, entrance hall, dressing room, toilets;
  - Square Stara Sava: external completion of the square with paving stones; and
  - Linhart Museum Radovljica: renovation of tower into multipurpose hall, renovation of the first floor of the Radovljica manor for the Linhart Museum.
- 2. SI0028 Renovation of Skratelj's homestead into Museum of Slovene film actors in Divača: The purpose of the Project is to renovate the buildings of Skratelj's homestead and establish a film actors' museum and centre for cultural, educational and artistic activities, with the overall objective of increasing the quality of life in the region and of highlighting the importance of film as a form of cultural expression. The completed Project shall include the following activities and results:
  - Skratelj's homestead complex is renovated;
  - Skratelj's homestead complex is equipped to function as a film actors' museum and centre for cultural, educational and artistic activities;
  - project management and publicity.

#### 4. HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

Project SI0031 "House – Fruits of Society"/Murska Sobota – Multigenerational centre Slovene Philantrophy Human resource development. The project is in line with objectives of National Development Strategy of Slovenia (2005) and National strategy for quality aging and solidarity and co-existence among generations (2006).

#### 5. HEALTH AND CHILDCARE

Projects:

- 1. SI0002 Demolition and reconstruction of the existing nursery school, due to excessive radon radiation
- 2. SI0017 Construction, reconstruction and adaptation of Centre for children's health care Šentvid pri Stični
- 3. SI0029 Equine-assisted psychotherapy at Rakitna
- 4. SI0032 Ljubljana-Centre for the Blind and Visually Impaired

The projects are in line with following Slovenian documents at the European, national, regional and local levels:

- National Development Strategy of Slovenia (2005);
- Strategy of development of health care in Slovenia 2006–2011;

#### **5 INDICATIVE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR THE FOLLOWING YEAR**

#### October 2009

- Preparation of Monitoring Report on the implementation of the EEA Financial Mechanism and the Norwegian Financial Mechanism in Slovenia
- > 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Monitoring Committee

#### November 2009

The second open call for the Technical Expert Fund and the Fund for Co-operation among Educational and Research Institutions published

#### March 2010

Selection of end-recipients for the Technical Expert Fund and the Fund for Cooperation among Educational and Research Institutions

#### June 2010

Evaluation and assessment of the EEA and Norway Grants by external evaluator

The NFP will dedicate all available resources to efficiently implement the EEA Financial Mechanism and the Norwegian Financial Mechanism. In 2010 the NFP plans to disburse 7,5 millions EUR for both mechanisms, out of which 5 millions are planned to be disbursed for the Norwegian Financial Mechanism and 2,5 millions for the EEA Financial Mechanism.

#### 6 INDICATIVE MONITORING AND AUDIT PLAN FOR THE FOLLOWING YEAR

#### Monitoring

A meeting of the Monitoring Committee is planned to be held in October 2009.

#### Auditing

#### Internal Audit:

The following has been envisaged for the year of 2010:

- a subsequent audit of the internal audit of the implementation of the EEA Financial Mechanism and the Norwegian Financial Mechanism in the Government Office of the Republic of Slovenia for European Affairs, i. e. the Government Office of the Republic of Slovenia for Development and European Affairs.
- 2. a subsequent audit of the conducted internal audit of the implementation of tasks carried out by the Intermediate Body for Fund for non-governmental and non-profit organisations in the field of the EEA Financial Mechanism and the Norwegian Financial Mechanism in the Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe.

#### **Budget Supervision Office:**

The following audits will be performed by the end of 2009:

- system audit of the Ministry of Finance Paying Authority;
- audit of expenditures for the project within SI0024 NGO Fund (selected on the basis of a risk analysis).

Under the BSO's plan, which is based on a risk analysis and which will be adopted in December 2009, the following is planned to be audited in 2010:

- audit of expenditures for 2 individual projects;
- audit of expenditures for selected sub-projects for SI0034 Scholarship Fund.

#### **7 CONCLUSIONS**

The Norway and EEA Grants are complementary to the existing financing sources, since the allocation of funds is spread among target groups which otherwise could not receive funds despite their ideas and determination to pursue common objectives, e.g. children with special needs, non-governmental sector and less developed municipalities. Individual projects are evenly dispersed all over the territory of Slovenia. Projects located in the capital have wide implications for the whole country since the promoters of these projects are national institutions. All projects were extremely well received in the Slovenian regions and they were adequately presented to the wider Slovenian public who warmly accepted their results. In addition to the achieved objectives and tangible results, the Norway Grants strengthened the bilateral relations between Slovenia and Norway at the national as well as the regional levels, in particular the project promoters have been cooperating with the Norwegian partners and we believe that the cooperation will be continued after the completion of projects as well.

Despite delays in the beginning, the established management system is functioning properly as assessed by the Audit Authority. The NFP is facing major problems in performing everyday tasks, because variety of projects and tasks to be performed request a lot of experiences and different type of knowledge. Small, but enormously dedicated team is therefore often overburdened, what consequently causes some delays in the implementation. However, in comparison with the last annual report, when the disbursement on the cut-off date 1 September 2008 was 451,982 EUR, this year report shows progress, since on the cut-off date 9 September 2009 the amount of disbursed funds is 4,316,487 EUR.

The main challenges of the NFP for the next reporting period are:

- to ensure sustainability of the existing implementation arrangements in order to successfully implement EEA Grants;
- to strengthen capabilities of NFP by employing additional experienced staff for controlling requests from project promoters and administrative tasks in order to be more efficient and effective, since in 2010 the majority of committed funds must be disbursed;
- to actively involve responsible officials on the governmental level in the processes of implementation;
- to raise awareness of existing and future Norway Grants on the national, regional and local level by promotional activities.

# Annex 1: List of selected individual projects by priorities in the total amount of 14,206,166 EUR

EEAFM = EEA Financial Mechanism

NFM = Norwegian Financial Mechanism

No.	Title of the project	Project Promoter	Grant	Funded by
	1. Protection	of the environment		
SI0030	Protection of the environment - the task for all and everyone	My Neighbourhood	448,830	EEAFM NFM
SI0035	Change black to green	Municipality Moravske toplice	309,630	NFM
SI0015	Energetically-economical kindergarten	Municipality Gornja Radgona	672,466	NFM
	10.1% of to	otal	1,430,926	
	2. Promotion of s	ustainable development		
SI0020	Sustainable supply of drinking water in the Komen Karst	Municipality Komen	396,427	EEAFM
SI0037	"The old new Rinka"- the multi-purpose centre for sustainable development of Solčavsko	Municipality Solčava	674,319	NFM
SI0039	Science Educational Centre for Sustainable Development	University of Maribor, Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics	920,846	NFM
SI0004	Establishment of the GPS network	Surveying and Mapping Authority, Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning	799,091	NFM
	19.6% of to	otal	2,790,683	
	3. Conservation of E	European cultural heritage		
SI0001	LIVELY OLD TOWN- Integrated approach to the old town renewal in Gorenjska region	BSC Kranj	1,211,242	NFM
SI0005	Youth Hostel Situla – Museum as a living space	Zavod Situla, Novo mesto	465,434	EEAFM
SI0013	The Lipizzaner Museum	Lipica Stud Farm	692,850	EEAFM NFM
SI0014	Digital Library of Slovenia	NUK	863,748	EEAFM
SI0016	Construction of the theatre and residence centre Mini teater in Ljubljana	Mini Teater	600,546	EEAFM NFM
SI0018	Restoration of Kino Šiška into the Centre of Modern Arts	Municipality Ljubljana	310,506	NFM
SI0019	Restoration of the foundation vaults beneath the St.	Municipality Piran	534,461	EEAFM

No.	Title of the project	Project Promoter	Grant	Funded by
	George's church in Piran			
SI0027	Cultural revival of the city core	Municipality Koper	499,911	NFM
SI0028	Divača - Renovation of Skratelj's homestead into Museum of Slovene Film actors	Municipality Divača	1,234,845	NFM
	45.1% of to	otal	6,413,543	
	4. Human res	ource development		
SI0031	"House - Fruits of Society" /Murska Sobota – Multigenerational centre	Slovene Philanthropy	497,364	EEAFM NFM
	3.5% of to	tal	497,364	
	5. Healt	h and childcare	L	
SI0002	Demolition and reconstruction of the existing nursery school, due to excessive radon radiation	Municipality Idrija	1,343,327	NFM
SI0017	Construction, reconstruction and adaptation of Centre for children's health care Šentvid pri Stični	Ministry of Health	592,840	NFM
SI0029	Equine-assisted psychotherapy at Rakitna	Rakitna Youth Sanatorium	381,832	NFM
SI0032	Ljubljana – Centre for the Blind and Visually Impaired	Institute for Blind and Partially Sighted Children (ZSSML)	475,230	NFM
SI0036	Establishment of the "Counselling centre for autistic spectrum disorders" institute	Centre Society for Autism	280,421	EEAFM
	21.6% of to	otal	3,073,650	

# Annex 2: Break-down of committed funds by type of project promoter, by priority sector and by region

PRIORITY Type of project promoter	Environment	Sustainable development	Cultural heritage	Human resource development	Health and childcare	TOTAL
National Authority		1			1	2
Local Authority	2	2	4		1	9
Education/researc h institution		1	1		1	3
NGO				1		1
Private owned ent.	1					1
Public owned ent.			1		1	2
Private – public partnership			2			2
Other			1		1	2
TOTAL	3	4	9	1	5	22

#### Table 1: Type of project promoter and priority sectors

#### Table 2: Priority sector by regions\* (NUTS III regions)

PRIORITY Region	Environment	Sustainable development	Cultural heritage	Human resource develop.	Health and childcare	TOTAL
1. Pomurska	2			1		3
2. Podravska		1				1
3. Koroška						
4. Savinjska		1				1
5. Zasavska						
6. Spodnjeposavska						
7. SE Slovenia			1			1
8. Osrednjeslovenska			2			2
9. Gorenjska			1			1
10. Notranjsko- kraška						
11. Goriška					1	1
12. Obalno-kraška		1	4			5
National projects	1	1	1		4	7
TOTAL	3	4	9	1	5	22

\* Regions of geographical scope of the project and target groups and not as geographical origin of project promoters.

Project Title	Beneficiary	Partner from the donor states	Amount Awarded				
PROTECTION OF ENVIRO	PROTECTION OF ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT 27.9%						
Sustainable energy in schools	Society for Ecological and Spare Time Activities		50,000.00				
Following the Otter's knowledge	Lutra Institute for Natural Heritage Conservation	Norwegian Institute for Nature Research, Trondheim, (Inga E.Bruteig)	50,000.00				
Slovenian National Energy Way	Vitra, Center for Sustainable Development		49,240.76				
Leap Forward: Accelerate Org. Farming Action Plan	Institute for Sustainable Development		50,000.00				
Invasive alien species – an overlooked threat	Institute Symbiosis	Debio, Norway (Morten	47,485.88				
Reptiles of Slovenia – do we know them?	Society for Researching Amphibians and Reptiles		12,683.40				
00CO2 – Zero Carbon Agents on a Public Mission	Slovenian E-forum, Society for Energy Economy and Ecology		50,000.00				
Bees – the Carrier of Biodiversity	Beekeeping association of Bela Krajina		32,360.00				
Grassland fungi as bio-indicator for biodiversity conservation	Mushroom Society Chanterelle, Maribor		21,917.00				
Future is not Our Destiny, but Our Choice	Umanotera, Slovenian Foundation for Sustainable Development		47,535.36				
Less Plastic in the Cemeteries	Environmental Research		44,350.00				
Conservation of caves and water supplies	"Speleos-Siga^', Caving Club of Koroška and Šaleška region, Velenje		22,368.87				
TOTAL			477,941.27				
CULTURAL HERITAGE CONSERVATION 25.3%							
Folk heritage for the museums of the Plateau of Banjsice and Trnovo	Community Foundation Planota	Intermusic Center Norway, Oslo (Kjell Skyllstad)	45,000.00				
The Walk through the heritage of the Isonzo front	Foundation Walks of Peace in the Soča Region		48,993.00				
The preservation of culinary heritage	Slovenian association of tourist farms	Norwegian Rural Tourism and Traditional Food	45,000.00				

Project Title	Beneficiary	Partner from the donor states	Amount Awarded
The Elderly as Possessors and Transmitters of Cultural Heritage	Society Slovenian Third Age University		42,766.20
The skiing culture of Bloke Plateau	Tourist Society Bloke		33,393.43
From Grandmothers' and Grandfathers' chest for grandsons' wealth	Tourist Society Šempeter in Savinjska Valley	Lavanger sanitetsforening (Anne P. Husby)	44,510.40
Cultural heritage of the past for brighter Future	European Cultural and Technological Centre, Maribor	A museum in the municipality of Bjugn, Norway (Sturla Leth –	42,914.10
Carol-Singing and Carol Customs	Mini teater, Institute for promotion and execution of puppet and theatre performances, Liubliana		44,426.93
Let's keep the customs to our descendants, yesterday for tomorrow	PRJ HALO, Country Development Core		42,183.00
Ethnological Park Cerknica Field	"Jezerski hram", Institute for Preservation of Natural and Cultural Heritage, Cerknica	Europa Nostra Norway (Siv Ark Eirik Saxvik)	44,496.80
TOTAL			433,683.86
DEVELOPM	IENT OF HUMAN RESOURCE	ES 28.9%	
"DROM - Way" Encouragement of the social inclusion of Roma population	Mission S – Society for Sustainable Development of Pomurje Region		44,245.00
New opportunity for people after head injuries	The Institute for Rehabilitation after head injuries Zarja		50,000.00
Development of a practical model and relevant policies of resettlement of homeless people in Slovenia	Society for help and self- help to homeless people Kings of the Street		49,500.00
Support for local initiatives	Institute for Policies of Space		39,647.00
Development of innovative training models of voluntarism and migrations	Slovene Philanthropy		49,319.80
Development of tourist offer for persons with special needs	SENT Slovenian Association for Mental Health		44,997.59
"The Whole World in my Village" - Development and Promotion of International Volunteer Work in Slovenia	Voluntariat, Institute for International Voluntary Work	Worldwide friends Iceland (Thorarinn Ivarsson)	45,272.23

Project Title	Beneficiary	Partner from the donor states	Amount Awarded
Building a workroom in a commune	"Ray", Society for Work With Young in Distress	Risk Kristiansand Kommune Byhallen	43,430.00
Training of Youth for Inclusion in the Labour Market	You say!, Institute for Creative Society		45,279.00
65+, for activity, transfer of knowledge and voluntary work in oldness	Papilot, Institute for Stimulation and Developing of Quality of Life		44,780.00
Development of Inclusive Higher Education System	Association of Disabled Students of Slovenia		39,770.00
TOTAL			496,240.62
HE	ALTH AND CHILD CARE 17.99	1	
HUG – Supporting Family in Educational Process	Friends of Youth Society, Litija	Adults for Children, Oslo (Randi Talseth)	45,000.00
Movement, Youth, Nature and Innovation: Motive Power for Society	Institute Wholesome Grove Tunjice	The Icelandic Boy and Girl Scout Association, Reykjavik	43,956.00
Pilot Project for Exchange of Sterile Equipment for Injecting Drugs in Slovenian Prisons	STIGMA, Society for Reducing Drug Damage		50,000.00
"Many have done it before!" The rights of childbearing women	Natural Beginnings, Association for Informing, Free Choice and Support in the Field of Pregnancy, Childbirth and Parenthood	Fodsel I Fokus (Heide Thorsen)	43,896.60
Integration programmes adapted for young migrants	Slovenian Philanthropy, Association for Promotion of Voluntary Work		43,754.63
School for People with Chronic Inflammatory Bowel Disease	Society for Chronic Inflammatory Bowel Disease	Landsforeningen Mot Fordoyelsessykdom mer (LMF) (Arne Schatten)	30,880.00
Social Integration of Roma	Society for Development of Voluntary Work Novo Mesto		50,000.00
TOTAL			307,487.23
TOTAL NGO Fund with national co-fin	ancing		1,715,352.98

#### Annex 4: Cross-cutting issues (environmental, economic and social) for EEA and Norway Grants by priorities

#### **1. PROTECTION OF ENVIRONMENT**

	Environment	Economic	Social
SI0035 Change black to green	The project will contribute to the reduction of pollution and implementation of prevention measures.	Positive effects on environment will lower the costs of the society as a	The results of the project will be available for all social groups; better awareness will improve homogeneity of different groups as regards environmental issues.

#### 2. PROMOTION OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

	Environment	Economic	Social
SI004 Establishment of the Network of GPS stations and the European Spatial Reference System in Slovenia	The environmental effect of the project is envisaged in a long term, due to better connectivity and compatibility of spatial data.	Higher application of SIGNAL system in private sector, dealing with geodetically measurements.	Measurable only in the long term period after the completion of the project.
SI0020 Sustainable supply of drinking water in the Komen Karst	Once a water supply system is in place, the drinking water will not be supplied by road tankers, which will have a positive effect on the environment due to lower vehicle exhaust emissions. Fire safety of the region is improved and therefore the pollution from fire outbreaks is limited.	The business environment for economic subjects is improved and the economic activities of tourism and stonecutting are facilitated. New tourist farm sites begin to open, which proves that farmers trust the future development of the region.	The improved motivation for social development is a direct result of the project and the people of the region are actively involved in voluntary work in improving the environment.

#### 3. CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN CULTURAL HERITAGE

	Environment	Economic	Social
SI0001 LIVELY OLD TOWN- Integrated approach to the old town renewal in Gorenjska region	Building works take into consideration the environmental protection legislation. Soft measures of the projects (local workshops) include topics related to the environment protection (i.e. waste management techniques in old towns, traffic management and air pollution, noise management) which are specific issues in the management of old town centres.	Economic development of old towns is the main driving force of the project, since the economic development of selected towns is a key component in a revival of such cities. The main economic actors, active in city centres, are involved in the implementation of activities.	A revival of old cities involves not only cultural renovation (based on the partners' experience) but also active inclusion of different social groups (young, old, young families, visitors, companies, employees, civil society and other interest groups) which improves social dialogue.
SI0005 Youth Hostel Situla- Museum as a living space	The project promoter controls the use of energy resources and materials for single use.	The project creates 10 new jobs.	/
SI0014 Digital Library of Slovenia- dLib.si	Information on environmental issues is among the contents, offered by the Digital Library of Slovenia (www.dlib.si).	/	The Digital Library of Slovenia has unlimited free access to knowledge and cultural heritage which assures equal opportunities for all citizens.
SI0016 Construction of the theatre and residence centre Mini teater	/	Long term economical justification and sustainability will be ensured.	/
SI0018 Restoration of Kino Šiška into Centre of Modern Arts	Isolation of the building will contribute to lower energy consumption and noise emission in the environment.	/	/
SI0019 Restoration of the foundation vaults beneath the St. George's church	1	The project will attract tourist attention, which will contribute to economic benefits of the city and municipality as a whole.	/
SI0027 Cultural Revival of City Core	1	The project will contribute to a revival of the old city and consequently to long- term economic benefits.	The renovated building will enable a better access for the disabled. Planned activities and programmes will pay special attention to socially vulnerable groups.

#### 4. HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

	Environment	Social
SI0031 "House - Fruits of Society" /Murska Sobota – Multigenerational centre	The project's activities will increase awareness of environmental problems.	The project will contribute to the general well-being in Murska Sobota since the House will be a place of public good and will include several vulnerable social groups (Roma, disabled and single parents). The house has been envisaged as social enterprise which will contribute to employment, productivity and better living standards.

#### 5. HEALTH AND CHILDCARE

	Environment	Economic	Social
SI0002 Demolition and reconstruction of the existing nursery school, due to excessive radon radiation	The key result is energy renovation of 2 nursery buildings in order to achieve passive standards of energy consumption. The result will be a decrease in fuel and electricity consumption for the nursery's operation, as well as the improved and healthier environment for children and employees. Previous negative impacts on the environment will be eliminated. Therefore the project will contribute to the sustainable development and the achievement of goals of common energy policy.	Energy savings and the use of renewable energy resources have positive effects on the economic growth. The project is economically justified in the long term, since it will lower the costs of energy sources and repair of environmental damage. Improved children's health will lower healthcare costs.	The nursery is designed in a way to improve general emotional perception and development of children aged 1 to 6, which will contribute to their healthy social development.
SI0029 Equine-assisted psychotherapy at Rakitna	/	The project will contribute to the development of health care.	/
SI0032 Ljubljana-Centre for the Blind and Visually Impaired	Although the project is not related to environmental priorities, it will have a positive effect on environment. The renovated building will comply with all environment protection standards; the materials used in the playground will be environment friendly.	The centre is a non-profit organisation, however the project will have economically sustainable results. Trained and educated blind and visually impaired individuals will be employable and will be valuable employees for the employers. These will enhance productivity and economic efficiency.	The main result of the project is social inclusion of blind and visually impaired individuals; the activities are designed in order to achieve this overall objective.
SI0036 Establishment of the "Counselling centre for autistic spectrum disorders" institute			The main guidance of the project is equal treatment of children with autistic disorders and their families.

#### Annex 5: Status Report Slovenia, 9 September 2009 (in EUR)

Number	Title	Project promoter	Total grant value (committed)	Grant value NOR (committed)	Grant value EEA (committed)	advance payment done	PIRs received	Values of disbursed PIRs	PIRs in a process	In process at NFP	In process at MF	In process at FMO	Disbursed TOTAL
SI0001	LIVELY OLD TOWN- Integrated approach to the old town renewal in Gorenjska region	BSC Kranj	1.211.242	1.211.242	0	0	3	PIR1 19.234 PIR2 342.197	1	696.640	0	0	361.431
SI0002	Demolation and reconstruction of the existing nursery school, due to excessive radon radiation	Municipality Idrija	1.343.327	1.343.327	0	0	2	PIR1 6.229 PIR2 1.258.058 PCR 79.019	0	0	0	0	1.343.306
SI0004	Establishement of the Network of GPS stations and European Spatial Reference System in Slovenia	Surveying and Mapping Authority	799.091	799.091	0	0	3	PIR1 44.208 PIR2 274.727 PIR3 79.782	0	0	0	0	398.717
SI0005	Youth hostel Situla- Museum as a living space	Zavod Situla, Novo mesto	465.434	0	465.434	0	5	PIR 1 3.494 PIR2 167.985 PIR 3 187.000 PIR4 102.053	1	4.901	0	0	460.532
SI0013	The Lipizzaner Museum	Lipca stud farm	692.850	47.599	645.251	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
SI0014	Digital Library of Slovenia- dLib.si	NUK	863.748	0	863.748	86.374	1	ADV 86.374	1	132.538	0	0	86.374
SI0015	Energetically- Economical Kindergarten	Municipality Gornja Radgona	672.466	672.466	0	0	2	PIR1 110.880 PIR2 242.536	0	0	0	0	353.416
SI0016	Construction of the theatre and residence centre Mini teater in Ljubljana	Mini teater	600.546	300.273	300.273	60.055	1	ADV 60.055	1	0	7.582	0	60.055
SI0017	Construction, reconstruction and adaptation of Centre for children 's health care Šentvid pri Stični	Ministry of Health	592.840	592.840	0	59.284	1	ADV 59.284 PIR1 0	1	0	0	0	59.284
SI0018	Restoration of Kino Šiška into Centre of Modern Arts	Urban Municipality Ljubljana	310.506	310.506	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
SI0019	Restoration of the foundation vaults beneath the St. George's church in Piran	Municipality Piran	534.461	0	534.461	0	2	PIR 1 30.183	1	0	0	451.150	30.183
SI0020	Sustainable supply of drinking water in the Komen Karst	Municipality Komen	396.427	0	396.427	0	1	PIR 1 1.847	0	0	0	0	1.847
SI0027	Cultural Revival of City Core	Municipality Koper	499.911	499.911	0	0	1	1	1	106.582	0	0	0
SI0028	Divača - Renovation of Skratelj's homestead into Museum of Slovene Film	Municipality Divača	1.234.845	1.234.845	0	0	1	1	1	7.420	0	0	0
SI0029	Equine-assisted psychotherapy at Rakitna	Rakitna youth sanatorium	381.832	381.832	0	38.183	1	ADV 38.183	1	0	0	0	38.183
SI0030	Protection of the environment - the task for all and everyone	"My neighbourhood"	448.830	224.415	224.415	0	2	PIR1 15.954	1	0	101.130	0	15.954
SI0031	"House - Fruits of Society" /Murska Sobota - Multigenerational centre	Slovene Philantrophy	497.364	248.682	248.682	49.737	2	ADV 49.737 PIR1 21.860	1	0	68.992	0	71.597
SI0032	Ljubljana-Centre for the Blind and Visually Impaired	Institute for blind and partially sighted children ljubljana	475.230	475.230	0	0	1	1	1	144.638	0	0	0
SI0035	Change black to green	Municipality Moravske toplice	309.630	309.630	0	30.963	0	ADV 30.963	0	0	0	0	30.963
SI0036	Establishment of the "Counselling centre for autistic spectrum disorders" institute	Center društvo za pomoč osebam z motnjami avtizma / Center društvo za avtizem	280.421	0	280.421	28.042	0	ADV 28.042	0	0	0	0	28.042
SI0037	The old new Rinka - The multipurpose centre for sustainable development of	Municipality Solčava	674.319	674.319	0	67.432	0	ADV 67.432	0	0	0	0	67.432
SI0039	Science educational centre for sustainable development	Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, University of	920.846	920.846	0	0	2	PIR1 33.938	1	0	109.767	0	33.938
SUB TOTA	SUB TOTAL - Individual		Total committed grant 14.206.166	Total committed NOR 10.247.054	Total committed EEA 3.959.112	Total advance payments 420.070	Total PIRs received 31	Values of disbursed PIRs 3.021.184	PIRs in a process 13	Total in prcess of check at NFP 1.092.719	Total in process of check at MF 287.471	Total in process at FMO 451.150	Total disbursed 3.441.254
			14.200.100	10.247.004	3.939.112	420.070	31	3.021.184 PIR1 11.348	13	1.092./19	201.411	401.100	3.441.204
SI0023	Techical Assistance Fund for Grant Management Project	GODEA	408.504	204.252	204.252	0	4	PIR2 13.316 PIR3 24.040	0	0	0	0	48.704
SI0024	NGO Fund	REC	1.458.050	729.025	729.025	67.940	3	PIR1 351.860 PIR2 440.695	1	0	0	109.815	826.529
SI0034	Scholarship and exchange of experts fund	CMEPIUS	1.298.205	432.951	865.254	25.705	1	1	1	6.392	0	25.705	0
SUB TOTAL - Block grants		Total committed grant	Total committed NOR	Total committed EEA	Total advance payments	Total PIRs received	Values of disbursed PIRs	PIRs in a process	Total in prcess of check at NFP	check at MF	Total in process at FMO	Total disbursed	
		3.164.759	1.366.228	1.798.531	93.645	8	781.588	2	6.392	25.705	135.520	875.233	
TOTAL			Total committed grant 17.370.925	Total committed NOR	Total committed EEA	Total advance payments	Total PIRs received	Values of disbursed PIRs	PIRs in a process	Total in prcess of check at NFP	Total in process of check at MF	FMO	Total disbursed
				11.613.282	5.757.643	513.715	39	3.802.772	15	1.099.111	313.176	586.670	4.316.487

## Annex 6: Overview of audits carried out by the Internal Audit and audits carried out by Budget Supervision Office in 2009

#### **INTERNAL AUDIT**

In 2009 two audit reports were issued in the field of the EEA and the Norwegian Mechanisms, namely:

- 1. A revision report on the audit of the implementation of tasks carried out by the Intermediate Body for Fund for non-governmental and non-profit organisations in the field of the EEA Financial Mechanism and the Norwegian Financial Mechanism in the Regional Environmental Centre for Central and Eastern Europe (REC). The audit included examination of:
  - the REC's tasks related to the preparation and implementation of the First Call for Tender;
  - the REC's tasks after signing the contracts with users;
  - the REC's tasks after the completed implementation of projects.
- 2. The second part of a partial audit report on the internal audit of the implementation of the EEA Financial Mechanism and the Norwegian Financial Mechanism in the Government Office of the Republic of Slovenia for European Affairs, i. e. Government Office of the Republic of Slovenia for Development and European Affairs. The following intermediate reports were included in the scope of audit:
  - the first intermediate report on the project SI0001 "Lively Old Town";
  - the first intermediate report on the project SI0004 "Establishment of the GPS network ";
  - the first intermediate report on the project SI0002 "Demolition and reconstruction of the existing nursery school, due to excessive radon radiation";
  - the first and the second intermediate reports on the project SI0005 "Youth Hostel Situla – Museum as a living space ".

The following was examined:

- the correctness, completeness and transparency of functioning of the established system in the field of the EEA Financial Mechanism and the Norwegian Financial Mechanism;
- the compliance of the implementation of financial mechanisms with the rules of donors and the Slovenian legislation.

With this audit, it needs to be mentioned that based on the meeting on 11. 9. 2009, a supplementary audit of interim reports will commence in 2009, following the publication of the GODEA's Manual on the implementation of the EEA Financial Mechanism and the Norwegian Financial Mechanism.

#### **BUDGET SUPERVISION OFFICE**

The Budget Supervision Office (BSO) performed a system audit of the implementation of the EEA Financial Mechanism and the Norwegian Financial Mechanism in the Republic of Slovenia on 27 March 2008 (System Report 1) and issued a follow-up report on a system audit of the implementation of the EEA Financial Mechanism and the Norwegian Financial Mechanism in the Republic of Slovenia on 20 April 2009 (System Report 2).

Follow up report on a system audit on the implementation of the EEA Financial Mechanism and the Norwegian Financial Mechanism in the Republic of Slovenia on 20 April 2009 (System Report 2): The National Focal Point (NFP) implemented the action plan to fulfil the recommendations of the BSO System audit on the implementation of the EEA Financial Mechanism and the Norwegian Financial Mechanism in the Republic of Slovenia on 27 March 2008 (System Report 1) as it is shown in the tables below.

### Table 1:Implementation of important recommendations – summary of important<br/>findings and recommendations, as well the findings on their implementation

Serial No.	Important findings	<b>Recommendations</b> System Report 1	Implement. of recomm. System Report 2
1.	<ul> <li>In view of implementing the NFP's tasks, the GOEA lacks:</li> <li>designed organization chart;</li> <li>job descriptions designed for individual task holders</li> <li>designed document flow and archiving plan.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>For the purpose of efficiently implementing the NFP's tasks, we recommend that the GOEA drafts and adopts an internal act which will contain:</li> <li>organisation chart;</li> <li>job descriptions for all task holders, stipulating the scope and content of work for each individual, as well as the information on his/her alternate;</li> <li>document flow and archiving plan.</li> </ul>	YES YES YES
2.	As regards the functioning of the Steering Committee, the GOEA lacks selection procedures and job descriptions designed for members of the committee for the selection of project proposals for financing.	<ul> <li>For the purpose of implementing the Steering Committee tasks, we recommend that the GOEA drafts and adopts an internal act which will contain:</li> <li>description of a selection procedure;</li> <li>activities and tasks of members of the committee for the selection of project proposals for financing.</li> </ul>	YES YES

Serial No.	Important findings	<b>Recommendations</b> System Report 1	Implement. of recomm. System Report 2
3.	The GOEA lacks review procedures and checklists prepared for supervising the projects and the eligibility of expenditure.	<ul> <li>For the purpose of supervising the projects and the eligibility of expenditure, we recommend that the GOEA drafts and adopts an internal act which will contain:</li> <li>description of review procedures;</li> <li>checklists for the review of: <ul> <li>public procurement,</li> <li>eligibility of costs stated in requests for payment,</li> <li>compliance with competition and state aid rules,</li> <li>on-the-spot checks.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	YES YES
4.	As regards the functioning of the Monitoring Committee, the GOEA lacks procedures and job descriptions designed for the Monitoring Committee members.	For the purpose of implementing the Monitoring Committee tasks, we recommend that the GOEA drafts and adopts an internal act which will contain procedures and job descriptions for the Monitoring Committee members.	NO

# Table 2:Implementation of less significant recommendations – summary of a less<br/>significant finding and recommendation, as well a finding on its<br/>implementation

Serial No.	Less significant finding	<b>Recommendations</b> System Report 1	Implement. of recomm. System Report 2	
1.	The GOEA has obtained proposals for the appointment of the Steering Committee and Monitoring Committee members from the ministries and representatives of civil society, but has not appointed them.	appoints the Steering Committee and Monitoring Committee members.	YES	