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Quite a few years have passed since the negotiations about the financial perspective 2007-2013 were finished. These negotiations were the basis for the successful agreement on the operational programmes for drawing on the European Cohesion Policy funds.

The implementation is in full swing and the success of the implementation depends also on the consequences of the economic, financial and social crisis which represent an especially grave challenge for regions and states in the process of real convergence. Cohesion Policy as the central development policy of the European Union has a special role. Indeed, it enables the preservation of social and economic competitiveness and solidarity among people and regions. Due to the fact that Cohesion Policy is one of the central policies which helps us to deal with the challenges of the 21st century its future is, therefore, of extreme importance.

Despite the crisis there are several proofs of how successful Cohesion Policy is in Slovenia. This is why we are optimistic about the evaluation of the present financial perspective. It will pave the way for the period after 2013 when additional efforts will be needed for a full use of our development potentials. Deliberations on the guidelines and orientations about the future architecture of Cohesion Policy are extremely important. Independent research and analyses are its added value; this is why I welcome the efforts in this field.

The basic aim of the debate on the future of Cohesion Policy is to gain a critical overview of the European Commission proposals and to attract ideas on the significance, role and its structure and place in the wider debate on the reform of the European budget and relation to other EU development policies. By uniting our strength and experience and our joint contribution I am certain that we will further strengthen the probability for a successful Cohesion Policy.



Duša Trobec Bučan  
MINISTER

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D. Trobec Bučan'.

## OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME FOR STRENGTHENING REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT POTENTIALS FOR THE PROGRAMMING PERIOD 2007-2013 (OP SRDP)

The Operational Programme for Strengthening Regional Development Potentials for the period 2007-2013 (OP SRDP) is worth EUR 2.08 billion in total and is mainly intended for increasing competitiveness of Slovene economy in terms of promoting entrepreneurship, innovation and technological development. The source of financing is the European Regional Development Fund that provides finance to activities determined on the basis of excellence as well as bottom-up approach, i.e. regional initiative and the orientation towards regional disparities reduction. The Operational Programme for Strengthening Regional Development Potentials aims at job creation, in particular by increasing innovation and thus the performance of companies, by utilizing natural and cultural potentials and developing tourism that can generate jobs also in more remote areas of the Republic of Slovenia.

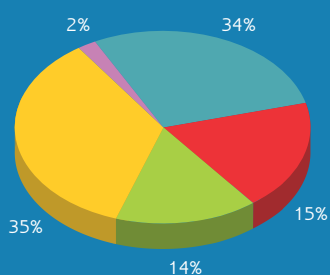
On accordance with the OP SRDP, most funds – more than a **billion euro** – are intended for the promotion of competitiveness of companies, entrepreneurship, research activities and economic-development infrastructure. Funds are aimed primarily at promoting research-development activities and development-technological investments necessary for the development and manufacture of products and services of high added value. In addition, development centres are being established in Slovenia ensuring economic, research, educational, information and logistic infrastructure.

The amount equalling a bit less than **EUR 298 million** is intended for the integration of natural and cultural potentials within which tourism infrastructure is financed (e.g. utilization of thermal and healing waters for tourism development, funiculars and artificial snowing, congress halls), infrastructure supporting the preservation of nature and natural and cultural heritage (parks with information points, thematic paths and castles), sports-tourist, cultural and other public infrastructure important for tourism development and tourism-complementary activities (e.g. art residential centres, cultural revival of cities, youth centres).

Whereas the already mentioned areas are focused on the projects of national importance, the regional development part provides complementary infrastructure based on the bottom-up initiative. Regional development has been allocated **EUR 728 million** and it funds various measures such as economic and educational infrastructure, transport infrastructure, environmental infrastructure, development projects in areas with special protective regime established and in tourist areas, social infrastructure and the development of border areas along the border with Croatia that are regarded as the least developed areas in Slovenia.

*The key objective of the OP SRDP is: innovative, dynamic and open Slovenia with developed regions and competitive knowledge-based economy.*

### The funds under the OP SRDP by priority axes in %



Priority axis	Community Funding	National counterpart	Total funding
Competitiveness of companies and research excellence	598,116,998 €	105,550,059 €	703,667,057 €
Economic development infrastructure	269,451,040 €	47,550,185 €	317,001,225 €
Integration of natural and cultural potentials	253,235,116 €	44,688,552 €	297,923,668 €
Development of regions	619,442,634 €	109,313,408 €	728,756,042 €
Technical assistance	28,003,734 €	4,941,836 €	32,945,570 €
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,768,249,522 €</b>	<b>312,044,040 €</b>	<b>2,080,293,562 €</b>

### **Achievements of the European Regional Development Fund within the OP SRDP**

**Until 2011 there were already 1705 projects co-financed  
whose total value amounted to EUR 1.9 billion:**

- 200 research development projects,
- 2 projects in the field of providing equity and debt financial resources,
- 724 projects of purchasing new technological equipment for small and medium-sized enterprises,
- 12 investments into economic development and educational centres,
- 4 projects of educational-research infrastructure,
- 62 information society projects,
- 151 projects of tourism infrastructure and the promotion of tourism offer,
- 21 projects of public cultural infrastructure,
- 10 projects of sports - recreational infrastructure,
- 519 projects of regional development programmes and the development of border areas with Croatia.

One of the achievements of the OP SRDP is also a **suitable response to deteriorating situation generated by the financial and economic crisis** in Slovenia. Due to the interest demonstrated the funding in research-development fields increased by as much as 48% or **EUR 230 million**.

Two complementary public tenders were published to improve the competitiveness of companies and research excellence, namely to develop the centres of Slovene economy and competence centres. In the field of »Entrepreneurship promotion« micro, small and medium-sized companies (hereinafter: SMEs) were offered assistance in obtaining guarantees for bank loans with interest rate subsidies in the crisis.

Due to the increase in demand, the scope of funds available rose from **EUR 17.5 million** to **EUR 50 million**. SMEs were also offered assistance in financial engineering so as to ease the access to equity and favourable debt sources of funding. These funds also increased due to a very high demand from **EUR 35 million** to **EUR 48.8 million**.



## Direct incentives for joint development-investment projects – DIP 08 and DIP 09

In 2008 and 2009, there were two public tenders in the field of competitiveness of companies and the promotion of research excellence: »Direct incentives for joint development-investment projects – DIP 08 and DIP 09« carried out by the Slovenian Technology Agency of the RS (STA).



*Direct incentives for joint development-investment projects aim at building joint development potential of companies to develop new products that the companies can be more competitive on the EU and foreign markets.*

Under DIP 08 the amount of EUR 42 million was tendered in 2008 of which EUR 35.7 million came from the European Regional Development Fund. In 2009, under DIP 09 the amount of EUR 50 million was tendered that was later increased to EUR 109,467,997 due to huge interest among potential beneficiaries of which EUR 93,047,797 from the European Regional Development Fund.

The objective of the DIP 08 was to co-finance at least **8 development-investment projects** and at least **340,000 research hours** (200 FTE) in the equivalent of full working time in projects. Under the DIP 09 the objective was the co-financing of at least **16 development-investment projects** or the making of at least **1 new product / innovation** per individual development-investment project and at least **78,900 research hours** (i.e. at least 46 FTE) in the equivalent of full working time.



*With direct incentives for joint development-investment projects – DIP 08 and DIP 09 Slovenia formed innovation environment that encouraged companies to connect and cooperate with research institutions (faculties, institutes, technology centres).*

### Achievements of DIP 08 & DIP 09

	number of projects	number of companies involved	total value of projects <small>(including the companies' own funds)</small>
DIP 08	14	42	109,818,813 €
DIP 09	46	125	207,517,351 €

**Presentation of a project »Development of new purpose aluminium semi-finished products for the requirement of the application and advanced technology of their extrusion«  
Impol Company from Slovenska Bistrica**

The Impol d.o.o. Company from Slovenska Bistrica manufactures aluminium and aluminium-alloy products by casting, rolling, extruding, and drawing. The most important product groups are: sheets and strips, cut blanks, foils, extruded profiles and sections and extruded and drawn bars and tubes. Impol is one of the ten biggest Slovene exporters and one of the twenty biggest Slovene companies.



*The purpose of the project was to develop completely new special rods for forging with such alloy structure, micro-structure, transformation and mechanical properties to allow top quality and competitiveness in the production of most demanding casts.*

The development of a final product combines the application of special knowledge, development of new technologies and processes and innovation modification of the already existing advanced technology since for the purpose of the project new technologies of fire-extinguishing of alloy products on the extrusion line need to be developed as well as specific computer model of extrusion with computer process control and new tools for the extrusion of big-size chamber profiles.

The project consists of the **development-research phase** – the making of the virtual and real prototypes, the **technological phase** – the development and implementation of new production technology and the **investment phase** – the implementation of new production technology using the cutting-edge production capacities.

Successful project completion and the development of new products, processes and technologies enabled the Impol Company to **transform** from a supplier of standard bars and profiles to a **development supplier** of purpose rods for forging and profiles, which will ensure a **bigger market share** and **higher return on capital** and a **much better position** in further concentration in individual important market niches (automotive industry, transport industry, engineering, construction business and special equipment).



Field of the OP SRDP		Total funding	Community funding	National Counterpart
Competitiveness of companies and research excellence	Public tender for direct incentives for joint development-investment projects –DIP 09	5,140,129 €	2,656,246 €	468,749 €



## **NMR Centre of excellence for research in biotechnology, pharmacy and the physics of matter**

National Institute of Chemistry with its partners: the Jozef Stefan Institute, Faculty of Chemistry and Chemical Technology of the University of Ljubljana, Krka, tovarna zdravil, d.d., Lek Pharmaceutical Company d.d., Betonal d.o.o., OptaCore d.o.o. and Jeklotehna TEHO d.o.o. formed a **NMR centre of excellence** for research in biotechnology, pharmacy and the physics of matter. In the 2009-2013 period the Centre of excellence will focus its knowledge and efforts on two priority fields of research, namely health and science of life and advanced new synthetic metal and non-metal materials. The Consortium of applicants from scientific-research organizations and advanced technologically developed companies ensures a quality multidisciplinary group of researchers from the academic sphere and business sector joining the critical mass of knowledge and adequate research infrastructure and directing to new technology development in priority research fields.

**Nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR)** is a spectroscopic method enabling the research of connections between the structure and sequence of bio-macro-molecules, dynamics and molecular recognition and as such it is the key to obtain insight into biological functions, chemical structure and the interaction between liquid and solid state and the nature of fundamental processes important to the production and development of pharmaceutical preparations and new advanced materials. This knowledge opens new opportunities in biotechnology and biomedicine that help to increase competitiveness, the development of innovative environment, progress in medicine and generate increased added value. The development and characterisation of new materials are in accordance with the global trends of transition to Hydrogen energy and low-carbon society. Research work is focused on the development of energy efficient products and horizontal objectives of promoting energy efficient economy with the stress on sustainable development.

**In 2000, the National NMR centre was the first in Slovenia to become the centre of excellence.** This title proved its quality and recognition in a richer and strongly competitive European scientific-research space. This achievement of the NMR Centre relies on close connections with highly developed economic partners in Slovenia including pharmaceutical companies and the chemical industry.

The strategic goals of partners contain deepening of cooperation under **16 development -research projects** and better use of the NMR centre capacity and further infrastructure development that will enable partners in academic institutions and industry to achieve the goals set.



*By accumulating critical mass of knowledge the centre of excellence aims at the breakthrough and better penetration into international connections with a vision to continue and intensify the cooperation and thus contribute to research excellence, development of innovative environment, competitiveness and higher added value, the transfer of knowledge from research institutions to companies and to contribute to the attainment of objectives Slovenia has in priority fields in research and technological development.*



One of the projects is »Structure and analysis of organic compounds using NMR spectroscopy« and includes the research of structure, dynamics, chemical balance and mechanisms of chemical reactions. The findings of the research provide relevant information on the nature and characteristics of organic molecules that are absolutely necessary when planning new products in various industries such as pharmaceutical, food, chemical and other.

Four new methods were introduced in the field of development and introduction of new methodologies and NMR techniques to characterize compounds in solution, namely the determination of diffusion coefficient on fluorine, determination of  $^{19}\text{F}$ - $^1\text{H}$  coupling in oriented medium from the  $^1\text{H}$ - $^1\text{H}$  NOESY spectrum, implementation of proton singlet spectra and the measurement of diffusion coefficient on the basis of proton singlet spectra.

The project generated a patent application »Analysis of complex structural mixtures of quadruplexes«.

The product was three innovations: a method for determining the nature of organic molecules in only solution and in the presence of detergents based on the measurement of the diffusion coefficient using  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR spectroscopy, determining  $^1\text{H}$ - $^{19}\text{F}$  coupling in oriented medium on the basis of  $^1\text{H}$ - $^1\text{H}$  NOESY NMR spectra and how T-quartets control the exchange of cations.

Twelve projects of structure studying were selected for Krka d.d., the partner company.

Four articles were written and published in internationally renowned journals with a high impact factor.

Within the project, cooperation with the Jub Company was established to research connections between the structure and properties of pastes. They placed attention to the study of difference between various pastes that relied on the search for differences in pigment spectra.

Studies were also carried out for the Melamin d.d. Copmany from Kočevje. The cooperation was focused on the development of modified melamine-formaldehyde resins that can be used in the construction business. These compounds turned out to be super-plasticisers improving the properties of concrete, fresh and dry mortar and they are also used for the production of glues for ceramics, glass and other materials.

An important field of research-development activities under the project was the development of methods for studying and proving interactions between active ingredients and polymeric media. Under this part studies of interactions between macro molecule and the active substance in the solution were implemented for a partner company, Krka d.d. This relates to the study of interactions in solid state. In cooperation with the Faculties of Pharmacy of the University of Ljubljana and the University of Trieste a study of interactions was conducted that resulted in findings and methodology development to be used in structural studies in case of concrete development challenges with the partners, Krka and Lek companies.

One of important global scientific-technological projects of the future is the transition to low-carbon society where the  $\text{CO}_2$  emissions would reduce to minimum.  $\text{CO}_2$  is the final product of fossil fuel (oil, gas, coal) and in order to reach low-carbon society fossil fuels need to be replaced by alternative sources. Promising alternative sources are solar energy, wind energy and electricity generated from fuel cells. Hydrogen and Oxygen react in fuel cells generating final products: water and electricity. Electricity propels an electric motor and water is harmlessly emitted into the environment as steam. The fuel cells are the base of the so called Hydrogen economy. Hydrogen energy is observed as an attractive option to prepare economy to the time after the fossil fuel period and to transition to low-carbon society. In the centre of excellence new materials are planned to develop that are in accordance with the global trends accompanying transition to Hydrogen energy and thus also to low-carbon society. The research activities of the centr are already directed into the development of energy efficient products and horizontal objectives to promote energy efficient economy and low-carbon society.

**Field of the OP SRDP**




		 Total funding	 Community funding	 National Counterpart
Competitiveness of companies and research excellence	Public tender for the development of centres of excellence in the period 2009-2013 (MHEST)	9,970,013 €	8,474,511 €	1,495,502 €

Photo: archive EC

## **Programme on financial engineering instruments (PFEI) for micro, small and medium-sized companies for the period 2009–2013**

Micro, small and medium-sized companies (hereinafter: SMEs) are of crucial importance to successful economy in Slovenia and are a very important factor of economic growth. SMEs are often faced by problems of acquiring financial resources to invest into their development in early phases of the enterprise operation as well as in the phase of the enterprise development and growth. As a result, also in the Cohesion policy in Slovenia a part of funds was intended to help SMEs.

Under the priority orientation »Promoting of entrepreneurship« the implementation of various forms of financing is planned together with guarantees envisaged for SMEs. In November 2009, the »Programme of financial engineering instruments for SMEs in the RS for the period 2009-2013« (PFEI) was approved of total value equalling EUR 48,847,334. However, due to high interest in SMEs these funds were increased by additional EUR 13.8 million in October 2010.

The entire programme will be implemented with the Slovene Enterprise Fund (SEF) taking on the role of a holding fund and including equity financing instruments (venture capital) and debt financing instruments (guarantees, guarantees with subsidized interest rate, loans and mezzanine capital). Equity financing instruments represent capital investment to private venture capital companies (hereinafter: PVC) operating in Slovenia to invest the acquired funds in promising, innovative and fast-growing SMEs. In a later phase, these companies will also provide support with mezzanine capital.

*The programme aims at enabling the development of venture capital market in Slovenia by combining various financial resources and improving the access to favourable financial assets for innovative SMEs in a form of equity and debt financial instruments.*





**The most visible effects of the PFEI Programme are:**

- financial support only granted via qualified financial intermediaries,
- bigger volume of favourable financial assets for the entrepreneurial sector,
- multiplication of public funds,
- circulation of financial assets (revolving system),
- venture capital market development via private venture capital companies,
- rationalisation of the financial support system for SMEs in Slovenia,
- no negative impact on the competitive position of SMEs in Slovenia,
- more support to projects of high market potentials,
- less costly preparation of project application,
- support to projects and investments of higher values,
- better orientation to innovative, development-oriented companies,
- expected results in supported SMEs.



In March 2010, the Slovene Enterprise Fund published the first public tender for venture capital companies (hereinafter: VCC) with almost EUR 34 million tendered. Four projects were approved (national contribution 49%: EUR 20,563,157, total value of planned investments by VCC: EUR 42,004,415), namely: Meta Ingenium, VCC Murka, the First Fund and the Fund of Business Angels. Two additional projects of SCS and STH Ventures are in the process of approval (participation of the RS: EUR 6,174,000, total value of VCC: EUR 12,600,000).

Field of the OP SRDP		Total funding	Community funding	National Counterpart
Competitiveness of companies and research excellence	Programme on financial engineering instruments for SMEs in the RS for the period 2009-2013 (ME/SEF)	48,847,334 €	41,520,234 €	7,327,100 €

## Tourism infrastructure of the Škocjan Caves Park

The Škocjan Caves remain the only monument in Slovenia and the Classical Karst region on UNESCO's list of natural and cultural world heritage sites.

The project consisted of three sets of activities:

### 1. Renovation of the tourist path through the Mahorčič and Marinič Caves and Mala Dolina:

the tourist path through the Mahorčič and Marinič Caves and Mala Dolina was set up in 1932 and 1933 and was used until 1965 when it was badly damaged by deteriorating flood. Since then this beautiful part of the Caves could no longer be included into the tourist offer of the Škocjan Caves because the path was no longer safe. The investment into the restoration of the tourist path through the Mahorčič and Marinič Caves and Mala Dolina covers all the works (new paving of tourist paths, new railings and walls, the renovation of bridges, reconstruction of stairs and landings) required to grant safe passing of tourists through this part of the Caves. After the restoration the visitors were offered additional possibility of guided tours and learning about Karst phenomena. Additional visiting sights will partly disburden the load in the existing part of the Caves intended for guided tours and thus also negative impacts related to the increasing annual number of tourists will decrease.

*The project of investing into tourism infrastructure of the Škocjan Caves Park is an investment in the preservation and protection of the natural and cultural heritage as well as its enhanced recognition.*

### 2. Conversion of the facility at Matavun 8 to a promotional congress centre:

the facility at Matavun 8 is a quite big building on the other side of the village next to the path that used to bring tourists into the Mahorčič Cave. In the past, the house served as a tavern, guest house with accommodation for tourists and represents important cultural heritage in the Park and a special regime applies to this house. After the renovation it will host permanent and temporary exhibitions and other events. The furniture in the rooms will picture the history of this place and the way of life.



### 3. Renovation of a lift at the exit from the Škocjan Caves in Velika Dolina:

the existing oblique lift was made in 1986 and gradually became out-of-date. With the years and increasing number of visitors the need became apparent for increased capacity of the booth. The renovation of the lift resulted in improved safety of visitors and their flow (from 30 to 40 persons and electricity consumption reduced by 40%).

The investment will contribute to increasing: the number of visitors coming to the Škocjan Caves Park, the number of visitors deciding to take the expanded tour and therefore also see the part of the caves restored with this investment (acquired 1,090 metres of tourist paths), the share of visitors who will take a look at the museum collections, the number of visitors taking a walk in the Park, the number of guided tours in the Park, the number of seminars, congresses, workshops and presentations in the Park.



*The described project activities will help to preserve and protect the nature in the Caves and the Park, the cultural heritage, tradition and the Park's characteristics, moderate increase of the number of tourists and ensure more positive impacts in the environment.*

**Field of the OP SRDP**

		 Total funding	 Community funding	National Counterpart
Integration of natural and cultural potentials	Direct operation approval: Investments into the Skocjan Caves Park infrastructure	3,000,000 €	2,125,000 €	375,000 €



## Renovation and modernisation of mountain refuges

In Slovene mountains there are **more than 7,000 kilometres of marked paths, 165 mountain huts, refuges and bivouacs**. According to the information provided by the Mountain Association of Slovenia about **3 million tourists or hikers visit Slovene mountains every year**.

Hiking has become more and more popular activity since people have become aware that with our daily routine we have alienated from the nature. This is in particular true in urban areas. Due to urban constrictedness and insufficient physical activities but with simultaneous spread of sports, people are attracted to physical exercise in nature and mountains enriched with aesthetic pleasures that magnificent mountains can offer, getting to know something new and improved self-esteem.

These people are motivated to do something that makes them feel good and actively spend leisure time in contact with nature, charge the batteries and preserve physical strength and vitality and get to know natural and cultural heritage. Slovenia with its diversity and accessibility provides ideal conditions for these activities. This type of tourism is gaining popularity and therefore the financial assistance for the renovation and modernisation of the mountain refuges is more than welcome and necessary in the spirit of promoting **sustainable tourism development as well as health and well-being of people**.

Indicative amount of grant for the renovation and modernisation of mountain refuges equalled **EUR 1,500,000** of which EUR 1,275,000 was provided from the European Regional Development Fund. 22 applicants were successful and 7 projects have already been completed.



**Hut at Dolič (2151m)**

The hut is situated on the Dolič saddle between Šmarjetna glava and Kanjavec. Investment and maintenance works were carried out totalling EUR 64,000.

"If we hadn't received that money, we wouldn't have been able to fix the huts since the season was extremely poor" says Marica Okršlar from the Mountain Society of Gorje.



**Planika refuge under Triglav (2401m)**

The refuge is located on a high plateau Ledina on the southern side of Triglav. Investment and maintenance works were carried out totalling EUR 65,000.



**Mountain Refuge at Krn Lakes (1385 m)**

The refuge consists of 5 facilities and is located at Glava, a rising between the Duplje Lake and a sheep farm at Duplje. In the refuge rooms were renovated and the furniture in the facilities of the Mountain Refuge at the Krn Lakes was replaced in the amount of EUR 52,000.



The tender objective is to increase the quality of accommodation and catering in mountain refuges and thus attract more visitors and contribute to the development of tourist destinations.



**Refuge at Lubnik (1025m)**

The refuge is located at the top of Lubnik, a steep mountain above Škofja Loka and belongs to the Škofja Loka Mountain Chain. The renovation works of the refuge and the construction of a treatment plant totalled EUR 72,000.



**Mountain refuge at Uršlja gora (1680m)**

The refuge is below the peak of Uršlja gora or Plešivec (1699 m) next to the church of St. Ursula constructed in 1602. The refuge was renovated and modernised and the works totalled EUR 33,000.



**Mountain refuge at Gospodična na Gorjancih (828m)**

The refuge is located on the north-western slope of Gorjanci. The renovation works totalled EUR 33,000.

**Mountain hut at Triglav Lakes (1685m)**

The hut is located between Double Triglav Lake and the artificial lake Močivec below Tičarica. The modernisation of the hut (accommodation, catering and shift to more ecological orientation) amounted to EUR 98,000.

**Field of the OP SRDP**

		 Total funding	 Community funding	 National Counterpart
Integration of natural and cultural potentials	Public tender for renovation and modernisation of mountain huts	1,500,000 €	1,275,000 €	225,000 €

## THE OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT FOR THE PROGRAMMING PERIOD 2007-2013 (OP ETID)

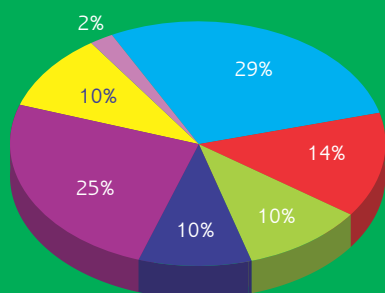
The Operational Programme of Environmental and Transport Infrastructure Development (OP ETID) has been allocated **EUR 1.57 billion** and is the base for the absorption of the funds mainly from the Cohesion Fund with a bit more than EUR 1.4 billion and the European Regional Development Fund with EUR 165 million. As stems from the name of the Operational Programme it is mainly directed towards the improvements of infrastructure in Slovenia. Pursuant to the programme, the environmental projects, transport infrastructure projects and the sustainable energy use projects are financed.










The **environmental projects** cover the fields of municipal waste management, waste water collection and treatment, drinking water supply and the provision of flood safety. Under the **transport infrastructure projects** funds are allocated to the construction or development of transport infrastructure – railway and road infrastructure as well as maritime and airport infrastructure.

On the basis of the OP ETID the majority of funds, i.e. more than **EUR 449 million**, is planned for the modernisation of railway infrastructure. Road and maritime infrastructure will be allocated a bit more than **EUR 220 million**. The transport infrastructure covering the roads, public transport and aviation and airport infrastructure has been allocated **EUR 165 million**. The amount of **EUR 392 million** is intended for environmental protection, namely water sector. Under this category funds will be provided to projects of waste water collection and treatment, drinking water supply and the reduction of negative impact on water. The funds planned for municipal waste treatment amount to **EUR 155 million** whereas the amount of **EUR 159 million** is envisaged for sustainable energy use in four sets:

- improved energy efficiency and sustainable construction in public sector,
- efficient electricity use,
- innovative measures for local energy supply and
- demonstration projects, information provision and consultancy.

**The funds under the OP ETID by priority axes in %**



Priority axis	 Community Funding	 National contribution	Total funding
 Railway infrastructure	449,567,581 €	79,335,456 €	528,903,037 €
 Road and maritime infrastructure	220,930,911 €	38,987,808 €	259,918,719 €
 Transport infrastructure – ERDF	165,529,886 €	29,211,158 €	194,741,044 €
 Municipal waste management	155,568,426 €	27,453,252 €	183,021,678 €
 Environmental protection - water	392,923,166 €	69,339,383 €	462,262,549 €
 Sustainable energy use	159,886,553 €	28,215,275 €	188,101,828 €
 Technical assistance	32,693,221 €	5,769,392 €	38,462,613 €
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,577,099,744 €</b>	<b>278,311,724 €</b>	<b>1,855,411,468 €</b>



## Overview of the biggest approved projects under the OP ETID

Among all the projects so far approved the table below presents the **10 financially most extensive projects**:

Project	Estimated value of the investment	EU contribution	brief description
1. Motorway A4; SLIVNICA-GRUŠKOVJE: Slivnica-Draženci section	278,243,345 €	88,325,161 €	Construction of a motorway section Slivnica-Gruškovje in the length of 19.2 km.
2. Regional waste management centre in the Central Slovene Region (RCERO)	143,921,874 €	77,571,941 €	Construction of a facility for waste treatment, a treatment plant for leachate and the expansion of the landfill cell that will be used by the municipalities and more than 414,000 inhabitants
3. Modernisation of the existing Divača-Koper railway line	129,884,191 €	68,136,151 €	Modernisation of the existing railway line Divača-Koper in the length of 26.4 km and the increase in the line capacity from 9 million tonnes to 14 million tonnes of various freight
4. Motorway A2; BIČ-HRASTJE: Pluska-Ponikve section	123,936,375 €	53,193,882 €	Construction of a motorway section Pluska-Ponikve in the length of 7.6 km.
5. Motorway A5; BELTINCI-PINCE: Beltinci-Lendava section	116,458,864 €	41,625,250 €	Construction of a motorway section Beltinci – Lendava in the length of 17.2 km.
6. Motorway A2; BIČ-HRASTJE: Ponikve-Hrastje section	95,035,955 €	34,003,658 €	Construction of a motorway section Ponikve – Hrastje in the length of 7.1km
7. Public tender for improved energy efficiency of hospitals*	71,115,257 €	44,710,000 €	The subject of co-financing are projects of hospitals with the following elements of improved energy efficiency of buildings of the buildings: thermal insulation of facade, thermal insulation of the attic, window replacement, rehabilitation of heating, cooling, air-conditioning and ventilation systems, the installation of condensation and low-temperature boilers and solar systems for heating and the preparation of sanitary water.
8. Poljane bypass of Škofja Loka	43,127,305 €	27,035,809 €	The subject of the investment is the construction of a bypass to replace a part of the existing regional road Jeprca-Zminec-Želin that now runs through the old city centre of Škofja Loka.
9. Integrated drinking water supply in the Šaleška dolina valley	41,487,453 €	23,935,667 €	In the framework of the project 43.5 kilometres of pipelines will be built, two new drinking water treatment plants will be built (Čujež and Mazej) while the already existing treatment plant Grmov vrh will be renewed and upgraded. With the realisation of the project over 1,700 inhabitants of the mentioned municipalities will have new connections to the water distribution system, water loss will be reduced, a reliable and quality water supply will be assured, also water sources will be better secured. With the realisation of the project approximately 45,000 inhabitants of three municipalities - Velenje, Šoštanj and Šmartno ob Paki – will be ensured with a better and safer drinking water supply.
10. Mrzlek water source protection	37,354,742 €	18,274,054 €	A comprehensive project of integrated drinking water supply and the protection of water sources in the area of Goriško for approximately 91,300 inhabitants comprises the construction of new and reconstruction of the existing infrastructural facilities for pumping, treating and distributing water and the construction of a section of the sewerage system to protect the main water source. The project will also ensure drinking water supply to 7,300 newly connected inhabitants.
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,080,565,361 €</b>	<b>476,811,573 €</b>	*20 projects of improved energy efficiency of hospitals were selected under the public tender.

### The Cohesion Fund

is the youngest of the three European funds. It was established in 1994. It is intended for the attainment of the objectives of the European cohesion policy. According to the scope of finance it is the second biggest fund of the European Union (EU).

The Cohesion Fund is available to Member States whose gross domestic product is below 90% of the EU average. In the programming period 2007-2013, there were 15 of 27 Member States eligible to these funds, namely Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia and Spain (the latter has been granted the so called transitional support of the Cohesion Fund).

In the programming period 2007-2013, the Cohesion Fund is worth EUR 69.5 billion (in current prices) and aims at strengthening EU economic and social cohesion policy by promoting sustainable development, in particular trans-European transport networks and environmental protection. This fund accounts for one third of budget funds allocated to the new Member States (compared to 12% in the transitional period). Approximately 167.2 million of Europeans (or 34.4% of the population of the EU27) live in the regions supported by the Cohesion Fund.

Breakdown of the funding under the Cohesion Fund (in EUR million) for the financial perspective 2007-2013 by the EU Member States:



member state	Financing of the Cohesion Fund (mio €)
Bulgaria	2,283
Czech Republic	8,819
Estonia	1,152
Greece	3,697
Cyprus	213
Latvia	1,540
Lithuania	2,305
Hungary	8,642
Malta	284
Poland	22,176
Portugal	3,060
Romania	6,552
Slovakia	3,899
<b>Slovenia</b>	<b>1,412</b>
Spain	3,543





Prior to the entry to the EU, Slovenia used the possibility of co-financing environmental and transport projects under the so called pre-accession assistance of the European Union, the ISPA Programme (*Instrument for Structural Policies for Pre-Accession*). This programme was no longer available after Slovenia became a full member of the European Union on 1 May 2004. All the projects that had been co-financed by the ISPA programme and were not completed by this date turned into the Cohesion Fund projects.

In the period from 2000 to 2006, the European Commission approved 28 Slovene environmental and transport projects and allocated more than EUR 253 million. Most of them, namely 16, are environmental, 8 transport and 4 projects of technical assistance.

The majority of projects have already been completed. Those still being implemented will be closed by the end of 2011 at the latest, with the expiry of the so called period of the expenditure eligibility.





## **Puconci Waste Management Centre**

In September 2006, the Municipality of Puconci in cooperation with many interested municipalities started to construct the first phase of the Waste management centre (CERO) Puconci at the abandoned sand pit of KEMA Puconci spreading on the surface of 14 hectares that will be able to take over 40,000 tonnes of waste.

The CERO Puconci project is a comprehensive one carried out in two phases. The first phase of the project worth EUR 3.3 million is co-financed by the EU funds under the ISPA financial instrument. The Financial memorandum with the European Commission for this phase that is being completed was signed already in November 2003. In the first phase, the existing landfill site for residual municipal waste was expanded and more facilities were built, namely a collection centre for separate waste fractions, a collection centre for special (hazardous) waste, a plant for waste sorting and mechanical treatment and a composting plant.

In the programming period 2007-2013, the second phase of the CERO Puconci project will be co-financed. The decision concerning the second phase worth a bit more than EUR 23 million was issued in December 2010. This project is a part of the Operational Programme of environmental and transport infrastructure development for the period 2007-2013 (OP ETID) and will be co-financed from the Cohesion Fund in the amount of EUR 13.4 million.

*The second phase represents a solution to the problem of waste processing and suitable depositing in the area of 27 municipalities in the Pomurje region.*



Mechanical treatment hall

The existing landfill of 116,000 m<sup>3</sup> is expected to be expanded with a new landfill cell of the capacity equalling additional 167,000 m<sup>3</sup>, construction of facilities for mechanical-biological treatment and closed composting facilities. In addition, the project involves upgrading of the treatment plant for leachate and other industrial waste water.

*By upgrading and modernizing the existing waste management centre the municipalities in this region will solve the problem of waste processing for approximately 125,000 inhabitants and thus avoid costs of potential waste transport to the other region. The new centre will, in the construction phase and during the operation, create new employment opportunities to the local population and the project will also have positive impact on the environment and the people since the centre modernization will mirror in decreased impact on the environment (in particular decreased odour).*

The beginnings of the CERO Puconci go back to the end of the 90s where the interested municipalities first signed a letter of intent concerning the centre construction and this was followed by the umbrella contract on co-financing the construction and operation of the regional centre. In view of the fact that this is a comprehensive environmental project in terms of finance and the intervention into the environment the importance of the provision of information on the planned construction to the local population needs to be stressed. The municipalities timely started to inform people of the planned construction and the local population agreed with the landfill site construction so that the project suffered no negative media coverage. Even the inhabitants of the settlements in the vicinity, Puconci and Vaneča, did not oppose to the project considerably.



Composting plant

**EU contribution:  
EUR 13.4 million from  
the Cohesion Fund for  
the CERO Puconci  
Phase II**



Sorting line



## The Celje regional waste treatment centre – a joint project of 24 municipalities of the Savinja region

»Wastes that are daily generated in our homes, at work and elsewhere pose a problem that is getting bigger, yet it is also an opportunity. Certain shares of wastes can be utilized and the environment can be disburdened«. This is a statement in one of the leaflets presenting the Regional waste treatment centre in Celje (RCERO Celje) put down by its designers. It simply summarizes the essence of the construction of such centres so that everybody can understand it.

The Regional waste treatment centre in Celje is a complex project for modern and environmentally friendly waste management with the beginnings dating to 1993 when the Waste Management Strategy in the area of the Municipality of Celje was adopted. Two years later preparatory works for the Centre construction started.

The importance of a project for a more quality life of the inhabitants in this area that is worth a bit more than EUR 58 million can be confirmed by the fact that 24 municipalities in the Savinja region joined their efforts to realize this project. The funds to co-finance the regional centre construction that was carried out in two phases were acquired also from the Cohesion Fund in the programming period 2004-2006 and this share amounted to approximately EUR 29 million.

**With the Centre construction the problem of municipal waste disposal has been solved for the next 30 years and for about 250 thousand inhabitants in the municipalities: Bistrica ob Sotli, Braslovče, Celje, Dobje, Dobrna, Kozje, Laško, Mozirje, Podčetrtek, Polzela, Prebold, Rečica ob Savinji, Rogaška Slatina, Rogatec, Šentjur, Šmarje pri Jelšah, Šmartno ob Paki, Šoštanj, Štore, Tabor, Velenje, Vojnik, Vranksko and Žalec.**

**EU contribution:  
approximately  
EUR 29 million  
from the  
Cohesion Fund**



District heating plant



Sorting facility

In addition to a new landfill that was built in the first phase of the Centre construction that started in 2006 in Bukovžlak also a sorting plant for separately collected waste fractions was completed, closed composting plant for biodegradable waste, a bulky waste dismantling facility, the administrative building, a car washing facility as well as other necessary infrastructure.



Regardless of the efficiency of separate waste collection, a substantial share of municipal waste is still deposited. With the procedure, the so called mechanical-biological treatment of waste the quantities of deposited waste can reduce significantly in an economic and environmentally friendly manner. With this process the volume of waste – due to biological degradation and loss of water – can reduce by one third. The second third of waste is subject to thermal treatment in the district heating plant whereas the residual waste is deposited. The thermal treatment of municipal waste is the final stage in waste treatment.

In 2007, two separate facilities were constructed, namely for the mechanical-biological treatment and thermal treatment of waste, and this was the realization of the second phase of the project.

The planned technological process enables generation of heat and electrical energy from the light fraction of residual municipal waste and the removal of sludge from the waste water treatment plant. Every year, approximately 20,000 tonnes of previously treated waste and 5,000 tonnes of sludge will be subject to thermal treatment in the district heating plant.

**Several important objectives will be attained with the Celje District heating plant. It is expected that the volume of waste deposited in Bukovžlak will reduce by 65% and thus also the problem of sludge from the municipal waste water treatment plant will be solved in an ecologically suitable manner. Obtained heat will be used for electricity generation as well as an additional source for heating the eastern part of Celje. The thermal power of the combustion plant is 15 MW with 2 MW of electricity produced.**



Landfill with other facilities



Mechanical-biological treatment



Ventilation system at Composting plant

The construction of the Regional waste treatment centre was completed in 2008 whereas the entire investment was realized in 2009 after the trial operation period.

More information on the project can be obtained on the website: [www.rcero-celje.si](http://www.rcero-celje.si)

### With the EU funds to the cleaner Savinja river

The »Integrated municipal waste water collection and treatment and water source protection in the Savinja River Basin« project is the project that was issued the first decision concerning the absorption of funds from the Cohesion Fund in the programming period 2007-2013. This group of projects with the estimated total value of EUR 30 million will be co-financed from the Cohesion Fund in the amount of EUR 15.1 million.

*The implementation of the group of projects that is expected to be completed in the middle of 2012 is shared by twelve municipalities in the Savinja Basin: the City Municipality of Celje and the municipalities of Žalec, Prebold, Polzela, Braslovče, Šentjur, Laško, Dobrna, Štore, Vojnik, Rečica ob Savinji and Šmartno ob Paki. Three waste water treatment plants will be built, namely in Kasaze, Šentjur and Dobrna, and 48,904m of new sewerage network.*



Waste-water treatment plant Celje

*The group of projects will not only contribute to better health and living standard of the inhabitants in the before mentioned municipalities but will also improve the economic infrastructure and living environment. It will also grant considerable protection of natural sources, which is essential to the development and competitive advantage of tourism, food and agricultural sector in the region. This will also add to more balanced development of the region.*

With these investments the municipalities continue their care for a cleaner river. In 2001, Slovenia, then still a candidate country, and the European Commission signed a financial memorandum on co-financing a project of the construction of a Central waste water management plant Celje worth a bit more than EUR 18 million. The construction of the treatment plant that started operations in April 2004 was co-financed from the ISPA programme in the amount of EUR 8.4 million.



The central objective was to improve the quality of the Savinja River stretching from Celje to Zidani Most and thus also the quality of the Sava River from Zidani Most on. Prior to the beginning of the operations of the treatment plant the Savinja River that flows through Celje was heavily burdened by the inflow of municipal and industrial waste water. This water polluted the river and other water courses to such an extent that not only animals and plants but also people were endangered.

Drinking water supply and waste water collection and treatment will directly impact the quality of life of the inhabitants in the area of Celje and the environment. This is the reason why the waste water treatment plant was one of the most important development projects of the City Municipality of Celje in the past. The entire project from the preparation to implementation was entrusted to a public utility company Vodovod – kanalizacija Celje.

More information on the project can be obtained on the website: [www.povodje-savinje.si](http://www.povodje-savinje.si)



Waste water treatment plant Dobrna

**EU contribution:  
EUR 15.1 million  
from the Cohesion Fund  
for the cleaner Savinja  
River in the period  
2007-2013**



Central waste water treatment plant Šentjur



## With the EU funds to better drinking water in the Goriška region

Due to a specific location of Ajdovščina and varied Karst landscape the inhabitants frequently had problems with drinking water supply. With new construction of houses on the slopes above the town these problems became even more serious. In order to provide a long-term solution, the Municipality of Ajdovščina prepared a project of the water supply for the Trnovsko Banjska plateau that was co-financed by the EU funds.

The European Commission issued a decision for this project already in November 2001. Project worth more than EUR 6 million was co-financed by the EU in the amount of 2.5 million under the pre-accession assistance (ISPA).

The project was divided into two sets and was implemented in a sensitive Karst area where the quality and quantity of drinking water are threatened in particular in a dry period due to Karst configuration of the terrain. The first set that was completed in April 2004 dealt with the water supply and the second one with waste water collection and treatment. This part of the project was completed in September 2005.

Within the first set of project activities – water supply – the water supply system at Gora was the most important part of the investment. However, with the construction of a new forebay for Ajdovščina also the Hubelj water supply system was upgraded and main water pipes between the Hubelj spring and the settlement of Lokavec were renovated. In Dolga Poljana a new forebay and a water supply system were also constructed.

*Within the first set of project activities approximately 40km of new pipes were constructed and new forebays with total capacity of 900 m<sup>3</sup>.*



The construction of 9km of new sewerage canals, three pumping stations and a treatment plant for the settlement of Col and the villages in the vicinity with the capacity of 500 population units (PU) are the results of the second set of project activities relating to waste water collection and treatment. The main purpose was to protect water sources. This invested enabled connections to the waste water treatment plant to approximately 3,500 inhabitants in the Municipality of Ajdovščina generating 166,000m<sup>3</sup> of waste water.

In the programming period 2007-2013 the Municipality of Ajdovščina cooperates with three municipalities – City Municipality of Nova Gorica and the municipalities of Brdo and Renče-Vogrsko – and works on the implementation of a project »Mrzlek water source protection and comprehensive drinking water supply of the inhabitants of Trnovsko-Banjška Plateau, Goriška Brda and the Vipava Valley.«

This project whose total value is estimated at EUR 37.3 million will be co-financed from the Cohesion Fund in the amount of EUR 18.2 million. The remaining funds will be provided from the national and municipal budgets.

***By March 2012 when the project is to be completed, a treatment plant will be constructed for Hubelj drinking water, a water station and a treatment plant for Mrzlek drinking water will be modernized and approximately 75km of a pipeline and 11.5km of the sewerage system will be reconstructed or constructed.***

**EU contribution:  
EUR 18.2 million from  
the Cohesion Fund to  
protect the Mrzlek water  
water source in  
the period  
2007-2013**





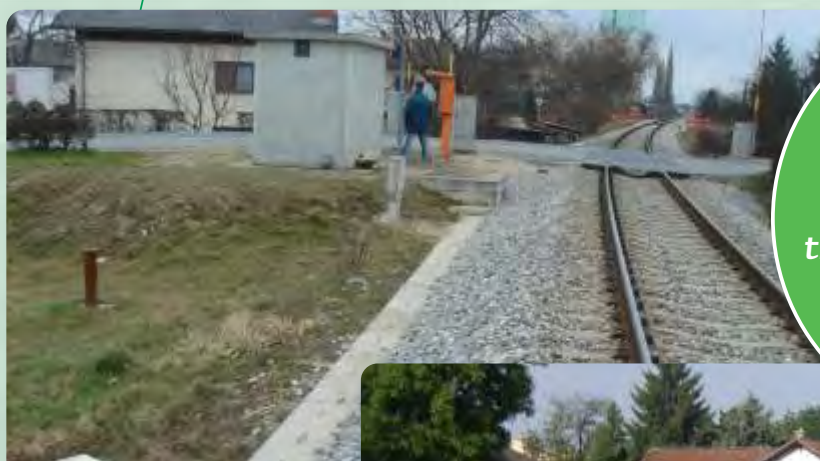
### Arrangement of a grade-separated crossing in Murska Sobota

Murska Sobota is a regional business and economic centre whose urban development has been always influenced by traffic routes. In the Middle Ages, it linked German lands with Hungary; today, the railway line which is a part of the Fifth European Rail Corridor Lyon – Trieste – Ljubljana – Budapest – Ukrainian border passes through. The busy regional road called Lendavska cesta is used daily by over 25.000 vehicles, which is a major traffic burden for a town with slightly more than 12,000 inhabitants.

The project of the arrangement of a grade-separated junction of Lendavska cesta with the railway line was divided in three stages; the investment was initiated in 2000, when the pre-investment plan for the arrangement of the junction was made and confirmed, including a comparison of four versions of the grade-separated junction. It was followed by the purchase of land and project documentation in 2004; due to the complexity of the project, the construction was organised in three stages, which took place from January 2006 to May 2010. *The total investment cost of the entire project was 12.5 million euros.*

In addition to the reconstruction of a section of Lendavska cesta, the first stage involved the construction of four replacement bridges and the execution of water management arrangements to enable the construction of the pass under the railway line.

This was followed by the construction and arrangement of five bypass roads to meet the needs of the implementation of works within the framework of the third stage. This stage involved the reconstruction of two junctions.



Old level junction

**EU contribution:**  
**EUR 4.3 million from**  
**the European Regional**  
**Development Fund**



Completed underpass



**The third stage, which was co-financed by the resources from the European Regional Development Fund to the amount of 4.3 million euros, consisted of the construction of the railway overpass on Lendavska cesta and a roundabout, and the reconstruction of Lendavska and Industrijska cesta.**

Although the new grade-separated junction has eliminated bottlenecks and considerably reduced travel times, the roadblocks and bypasses during the works required a great deal of patience from users. The Slovene Roads Agency therefore stepped up its activities in the field of information before the initiation of construction of the third stage and every household in the municipality received a booklet with precise information on the project and the time frame of its implementation. The residents of the part of the town in which the construction site was located had continuous access to additional information and the media were regularly provided with information on the progress of works and the expected release of traffic. The Agency stressed in particular that this was a project funded by the European Regional Development Fund. When the construction was concluded, it prepared a new brochure, which presented residents with the chronology of the project and acquainted them with the amount of resources earmarked for the project by Murska Sobota municipality, the Slovene Roads Agency and the European Regional Development Fund.

More information can be obtained on the website: [www.dc.gov.si](http://www.dc.gov.si)



*All daily users of this road are reminded by an information board that their travel is faster, more comfortable and safer because Slovenia, too, is developing with the help of European Union resources.*

Information board

### **With the EU funds to a safer road below Ključ**

On the road Peršeti - Most na Soči there is a steep slope below Ključ where stones often roll or fall to the roadway and for this reason the asphalt roadway was pretty damaged. The Ministry of Transport, the Slovenian Roads Agency, took a decision to reconstruct this section so as to protect vehicles and people against falling stones.

The main road with this section is a part of the connection to the 10<sup>th</sup> European corridor and also the main connection of the Upper Soča Valley and the central part of Slovenia and this is why this is also a transit connection. This part of the road is daily used especially by local population from the settlements Tolmin, Poljubinj, Prapretno, Žabče, Modrej, Modrejce, Volče and Most na Soči, and in summer also by holidaymakers and tourists.

In recent years, the upper part of the slope was already strengthened by heavy nets that were cleaned; yet, this kind of protection is not absolutely efficient. This section is located close to a natural monument called Geological layers at Ključ where fluted limestone strata can be observed and between these strata there are layers of chert. This had to be taken in consideration when selecting a type of rehabilitation and the implementation of works.



Road reconstruction simulation



Road reconstruction

**EU contribution:  
EUR 1.83 million  
from the European  
Regional  
Development  
Fund**



Gallery building



Finished reconstruction & building of gallery



**With the project realization traffic safety will improve as the rehabilitation of the slope and the gallery prevent stones from falling on the roadway and threatening the road and its users.**



Gallery below Ključ after investment

In a broader context the reconstruction of the road with the construction of a gallery represents modernization of a cross-border road connection from Robič (border with Italy) via Tolmin, Cerklje and Škofja Loka to Jeprca. As a part of the reconstruction of 330 metres of the road also a 120-meter-long gallery was constructed to protect the traffic against falling stones.

The narrow zone between the cliff and the Soča River does not offer much space and therefore the gallery is located so that the road follows almost the same route as prior to the reconstruction. On the right side of the gallery there is a cycling track fixed with a bracket, separated from the pillar and protected by guard rails.

The entire investment into the redevelopment of the rocky slope below Ključ on the section Peršeti- Most na Soči that represents a part of the connection to the 10<sup>th</sup> European corridor amounted to EUR 2.22 million of which EUR 1.83 million will be co-financed from the European Regional Development Fund.

More information can be obtained on the website: [www.dc.gov.si](http://www.dc.gov.si)



## **OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT FOR THE PROGRAMMING PERIOD 2007–2013 (OP HRD)**

### **Brief history of the European Social Fund**

#### **ESF history**

The European Social Fund (ESF) was created in the founding Treaty of Rome in 1957 and it is the oldest of the Structural Funds. It aims at reducing disparities in the wealth and the living standards of the people in the EU Member States and their regions and promoting economic and social cohesion. The ESF mission is the investments into human capital, job creation, promotion of employment and employability, strengthening of innovation and the promotion of social inclusion of all the citizens. Therefore it is no surprise that almost 10% of the entire budget is intended directly for the investment into the most important capital – people.

#### **ESS at the EU level**

Member States and individual regions develop their ESF Operational Programmes and thus respond to the actual needs »on the spot«. In the period 2007–2013, ESF will earmark more than EUR 10 billion annually for the programmes in all the member States or EUR 75 billion in the entire financial period.

At the EU level, the ESF funding is given to five specific priority areas:

1. assistance provided to workers and companies in adjusting to changeable conditions in economy;
2. improved access to employment and labour market;
3. improved training and skills for individuals with better education and training systems;
4. promotion of partnership among the players such as employers, trade unions and non-governmental organisations to reform employment and the inclusion on the labour market;
5. promotion of social inclusion of disadvantaged persons and the fight against the discrimination on the labour market.

In some less developed member states and regions the ESF can also support the measures to improve the capacity and efficiency of the public administration and public services.



## European social fund in Slovenia

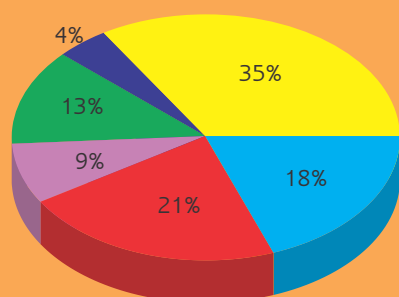
The basis for the absorption of the funding from the European social Fund is the Operational Programme of Human Resource Development for the period 2007-2013 (OP HRD) under which the EU funds amounting to EUR 756 million are available. The basic objective of the OP HRD is: to invest in people for a more competitive economy with less regional disparities, higher employment, better social inclusion and higher living standards.

The Operational Programme intends to strengthen human capital, create jobs, promote employment and employability, strengthen innovation and thus the competitiveness of the economy by investing into adequate research and other staff, life-long learning, ensure social inclusion and promote equal opportunities. Special attention is placed on better efficiency in the public sector.

Under the OP HRD 2007-2013 there are five priority axes with the following financial breakdown:



### The funds under the OP HRD by priority axes in %



Priority axis	 Community Funding	 National contribution	Total funding
 Promoting entrepreneurship and adaptability	262,114,965 €	46,255,583 €	308,370,548 €
 Promoting employability of job-seekers and the inactive	140,018,678 €	24,709,179 €	164,727,857 €
 Human resource development and lifelong learning	164,661,965 €	29,057,995 €	193,719,960 €
 Equal opportunities and reinforcing social inclusion	63,848,517 €	11,267,386 €	75,115,903 €
 Institutional and administrative capacity	97,051,506 €	17,126,737 €	114,178,243 €
 Technical assistance	28,003,739 €	4,941,838 €	32,945,577 €
<b>Total</b>	<b>755,699,370 €</b>	<b>133,358,718 €</b>	<b>889,058,088 €</b>

## Achievements of the European Social Fund via the implementation of HRD 2007 - 2013 in Slovenia

- The Employment Service of Slovenia trained **30,837 persons** in various programmes;
- Subsidies for employment helped **10,750 unemployed persons to get a job**;
- Subsidies for **self-employment** enabled **8,678 persons** to realize their entrepreneurial vision
- **147 candidates** for graduation were involved in the Programme »Candidate for graduation – get activated and employed« and entered employment;



- According to the evaluation study of the Project Learning of the Youth Programme it was found that two thirds of the participants have achieved the goals set under the programme: **40,4% continued their schooling** in a year or later, **23,7% got a job** for definite or indefinite period of time;
- In order to reduce the educational gap school fees were co-financed to **1,915** beneficiaries in the period from 2007 to 2010;
- In 2008, instruction was provided at **146 points** of life-long learning - PLLL, which is a publicly accessible place with one or more places for learning supported by ICT materials and a trained mentor. In 2008, PLLL and other educational forms were attended by **13,140** participants;
- The reform of 20 study programmes at level I, 13 study programmes at level II and 14 study programmes at level III accelerated the development of quality, competitive and responsive higher education in accordance with the Bologna goals, which will contribute to the development and performance of economy;





- 31 Roma assistants helped **1,236 Roma children** to be more easily included into pre-school and primary school education;
- **5 pilot Slovene language courses** were designed and implemented for migrant children and 3 such courses were provided for migrant parents in Ljubljana and Kranj for 222 participants of the courses, 176 children and 46 parents;
- 7 Slovene kindergartens, 7 cultural institutions and 7 free lance cultural workers were developing the identity of children in time and space in the project »**Cultural preciousness of the youngest**« via diverse artistic activities;



- The application of modules for improving different types of literacy and the assistance of ICT and the web application IMOS 2 helped (together with teachers, pupils and parents) all the users in all institutes to considerably **raise the level of their knowledge** and skills in the field of literacy and the use of a computer and the Internet during classes and outside classes;
- Sample introduction of the **exchange of documents** between hospitals and microbiological laboratories;
- The implementation of the **video-conference system** of distant interrogation started;
- The implementation of the project of **sound recording of main hearings** and hearings in the courtrooms of all the courts started;
- The number of days required for establishment of a company **reduced from 61 to 3**.



## Subsidy for self-employment

Under the Operational Programme of Human Resource Development for the period 2007 -2013 the programme has been implemented since 2009. Then 2,959 newly established companies were co-financed and further 1,180 companies in 2010. New programme of self-employment was published in 2010 and subsidies were provided to 3,289 people. **In total the start of self-employed was subsidized to 7,428 entrepreneurs by the end of 2010.** This is a once-off financial assistance amounting to EUR 4,500 that helps many to start their own business and realize their business ideas.

**The main objective of the implementation of the »Subsidy for self-employment« programme is the promotion of job creation by promoting self-employment.** The objective of the programme is in line with the active employment policy objectives and the Lisbon Strategy policies such as: increased employment and reduced unemployment rate. The objective of the programme is also increased employability of women. The programme's added value is job creation by promoting the development of entrepreneurship in micro and small companies.

The target group of the programme are unemployed persons and persons in the process of losing employment. Before starting a new business each new entrepreneur must be subject to a professional assessment of an external consultant and attend a free training for entrepreneurship. The beneficiary (Employment Service of Slovenia) that runs the programme implementation refers a person from the target group on the basis of an employment plan, a proposal on the inclusion, certificate of the attendance at the training course for entrepreneurs »Preparation for Self-Employment« and a contract granting the subsidy for self-employment.



N.J. a university graduate in agriculture also became self-employed. After a couple of months of unemployment she was advised by the consultant in the Employment Service of Slovenia she took a decision to realize her vision.

With the assistance of the Subsidy for Self-Employment Programme she managed to turn her hobby into regular employment. As a sole proprietor she provides advice on the construction of the so called ecologically self-sufficient houses made of natural construction materials that are heated by solar energy and have their own constructed wetland.

N.J. has specialized in ecological greening of roofs and façade that contribute to smaller burdening of environment with green house gases and planning pleasure, fruit and vegetable organic gardens. She also promotes healthy organic cosmetics made of ingredients of plant origin and this is why she has been considering the option of further expansion of the business. She was encouraged to set up her own company and within the programme co-financed by the European Social Fund she was provided with a grant amounting to EUR 4,500.00



### **Basic data**

Priority orientation:	1.4.: Promotion of the development of new employment opportunities
Intermediate body:	Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs
Project value:	5,000,000.00 EUR
Project duration:	1.1.2009 – 31.12.2010



## **Straight to employment after the graduation: Candidates for Graduation Programme - get activated and employed!**

In Slovenia, the number of young unemployed graduates and women remaining prevalent has been increasing. Lucija and Tjaša are graduates who managed to get employed immediately after the completion of their studies via the Candidate for Graduation Programme - get activated and employed that they were included into in 2010.

The programme is co-financed by the European Social Fund on the basis of the Operational Programme for Human Resource Development for the period, Priority axis 2. Promotion of the employability of job seekers and the inactive, Priority orientation 2.1 Promotion of the employability of job seekers and the inactive.

*The Candidate for graduation programme enables co-financing of costs related to on-the-job training of candidates for graduation and after their graduation it subsidizes their employment at the same workplace by the employer where training had been provided.*

The workplace has to be in conformance with the level and field of an individual's education. The Candidate for graduation programme that was designed upon the initiative of the Student Organization of Slovenia and has been implemented by the Employment Service of Slovenia has been allocated almost EUR 1.4 million. In 2010, 149 candidates for graduation were included.

*The Programme's objective is to reduce the number of unemployed young graduates.*

Thus, candidates for graduation can acquire new knowledge, skills and work experience and get in touch with the future employer already during their studies. This increases their employment possibilities after graduation as well as makes their entry the labour market easier and faster and as first job seekers they experience less problems whereas employers can thus avoid time consuming looking for new employees.





Under the Candidate for Graduation Programme Lucija was employed as the member of the staff responsible for human resources and organisation of work for indefinite period of time by the employer, a company specialised in tourism development and destination management in the Notranjska region. She has been given the opportunity for further professional development in the field she is most interested in. She remembers how a co-worker from the Human resource Department in the company where she worked as a student told her about the programme. Therefore the public tender concerning the Candidate for Graduation Programme came »in the nick of time« she added. Already then she also performed activities in the field of human resource management that suited her formal course of education, the university study programme of sociology, human resource management at the Faculty of Social Sciences in Ljubljana. Since the company was interested in her further career development in the same field and she herself wanted to acquire more practical experience in the same professional field, they soon agreed and the Candidate for Graduation Programme was an additional encouragement as Lucija mentioned. Lucija can see the advantage of the Candidate for Graduation Programme in the possibility of developing and upgrading the knowledge acquired during the studies in practice even before getting employed. Another advantage of the programme is that it encourages an individual's development in the field of their formal education. »This enables us to work in the desired field« explained Lucija.

As a student Tjaša also worked in a company where she is now temporarily employed under the programme Candidate for graduation. The initiative for her integration into the programme came from the company where she is now employed and which deals with the design of web-sites and applications. After the completion of practical training the student of a Pedagogical Faculty graduated and was employed as a project manager. Thus she was granted the first job for a period of one year and in the future she wishes to continue her professional development in the same field.



### **Basic data**

Priority orientation:	2.1.: Promotion of the employability of job seekers and the inactive
Intermediate body:	Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs
Beneficiary:	Employment Service of Slovenia
Project value:	1,385,953.92 EUR
Project duration:	1.10.2009 – 31.8.2012



## **Promotion of first job seeker employment in the field of social care - trainees**

On the labour market the number of graduates in social sciences that match the professional profile in the field of social care. Due to a high number of organizations operating in the field of social security and their staff problems the opportunities for trainees are limited and thus also the employment of qualified staff. The »Trainees« programme will encourage the social care organizations to employ trainees at least for the period of traineeship and thus enable better opportunities and chances to the graduates in social sciences and indirectly it will strengthen public institutes and non-governmental organizations that will recruit new suitably qualified personnel to perform activities in social care. Indirectly, this will have an impact on the quality of services in the assistance provided to persons in social distress and with problems due to financial difficulties and social exclusion.

The Programme has been implemented by the Social Chamber of Slovenia that will publish several public tenders in the period from 2010 to 2013 to select employers. Under the programme the funds amounting to EUR 10,103,569.00 were allocated for a five-year period of which the EU contribution equals 85% or EUR 8,588,033.65.

***The main purpose of the programme is to provide 500 posts to first job seekers from the target group who meet the conditions of traineeship in social care for a period not exceeding 12 months and on the job training in this field to acquire and strengthen abilities, knowledge and skills.***

In 2010, there were 134 persons included in the programme who will be trainees in various social care institutions (social work centres, societies, day care and work centres, public institutes...).





»My name is N.P. and I was unemployed for a year. Soon after my graduation I registered at the Employment Service of Slovenia (ESS). I started to look for my first job. I was sending job applications for the posts employing social workers that were published at the ESS as well as to those not published. I sent up to 30 applications a week. But everything was in vain. Most of them did not even reply and there were some negative replies. During that time I waited for the tender of the Social Chamber of Slovenia for the »Trainees« project co-financed by the European Social fund. Every month I would send applications to social care organizations. Before the summer 2010 some organizations let me know to contact them in case of the tender. After the publication of the tender I sent 40 applications and received 5 invitations to the interview, some replies were negative and the majority of applications generated no response. I went for the interviews and got a positive answer by an organization providing psycho-social assistance to children and youngsters having problems growing up. On 1 November 2010 I concluded my first employment contract for a period of one year.«

### **Basic data**

Priority orientation:	1.4.: Equal opportunities in the labour market and strengthening of social inclusion
Intermediate body:	Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs
Project value:	10,103,569.00 EUR
Project duration:	1.3. 2010 – 30.6.2015



### **Project »Hand in hand« - Intergenerational coexistence**

The Slovenj Gradec Grammar School designed a project and under the auspices of the ministry of Education and Sport and the European Social Fund it connected two kindergartens (Dravograd kindergarten and Slovenj Gradec Educational Institution), four primary schools (Franjo Golob Primary School in Prevalje, Primary School of Unknown Hostages in Dravograd, Second Primary School in Slovenj Gradec and First Primary School in Slovenj Gradec), two grammar schools (Ravne na Koroškem Grammar School and Slovenj Gradec Grammar School) and three old people's homes from the Koroška region (Koroška old people's home in Dravograd – business units in Črneče and Slovenj Gradec and the old people's home in Na Fari, Prevalje).

*Hand in hand is an intergenerational project aimed at establishing and spreading solidarity and coexistence among generations by actively and creatively spending leisure time together.*

Children from the kindergartens and primary and secondary school pupils together with their mentors and teachers frequently visited one of the old people's homes where they carried out an activity together with the residents thus strengthening intergenerational coexistence and actively spending their free time. The youngest, children from the kindergarten, cheered up the elderly with a special event called Greeting Spring where they arranged a bed of flowers together with the residents and created various products in an artistic workshop. The children came for a visit on various occasions (before New Year, birthday celebrations etc.) and playfully and cheerfully, the way they master, they sang, acted and danced. They also visited them dressed up and had a fancy-dress ball. Each resident received a greeting card for New Year that children had made as well as a number of other products that now decorate the walls and shelves of the residents' rooms. We could go on listing since everybody contributed much more than originally planned.



Similarly to the kindergarten children, also the primary school pupils spent their free time with the elderly. There were several cultural events in the evenings and other musical events where the children often made the residents enthusiastic about the children's energy and talents. At a herbal workshop children and the residents got acquainted with the herbs and prepared various spreads that they ate together. And the carnival – at a creative workshop they were making beautiful parti-coloured masks and then danced. Before New Year it smelt great when we were baking Christmas and New Year biscuits using good old recipes that pupils were entrusted by the residents and that were collected in a booklet. At Easter, pupils and the residents took pleasure from colouring Easter eggs. And the Olympiad of old games – pupils learnt from the residents how they used to play and then they prepared the Old Games Olympiad.

Intergenerational coexistence was also strengthened by secondary school pupils who were sculpturing together with the residents and made beautiful vases, bowls and small statues. The pupils prepared a half-day excursion to Koroška and visited places the residents particularly liked and also planned and carried out a refresher course of German. The instruction was held once a week and they taught the residents and repeated the knowledge of the language. Together with the residents the pupils travelled through presentations of various countries and there were also several musical and social evenings. These young people were amazingly creative when preparing cultural events and they even acted together with the residents in a real play.



Mojca Čerče, project coordinator said:

*»With the Hand in hand project all the participants together really marked certain days and did many good deeds. We were getting better and better at achieving the objectives set under the project, namely to strengthen intergenerational coexistence and promote social dialogue, to strive for intergenerational solidarity with mutual support and transfer of knowledge and experience, to spend free time together responsibly and creatively and strengthen voluntary among the youngsters. The planned objectives were frequently exceeded. We soon started to talk about the surpluses of our cooperation. With pleasure and pride everybody - representatives of the kindergartens, primary schools, grammar schools and old people's homes, our children from the kindergartens, pupils and the elderly - reported on the achievements on various occasions. Many times our young eyes met respectfully with their eyes where life kept numerous stories that kept caressing us with gratitude. Unforgettable memories ...«*

### **Basic data**

Priority orientation:	3.1.: Improved quality and efficiency of educational and training systems
Intermediate body:	Ministry of Education and Sport
Beneficiary:	Slovenj Gradec School Centre – general secondary school with the consortium and external partners
Project value:	102,000.00 EUR
Project duration:	1.12.2008 – 31.10.2010



## E-administration

The e-administration State Portal is the point of entry to access various types of information on the state and public administration. In addition to the provision of information on public administration the aim is to bring administrative services closer to users via the Internet. Next to classical communication channels the users can also take the electronic channel to perform services via life events and e-cooperation. The e-administration follows the vision of e-administration providing friendly, simple, accessible and safe electronic administrative services via the Internet available any time and anywhere.

*The e-administration portal wishes to establish better connection between the citizens and e-administration and better use of e-services.*

Citizens, business partners and public administration employees are offered services via the Internet that are to satisfy their needs and enable equal opportunities to them to access and use these services.

*Public administration considerably reduced operating costs by using Internet operations and the shift to e-commerce.*

Front line civil servants have been disburdened and time savings have been achieved and that is mainly reflected in better efficiency and transparency of operations and more quality satisfaction of the needs of citizens. The objective of public administration and in particular e-administration is to provide efficient, quality, accessible, simple, reliable, open and transparent operations. The surveys and studies focusing on the portal upgrading also serve to identify the information that the users (citizens, legal entities, civil servants) need.



The e-administration State Portal is the point of entry where all the information on the public administration procedures is available and where e-business or e-services of public administration can be performed. The portal enables the insight into the data in registers. Due to the integration of state administration and the entire public administration, citizens and legal entities can use a range of services and life events. To make it possible, users have been trained and special educational courses have been organized for civil servants. Public is informed of the possibilities the e-administration portal offers via promotional activities.

The e-administration State Portal has been expanded by upgrading the e-democracy sub-portal, adjusting web sites to be used by people with special needs, designing life events for legal entities, upgrading e-notice board and other contents, optimizing e-administration support systems and integrating central modules of e-business for the public administration. The portal for Italian national community and a portal for Hungarian national community were also set up that also provide access to public administration services. A portal for the elderly and pensioners was introduced as well as electronic staffing in state administration. Training courses were provided to civil servants, officials in local self-government and other bodies and elderly citizens. Throughout this period the satisfaction of users was measured and promotional activities were conducted.

***Among the results it should be mentioned that 380 services of e-administration financed from the e-administration project have now been available on the Internet, 493 participants of courses have been trained, and the e-administration development (availability of e-services via the Internet) equals 95 % whereas the average level of satisfaction with the public administration services (assessment between 1 and 5) is 3.85.***

An additional important fact is that the e-administration project with its already implemented and planned activities enables the use of public administration services by various target groups including the elderly and people with special needs (speech synthesis product). The e-administration project has been presented as an example of best practice at domestic and international conferences and public events.



### **Basic data**

Priority orientation:	5.1.: Efficient and effective public administration
Intermediate body:	Ministry of Public Administration
Project value:	2,432,104.00 EUR
Project duration:	1. 1. 2007 - 31.12.2010



### **Project: Sound recording of main hearings and hearings in legal proceedings - the biggest technological modernisation of the working of courts after the introduction of computers**

Within the project "Sound recording of main hearings and hearings in legal proceedings" the Ministry of Justice equipped 352 courtrooms in all the courts in the Republic of Slovenia (regional, local, higher, special and supreme courts) with sound recording devices. Thus all courtrooms are equipped and since 1st October 2010 all main hearings and hearings have been recorded.

Recording of hearings is used in all legal proceedings where there are many parties: e.g. in civil and penal proceedings, non-litigious civil proceedings, family matters and in other proceedings where sound recording can significantly save time since all the statements will be recorded precisely and recapitulation of statements will no longer be necessary for the minutes. In future minutes and rewriting of recordings will gradually be abolished, which will additionally increase the efficiency of court operations.

*Sound recording of main hearings and hearings in legal proceedings is one of the key steps to increase the efficiency of the judicial system, which is the main objective of the e-justice project.*

In a spirit of faster and efficient procedures sound recording disburdened the judge mainly in the part where he or she needs to focus on the recapitulation of the statements by witnesses and others and dictation for the record written by the recording clerk at the hearing. The control and the overview of the judge improved since the judge can focus more on substantive and procedural issues. With the introduction of the sound recording more quality decisions are expected since the judge concentrates on the statements and not their recapitulation. Now witnesses, lawyers and prosecutors can present their position without anybody interrupting their flow of thoughts. When formulating the judgement sound record can be of great help to study the statements in detail.

The project included practical training courses specific for various groups of the system users in courts (judges and their assistants, recording clerks and IT specialists).

The beneficiary will constantly monitor the project effects and based on the feedback users will be encouraged to adapt to the new way of work as quickly as possible. At the same time, training courses will continue to be provided for improving institutional and administrative capacity of the courts.



**Matevž Gros, district court judge - Councillor, District Court in Koper:**

"A couple of months have passed since the judges of Criminal Department had recording devices installed in all our courtrooms we have been using. All the judges in our department have been using these devices for recording hearings or part of hearings. Since sound recording is not compulsory judges determine what hearings or parts of hearings will be recorded. The recording devices are reliable, which is of key importance for us to decide to rely on sound recording of hearings. We have not identified any legal problems with the recording and transcription and the same has been established by our colleagues at the Higher Court in Koper. And the parties or participants in hearings have also accepted the recording. The majority of them give it no second thought. Judges have also found that the hearings that are recorded run more smoothly and with less complications than those not recorded. As the project also included promotional activities, people and the public respectively are well acquainted with this novelty and accept it well."



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**Jernej Kovše, president of the District Court in Nova Gorica:**

As a criminal judge I started to record the main hearings as soon as the courtrooms have been technically equipped. I have recorded so many hearings that I can present my opinion on my experience gained so far that are very positive. Firstly, it saves time, which depends on the case but I estimate that on the average the duration has shortened. Only after such experience one can see what disburdening of a judge conducting the proceedings mean because he can really focus on the subject and the possibility of different (psychological) observance of individual parties to the proceedings is not at all negligible that is so relevant later when you carefully examine and evaluate testimonial evidence. All in all, my so far experiences have proven positive and undoubtedly imply a step towards good practice in shortening court proceedings. However, this project is a huge technological shift and we are all still adapting and let me underline that users should not be too hair-splitting because we shouldn't afford it (Aucupia verborum sunt iudicis insigna.)."



**Basic data**

Priority orientation:	5.1.: Efficient and effective public administration
Intermediate body:	Ministry of Justice
Project value:	4,511,370.00 EUR
Project duration:	18.12.2009 – 30.6.2015



## **Regional hub of non-governmental organizations of Podravje – Nevladna.org**

Under the priority orientation Promotion of the development of NGOs and of civil dialogue there are projects of horizontal networks of NGOs, regional hubs of NGOs and content/field networks of NGOs that are co-financed.

***Co-financed projects strengthen the capacities of NGOs and their cooperation in the policy making.***

In the long run, non-governmental organizations contribute to higher employment in the non-governmental sector with the development of new services. The Ministry of Public Administration started to implement this priority orientation in 2008 and by the end of 2010 it co-financed 32 projects of NGO. It is estimated that in addition to direct effects expressed in several thousands of participants in more than 400 workshops the indirect effects are even more important resulting in more active connections on the non-governmental sector and its strengthened institutional capacity.

***The implementation of the Regional hub of the non-governmental organizations in Podravje project helped to realize the priority axes originating from the key development issues of the NGO sector. The Regional hub of the non-governmental organizations in Podravje project connects and strengthens the non-governmental sector and increases its recognizability and influence. With enriched knowledge and capacity of the employees and volunteers this sector has become more and more competitive.***

The regional hub realized the priority axes by ensuring support environment for the operations of NGOs and providing them with services in a form of consultancies and professional technical assistance (accountancy, taxes, search for adequate financial resources, dealing with legal issues concerning the functioning of NGOs, assistance in preparation of tender applications), connecting and networking of NGOs (organization of meetings, a fair, a conference of NGOs in the Podravje region), informing members of the hub and other non-governmental organizations (setting up and maintaining web-sites, e-information, leaflets) and promoting civil dialogue (provision of professional assistance to informal regional NGO network).

Various training sessions (project management, public appearance, acquisition of funds, the application of software and tools – e.g. ICT – Google office) strengthened the capacity of those working in the NGOs strengthened their capacities and supported the introduction of new training methods (the establishment of a virtual educational platform).



In the field of raising awareness of the public about the role of NGOs the 3 issues of Nevladna (25,000 copies) should be mentioned that were published in agreement with the Večer publisher presenting the non-governmental organizations and the obstacles in the development of this sector.

Since a lack of the awareness of the importance of NGOs with civil servants and politicians in local self-government authorities was identified as one of the barriers to faster development of the NGO sector, a part of activities was focused on the search for systemic solutions to include NGOs into the processes of public decision making via providing initiatives and proposals and the exchange of positions and ideas.

With the project implementation covering among other activities also the organization of 12 meetings and 16 training sessions for NGOs, the introduction of 4 new ICT solutions, preparation of 2 electronic collections of papers and an e-manual of support services the hub was established as the driving force connecting NGOs in the Podravje region being their promoter, representative and supporter.

*Statement of a beneficiary: »As a particularly important result it should be mentioned that within the initiative My Society together with the mayor, Mr Franc Kangler, we laid foundations for further activities related to the establishment of the commission for the development of non-governmental organizations within the City Municipality Maribor aimed at connecting members of NGOs in Maribor with the representatives of the local self-government in order to find solutions for more rapid development of NGOs and better cooperation and in doing so the NGOs entrusted us with the role of a coordinator.«*



### **Basic data**

Priority orientation:	5.3.: Promotion of the development of NGOs and of civil dialogue
Intermediate body:	Ministry of Public Administration
Beneficiary:	Zavod PIP
Project value:	260,000 EUR
Project duration:	1. 1. 2009 - 31.10.2010





