



## **WP1: Synthesis report**

*Ex post evaluation of Cohesion Policy programmes  
2007-2013, focusing on the European Regional  
Development Fund (ERDF) and the Cohesion Fund (CF)*

# **Task 3 Country Report Slovenia**

**September 2016**



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**WP1: Synthesis report  
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2007-2013, focusing on the European Regional  
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**Task 3 Country Report  
Slovenia**

September 2016

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### **List of abbreviations**

AIR	Annual Implementation Report
CF	Cohesion Fund
ERDF	European Regional Development Fund
EU	European Union
ETC	European Territorial Cooperation
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GDFCF	Gross Domestic Fixed Capital Formation
MA	Managing Authority
NSRF	National Strategic Reference Framework
NUTS	Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics
OP	Operational Programme
R&D	Research and Development
RTD	Research and Technological Development
SME	Small and Medium Enterprise



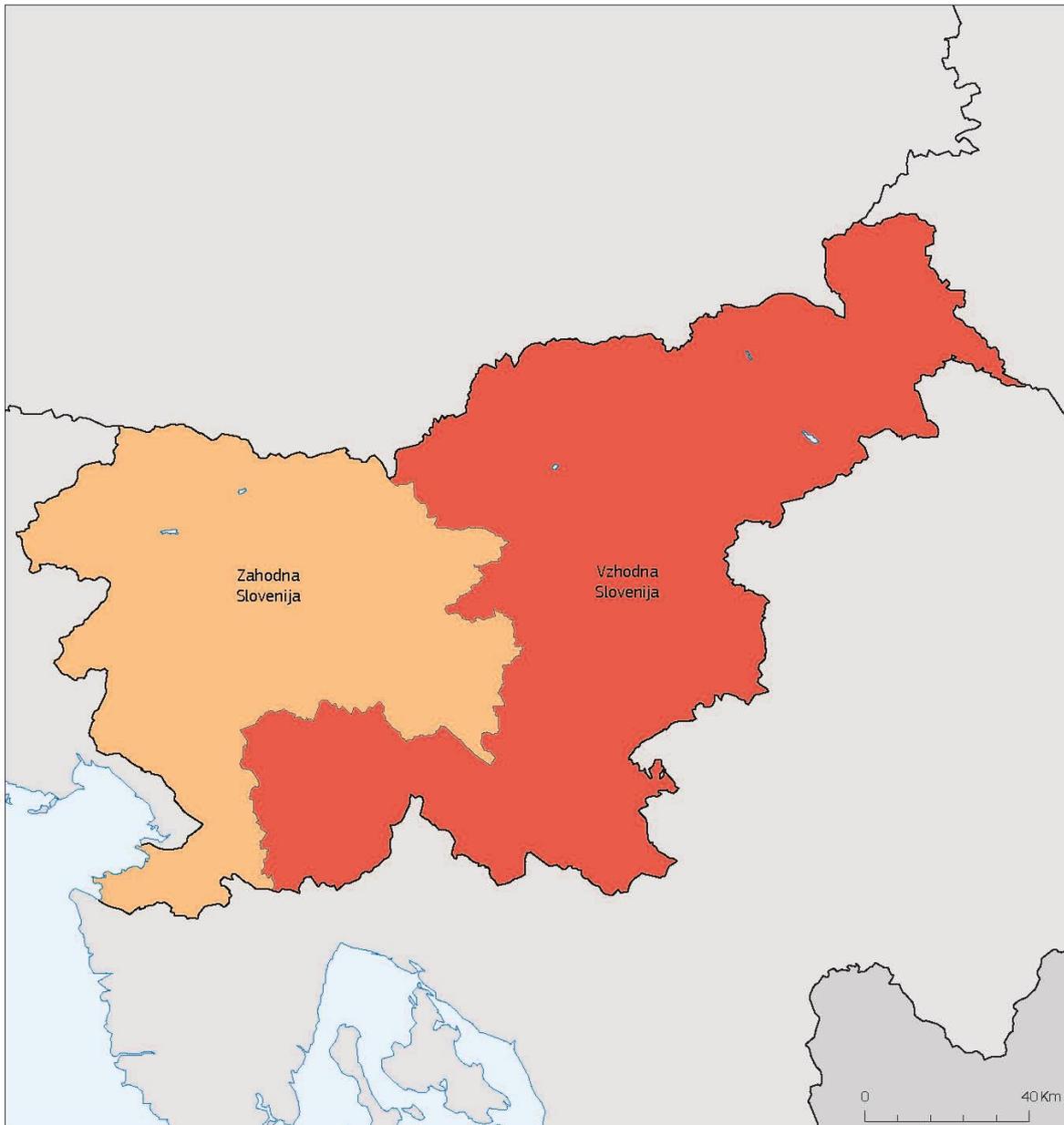
## List of programmes and link to beneficiaries of ERDF and Cohesion Fund support

CCI	Name of OP	Link to beneficiaries	Number of Projects
2007SI1161PO001/ 2007SI1161PO002	OP krepitve regionalnih razvojnih potencialov za obdobje / OP razvoja okoljske in prometne infrastrukture za obdobje	<a href="http://www.eu-skladi.si/kohezija-do-2013/razpisi#c1=upravicenec&amp;c0=5v">http://www.eu-skladi.si/kohezija-do-2013/razpisi#c1=upravicenec&amp;c0=5v</a>	3 258

Note: The web links above are to websites of the respective Managing Authorities who, under the rules governing the 2007-2013 programmes were required to publish the names of the beneficiaries of the funding allocated. The number of projects supported has been estimated on the basis of the information published on the website at the time when the data were downloaded. In the meantime the data concerned may have been updated. It may also be that the data have been moved to another part of the website, in which case the link may not work. If this is the case, those who wish to locate the data concerned will need to go to main OP website, as indicated by the beginning part of the link and search from there.



Map 1 Slovenia and NUTS 2 regions, GDP/head (PPS), 2014



Slovenia: GDP/head (PPS) by NUTS-2 region, 2014

- Index, EU-27 = 100
- < 50
  - 50 - 75
  - 75 - 90
  - 90 - 100
  - 100 - 125
  - >= 125
- ∩ NUTS2 boundaries

Sources: Eurostat, DG REGIO



## **Preliminary note**

*The purpose of the country reports is to provide for each Member State a short guide to the findings of the ex post evaluation of Cohesion policy programmes 2007-2013 undertaken by DG Regional and Urban Policy and an overview of the context in which the programmes were carried out. It is based on information produced by Task 1 and Task 2 of WP1 and on the country specific findings from the various WPs that form the ex post evaluation. These are listed below with an indication in brackets of the case studies carried out in the Member State concerned.*

*WP0 – Data*

*WP1 – Synthesis*

*WP2 – SMEs, innovation and ICT*

*WP3 – Venture capital, loan funds*

*WP4 – Large enterprises*

*WP5 – Transport*

*WP6 – Environment*

*WP8 – Energy efficiency (country report Slovenia)*

*WP9 - Culture and tourism*

*WP10 – Urban development and social infrastructure*

*WP11<sup>1</sup> – European Territorial Cooperation*

*WP12 – Delivery system WP13 – Geography of expenditure*

*WP14 – Impact modelling*

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<sup>1</sup> The findings from WP11 – European Territorial Cooperation are summarised in a separate report as part of Task 3 of WP1.



## Executive summary

During the 2007-2013 period, Slovenia experienced a large-scale economic contraction. After a sharp downturn in 2009, the economy showed a weak recovery in 2010 and 2011, but entered a second period of recession in 2012. Only in 2014 did GDP begin to grow again. As a result of the prolonged period of recession or slow growth, the employment rate declined by over 5 percentage points while the unemployment rate more than doubled, even though it remained below the EU average.

As a further consequence of the recession, the government budget deficit increased progressively, reaching 15% of GDP in 2013, leading to public debt expanding almost fourfold, reaching 83% of GDP in 2015.

Unlike over the 2000-2006 programming period, when regional disparities between the wealthier areas in the West and the less developed ones in the East widened, over the 2007-2013 period, the disparities narrowed as the crisis led to a larger contraction of GDP per head in the Western region than in the Eastern one.

In total, Slovenia was allocated EUR 3.3 billion from the ERDF and Cohesion Fund over the period under the Convergence Objective. This was equivalent to just over 1% of GDP and to around 25% of Government capital expenditure.

Funding was used mainly to support innovation and RTD and environmental and transport infrastructure, which together accounted for over 80% of the total. The distribution of funding between policy areas changed relatively little over the period. However, a change in strategy was particularly evident for Enterprise support and innovation. In particular, 'traditional' measures to support innovation were complemented in 2009 and 2010 with innovative measures, such as support for technological investment in companies related to their R&D activities, the establishment of new creative centres and 'Research vouchers'.

Overall, the measures co-financed over the period led directly to the creation of 5 860 jobs, of which 887 were in tourism. This was achieved in part through the support given to 655 RTD projects and to 3 101 projects to help firms finance investment.

In addition, support for investment in transport led to the construction of 60 km of new roads, 52 km of which were part of the trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T). It also led to the improvement of 11 km of existing roads and 89 km of railway lines. Support for investment in environmental infrastructure resulted in an additional 291 000 people being connected to clean water supply and an additional 194 000 people being connected to new or upgraded wastewater treatment facilities. Funding also led to the population covered by broadband increasing by 73 000 and the capacity to produce electricity from renewable energy sources being expanded by 172 Megawatts.

Overall, it is estimated that the additional investment supported increased GDP in Slovenia in 2015 by around 2.5% above what it would be in the absence of the policy and that in 2023, it will be just over 2% higher as a result of the investment concerned.



## 1. The policy context and background

### 1.1. Macroeconomic situation

Slovenia experienced a substantial contraction of economic activity between 2008 and 2013, with GDP shrinking by more than 9% in real terms. After a sharp downturn in 2007-2009, the economy grew in 2009-2011 but only weakly and went back into recession again in 2012. In 2014, GDP began to grow again and growth was maintained in 2015, even if at a slower rate than before the crisis struck (Table 1).

Employment declined as a result of the recession over much of the period, the proportion of those aged 20-64 in work in 2013 being over 5 percentage points less than in 2007. In consequence, unemployment climbed from 5% of the labour force to 10% between these two years. The employment rate rose in 2014 and 2015 as the economy began to recover and unemployment fell but problems of long-term unemployment and low employment among low-skilled and older workers remained.

**Table 1 GDP growth, employment and unemployment, Slovenia and the EU, 2000-2015**

	2000-07	2007-09	2009-11	2011-13	2013-14	2014-15
<b>GDP growth</b>	<i>(Annual average % pa)</i>					
Slovenia	4.4	-2.4	0.9	-1.9	3.0	2.5
EU average	2.3	-2.0	1.9	-0.1	1.4	1.9
	2000	2007	2009	2011	2013	2015
<b>Employment rate (% 20-64)</b>						
Slovenia	68.5	72.4	71.9	68.4	67.2	69.1
EU average	66.5	69.8	68.9	68.6	68.4	70.1
<b>Unemployment rate (% lab force)</b>						
Slovenia	6.9	4.8	5.9	8.2	10.1	9.0
EU average	9.2	7.1	8.9	9.6	10.8	9.3

Source: Eurostat, National accounts and Labour Force Survey

As a result of the recession, the public sector deficit was increased from a marginal amount to 6% of GDP in 2009 and further to 15% of GDP in 2013 (though much of this was due to the recapitalisation of banks), despite fiscal consolidation measures being implemented. Consequently, public debt increased from 23% of GDP in 2007 to 86% in 2013. Public investment was reduced from 5% of GDP in 2009 to 4% in 2011 but it was subsequently increased back to 5% again in 2015 (Table 2).

**Table 2 Government budget balance, accumulated debt and investment, Slovenia and the EU, 2000-2015**

	2000	2007	2009	2011	2013	2015
<b>Public sector balance</b>	<i>(% GDP)</i>					
Slovenia	-3.6	-0.1	-5.9	-6.7	-15.0	-2.9
EU average	0.0	-0.9	-6.7	-4.5	-3.3	-2.4
<b>Public sector debt</b>						
Slovenia	25.9	22.8	34.6	46.6	71.0	83.2
EU average	60.6	57.9	73.1	81.1	85.5	85.2
<b>General Government investment</b>						
Slovenia	3.7	4.5	5.0	4.1	4.4	5.1
EU average	2.9	3.2	3.7	3.3	3.0	2.9

Source: Eurostat Government financial accounts

### 1.2. Regional Disparities

Slovenia has a population of about 2 million and had a GDP per head of 87% of the EU average in 2007, which, because of the recession, was reduced to 82% of the average in 2014. Regional disparities have been persistent between the Western region, where the capital city is located, and the less developed Eastern one, bordering Croatia and Hungary (see Country folder for Slovenia).



The Western region has a GDP per head which is around half as high again as the Eastern one. The difference widened over the 2000-2006 programming period, when growth was slightly stronger in the Western region. Over the following period of economic crisis, however, the difference narrowed a little, GDP per head in the Eastern region being around 67% of that in the Western region in 2007 and around 70% in 2014.

Disparities are also evident in labour market conditions, with the Western region having a higher employment rate and lower unemployment rate than the Eastern region. Over the programming period, these disparities remained largely unaltered, the employment rate falling by around 3 percentage points in both regions between 2007 and 2015 and the unemployment rate increasing by around 4 percentage points.

## **2. Main features of Cohesion Policy implementation**

### **2.1. Nature and scale of Cohesion Policy in the country**

The priorities of the Slovenian National Strategic Reference Framework (NSRF) for the 2007-2013 period were: (1) to promote entrepreneurship, innovation and technological development; (2) to improve the quality of the education system, training and research and development activities; (3) to improve labour market flexibility as well as guaranteed employment security; (4) to maintain the conditions for growth by providing sustainable mobility; and (5) to promote balanced regional development.

During the 2007-2013 period, Slovenia was allocated EUR 3 345 million from the ERDF and Cohesion Fund under the Convergence Objective. This corresponds to 1.3% of GDP over the period and to 24.5% of Government capital expenditure, both figures being below the EU12 average (2.2% and 39%, respectively), reflecting the higher GDP per head of the country than of other EU12 countries apart from Cyprus (Table 3).

The five priorities set out in the NSRF were pursued through two national Operational Programmes (OPs): one co-financed by ERDF and aimed at strengthening regional development potentials; and the other, co-financed by the Cohesion Fund, aimed at expanding and improving on environmental and transport infrastructure.



**Table 3 ERDF and Cohesion Fund and national co-financing for the 2007-2013 period in Slovenia, initial (2007) and last (April 2016)**

	2007				2016			
	EU funding	National public funding	National private funding	Total	EU funding	National public funding	National private funding	Total
EUR million								
Convergence	3 345.3	590.4	-	3 935.7	3 345.3	590.4	-	3 935.7
<i>Change, 2007-2014</i>								
Convergence					-	0.0	-	0.0
% GDP	1.3	0.2	-	1.5	1.3	0.2	-	1.5
% Govt. capital expend	24.5	4.3	-	28.9	24.5	4.3	-	28.9
Per head (EUR) pa Convergence	233.5	41.2	-	274.7	233.5	41.2	-	274.7
<b>EU12</b>								
% GDP	2.1	0.4	0.1	2.6	2.2	0.4	0.1	2.6
% Govt. capital expend	38.3	7.6	1.0	46.9	38.7	6.4	1.4	46.5
Per head (EUR) pa Convergence	212.4	42.1	5.6	260.2	214.6	35.5	7.8	258.0

Note: EU funding relates to decided amounts as agreed in 2007 and as at 14 April 2016. The figures for % GDP and % Govt. capital expenditure relate to funding for the period as % of GDP and Govt. capital expenditure aggregated over the years 2007-2013. Govt. capital expend is the sum of General Government gross fixed capital formation and capital transfers. The EU12 figures are the total for the EU12 countries for comparison. Source: DG Regional and Urban Policy, Inforegio database and Eurostat, national accounts and Government statistics

## 2.2. Division of funding between policy areas and changes over the period

The distribution of the ERDF and Cohesion Fund between policy areas broadly followed NSRF priorities (Table 4), focusing on: innovation and RTD and the environment and transport infrastructure. Together, these three areas accounted for more than 80% of the total funding. The largest share was allocated to Enterprise support and innovation (30% of the total), followed by Transport (27% of the total) and the environment (25%)<sup>2</sup>.

Over the programming period, there were only relatively small shifts between policy areas, although some changes occurred within a few areas. The main shifts involved increased support for innovation and RTD and the environment and reduced support for transport. The adverse economic developments in 2009 and 2010 and delays in implementing the 'Environment and transport infrastructure' OP prompted the changes. In the case of innovation and RTD, 'traditional' measures of support were replaced by innovative measures, such as support for technological investment in companies related to their R&D activities, the establishment of new creative centres and a 'research voucher' scheme.

<sup>2</sup> The 17 categories shown in the table are aggregations of the more detailed 87 categories into which expenditure was divided in the period for reporting purposes.



**Table 4 Division of financial resources in Slovenia for 2007-2013 by category, initial (2007) and last (April 2016) and shift between categories**

Category	EUR million					% Total	
	2007	2016	Added	Deducted	Net shift	2007	2016
1.Innovation & RTD	820.7	859.2	153.5	-115.0	38.5	24.5	25.7
2.Entrepreneurship	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3.Other investment in enterprise	120.0	135.1	15.0	-	15.0	3.6	4.0
4.ICT for citizens & business	38.6	38.6	-	-	-	1.2	1.2
5.Environment	783.2	820.6	137.4	-100.0	37.4	23.4	24.5
6.Energy	159.9	169.9	42.9	-32.9	10.0	4.8	5.1
7.Broadband	70.0	70.0	-	-	-	2.1	2.1
8.Road	440.0	404.8	33.3	-68.4	-35.1	13.2	12.1
9.Rail	449.6	434.6	-	-15.0	-15.0	13.4	13.0
10.Other transport	130.8	76.9	3.3	-57.1	-53.8	3.9	2.3
11.Human capital	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
12.Labour market	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
13.Culture & social infrastructure	180.9	185.4	44.5	-40.0	4.5	5.4	5.5
14.Social Inclusion	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15.Territorial Dimension	94.1	89.6	-	-4.5	-4.5	2.8	2.7
16.Capacity Building	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
17.Technical Assistance	57.7	60.7	3.0	-	3.0	1.7	1.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>3 345.3</b>	<b>3 345.3</b>	<b>432.9</b>	<b>-432.9</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

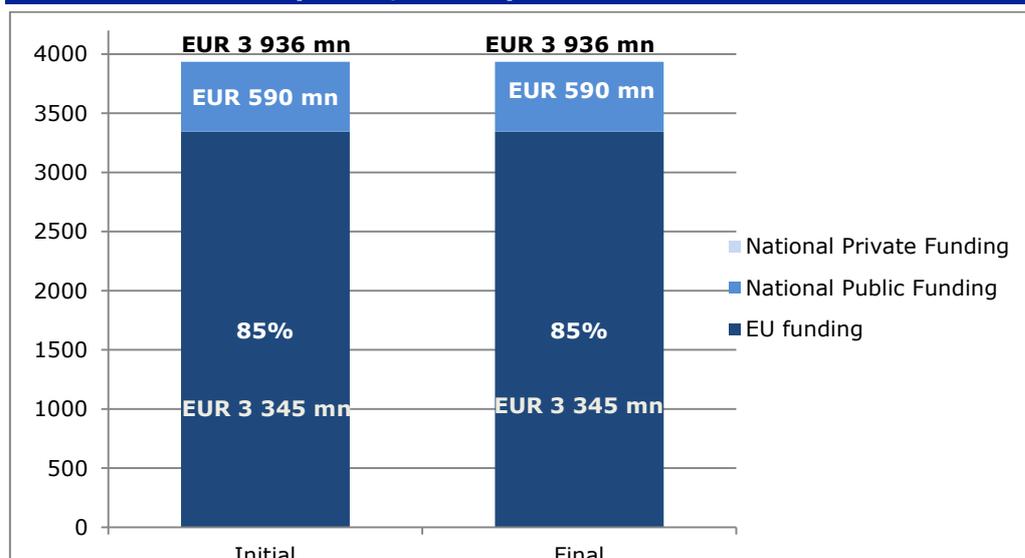
Note: 'Added' is the sum of additions made to resources in OPs where there was a net increase in the funding going to the category. 'Deducted' is the sum of deductions made to resources in OPs where there was a net reduction in funding. 'Social inclusion' includes measures to assist disadvantaged groups and migrants. 'Territorial dimension' includes support for urban and rural regeneration and tourist services and measures to compensate for climate conditions.

Source: DG Regional and Urban Policy, Inforegio database, April 2016

### 2.3. Policy implementation

Over the programming period, both the total funding available and co-financing rates remained unchanged (Figure 1). Some modifications as regards implementation rules were adopted in the two OPs with the aim of increasing the pace of implementation and some measures were introduced which were considered more effective but they did not affect the allocation of funding.

**Figure 1 Total funding going to expenditure on Cohesion policy programmes for the 2007-2013 period, initial planned amount and final amount (EUR mn)**



Source: DG Regional Policy financial data, 14 April 2016

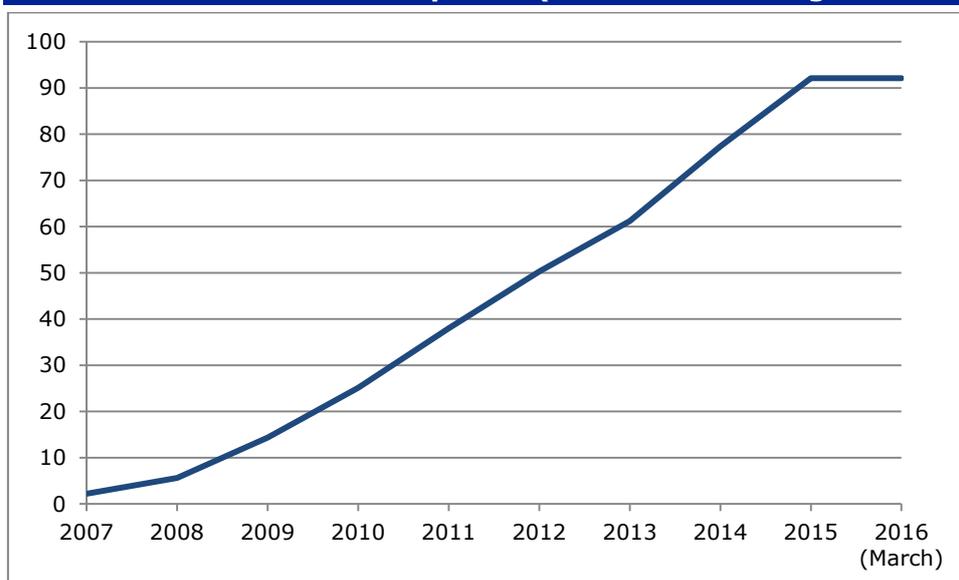
Apart from an initial delay due to the overlap with the previous period, the rate of implementation of the programmes, as reflected in payments from the Commission in relation to the overall funding available, was relatively stable over the period. There



was some increase in the rate of the expenditure in 2013 after a new Government came to power and after changes in the institutional structure (e.g. the abolition of the Office for Local Self-Government and Regional Policy). Delays occurred, in particular, in the implementation of the 'Environmental and Transport Infrastructure' OP because of the bankruptcy of some contractors, problems in acquiring land and building licences, the limited access of municipalities to co-financing and lengthy auditing procedures for public procurement.

Nevertheless, by the end of March 2016, payments from the ERDF and Cohesion Fund for expenditure incurred amounted to over 92% of the funding available. This implies that all the funding was probably spent by the end of 2015 as required by the regulation given lags between expenditure and the payment for it being claimed and transferred and the 5% of funding which is held back until expenditure is approved.

**Figure 2 Time profile of payments from the ERDF and Cohesion Fund to Slovenia for the 2007-2013 period (% of total funding available)**



Source: DG Regional Policy financial data, end-March 2016

### **3. The outcome of Cohesion Policy programmes – main findings from the ex post evaluation**

The main findings summarised here come from the evaluations carried out under the Work Packages (WPs) of the ex-post evaluation exercise. This covered in detail the following policy areas:

- Support to SMEs – increasing research and innovation in SMEs and SME development (WP2);
- Financial instruments for enterprises (WP3);
- Support to large enterprises (WP4);
- Transport (WP5);
- Environment (WP6);
- Energy efficiency in public and residential buildings (WP8);
- Culture and tourism (WP9);
- Urban development and social infrastructure (WP10);
- European Territorial Cooperation (WP11);
- Delivery system (WP12);



- Geography of expenditure (WP13);
- The impact of cohesion policy 2007-2013: model simulations with Quest III and Rhomolo (WP14).

All of these are relevant for Slovenia, except the evaluations of the delivery system (WP12) and large enterprises (WP4) which did not include Slovenia among the countries covered in detail. The evaluation of ETC (WP11), it should be noted, is the subject of a separate report. The estimates produced by WP13 on the allocation of funding and of expenditure between regions are not considered here<sup>3</sup>.

### **3.1. Enterprise support and innovation (WP2, WP3 and WP4)**

The funding allocated to specific projects in this broad policy area amounted to just under EUR 1 billion, or around slightly less than 30% of the overall amount of ERDF and Cohesion Fund available. The larger part of the funding (over 85%) went to innovation and RTD projects.

Overall, up to the end of 2014, 655 RTD projects had been financed. In addition, the support provided helped to start up 25 new businesses and co-financed 3 101 investment projects in SMEs (see Table 5 at the end of this section).

#### **SME support, R&D and innovation (WP2)**

Slovenia ranks among the innovation followers in terms of innovation activity according to the Commission's Innovation Scoreboard<sup>4</sup>. In particular, it lags behind with regard to the dynamics of employment in fast-growing companies and in the export share of knowledge-based services. SMEs provide employment to about 70% of the work force and a significant share of these are either in medium-high (11%) or high-tech (25%) sectors.

The evaluation carried out by WP2 indicated that Slovenia stands out among the EU12 countries as allocating the largest share of funding to SME support (23% of the total). In consequence, the ERDF constituted the main source of financing for business support in the country and amounted to over 1% of total national investment (gross fixed capital formation).

The 'Strengthening Regional Development Potential' OP allocated nearly half of its budget, EUR 785 million, to finance 13 policy instruments for supporting SME development and innovation. Overall, grants and loan guarantees for R&D and investment were used to promote the development of SMEs, mainly concentrated on new and growing businesses. The majority of the instruments targeting SMEs were designed to support individual SMEs instead of groups of firms.

#### **Financial Instruments for enterprises (WP3)**

During the 2007-2013 period, the funding of Financial Instruments (FIs) was limited. The ERDF allocation to FIs amounted to about EUR 105 million, which represented around 11% of the total ERDF allocation for enterprise support. The majority of the FIs were funded mainly by the ERDF with a small national co-financing rate (15%) and no private co-financing. By the end of 2014, the funding allocated had been entirely paid into the respective funds and 81% had reached final recipients.

Overall, one Holding Fund and two specific funds were co-financed. All the three funds were managed by the Slovene Enterprise Fund, a publicly-owned fund established for the purpose of providing financial support to businesses. The prevalent form of support were guarantees while loans and, more especially, venture capital, were used to a limited extent.

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<sup>3</sup> They are available at: [http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/en/policy/evaluations/ec/2007-2013/#1](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/policy/evaluations/ec/2007-2013/#1).

<sup>4</sup> See EC, European Innovation Scoreboard, 2016: [http://ec.europa.eu/growth/industry/innovation/facts-figures/scoreboards\\_en](http://ec.europa.eu/growth/industry/innovation/facts-figures/scoreboards_en).



### 3.2. Transport (WP5)

Transport was among the main investment priorities in Slovenia during the 2007-2013 period. EUR 916 million from the ERDF and Cohesion Fund were allocated to it, corresponding to 27% of the total available. The largest part of funding went to investment in rail (47%), followed closely by investment in roads (43%). Overall, EU funding amounted to 27% of total public investment in transport over the period.

EU-co-financed projects accounted for the construction of 60 km of new roads, of which 52 km were on the TEN-T, for the upgrading of 11 km of existing roads and the improvement of 89 km of railway lines on the TEN-T.

### 3.3. Environmental infrastructure (WP6)

EUR 626 million, or 19% of the funding available, was allocated to investment in environmental infrastructure over the period, this being the main source of financing at national level. Of the total, EUR 105 million went to waste management and EUR 520 million to water supply and wastewater treatment.

Six new regional centres for waste management were co-financed over the period and, as indicated by the WP6 evaluation, the proportion of waste recycled almost doubled, between 2007 and 2013 to over 40% of the total municipal waste collected. The proportion of waste composted also increased and the proportion going to landfill was reduced significantly.

In addition, pipelines for supplying clean drinking water were extended, several of water retention basins were constructed or upgraded and a number of sewerage pipelines and wastewater treatment plants built or improved. Overall, the investment co-financed resulted in an additional 291 626 people being connected to clean drinking water supply and an additional 194 160 being connected to new or improved wastewater treatment facilities (see Table 5 at the end of this section).

### 3.4. Energy efficiency in public and residential buildings (WP8)

EUR 145 million, 4% of the total funding, was set aside to support investment in energy efficiency, co-generation and energy management, of which the energy efficiency of public and residential building, the focus of the evaluation carried out by WP6, formed a significant part (see Box). All of the support took the form of non-repayable grants.

#### **The Environmental and Transport Infrastructure Development OP case study<sup>5</sup>**

Energy efficiency in public buildings was one of the specific areas supported by the OP. Investment in this area was financed by the Cohesion Fund only and was confined to public buildings. In total, EUR 145 million was allocated to this. Most of the funding went to modernising buildings to reduce their energy use, such as through thermal insulation of walls and roofing and replacing windows. Funding was also used to install renewable sources of energy such as solar heating systems. Much of the support went to local communities to upgrade primary schools, kindergartens and health centres.

Up to the end of 2013 (two years before the end of the funding period), the result of the investment was a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions of 56 000 tonnes and in energy use of 69 GWh – just 16% and 32%, respectively, of the targets set.

### 3.5. Culture and tourism (WP9)

Over the programming period, around EUR 153 million, or around 5% of the total funding available, were allocated in culture and tourism through the OP for Strengthening Regional Development. In addition EUR 29 million went to direct support of investment in hotels and restaurants.

<sup>5</sup> The full case study report can be consulted here as separate annex to final report: [http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/en/policy/evaluations/ec/2007-2013/#1](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/policy/evaluations/ec/2007-2013/#1).



Support was almost evenly distributed between culture (EUR 73 million) and tourism (EUR 80 million). Support for the former was aimed at the protection and preservation of the cultural heritage as well as the development of cultural infrastructure, the main rationale, according to the MA, being to further economic diversification. In tourism, measures were directed at promoting natural assets and improving tourist services with the aim of fostering the sustainable development of the sector and diversifying the product and the market. In both cases, support took the form exclusively of non-repayable grants.

By the end of 2014, the projects supported has resulted in the creation of 887 jobs in tourism (88% of the target set for the period).

### **3.6. Urban development and social infrastructure (WP10)**

EUR 170 million of funding, 5% of the total available, was allocated to investment in urban development and social infrastructure over the period through the national OP for Strengthening Regional Development. Almost two-thirds of the funding (EUR 113 million) went co-finance investment in healthcare facilities, childcare centres and other forms of social infrastructure.

### **3.7. ETC (WP11)**

Slovenia was involved in three Interreg programmes financed under the Cross-border Cooperation strand of the ETC Objective. These were, respectively, with Austria, Italy and Hungary. The ETC-funded programme are the subject of a separate report.

### **3.8. Impact on GDP (WP14)**

Overall, the investment supported by Cohesion and rural development policies in Slovenia over the 2007-2013 period is estimated to have increased GDP in 2015, at the end of the period, by around 2.5% above the level it would have been in the absence of the funding provided<sup>6</sup>. It is further estimated that GDP in 2023, 8 years after the funding coming to an end, will be just over 2% higher as a result of the investment concerned. This is about half the size of the estimated effect in the EU12 on average reflecting the small amount of funding going to Slovenia.

### **3.9. Overview of achievements**

Table 5 summarises the data reported by MAs in Slovenia on core indicators of Cohesion policy outcomes. It shows that up to the end of 2014, the investment undertaken with support from the ERDF and the Cohesion fund in the 2007-2013 period resulted in the direct creation of 5 860 gross jobs.

In addition to the achievements reported above under the different WPs, ERDF support led to an increase in the population covered by broadband of 73 316, while support for investment in energy supply added 173 Megawatts to the overall capacity to produce electricity from renewables, equivalent to about 17% of the total capacity in 2006.

It should be emphasised that since not all MAs report all of the core indicators, and in some cases, only a minority, the figures tend to understate achievements, perhaps substantially. In addition, the data reported relate to the situation at the end of 2014, one year before the official end of the period in terms of the expenditure which could be financed, and as result also understate achievements over the programming period.

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<sup>6</sup> Estimates by the Quest model, a new-Keynesian dynamic general equilibrium model in kind widely used in economic policy research, developed by DG Economic and Financial Affairs to assess the effects of policies. See The impact of Cohesion Policy 2007-2013: model simulations with Quest III, WP14a, final report, [http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/sources/docgener/evaluation/pdf/expost2013/wp14a\\_final\\_report\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docgener/evaluation/pdf/expost2013/wp14a_final_report_en.pdf).



**Table 5 Values of core indicators for ERDF co-financed programmes in Slovenia for 2007-2013 period, as at end-2014**

<b>Core Indicator Code</b>	<b>Core indicator name</b>	<b>Value up to end-2014</b>
1	Jobs created	5 860
4	Number of RTD projects	655
7	Number of direct investment aid projects to SME	3 101
8	Number of start-ups supported	25
12	Number of additional population covered by broadband access	73 316
14	km of new roads	60
15	km of new TEN roads	52
16	km of reconstructed roads	11
18	km of TEN railroads	89
19	km of reconstructed railroads	89
24	Additional capacity of renewable energy production	172
25	Additional population served by water projects	291 626
26	Additional population served by waste water projects	194 160
35	Number of jobs created in tourism	887

*Note: The figures in the table are those reported by MAs in Annual Implementation Reports. Core indicators for which no data were reported by the Member State are not included.*

*Source: Annual Implementation Reports, 2014 and DG Regional Policy post-processing of these, August 2016*

