



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA  
**MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY**

**STRATEGIC REPORT NO 2  
ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE  
EEA FINANCIAL MECHANISM  
AND THE  
NORWEGIAN FINANCIAL MECHANISM  
2009-2014 IN SLOVENIA**

Implementation period: **January 2012 – December 2012**  
Draft: **7 February 2013**  
Final report: **14 March 2013**  
Prepared by: **National Focal Point  
Ministry of Economic Development and Technology**



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## Glossary of Acronyms

AA	Audit Authority
BSO	Budgetary Supervision Office
CA	Certification Authority
CP	EU Cohesion Policy
CMEPIUS	Centre of the Republic of Slovenia for Mobility and European Educational and Training Programmes
DPP	Donor Programme Partner
EEA	European Economic Area
FM	EEA Financial Mechanism
FMO	Financial Mechanism Office
FMs	Norwegian Financial Mechanism and EEA Financial Mechanism
GOSP	Government Office for Local Self-Government and Regional Policy
HEI	Higher Education Institutions
MCS	Management and Control System
MEDT	Ministry of Economic Development and Technology
MES	Ministry of Education and Sport
MF	Ministry of Finance
MH	Ministry of Health
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NFP	National Focal Point
NGO	Non-governmental organization
PO	Programme Operator
SIU	Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Higher Education
TA	Technical Assistance

## 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of the Strategic Report on the implementation of the EEA Financial Mechanism and the Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2009-2014 in Slovenia is to give comprehensive information on the programming and implementation activities in the period under review, to inform the members of the Monitoring Committee on the progress and to form the basis for discussions at the annual meeting which will take place in Ljubljana on 7 March 2013. The Report provides an overview of the programming of both financial mechanisms and compiles information which the National Focal Point (NFP) received from the Programme Operators (POs) and other stakeholders, namely the Centre of the Republic of Slovenia for Mobility and European Educational and Training Programmes (CMEPIUS), the Financial Mechanism Office (FMO) and Innovation Norway, involved in the programming and implementation of the EEA Financial Mechanism and the Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2009-2014 in Slovenia from January 2012 to December 2012.

Pursuant to Article 5 of the Memorandum of Understanding on the implementation of the Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2009-2014 and Article 5 of the Memorandum of Understanding on the implementation of the EEA Financial Mechanism 2009-2014, the Ministry of Economic Development and Technology fulfilling the function of the NFP for the implementation of the Financial Mechanisms in Slovenia, prepared the Strategic Report on the implementation of both financial mechanisms in Slovenia.

This Strategic Report has been developed by the NFP in compliance with Article 2.2 of the Regulation, for the purpose of the annual meeting held between the representatives of the Slovenian side and the Donor States - the Kingdom of Norway, the Principality of Liechtenstein and Iceland. Before submission of the document to the donor side, the document will need to be approved by the Monitoring Committee for both financial mechanisms. Since the work of the Monitoring Committee will start with the implementation of the programmes, the approval will be obtained through written procedure. In addition, the Monitoring Committee has to be re-nominated and this process has been launched. This process has not ended by the deadline stipulated in the Regulation for submission of the Strategic Report. Therefore, this report is submitted without endorsement of the Monitoring Committee.

Due to the initial phase of both financial mechanisms 2009-2014, which in the reporting period mainly involved support to programming activities and development of the management and control system, the structure of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Strategic Report covers the following issues:

- analysis of horizontal issues (e.g. assessment of the anticipated impact of the support at the national level, cross-cutting themes and bilateral relations),
- issues related to the preparation of the management and control system,
- information on the preparation status of specific programmes,
- a review of information and publicity activities,
- activities planned for the next reporting period,
- summary and recommendations.

This Strategic Report incorporates information of both financial mechanisms: the Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2009-2014 and the EEA Financial Mechanism 2009-2014.

The Memorandum of Understanding on the implementation of the Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2009-2014 between the Republic of Slovenia and the Kingdom of Norway was signed on 9 May 2011 in Brdo pri Kranju during the state visit of the Norwegian royal couple to Slovenia, while the Memorandum of Understanding on the implementation of the EEA Financial Mechanism 2009-2014 between the Republic of Slovenia and Iceland, the Principality of Liechtenstein and the Kingdom of Norway was signed on 21 May 2011.

According to the signed MoUs the following programmes will be implemented in the Republic of Slovenia:

<b>Slovenia</b>	<b>EEA FM contribution</b>
<b>Programme area</b>	
Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services	€ 1,950,000
Environmental Monitoring and Integrated Planning and Control	€ 1,800,000
Funds for Non-governmental Organisations	€ 1,875,000
Conservation and Revitalisation of Cultural and Natural Heritage	€ 5,062,500
Scholarships	€ 625,000
<b>Other allocations</b>	
Technical assistance to the Beneficiary State (Art. 1.9)	€ 187,500
Fund for bilateral relations at national level (Art. 3.5.1)	€ 62,500
<b>Net allocation to Slovenia</b>	<b>€ 11,562,500</b>

<b>Slovenia</b>	<b>Norwegian FM contribution</b>
<b>Programme area</b>	
Global Fund for Decent Work and Tripartite Dialogue	€ 144,000
Bilateral Scholarship Cooperation	€ 1,220,000
Public Health Initiatives	€10,228,000
Mainstreaming Gender Equality and Promoting Work-Life Balance	€ 1,440,000
<b>Other allocations</b>	
Technical assistance to the Beneficiary State (Art. 1.9)	€ 216,000
Fund for bilateral relations at national level (Art. 3.5.1)	€ 72,000
<b>Net allocation to Slovenia</b>	<b>€ 13,320,000</b>

## 2. ASSESSMENT OF IMPACT AT NATIONAL LEVEL

### 2.1 COHESION

The programmes under the EEA and Norwegian Grants 2009-2014 in Slovenia fit into the overall objective of cohesion policy, namely the reduction of the economic and social disparities. The main instruments for achieving this goal are the structural and cohesion funds under the umbrella of the EU Cohesion Policy. The preparation of the operational programmes under the financial perspective 2007-2013 of the CP is coming slowly to a close.. Tenders are mostly concluded and the implementation is in full speed. In parallel the programming exercise for the new generation of the programmes has started. The coordination of the strategic documents (National Development Strategy, Programme of National Investments Priorities, Partnership Agreement with the European Commission for Cohesion Policy funds) preparation is entrusted to the Ministry of Economic Development and Technology (MEDT). The overview given to the MEDT due to its central role in strategic planning and programming is a leverage to avoid the duplication of the efforts and to streamline the available resources including the EEA and Norwegian Grants 2009-2014.

In this context the EEA and Norwegian Grants fit into areas that are not covered or adequately supported by other resources. The areas of public health and gender issues, environmental monitoring, biodiversity, cultural heritage are to benefit through both programmes. At this point the contribution of the programmes to the national objectives cannot be assessed yet. However, if the programmes achieve agreed objectives this will be a valuable and significant contribution to reducing regional disparities and increasing economic and social cohesion. The NFP plans to implement 2 evaluations on the impact of the FMs, one mid-term evaluation in 2014 and the final evaluation in 2016. The results of these evaluations will be presented in the Strategic Reports and will include the assessment of the relevance of the interventions of the FMs on:

- developments and trends in socio-economic and territorial disparities in Slovenia
- changes in the socio-economic situation which are related to the agreed objectives and outcomes of the programmes
- risk that might impede achieving the objective of reduced inequalities at national level as well as risks within sectors of relevance for the Grants.

### 2.2 BILATERAL RELATIONS

Strengthening long-term bilateral cooperation is one of the overall objectives of the EEA and Norway Grants. The measures for strengthening bilateral relations under both financial mechanisms are envisaged at all levels: the national, programme and project level. This is a major change if compared to the Grants for the period 2004-2009, namely, in the context of the later, bilateral partnerships were established only at project level.

The national level fund will tackle broader initiatives and target groups in comparison to bilateral fund at the programme level. Synergies between the bilateral fund at national level and programme level are highly relevant since Priority 2 (Health) and 3 (Gender equality) of the bilateral fund at national level are also programme areas of the SI05 programme. This was taken into account when selecting implementing institutions, activities, stakeholders, target groups etc. at the national and programme level. The synergies between different levels of bilateral relations are explained in the work programme for the Bilateral fund at national level.

## National level

Looking at the history of co-operation between Slovenia and the Donor States, the most valuable approach for strengthening bilateral relations is concentrating on further cooperation. As a result of the discussions with the donors, the Financial Mechanism Office, the Norwegian Embassy, the main areas for enhancing bilateral co-operation at national level have been identified as follows:

- health inequalities and telemedicine
- gender equality
- experiences in the past and future European integration.

The National Focal Point submitted the work programme for the Bilateral fund at national level to the FMO in December 2012 which includes the following priority areas of cooperation:

1. preparing bilateral aspects of the programmes in the preparation phase (2011 and 2012)
2. co-operation in the field of health
3. co-operation in the field of gender equality
4. Slovenian / EEA countries experiences in the past and future European integration
5. other initiatives to be agreed with the donors

The NFP is still waiting for the approval of the the work programme and information of new contacts at the Norway Embassy in Budapest, covering also Slovenia, to start planning the activities envisaged for 2013.

**Table 1: Indicative budget by priorities**

Priority	Allocated	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	TOTAL
<b>1. Preparing bilateral aspects of the programmes in the preparation phase (2011 and 2012)</b>									
	<b>19.436</b>	2.514	16.922	0	0	0	0	0	<b>19.436</b>
<b>2. Co-operation in the field of health</b>									
	<b>30.000</b>	0	0	12.000	18.000	0	0	0	<b>30.000</b>
<b>3. Co-operation in the field of gender equality</b>									
	<b>33.500</b>	0	0	10.000	23.500	0	0	0	<b>33.500</b>
<b>4. Slovenian / EEA countries experiences in the past and future European integration</b>									
	<b>33.500</b>	0	0	33.500	0	0	0	0	<b>33.500</b>
<b>5. Other initiatives to be agreed with the donors</b>									
	<b>18.064</b>	0	0	3.600	3.600	3.600	3.600	3.664	<b>18.064</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>134.500</b>	<b>2.514</b>	<b>16.922</b>	<b>59,100</b>	<b>45,100</b>	<b>3.600</b>	<b>3.600</b>	<b>3.664</b>	<b>134.500</b>



In order to initiate bilateral relations right from the beginning in the agreed programme areas of the Memoranda of Understanding and to give a good starting point for the Programme Operators and the National Focal Point to further develop such relations, different activities have been financed from the national level bilateral fund already during the preparation of the programme proposals, especially attendance at meetings and seminars, organized by the FMO for National Focal Points and meetings/study trips to Norway to learn from local experience and co-ordinate the programming of the SI02 and SI05 programmes with Programme/pre-defined project partners.

The following activities under Priority 1 “*Preparing bilateral aspects of the programmes in the preparation phase (2011 and 2012)*” were completed:

- 5 June – 6 June 2011: Study trip of the Surveying and Mapping Authority of the Republic of Slovenia to Norway to meet pre-defined project partner
- 4 December – 8 December 2011: Representatives of the former Office for Equal Opportunities attended the meeting with the future pre-defined project partner
- 31 January – 3 February 2012: Members of the working group for the preparation and implementation of the SI05 programme visited Oslo – programme partners and field visit to key institutions in Norway in the field of public health and equal opportunities.
- 1 February – 2 February 2012: Representatives of the Ministry of Culture and Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning attended a meeting at FMO in Brussels to discuss the first programme proposals and FMO comments.
- 12 September – 13 September 2012: Attendance of NFP at the Risk Management and Good Governance Seminar in Sofia
- 10 October – 12 October 2012: Conference EEA Grants for the Culture and Heritage sectors in Oslo (2 representatives - PO and working group)
- 6 November– 8 November 2012: Kick-off conference for the environmental programmes under the EEA Grants in Oslo on 7 November 2012 (2 representatives - PO and working group)
- 12 November – 13 November 2012: WS in Bratislava – training in reporting and in results and risk management

The main goal of the priority “*Co-operation in the field of health*” is to further strengthen bilateral co-operation between Slovenian and the Donor States’ ministries of health and to promote co-operation through:

- a joint conference for exchange of knowledge and best practices in the area of public health and primary health care focusing on reducing health inequalities in spring 2014;
- a study visit to the Norwegian National Centre for Telemedicine in Tromsø and other places in Oslo, dealing with telemedicine in October 2013

The applicant institution is the Ministry of Health which will implement the activities in co-operation with the ministries of health in the Donor States, DPP and the Norwegian Embassy.

The main goal of the priority “*Co-operation in the field of gender equality*” is establishing and further strengthening bilateral co-operation between Slovenia, Norway, Iceland and/or Lichtenstein in the area of gender equality, more specifically between the ministries responsible for gender equality policies and other relevant organizations working in this field. Two types of activities are envisaged:

- A study visit to gender equality bodies and other relevant organizations dealing with gender equality issues in Norway, Iceland and/or Lichtenstein focusing on the exchange of experiences and best practices regarding the preparation and implementation of the gender equality policy and programmes in spring 2013.
- A joint conference for exchange of knowledge and best practices in the area of gender equality among the Donor (Norway, Iceland and/or Lichtenstein) and the Beneficiary (Slovenia) States in autumn 2014.

The applicant institution is the Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs which will implement the activities in co-operation with the Centre for Gender Equality (Iceland), the Ministry of Children, Equality and Social Inclusion (Norway), the Ministry of Family Affairs and/or Gender Equality (Lichtenstein), and other Project donor partner(s), if relevant, in co-operation with the Norwegian Embassy.

The main goal of the priority “Slovenian / EEA countries experiences in the past and future European Integration” is the exchange of experiences of the Slovenian and EEA countries with different models of European integration. Slovenian experiences as a (small) EU Member State, EEA model of cooperation with the EU, view from a candidate country (Iceland). Two types of activities are envisaged:

- Slovenian-EEA conference in Ljubljana focusing on different models of past and future European integration / view from the inside and outside of the EU in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of 2013
- A study visit to enhance bilateral co-operation in the 1<sup>st</sup> half of 2013.

The applicant institution is the Ministry of Foreign Affairs which will implement the activities in co-operation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Norway) in co-operation with the the Norwegian Embassy in Budapest.

The national level bilateral fund will be a further resource for activities encouraging better mutual understanding between Slovenian and the Donor States. Therefore, under the Priority “*Other initiatives to be agreed with the Donors*” some funds are allocated for further exchange of practices, for the attendance at common events and meetings, which will be organized during the implementation of the fund or bilateral relations at the national level.

#### **Programme and project level**

##### ***EEA Financial Mechanism Programme - SI02***

The amount of 155,514 EUR (1.5% of the total eligible expenditure of the Programme) within the programme is allocated for bilateral relations. The PO will facilitate networking, exchange of good practices, technology, experience between the Slovenian and donor’s institutions in the programme areas throughout the implementation of the programme. From the total budget of the Fund for bilateral relations, approximately 20% will be allocated for searching project partners in the Donor States prior to or during the preparation of a project application and the preparation of the partnership project application (measure “a”) and approximately 80% will be allocated for networking, exchange sharing and transfer of knowledge, technology, experience and best practices between project promoters and entities from the Donor States (measure “b”).

Bilateral funds of the SI02 programme will be implemented through 2 measures:

**A ) The search for partners for donor partnership projects prior to or during the preparation of project application, the development of such partnership and the preparation of an application for a donor partnership project;**

This measure will be implemented by the PO/NFP in co-operation with the Embassy of the Kingdom of Norway in Budapest. The Programme operator will organize at least one event at the time of open call publication – a workshop for all interested project applicants and involve the Embassy in order to facilitate the possible partnerships. Approximately 11,000 EUR from each Programme has been allocated for this event and will be co-financed from the management budget - promotion (part of workshop which is not related to bilateral relations). The part of the Bilateral Cooperation Fund, which represents approximately 31,100 EUR of the total allocation for the Bilateral Cooperation Fund, will be available only for applicants with project partners who will receive grants from the Programme, as a refund of expenditures incurred both by applicants and project partners in order to establish partnership for the project.

**B) Networking, exchange, sharing and transfer of knowledge, technology, experiences and best practices between project promoters and entities in the Donor States;**

Approximately 124,414 EUR of the total allocation for the Bilateral Cooperation Fund will be allocated to activities organised by the PO or other formally involved entities, aiming at the achievement of the following activities under measure B:

- A study visits of the Slovenian experts and policy makers to Donor States in order to facilitate good practice exchange;
- expert visits from Donor States to Slovenia in order to facilitate transfer of knowhow and good practices to wider expert and policy makers audience in Slovenia (this is an important activity from the cost-benefit perspective);
- conferences with participation of Donor States experts, potential project partners, if appropriate for decision-makers at the national and local level, for project promoters and wider professional public on the specific topics related to the programme area;
- other information activities supporting networking, exchange, sharing and transfer of knowledge, information, experiences etc;

Project promoters of the selected projects for the relevant programme area and the representatives of the relevant institutions in Donor States and relevant donor institutions implementing similar projects (the participation of representatives from Donor States will be covered by the Fund for bilateral relations at programme level) will be invited to attend the events (conferences, workshops) organized in Slovenia.

The study visits in Donor States will be attended by representatives of relevant ministries / institutions dealing with the specific programme areas for the purpose of attaining knowledge and exchange of experience. If sufficient funds are available, the study visits will also be attended by project promoters of individual projects, selected on case by case bases.

***Slovenian Scholarship Fund - S104***

Both MoUs define that the programme S104 will be implemented as a donor partnership programme with 3 donor programme partners:

- The Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Higher Education (SIU),
- The Icelandic Centre for Research (Rannis),

- The National Agency for International Affairs (AIBA) of Liechtenstein.

2.6% of the SI04 Programme budget is assigned to the bilateral fund at programme level.<sup>1</sup> The funds will be used for two types of measures:

**Measure 1: Preparatory visits**

Entities registered in Slovenia are eligible as project applicants. Institutions in the education sector apply for funding on behalf of individuals. Donor State institutions can apply in partnership with the Slovenian institutions. An applicant needs to cooperate with at least one partner HEI in Donor States. The bilateral fund at programme level for SI04 will cover travel costs for the preparatory visits and will be covered on the basis of real costs, while subsistence costs are covered based on rates for the country in question. The duration of a preparatory visit may be one to five days. All payments from the bilateral fund are made to the institution and not to individuals.

**Other bilateral activities**

The remainder of the budget of the funds for bilateral relations will be used to support activities such as contact seminars, networking, workshops, and study trips (Article 3.6. 1(b) of the Regulation). Eligible applicants are institutions that are eligible to participate in the measures of this Programme. Both the Donor State and the Slovenian project partners will be eligible for funding for participation in these activities. The Programme Operator will further provide details regarding the bilateral fund, including the organisation of calls, selection procedures, the grant rates, and minimum and maximum grant amounts after the signature of the programme agreement.

**Norwegian Financial Mechanism Programme - SI05**

The amount of 292,332EUR (2.1 % of total eligible expenditure of the Programme) within the programme is allocated for bilateral relations. The MoU defines that the programme SI05 will be implemented as a donor partnership programme, composing of 2 programme areas: Public Health Initiatives and Mainstreaming Gender Equalities and Promoting Work – Life Balance. DPP has been defined in the MoU: the Norwegian Institute of Public Health. The DPP will facilitate networking, exchange of knowledge, experience and good practice from the Norwegian side through bilateral relations and visits and assist in searching for project partners in Norway. In the programme area of gender equality, the exchange of successful national policies and best practices on gender equality in particular to promote balance between work, private and family life and to increase women's participation in economic and political decision-making will be an important tool for achieving programme outputs.

Bilateral funds of SI05 will be implemented through 2 measures:

**A ) The search for partners for donor partnership projects prior to or during the preparation of project application, the development of such partnership and the preparation of an application for a donor partnership project:**

This measure will be implemented by the PO in co-operation with the Embassy of the Kingdom of Norway in Budapest and with close cooperation of the DPP. The Embassy confirmed the intention regarding the involvement in these activities, especially providing contacts to interested potential project

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<sup>1</sup> The amount of 56,504 EUR (2.6% of total eligible expenditure of the Programme) within the programme is allocated for bilateral relations. 19,141 EUR is allocated from the EEA grants and 37,363 EUR from the Norway grants.

promoters. This was also discussed at the Cooperation Committee meeting. It was agreed with the DPP that a common approach will be agreed before the publication of public tender and it that will be in line with the Guideline for strengthened bilateral relations.

The Programme operator will organize at least one event at the time of the open call publication, namely a workshop for all interested project applicants with involvement of the Embassy and DPP in order to facilitate possible partnerships. Approximately 11,000 EUR was allocated for this event and will be co-financed from the management budget - promotion (part of workshop, which is not related to bilateral relations).

In case the Cooperation Committee decides to increase budget allocation for search of donor partners, the allocation for the search for partners for donor partnership projects prior to or during the preparation of project application, the development of such partnership and the preparation of an application for a donor partnership project, measures B will be adequately reduced. If this is the case, the "seed money facility" will be applied in line with the Guideline for strengthened bilateral relations. The Facility will be endorsed by the Cooperation Committee.

**B) Networking, exchange, sharing and transfer of knowledge, technology, experiences and best practices between project promoters and entities in the Donor States;**

For the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs bilateral relations are of great importance. Therefore, the planned activities at different levels under this measure include:

- study visits of Slovenian experts and policy makers to Norway in order to facilitate good practice exchange;
- expert visits from Norway to Slovenia in order to facilitate transfer of knowhow and good practices to wider expert and policy makers audience in Slovenia (this is an important activity from a cost-benefit perspective);
- annual events and conferences with participation of the Norwegian partners if appropriate for decision-makers at the national and local level, for project promoters and wider professional public on the specific topics related to the programme area;
- other information activities supporting networking, exchange, sharing and transfer of knowledge, information, experiences etc;
- internships in Norway or partner countries in order to increase public health and gender equality capacity of professionals and policy makers at the national, regional and local level (possible financing from the Scholarship Fund).

Project promoters of the selected projects for the relevant programme area and the representatives of relevant institutions in Donor States and relevant donor institutions implementing similar projects will be invited to attend the events (conferences, workshops) organized in Slovenia.

The study visits in Donor States will be attended by representatives of relevant ministries / institutions dealing with the specific programme areas for the purpose of attaining knowledge and exchange of experience. If sufficient funds are available, the study visits will also be attended by the project promoters of individual projects, selected on case by case bases.

Both pre-defined projects within SI05 will have donor partners. The National Institute for Public Health of the Republic of Slovenia chose the DPP also as a project partner, while the Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs chose the Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities – KS, which has already provided the letter of intent.

The main risk that might impede achieving the overall objective of strengthened bilateral relations is the shortage of staff at the National Focal Point and Programme Operators and possibility the changes at the level of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia during the implementation period.

### **3. MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION**

#### **3.1 MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL SYSTEMS**

In accordance with Article 4.8 of the Regulations, Slovenia has submitted the description of the management and control system (MCS) for the implementation of both financial mechanisms, accompanied by the report and opinion of the Audit Authority – the Budget Supervision Office of the Republic of Slovenia, on 18 December 2012.

At the time of the submission of the report to the AA, 3 open issues remained unsolved and the Action plan for resolving open issues was attached as Annex 5 to the MCS with a deadline at the end of December 2012.

The following steps have been taken in order to resolve open issues:

#### **1. Web page of the NFP**

The NFP has originally envisaged contracting an external company to develop and maintain the web page for both financial mechanisms. The NFP decided to use internal resources to complete this activity. The website is up-and-running since 1 February 2013.

#### **Procedural Manual and Guidelines for reporting and payments**

The MEDT is preparing the internal Procedural Manual and Guidelines for reporting. The catalogue of eligible expenditures and guidelines for project promoters will be prepared at the latest by the date of publishing the tender for the selection of the projects within each programme, since this information will be included in the tender dossier.

#### **2. The revised organizational structure of the NFP**

In 2012, two changes of the MoUs were formalized in the reporting period:

- The Government of the Republic of Slovenia Act, adopted on 4 February 2012, abolished the Government Office for Local Self-Government and Regional Policy and the working fields of European Cohesion Policy and Regional Development were assigned under the authority of MEDT. The latter also took over the tasks and responsibilities of the NFP. This change was adopted at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Extraordinary Annual Meeting of the EEA Financial Mechanism & the Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2009-2014, held in Ljubljana on 13 July 2012. The acceptance of exchange of letters was signed on 20 August 2012.
- On 11 October 2012 the FMC proposed appointing the FMO as the Programme Operator for the NGO Programme in Slovenia and the NFP accepted the proposal on 23 October 2012. These changes were reflected in the amendment of Annex B to MoU, which was formalized on the implementation of the EEA FM with the exchange of letters between the FMC (20 November 2012) and the NFP (11 December 2012).
- The new Head of NFP was nominated on 25 October 2012.

### 3.2 COMPLIANCE WITH EU LEGISLATION, NATION LEGISLATION AND THE MoU

The implementation of the EEA and Norway Grants 2009-2014 shall be in compliance with the EU legislation, national legislation, focusing on public procurement and eligibility of expenditures and provisions of the MoUs. Environmental legislation shall be fully respected.

Controls for compliance with the legislative framework will be performed by Programme Operators, which will include the provisions for controls in the description of the management and control system, no later than six months after the submission of the first interim financial reports, which will be covered by the next Strategic report.

The following issues represent deviations from the Regulations and have been explained in the programme proposals:

- a) Advance payments to PO for SI04
- b) Bank account of PO for SI04
- c) Interest bank accounts of POs
- d) Payment flows to PO for SI04 and project promoters of the pre-defined projects, which are direct budgetary users.

### 3.3 STATUS OF PROGRAMMES

#### TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND FUND FOR BILATERAL RELATIONS AT NATIONAL LEVEL (SI01)

##### Progress in establishing the agreed programme

- 6 June 2012: NFP submitted a revised budget table with detailed breakdown of costs for each category of TA and revised text of draft Agreement for the financing TA and BF at national level;
- 1 August 2012: FMO submitted to NFP the Agreement for signature
- 6 August 2012: telephone conference for informal consultations on the work programme for the BF at national level between NFP and donors;
- 9 August 2012: NFP chaired the meeting between the potential applicant institutions for the BF at national level;
- 20 August 2012 NFP: signed and submitted signed Agreement to FMO
- 19 October 2012 NFP: submitted work programme for BF at national level
- 26 November 2012: NFP received comments regarding the work programme for BF at national level
- 14 December 2012: NFP submitted revised work programme for BF at national level

##### Commitments and disbursements made by the programme

**Table: TA commitments in EUR (EEA=46.47%; NOR = 53.53%)**

Description	NFP	CA	AA	Total
Additional management systems (article 7.12.2 (a))	40,000	100,180	0	140,180
Monitoring Committee, annual and other meetings (article 7.12.2 (b))	10,200	2,700	0	12,900
Meetings and conferences to share experience (article 7.12.2 (c))	0	0	0	0
Promotional and information activities (article 7.12.2 (d))	81,500	0	0	81,500
Audits (article 7.12.2 (e))	0	0	126,920	126,920
On-the-spot verifications (article 7.12.2 (f))	2,000	0	0	2,000
Reviews and evaluations (article 7.12.2 (g))	40,000	0	0	40,000
Implementation of the FM 2004-2009 (article 7.12.2 (h))	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>173,700</b>	<b>102,880</b>	<b>126,920</b>	<b>403,500</b>

**Table: Indicative commitments BF at national level (work programme)**

Total amount available, EEA and NO grants, EUR		Total
2011	Preparing bilateral aspects of the programmes in the preparation phase	2,514 €
2012	Preparing bilateral aspects of the programmes in the preparation phase	16,922 €
<b>TOTAL 2011 &amp; 2012</b>		<b>19,436 €</b>
2013	Study tour - telemedicine	12,000 €
	Study tour – gender equality	10,000 €
	Study tour – Experiences from EU integration	4,000 €
	Conference - Slovenian / EEA countries experiences in the past and future European integration	29,500 €
	Other initiatives to be agreed with the donors	3,600 €
	<b>TOTAL 2013</b>	<b>59,100 €</b>
2014	Conference – health inequalities	18,000
	Conference – gender equality	23,500
	Other initiatives to be agreed with the donors	3,600 €
	<b>TOTAL 2014</b>	<b>45,100 €</b>
2015	Other initiatives to be agreed with the donors	3,600 €
2016	Other initiatives to be agreed with the donors	3,600 €
2017	Other initiatives to be agreed with the donors	3,664 €
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>134,500 €</b>



**Table: TA and BS disbursements:**

Description	Committed	2011 NOR	2011 EGP	2012 NOR	2012 EGP	Total Disbursed (in EUR)	Reallocation
Additional management systems (article 7.12.2 (a))	140,180	0	0	0	0	0	-3,632
Monitoring Committee, annual and other meetings (article 7.12.2 (b))	12,900	543	472	2,358	2,047	5,420	13,052
Promotional and information activities (article 7.12.2 (d))	81,500	0	0	56	49	105	0
Audits (article 7.12.2 (e))	126,920	0	0	0	0	0	-9,420
On-the-spot verifications (article 7.12.2 (f))	2,000	0	0	0	0	0	0
Reviews and evaluations (article 7.12.2 (g))	40,000	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total TA</b>	<b>403,500</b>	<b>543</b>	<b>472</b>	<b>2,414</b>	<b>2,096</b>	<b>5,525,</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Bilateral fund at national level</b>	<b>134,500</b>	<b>1,346</b>	<b>1,168</b>	<b>9,058</b>	<b>7,864</b>	<b>19,436</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>538,000</b>	<b>1,889</b>	<b>1640</b>	<b>11,472</b>	<b>9,960</b>	<b>24,961,</b>	<b>0</b>

**Problems related to absorption and disbursements with suggested solutions**

Due to late start of implementation, caused by changes of Government, salaries of the AA and CA have not yet been disbursed. Therefore, small reallocations to category: "Monitoring Committee, annual and other meetings (article 7.12.2 (b))" will be proposed, since more meetings and seminars are organized than envisaged in the programming phase.

The First Interim financial report will be submitted at the end of February 2013, after the first Manual for reporting on TA and BF will be prepared and agreed between the NFP and the CA.

**NORWEGIAN FINANCIAL MECHANISM PROGRAMME (SI05)****Progress regarding programming**

The programme proposal was submitted to the FMO on 4 January 2012. The FMO provided questions related to the programme on 31 January 2012 and these questions were discussed during the meeting between the FMO and the NFP on 2 February 2012. These questions were clarified and discussed also during the external appraisal between 13 and 14 February 2012 and at the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Cooperation Committee held on 16 February 2012.

Due to the establishment of the Cooperation Committee and the external appraisal, programming faced some challenges due to different institutional set-up – the new Government established new ministries which took over tasks of the former institutions. This process and some changes among responsible persons slowed down the programming. Before the summer break a new person was nominated to be responsible for the programme at the Programme Operator. The meeting with the FMO was organized in September with the aim to clarify open issues and to introduce members of the team at the FMO/PO/CA to the staff of the FMO. Request for additional information was submitted by the FMO to the PO in September and on the basis of clarification of these open issues the programme was entered into the DoRIS system in November.

### State of play

1. 4 January 2012: Submission of the Norwegian Financial Mechanism Programme to FMO via e-mail. It was not possible to submit it via DoRIS due to technical problems.
2. At the beginning of February 2012 the representatives of the Ministry of Health, NIPH, and the Government Office for Equal Opportunities visited Norway in the organization of the DPP.
3. On 2 February 2012 a representative of the NFP met in Brussels with desk officer of the FMO.
4. External Appraisal of the draft programme was done in mid-February by the experts of INBAS GmbH.
5. The new institutional set-up was introduced with the new Government which took office on 10 February 2012. The amendments of the Act on Government abolished the Government Office for Local-Self-government and Regional Policy (GOSP) acting as the NFP and PO. The Ministry of Economic Development and Technology (MEDT) took over the majority of the tasks assigned to GOSP including the responsibilities of the National Focal Point (NFP) and of Programme Operators (POs) for SI02 and SI05 programmes. This caused some delays in the programming phase of the EEA and Norway Grants.
6. End of May 2012: a new responsible person for the programme was nominated at the Programme Operator.
7. The Programme was revised in line with the recommendations of the external evaluators and submitted to the FMO for review after the summer break. Additional questions were raised by the FMO after the meeting with the NFP/PO/CA representatives at the beginning of September in Brussels. In line with these clarifications the programme was revised and later introduced to DoRIS and officially submitted via DoRIS on 22 November 2012.
8. The Slovenian Government was informed on the progress in the preparation of the programmes to be financed under EEA and Norway Grants at the beginning of November 2012.
9. 16 January 2013: the FMO informed the NFP/PO about the new condition to Annex I to GRD about assigning additional staff, to assist in the implementation of the programme;
10. In December 2012 the FMO submitted draft Annexes I and II to the Programme Agreement for consultation. They were communicated to the members of the Cooperation Committee for review and eventual comments. The annexes were revised and returned to the FMO by the NFP for further

processing. The main observation was that the publication of the public call in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter might not be realised. Therefore, it was proposed to extend the deadline by the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2013. This was accepted by the FMO. After submission of the programme to the donors in January 2013 it was discovered that a clerical mistake happened in due to split the pre-defined project on public health among two outcomes. This is to be corrected through DoRIS.

11. 11 January 2013: the FMO submitted the programme to the donors for the approval. The donors approved the programme at the end of January 2013.

### Commitments and disbursements made by the programme

**Table: Norway Programme Commitments (as stated in Annex I)**

Description	Amount
Programme management	€945,410
Reduced inequalities between user groups	€5,196,239
Lifestyle diseases prevented or reduced	€3,189,055
Improved mental health services	€2,425,072
Awareness raised and research on gender issues promoted	€1,626,951
Funds for bilateral relations	€292,332
Complementary action	€30,000
Preparation of Programme proposal	€22,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>€13,727,059</b>

The figures will change due to clerical mistake described under point 10 above.

**Table: NORWAY PROGRAMME disbursements**

Description	Committed	2012	Total Disbursed (in %)
Programme management	€945,410	0 €	0.00 %
Reduced inequalities between user groups	€5,196,239	0 €	0.00 %
Lifestyle diseases prevented or reduced	€3,189,055	0 €	0.00 %
Improved mental health services	€2,425,072	0 €	0.00 %
Awareness raised and research on gender issues promoted	€1,626,951	0 €	0.00 %
Funds for bilateral relations	€292,332	0 €	0.00 %

Complementary action	€30,000	0 €	0.00 %
Preparation of Programme proposal	€22,000	13,672 €	62,15 %
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>€13,727,059</b>	<b>13,672 €</b>	<b>0,10 %</b>

The figures will change due to clerical mistake described under point 10 above.

#### **Problems related to absorption and disbursements with suggested solutions**

Due to administrative changes and some delays in the assignment of new responsible persons the Programme proposal was not being prepared as planned. For this reason the implementation of the programme is to start later than expected.

### **EEA FINANCIAL MECHANISM PROGRAMME (SI02)**

#### **Progress in establishing the agreed programmes**

1. 6 January 2012: Submission of the EEA Financial Mechanism Programme to FMO via e-mail. It was not possible to submit it via DoRIS due to technical problems.
2. 30 January 2012: the FMO provided questions to the programme.
3. On 2 February 2012 representatives of the NFP met in Brussels with desk officer of the FMO.
4. Due to administrative changes and some delays in the assignment of new responsible persons representing the NFP and the PO the final version of the answers to questions was prepared in June 2012 by the newly appointed representatives of the Programme Operator.
5. 19 June 2012: the PO submitted to the FMO answers to questions for the NFP & PO - developed by the Appraisal Team at the FMO on 31 January 2012;
6. 4 September 2012: the FMO submitted to the PO Request for Additional Information (RAI) concerning the outstanding issues for the SI02 EEA Programme;
7. 11 September 2012: Meeting between representatives of the FMO, NFP, PO and CA was held in Brussels at the FMO premises;
8. 8 October 2012: the PO submitted to the FMO Replies to RAI and the revised Programme proposals;
9. 16 October 2012: the FMO informed the PO that the Programme proposal has improved considerably and that they will start to proceed with the Grant Recommendation Document and thus the approval of the programme;
10. 22 October 2012: the FMO informed the PO that they needs some additional clarification from the PO regarding the programme;
11. 24 October 2012: the PO entered the programme proposal into DORIS;
12. 5 November 2012: the PO submitted to the FMO some additional information on questions provided by the FMO on 22 October 2012;
13. 13 November 2012: signed version of Programme proposal was submitted to the FMO;
14. 23 November 2012: the FMO informed the PO that some funds were transferred from the bilateral fund at programme level and set aside for Complementary action. This was decided upon on the basis of very much likelihood that the Donors will request this for approval of the programme;

15. 3 December 2012: the FMO submitted to the NFP the first version of Annex I and II for review;
16. 5 December 2012: the NFP/PO submitted to FMO questions about the funding arrangements of the predefined project in Annex II;
17. 11 December 2012: the NFP submitted to the FMO revised and commented version of Annexes I and II;
18. 14 December 2012: the FMO submitted to the NFP Annex I and II for second revision;
19. 19 December 2012: the FMO submitted to the NFP the last version of Annex I and II for final reading;
20. 20 December 2012: the NFP submitted to the FMO the last version of Annex I and II (with one comment);
21. 16 January 2013: the FMO informed the NFP/PO about the new condition to Annex I to GRD about assigning additional staff to assist in the implementation of the programme;
22. 18 January 2013: the FMO informed the NFP/Po that the programme was sent to the donors for approval.

### Commitments and disbursements made by the programme

**Table: EEA Programme Commitments (as stated in Annex I)**

Description	Amount
Programme management	768,009 €
Increased capacity to manage and monitor Natura 2000 sites effectively	2,030,508 €
Increased exchange of information on environmental impact, status and trends between Beneficiary States and other EU Member States	2,085,882 €
Cultural heritage made accessible to the public	1,271,248 €
Cultural heritage restored, renovated and protected	4,000,000 €
Funds for bilateral relations	155,514 €
Complementary action	18,486 €
Preparation of Programme proposal	38,000 €
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10,367,647 €</b>

**Table: EEA PROGRAMME disbursements**

Description	Committed	2012	Disbursed (in %)
Programme management	768,009 €	0 €	0 %
Increased capacity to manage and monitor Natura 2000 sites effectively	2,030,508 €	0 €	0 %
Increased exchange of information on environmental impact, status and trends between Beneficiary States and other EU Member States	2,085,882 €	0 €	0 %
Cultural heritage made accessible to the public	1,271,248 €	0 €	0 %
Cultural heritage restored, renovated and protected	4,000,000 €	0 €	0 %
Funds for bilateral relations	155,514 €	0 €	0 %
Complementary action	18,486 €	0 €	0 %
Preparation of Programme proposal	38,000 €	25.614 €	67,40 %
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10,367,647 €</b>	<b>25,614 €</b>	<b>0.25 %</b>

**Problems related to absorption and disbursements with suggested solutions**

Due to administrative changes and some delays in the assignment of new responsible persons the Programme proposal was not being prepared as planned. For this reason the implementation of the programme will start later than expected.

**EEA/NORWAY GRANTS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME (SI04)****Progress on programming:**

- 1 At its 152<sup>nd</sup> regular session on 29 September 2011, the Government of the Republic of Slovenia gave its consent to CMEPIUS to carry out the tasks of the PO for the EEA and Norwegian Financial Mechanism Scholarship Programme (FMs 2009-2014).
- 2 During the preparation of the Programme document two meetings were carried out: on 4 October 2011 a representative of the SIU Norway Mrs Veena Gill visited the PO to give feedback on the first draft of the programme document and on 17 November two representatives of the PO visited the FMO office in Brussels; financial questions and some programme issues were discussed (where to include certain cost categories, eligibility of costs etc.).
- 3 The programme proposal for the Scholarship fund has been completed by the PO side and is awaiting approval by the donors, signature of Programme Agreement and the Programme Implementation Agreement.
- 4 CMEPIUS is currently in the process of preparing for the Call 2013: the national rules and regulations for each measure (on the LLP basis), the text for the official announcement of the Call and guide for beneficiaries will be prepared shortly.
- 5 As soon as legal basis for the start of the implementation of the programme are set, the PO will actively promote the programme and its measures and we will start organizing the envisaged events. In this preparation phase the PO will try to meet with the FMO in Brussels and perhaps even carry out a study visit to another PO.
- 6 October 2012: corrections of the Programme proposal submitted to FMO.

- 7 29 October 2012: Input of the Programme and annexes into DORIS.
- 8 End December 2012/ beginning of January 2013: corrections to the Annexes I and II
- 9 3 January 2013: submission of the revised Annex I and II to the NFP and FMO
- 10 31 January 2013: the FMO submitted the Programme to the donors for approval.

#### Commitments and disbursements made by the programme

Description	Amount
Programme management	184,500 €
1. Increased higher education student and staff mobility between Beneficiary and EEA EFTA States	203,754 €
2. Increased and strengthened institutional cooperation at all levels of education sector EEA EFTA States	219,585 €
3. Increased mobility of education sector staff at all levels of education between Beneficiary and EEA EFTA States	219,585 €
4. Increased higher education student and staff mobility between Beneficiary and Norway	1,010,264 €
5. Increased and strengthened institutional cooperation within the higher education sector between the Beneficiary States and Norway	244,725 €
Funds for bilateral relations	56,504 €
Complementary action	21,000 €
Preparation of Programme proposal	10,671 €
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,170,588 €</b>

No commitments and disbursements have been made so far.

#### Problems related to absorption and disbursements with suggested solutions

Due to administrative changes some delays the Programme proposal was not being prepared as planned. The Call for 2013 will not be published in the winter semester of 2013. For this reason the implementation of the programme will start later than expected and the risk of lower absorption will have to be taken into account.

### **NGO PROGRAMME (SI03)**

On 5 October 2012, the NFP requested the FMO for approving the prolongation of the deadline for the programme submission to April 2013. The FMC responded to the request on 11 October 2012 and proposed to appoint the FMO as Programme Operator for this Programme in Slovenia; the NFP accepted the proposal on 23 October 2012. These changes reflected in the amendment of Annex B to MoU on implementation of the EEA FM, which was formalized with the exchange of letters between the FMC (20 November 2012) and the NFP (11 December 2012).

The FMO launched a public call for selection of Fund operator with a deadline for submission of proposals on 7 January 2013. The FMO sent their recommendation for Fund Operator to the donors on 31 January 2013.

### **FUND FOR DECENT WORK AND TRIPARTITE DIALOGUE**

The representatives of Innovation Norway, who operate the Fund, visited Slovenia on 25 August 2011. The public tender was published on 11 November 2011. In November 2012 Innovation Norway informed the NFP on the selected projects. Two projects were selected for Slovenia in the total amount of 141,840 EUR. Innovation Norway is in the process of approving the project contracts and transferring the advance payment into the project accounts. Both projects have Norwegian partners.

### **3.4 IRREGULARITIES**

No irregularities have been detected in this reporting period.

### **3.5 AUDIT, MONITORING, REVIEW AND EVALUATION**

The AA executed compliance assessment of the established management and control system for the period 2009-2014 in line with Article 4.8 of the Regulations. The NFP submitted the Description of MCS to the FMO with the report and opinion of the AA on 18 December 2012. The AA did not identify significant deficiencies with regard to key components of the systems and provided the opinion that the MCS fulfils the requirements set out by the Regulations. The following recommendations were prepared by the AA in order to improve MCS in the implementation period:

- the NFP should develop a special information system which would also enable keeping record of the control over the implementation of the projects and would support the financial reporting on the implementation of the projects;
- the NFP should take into account the deadlines, defined in the Regulations;
- the NFP should prepare and adopt missing instructions, guidelines and manuals;
- the NFP should prepare internal manual for implementation of its tasks;
- the NFP should define in written form the rules of monitoring the implementation of the planned activities of all stakeholders in the implementation of the EEA and Norway grants 2009-2014;
- the PA should prepare the Paying Authority manual;
- the AA shall prepare audit strategy and Audit manual.



During the reporting period the AA did not perform any system audits and since no expenditures have been reimbursed thus far, also no sample audits have been performed thus far.

The AA submitted to the FMO the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Audit report on 21 December 2012 and the Audit plan for 2013 was submitted to the NFP on 17 January 2013. Both documents will be presented at the Annual meeting and the audit plan is attached as an annex to this report.

MONITORING PLAN FOR 2013

### 3.6 INFORMATION AND PUBLICITY

In order to realise the objectives of the FMs 2009-2014 defined in the Regulation (Article 4.3) and to ensure that assistance from the mechanisms is transparent, the NFP developed a Communication Strategy based on the knowledge gained from the previous financial perspective and in accordance with the Information and Publicity Requirements in Annex 4. Due to the fact that MEDT also acts as a PO for both Programmes, the NFP developed only one Communication Strategy as required in Article 4.3.4 (a) of the Regulation that will cover both the EEA Grants and Norway Grants.

The FMO sent its comments to the Communication Strategy, including the comments provided by the Norwegian Embassy, to the donors for written procedure on 27 January 2012. The NFP received comments to the second draft of the Communication Strategy in February 2012 and attended Communication workshop, organized by the FMO. The Communication Strategy was approved by the FMO on 13 July 2012.

MEDT decided to use internal IT and PR resources to develop the website ([www.norwaygrants.si](http://www.norwaygrants.si) and [www.eeagrants.si](http://www.eeagrants.si)). Then website was up-and-running as of 1 February 2013. The website is available in the Slovenian and English language and provides information on specific programmes, relevant documents (including reports, guidelines and logotypes), the latest news and upcoming events. The Google analytics tool has been installed in order to follow the number of visitors of the website.

Together with the set-up of the website we updated the Facebook profile of the EEA and Norway Grants Slovenia (<https://www.facebook.com/pages/EEA-and-Norway-Grants-Slovenia/346404615445248?ref=ts&fref=ts>) (with more links to different events, new photos etc.). The number of followers is still relatively small, however, in the past months (since the update) the number almost tripled. When we reach a considerable number of followers we will try to include them more actively (with Facebook quizzes and other activities).

We have started the procedure for the purchase of promotional materials which will then be distributed at our events or used as a reward for the Facebook quiz. We have also improved the cooperation with the Public Relations Sector of MEDT which helps us reach higher visibility of the EEA and Norway Grants (the FB profile and website are placed on MEDT webpage). We also follow the press more carefully in order to be able to better target our media activities.

### 3.7 WORK PLAN for 2013

#### 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2013:

- launching of NFP/POs website;
- Annual meeting with donors;
- FMO selection of Fund operator for NFO Fund (SI03), signature of the Programme Agreement for SI03;
- organizing a press conference or submitting the press release parallel to the signatures of the Programme Agreements (SI02, SI03, SI04 and SI05);
- signature of the Programme Implementation Agreement for SI04;
- adoption of guidelines for reporting for SI01;
- nomination of the new Monitoring Committee via governmental procedure;
- nomination of workgroups/Cooperation Committees for implementation of the programmes (SI02, SI04 and SI05);

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter 2013

- launch of Public calls for selection of projects for SI02, SI03 and SI05 and organizing a workshop for potential applicants (this might be postponed by the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter);
- adoption of guidelines for reporting for SI02, SI03 and SI05;
- signature of the Implementation contracts with selected project promoters (this might be postponed by the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter);
- 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Monitoring Committee;

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter 2013

- adoption of the Procedural manual of NFP/POs

#### 4<sup>th</sup> quarter 2013

- submission of the description of the management and control system at programme level with AA opinion

## 4. REPORTING ON PROGRAMMES

In 2012, the only programme, which started to be implemented, was SI01 (Technical assistance and bilateral fund at national level), while other programmes were still in the phase of programming and preparation for implementation. The information is also provided for the programme area: Decent work and tripartite dialogue.

### TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND FUND FOR BILATERAL COOPERATION AT NATIONAL LEVEL

The following activities were implemented in 2011 and 2012:

#### Technical Assistance:

1. participation of the NFP at the Communication workshop in Brussels, February 2012
2. organisation of Annual meeting in Ljubljana, February 2012
3. participation of the NFP at the Workshop for NFPs in Brussels, June 2012
4. participation of the NFP and the CA at a working meeting with the FMO in Brussels, September 2012
5. purchase of internet domain for the NFP website

#### Bilateral Fund at national level:

1. members of the working group for the preparation and implementation of the SI05 programme visited Oslo – programme partners and field visit to the key institutions in Norway in the field of public health and equal opportunities, January 2012;
2. representatives of the Ministry of Culture and Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning attended a meeting at the FMO in Brussels to discuss the first programme proposals and FMO comments, February 2012;
3. attendance of NFP at the Risk Management and Good Governance Seminar in Sofia, September 2012;
4. Conference EEA Grants for the Culture and Heritage sectors in Oslo (2 representatives - PO and working group), October 2012;
5. kick-off conference for the environmental programmes under the EEA Grants in Oslo on 7 November 2012 (2 representatives - PO and working group), November 2012;
6. attendance of the NFP at the workshop in Bratislava – training in reporting and in results and risk management, November 2012.

The funds for attending the seminars/WS/conferences within TA budget are limited due to the commitments for the CA and the AA for salaries and establishment of the implementation system. Since the NFP acts also as a the PO for two programmes, funds for attending seminars, workshops and conferences of NFP have also been paid from the bilateral fund at national level, as agreed with the FMO prior to attending specific events. Some reallocations are envisaged due to frequent events, organized by the FMO/donors in order to allow the NFP to attend these events in the future.

#### DECENT WORK AND TRIPARTITE DIALOGUE

The selection of projects is complete. The selected projects are presented in the Table below. Currently, Innovation Norway is in the process of concluding contracts with selected project promoters.

**Table: list of approved projects:**

Project promoter	Project partner	Project title	Grant approved	Available grant
Slovenian Federation of Trade	National Union of Norwegian Locomotivemen (Norsk	Decent Retirement	57,000	63,485

Unions Alternativa	Lokomotivmansforbund)			
Association of Free Trade Unions of Slovenia	Norwegian Confederation of Trade Unions (LO)	Decent project for decent work	84,840	94,270

## 5. SUMMARY LISTINGS OF ISSUES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The following issues and/or recommendations have been identified in the early phase of management and control of the EEA and Norway Grants 2009-2014 in Slovenia:

- The input for the strategic report for the programmes operated by the FMO is not yet defined. The NFP proposes to formalize the reporting arrangement for those programmes.
- The co-operation of the Norwegian Embassy is a very important for the successful implementation of the EEA and Norway Grants and regular meetings should be established in order to improve the implementation and planning of bilateral funds at all levels and to jointly implement informational and promotional activities. Abolishment of the Norwegian Embassy in Ljubljana has some influence on the regular co-operation between the NFP and the Embassy in order to define and implement bilateral funds at different levels and organizing common informational and promotional activities.
- The co-operation with the FMO has been a valuable tool in a process of establishing the system for implementation and control of the EEA and Norway Grants. In 2012 several staff changes at the FMO for Slovenia caused some delays in the programming for SI02, SI04 and SI05 and also part of the delay for launching the public call for the selection of the Programme operator for the NGO fund by the NFP.
- The economic crisis in Slovenia and the economy measures in public administration, shortages of staff, working at MEDT, slowed down the process of programming and consequently also the implementation. It affects also the commitment of management level at MEDT, which is proportional to the committed funds, managed by the MEDT. Frequent changes of organizational structure for implementing both FMs, possibility of another change of Government, combined with shortage of staff present a risk of delays in the preparation of implementation as well as start of implementation. The only reason for additional delays is in the extremely dedicated small operational team at the MEDT.
- The MEDT is also acting as the PO for SI02 and SI05, consisting of more than one programme area per programme. The MEDT, therefore, established inter-ministerial working groups for the programming and implementation of SI02 and SI05. The members of working group are employed at the ministries, responsible for the policy in the programme areas of both programmes. The PO (MEDT) kept the overall responsibility for management of both programmes, but will depend on the input of other ministries for certain tasks and responsibilities of the POs, which is a risk in case the Government will change again during the implementation of both programmes. One of the measures for mitigating this risk is outsourcing of certain PO tasks, which is conditioned by the approval of MEDT management.

- There are still some issues pending on sufficient division of roles and responsibilities between the PO and NFP within MEDT which need to be clarified before implementation.

## 6. ATTACHMENTS

Annex 1: List of Programme and project partners

### ANNEX 1: List of Programme and project partners

Programme	PO	Pre-defined Project	Project promoter	Donor Programme/project partner
SI02	MEDT	Environmental Monitoring and Integrated Planning and Control	Slovenian Surveying and Mapping Authority	The Norwegian Mapping Authority (Statens Kartverk) and the National Land Survey of Iceland (Landmaelingar)
SI04	CMEPIUS			Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Higher Education (SIU), the Icelandic Centre for Research (Rannis), and the National Agency for International Affairs (AIBA) of Liechtenstein
SI05	MEDT			The Norwegian Institute of Public Health (Folkehelseinstituttet, FHI)
SI05	MEDT	Towards Better Health and Reducing Inequalities in Health	Institute of Public Health of the RS	The Norwegian Institute of Public Health (Folkehelseinstituttet, FHI)
SI05	MEDT	Towards equalizing power relations between women and men	Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs	The Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities – KS (letter of intent only)
PA 22	Innovation Norway	Decent Retirement	Slovenian Federation of Trade Unions Alternativa	National Union of Norwegian Locomotivemen (Norsk Lokomotivmansforbund)
PA 22	Innovation Norway	Decent project for decent work	Association of Free Trade Unions of Slovenia	Norwegian Confederation of Trade Unions (LO)

