



The Government Office for Development and European Cohesion Policy of the Republic of Slovenia, Kotnikova 5, 1000 Ljubljana, represented by Zvonko Černač, Minister without portfolio responsible for development and EU cohesion policy, on the basis of 106.i. article of the Public Finance Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 11/11 – Official Consolidated Text, 14/13 -pr., 101/13, 55/15 – ZFisP, 96/15 – ZIPRS1617, 13/18 and 195/20 – odl. US), Article 22 of the Decree on the implementation of the Norwegian Financial Mechanism and the Financial Mechanism of the European Economic Area in the Republic of Slovenia for the period 2014–2021 (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 160/20) and Article 219 of the Rules of Procedure for the implementation of the budget of the Republic of Slovenia (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 50/07, 61/08, 99/09 – ZIPRS1011, 3/13 in 81/16) publishes

CALL FOR PROPOSALS **for co-financing of projects under the programme** **Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation**

1. Programme Operator

The Programme Operator for the Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Programme, co-financed by the European Economic Area Financial Mechanism 2014-2021, the Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2014-2021 and supported by Slovenian national co-financing, is the Government Office for Development and European Cohesion Policy (hereinafter: GODC in the role of the Programme Operator), Kotnikova 5, 1000 Ljubljana.

2. Legal basis for the implementation of the Call for Proposals

The legal basis for the implementation of the Call for Proposals to co-finance projects under the Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Programme are:

- The Public Finance Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 11/11 – Official Consolidated Text, 14/13 -pr., 101/13, 55/15 – ZFisP, 96/15 – ZIPRS1617, 13/18 and 195/20 – odl. US),
- Budget of the Republic of Slovenia for the year 2021 (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 75/2019 and 174/20),
- Budget of the Republic of Slovenia for the year 2022 (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 174/20),
- The Budgets Act of the Republic of Slovenia for the years 2021 and 2022 (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 174/2020 and 15/2021 - ZDUOP),
- Rules on the Procedures for the Implementation of the Budget of the Republic of Slovenia (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 50/2007, 61/2008, 99/2009 – ZIPRS1011, 3/2013 and 81/2016),
- Decree on the implementation of the Norwegian Financial Mechanism and the Financial Mechanism of the European Economic Area in the Republic of Slovenia for the period 2014–2021 (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 160/20, dated 6. 11. 2020),
- Regulation on the Implementation of the European Economic Area Financial Mechanism 2014–2021 of 23. 9. 2016,
- Regulation on the Implementation of the Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2014-2021 of 23. 9. 2016,
- Memorandum of Understanding on the Implementation of the European Economic Area Financial Mechanism 2014–2021 of 17. 4. 2018 and its amendment of 17. 6. 2019, published on www.norwaygrants.si/en/calls/environment,
- Memorandum of Understanding on the Implementation of the Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2014–2021 of 17. 4. 2018 and its amendment of 17. 6. 2019, published on www.norwaygrants.si/en/calls/environment,
- Agreement for the programme Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Programme of 18. 12. 2019 and its amendment of 16.3.2021, published on www.norwaygrants.si/en/calls/environment,

- Agreement for the implementation of Programme between National Focal Point and Programme Operator for Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Programme of 19. 1. 2021.

The terms used in the document, which refer to persons and are written in masculine grammar form, are used as gender neutral for the feminine or masculine form.

3. Call for Proposals

The Call for Proposals is published by the GODC in the role of the Programme Operator and is applicable for applicants defined in point 7 of this document.

From the date of publication of the Call for Proposals in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, the Call for Proposals documents and its Application Pack shall be available on the following websites: www.eeagrants.si in www.norwaygrants.si, accessible at www.norwaygrants.si/en/calls/environment.

The Application Pack consists of:

- Guide for Beneficiaries,
- template of the Declaration by the Project Promoter,
- template of the Declaration by the Project Partner (in Slovene and English language),
- template of the Declaration on the consultants involved in the preparation of the project application,
- sample of the Project Contract,
- sample of the Partnership Agreement (in Slovene and English language).

The Programme Operator invites Project Partners from the Republic of Slovenia and the Kingdom of Norway, the Principality of Liechtenstein and Iceland (hereinafter referred to as: donor states) to submit applications in the frame of this Call for Proposals.

4. Subject of the Call for Proposals

The subject of the Call for Proposals is the selection of projects under the Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Programme. The selected projects shall be supported by the Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2014-2021 or the European Economic Area Financial Mechanism 2014-2021 and shall receive the matching national co-financing from the Republic of Slovenia (hereinafter: grant). The projects shall pursue the overall objectives of the Norwegian Financial Mechanism and the European Economic Area Financial Mechanism as follows:

- to contribute to reducing economic and social disparities in the European Economic Area, and
- to strengthen bilateral relations between the Republic of Slovenia and the donor states.

In this context, the Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation programme aims to mitigate climate change and reduce vulnerability to climate change. The objective shall be achieved by increasing renewable energy production, by enhancing sustainable mobility management, by increasing application of Circular Economy principles and by improving management of ecosystem under climate change pressure.

Funding shall be available to projects selected under the programme areas listed below to achieve outcomes and outputs within each programme area.

Under the terms of this Call for Proposals, a project proposal must refer **only to one of the mentioned outcome and only one programme output**, even in case of a project where some activities might also fall under the other outcome.

a) Programme area: RENEWABLE ENERGY, ENERGY EFFICIENCY, ENERGY SECURITY

- **Outcome B.1: Increased renewable energy production**
- *Output B.1.1: Improved capacity to develop less established renewable energy sources¹*

¹ RES – renewable energy sources

- *Output B.1.2: Energy production from less established renewable sources installed*

b) Programme area: CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION

- **Outcome B.2: Enhanced sustainable mobility management**
 - *Output B.2.1: Measures to improve regional sustainable mobility implemented*
 - *Output B.2.2: Plans for sustainable mobility management at high-volume traffic locations developed*
- **Outcome B.3: Increased application of circular economy principles**
 - *Output B.3.1: Measures for the circular economy implemented*
- **Outcome B.4: Improved management of ecosystems under climate change pressure**
 - *Output B.4.1: Improved capacity for ecosystem management*

Within each outcome or output, there are also **specific eligibility conditions** that the application has to meet, otherwise it is considered non-eligible. More detailed information on the description of content, individual outcomes and outputs, specific eligibility conditions and requirements for the achievement of indicators is provided in the Guide for Beneficiaries, available for download on the websites www.eeagrants.si and www.norwaygrants.si, accessible at www.norwaygrants.si/en/calls/environment.

Projects have to apply a **result-oriented approach**. The coherence of the project intervention logic (i.e. the project specific objectives, activities, outputs and expected results) with the targeted output objectives of the programme needs to be clearly demonstrated.

For detailed information on the description of the content of each outcome and output, including the possible actions, beneficiaries and target groups, please refer to Part 1.a of the Guide for Beneficiaries. In order to make your project compliant with the Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation programme, it is compulsory to read and take into account the description under each outcome and corresponding output.

The Project Partners shall cooperate in the project development and project implementation. Implemented projects shall be required to collect, maintain and report data showing their contribution to the overall programme targets.

5. Award of grant and project size

For projects selected under the Call for Proposals, the grant shall be up to 100 % of the total eligible expenditure, including in the case of projects where the Project Promoter is an NGO.

The amount of grant under this Call for Proposals shall be reduced in the case of revenue-generating projects or in case of application of State Aid rules. The rules on project revenues shall not be applied in case of application of State Aid rules.

The total amount available under this Call for Proposals is **15,564,705.88 EUR**, of which 2,281,034.00 EUR from the Norwegian Financial Mechanism, 10,948,966.00 EUR from the European Economic Area Financial Mechanism and 2,334,705.88 EUR from the corresponding Slovenian contribution provided by the GODC.

The grant is subdivided by the outcomes as follows:

- Projects contributing to the outcomes B.1, B.2 and B.4 are co-financed from the European Economic Area Financial Mechanism and corresponding Slovene contribution in the total amount 12,881,135.90 EUR.
- Projects contributing to the outcome B.3 are co-financed from the Norwegian Financial Mechanism and corresponding Slovene contribution in the total amount 2,683,569.98 EUR;

The available grant on the level of programme outcomes is fixed, whereas on the level of programme outputs only indicative. With the attention to achieve best outcomes, output indicators and considering the number of applications received, GODC as a tenderer, reserves the right to reallocate the funds to other outputs within the same outcome.

EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AREA FINANCIAL MECHANISM AND SLOVENE CONTRIBUTION			
PROGRAMME OUTCOMES AND OUTPUTS	AVAILABLE GRANT (IN EUR)	MINIMUM GRANT PER PROJECT (IN EUR)	MAXIMUM GRANT PER PROJECT (IN EUR)
B.1 Outcome: Increased renewable energy production	5,000,000.00		
<i>B.1.1 Output: Improved capacity to develop less established renewable energy sources</i>	1,000,000.00 (indicative)	200,000.00	1,000,000.00
<i>B.1.2 Output: Energy production from less established renewable sources installed</i>	4,000,000.00 (indicative)	200,000.00	4,000,000.00
B.2 Outcome: Enhanced sustainable mobility management	4,881,135.90		
<i>B.2.1 Output: Measures to improve regional sustainable mobility implemented</i>	3,000,000.00 (indicative)	200,000.00	2,000,000.00
<i>B.2.2 Output: Plans for sustainable mobility management at high volume traffic locations developed</i>	1,881,135.90 (indicative)	200,000.00	1,881,135.90
B.4 Outcome: Improved management of ecosystems under climate change pressure	3,000,000.00		
<i>B.4.1 Output: Improved capacity for ecosystems management</i>	3,000,000.00	200,000.00	1,200,000.00
TOTAL GRANT AVAILABLE	12,881,135.90		

NORWEGIAN FINANCIAL MECHANISM AND SLOVENE CONTRIBUTION			
PROGRAMME OUTCOMES AND OUTPUTS	AVAILABLE GRANT (IN EUR)	MINIMUM GRANT PER PROJECT (IN EUR=)	MAXIMUM GRANT PER PROJECT (IN EUR)
B.3 Outcome: Increased application of circular economy principles	2,683,569.98		
<i>B.3.1 Output: Measures for circular economy implemented</i>	2,683,569.98	200,000.00	800,000.00
TOTAL GRANT AVAILABLE	2,683,569.98		

The selection process of projects for co-financing is described in the section 10. The number of co-financed projects will depend on available funds. Only projects receiving at least 75 points in quality assessment shall be proposed for co-financing.

6. Eligible area

The eligible area of implementation of projects is the territory of the Republic of Slovenia. Since one of the objectives of the grant is to strengthen bilateral relations between the donor states and the Republic of Slovenia, project activities can also be carried out in the donor states. The implementation of project

activities outside these eligible areas shall be admissible in specially justified cases and subject to prior approval of the GODC in its role as Programme Operator.

Outcomes and the outputs of the projects must be implemented in the Republic of Slovenia.

7. Eligibility of applicants and partners

7.1 Eligibility of applicants

General condition: Any public or private, commercial or non-commercial entity and non-governmental organisation established in the Republic of Slovenia as a legal entity shall be regarded as eligible applicants (i.e. the Project Promoter).

In order to participate in the Call for Proposals, the applicant must fulfil the conditions set out in the Declaration by the Project Promoter and the Declaration by the Project Partner. The applicant shall prove the fulfilment of the conditions by signing both of those declarations.

When a project is approved, the applicant takes the role of the Project Promoter, becomes a signatory to the Project contract and bears responsibility for the entire implementation of the project.

7.2 Eligibility of partners

General condition: Eligible partner in the project (hereinafter: the Project Partner) shall be deemed to be any public or private, commercial or non-commercial entity, as well as a non-governmental organisation established as a legal entity in the Republic of Slovenia or in one of the Donor States, (for outcome 3: Norwegian entities only) or any international organisation or body or agency within their framework that is actively involved in and contributing effectively to the implementation of the project.

Each Project Partner, including in the role of applicant, is obliged to sign the Declaration by the Project Partner, which proves that the conditions for participation are met. The document should also be signed by the Project Promoter.

One of the main objectives of the grants is to strengthen bilateral relations between the Republic of Slovenia and the Donor States, thus partnership between the institutions from the Republic of Slovenia and Donor States entities are highly valued and encouraged under this Call for Proposals.

8. Project duration

The projects shall last at least twelve (12) months and no longer than twenty-four (24) months. Projects must be completed by 30. 4. 2024 at the latest.

Regardless of the project duration period, specific conditions set out in the Project Contract (i.e. investment in real estate, purchase of land or real estate, cost of new or second hand equipment) must be respected in certain cases, even after the approval of the project completion report. Specific criteria is specified in Part 4 of the Guide for Beneficiaries.

9. Eligibility of expenditures

In accordance with Article 8.2 of the Regulations on implementation of the Norwegian Financial Mechanism and on implementation of European Economic Area Financial Mechanism, the eligible expenditures of the projects are those that are actually incurred within the project which meet the following criteria:

- they are incurred between the first and final dates of eligibility of a project as specified in the project contract; exceptionally, expenditures for which an invoice has been issued in the final

month of eligibility of a project, are considered eligible if paid within thirty (30) days of the final date of eligibility of a project,

- they are connected with the subject of the project contract and they are indicated in the detailed budget of the project,
- they are proportionate and necessary for the implementation of the project,
- they are used for the sole purpose of achieving the objectives of the project and its expected outcomes, in a manner consistent with the principles of sound financial management (principles of economy, efficiency and effectiveness),
- they are identifiable and verifiable, in particular through being recorded in the accounting records of the beneficiary and determined according to the applicable accounting standards of the state where the Project Promoter and/or Project Partner is established and the generally accepted accounting principles,
- they comply with the requirements of applicable tax and social legislation.

Categories of eligible expenditures are:

- costs of staff assigned to the project,
- indirect costs in projects (overheads) - office and administrative costs,
- travel and subsistence allowances for staff taking part in the project as a lump sum,
- costs of consumables and supplies,
- costs of new or second hand equipment,
- purchase of land and real estate,
- costs entailed by other contracts awarded by a Project Promoter or Project Partners for the purposes of carrying out the project,
- costs arising directly from requirements imposed by the project contract for each project.

The eligibility of expenditure by cost category and the specific criteria applicable to individual categories are described in more detail in Part 4 of the Guide for Beneficiaries.

9.1 Period of eligibility

Expenditure incurred within the project shall be eligible in the project duration period, with the first and final dates of project duration being stated in the Project Contract. This period is valid only after the issue of the project selection decision. The latest eligibility date is 30 April 2024.

10. Deadline and application submission method

Applications may be submitted at any time from the date of publication of this Call for Proposals to the deadline for the submission of applications.

The deadline for submitting applications is 30.09.2021. Any subsequent deadlines for submission of applications, together with any changes, will be published on the www.eegrants.si and www.norwaygrants.si, accessible at www.norwaygrants.si/en/calls/environment, at least two months before the next deadline.

The application shall be submitted by the Project Promoter only through the electronic monitoring system eMS. The application submitted must include all required information and relevant documents, as specified in the Guide for Beneficiaries.

The applicant (i.e. the Project Promoter) may submit only one project application but may participate in several projects as a Project Partner. If the applicant submits more than one application within the deadline, only the first application submitted shall be considered for evaluation, all other applications shall be rejected.

Only applications submitted electronically on the following link <https://ems.norwaygrants.si/emsegp> by 30.09.2021 by 12:00 (noon) CET shall be considered as submitted in due time.

Applications received by other means (i.e. by post, fax, e-mail or personally delivered applications) or submitted after the deadline on the above mentioned link shall be rejected.

Submission of an application means that the applicant agrees with the terms and criteria of the Call for Proposals and the Application pack.

11. Selection procedure

The selection of projects is based on the evaluation of the received applications following a standardized procedure according to eMS, which safeguards the principles of transparency and equal treatment. The Selection Committee shall be responsible for evaluation of the Call for Proposals and selecting the projects.

The applications evaluation shall take place in two phases:

- administrative compliance and eligibility check,
- quality assessment.

Administrative compliance and eligibility check

Each application must meet the criteria of administrative compliance and eligibility which will be reviewed by the Programme Operator.

If the Selection Committee determines the incompleteness of the application inadmissible or ineligible in the administrative and eligibility check, the application will be rejected, except in cases where it is possible to complete the application as indicated in the Guide for Beneficiaries. In the event of the possibility of completing the application, the Selection Committee shall invite the notifier via the eMS information system to complete the application. Amendments should be made within five (5) working days of receipt of the request to complete the application. The application, which is not completed electronically and in accordance with the request for amendment, shall be rejected.

Quality assessment

Applications that are administratively compliant and eligible shall be assessed on the basis of quality criteria.

The quality of applications shall be assessed against the following criteria:

- Relevance of the project content (30 points)
- Quality of the project work plan design (20 points)
- Sustainability of the project (10 points)
- Quality of the project partnership (15 points)
- Cost-effectiveness (20 points)

Bilateral aspect of application: (only after receiving minimum point in quality assessment):

- In Project partnership, partner from at least one of donor states is included (5 points) in application to Outcomes B.1, B.2 or B.4 or
- In Project partnership, partner from Kingdom of Norway is included (5 points) in application to Outcome B.3

Only projects receiving at least 75 points in quality assessment shall be proposed for funding. In case if of not enough applications reached the threshold of 75 points the Selection Committee may propose lower threshold. Projects with donor project partner shall additionally receive 5 points after achieved threshold of 75 points. Maximum points available is 95 points for projects without donor project partner and 100 points for projects with donor project partner.

A ranked list of projects qualifying for funding shall be reviewed by the Selection Committee. The Selection Committee will submit their recommendations to the GODC. The number of projects will depend on available funds and number of received applications.

The applications evaluation process, including detailed criteria, is further specified in the Part 1.a of the Guide for Beneficiaries.

Results of this Call for Proposals are public and shall be published on the following websites: www.eeagrants.si in www.norwaygrants.si, accessible at www.norwaygrants.si/en/calls/environment.

12. Notification of selection results and appeal procedure

All applicants shall be notified of the outcome of the selection process via the eMS information system:

- the successful applicants shall receive project selection decisions;
- applicants whose project applications are found incomplete during the administrative compliance and eligibility check, or the applicants who fail to receive the required score during the quality assessment or the applicants that reached the required score during the quality assessment but cannot be funded due to lack of grants shall receive a rejection decision.

The applicant may file an appeal to the GODC within eight (8) days from the date of receiving the decision on rejection. The appellant shall specify in detail the reasons for the appeal. The set criteria for application assessment shall not be the subject of the appeal. The GODC shall issue a decision regarding the appeal within fifteen (15) days.

Results of this Call for Proposals are public and shall be published on the following websites: www.eeagrants.si in www.norwaygrants.si, accessible at www.norwaygrants.si/en/calls/environment.

It is planned that the selection process will end approximately 6 months after the final date for submission of the applications.

13. Language

The Call for Proposals is published in Slovene and English language.

In case of discrepancies between the Slovene and the English text of the Call for Proposals and the Guide for Beneficiaries, the Slovene version will be used as a tool for common understanding.

The application must be submitted in Slovene language, except a summary of the application, which needs to be submitted in Slovene and English language. In case of discrepancies, the Slovene language prevails.

All other documents must be submitted either in Slovene or English language in accordance with the Guide for Beneficiaries.

The applicants must make sure that the wording in Slovene and English language is the same and understandable.

14. Amendments to the Call for Proposals

Should the Call for Proposals or Application pack be amended, a corrigendum will be published in Slovene and in English on the following websites: www.eeagrants.si and www.norwaygrants.si, accessible at www.norwaygrants.si/en/calls/environment.

The amendments to this Call for Proposals shall also be published in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia.

Applicants are obliged to respect any amendments to the Call for Proposals and Application Pack in the manner as described above.

15. Other provisions

Applicants should read all the documents related to the Call for Proposals before submitting a project proposal. Additional information on the Call for Proposals can be obtained before the deadline for submission of proposals by sending questions to e-address: nor_egp.svrk@gov.si.

Frequently asked questions and answers shall be published on the websites www.eeagrants.si and www.norwaygrants.si, accessible at www.norwaygrants.si/en/calls/environment, and updated once a week. The names of the senders of questions shall not be published.

Any information contained in the received applications shall be public information except the information that is specifically designated by the applicant as a business secret. A piece of information or a part of application may be marked as a business secret but cannot apply to the entire application and/or information required to assess the application according to the criteria of the Call for Proposals.

The results of the Call for Proposals are information of public nature and will be published on the web site www.eeagrants.si and www.norwaygrants.si, accessible at www.norwaygrants.si/en/calls/environment, after the decision of the Selection Committee and signing the Project Contracts with the selected Project Promoters.