



EEA FINANCIAL MECHANISM 2014–2021 AND
NORWEGIAN FINANCIAL MECHANISM 2014–2021

GUIDE FOR BENEFICIARIES

Part 1.a: ABOUT THE PROGRAMME AND THE CALL FOR PROPOSALS

PROGRAMME *CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION*

**Version 5
February 2023**



3.4.3.1	<i>Output B.3.1: Measures for circular economy implemented</i>	28
3.4.4	Outcome B.4: Improved management of ecosystems under climate change pressures.....	30
3.4.4.1	<i>Output B.4.1: Improved capacity for ecosystems management</i>	31
3.5	Project duration	33
3.6	Eligibility of expenditures	33
3.6.2	Specific cases.....	34
3.6.3	Period of eligibility.....	34
3.7	Payments	34
3.8	Submission deadline and method.....	34
3.9	Complete application	35
3.10	Selection process	37
3.10.1	Administrative compliance and eligibility check	37
3.10.2	Quality assessment.....	40
3.10.2.1	<i>Quality criteria</i>	41
3.10.3	Approval of projects.....	43
3.10.4	Notification of selection results	44
3.11	Appeal procedure	44
3.12	Project contract.....	44
3.13	Language	45
3.14	Documents relating to the Call for Proposals	45
3.15	Amendments to the Call for Proposals.....	46
3.16	Additional information	46
4	Core principles of implementation and horizontal principles.....	46
	Annex 1: Programme results and indicators.....	49

List of Tables

Table 1: Relation between programme areas, programme outcomes and programme outputs	12
Table 2: Available funding, minimum and maximum grant amount applied for per project under each individual programme outcome or output financed from EEA FM (in EUR)	15
Table 3: Available funding, minimum and maximum grant amount applied for per project under each individual programme outcome or output financed from Norwegian FM (in EUR)	15
Table 4: Elements of complete project application	36
Table 5: Administrative compliance criteria	38
Table 6: Eligibility criteria	40
Table 7: Scoring scale	42
Table 8: Detailed description of each quality criterion	42

List of abbreviations and acronyms

EEA FM	European Economic Area Financial Mechanism
eMS	Electronic Monitoring System
EU	European Union
GODC	Government Office for Development and European Cohesion Policy
MCRD	Ministry of Cohesion and Regional Development
NOR FM	Norwegian Financial Mechanism
RBM	results-based management
Regulations	Regulation on the implementation of the Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2014–2021 and Regulation on the implementation of the European Economic Area (EEA) Financial Mechanism 2014–2021
RES	renewable energy sources

1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose of the *Guide for Beneficiaries*

The purpose of the *Guide for Beneficiaries* is to introduce the content and requirements of the programmes *Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation* and *Education, Scholarships, Apprenticeship and Youth Entrepreneurship* to potential applicants as well as to help them develop their project idea and project application. It also provides information on project selection, implementation, reporting and completion.

The *Guide for Beneficiaries* is part of the documents relating to the Call for Proposals and consists of several thematic parts. The first Part provides information about the programme and the Call for Proposals. It is divided into Part 1.a which pertains to the programme *Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation* and Part 1.b which pertains to the programme *Education, Scholarships, Apprenticeship and Youth Entrepreneurship*.

Information on project development and partnership requirements is given in the second Part of the *Guide for Beneficiaries*. Part three of the *Guide for Beneficiaries* provides information on the submission of applications and the evaluation of project proposals. Part four gives information on the eligibility of expenditure, while Part five describes the procedures and requirements regarding reporting. Information and communication requirements are presented in Part six of the *Guide for Beneficiaries*, while archiving and project completion is presented in Part seven.

Before submitting their project application, potential applicants should read the *Guide for Beneficiaries* carefully and in its entirety, with the same requirement applying also to all beneficiaries of the selected projects during project implementation. The information given in the *Guide for Beneficiaries* should be used for the preparation of the project application as well as for ensuring quality implementation of approved projects and reporting thereon.

This Part of the *Guide for Beneficiaries* (Part 1.a) pertaining to the programme and the Call for Proposals (hereinafter document) provides information on the programme *Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation*: the programme objectives, principles and programme areas as well as programme outcomes and outputs and information about the Call for Proposals.

The document is binding for all Project Promoters and Project Partners (hereinafter beneficiaries) submitting their project proposals under the Call for Proposals as well as for Pre-defined Projects under the abovementioned programme.

The document is issued by Ministry of Cohesion and Regional Development (hereinafter MCRD) acting as the Programme Operator of the programme *Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation* (hereinafter Programme Operator).

If necessary, the document shall be subject to revision during project implementation which is why the beneficiaries must always use the last valid version of the document published on the website dedicated to the implementation of the Financial Mechanisms in the Republic of Slovenia, namely www.norwaygrants.si and www.eeagrants.si (hereinafter dedicated website), accessible at www.norwaygrants.si/en/calls/environment.

Wherever used in this document, a pronoun in the masculine gender shall be considered as including the feminine gender in line with the principles of gender-inclusive language.

1.2 Legal basis

Programme *Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation* is co-financed by the Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2014–2021 and the European Economic Area (hereinafter: EEA) Financial Mechanism 2014–2021, and supported by Slovenian national co-financing, and complies with the following legal basis (the below-given list is not exhaustive):

- Decree on the Implementation of the Norwegian Financial Mechanism and the European Economic Area Financial Mechanism Funds 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 (EEA) Financial Mechanism 2014–2021, published on www.norwaygrants.si/en/calls/environment,
- Regulation on the Implementation of the Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2014–2021, published on www.norwaygrants.si/en/calls/environment,
- Memorandum of Understanding on the Implementation of the EEA Financial Mechanism 2014–2021 between the Republic of Slovenia and Iceland, the Principality of Liechtenstein and the Kingdom of Norway with Annexes, published on www.norwaygrants.si/en/calls/environment,
- Memorandum of Understanding on the Implementation of the Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2014–2021 between the Republic of Slovenia and the Kingdom of Norway with Annexes, published on www.norwaygrants.si/en/calls/environment,
- Programme Agreement between the Financial Mechanism Committee, the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the National Focal Point for the financing of the Programme Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation, published on www.norwaygrants.si/en/calls/environment,
- applicable national and EU legislation, in particular legislation regulating public procurement, state aid, implementation of the state budget and public finances,
- guidelines adopted by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the EEA Financial Mechanism Committee and the Slovenian national authorities.

2 About the programme *Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation*

Programme *Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation* is co-financed by the Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2014–2021, the European Economic Area Financial Mechanism 2014–2021 (hereinafter Financial Mechanisms) and by the matching national contribution from the Republic of Slovenia.

The overall objectives of the Financial Mechanisms are to contribute to the reduction of economic and social disparities in the EEA and to strengthen bilateral relations between Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein (hereinafter Donor States) and the Republic of Slovenia.

The objective of the programme *Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation* is climate change mitigated and vulnerability to climate change reduced.

The programme focuses on the following two programme areas:

- renewable energy, energy efficiency, energy security,

- climate change mitigation and adaptation,

The Norwegian Environmental Agency participates in the programme as Donor Programme Partner.

2.1 Eligible area

As a rule, the eligible area for the implementation of project activities shall be the territory of the Republic of Slovenia and the territory of the Donor States (Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein). In general, the costs of any project activity implemented outside the abovementioned eligible area shall be deemed ineligible.

Exceptionally and in duly justified cases, a project activity may be implemented outside eligible area, but only upon prior approval by MCRD as the Programme Operator. The exception must be duly justified in the project application. If a project application involving such an exception gets approval, then the implementation of a project activity outside the eligible area shall be automatically approved as well.

Regardless of where the project activities are implemented, their outcomes and outputs must always manifest in the Republic of Slovenia. Study visits are a typical example of a project activity implemented outside the territory of the Republic of Slovenia; the output of study visits are improved skills of Slovene experts.

2.2 Management structure

Implementation of the Financial Mechanisms in the Republic of Slovenia and of the programme *Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation* shall involve numerous both national and international bodies.

National Focal Point

MCRD acts as the National Focal Point. The National Focal Point represents the Republic of Slovenia in its relations with the Donor States regarding the implementation of Financial Mechanisms in the Republic of Slovenia. The National Focal Point monitors the progress and quality of programme implementation and ensures that the programmes contribute to achieving the objectives of the Financial Mechanisms.

Programme Operator

MCRD also acts as the Programme Operator for the programme *Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation* and the programme *Education, Scholarships, Apprenticeships and Youth Entrepreneurship*. The Programme Operator is responsible for the preparation and implementation of both programmes in accordance with Article 1.3 of the Regulations.

Audit Authority

The Budget Supervision Office of the Republic of Slovenia, a body within the Ministry of Finance, acts as the Audit Authority. The Audit Authority ensures that audits are carried out to verify effective implementation of the Financial Mechanisms in the Republic of Slovenia

(effective functioning of the system at the national level and effective functioning of the programmes).

Certifying Authority

The Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Slovenia acts as the Certifying Authority. The Certifying Authority is responsible for submitting to the Donor States certified financial reports, receiving payments made by the Donor States under Financial Mechanisms for programmes and performing other tasks.

Irregularities Authority

The Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Slovenia acts as the Irregularities Authority. Irregularities Authority is responsible for reporting to the Donor States any irregularities and measures taken in order to prevent, detect, investigate and eliminate such irregularities. Irregularities Authority also performs other tasks.

Control Unit

MCRD acts as the Control Unit. The Control Unit checks the expenditure incurred in the framework of the implementation of individual programmes and projects.

Selection Committee

The Selection Committee is responsible for the evaluation of the Call for Proposals procedure and for the selection of projects submitted under the Call for Proposals. The Selection Committee consists of the representatives from Slovenia (then GODC and line ministries) as voting members, the representative of the Norwegian Environment Agency as Donor Programme Partner as non-voting member and observers coming from the Financial Mechanism Office and the National Focal Point.

Donor Programme Partner

Donor States designated a Donor Programme Partner that advises on the preparation of the programme and the Call for Proposals, and are included in the selection of projects which are eligible for programme funding, and advises on the implementation of the programme and/or participates in the implementation of the programme.

For the programme *Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation*, the Norwegian Environmental Agency is designated as the Donor Programme Partner.

Cooperation Committee

The Cooperation Committee for the programme *Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation* provides advice on the preparation and implementation of the programme in the Republic of Slovenia.

Programme Operator establishes a Cooperation Committee consisting of representatives of the Programme Operator and Donor States. Representatives of the ministries, responsible for thematic areas addressed by the programme *Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation*, and representatives of the National Focal Point may also be invited to participate as observers.

Other structures involved in Financial Mechanisms implementation

Other Donor State institutions are also involved in the implementation of the Financial Mechanisms and the programme *Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation* in the Republic of Slovenia.

Financial Mechanism Office (Brussels): the office assisting the Donor States in managing the Financial Mechanisms. The Financial Mechanism Office is responsible for the day-to-day implementation of the Financial Mechanisms and serves as a contact point between the Donor States and the Beneficiary States.

Donor States may, without prejudice to audits carried out by the Audit Authority, organise on-the-spot audits and verifications of programmes and projects in order to verify the effectiveness of the Beneficiary State management and control systems. Audits are performed by organisations authorised by Donor States.

2.3 Electronic Monitoring System (eMS)

For the programme *Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation*, the eMS monitoring system shall be used to monitor project implementation, including the process of project application, reporting on project implementation and the expenditure incurred. eMS is a system with a communication portal that enables the submission of an application, its review and approval, as well as project management, monitoring and reporting. The system enables collecting all information on the submitted applications and approved projects, their evaluation, implementation and achievements, as well as project changes and completion.

2.4 Programme objective, areas, outcomes and outputs

As mentioned earlier under section 2, the objective of the programme *Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation* is climate change mitigated and vulnerability to climate change reduced. This flagship objective is achieved through the implementation of projects in the two programme areas, through the achievement of four programme outcomes and the corresponding programme outputs. Each programme outcome further contains a set of programme outputs as well as outcome indicators and output indicators. The indicators identified to check the progress of the programme are monitored at both programme and project level.

The programme focuses on the following two programme areas:

- renewable energy, energy efficiency, energy security,
- climate change mitigation and adaptation.

The programme *Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation* pursues a clear objective and a set of clearly defined outcomes and outputs in each programme area. The projects contribute to the successful achievement of the programme objective, outcomes and outputs.

Programme area: area eligible for financial support from the Donor States that is defined jointly by the Donor States and the respective Beneficiary State in order to tailor the support to the state on the basis of its needs, priorities and capacity. The Donor States defined 23 programme areas, each of them pursuing and contributing to a particular objective. The programme

Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation covers three programme areas and contributes to the flagship objective of improving human capital and knowledge base.

Impact: the long-term effects or changes of an intervention on society or the environment.

Outcome: the (short and medium-term) effects of an intervention's outputs on the intermediaries or end beneficiaries.

Output: the products, capital goods and services delivered by an intervention (project or programme) to the target group. Outputs are easy to attribute directly to the resources used and the activities performed.

Table 1: Relation between programme areas, programme outcomes and programme outputs¹

PROGRAMME AREA	OUTCOME	OUTPUT
RENEWABLE ENERGY, ENERGY EFFICIENCY, ENERGY SECURITY	B.1: Increased renewable energy production (FM EEA and Slovenian national co-financing)	B.1.1: Improved capacity to develop less established renewable energy sources OR
		B.1.2: Energy production from less established renewable sources installed
CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION	B.2: Enhanced sustainable mobility management (FM EEA and Slovenian national co-financing)	B.2.1: Measures to improve regional sustainable mobility implemented OR
		B.2.2: Plans for sustainable mobility management at high-volume traffic locations developed
	B.3: Increased application of circular economy principles (Norwegian FM and Slovenian national co-financing)	B.3.1: Measures for circular economy implemented
	B.4: Improved management of ecosystems under climate change pressure (FM EEA and Slovenian national co-financing)	B.4.1: Improved capacity for ecosystems management

Additional information on how to develop project intervention logic and establish links between the project and the programme is given in Part 2 of this *Guide for Beneficiaries*.

3 Subject of the Call for Proposals and selection of projects

The Call for Proposals is published by GODC (now MCRD) in its capacity as the Programme Operator and is addressed to the beneficiaries identified in section 3.3 of this document.

¹ Table 1 shows the specific part of the programme with the programme areas that are relevant for the projects selected under the Call for Proposals.

From the date of publication of the Call for proposals in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, the Call for proposals 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 or 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.

3.1 Subject of the Call for Proposals

The aim of this Call for Proposals is to provide funding to selected project proposals under the programme *Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation*. The selected project proposals shall be supported by the Financial Mechanisms and shall receive the national co-financing (hereinafter grant). The projects shall pursue the overall objectives of the Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2014–2021 and the EEA Financial Mechanism 2014–2021 as follows:

- contribute to the reduction of economic and social disparities in the EEA, and
- strengthen bilateral relations between Donor States and the Republic of Slovenia.

Funding under this Call for Proposals shall be available for the projects selected in the two programme areas indicated below to support them in achieving the outcomes and outputs identified in an individual programme area:

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

- **Outcome B.1: Increased renewable energy production (FM EEA and Slovenian national co-financing)**
 - *Output B.1.1: Improved capacity to develop less established 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 (FM EEA and Slovenian national co-financing)**

- *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 (Norwegian FM and Slovenian national co-financing)**
 - *Output B.3.1: Measures for circular economy implemented*

- **Outcome B.4: Improved management of ecosystems under climate change pressure (FM EEA and Slovenian national co-financing)**
 - *Output B.4.1: Improved capacity for ecosystems management*

Each project may contribute to the achievement of only one outcome (B.1 or B.2 or B.3 or B.4) and, within that outcome, only one output:

- a project addressing outcome B.1 shall contribute to output B.1.1 or B.1.2,
- a project addressing outcome B.2 shall contribute to output B.2.1 or B.2.2,
- a project addressing outcome B.3 shall contribute to output B.3.1,
- a project addressing outcome B.4 shall contribute to output B.4.1.

Sets of **specific eligibility criteria** shall apply to each outcome or output. Specific eligibility criteria are set out in section 3.4 under the description of individual outcomes and outputs.

3.2 Award of grant

3.2.1 Grant rate

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 grant shall be provided by the Financial Mechanisms and the matching national contribution. The applicant shall contribute a share of the project budget in case of application of state aid rules and revenue generating projects in the form of own resources (hereinafter own co-financing).

The grant amount provided by the Financial Mechanisms and the matching national co-financing shall be broken down as follows:

- 85% - Financial Mechanisms (Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2014–2021 or EEA Financial Mechanism 2014–2021), and
- 15% - national co-financing.

Funding shall be awarded to projects in compliance with the applicable state aid rules.

The amount of grant rate under this Call for Proposals shall be reduced for the projects that generate revenue 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.

3.2.2 Grant amount

The total amount available for project co-financing under this Call for Proposals equals 15,564,705.88 EUR of which 2,281,034.00 EUR comes from the Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2014–2021, 10,948,966.00 EUR from the EEA Financial Mechanism 2014–2021 and 2,334,705.88 EUR from the corresponding Slovenian contribution provided by the GODC (now MCRD).

The co-financing from the Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2014-2020 shall be made available only for projects that contribute to the achievement of outcome B.3. The co-financing from the EEA Financial Mechanism 2014-2020 shall be made available for projects that contribute to other three outcomes, namely outcome B.1, B.2 and B.4.

The funding made available is broken down as seen in Table 2 by programme outcomes and indicatively by programme outputs. The table includes the thresholds applicable to the grant amount applied for per project under each individual programme outcome or output.

Table 2: Available funding, minimum and maximum grant amount applied for per project under each individual programme outcome or output financed from EEA FM (in EUR)

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		

Table 3: Available funding, minimum and maximum grant amount applied for per project under each individual programme outcome or output financed from Norwegian FM (in EUR)

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 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 (now MCRD) as a tenderer, reserves the right to reallocate funds to other outputs within the same outcome.

The selection process of projects shall be conducted in line with the procedures described in the section 3.10. 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.

The funding is provided by MCRD as the Programme Operator in the Budget of the Republic of Slovenia on dedicated budget lines of Financial Mechanisms and the matching national co-financing:

- No 170005 – NOR FM 14–21 – Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2014–2021,
- No 170006 – EGP FM 14–21 – EEA Financial Mechanism 2014–2021, and
- No 170007 – NOR and EAA FM 14–21 – national co-financing.

The payment schedule for each approved project shall be determined in the contract on the award of the Financial Mechanisms funding and the matching national co-financing (hereinafter project contract) concluded between GODC (now MCRD) acting as the Programme Operator and the selected Project Promoter in accordance with the project implementation plan and available funding. The payments made by GODC or MCRD as the Programme Operator shall depend on the availability of funding and programme for this purpose. If commitment appropriations provided for in the dedicated budget lines are cancelled or reduced, GODC (now MCRD) as the Programme Operator reserves the right to cancel the Call for Proposals and annul the decisions issued regarding project selection, or reserves the right to determine the new contract value and/or payment schedule in accordance with the project contract.

3.3 Eligibility of applicants and partners

3.3.1 Eligibility of applicants

General condition: eligible applicant (hereinafter Project Promoter) is considered any public or private entity, commercial or non-commercial, as well as non-governmental organisations, established and registered as a legal entity in the Republic of Slovenia.

Natural persons and natural persons registered as sole proprietors in accordance with Companies Act, are not eligible applicants.

In order to be able to participate in the Call for Proposals, the applicant must fulfil the conditions specified 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 abovementioned Declarations.

Upon project approval, the applicant takes the role of Project Promoter becomes a signatory to the Project Contract and bears the responsibility for the entire implementation of the project.

3.3.2 Eligibility of partners

General condition: As eligible partner in a project (hereinafter Project Partner) is considered any public or private entity, commercial or non-commercial, as well as a non-governmental organisations, established and registered as a legal entity in the Republic of Slovenia or the Donor States (for outcome B.3 only the Kingdom of Norway as the projects are co-financed from the Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2014–2021), or any international organisation or agency or body thereof, actively involved in and effectively contributing to the implementation of a project.

Natural persons and natural persons registered as sole proprietors in accordance with Companies Act, are not eligible applicants.

Each Project Partner, including in the role of Project Promoter, is obliged to sign the Declaration by the Project Partner which proves that the conditions for participation are met.

The Project Partner has a common economic and social objective with the Project Promoter, which is realised through the implementation of the project.

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

3.4 Description of areas supported under the Call for Proposals

The overall objectives of the Norway grant and the EEA grant are to contribute to the reduction of economic and social disparities in the European Economic Area and to strengthen bilateral relations between the Donor States and the Beneficiary State the Republic of Slovenia.

In this context, the objective of the programme *Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation* is climate change mitigated and vulnerability to climate change reduced. The objective of the

programme shall be achieved through the promotion of projects with several outcomes (an individual project may contribute to only one output), namely by promoting the use of less established renewable energy sources, enhancing sustainable mobility, increased application of circular economy principles and improved management of ecosystems under climate change pressure. To this end, the projects that contribute to the achievement of one of the **four** outcomes and one of the **six** outputs described in detail below shall be co-financed.

3.4.1 Outcome B.1: Increased renewable energy production

Outcome B.1 is focused on increasing the use of geothermal energy as well as the use of other less established sources such as wind, biofuel, biogas and solar energy in the Republic of Slovenia. Under the two outputs of outcome B.1 up to EUR 5,000,000.00 shall be made available which is also demonstrated in Table 2 of section 3.2.2 of this document.

Action in this thematic area of the Call for Proposals aims particularly to:

- contribute, namely through projects that are mainly development and education oriented, to strengthening knowledge and raising awareness for introducing less established renewable energy sources. Such projects are based on partnership that connects research and professional associations, support and other organisations in the Republic of Slovenia with entities from the Donor States,
- support investment in pilot and demonstration projects.

Projects are expected to contribute towards the achievement of the overall programme targets. The progress towards the envisaged outcome shall be monitored with a set of indicators as follows (programme target values are indicated in brackets):

- estimated annual CO₂ emissions reductions (2300 tonnes),
- estimated production of renewable energy (9.892,08 MWh/year).

Outcome B.1 shall be achieved through the co-financing of projects that contribute to the achievement of *one of the following outputs*:

- *Output B.1.1: Improved capacity to develop less established renewable energy sources, or*
- *Output B.1.2: Energy production from less established renewable sources installed.*

The applicant shall demonstrate observance of the relevant legislation and rules in force when developing the application as well during project implementation should the applicant's proposal be selected.

3.4.1.1 Output B.1.1: Improved capacity to develop less established renewable energy sources*

The objective of the abovementioned output is to contribute, as a priority, to improving knowledge, competencies, institutional capacity and raising awareness as well as to strengthening expert bases for sustainable, prudent, more efficient and increased use of geothermal energy and other less established renewable sources (hereinafter RES). Under output B.1.1 up to EUR 1,000,000.00 shall be made available which is also demonstrated in Table 2 of section 3.2.2 of this document.

* Within the call for proposals no project was selected for co-financing under the Output B.1.1, therefore in Annex 1 of this document the name of the output and its indicators were adapted for a pre-defined project in accordance with the amended Programme Agreement on the Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation programme (August 2022).

Projects are expected to contribute towards the achievement of the overall programme targets. The progress towards the envisaged outcome shall be monitored with a set of indicators as follows (programme target values are indicated in brackets):

- B.1.1.1: Mapping of technical potential of shallow geothermal energy carried out (1),
- B.1.1.2: Report on necessary legislative amendments of subsidy schemes for the accelerated use of geothermal energy prepared (1),
- B.1.1.3: Number of experts trained in geothermal technologies (20),
- B.1.1.4: Number of people reached by awareness raising campaigns (500),
- B.1.1.5: Number of awareness campaigns carried out (1).
- Outcome indicator: Estimated annual CO₂ emissions reductions (this indicator shall not be selected in the application form) – a descriptive assessment of the project's contribution to this outcome indicator is expected to be given under project description,
- Outcome indicator: Estimated production of renewable energy (this indicator shall not be selected in the application form) – a descriptive assessment of the project's contribution to this outcome indicator is expected to be given under project description.

Above described information is available in table format in Annex 1.

Project's contribution to outcome indicators under section 3.4.1 *Estimated annual CO₂ emissions reductions* and *Estimated production of renewable energy* shall be given under project description. In determining the link between project activities and programme output indicators and programme outcome indicators these two indicators **shall not selected** in the project application form in the eMS.

Specific eligibility criteria shall be as follows:

- the project shall contribute to the achievement of all indicators identified in sections 3.4.1 and 3.4.1.1,
- the applicant shall describe all the expected impacts of the project with regard to greenhouse gas emission and the project's long-term effects.

For indicator B.1.1.1 *Mapping of technical potential of shallow geothermal energy carried out* the mapping of the technical potential of shallow geothermal energy for the whole territory of Slovenia shall be carried out.

For the indicators that should be disaggregated (i.e. by sex, age etc. – see Annex 1 of this document), monitoring shall be carried out to ensure the availability of disaggregated data already during the project implementation. Hence, the values indicated in the project application may refer to aggregate target values only, without the need for Project Promoters to specify the respective disaggregated values (i.e. the project application shall include the total number of experts trained in geothermal technologies under indicator B.1.1.3., whereas that same total number shall be broken down during reporting to provide sex-disaggregated data).

Target groups shall particularly be as follows:

- experts, namely:
 - engineers or technicians working in the field of drilling/sounding/geothermal industry/less established RES,
 - energy consultants, architects, civil engineers, municipal planners, property managers and other experts who need additional knowledge in the field of geothermal energy and other less established RES,
- companies,
- general public located in areas with geothermal potential or potential for the use of other less established RES and which needs information on the potential advantages and disadvantages of the use of geothermal energy and other less established RES.

The projects shall preferably:

- respect the principles of good governance, accountable institutions and transparency,
- address abovementioned target groups,
- include local partnership structures and establish partnerships between non-governmental organisations, private and/or public entities and bodies at national and/or local level,
- develop and implement innovative solutions and/or initiatives,
- have partnerships and structures established to ensure the continuation of activities after project completion.

Examples of possible project activities:²

- detailed mapping of the technical potential of (shallow) geothermal energy in the territory of the Republic of Slovenia and final digital presentation,
- review of the legislative framework and subsidy schemes for the use of geothermal energy and drafting recommendations for improvements or adjustments,
- providing specialised training on modern, environmentally friendly geothermal drilling technologies, research and use of geothermal energy for technicians, engineers and other professionals in the sector,
- training for modern, environmentally friendly technologies for the use of less established RES,
- organisation of targeted awareness raising campaigns with the aim of promoting sustainable, prudent, more efficient and increased use of geothermal energy and other less established RES.

² This non-exhaustive list of project activities serves exemplary purposes only.

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

The objective of the abovementioned output is to support, as a priority, innovative pilot projects that serve as examples of best practices and have increased the installed capacity of geothermal and other less established RES. Under output B.1.2 up to EUR 4,000,000.00 shall be made available which is also demonstrated in Table 2 of section 3.2.2 of this document.

Projects are expected to contribute towards the achievement of the overall programme targets. The progress towards the envisaged outcome shall be monitored with a set of indicators as follows (programme target values are indicated in brackets):

- B.1.2.1: Installed capacity of less established RES (2.4 MW),
- B.1.2 Outcome 1: Estimated annual CO₂ emissions reductions (2300 tonnes),
- B.1.2 Outcome 2: Estimated production of renewable energy (9.892,08 MWh/year).

Above described information is available in table format in Annex 1.

The assessment of the project's contribution to outcome indicator *Estimated annual CO₂ emissions reductions* shall be based on a mathematical formula and data on the planned increased production of renewable energy.

The assessment of the project's contribution to outcome indicator *Estimated production of renewable energy* shall be based on a mathematical formula, installed capacity of the energy production plant and the planned timelines for energy production from RES.

Specific eligibility criteria shall be as follows:

- the project shall contribute to the achievement of all indicators identified in sections 3.4.1 and 3.4.1.2.

Specific documents that the applicant shall submit together with the application:

- a statement on the ownership of the plot where the installation for the production of energy from less established RES will be set up, or proof of the easement or building right on the plot and extract from the land register,
- a statement of access via access land and relevant proof, where applicable,
- all permits required for setting up the installation for the production of energy from less established RES, the construction of facilities necessary for the implementation of the project, etc.

Target groups shall be particularly as follows:

- experts, namely engineers or technicians working in the field of drilling/sounding/geothermal industry/less established RES,
- companies,
- general public located in areas with geothermal potential or potential for the use of other less established RES.

The projects shall preferably:

- respect the principles of good governance, accountable institutions and transparency,
- address abovementioned target groups,
- include local partnership structures and establish partnerships between non-governmental organisations, private and/or public entities and bodies at national and/or local level,
- develop and implement innovative solutions and/or initiatives,
- have partnerships and structures established to ensure the continuation of activities after project completion.

Examples of possible project activities:³

- installation of new and/or upgrade of existing more environmentally friendly and efficient technologies for RES use, in particular the use of geothermal energy,
- establishment of heating and/or cooling systems from less established RES (i.e. district heating system using geothermal energy for agricultural, tourist, business and public facilities),
- pilot investments in technological solutions (transfer of research, innovation and technologies) on how to use less established RES for public and business purposes.

3.4.2 Outcome B.2: Enhanced sustainable mobility management

Outcome B.2 is focused on developing new models of regional sustainable mobility management and sustainable mobility management at high-volume traffic locations. This promotes reducing carbon footprint by traffic. Under the two outputs of outcome B.2 up to EUR 4,881,135.90 shall be made available which is also demonstrated in Table 2 of section 3.2.2 of this document.

Projects are expected to contribute towards the achievement of the overall programme targets. The progress towards the envisaged outcome shall be monitored with a set of indicators as follows (programme target values are indicated in brackets):

- number of sustainable mobility policy measures/tools⁴ at regional level introduced (2),
- average annual increase of trips made by sustainable means of transport⁵ in the areas supported by the programme (4%).

Above described information is available in table format in Annex 1.

For outcome indicator *Number of sustainable mobility policy measures/tools at regional level introduced* the establishment of a regional sustainable mobility centre and/or the development of an integrated regional transport strategy shall be considered as a measure or a tool.

³ This non-exhaustive list of project activities serves exemplary purposes only.

⁴ Regional mobility pilot centres and integrated regional transport strategies shall be considered as sustainable mobility policy measures/tools introduced at regional level.

⁵ Public transport, walking, cycling and alternative means of transport (i.e. car sharing) shall be considered as sustainable means of transport. A reduction in the number of passenger car journeys is expected.

For outcome indicator *Average annual increase of trips made by sustainable means of transport in the areas supported by the programme* each project shall either assess or obtain/measure arrivals/departures to/from the location(s) one year (12 months) before implementing the measures/activities aiming to establish a more sustainable structure of arrival/departure methods as well as one year (12 months) after the implementation of project measures/activities. This shall serve as the basis for determining the percentage by which the structure of arrivals/departures becomes more sustainable (the so-called “modal split”) in the supported area/location due to each individual project, i.e. the percentage of additional arrivals/departures using public transport, cycling, walking and using alternative means of transport (i.e. car sharing) due to fewer arrivals/departures by car. Based on the data of annual increase of trips made by sustainable means of transport in the individual areas for each project separately, the Programme Operator shall calculate the average annual increase of trips made by sustainable means of transport in the areas supported by the programme at programme level.

Outcome B.2 shall be achieved through the co-financing of projects that contribute to the achievement of *one of the following outputs*:

- *Output B.2.1: Measures to improve regional sustainable mobility implemented or*
- *Output B.2.2: Plans for sustainable mobility management at high-volume traffic locations developed.*

Action in this thematic area of the Call for Proposals aims particularly to:

- contribute to changing travel habits and increase the number of passengers who use public transport or other sustainable modes of mobility instead of passenger cars,
- change/provide sustainable access to high-volume traffic locations.

3.4.2.1 Output B.2.1: Measures to improve regional sustainable mobility implemented

The first objective of the abovementioned output is to support the development of sustainable mobility model at regional level at the level of NUTS 3 statistical regions and test the model in at least three regional mobility centres (regional mobility centres are not limited to a NUTS 3 statistical region and follow transport region principles), carry out awareness raising campaigns and train professionals to plan and manage sustainable mobility at regional and inter-municipal level.

The second objective of output B.2.1 is to support the development of an integrated regional transport strategy at NUTS 3 level. Under output B.2.1 up to EUR 3,000,000.00 shall be made available which is also demonstrated in Table 2 of section 3.2.2 of this document. Of this amount (EUR 3,000,000.00) EUR 200,000 shall be allocated to projects that aim to develop integrated regional transport strategy (objective 2 under this output).

The applicant (Project Promoter) can apply only for one objective (Output B.2.1 – Objective 1 or Output B.2.1 – Objective 2) of the Output B.2.1. (can't submit an application for both objectives).

3.4.2.1.1 Output B.2.1 – Objective 1: Measures to improve regional sustainable mobility implemented

The progress towards the envisaged output of objective 1 (develop and test sustainable mobility model) shall be monitored with a set of indicators as follows (programme target value is indicated in brackets):

- B.2.1.1: Number of regional mobility centres piloted (3),
- B.2.1.2: Regional mobility management model developed (1),
- B.2.1.4: Number of people reached by awareness raising campaigns (150.000),
- B.2.1.5: Number of awareness campaigns carried out (3),
- B.2.1.6: Number of professionals trained in sustainable regional and inter-municipal mobility planning and management (60),
- B.2.1 Outcome 1: Number of sustainable mobility policy measures/tools at regional level introduced⁶ (2),
- Outcome indicator: Average annual increase of trips made by sustainable means of transport⁷ and consequently decrease of trips made by car in the areas supported by the project (this indicator shall not be selected in the application form) – a descriptive assessment of the project's contribution to this outcome indicator is expected to be given under project description.

Above described information is available in table format in Annex 1.

Project's contribution to outcome indicator *Annual increase of trips made by sustainable means of transport and consequently decrease of trips made by car in the areas supported by the project* shall be given under project description. In determining the link between project activities and programme output indicators and programme outcome indicators these two indicators **shall not selected** in the project application form in the eMS.

In order to achieve indicator B.2.1.6, a training programme for employees in pilot mobility centres shall be developed and, on the basis of the developed programme, trainings that will enable them to work at regional mobility management level within mobility centres shall be carried out.

Specific eligibility criteria shall be as follows:

- the project shall contribute to the achievement of all indicators identified in sections 3.4.2 and 3.4.2.1.1,
- the applicant shall describe all the expected impacts of the project with regard to greenhouse gas emission and the project's long-term effects,
- the project shall be implemented in cooperation with national-level institution responsible for transport.

⁶ Regional mobility pilot centres shall be considered as sustainable mobility policy measures/tools introduced at the regional level in the framework of objective 1 under output B.2.1.

⁷ Public transport, walking, cycling and alternative means of transport (i.e. car sharing) shall be considered as sustainable means of transport. A reduction in the number of passenger car journeys is expected.

For the indicators that should be disaggregated (i.e. by sex, age etc. – see Annex 1 of this document), monitoring shall be carried out to ensure the availability of disaggregated data already during the project implementation. Hence, the values indicated in the project application may refer to aggregate target values only, without the need for Project Promoters to specify the respective disaggregated values (i.e. the project application shall include the total number of professionals trained to plan and manage sustainable mobility at regional and inter-municipal level under indicator B.2.1.6., whereas that same total number shall be broken down during reporting to provide sex-disaggregated data).

Target groups shall be particularly as follows:

- experts, namely:
 - experts for regional planning,
 - experts for urban and traffic planning,
 - communication and information experts,
- public and private transport providers,
- operators of bus terminals, railway stations and other transport hubs,
- general public, in particular commuters in individual target areas.

The projects shall preferably:

- respect the principles of good governance, accountable institutions and transparency,
- address abovementioned target groups,
- develop and implement innovative solutions, initiatives, approaches and models,
- have partnerships and structures established to ensure the continuation of activities after project completion,
- have established partnerships between non-governmental organisations, private and/or public entities and bodies at national and local level.

Examples of possible project activities:⁸

- development of a regional mobility management model, including guidelines for its dissemination and recommendations for improving legislation,
- establishment of regional mobility centres operating for at least 1 to 2 years during the duration of the projects,
- providing specialised training for professionals working in the field of regional and inter-municipal mobility management,
- carrying out targeted awareness raising campaigns to promote sustainable mobility.

⁸ This non-exhaustive list of project activities serves exemplary purposes only.

3.4.2.1.1.1 Output B.2.1 – Objective 2: Measures to improve regional sustainable mobility implemented

The progress towards the envisaged output of objective 2 (development of an integrate regional transport strategy) shall be monitored with a set of indicators as follows (programme target values are indicated in brackets):

- B.2.1.3: Regional Sustainable Mobility Plan developed (1),
- B.2.1 Outcome 1: Number of sustainable mobility policy measures/tools at regional level introduced⁹ (2),

Outcome indicator: Average annual increase of trips made by sustainable means of transport¹⁰ and consequently decrease of trips made by car in the areas supported by the project (this indicator shall not be selected in the application form) – a descriptive assessment of the project's contribution to this outcome indicator is expected to be given under project description.

Above described information is available in table format in Annex 1.

Project's contribution to outcome indicator *Annual increase of trips made by sustainable means of transport and consequently decrease of trips made by car in the areas supported by the project* shall be given under project description. In determining the link between project activities and programme output indicators and programme outcome indicators these two indicators **shall not selected** in the project application form in the eMS.

Specific eligibility criteria shall be as follows:

- the project shall contribute to the achievement of all indicators identified in sections 3.4.2 and 3.4.2.1.2,
- the applicant shall describe all the expected impacts of the project with regard to greenhouse gas emission and the project's long-term effects.

For the indicators that should be disaggregated (i.e. by sex, age etc. – see Annex 1 of this document), monitoring shall be carried out to ensure the availability of disaggregated data already during the project implementation. Hence, the values indicated in the project application may refer to aggregate target values only, without the need for Project Promoters to specify the respective disaggregated values (i.e. the project application shall include the total number of professionals trained to plan and manage sustainable mobility at regional and inter-municipal level under indicator B.2.1.6., whereas that same total number shall be broken down during reporting to provide sex-disaggregated data).

⁹ Regional sustainable mobility plans shall be considered as sustainable mobility policy measures/tools introduced at the regional level in the framework of objective 2 under output B.2.1.

¹⁰ Public transport, walking, cycling and alternative means of transport (i.e. car sharing) shall be considered as sustainable means of transport. A reduction in the number of passenger car journeys is expected.

Target groups shall be particularly as follows:

- experts, namely:
 - experts for regional planning,
 - experts for urban and traffic planning,
 - general public.

The projects shall preferably:

- respect the principles of good governance, accountable institutions and transparency,
- address abovementioned target groups,
- develop and implement innovative solutions, initiatives, approaches and models,
- have partnerships and structures established to ensure the continuation of activities after project completion,
- have established partnerships between non-governmental organisations, private and/or public entities and bodies at national and local level.

Examples of possible project activities:¹¹

- development of a regional sustainable mobility plan in line with applicable national guidelines.

3.4.2.2 Output B.2.2: Plans for sustainable mobility management at high-volume traffic locations developed

The objective of the abovementioned output is to support, as a priority, pilot projects that would implement *National Guidelines for the development of Mobility Plans for Institutions* available at https://sptm.si/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/SPTM_Brusura_2019_A4_final.pdf. The aim is to improve mobility management at high volume traffic generating locations (i.e. healthcare institutions, technological parks, business zones, tourist attractions, protected areas, sports and educational centres, etc.). The goal is to promote planned mobility management and develop concrete measures for using sustainable modes of accessing the chosen locations such as public transport and active transportation (by bicycle or on foot) by reducing access by car. Under output B.2.2 up to EUR 1,881,135.90 shall be made available which is also demonstrated in Table 2 of section 3.2.2 of this document.

The progress towards the envisaged outcome shall be monitored with a set of indicators as follows (programme target values are indicated in brackets):

- B.2.2.1: Number of sustainable mobility plans for high volume traffic generating locations developed (5),
- B.2.2.2: Number of pilot actions from sustainable mobility plans for high volume traffic generating locations implemented (5),
- Outcome indicator: Average annual increase of trips made by sustainable means of transport¹² in the areas supported by the project (4%).

Above described information is available in table format in Annex 1.

¹¹ This non-exhaustive list of project activities serves exemplary purposes only.

¹² Public transport, walking, cycling and alternative means of transport (i.e. car sharing) shall be considered as sustainable means of transport. A reduction in the number of passenger car journeys is expected.

Outcome indicator B.2.2 *Average annual increase of trips made by sustainable means of transport in the areas supported by the project* shall provide answers to the following questions: What is the percentage by which the structure of arrivals/departures becomes more sustainable in high volume traffic generating location after 12 months of project activities completion in relation to data 12 months prior to project activities implementation in the same location? The project shall have to obtain/measure data on the number and method of arrival/departure to/from the location(s) 12 months before implementing project activities aiming to establish a more sustainable structure of arrival/departure methods and 12 months after the implementation of project activities. This shall serve as the basis for determining the percentage by which the structure of arrivals/departures becomes more sustainable (the so-called “modal split”) in the supported location as a result of the project, i.e. the number of additional arrivals/departures using public transport, cycling, walking and using alternative means of transport (i.e. car sharing) due to fewer arrivals/departures by car.

Specific eligibility criteria shall be as follows:

- the project shall contribute to the achievement of all three indicators identified in section 3.4.2.2,
- the applicant shall describe all the expected impacts of the project with regard to greenhouse gas emission and the project’s long-term effects.

Target groups shall be particularly as follows:

- major employers,
- managers and users of high-volume traffic generating locations (i.e. education institutions, hospitals, locations within tourist destinations),
- general public.

The projects shall preferably:

- respect the principles of good governance, accountable institutions and transparency,
- address abovementioned target groups,
- develop and implement innovative solutions, initiatives, approaches and models,
- have partnerships and structures established to ensure the continuation of activities after project completion,
- have established partnerships between non-governmental organisations, private and/or public entities and bodies at national and local level.

Examples of possible project activities:¹³

- development of sustainable mobility plans for high-volume traffic generating locations,
- implementation of priority measures that are investment-oriented and demonstrate the highest potential impact on the change of travel habits,
- implementation of information and awareness raising campaigns with the aim of promoting sustainable means of transport.

¹³ This non-exhaustive list of project activities serves exemplary purposes only.

3.4.3 Outcome B.3: Increased application of circular economy principles

Outcome B.3 is focused on the transition to low-carbon circular economy in the field of manufacturing, recognising the importance not only of the manufacturing sector but also of consumers and organisations along the entire supply and distribution chain (from design, production, processing, transport, sales, trade, support services, consumption and waste collection and treatment) in achieving the objectives of a low-carbon circular economy. Under the two outputs of outcome B.3 up to EUR 2,683,569.98 shall be made available which is also demonstrated in Table 3 of section 3.2.2 of this document.

The progress towards the envisaged outcome shall be monitored with a set of indicators as follows (programme target values are indicated in brackets):

- share of targeted population who self-report increased understanding of circular economy (5%),
- number of innovative green technologies/processes/solutions applied (2).

Above described information is available in table format in Annex 1.

Outcome B.3 shall be achieved through the co-financing of projects that contribute to the achievement of *the following output*:

- *Output B.3.1: Measures for circular economy implemented.*

In this context, the aim of the thematic area of the Call for Proposals is primarily to promote a cross-sectoral approach and partnerships between companies and/or suppliers and/or local communities and/or public institutions and/or NGOs and/or consumers in developing innovative ways of cooperation at local/regional level in low-carbon circular economy chains.

3.4.3.1 Output B.3.1: Measures for circular economy implemented

The objective of the abovementioned output is to support, as a priority, circular business models and associated value chains in manufacturing, by promoting eco-design, new materials, promoting the traceability of materials, the use of secondary resources, industrial symbiosis, energy efficiency, maintenance, repair, recovery and recycling of products, and other activities, the result of which is a greater reduction in the volume of material flows of virgin materials compared to the comparable process and the establishment of the circulation of most materials in the process of production and sale and back into production. Emphasis is also placed on cooperation with institutions from the Kingdom of Norway and the preparation of joint meetings, events and study visits. Under output B.3.1 up to EUR 2,683,569.98 shall be made available which is also demonstrated in Table 3 of section 3.2.2 of this document.

The progress towards the envisaged outcome shall be monitored with a set of indicators as follows (programme target values are indicated in brackets):

- B.3.1.1: Number of circular economy demonstration/pilot projects implemented¹⁴ (7),

¹⁴ In the manufacturing sector: organisations/companies that convert raw materials into products (goods or services) and/or semi-finished products and/or introduce changes to their supply chains.

- B.3.1.2: Number of intervention areas related to low-carbon circular economy objectives in Slovenia Development Strategy 2030 addressed¹⁵ (2),
- B.3.1 Outcome 1: Share of targeted population¹⁶ who self-report increased understanding of circular economy (5%),
- B.3.1 Outcome 2: Number of innovative green technologies/processes/solutions applied¹⁷ (2).

Above described information is available in table format in Annex 1.

Specific eligibility criteria shall be as follows:

- the project shall contribute to the achievement of all indicators identified in sections 3.4.3 and 3.4.3.1,
- the applicant shall describe all the expected impacts of the project with regard to greenhouse gas emission and the project's long-term effects.

Target groups shall be particularly as follows:

- experts, namely:
 - representatives of ministries,
 - representatives of NGOs dealing with circular economy,
 - representatives of support institutions such as chambers, innovation and business centres,
- representatives of educational institutions, including teachers and students,
- enterprises, in particular small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the field of production and business support activities,
- local and regional policy makers,
- non-governmental organisations,
- the general public as consumers.

¹⁵ The areas of action within the Slovenian Development Strategy 2030, the goal Low-carbon Circular Economy may address:

a) breaking the link between economic growth and the growth of resource use and greenhouse gas emissions, which will be possible through education and networking of various stakeholders for the transition to a circular economy,

b) promoting innovation, the use of design and information and communication technologies for the development of new business models and products for the efficient use of raw materials, energy and adaptation to climate change.

¹⁶ Targeted population will be defined by the Project Promoters and it may involve different target groups (such as company employees, residents of a municipality, clients of certain service providers ...). Achievements shall be measured by survey.

¹⁷ "Innovation" is defined as the implementation of a new or significantly improved product (good or service), or process, or a new organisational method in business practices, workplace organisation or relations with suppliers and/or customers. Innovations can be introduced at the level of companies, sectors, region in Slovenia or the entire area of Slovenia or internationally. For a comprehensive definition, see the Oslo Manual (OECD: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/9789264013100-en>). Definition of "green technologies": a single technology that is less harmful to the environment if compared to the technology used today, and that includes technologies and processes for pollution control (i.e. air/water/soil pollution control, waste management) and more efficient use of resources. Definition of "introduced": The company/organisation uses solutions/technology and/or the product is already developed and available on the market and/or is adapted to the needs of the company/organisation. Such projects often include an R&D component related to the adaptation of the material, process or other to the applicant's needs (company/organisation).

The projects shall preferably:

- respect the principles of good governance, accountable institutions and transparency,
- address abovementioned target groups,
- develop and implement innovative solutions, initiatives, approaches and models,
- have partnerships and structures established to ensure the continuation of activities after project completion,
- have established partnerships between non-governmental organisations, private and/or public entities and bodies at national and local level.

Examples of possible project activities:¹⁸

- development and implementation of innovative pilot solutions that introduce the principles of complete material flows into the manufacturing sector,
- connecting businesses, consumers and/or the local community,
- organisation of targeted awareness raising campaigns with the aim of promoting new consumer patterns and enhancing the commitment of the manufacturing sector and the society in general to circular economy.

3.4.4 Outcome B.4: Improved management of ecosystems under climate change pressures

Outcome B.4 is focused on restoring ecosystems in Natura 2000 areas, the operation of which has been changed or reduced due to climate change, and on integrating the aspect of ecosystem services into the management models of such ecosystems. The funding shall be used to support the restoration of those ecosystems that have suffered significant damage in the last ten years as a result of climate change (i.e. extraordinary weather events and other natural disasters such as hail, floods, fires, droughts) and that have made a major contribution to climate change mitigation (i.e. CO₂ storage). These, in particular, include wetlands, marine or coastal ecosystems and mountain ecosystems with an emphasis on forests. Within the selected ecosystems, special attention is paid to species and habitat types in Natura 2000 sites or plant and animal species of EU interest and habitat types of EU interest that are in an unfavourable conservation status. Under outputs of outcome B.4 up to EUR 3,000,000.00 shall be made available which is also demonstrated in Table 2 of section 3.2.2 of this document.

The progress towards the envisaged outcome shall be monitored with a set of indicators as follows (programme target values are indicated in brackets):

- total surface of rehabilitated land (100 hectares),
- number of governance models integrating ecosystem services into the decision-making processes for targeted ecosystems in actual use (3).

Above described information is available in table format in Annex 1.

Outcome B.4 shall be achieved through the co-financing of projects that contribute to the achievement of *the following output*:

- *Output B.4.1: Improved capacity for ecosystems management.*

¹⁸ This non-exhaustive list of project activities serves exemplary purposes only.

Action in this thematic area of the Call for Proposals aims particularly to:

- promote and introduce new management approaches that are adapted to climate change and take ecosystem services into account in planning and decision-making processes,
- preserve ecosystems that play an important role in climate change mitigation and adaptation.

3.4.4.1 Output B.4.1: Improved capacity for ecosystems management

The pressure of climate change on habitats and species is expected to increase, which is why the objective of the abovementioned output is to raise awareness of the importance of restoring ecosystems and improve the capacity and competencies of local people, experts and all stakeholders in project areas for efficient ecosystem management and conservation of their ecosystem services. To this end, partnerships should bring together organisations dealing with nature conservation, spatial planning, agriculture, forestry, water management, research institutions, NGOs, municipalities and other stakeholders. The abovementioned output also focuses on raising awareness of the general public about the need and role of biodiversity conservation and ecosystems, including through the restoration of ecosystems in climate change mitigation and adaptation. Emphasis is also placed on strengthening bilateral or multilateral cooperation through project partnerships involving institutions from Donor States that have the expertise in transferring ecosystem services to governance models. Under output B.4.1 up to EUR 3,000,000.00 shall be made available which is also demonstrated in Table 2 of section 3.2.2 of this document.

The progress towards the envisaged outcome shall be monitored with a set of indicators as follows (programme target values are indicated in brackets):

- B.4.1.1: Number of restored ecosystems with ecosystem services mapped (3),
- B.4.1.2: Number of proposed governance models (3),
- B.4.1.3: Number of professional staff trained (45),
- B.4.1.4: Number of people reached by awareness raising and education campaigns (600),
- B.4.1.5: Number of awareness and education campaigns carried out (3),
- B.4.1 Outcome 1: Total surface of rehabilitated land (100 hectares),
- B.4.1 Outcome 2: Number of governance models integrating ecosystem services into the decision-making processes (3).

Above described information is available in table format in Annex 1.

For outcome indicator *Total surface of rehabilitated land* data on the planned surface of rehabilitated land shall be given in hectares in the project application form.

Specific eligibility criteria shall be as follows:

- the project shall contribute to the achievement of all indicators identified in sections 3.4.4 and 3.4.4.1,
- in accordance with the Nature Conservation Act (ZOE NPB 10), the member of the project partnership is responsible for the management of the area where the land shall be rehabilitated,

- the applicant shall describe all the expected impacts of the project with regard to greenhouse gas emission and the project's long-term effects.

For the indicators that should be disaggregated (i.e. by sex, age etc. – see Annex 1 of this document), monitoring shall be carried out to ensure the availability of disaggregated data already during the project implementation. Hence, the values indicated in the project application may refer to aggregate target values only, without the need for Project Promoters to specify the respective disaggregated values (i.e. the project application shall include the total number of professional staff trained under indicator B.4.1.3., whereas that same total number shall be broken down during reporting to provide sex-disaggregated data).

Target groups shall be particularly as follows:

- experts, namely:
 - planners in forestry, agriculture, water management authorities,
 - municipal urban planners, managers of urban infrastructure and open space,
 - protected area operators,
 - experts in nature and cultural heritage conservation,
 - regional and local development experts,
 - representatives of relevant ministries,
 - communication and information experts,
- general public, including educational institutions (teachers, pupils) and the business community (farmers, tourism providers, investors), especially in project areas.

The projects shall preferably:

- respect the principles of good governance, accountable institutions and transparency,
- address abovementioned target groups,
- develop and implement innovative solutions, initiatives, approaches and models,
- have partnerships and structures established to ensure the continuation of activities after project completion,
- have established partnerships between non-governmental organisations and/or private and/or public entities and/or bodies at national and/or local level.

Examples of possible project activities:¹⁹

- pilot implementation of rehabilitation of degraded ecosystems,
- mapping of ecosystem services for developing appropriate governance models that take into account all direct and indirect contributions of ecosystems to social welfare in their decision-making processes,
- preparation of a joint study/research on ecosystem services in the target area, to be coordinated with the stakeholder,
- organisation of a targeted awareness raising/training campaign,
- specialised training for relevant experts and other stakeholders,
- development of management models and their pilot testing in the target area,
- preparation of guidelines for further dissemination of newly designed management models and systematic introduction of mandatory consideration of ecosystem services in formal planning and decision-making procedures in the Republic of Slovenia.

¹⁹ This non-exhaustive list of project activities serves exemplary purposes only.

3.5 Project duration

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

Special conditions set out in the project contract shall have to be respected in certain cases also after the approval of the project completion report, regardless of the project duration period.

For the projects involving investment in real estate (purchase, construction, renovation) and/or land, the Project Promoter shall ensure that the real estate or land is used in accordance with the project objectives and for the purpose of the project for at least five (5) years following the approval of the project completion report. Special conditions shall also apply in certain cases concerning purchase of equipment, which is specified in detail in Part 4 of the *Guide for Beneficiaries*.

3.6 Eligibility of expenditures

In accordance with Article 8.2 of the Regulations on implementation of the Norwegian Financial Mechanism and on implementation of EEA Financial Mechanism, the eligible expenditures of projects are those 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 must be 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:

- cost 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,
- cost 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 categories of eligible costs and specific criteria applicable to individual categories are described in Part 4 of the *Guide for Beneficiaries*.

3.6.2 Specific cases

In accordance with Article 8.3.1 (c) of the Regulation, the total purchase price of new or second-hand equipment may be considered eligible expenditure if the equipment is an integral and necessary component for the implementation of a project and is essential for achieving the project objectives. Project Promoter shall fulfil the specific criteria specified in detail in Part 4 of this *Guide for Beneficiaries*.

In accordance with Article 8.6 of the Regulation, purchase of real estate and/or land may not represent more than 10% of the total eligible expenditure of the project. For the projects involving investment in real estate (purchase, construction, renovation) and/or purchase of land, the Project Promoter shall ensure that the real estate or land is used in accordance with the project objectives and for the purpose of the project for at least five (5) years following the approval of the project completion report.

In both above mentioned cases, the Project Promoter have to meet the specific criteria specified in Part 4 of the *Guide for Beneficiaries*.

Indirect administrative costs in the form of a flat rate may not represent more than 15% of direct eligible staff costs.

3.6.3 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 as 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.

3.7 Payments

Payments shall take the form of advance payments (in cases where a Project Promoter is a public or private entity established and operating as an association, a private or public institute or an institution) and in the form of reimbursement of eligible expenditure.

The project contract shall set out in detail the terms and conditions of grant payment.

Part 5 of the Guide for Beneficiaries provides detailed information about the payment system.

3.8 Submission deadline and method

Project applications can be submitted any time between the date of publication of the Call for Proposals and the deadline for application submission.

Application submission deadline under this Call for Proposals is 30.09.2021. Any further submission deadlines and potential amendments to the Call for Proposals shall be published on the dedicated programme website at www.eeagrants.si and www.norwaygrants.si, accessible at www.norwaygrants.si/en/calls/environment, at least two months before the next submission deadline.

The project application shall be submitted by the Project Promoter by using exclusively the electronic monitoring system eMS. The submitted project application must include all the relevant information and relevant documents as specified in the *Guide for Beneficiaries*, to be considered for financing.

The applicant (i.e. the Project Promoter) may submit only one project application under this Call for Proposals and may participate in several projects as a Project Partner. In case 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 until 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.

3.9 Complete application

A complete project application shall include the following documents:

- fully completed electronic application form in Slovene, including an executive summary in Slovene and English,
- electronic copy of the signed Declaration by the Project Promoter in Slovene,
- electronic copy of the signed Declaration by the Project Partner for each Project Partner (including Project Promoter as Project Partner) in Slovene or in English (in English for projects with one or several Project Partners from Donor States),
- electronic copy of the signed Declaration by the Project Promoter on consultants involved in the preparation of the project application (any consultant involved in the preparation of the project application shall be disclosed),
- signed Partnership Agreement (in Slovene if project involves only Slovene partners, and in English if project involves at least one partner from one of the Donor States),
- annexes (in Slovene or English) uploaded in the section 'Attachments' of the electronic application form in the eMS information system:
 - electronic copy of investment documentation in accordance with the *Decree on the uniform methodology for the preparation and treatment of investment documentation in the field of public finance* (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, Nos 60/2006, 54/2010 and 27/2016),
 - electronic copy of the signed authorization given by the responsible person of the institution in cases where any document is signed by the authorized person of the institution instead of the responsible person,

A project application shall be considered complete when including the documents specified in Table 4.

Table 4: Elements of complete project application

ELEMENT		SUBMISSION METHOD	COMMENT
Application	Project application	Project application submitted electronically via eMS information system	Application form must be fully completed, except where explicitly stated otherwise
Declaration	Declaration by the Project Promoter	Electronic copy of the signed Declaration by the Project Promoter uploaded in the eMS information system	Declaration by the Project Promoter must bear a handwritten signature and must be duly stamped if the applicant uses a stamp
	Declaration by the Project Partner	Electronic copy of the signed Declaration by the Project Partner uploaded in the eMS information system	Declaration by each Project Partner, including the applicant, must bear a handwritten signature and must be duly stamped if stamp is used. Each Project Partner (including applicant) must fill out, sign and stamp its own Declaration by the Project Partner
	Declaration by the Project Promoter on consultants involved in the preparation of project application	Electronic copy of the signed Declaration by the Project Promoter on consultants uploaded in the eMS information system	Declaration by the Project Promoter must bear a handwritten signature and must be duly stamped if the applicant uses a stamp
Partnership Agreement	Partnership Agreement	Electronic copy of the signed Partnership Agreement (signed by the applicant and each Project Partner)	Partnership Agreement in Slovene if project involves only Slovene partners, and in English if project involves at least one partner from the Donor States. Partnership Agreement must bear a handwritten signature and must be duly stamped if stamp is used (signed and stamped by applicant and each Project Partner)
Annex	Investment documentation	Electronic copy of investment documentation uploaded in the eMS information system	In accordance with the Decree on the uniform methodology for the preparation and treatment of investment documentation in the field of public finance
	Authorisation	Electronic copy of signed Authorisation uploaded in the eMS information system	The document must be signed by the responsible person and must be duly stamped if the organisation uses a stamp. Authorisation must be drawn up, attached and uploaded if any of the required documents are not signed by the responsible person but by an

			authorised representative acting on their behalf
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All annexes shall be drawn up in the name of the applicant and/or Project Partner.

3.10 Selection process

The selection of projects is based on the evaluation of the received applications following a standardized procedure according to the eMS, which safeguards the principles of transparency and equal treatment. A Selection Committee shall be responsible for evaluation of the Call for Proposals and selecting the projects for funding. The selection process is not public.

The applications evaluation shall take place in two stage phases:

- administrative compliance/admissibility and eligibility check,
- quality assessment

3.10.1 Administrative compliance and eligibility check

Each project application must meet a set of agreed criteria on administrative compliance and eligibility which will be reviewed by the Programme Operator.

A project application found inadmissible after the administrative compliance/admissibility check by the Selection Committee shall be rejected, except in cases where an applicant can provide additional information as specified in Table 5.

The Selection Committee may invite via eMS information system the applicants whose application is found incomplete to supplement it by providing the missing documents or information. The latter shall have to be provided within five (5) days from the receipt of such invitation. An application that fails to be supplemented electronically and in line with the invitation shall be rejected.

Administrative compliance check

A project application shall be rejected and withdrawn from any further examination without being able to be supplemented in particular if:

- it is not submitted in an electronic format,
- it is not submitted in due deadline,
- it is incomplete,
- it is not accompanied with all the required documents.

Table 5: Administrative compliance criteria

	ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLIANCE CRITERION	COMMENT
A1	Project application is submitted electronically via eMS information system.	Yes/No
A2	Project application is submitted by the due date.	Yes/No
A3	Project application is complete.	Yes/No

A4	Declaration by the Project Promoter drawn up in Slovene is attached.	Yes/No
A5	Declaration by the Project Promoter is properly filled out, signed and stamped (if a stamp is used).	Yes/No If not signed and/or stamped (if a stamp is used), the applicant is invited to provide additional/missing information.
A6	Declaration by the Project Partner for each Project Partner, including the applicant drawn up in Slovene (for Project Partners from Slovenia) or in English (for Project Partners from Donor States) is attached.	Yes/No
A7	Declaration by the Project Partner for each Project Partner, including the applicant drawn up in Slovene is properly filled out, signed and stamped (if a stamp is used).	Yes/No, If not signed and/or stamped (if a stamp is used), the applicant is invited to provide additional/missing information.
A8	Declaration by the Project Promoter on consultants involved in the preparation of project application drawn up in Slovene is attached.	Yes/No
A9	Declaration by the Project Promoter on consultants involved in the preparation of project application is properly filled out, signed and stamped (if a stamp is used).	Yes/No If not signed and/or stamped (if a stamp is used), the applicant is invited to provide additional/missing information.
A10	All required annexes are submitted electronically via eMS information system in .pdf, .jpeg or .jpg file format.	Yes/No
A11	All required annexes are readily legible and complete.	Yes/No If not, the applicant is invited to provide additional/missing information.
A12	Partnership Agreement (in Slovene if project involves only Slovene Partners, and in English if project involves at least one partner from the Donor States) is attached.	Yes/No
A13	Partnership Agreement is properly filled out, signed and stamped, if a stamp is used (by applicant and each Project Partner).	Yes/No If not signed and/or stamped (if a stamp is used), the applicant is invited to provide additional/missing information.

Eligibility check

A project application shall be rejected and withdrawn from any further examination without being able to be supplemented in particular if:

- the applicant fails to fulfil the conditions specified in section 3.3.1 of Part 1a of this *Guide for Beneficiaries*,
- the Project Partner fails to fulfil the conditions specified in section 3.3.2 of Part 1a of this *Guide for Beneficiaries*,
- the applicant submits multiple applications – only the application received first is considered for evaluation and subsequent applications are rejected,
- the amount of project grant applied for is lower than the minimum grant amount specified or higher than the maximum grant amount specified under the outcome or output addressed by the project (Table 2 and Table 3 of Part 1a of this *Guide for Beneficiaries*),
- the share of indirect administrative costs exceeds 15% of direct eligible costs of staff,
- the project lasts less than twelve (12) months,
- the project lasts more than twenty-four (24) months and/or its completion date is set after 30 April 2024.

Additional grounds for rejecting project applications that address *output B.1.1 Improved capacity to develop less established renewable energy sources* shall be as follows:

- the project fails to contribute to all indicators specified in sections 3.4.1 and 3.4.1.1,
- the applicant fails to describe the expected effects of the project on greenhouse gas emissions reductions and the project's long-term effects.

Additional grounds for rejecting project applications that address *output B.1.2 Energy production from less established renewable energy sources installed* shall be as follows:

- the project fails to contribute to all indicators specified in sections 3.4.1 and 3.4.1.2,
- the applicant fails to submit the documents specified in section 3.4.1.2.

Additional grounds for rejecting project applications that address *output B.2.1 – objective 1 Measures to improve regional sustainable mobility implemented* shall be as follows:

- the project fails to contribute to all indicators specified in sections 3.4.2 and 3.4.2.1.1,

the applicant fails to describe the expected effects of the project on greenhouse gas emissions reductions and the project's long-term effects.

Additional grounds for rejecting project applications that address *output B.2.1 – objective 2 Measures to improve regional sustainable mobility implemented* shall be as follows:

- the project fails to contribute to all indicators specified in sections 3.4.2 and 3.4.2.1.2,
- the applicant fails to describe the expected effects of the project on greenhouse gas emissions reductions and the project's long-term effects.

Additional grounds for rejecting project applications that address *output B.2.2 Plans for sustainable mobility management at high-volume traffic locations developed* shall be as follows:

- the project fails to contribute to all indicators specified in section 3.4.2.2,
- the applicant fails to describe the expected effects of the project on greenhouse gas emissions reductions and the project's long-term effects.

Additional grounds for rejecting project applications that address *output B.3.1 Measures for circular economy implemented* shall be as follows:

- the project fails to contribute to all indicators specified in sections 3.4.3 and 3.4.3.1,

- the applicant fails to describe the expected effects of the project on greenhouse gas emissions reductions and the project’s long-term effects.

Additional grounds for rejecting project applications that address *output B.4.1 Improved capacity for ecosystems management* shall be as follows:

- the project fails to contribute to all indicators specified in sections 3.4.4 and 3.4.4.1,
- the applicant fails to describe the expected effects of the project on greenhouse gas emissions reductions and the project’s long-term effects.

Table 6: Eligibility criteria

	ELIGIBILITY CRITERION	COMMENT
B1	Applicant is eligible.	Yes/No
B2	Project Partner is eligible.	Yes/No
B3	Applicant submitted multiple applications per individual deadline under the Call for Proposals.	Yes/No Second (or any subsequent) project application received is rejected.
B4	Amount of project grant applied for is lower than the minimum grant amount specified or higher than the maximum grant amount specified under the outcome or output addressed by the project (Table 2 and Table 3 of Part 1a of this <i>Guide for Beneficiaries</i>).	Yes/No
B5	Project lasts more than twelve (12) months, less than twenty-four (24) months and/or its completion is set at the latest by 30 April 2024.	Yes/No
B6	Project meets all specific eligibility criteria applicable to individual outcomes or outputs specified in section 3.4 of Part 1a of this <i>Guide for Beneficiaries</i> .	Yes/No

3.10.2 Quality assessment

The applications that have passed the administrative compliance and eligibility check shall proceed to an application by the two experts in individual assessments. The next stage to be evaluated by the Selection Committee against the criteria set out in the Call for Proposals. The applications shall also be evaluated by the selected impartial experts.

Each application shall be subject to evaluation by two impartial experts nominated by the GODC (now MCRD) as the Programme Operator. At least one of the experts shall be external and independent of the PO (not employed by the GODC, respectively MCRD). Each expert shall work individually and independently to assess each application and give scores for each quality criterion. The total score achieved by each application shall be the average of overall scores given to an application by the two external experts in individual assessments.

If the difference between the total score of both individual assessments is more than 30%, an additional third assessment of the application shall be required. When a third assessment is triggered, the average of the two assessments that are closest in terms of their overall score shall represent the total score given to an application.

The applications shall be ranked in line with the overall score given to each application by external experts. A total of seven (7) ranking lists of project applications shall be drawn up in order of merit – one (1) ranking list featuring applications addressing outputs B1.1, B.1.2, B.2.2, B.3.1 and B.4.1, and one (1) ranking lists for applications addressing output B.2.1 – objective 1 and one (1) ranking list for applications addressing output B.2.1 – objective 2.

3.10.2.1 Quality criteria

The quality of each application shall be assessed against a set of agreed criteria as follows:

- Relevance of the proposal (30 points)
- Quality of the project design and implementation (20 points)
- Sustainability of the project (10 points)
- Quality of project partnership and bilateral cooperation (15 points)
- Cost-effectiveness (20 points)

An application can receive up to 95 points without assessment of bilateral aspect.

For each criterion is a range of scores in line with Table 7 except for indicators SU.1 and SU.2.

Table 7: Scoring scale

Score		Argument for scoring
0	The proposal fails to address the criterion	Criterion not met at all.
1	Poor	Criterion barely met.
3	Good	Criterion met to a large extent.
5	Excellent	Criterion fully met.

The scores for the indicators under cost-effectiveness (SU.1 and SU.2) are given a weight of 2 (i.e. 5 points = 10 points or 0=0, 1=2, 3=6 and 5=10).

Table 8: Detailed description of each quality criterion

	Criterion	Score	Section in the application form
VS	Relevance of the content	30	
VS.1	The proposal is fully in line with the objectives, identified programme outcome and programme output(s). The identified outcome or output and the outcome indicators or output indicators are clearly linked	5	A.1, A.2, C.1, C.2
VS.2	The proposal is pertinent and actually needed (the project rationale is well articulated and clearly explained, the proposal is reasonable) from the point of view of programme and project. The proposal provides a comprehensive analysis of the issue/situation to be addressed and draws on existing knowledge and practice base.	5	A.2, C.2, C.3

VS.3	The main project outputs are clearly linked to programme output indicators and programme outcome indicators.	5	A.2, C.1, C.2
VS.4	Project outcomes and main project outputs are clearly defined (specific, quantifiable and measurable) and realistic (attainable within the resources available).	5	A.2, C.2.1, C.2.2, C.5
VS.5	Project objectives are coherent with national and international strategic documents, and with objectives of public policies of the identified programme outcome or output.	5	A.2, C.2.3, C.3.1
VS.6	Priority target groups of the project are clearly defined, and the planned activities are appropriate to meet the needs of target groups. The project appropriately addresses the needs and challenges of target groups.	5	A.2, D.1, D.2
KZ	Quality of the project design	20	
KZ.1	All project activities are needed to achieve the identified project objectives.	5	D
KZ.2	All project activities and project thematic sets are based on project objectives; they are logically connected, appropriate and lead to project outcomes and outputs.	5	D
KZ.3	The project can be implemented within the given timeframe and proposed budget.	5	D, E
KZ.4	An appropriate project management structure is ensured (the applicant identifies potential risks and has a risk management plan in place).	5	C.5
TP	Project sustainability	10	
TP.1	The project sets out effective mechanisms or structures that will ensure financial and institutional sustainability of project outcomes and outputs.	5	C.2.4, D
TP.2	The project delivers new solutions that go beyond the existing practice in the relevant output. The project outcomes and outputs lead to new systemic solutions and policies.	5	A.2, C.1.2
KP	Quality of the partnership	15	
KP.1	The project involves an appropriate mix of partners able to successfully deliver the project and achieve the expected project outputs and outcomes. The partnership brings together partners from different sectors or levels to successfully address identified project objectives.	5	A.2, B (B.1, B.2,)
KP.2	The applicant and Project Partners demonstrate previous experience	5	A.2, B (B.1, B.2,)

	and knowledge of the area addressed by the project. The applicant possesses the required experience and knowledge in managing projects funded by ESI Funds or other international funding sources, including the required professional capacity to successfully implement project activities.		
KP.3	All Project Partners have a specific role or responsibility assigned to them in project preparation and implementation. All Project Partners benefit from the project.	5	A.2, D
SU	Cost-effectiveness	20	
SU.1	The estimated expenditures are necessary, the budget is realistic and properly structured to reflect the planned project activities.	10	D, E
SU.2	The estimated level of expenditure is relevant and proportionate to the outcome and output indicator target values.	10	D, E
	Total	95	

An application can receive up to 95 points in quality assessment (Table 8). Only projects receiving at least 75 points in quality assessment shall be proposed for funding. In case if not enough applications reached the threshold of 75 points the Selection Committee may propose lower threshold.

Bilateral aspect of application

Projects with donor Project Partner shall additionally receive 5 points after achieved threshold of 75 points.

Bilateral aspect of application:

- 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

Maximum points available is 95 points for projects without donor Project Partner and 100 points for projects with donor Project Partner.

3.10.3 Approval of projects

Projects receiving at least 75 points in quality assessment (or less if the Selection Committee proposes a lower threshold) shall be proposed for co-financing to the Selection Committee.

The projects with the highest number of points shall be selected for funding within the limits of the total amount available for each outcome or output as referred to in Table 2 and Table 3 of this Part of the *Guide for Beneficiaries*.

The ranking lists shall be submitted to the Selection Committee. The Selection Committee shall recommend to the Programme Operator a list of projects admitted for financing within the programme.

The Programme Operator shall verify that the selection process has been conducted in accordance with the Regulation and that the recommendations from the Selection Committee comply with the rules and objectives of the programme. Following such verification, the Programme Operator shall, based on the decision of the SC, decide which projects shall be supported.

3.10.4 Notification of selection results

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

- successful applicants shall receive grant award decisions,
- the applicants whose project applications are found incomplete during the administrative compliance and eligibility check, or the applicants whose project applications fail to receive the required score during the quality assessment or the applicants whose application reached the required score during qualifying evaluation but cannot be funded due to the lack of grants shall receive a rejection decision

It is planned that the selection process will end approximately 6 months after the final date for submission of the applications. The programme Operator shall inform the applicants of the results of the selection process and publicise the results on the dedicated websites www.eeagrants.si and www.norwaygrants.si, accessible at www.norwaygrants.si/en/calls/environment.

3.11 Appeal procedure

The applicant can file an appeal with GODC (now MCRD) within eight (8) days from the date of receiving the decision on rejection. The applicant shall state the reasons for filing an appeal. The set criteria for assessment of the project application cannot be subject of the appeal. GODC (now MCRD) shall issue a decision regarding the appeal within fifteen (15) days. If the appeal against the decision on the rejection of an application that has been found incomplete during administrative compliance and eligibility check is upheld, such project application shall proceed to the next stage – quality assessment.

The results of this public call shall be public and published on the dedicated websites www.eeagrants.si and www.norwaygrants.si, accessible at www.norwaygrants.si/en/calls/environment.

3.12 Project contract

After receiving the decision on the award of grant, the selected applicant shall sign a project contract with GODC (now MCRD) as the Programme Operator (draft project contract is an integral part of the documents relating to the Call for Proposals).

The selected applicant, i.e. grant recipient, shall receive a written invitation to sign a project contract with GODC (now MCRD) as the Programme Operator. If the applicant does not respond to the invitation within eight (8) days of the receipt of such invitation, it shall be deemed that the application is withdrawn.

In the latter case, the applicant must notify GODC (now MCRD), Kotnikova 5, 1000 Ljubljana in writing and without delay of withdrawal of the application for funding.

If the applicant (Project Promoter) does not sign a contract or withdraws the application or withdraws from the signed project contract, and informs GODC (now MCRD) as the Programme Operator of this matter within eight (8) days in writing, the respective amount of funding, as far as the budget allows, may be granted to the applicant who is ranked next on the list of assessed applications per individual outcome or output and meets the criteria for the minimum required number of points and whose application was not selected. Grants shall be allocated to the projects according to their rank on the approved ranking list. The Project Promoter receiving funding at a later stage shall make a written statement on the capacity to carry out the project in a potentially shorter amount of time or with a lower amount of co-financing.

3.13 Language

The Call for Proposals is published in Slovene and English.

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

The project application shall 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 shall be submitted either in Slovene or in English in accordance with section 3.9 of this *Guide for Beneficiaries*.

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

3.14 Documents relating to the Call for Proposals

From the date of publication of the Call for proposals in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, the Call for proposals 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 or 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.

3.15 Amendments to the Call for Proposals

Should the Call for Proposals or Application pack be amended, a corrigendum will be published 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.

3.16 Additional information

Project Promoters should read all the documents related to the Call for Proposals before project submission. 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.

4 Core principles of implementation and horizontal principles

Results-oriented management

The commitment to be results-oriented is grounded in the EEA and Norwegian Financial Mechanism Regulations for the funding period 2014–2021. Results-based management (hereinafter: RBM) is a management approach which looks beyond activities and procedures to focus on achieving clearly defined results. When applied in projects, the central element of RBM is the “results chain”, which shows the causal relationship between its elements - resources and results (outputs, outcomes, impact) at project level. The objectives, outputs and

outcomes of individual projects are clearly linked to, and contribute to reaching the objectives, outputs and outcomes of the programme or programme area under which they are funded.

For more information about project intervention logic and project development consult Part 2 of this *Guide for Beneficiaries*.

Durability

The projects should have effective mechanisms and structures in place to ensure financial and institutional sustainability of project outcomes and outputs. Thus, projects with partnerships and structures established to ensure the continuation of activities after the project completion, and as such able to deliver more sustainable, long-term solutions for target groups shall be considered of higher quality. Projects recognised as having potential to become best practice or source of inspiration for other projects in addressing equal or similar problems in the Republic of Slovenia or believed to deliver new solutions that go beyond the existing practice in the relevant area shall likewise be considered of higher quality.

Good governance

The concept of good governance is based on the following principles:

- involvement and participation of all stakeholders, women and men, including the most vulnerable groups in society;
- sense of responsibility by the institutions participating in the project towards all people affected by their choices;
- transparency of operation and accessibility of data;
- responsiveness;
- efficiency and effectiveness – the project and its outcomes appropriately address topical issues in society by making the most of the available resources;
- respect for legislation and the rule of law, including human rights and strict zero tolerance for corruption policies adopted by the Donor States.

Sustainable development

Sustainable development is a comprehensive concept, a joint framework underpinning the long-term vision for sustainability in which economic growth, social cohesion and environmental protection go hand in hand and are mutually supporting. Each project to be funded under this Call for Proposals is expected to contribute to the full implementation of this concept.

Shared values

All projects and activities funded by Financial Mechanisms and supported by national co-financing shall be based on core European values such as respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and the respect for human rights, including the rights of members of minority groups.

Gender equality

Each project should be designed to integrate the issue of fostering and contributing to equal rights, opportunities and powers between women and men in various social areas.

Risk management

Each project funded under the programme *Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation* shall involve risk management tailored to the scope and complexity of the project. Any potential risk can negatively affect the progress of a project, and, in turn, compromise the achievement of project objectives, outputs and outcomes. When Project Promoters make sure to anticipate, foresee and identify potential risks in projects, and take the necessary risk response steps to handle the risks, they can significantly reduce risks or even avoid future risks.

For information about risk management consult Part 2 of the *Guide for Beneficiaries*.

Annex 1: Programme results and indicators

Projects related to the open call and pre-defined project

Programme Objective: Climate Change mitigated and vulnerability to climate change reduced						
Programme area	Outcome/Output	Indicator	Disaggregation	Unit of measurement	Baseline values	Target value ²⁰
Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency, Energy Security	<i>Outcome B.1: Increased renewable energy production (FM EEA and Slovenian national co-financing)</i>	Estimated annual CO ₂ emissions reductions (in tonnes)	/	Annual number	0	1,726 ²¹
		Estimated production of renewable energy (in MWh/year)	/	Annual number	0 ²²	3,997
		Number of national policies and laws influenced	/	Cumulative number	0	1
	<i>Output (pre-defined project): Improved capacity to develop less</i>	Mapping of technical potential of deep geothermal energy carried	/	Binary	0 (No)	1 (Yes)
		Report on necessary legislative amendments of	/	Binary	0 (No)	1 (Yes)

²⁰ For some indicators, the target values in the Annex 1 are different from those in subsection 3.4. Annex 1 has been updated in line with the amendment of the Programme Agreement in August 2022, when the Call for Proposals was already closed.

²¹ Estimation based on the targets achieved by comparable project, Source: the Ministry of Infrastructure

²² Total contribution (final energy consumption) of all RES technologies amounted 647.7 ktoe in 2016 (of which 43,9 ktoe geothermal energy without low temperature pumps). Baseline calculated from ktoe to MWh. Source: Report on the progress of the Republic of Slovenia further to the Directive 2009/28/EC, the Ministry of Infrastructure, 2017, Table 1c. http://www.energetikaportal.si/fileadmin/dokumenti/publikacije/an_ove/porocilo_si_ove_2017.pdf

Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency, Energy Security	<i>established renewable energy sources</i>	subsidy schemes for the accelerated use of geothermal energy prepared				
		Number of experts trained in geothermal technologies	Gender	Cumulative number	0	40
		Number of staff from beneficiary states in exchanges	Gender, Type of exchange	Cumulative number	0	10
		Number of staff from donor states in exchanges	Gender, Donor State, Type of exchange	Cumulative number	0	3
	<i>Output B.1.2: Energy production from less established renewable sources installed</i>	B.1.2.1: Installed capacity of less established RES (in MW)	/	Cumulative number	0	2.4 ²³
Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation	<i>Outcome B.2: Enhanced sustainable mobility management (FM EEA and Slovenian national co-financing)</i>	Number of sustainable mobility policy measures/tools at regional level introduced	/	Cumulative number	0	2 ²⁴
		Average annual increase of trips made by sustainable means of	/	Percentage	0	4 %

²³ Calculated from the CO2 target: 2,300 t CO2=0.850566 ktce. Such target contributes 21 % to the NERAP 2020 targets for increase of installed geothermal energy increase from 17 ktce in 2017 to 21 ktce by 2020, Table 22, of revised 2017 NERAP 2010-2020.

²⁴ 1. Regional Sustainable Mobility Centre, 2. Regional Sustainable Mobility Plan.

Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation		transport ²⁵ in the areas supported by the programme				
	<i>Output B.2.1: Measures to improve regional sustainable mobility implemented</i>	B.2.1.1: Number of regional mobility centres ²⁶ piloted	/	Cumulative number	0	5
		B.2.1.2: Regional mobility management model developed	/	Binary	0 (No)	1 (Yes)
		B.2.1.3: Regional Sustainable Mobility Plan developed	/	Binary	0 (No)	1 (Yes)
		B.2.1.4: Number of people reached by awareness raising campaigns	/	Cumulative number	0	150.000 ²⁷
		B.2.1.5: Number of awareness campaigns carried out	/	Cumulative number	0	3
		B.2.1.6: Number of professionals trained in sustainable regional and inter-municipal mobility planning and management	Gender	Cumulative number	0	60

²⁵ Public transport, walking, cycling. The difference achieved in modal split in the year before and the year after the projects result. Reported at the end of programme.

²⁶ Regional mobility centres are a new management tool to be developed and tested in selected regions in order to accelerate the mobility planning, management and coordination between local and state level. High volume traffic generation locations are individual spots, such as regional hospitals, business parks, tourist attractions, nature sites in protected areas, sport and education centres, which attract a high number of users and generate high traffic pressures in the affected areas.

²⁷ Estimated 50% of households in participating regions

Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation	<i>Output B.2.2: Plans for sustainable mobility management at high-volume traffic locations developed</i>	B.2.2.1: Number of sustainable mobility plans for sustainable mobility management of high volume traffic generating locations developed	/	Cumulative number	0	10
		B.2.2.2: Number of pilot actions from sustainable mobility plans for sustainable mobility management of high volume traffic generating locations implemented	/	Cumulative number	0	10
	<i>Outcome B.3: Increased application of circular economy principles (Norwegian FM and Slovenian national co-financing)</i>	Share of targeted population who self-report increased understanding of circular economy ²⁸	/	Percentage	0	5 %
		Number of innovative green technologies/ processes/ solutions ²⁹ applied	/	Cumulative number	0	12

²⁸ Targeted population will be defined by Project Promoters and it may involve different target groups (such as company employees, residents of a municipality, clients of certain service providers ...). Achievements shall be measured by survey.

²⁹ "Innovation" is defined as "Enterprises, including public entities, implementation of a new or significantly improved product (goods or services), or a process, a new marketing method, or a new organizational method in business practices, work place organization or an external relation. Innovation can be on enterprise level, sector level, national level regional level or international level." Please refer to the OSLO manual for a comprehensive definition (OECD: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/9789264013100-en>). Def. of "green technologies": a single technology that is less environmental harmful than the technology used today, encompassing technologies and processes to manage pollution (i.e. air/water/soil pollution control, waste management) and to use resources more efficiently. Definition of "applied": An enterprise is using a solutions/technology/product already

Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation	<i>Output B.3.1: Measures for circular economy implemented</i>	B.3.1.1: Number of circular economy demonstration/pilot projects implemented ³⁰	/	Cumulative number	0	19
		B.3.1.2: Number of intervention areas related to low-carbon circular economy objectives in Slovenia Development Strategy 2030 addressed	/	Cumulative number	0	9 ³¹
	<i>Outcome B.4: Improved management of ecosystems under climate change pressure (FM EEA and Slovenian national co-financing)</i>	Total surface of rehabilitated land (in hectares)	/	Cumulative number	0	100
		Number of governance models integrating ecosystem services into the decision-making processes for targeted ecosystems in actual use	/	Cumulative number	0	3
	<i>Output B.4.1: Improved capacity for ecosystems management</i>	B.4.1.1: Number of restored ecosystems with ecosystem services	/	Cumulative number	0	3

developed/available in the market and adjust it to the enterprises' own need. These types of projects will often include a R&D component related to adjustment of material, process etc. applicant/enterprise's needs.

³⁰ In manufacturing sector.

³¹ Slovenia Development Strategy 2030, Objective 8 Low-carbon circular economy (pg. 39) sets five intervention areas of which two/ three are addressed by this programme: a) breaking the link between economic growth and growth in consumption of resources and GHG emissions through education and including various stakeholders in the transition to a circular economy (Action Plan), b) promoting innovation, the use of design and information and communications technologies to develop new business models and products which use raw materials and energy more efficiently and through adaptation to climate change.

Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation		mapped and proposed governance models				
		B.4.1.2: Number of proposed governance models	/	Cumulative number	0	3
		B.4.1.3: Number of professional staff trained	Gender	Cumulative number	0	45
		B.4.1.4: Number of people reached by awareness raising and education campaigns	/	Cumulative number	0	600
		B.4.1.5: Number of awareness and education campaigns carried out	/	Cumulative number	0	3

Bilateral

Programme Objective: Climate Change mitigated and vulnerability to climate change reduced						
Programme area	Outcome/Output	Indicator	Disaggregation	Unit of measurement	Baseline values	Target value
Bilateral	Bilateral Outcome: Enhanced collaboration between Slovene and Donor State institutions involved in the programme	Level of trust between cooperating entities in the Beneficiary state and Donor States	State type	Scale (1-7)	TBD ³²	At least 4.5 and an increase on the baseline value
		Level of satisfaction with the partnership	State type	Scale (1-7)	TBD ³³	At least 4.5 and an increase on the baseline value
		Share of cooperating organisations that apply the knowledge acquired from bilateral partnership	State type	Percentage	0	50 %
	Bilateral Output 1: Bilateral cooperation activities	Number of projects involving cooperation with a donor Project Partner	Donor State	Number	0	At least 25% of selected projects

³² Survey to be carried out by the FMO

³³ Survey to be carried out by the FMO