14 October 2025

Positive preliminary assessment of the satisfactory fulfilment of milestones and targets related to the fourth payment request submitted by Slovenia on 24 June 2025, transmitted to the Economic and Financial Committee by the European Commission

Executive summary

In accordance with Article 24(2) of Regulation (EU) 2021/241, on 24 June 2025, Slovenia submitted a request for payment for the fifth and sixth instalment of the non-repayable support and the third instalment of the loan support. The payment request was accompanied by the required management declaration and summary of audits.

To support its payment request, Slovenia provided due justification of the satisfactory fulfilment of the 11 milestones and targets of the fifth instalment of the non-repayable support, the 15 milestones and targets of the sixth instalment of the non-repayable support and the one milestone of the third instalment of the loan support, as set out in Section 2.1.4 and Section 2.2.2 of the Council Implementing Decision of 28 July 2021 on the approval of the assessment of the recovery and resilience plan for Slovenia[1].

For three targets covering a large number of recipients, in addition to the summary documents and official listings provided by Slovenia, Commission services have assessed a statistically significant sample of individual files. The sample size has been uniformly set at 60, which corresponds to a confidence level of 95% or above in all cases.

In its payment request, Slovenia has confirmed that measures related to previously satisfactorily fulfilled milestones and targets have not been reversed. The Commission does not have evidence of the contrary. Upon receipt of the payment request, the Commission has assessed on a preliminary basis the satisfactory fulfilment of the relevant milestones and targets. Based on the information provided by Slovenia, the Commission has made a positive preliminary assessment of the satisfactory fulfilment of all 27 milestones and targets.

The milestones and targets positively assessed as part of this payment request demonstrate significant steps in the implementation of Slovenia's Recovery and Resilience Plan. They notably highlight the continuation of the reform momentum in key policy areas. This includes, among others, the pension reform and the long-term care reform. The milestones and targets also confirm progress towards the completion of investment projects related to the digitalisation of education and science or the railway infrastructure capacity.

By the transmission of this positive preliminary assessment and in accordance with Article 24(4) of Regulation (EU) 2021/241, the Commission asks for the opinion of the Economic and Financial Committee on the satisfactory fulfilment of the relevant milestones and targets.

[1] 10612/21 ADD 1 as amended by 8390/22 ADD1 to ADD22 and 13615/1/23 REV 1 ADD1 REV1, not yet published.

Contents

Non-repayable support **2**

Number and name of the Milestone SI-C1-RC-M8: Action Plan for the management of energy efficiency in the economy 3

Number and name of the Milestone SI-C3-RA-M29: Entry into force of a resolution on the national programme of protection against natural and other disasters 4

Number and name of the Milestone SI-C4-RA-M55: A public passenger transport management company is operational 9

Number and name of the Target: SI-C4-IC-T59: Upgraded railway stations 12

Number and name of the Milestone SI-C5-RA-M70: Developing and applying of a green budgetary planning methodology 20

Number and name of the Milestone SI-C5-IB-M72: Award of grants for support to companies in the transition to a circular economy 24

Number and name of the Target SI-C6-T82: Consortia supported with completed comprehensive digital transformation 28

Number and name of the Target SI-C6-IE-T86: Number of projects started 31

Number and name of the Milestone SI-C7-IE-M92: A competence centre - human resources centre established and operational 34

Number and name of the Target SI-C7-IJ-T106: Additional education institutions with optical connections above 1 Gbps 41

Number and name of the Target SI-C7-IJ-T107: Additional 100 Gbps backbone optical connections. 44

Number and name of the Milestone SI-C10-RA-M135: Entry into force of the Act establishing a “crisis” short-time work scheme 47

Number and name of the Milestone SI-C10-RA-M136: Entry into force of amendments to the Labour Market Regulation Act 51

Number and name of the Milestone SI-C10-RA-M138: Legislative proposal for comprehensive amendments to the Pension and Disability Insurance Act transmitted to the National Assembly 55

Number and name of the Target: SI-C12-IE-T157: Professionals and managers having completed training in digital and sustainable development competences 60

Number and name of the Milestone SI-C13-RB-M173: Entry into force of a law regulating the pay system in the public sector 66

Number and name of the Milestone SI-C14-M182: Establishment of an independent body to monitor and control quality in the HC system 72

Number and name of the Milestone SI-C14-IC-M185: Award of contract for a national telemedicine system 79

Number and name of the Milestone SI-C14-IE-M190: Award of a contract for the construction of Ljubljana Infectious Clinic 84

Number and name of the Milestone SI-C15-RA-M197: Entry into force of the LTC Act, including the provisions on compulsory LTC insurance 87

Number and name of the Milestone SI-C15-RA-M198: Entry into force of implementing acts and guidelines under to the LTC Act 93

Number and name of the Milestone SI-C17-RA-M210: Entry into force of the Act on the deployment of installations for the production of electricity from renewable energy sources 98

Number and name of the Milestone SI-C17-RA-M211: Provision in the decree indicating the entry into force 101

Number and name of the Milestone SI-C17-IC-M214: Launching of a call for proposals for new or upgraded medium-voltage distribution network 103

Number and name of the Milestone SI-C17-ID-M216: Launch of support scheme for energy efficiency and decarbonisation of the economy 106

Number and name of the Milestone SI-C17-IE-M218: Publication of a call for proposals for the deployment of recharging or refuelling infrastructure 109

Loan support 112

Number and name of the Milestone: SI-C3-ID-M49: Entry into force of legislative act(s) and regulation(s) for the implementation of public environmental protection services 113

Non-repayable support

Number and name of the Milestone SI-C1-RC-M8: Action Plan for the management of energy efficiency in the economy

Related measure: SI-C1-RC: Energy efficiency in the economy

Qualitative indicator: Adoption of an Action Plan for the management of energy efficiency in the economy

Time: Q4/2023

1. Context:

Milestone 8 is part of Reform C on energy efficiency in the economy. The objective of the reform is to increase the energy efficiency potential of industry in Slovenia.

Milestone 8 concerns the adoption of an Action Plan for the management of energy efficiency in the economy.

Milestone 8 is the only milestone of the measure. The reform has a final expected date for implementation by 31 December 2023.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence.	Short description
1	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled, with appropriate links to the underlying evidence	A cover note was provided explaining the aim of the Action Plan.
2	Copy of the Decision of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia adopting the Action Plan for the management of energy efficiency in the economy until 2030	Government decision of 12 December 2024 adopting the Action Plan for the management of energy efficiency in the economy until 2030.
3	Copy of the action plan for management of the energy efficiency in the economy	The Action Plan for the management of energy efficiency in the economy until 2030 published on the Government's website: [Akcijski načrt upravljanja energetske učinkovitosti v gospodarstvu do leta 2030]

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Slovenian authorities cover all constitutive elements of the milestone.

In line with the measure and milestone descriptions, **the Action Plan for the management of energy efficiency in the economy shall provide for the introduction of a digitalised method of reporting data on energy audits by enterprises, as well as for monitoring of potential and achieved energy savings.** Furthermore, in line with the qualitative indicator, **adoption of an Action Plan for the management**

of energy efficiency in the economy. Furthermore, in line with the measure description, **the reform shall promote the digitalisation of reporting and monitoring of energy efficiency.**

The Government of the Republic of Slovenia adopted the Action Plan for the management of energy efficiency in the economy until 2030 (hereinafter: “The Action Plan”) under item 4 of the government session of 12 December 2024 (evidence 2). The Action Plan outlines a range of measures addressing energy efficiency in the economy with the aim to significantly reduce energy consumption and promote competitiveness of the economy with a period of applicability between 2024 and 2030 (evidence 3). Action 1 (“Digitalisation of energy audits”) under Chapter III (“Measures for Energy Efficiency in the Economy”) of the Action Plan provides for the digitalisation of energy audits of enterprises. More specifically, Action 1 provides for: (i) the introduction of a digitised way of reporting on the performance of energy audits by enterprises, (ii) the digitalisation of the monitoring of the implementation of energy audits, and (iii) the monitoring of potential and achieved energy savings. The implementation of Action 1 is expected to result in simplifying the reporting of data on energy efficiency by enterprises through digitalisation, while also improving and harmonising the reporting and monitoring of energy efficiency data more broadly, enabling a better evaluation of the impacts of energy efficiency measures across the economy. With this it will also promote the digitalisation of reporting and monitoring of energy efficiency.

In line with the measure and milestone descriptions, **the Action Plan shall also foresee relevant institutions to include a requirement for reporting on and the implementation of energy audits for enterprises benefiting from support for energy efficiency improvements.** Furthermore, in line with the description of the measure, **both enterprises subject to an obligation to carry out energy audits under the Energy Efficiency Act and enterprises which are not currently subject to the Act shall make use of the digitalised method of reporting.**

Action 1 (“Digitalisation of energy audits”) under Chapter III (“Measures for Energy Efficiency in the Economy”) of the Action Plan (evidence 3) provides for relevant institutions to include a requirement for enterprises receiving support for energy efficiency improvements for reporting on the energy audits and for the implementation of energy audits. More specifically, Action 1 provides for relevant institutions which allocate support in the form of public funds for projects of enterprises in the field of energy efficiency to include as a requirement in the application documentation the requirement of a digitalised reporting method on energy audits, whereby enterprises will be required to report on and the implementation of energy audits. Furthermore, as per the text of the Action Plan, this requirement will apply to enterprises obliged to carry out energy audits under the Energy Efficiency Act and in the future, based on further environmental and financial assessment also to enterprises that are not currently subject to the Act (evidence 3, Chapter III). By providing for reporting on, and the implementation of, energy audits for enterprises benefiting from support for energy efficiency improvements, the Action Plan aims to align with the energy efficiency first principle, which prioritises cost-effective energy efficiency measures in policy and investment decisions, driving the reduction of energy consumption and costs.

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactory fulfilled.

Number and name of the Milestone SI-C3-RA-M29: Entry into force of a resolution on the national programme of protection against natural and other disasters

Related measure: SI-C -RA: Strengthening preparedness and response in the event of climate-driven disasters

Qualitative Indicator: Provision in the resolution indicating the entry into force of a national programme of protection against natural and other disasters

Time: Q4 2023

1. Context:

The objective of the reform is to strengthen the preparedness and ensure a faster, better coordinated and more effective response to climate-related disasters at national, regional and local level. The reform addresses the climate-related disasters representing the highest risk for Slovenia, such as floods and large wildfires.

Milestone 29 concerns the entry into force of the resolution on the national programme of protection against natural and other disasters, which defines the organisation, response and functioning of new and existing disaster response units.

Milestone 29 is the only milestone of this reform, related to the entry into force of a resolution on the national programme of protection against natural and other disasters. The reform has a final expected date for implementation by 31 December 2023.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence	Short description
1	Summary document	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled, with appropriate links to the underlying evidence.
2	Resolution on a national programme of protection against natural and other disasters in the years from 2024 to 2030, no. 212-07/24-32/11, adopted by the National Assembly on 23 October 2025 and published in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, no. 94/2024 on 30 October 2025	The resolution sets out a national programme of protection against natural and other disasters in the years from 2024 to 2030. The resolution is available at: https://www.uradni-list.si/1/objava.jsp?sop=2024-01-2818.
3	Decision of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia, no. 84200-1/2025/6, dated 28 August 2025, approving the Annual plan for protection against natural and other disasters for 2025	The decision approves the Annual plan for protection against natural and other disasters for the year 2025, which was prepared in line with the Resolution on a national programme of protection against natural and other disasters in the years from 2024 to 2030. The decision also indicates the date when the Resolution entered into force.

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Slovenian authorities cover all constitutive elements of the milestone.

The Resolution shall be adopted by the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia. Furthermore, in line with the name of the milestone, **entry into force of a resolution on the national programme of protection against natural and other disasters.** Furthermore, in line with the qualitative indicator, **provision in the resolution indicating the entry into force of a national programme of protection against natural and other disasters.** Furthermore, in line with the measure description, **the reform shall be implemented through the entry into force of a new resolution on the national programme of protection against natural and other disasters by 31 December 2023.**

As indicated on page 8911 of the Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, no. 94/2024, the Resolution on a national programme of protection against natural and other disasters in the years from 2024 to 2030 *(hereinafter referred to as "the Resolution")*, which sets out the national programme of protection against natural and other disasters, was adopted by the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia on 23 October 2024 and was published in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia on 30 October 2024.

The Council Implementing Decision required the entry into force of a new resolution on the national programme of protection against natural and other disasters by 31 December 2023. The National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia adopted the Resolution on 23 October 2024 (evidence 2). The resolution entered into force on the date of the publication of the Resolution in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, which was on 30 October 2024, as indicated in the Decision of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia (evidence 3). Whilst this constitutes a minimal substantive deviation from the requirement of the Council Implementing Decision, the Resolution was adopted by the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia and entered into force at the time of the assessment.

The Council Implementing Decision required a provision in the resolution indicating the entry into force of a national programme of protection against natural and other disasters. The National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia adopted the Resolution on 23 October 2024 (evidence 2). The resolution entered into force on the date of the publication of the Resolution in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, which was on 30 October 2024. The Resolution does not include a specific provision indicating its entry into force. However, the entry into force of the Resolution is set out in the Decision of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia (evidence 3). Whilst this constitutes a minimal formal deviation from the requirement of the Council Implementing Decision, the evidence provided by Slovenia confirms that the Resolution entered into force on the date of the publication of the Resolution in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia. As of this, this minimal deviation does not affect the progress towards achieving the reform that the milestone represents. On this basis, it is considered that this constitutive element of the milestone is satisfactorily fulfilled.

It shall define the organisation and response to climate-driven disasters... Furthermore, in line with the description of the measure, the **reform shall define the organisation and response to climate-driven disasters through the creation of modular response units specialised and trained to respond to climate-related disasters at national, regional and local level**.

As specified in chapter 1 of the resolution, the purpose of the Resolution is to define the organisational structure, as well as to implement the necessary activities for the effective response to all types of natural and other disasters, including climate-related disasters, at national, regional and local level. As specified in chapter 2.1 of the Resolution, this includes the creation of specialised modular response units (these are civil protection units, which carry out individual disaster response tasks independently but can also be combined with other rescue units into modules depending on the specific needs) and training programmes, as well as the definition of other relevant conditions to strengthen the preparedness, training and response capabilities of civil protection units in relation to all types of natural and other disasters, including climate-related disasters, at national, regional and local level.

In addition, as defined in chapter 6.3.1 of the Resolution, the further development and optimisation of protection and rescue units and their organisation at national, regional, and local level, as well as within businesses, institutions and other organisations, will be implemented in line with the adopted and planned normative and other solutions (including through organisational changes in the setup of certain units, improvements in the communication between the related services, the unification of emergency activation procedures). This will involve a further increase in the specialisation of civil protection units and will enhance their capability for highly demanding interventions and response to climate-related disasters.

[It shall define...] the operation of newly established modular response units to climate-driven disasters, their training,…

The operation of newly established modular response units in response to climate-driven disasters (such as the Slovenian Ground Forest fire fighting with vehicles (SI GFFFV), SI rescEU Shelter, regional-local rescue units for rapid response to climate-related disasters) is defined in chapters 4.1 and 6.3.2 of the Resolution. To ensure the operational efficiency of these units when performing their civil protection tasks in the event of floods, fires, sleet and other disasters, the National Programme for Protection against Natural and Other Disasters from 2024 to 2030 incudes the provision of the needed logistical support, equipment and specialised trainings (chapter 9.3 of the Resolution).

As specified in chapter 7.1 of the Resolution, as part of the response to climate-related disasters, specialised training programmes will be developed and implemented for new and existing civil protection units dealing with floods, wildfires and sleet. As further detailed in chapter 7.1 of the Resolution, this will include updating the current training programmes, developing new training programs based on threat sources and changes in the organization and equipment of civil protection units, introducing modern forms of training, developing and upgrading theoretical and practical teaching materials for the relevant actors at the operational level, and upgrading teaching tools for simulations of climate change-related disasters. In addition, as specified in chapter 7.1 of the Resolution, along with the new training programmes, specialised training grounds, infrastructure and equipment will also be provided to facilitate these trainings, and training and educational materials for civil protection units will be prepared and upgraded in three disaster response centres.

… and the functioning and role of existing units in response to climate-driven disasters. Furthermore, in line with the measure description, **the reform shall define [...], while redefining the role of the existing units.**

The role, functioning and further optimisation of the existing forces and related units in response to climate-driven and other disasters (such as the National Rapid Intervention Unit (EHI), the Medium Urban Search and Rescue (MUSAR) unit, Cave Search and Rescue (CaveSAR) unit, local firefighting units) is set out in chapters 2.5 and 6.3.2 of the Resolution. In addition, as specified in chapters 6.3.1 and 6.3.2 of the Resolution, the role of certain existing units at national, regional and local level (such as firefighting units, earthquake search and rescue units, water pumping units) is being redefined in the scope of the ongoing reorganisation and optimisation of the civil protection system, taking into account their size, technical capacities, specialisation and ability to implement complex interventions, as well as their response to climate-driven disasters. Furthermore, as defined in chapter 4.1 of the

Resolution, a comprehensive reform on the organisation and functioning of the operational civil protection units will be implemented and will involve a reorganisation of the command system for these units and the implementation of an updated concept for integrating all currently available human and technical resources from the armed forces and other civil protection formations responding to climate-driven disasters.

It shall aim at a faster, more coordinated and more effective response to climate-related disasters (floods, large-scale wild fires and other climate-related disasters). Furthermore, in line with the description of the measure, **the structure shall address the climate-related disasters representing the highest risk for Slovenia, such as floods and large wild fires.**

As specified in chapter 4.1 of the Resolution, the establishment of the National centre for protection, rescue and assistance, the National centre for large wildfires, the National centre for flood protection, and the National centre for sleet and storms will ensure the infrastructure conditions for better planning, organisation, training and operational response of the civil protection units, services, authorities, and other components of governmental and non-governmental organisations at regional and local levels. This will ensure the needed support for the operation of the key structures and units, and thereby contribute towards a faster, more coordinated and more effective response to climate-related disasters at all levels.

Furthermore, as defined in chapter 4.1 of the Resolution, to ensure that civil protection units will be able to more effectively respond to different climate-related disasters, in particular floods and large wildfires, which represent the highest risk for Slovenia, training programs, which will include content for acquiring specific knowledge to respond to consequences of floods and large fires, teamwork, assuming responsibility, ensuring their own safety and the safety of other participants, and operating in different disaster response unit formations, will be developed or enhanced. . As further defined in chapter 4.1, the additional equipment for climate change adaptation and response to different types of disasters will significantly increase the effectiveness of the response to such disasters. In addition, as specified in chapter 4.1 of the Resolution, a more effective and faster response will also be achieved by allocating a large part of this equipment to local communities on the basis of a special call, while new regional rapid intervention units will be formed and trained specifically for this purpose.

Furthermore, in line with the description of the measure, **by 30 June 2026, the entire territory of Slovenia and all the population, with a particular focus on vulnerable groups, is expected to be covered by the new organisation structure.**

The Council Implementing Decision states that by 30 June 2026, the entire territory of Slovenia and all the population, with a particular focus on vulnerable groups, is expected to be covered by the new organisation structure. The Recovery and Resilience Plan provides that the impact of the reform, which sets out the new organisation structure, is anticipated to reach the entire territory and population in Slovenia, with particular focus on vulnerable groups by 2026. It follows from the foregoing, that the Recovery and Resilience Plan uses non-binding language ("anticipates") rather than legally binding and mandatory terms such as "requires". In light of the purposive interpretation of this requirement from the Council Implementing Decision, this element is interpreted as setting out a non-binding expectation as opposed to a legally binding requirement, indicating that the coverage of the entire territory and population of Slovenia by the new organisation structure by 30 June 2026 is not obligatory. Slovenia adopted the Resolution on the national programme of protection against natural and other disasters on 23 October 2024, which entered into force on 30 October. The Resolution includes a provision which stipulates that a new organizational structure of the civil protection forces will be established throughout the entire territory of the Republic of Slovenia in 2026, which will ensure greater safety for the population, while special attention in disaster response will be provided to vulnerable groups (disabled people, elderly people, children). The Resolution therefore establishes the expectation that, by 2026, the new structure will provide coverage of the entire territory and population, which is line the purposive interpretation. On this basis, it is considered that this constitutive element of the milestone is satisfactorily fulfilled.

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled.

Number and name of the Milestone SI-C4-RA-M55: A public passenger transport management company is operational

Related measure: SI-C4-RA: Reform of the organisation of public passenger transport

Qualitative indicator: The legal act establishing the public passenger transport management company

Time: Q4/2023

1. Context:

Measure A, the "Reform of the Organisation of Public Passenger Transport" in Slovenia, aims to enhance the accessibility standard and competitiveness of public transport by promoting the recovery of passenger numbers after the pandemic.

Milestone 55 concerns the establishment and start of operation of the Public Passenger Transport Management Company (“*hereinafter referred to as “PPTMC”*) by the Ministry of the Environment, Climate and Energy by 31 December 2023. This milestone focuses on establishing a single, integrated public transport manager at the national level which supports the integration of different modes of public transport.

Milestone 55 is the second milestone of the measure and is an important step following the adoption of the necessary legal framework, namely the entry into force of a new law on public passenger transport (milestone 54). Successful implementation of this milestone (55) is expected to contribute to achieving Target 56, which regards an increase in the number of passengers using public passenger transport. The expected completion date for the implementation of Measure A is 30 June 2025.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence. For legal acts please provide the full legal reference and date of entry into force	Short description
1	Decree establishing the Public Passenger Transport Management Company of 14. 7. 2022 (*Akt o ustanovitvi Družbe za upravljanje javnega potniškega prometa z dne 14. 7. 2022)*	The legal act establishing the public passenger transport management company.
2	Extract from the judicial/business register of the Republic of Slovenia on the registered entity of the Public Passenger Transport Management Company, based on the decision of the Koper District Court of 9. 9. 2022, *(Redni izpis iz sodnega/poslovnega registra Republike Slovenije o vpisanem subjektu Družba za upravljanje javnega potniškega prometa, na podlagi sklepa Okrožnega sodišča v Kopru z dne 9. 9. 2022)* On- the-spot-check of 30 June 2025	Registration of the PPTMC Company, financial resources Commission services conducted the on-the-spot-check to verify the extraction of relevant data from commercial register (AJPES).
3	Decision of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia appointing the Supervisory Board of the PPTMC of 12 1. 2023,	Appointment of the PPTMC’s first supervisory board by the Government of the Republic of Slovenia.

	(Sklep Vlade Republike Slovenija o imenovanju Nadzornega sveta DUJPP z dne 12. 1. 2023)	
4	25 employment contracts concluded between the PPTMC and individual staff members of the PPTMC.	Evidence demonstrating that the PPTMC contracted its staff members. Names of the staff members have been redacted.
5	Contract for the performance of tasks relating to the management of public passenger transport of 5. 10. 2023. Contract no. No 379-74/2023-2570	This contract shows the legal transfer of tasks to the PPTMC. Particularly relevant parts are: - Point 1.1 - Annex I: Tasks referred to in Article 16 of the Public Passenger Transport Management Act - Annex II: Tasks referred to in Article 17 ZUJPP of the Public Passenger Transport Management Act
6	Amendment No.9 to the Contract on the provision of the compulsory commercial public service of domestic and cross-border regional rail passenger transport for the period 2017 to 2031, concluded on 25. 10. 2023, *(Aneks št. 9 k Pogodbi o izvajanju obvezne gospodarske javne službe prevoza potnikov v notranjem in čezmejnem regijskem železniškem prometu za obdobje 2017 do 2031 z dne 25. 10. 2023)*	Evidence demonstrating the transfer of tasks from the Ministry of the Environment, Climate and Energy to the PPTMC in the field of rail.
7	Certificate of Budgetary Commitment from the State Budget. Annex 11_1: Certificate of payment from the budget of 5 September 2022, Public Payments Administration.	Evidence demonstrating the committed financial resources. This evidence clearly shows the precise amounts committed.
8	Decision of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia appointing the director of the PPTMC. *(Sklep o imenovanju direktorja DUJPP d.o.o.)*	On 8 August 2022, the Government of the Republic of Slovenia appointed the director of the PPTMC, number 01411-10/202272.
9	Summary document	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone, (including the constitutive elements) has been satisfactorily fulfilled.

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Slovenian authorities covers all constitutive elements of the milestone.

In line with the qualitative indicator, **the legal act establishing the public passenger transport management company. Entry into operation of the Public Passenger Transport Management Company [...]**

On 6 April 2022, the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia adopted the Public Passenger Transport Management Act *(Zakon o upravljanju javnega potniškega prometa; hereinafter referred to* *as "Act"*), which was published in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia No 54/22 on 20 April 2022 and entered into force on 5 May 2022 in line with Article 41 of the Act. Article 8 of the Act provides for the establishment of a Public Passenger Transport Management Company (*hereinafter referred to as "PPTMC").* Pursuant to Article 37(2) of the Act, the Government of the Republic of Slovenia, as the founder and sole shareholder of the PPTMC, adopted a Decree on establishing the Company for the Management of Public Passenger Transport, d.o.o. on 14 July 2022 (Annex 1). According to Article 8 of the decree, the PPTMC is responsible for managing public passenger transport in the country. On 9 September 2022, the Koper District Court issued a decision registering the establishment of the Company for the Management of Public Passenger Transport, d.o.o. which was entered into the commercial register as indicated in the official extract from the Slovenian Business Register) (Annex 2).

The Commission services conducted an on-the-spot check on 30 June 2025 to verify the extraction of relevant data from the Slovenian Business Register. This check was completed successfully, confirming that the PPTMC has been established on 9 September 2022 and entered into the Slovenian Business Register. After registration, the Government of the Republic of Slovenia appointed the PPTMC's first supervisory board on 12 January 2023 (Annex 4). On 5 October 2023, a Contract for the performance of tasks relating to the management of public passenger transport (Annex 6) was signed between the PPTMC and the Republic of Slovenia, represented by the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Energy under the authority of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia. In accordance with the Article 15(1) of this contract, responsibilities for the management of public passenger transport were transferred to the Public Passenger Transport Management Company as of 5 November 2023.

[...] Equipped with human resources [...]

On 8 August 2022, the Government of the Republic of Slovenia appointed a director of the PPTMC with the Decision of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia of 8 August 2022 number 01411-10/202272 (Annex 12) and signed a contract of employment with him on 28 October 2022 (Contract of employment of director of the PPTMC, Annex 5). The PPTMC subsequently recruited more than 20 employees as evident from 24 contracts of employment concluded between the PPTMC and staff members (Annex 5).

[...] and financial resources

When the company was set up, the founder, the Republic of Slovenia, provided fixed funds for the operation of the company by contributing the share capital of EUR 2.023.000,00 (Article 5 of Act on establishment of the PPTMC from 14 July 2022, Annex 1). The funding capital was transferred from the state budget with code 011006300109972 to the account number 029220264401528 of the PPTMC on 5 September 2022 (Annex 11_1- Certificate of payment from the budget of 5 September 2022, Public Payments Administration). The share capital is also indicated in the extract from the Slovenian Business Register of 9 September 2022 (Annex 2). The Commission services conducted an on-the-spot check on 30 June 2025 to verify the extraction of relevant data from the Slovenian Business Register. This check was completed successfully, confirming the share capital of EUR 2.023.000,00.

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled.

Number and name of the Target: SI-C4-IC-T59: Upgraded railway stations

Related measure: SI-C4-IC: Increasing railway infrastructure capacity

Qualitative indicator: Number (stations)

Baseline: 0

Target: 2

Time: Q2 2024

1. Context:

The measure aims at increasing railway infrastructure capacity in Slovenia. It encompasses various investments in railway infrastructure aimed at enhancing connectivity with urban centres and improving accessibility of railway stations to a wider population, including people with disabilities. It contributes to improving the transport service, both for passenger and freight transport.

Target 59 requires completed refurbishment works at two major railway stations on the regional network: Grosuplje and Domžale. The upgrade should be compliant with the DNSH guidance and will increase the track capacity of lines while ensuring better accessibility for users.

Target 59 is the third step of implementation of this investment (C), and it follows the completion of milestone 57, related to the award of contracts for upgrading sections of the Ljubljana- Divača railway line and milestone 58, related to the award of contracts to upgrade these two railway stations. It will be followed by target 60, related to the completion of the upgrade of the sections of the Ljubljana-Divača railway line. The investment has a final expected date for implementation on 30 June 2025.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence	Short description
1	Minutes of the Committee for inspection of the completion of work prior to issuing the Certificate of completion of work, No 375-7/2022/46 of 29 July 2023 (*Zapisnik komisije o pregledu končanih del pred izdajo Potrdila o prevzemu del – projekt "Rekonstrukcija železnike postaje Domžale št.* 375-7/2022/46, 29. 7. 2023") 1_1Certificate of completion of works, No 375-7/2022/46 of 29 July 2023 *(Potrdilo o prevzemu del- projekt "Rekonstrukcija železnike postaje Domžale"* 375-7/2022/46, 29.7.2023)	Certificate of completion of works issued in accordance with national legislation and signed by all relevant parties in accordance with national law for railway station Domžale
2	Certificate of completion of works, No 375-7/2022/79 of 4 January 2024 (*Potrdilo o izvedbi – projekt "Rekonstrukcija železnike postaje Domžale"* 375-7/2022/79 4. 1. 2024)	Certificate of completion of works, including on correcting deficiencies identified by the technical inspections for railway station Domžale.
3	Minutes of the adoption of the final technical inspection 30201-2/2017-124 of 29 November 2023 (*Zapisnik o potrditvi*	Report of the technical inspection for railway station Domžale.

	končnega faznega tehničnega pregleda št. 30201-2/2017-119 z dne 28.7.2023 za objekt "Rekostrukcija železniške postaje Domžale, 29. 11. 2023, št. 30201-2/2017-124) 3_1Minutes of the final technical inspection 30201-2/2017-119 of 28 July 2023 (*Zapisnik končnega faznega tehničnega pregleda in prevzema izvedenih del za objekt "Rekostrukcija železniške postaje Domžale# in "Preureditev obstoječih signalnovarnostnih naprav v okviru rekonstrukcije železniške postaje Domžale", 28.7. 2023, št. 30201-2/2017-119*)	
5	Report on the created construction waste and its treatment, no.5348-4-2023, September 2023 (*Poročilo o nastalih gradbenih odpadkih in ravnanju z njimi, Rešet d.o.o., no.5348-4-2023, September 2023*)	Report on waste for railway station Domžale.
6	EC certificate of verification No 2508/6/SG/2023/INF/SLEN/153-ESP-245/V01 of 17 November 2023 (*Potrdilo ES o verifikaciji 2508/6/SG/2023/INF/SLEN/153-ESP-245/V01, 17. 11. 2023, DIS rail- podjetje za verificiranje in nadzor železniške infrastrukture*).	Report of an independent engineer certified by the Ministry of Infrastructure, including a justification that the technical specifications of the project are aligned with both interoperability standards and thus requirements of the milestone (Accessibility and track load) for railway station Domžale.
7	DNSH compliance table for Domžale railway station	Detailed overview of compliance with the DNSH Technical Guidance (2021/C58/01) in construction and completion phase prepared by the Ministry of Infrastructure for railway station Domžale.
8	Detailed technical documentation of finished works no. 53 37 608/4, July 2023 (*PID-Projekt izvedenih del 53 37 608/4, julij 2023*)	Detailed technical documentation of finished work prepared in line with national construction legislation for railway station Domžale.
9	Documentation on the compliance of the project with applicable standards and legislation for the reconstruction of Domžale railway station project, no**.** 608.4.G457/23_VF, 30 October 2023 *(Vodilna mapa dokazila o zanesljivosti objekta, Rekonstrukcija železniške postaje Domžale*, št. *608.4.G457/23_VF, 30. 10. 2023*)	Documentation on compliance of project with applicable standards and legislation in line with national construction legislation for railway station Domžale.
10	Instructions for operation and maintenance, Reconstruction of Domžale railway station, 53 37 808/4 NOV, July 2023 (*Navodila za obratovanje in vzdrževanje, Rekonstrukcija železniške postaje Domžale, julij 2023, no.* 53 37 808/4 NOV*)*	Technical documents on maintenance for railway station Domžale.

11	Certificate of completion of works, project: Upgrade of Grosuplje railway station. No 37500-11/2017/344 of 22 November 2023 *(“Potrdilo o izvedbi – projekt “Nadgradanja železnike postaje Grosuplje” 37500-11/2017/344 22. 11. 2023”*)	Certificates of completion of works, including on correcting deficiencies identified by the technical inspections for railway station Grosuplje.
12	Minutes of the adoption of the final technical inspection of 20 July 2022, no. 30201-2/2017-86, 30 November 2022 (*Zapisnik o potrditvi končnega faznega tehničnega pregleda št. 30201-2/2017-86 z dne 20.7. 2022; št. 30201-2/2017-86, 30. 11. 2022 za objekt “Nadgradnja železniške postaje Grosuplje””*) 12_1 Minutes of the final technical inspection for project “Upgrade of railway station Grosuplje” no. 30201-2/2017-62 of 20 July 2022 (*Zapisnik končnega faznega tehničnega pregleda in prevzema izvedenih del za objekt “nadgradnja železniške postaje Grosuplje”, 20. 7. 2022, št. 30201-2/2017-62*)	Report of the independent technical inspection for railway station Grosuplje.
13	Operating permit no. for project Upgrade of railway station Grosuplje SI6120230001 of 21 March 2023 *(Dovoljenje za začetek obratovanja za projekt “Nadgradanja železnike postaje Grosuplje” št.SI6120230001, 21. 3. 2023)*	Operating permit for railway station Grosuplje.
14	Documentation on compliance of project with applicable standards and legislation for project of Upgrade of railway station Grosuplje , no. 01-TS/5-31-22, July 2022 (Vodilna mapa dokazila o zanesljivosti objekta, *Nadgradanja železnike postaje Grosuplje*, št. 01-TS/5-31-22, julij 2022)	Documentation on compliance of project with applicable standards and legislation in line with national construction legislation for railway station Grosuplje.
15	Report of an independent engineer Bureau Veritas no. 2129/6/SG/22/INF/SL/18 of 4 November 2022 *(Potrdilo ES o verifikaciji, št. 2129/6/SG/22/INF/SL/18, Nadgradnja železniške postaje Grosuplje, 4. 11. 2022, Bureau Veritas in Mapa priglašenega organa*	Report of an independent engineer certified by the relevant ministry, including a justification that the technical specifications of the project are aligned with interoperability standards for accessibility and infrastructure for railway station Grosuplje.
16	DNSH compliance table for Grosuplje railway station	Detailed overview of compliance with the DNSH Technical Guidance (2021/C58/01) in construction and completion phase prepared by the Ministry of Infrastructure for railway station Grosuplje.
17	Certificate of completion of works and Minutes of committee on inspection of completed works no. 37500-1172017/256 of 20 July 2022 *(Potrdilo o prevzemu del, in Zapisnik komisije o pregledu končanih del*	Certificate of completion of works, Detailed technical documentation of finished work prepared in line with national construction legislation for railway station Grosuplje.

	pred izdajo Potrdila o prevzemu del št. 37500-1172017/256 z dne 20. 7. 2022) Detailed technical documentation of finished works no. 3732_3/1, June 2022 (*PID- Projekt izvedenih del št.* 3732_3/1*, junij 2022*)	
18	Report on the construction waste and their treatment, CGP d.d., no. 01-TS/6/12-22, June 2022 (*Poročilo o nastalih gradbenih odpadkih in ravnanju z njimi, CGP d.d., no. 01-TS/6/12-22, junij 2022*)	Report on dealing with waste for railway station Grosuplje.
19	Summary documents duly justifying how the target has been satisfactorily fulfilled	

3. Analysis:

The justification and supporting evidence provided by the Slovenian authorities addresses all constitutive elements of the target.

Completed refurbishment works at Grosuplje and Domžale

The upgrade of the Domžale railway station has been completed as of 4 January 2024, when the certificate of completion of works was issued, as demonstrated by the document No 375-7/2022/79 (evidence 2). Prior to this, a technical inspection took place on 28 July 2023 which found some technical deficiencies (evidence 3_1) which were remedied as certified by the minutes of the final technical inspection on 29 November 2023 (evidence 3, point G).

The upgrade of the Grosuplje railway station was completed on 22 November 2023, when the certificate of completion of works was issued (evidence 11). Prior to that, in line with national legislation, a technical inspection took place on 20 July 2022 (evidence 12_1) which was approved on 30 November 2022 (evidence 12). The operating permit was granted on 21 March 2023 (evidence 13).

in compliance with the requirements under milestone 58: (*"shall ensure compliance with the 'Do no significant harm' Technical Guidance (2021/C58/01) and shall include improvements in the current accessibility for passengers and the track capacity of the lines"*)**.**

compliance with the 'Do no significant harm' Technical Guidance (2021/C58/01)

The renovation works at Grosuplje and Domžale railway stations comply with the DNSH Technical Guidance as demonstrated in the tables providing detailed explanations and links to the documents for the DNSH requirements per individual environmental objective (evidence 7 and 16).

- **Climate change adaptation:** Climate change could impact the upgrading of the railway station, particularly through the extreme temperatures affecting the embedded materials.
  - Domžale railway station: All incorporated materials are documented and compiled along with certificates, declarations of conformity and statements that have been obtained (evidence 9). The design includes an electronic weather station that uses rainfall and rail temperature sensors to control the electrical heating of switches, ensuring continued operation during adverse weather conditions (evidence 8, section 3-6 – Switches heat). To adapt to climate change, the energy rehabilitation of the station building and the renewal or replacement of the long-lasting, external elements of the facility were also carried out. The energy rehabilitation of the station building

involved thermal insulation of the building envelope, as documented in evidence 8, section 1-2 – Station building architectural p. 17.

  - Grosuplje railway station: All incorporated materials are documented and compiled along with certificates, statements and declarations of conformity (evidence 14). Also incorporated is the electrical heating of switches, which is controlled through an electronic weather station that uses a precipitation and rail temperature sensor control to identify local weather conditions that could affect the operation of switches. This is demonstrated by evidence 17, section Electrical heating of switches Electric heating of switches. To adapt to climate change, the energy rehabilitation of the station building and the renewal or replacement of the long-lasting, external elements of the facility were also carried out. The energy rehabilitation of the station building involved thermal insulation of the building envelope, as evidenced by the certificate of completion of works (evidence 17, section: Plan of layout of the station building façade).

- **Sustainable use and protection of water**:
  - Domžale railway station is not located near watercourses, nor within a water protection area. Drainage and sewage installations were installed (evidence 8, section: 2-1, Chapter 10) in line with provisions of Instructions for operation and maintenance (evidence 10).
  - Grosuplje railway station is not located near watercourses, nor within a water protection area. Drainage and sewage installations were installed (evidence 17, section: Rolling stock management plan with platforms and parking area).
- **Circular economy , including waste prevention and recycling:**
  - For Domžale railway station, the construction waste has been duly handed over to an authorised consignee, as evidenced by a report on construction waste generated and submitted, together with associated record sheets (evidence 5). As shown in the report, more than 90 % of construction waste was handed over for recovery to an authorized company. Renovating the existing building helped prevent additional waste that would result from demolition and reconstruction.
  - For Grosuplje railway station, the construction waste was duly handed over to an authorised company, as evidenced by a Report on construction waste generated and submitted (evidence 18) and the associated record sheets. As shown in the report, more than 90 % of construction waste was handed over for recovery to an authorised company. Regarding prevention of construction waste, the station building has been renovated, otherwise the replacement building would represent significantly more construction waste. Hazardous construction waste was delivered to an authorised company and subsequently sent for incineration in compliance with the legislation as proved by receipts and copies of the certified statutory forms (evidence 14).
- **Pollution prevention and control:**
  - For Domžale railway station, noise mitigating measures have been implemented to prevent operational noise, as can be seen from the evidence 10.
  - For Grosuplje station, noise mitigating measures have been implemented to prevent noise emissions in operation (evidence 17, section *2_6*).

The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental objective climate change mitigation and protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems related to the direct and primary indirect effects of the measure across its life cycle, given its nature, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective as evidenced in the tables providing detailed explanations and links to the documents for the DNSH requirements per individual environmental objective (evidence 7 and 16).

Shall include improvements in the current accessibility for passengers

- The upgraded Domžale railway station meets the requirements set out in the Technical Specifications for Interoperability related to accessibility (PRM TSI (Commission Regulation (EU) No 1300/2014 of 18 November 2014 on the technical specifications for interoperability relating to accessibility of the Union's rail system for persons with disabilities and persons with reduced mobility), as stated in the Certificate for the works carried out (evidence 8) and in EC certificate of verification (evidence 6). The reconstructed station has new platform infrastructure adapted for persons with reduced mobility, persons with disabilities and cyclists and a new underpass which in addition to allowing safe access to the platform infrastructure it also connects the Kolodvorska Road and Roška Street which allows the safe passage of residents between the east and the west of Domžale (Evidence 9: Chapter 4.1.3 and PID, 0_Synopsis, 2_1 Rolling installations, 2_2 Design of subway constructions).
- The upgraded Grosuplje railway station meets the requirements set out in the Technical Specifications for Interoperability related to accessibility (PRM TSI (Commission Regulation (EU) No 1300/2014 of 18 November 2014 on the technical specifications for interoperability relating to accessibility of the Union's rail system for persons with disabilities and persons with reduced mobility) as stated in the Certificate for works carried out (evidence 17) and in the EC certificate of verification (evidence 15). The reconstructed station has two new wider, longer and higher platforms with canopies, a refurbished railway station building, an underpass to the platform under all station tracks with accessibility infrastructure for persons with disabilities, and with possible direct access from both sides of the station, an additional underpass for access for the local population under the line on the B side of the station in the area of the dismantled level crossing in km 132+ 755 8 (evidence 15).

and the track capacity of the lines

- Domžale station: An EC certificate of verification (evidence 6) has been issued, showing that the requirements set out in the Technical Specifications for Interoperability (TSIs INF (Technical Specification for Interoperability for the 'Infrastructure' subsystem adopted by Commission Regulation EU/1299/2014 of 18 November 2014 and amended by the Commission Implementing Regulations (EU) 2019/776 and (EU) 2023/1694 of 10 August 2023) are met, namely that the project achieves the objectives related to the performance of the line: permitted loads reach line category D4 (22.5 t/axle and 8.0 t/m) (Evidence 6: chapter 4.1.1 and evidence 8, section 2_1 platform installations), provision of GC structure gauge (Evidence 6: chapter 4.1.1 and evidence 8, section 2_1 platform installations), establishment of capacity parameters for P5 and F2 traffic codes (Evidence 6: chapter 5 and evidence 8, section 2_1 platform installations), all interventions comply with the applicable TSIs (Evidence 6), making traffic more flexible by allowing simultaneous imports (evidence 6 and evidence 8, section 2_1 platform devices), increasing the useful lengths of station tracks (evidence 6 and evidence 8, section 2_1 Platform rails), speed increase (evidence 6 and evidence 8 section 2_1 Platform rails).
- Grosuplje station: The work carried out was subject to an EC certificate of verification (Evidence 15) showing that the requirements of the TSI INF are met (Technical Specification for Interoperability for the 'Infrastructure' subsystem adopted by Commission Regulation EU/1299/2014 of 18 November 2014 and amended by the Commission Implementing

Regulations (EU) 2019/776 and (EU) 2023/1694 of 10 August 2023). The above-mentioned project documentation and verification documentation show that the intervention achieves the following objectives related to the track capacity of the line (Evidence 15, Chapter 3.1 and evidence 17, section Guidance Plan of Rolling Devices with Platforms): permitted loads reach line category D4 (22.5 t/axle and 8.0 t/m); provision of GC structure gauge, establishment of capacity parameters for P5 and F3 traffic codes, making traffic more flexible by allowing simultaneous imports, increasing the useful lengths of station tracks, speed increase to 80 km/h.

Furthermore, in line with the description of the measure, **the investments shall promote rail transport and connectivity with urban centres.**

- Domžale station: Connectivity with urban centre – Ljubljana- the main urban centre in the vicinity of Domžale, and the use of rail transport, has been promoted with this project through establishing a better user experience in terms of accessibility of the station (see above) and enabling multimodal passenger transport. This was done by building a bus stop in the immediate vicinity of Domžale railway station and constructing 21 parking spaces at the railway station, of which 4 are for persons with disabilities, which allows passengers to reach the station and more easily opt for rail transport. Additionally, a subway under all station tracks, built to ensure safe accessibility to the station from both sides of the railway station (evidence 6, chapter 5 and evidence 8, section 2_1 platform installations), importantly contributes to the safety of passengers, especially for school children and students thus providing a safe option of transport to these two groups of passengers to Ljubljana.
- Grosuplje station: Connectivity with urban centre – Ljubljana- the main urban centre in the vicinity of Grosuplje, and the use of rail transport, has been promoted with this project through establishing a better user experience in terms of accessibility of the station (see above) and enabling multimodal passenger transport by constructing 37 additional parking spaces, of which 6 are for people with disabilities, next to a bus stop which allows passengers to reach the station and more easily opt for rail transport. The new subway No 1 under all station tracks was built to ensure safe accessibility to the station from both sides of the railway station (evidence 6, chapter 5 and evidence 8, section 2_1 platform installations) and importantly contributes to the safety of passengers, especially for school children and students, thus providing a safe option of transport to these two groups of passengers to Ljubljana. The construction of subway No 2 at the site of the dismantled road level crossing additionally increased safety and connected the western part of the town to the city centre, which has shorted time for commuters to reach the train, which is most important for daily commuters, predominantly students (Evidence 15, Chapter 3.1 and evidence 17, section Guidance Plan of Rolling Devices with Platforms).

Furthermore, in line with the measure description, **the selected projects shall improve the transport service, both for passenger and freight transport: Through the upgrading of major railway stations on the regional network, Grosuplje and Domžale.**

- Domžale station: The project improves services for passengers through the construction of wider platforms that increase passenger safety, higher platforms (55 cm) for easier access to the train; regulated parking spaces, including spaces for persons with disabilities (evidence 8). The access routes and platform infrastructure are equipped with telecommunication systems of sound and visual passenger information, emergency call (SOS pillars), clocks, and video surveillance; restoration of toilets and waiting rooms in the station facility, covered platform infrastructure, tactile markings for the blind and visually impaired, equipment of the station area with information boards (evidence 2); There is currently no freight traffic passing through Domžale train station, however, with track facilities now supporting line category D4, gauge GC, and with a useful track length of 430 m, the infrastructure can now enable future freight traffic (evidence 6).

- Grosuplje station: The improvement of services for passenger and freight transport is based on the following part of the projects (evidence 17, certificate of completion of works): The wider platforms contribute to increased passenger safety; longer platforms (150 m) enable longer passenger trains; higher platforms (55 cm) make it easier for passengers to board/exit the train; additional parking spaces, including spaces for persons with disabilities, allow better access to the stations. Other implemented measures include the equipment of access routes and platform infrastructure with telecommunication systems for sound and visual passenger information, emergency calls (SOS pillars), clocks and video surveillance; restoration of toilets and waiting rooms in the station facility, overcovered platform infrastructure, tactile markings for the blind and visually impaired, equipment of the station area with litter bins and information boards. Freight transport service is improved by lifting the line category to D4, structure gauge GC, and 500 m of useful length on track No 2 and 3 (evidence 17).

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled.

Number and name of the Milestone SI-C5-RA-M70: Developing and applying of a green budgetary planning methodology

Related measure: SI-C5-RA: Establishing a framework for sustainable and green transformation

Qualitative indicator: Development and start of application of a green budgetary planning methodology

Time: Q4/2023

1. Context:

The objective of the reform is to accelerate the transition to a circular economy for resource efficiency in Slovenia. By establishing a green budgeting methodology, the reform integrates environmental and climate aspects into the assessment and monitoring of budgetary expenditure. This will enhance the transparency regarding the use of the national budget and its environmental and climate impact. The reform will facilitate the steering of budgetary and fiscal policies towards achieving climate and environmental objectives. Furthermore, the reform will strengthen the existing green public procurement system by integrating the principles of circular economy.

Milestone 70 concerns the development, adoption, publication and application of the green budgeting methodology by the Ministry of Finance. The methodology will allow to assess the impact of individual budget lines on environmental objectives (climate tagging) in line with the taxonomy and the 'do no significant harm' principle in Technical Guidance (2021/C58/01) as well as to monitor and steer green budgetary expenditure in Slovenia.

Milestone 70 is the third and last milestone of the underlying reform, and it follows the completion of milestone 69 and milestone 71, related to the framework for sustainable and green transformation in Slovenia. The reform had a final expected date for implementation in December 2023.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence	Short description
1	Summary document	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactory fulfilled, with appropriate links to the underlying evidence
2	Annex 1	Government Decision No. 41000-11/2023/3 regulating the entry into force of the Green Budgeting Methodology, dated 21 September 2023
3	Annex 2	Green Budgeting Methodology, which was adopted on 21 September 2023 and entered into force on 1 January 2024. [A link to the methodology is available here: https://www.gov.si/assets/ministrstva/MF/Proracun-direktorat/Drzavni-proracun/NRP/Metodologija-za-zeleno-proracunsko-nacrtovanje.pdf]
4	Annex 3	Regulation on green public procurement
5	Annex 4	Regulation amending and supplementing the Regulation on Green public procurement, which was published on 23 July and entered into force on 7 August 2021

6	Annex 5	Analysis of the Impacts of Green Public Procurement in Slovenia, dated 24 May 2022
7	Annex 6	Print-screen for a project in MFERAC showing the application of the Green Budget Methodology in practice in the information system for planning and executing state budget (MFERAC)
8	Annex 7	Budget Manual for Budget officers of the Republic of Slovenia for 2025 and 2026 Content framework for preparing budgets with reference to application of the Green Budget Methodology
9	Annex 8	Guidelines for environmental impact assessment and Instructions for completing the green budget labelling matrix from the Ministry of the Economy, Tourism and Sport
10	Annex 9	Presentation on Green Budgeting Methodology – Slovenian approach from 16 November 2023 with information on implementation of Green Budgeting Methodology for budget officers

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Slovenian authorities cover all constitutive elements of the milestone.

The Ministry of Finance shall develop and apply a methodology for assessing the impact of individual budget lines on environmental objectives (climate tagging) in line with the taxonomy and the 'do no significant harm' principle in Technical Guidance (2021/C58/01). The methodology shall be adopted, published, and enter into application […]

The Ministry of Finance **developed** a Green Budgeting Methodology (Annex 1 and 2) for assessing the climate and environmental impact of budgetary items both on the revenue and expenditure side in the Slovenian national budget. The Government Decision No. 41000-11/2023/3 regulating the entry into force of the Green Budgeting Methodology sets out the entry into force of the Green Budgeting Methodology, dated 21 September 2023. The Green Budgeting Methodology regulating the entry into force of the Green Budgeting Methodology was adopted on 21 September 2023. In line with order number 1 and 2 of the Decision, the methodology entered into force on 1 January 2024 with the publication in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia (Annex 1). The Commission services accessed the link provided by the authorities on 24 June 2025 to verify that the methodology was published on the website of the government (Annex 2). This check was completed successfully, confirming that the methodology is publicly available.

By introducing the methodology for application by the Ministry of Finance, Slovenia systematically integrates environmental objectives into the budgetary process, enhances the transparency and channels the use of the national budget towards environmentally friendly solutions. It will ensure that climate and environmental impacts are effectively considered in budget and fiscal policymaking.

Annex 1 sets out that starting on January 1, 2024, the methodology is being **applied** by direct budget officers (state bodies or organisations) of the national budget for all new projects and measures included in the Development Programs Plan, which constitutes the third part of the budget. Starting in 2024, the updated version of the Slovenian IT accounting system requires that each new entry into the system (whether a project or a measure) includes a green budget code by default as required by the Government Decision No. 41000-11/2023/3, order number 2 (Annex 1). Consequently, every line ministry must provide a green budget code for each new project or measure as in Annex 8. The upgraded MFERAC requires an environmental impact code for all applicable projects and measures and tax expenditures by 1 January 2024 (see Annex 6). Additionally, the system application, which assists in preparing the State budget, conducting various analyses, and drafting explanatory notes for the adopted budget, offers an overview of the assigned green budget codes for projects, measures, revenue, expenditure, and tax revenue.

Annex 2 (page 8) sets out that the methodology was developed in line with the taxonomy and the principle of 'Do No Significant Harm' in the Commission Technical Guidance (2021/C58/01). Building on the taxonomy, the methodology classifies as 'green' budgetary items that make a significant contribution to one of the six environmental objectives. Furthermore, budgetary items classified as 'green' will not cause significant harm to the environmental objectives included in the principle of 'Do No Significant Harm'. The methodology will effectively align budgetary processes with environmental goals.

Based on the methodology, the assessment and classification of budgetary items is conducted by a budget officer in the Ministry of Finance in several steps (see Annex 2, pages 7-17). Before an item is included in the Slovenian budget, the budget officer in the Ministry of Finance is required to verify and assess the environmental impact of a project or measure, or budget expenditure, revenue, and tax expenditure, regarding all six environmental objectives as set out in the Taxonomy Regulation. In the first step of the assessment under the green budgeting methodology, the impact on each of the six environmental objectives is rated based on a predetermined scale (set out in Annex 2, page 8). In the second step, the budget officer provides an explanation regarding the impact of the budget item for each environmental objective. In the third step, an overall green impact budget code (favourable, mixed, unfavourable, neutral) is established on the basis of the impact on the environmental objectives. If a project does not comply with the DNSH principle, it receives a negative rating irrespective of the positive impact regarding any other environmental objectives (see Annex 2, page 10).

[…] and shall allow monitoring green budget expenditure and the assessment of environmental and climate impact of fiscal policy.

The Green Budgeting Methodology facilitates the monitoring of green budget expenditure and the evaluation of the environmental and climate impacts of fiscal policies by the direct budget officers in the Ministry of Finance. As set out in the budget officer manual in Annex 7 (page 3), budget officers are required to apply the methodology to all new projects and measures as of 1 January 2024. By applying the methodology, environmental objectives and priorities are being integrated into the setting of budgetary priorities, the distribution of resources and the monitoring and evaluation of results. This covers all stages of the budgetary process, from the preparation of the budgetary policy to monitoring and auditing. It enhances the coherence of budgetary and fiscal policies with environmental and climate objectives in Slovenia by introducing a green impact budget coding and impact scoring for budgetary items under the green budgeting methodology. This increases the transparency regarding environmental impact during the budget planning and enhances the assessment of environmental and climate impact of fiscal policy (Annexes 2, 7, 9).

Annex 9 shows a presentation by the Ministry of Finance for the budget officers to explain the application of the green budgeting methodology. The overall green impact budget coding facilitates budget steering and enhances the transparency during the budgeting of projects regarding their impact on the environmental objectives. It further aligns the coherence of fiscal and budgetary policies with climate objectives during the drafting of policies and legislative documents.

Furthermore, in line with the description of the measure, **the reform shall establish green budgetary planning by introducing a methodology aimed at identifying and assessing elements of the public budget that affect environmental policies. The reform shall facilitate budget steering and support the coherence of budgetary and fiscal policies with climate objectives.**

The Green Budgeting Methodology (Annex 1 and 2) establishes a framework for the assessment and evaluation of budgetary items, which takes into account their environmental impact and is in line with the DNSH principle. Annex 9 shows a presentation by the Ministry of Finance for the budget officers to explain the application of the green budgeting methodology. The overall green impact budget coding facilitates budget steering and enhances the transparency during the budgeting of projects regarding their impact on the environmental objectives. It further aligns the coherence of fiscal and budgetary policies with climate objectives during the drafting of policies and legislative documents.

Furthermore, in line with the description of the measure, **the reform shall also strengthen the existing green public procurement system by integrating the principles of circular economy.**

With the publication in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia No.121/2021 on 23 July 2021, the Regulation amending and supplementing the Regulation on green public procurement was adopted on the same day (Annex 4). In line with order number 1 and 2 of the Decision, the updated Green Public Procurement Regulation entered into force on 7 August 2021. The updated Green Public Procurement Regulation supplemented the preceding Green Public Procurement Regulation, which entered into force on 1 January 2018 (Annex 3).

Annex 4 provides the updated Green Public Procurement Regulation. Article 2 of the Regulation states the purpose of Green Public Procurement, which is to reduce the negative impact on the environment through the public procurement of goods, services and works with a lower environmental impact, to improve the environmental performance of existing supply chains and to promote the development of environmental innovation and the circular economy, and to set an example to the private sector and consumers. The green public procurement is mandatory for all public procurement entities when procuring goods or services from 22 product and service groups (from electricity, building and road construction to electronic office equipment). With the amendment No.121/2021 to the Green Public Procurement Regulation, dated 23 July 2021, two new product groups were introduced for which Green Public Procurement is obligatory (see Article 4). As set out Article 3 and Article 6 in Decision No.121/2021 of the amended Regulation dated 23 July 2021, a requirement is introduced that requires contracting authorities to take into account the principles of circular economy and promote the transition to a circular economy during procurement. This concerns the reuse of secondary raw materials and the prevention and reduction of waste.

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number and name of the Milestone SI-C5-IB-M72: Award of grants for support to companies in the transition to a circular economy

Related measure: SI-C5-IB: Integrated strategic project to decarbonise Slovenia through the transition to a circular economy

Qualitative indicator: Communication of awards

Time: Q2/2024

1. Context:

The objective of investment is to increase the resource efficiency of companies and support their transition to a circular economy. Projects under this investment will support start-ups, and micro, small and medium enterprises in the field of low-carbon circular economy, train mentors to assist companies in the process of identifying and developing transformative solutions and support the circular value chains through an environment-friendly business environment for investors.

Milestone 72 concerns the award of grants for companies to increase their resource efficiency. The selection criteria ensure compliance with the 'do no significant harm' principle in Technical Guidance (2021/C58/01). For all projects related to installations covered by the EU emissions trading system, it is ensured that the supported installations achieve their projected greenhouse gas emissions significantly below the limit set for free allocation as set out in Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/4471.

Milestone 72 is the first of the underlying investments, and it will be followed by target 73, related to the 150 completed projects to support companies in the transition to a circular economy. The investment has a final expected date for implementation in December 2025.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence	Short description
1	Summary document	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactory fulfilled, with appropriate links to the underlying evidence
2	Annex 1	Public call for tender for the support for start-ups, micro, small and medium-sized enterprises in strategic sustainable and circular business transformation (Uradni list RS, No. 106/22 of 5 August 2022, available at: https://www.uradni-list.si/_pdf/2022/Ra/r2022106.pdf)
3	Annex 1.1	First amendment to the public call for tender (Uradni list RS, No. 120/22 of 16 September 2022), available at: https://www.uradni-list.si/_pdf/2022/Ra/r2022120.pdf)
4	Annex 1.2	Second amendment to the public call for tender (Uradni list RS, No. 166/22 of 30 December 2022), available at: https://www.uradni-list.si/_pdf/2022/Ra/r2022166.pdf)
5	Annex 1.3	Third amendment to the public call for tender (Uradni list RS, No. 39/23 of 31 March 2023), available at: https://www.uradni-list.si/_pdf/2023/Ra/r2023039.pdf)
6	Annex 1.4	Fourth amendment to the public call for tender (Uradni list RS, No. 63/23 of 9 June 2023), available at: https://www.uradni-list.si/_pdf/2023/Ra/r2023063.pdf)

7	Annex 1.5	Fifth amendment to the public call for tender (Uradni list RS, No. 89/23 of 11 August 2023), available at: https://www.uradni-list.si/_pdf/2023/Ra/r2023089.pdf)
8	Annex 1.6	Sixth amendment to the public call for tender (Uradni list RS, No. 1/24 of 5 January 2024), available at: https://www.uradni-list.si/_pdf/2024/Ra/r2024001.pdf)
9	Annex 1.7	Seventh amendment to the public call for tender (Uradni list RS, No. 24/24 of 22 March 2024), available at: https://www.uradni-list.si/_pdf/2024/Ra/r2024024.pdf)
10	Annex 1.8	Eighth amendment to the public call for tender (Uradni list RS, No. 49/24 of 14 June 2024), available at: https://www.uradni-list.si/_pdf/2024/Ra/r2024049.pdf)
11	Annex 2	Tender specifications as published by the SPIRIT Agency on 25 August 2022. A copy was provided together with the link to the website. The public tender with the specifications is available at: https://www.spiritslovenia.si/razpis/391
12	Annex 3	List of award decisions issued and recipients
13	Annex 4	List of projects with relevant extracts from the technical specifications
14	Annex 5	Extract of the relevant parts of public call for tender regarding the selection criteria that ensure compliance with the DNSH principle and tagging specificities
15	Annex 6	Application form 6
16	Annex 7	Application form 7
17	Annex 8	Application form 8
18	Annex 9	Application form 9.1/9.2
19	Annex 10	Declaration form 3a for Phase A regarding the acceptance of conditions for the application
20	Annex 11	Declaration form 3b for Phase B regarding the acceptance of conditions for the application
21	Annex 12	Application form regarding the request for payment and final report on implementation of the project
22	Annex 13	Action plan for the expert training programme to train mentors
23	Sample of 60 award decisions from list in Annex 3	Award decisions

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Slovenian authorities cover all constitutive elements of the milestone.

In line with the name of the milestone, **award of grants for support to companies in the transition to a circular economy. The projects shall increase the resource efficiency of the selected companies.**

The public agency for the Promotion of entrepreneurship, internationalisation, foreign investment and technology of the Republic of Slovenia published a public call for tender for supporting start-ups, micro, small and medium-sized enterprises in strategically sustainable and circular business transformation on 5 August 2022 (Annex 1). A copy of the call was provided. In addition, the Commission services accessed the link provided by the authorities on 24 June 2025 to verify that the

call was indeed published. This check was completed successfully, confirming that the published call was in line with the requirements of this investment.
Eight amendments to the call were published (Annexes 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 1.6, 1.7, 1.8). As set out under sub-chapter 2.1 of the public call for tender 'Purpose of the call for tender' (Annex 1), the purpose of the call for tender is to provide support to start-ups, micro, small and medium-sized enterprises regarding the transformation towards a circular economy, with a focus on increasing the resource efficiency and thereby improving the productivity and competitiveness of Slovenian businesses. Furthermore, the tender specifications further clarify that, as a result of the projects, companies are expected to adapt their business models and value chains toward a sustainable and circular transformation based on their circular business strategies and identify the potential for enhancing circularity in their processes and value chains (Annex 2, sub-chapter II.1).

Following the selection of a random sample of 60 units, Slovenia submitted the evidence demonstrating that the public agency granted the awards to 164 companies to support their sustainable and circular business transformation, in line with the requirements of the Council Implementing Decision, which requires 150 companies to be supported. For each sampled company, an award decision was submitted to demonstrate that the company has been awarded support for enhancing their sustainable and circular business transformation. In line with the call for tender and the tender specifications, the financial support granted to the 164 companies will enhance their transition to a circular economy and increase the efficient use of resources. The evidence provided for a sample of 60 units confirmed that the public agency issued award decisions for 60 out of the total 164 businesses to support their sustainable and circular business transformation (Annex 3, sample of award decisions) and that the requirement of the milestone for each granted decision was met.

In addition, Slovenia submitted the application forms, which confirm that the tenderer's project implementation is in line with the purpose, objective and subject of the call for tender. The elements included in the scoring for the evaluation of the applications regarding the tender relate to how businesses use materials and other resources to minimize their environmental impact, enhance the circular economy and minimize waste (Annexes 4, 6, 7, 8, 9). The projects will further increase the efficient use of resources of businesses and enhance the shift from a linear to a circular economy.

The selection criteria shall ensure compliance with the "do no significant harm" Technical Guide (2021/C58/01). For all projects related to installations covered by the EU emissions trading system, it shall be ensured that the supported installations achieve their projected greenhouse gas emissions significantly below the limit set for free allocation as set out in Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/447. The milestone is further specified in the Operational Arrangements, which require that for the purposes of these operational arrangements, activities and assets under the EU Emission Trading System (ETS) achieving projected greenhouse gas emissions that are not substantially below the relevant benchmarks, shall be excluded from the measures stipulated in the contracts (where the activity supported achieves projected greenhouse gas emissions that are not significantly lower than the relevant benchmarks an explanation of the reasons why this is not possible should be provided - as stipulated in the relevant footnotes of CID Annex).

As specified in the public tender (Annex 1, sub-chapters 6.2 and 6.3 and 18, pages 18-20, 50) and further set out in the tender specifications (Annex 2, sub-chapters II.3.2 and II.3.3), applicants are required to comply with the DNSH principle and apply the DNSH technical guidance. The call for tender specifies that the project implementation must follow the DNSH principle and comply with the DNSH Technical Guidance (Annex 1, sub-chapter 6.3, point 8). This is further spelled out under point 18 of the call, stating that the applicant is required to comply with the DNSH principle, meaning that no economic activities that significantly harm any of the environmental objectives within the meaning of Article 17 of Regulation (EU) 2020/853 are supported or carried out. The compliance with the DNSH technical guidance is a pre-condition to be eligible to participate in the public tender and the applicants confirmed the compliance with these requirements in the declaration forms explicitly (Annexes 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 10, 11). In addition, the call for tender specifies that any projects are excluded if they relate to: (i) investments related to fossil fuels, except for natural gas-based heat/energy that complies with the conditions set out in Annex III of the DNSH Technical Guidance, (ii) activities and installations under the Emissions Trading System with projected CO_2 equivalent emissions that are not significantly lower than the relevant criteria set for free allocation as laid down in Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/447, (iii) investments in waste disposal facilities at landfill sites, mechanical biological treatment plants and waste incineration plants, (iv) activities where the long-term disposal of waste may cause long-term environmental harm (e.g. nuclear waste) (Annex 1, sub-chapter 6.3, point 10). The project applicants are required to include in their application form an explanation on the environmental impact of the projects (such as the impact on climate change, contribution to climate change, contribution to circular economy, contribution to the prevention and control of air and water pollution) (Annexes 6, 7, 8, 9 10, 11).

Furthermore, in line with the description of the measure, **the projects under this investment shall cover supporting start-ups in the field of low-carbon circular economy, training mentors to assist companies in identifying and developing transformative solutions and supporting the circular value chains through an environmentally-friendly business environment for investors.**

As specified in the public call (Annex 1) and tender specifications (Annex 2, sub-chapter II.2), the projects include support for start-ups in their transition to a circular economy, provide expert support to businesses and train mentors to assist companies in developing strategies regarding sustainable and circular business transformation. The evidence provided for a sample of 60 units confirmed that the public agency issued award decisions for 164 businesses, including start-ups. This is also set out in the list of award decisions for 164 businesses in Annex 3. The training of mentors to support businesses in finding and developing transformative solutions took place based on the Action Plan for the STKT_2022-2025 Expert Training Programme (Annex 13). The selected mentors were guided through an intensive expert training programme with training regarding different approaches and good practices on establishing circular economy business models and transition risks from linear to circular economy (Annex 13). These actions contribute to the effective creation of circular value chains for businesses and enhance the efficient use of resources. Thus, the investment will create a more attractive environment for investors regarding environmentally-friendly business.

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled.

Number and name of the Target SI-C6-T82: Consortia supported with completed comprehensive digital transformation

Related measure: SI-C B: Industrial/business digital transformation agenda

Quantitative indicator: Number

Baseline: 0

Target: 20

Time: Q2/2024

1. Context:

The objective of the investment is to increase productivity and growth through the optimisation of processes and the implementation of advanced digital technologies, to develop the digital skills of employees, and to stimulate competitiveness and innovation by facilitating the entry of new participants in the market.

Target 82 concerns the completed projects based on the digital strategies. The total amount of funding is at least EUR 43,808,855, of which at least EUR 10,000,000 are dedicated to small and medium enterprises.

Target 82 is the third and last milestone of the underlying investment, and it follows the completion of milestone 80 and target 81, related to the award of contracts and the development of digital strategies. The investment had a final expected date for completion in June 2024.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence	Short description
1	Summary document	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactory fulfilled, with appropriate links to the underlying evidence
2	Annex 1 – Copies of award decisions	Copies of award decisions for the 23 approved projects.
3	Annex 2 – Report duly justifying the completion of the target	Report duly justifying the completion of the target with links to field checks, prepared by the Ministry of Economy, Tourism and Sport
4	Annex 3 – Report on compliance of projects with the digital strategies	Report on compliance of the 23 projects with the digital strategies prepared in relation to T81, prepared by the Ministry of Economy, Tourism and Sport based on the project completion reports by the beneficiaries (Annex 7).
5	Annex 4 – List of recipients with data on projects	List of recipients with data (e.g. names of projects, companies involved and their funding allocations, their sizes) on projects.
6	Annex 5 – Report on field checks	Report on the field checks carried out by the Ministry of economy, tourism and sport.
7	Annex 6 – Final report on the on-the-spot verification	Final report on the on-the-spot verification for project JUMP, including findings and opinion of the Controls Divisions within the Ministry of Economy, Tourism and Sport.
8	Annex 7 – Project completion reports by the beneficiaries	Project completion reports produced by the beneficiaries.

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Slovenia authorities cover all constitutive elements of the target.

Completed projects in accordance with the digital strategies produced under milestone 81.
According to Annexes 3, 5 and 7 (reports on completion of projects and compliance with the digital strategies, report related to field checks, project completion reports), the selected projects have been completed and they digital solutions were implemented in line with the goals specified in the digital strategies under milestone 81.

The Ministry of Economy, Tourism and Sport provided **a report on completion of 23 selected projects and compliance with the digital strategies** developed under milestone 81 and the allocation rate, including an extract of the relevant parts of the technical specifications of the projects (Annex 3). For each project implemented, the following data is included in the report: project name, lead project partners, project start date and end date, amount of funding awarded, share of funding allocated to SMEs, summary of project activities carried out, and a justification for compliance with the digital strategy. Also, the report refers to other supporting documentation: specific parts of the digital strategy documents and project completion reports by beneficiaries as part of their payment claims (Annex 7).

Field visits were carried out by the Ministry of Economy, Tourism and Sport, on the participating enterprises to verify the implementation of the projects on the ground. They took place between 17 January 2024 and 24 October 2024, after the completion of the projects, as outlined in the report (Annex 5). The field checks looked into the implementation of the digital solutions as produced under the digital strategies (for example a digital platform to improve logistics and value chains in a company) and the purchased equipment.

Project checks were also carried out by the Controls Division of the Development Funds Directorate within the Ministry, on a predetermined sample of projects. The division is responsible for carrying out on-site checks with beneficiaries which are recipients of funds from the Ministry of or implementing institutions. As part of the call for proposals "Digital transformation of the economy", one control was carried out, namely for the JUMP project (Annex 6), providing further supporting evidence on the completion of the project.

Further, the Ministry's report on the completion of target 82 (Annex 2) specifies that all 23 projects on the basis of which the consortia implemented digital transformation were completed by 31 May 2024, as specified in above-mentioned reports (Annex 3, Annex 5). The enterprises submitted their last requests for payment, accompanied by the final substantive reports, to the Ministry by 30 June 2024. The evidence provided for the 23 projects confirmed that the completed projects are in line with the underlying digital strategies produced for the relevant projects.

The total amount of funding shall be at least EUR 43,808,855, of which at least EUR 10,000,000 shall be dedicated to small and medium enterprises. The milestone is further specified in the Operational Arrangements, which require that **for the purposes of these operational arrangements, reference to "funding" shall be understood as amounts committed.**

The grant decisions (Annex 1) and the report on the completion and compliance with the digital strategies and the funding allocation rates (Annex 3) show that a total of EUR 43,808,855.22 was awarded to 23 consortia of enterprises for the implementation of their projects. The allocation data is further broken down per project partner in the consortium (Annex 4) showing that the consortia comprised 42 large enterprises and 84 SMEs. Of the total funding, EUR 20,759,882.14 was committed and allocated to large enterprises and EUR 23,048,973.08 to SMEs (Annex 4).

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number and name of the Target SI-C6-IE-T86: Number of projects started

Related measure: SI-C6-IE: Cross border and multi-country projects - Low-Power Processors and Semiconductor Chips

Quantitative Indicator: Number

Baseline: 0

Target: 2

Time: Q2/2024

1. Context:

The objectives of the investment for multi-country projects on Low-Power Processors and Semiconductor Chips are to strengthen the capabilities in design and increasing the resilience of EU and Slovenian semiconductor value chains, connecting national and EU processes to overlap circles of work, and strengthening the microelectronics value chain. It also focuses on digital processing of data and communications in an energy efficient and sustainable way.

Target 86 concerns the started cross-border and multi-country projects in specific areas in the value chain, which includes communication chip design, development of advanced semiconductor processes, system integration and cores for the use in different smart mobility applications, smart cities and communities, and smart factories.

Target 86 is the second and last target of the underlying investment, and it follows the completion of milestone 85, related to the finalisation of the list of potential participants to the common project. The investment had a final expected date for implementation on 30 June 2024.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence	Short description
1	Summary document	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactory fulfilled, with appropriate links to the underlying evidence
2	Public call for projects with amendments	A copy of the public call for projects included in the IPCEI multi-country projects on low-power processors and semiconductor chips, published in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 22/24 of 15 March 2024, also available at: https://www.uradni-list.si/_pdf/2024/Ra/r2024022.pdf. The amendment of the call was published in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 39/24 of 10 May 2024. A copy was provided and is also available at: https://www.uradni-list.si/_pdf/2024/Ra/r2024039.pdf.
3	Decision issued to Beyond Semiconductor d.o.o.	The decision no. 302-22/2022/85 dated 9 August 2024 was issued by the Ministry of Economic Development and Technology.
4	Decision issued to Elaphe d.o.o.	The decision no. 302-22/2022/84 dated 9 Aug 2024 was issued by the Ministry of Economic Development and Technology.
5	Summary report	The report prepared by the Ministry includes the extract from the relevant parts of the technical specifications of each project confirming their specific areas in the value chain of the joint project.

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Slovenian authorities cover all constitutive elements of the target.

Started projects in specific areas (such as communication chip design, development of advanced semiconductor processes, system integration and cores for the use in different smart mobility applications, smart cities and communities, smart factories) in the value chain of the joint project under milestone 85.

The public call for incentives for projects included in the joint Important Project of Common European Interest in Microelectronics/Communication Technologies (*hereinafter referred to as "IPCEI ME/CT"*) was published in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 22/24, on 15 March 2024 (evidence 2). An amended call was later published in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 39/24 on 10 May 2024 (evidence 2). The Ministry issued decisions on the selection of two projects, the CMOS compatible N-path RF filter (CONPARF) project from the company Beyond Semiconductor d.o.o. (decision no. 302-22/2022/85) and the Micro-Electronics for Electric Vehicles (MEEV) project from the company Elaphe d.o.o. (decision no. 302-22/2022/84) on 9 August 2024 (evidence 3 and 4). As confirmed by the decisions of the Ministry, the project of the company Beyond Semiconductor d.o.o. started on 30 June 2022 (evidence 3, page 2), while the project of the company Elaphe d.o.o. started on 1 January 2023 (evidence 4, page 2).

As defined in subchapter 4.1, point 1 of the public call, only companies that were associated partners in the final version of the IPCEI ME/CT project chapeau text of 17 April 2023, as confirmed by the decision of the European Commission of 8 June 2023, or confirmed as associated partner in IPCEI ME/CT prior to the submission of the application to the call by the IPCEI ME/CT, could apply to the call (evidence 2). As further indicated in chapter 2 of the call, projects had to be in the specific areas such as communication chip design, development of advanced semiconductor processes, system integration and cores for use in smart mobility applications, smart cities and communities, and smart factories (evidence 2). In particular, the started projects have to be on specific areas in the value chains of the joint projects selected under Milestone 85, namely: designing processors and chips using artificial intelligence (AI) for various vertical markets; design of chips and communication systems (5G, 6G and others); development of advanced semiconductor processes; advanced packaging with appropriate heterogeneous 2D/3D integration; or low-energy, sustainable electronics. Both projects were included in the Commission chapeau text regarding the IPCEI on ME/CT and participate as associated partners in this joint project. The two projects are within the area of the call across the value chain of microelectronics as demonstrated by the issued decisions (evidence 3 and 4) and further substantiated by the summary report with extracts from relevant technical specifications for each project (evidence 5, pages 2-9). Specifically, the CONPARF project implemented by Beyond Semiconductor d.o.o. is in the field of communication chip design (evidence 3) and the MEEV project implemented by Elaphe d.o.o. is in the field of the development of advanced semiconductor processes (evidence 4).

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled.

Number and name of the Milestone SI-C7-IE-M92: A competence centre - human resources centre established and operational

Related measure: SI-C7-IED: Establishment of a Competence Centre - Human Resources centre and increasing skills of staff in the public administration

Qualitative indicator: The Competence Centre - Human Resources Centre is operational

Time: Q2/2024

1. Context:
The objective of the reform is to improve human resources management in the Slovenian state administration.

Milestone 92 concerns the establishment of the Competence Centre for Human Resources through amendments to the Civil Service Act. The Centre is operational and responsible for (i) conducting public competitions for the recruitment procedures in the state administration, (ii) assessing candidates' skills in the recruitment procedures, (iii) developing a system for personal competencies and skills in the state administration (including managerial competences), (iv) promoting tools for managing human resources in the state administration, (v) establishing a framework to improve digital competences in the state administration.

Milestone 92 is the only milestone of this reform, related to the establishment of the Competence Centre. The reform had a final expected date for implementation in June 2024.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence	Short description
1	Summary document	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactory fulfilled, with appropriate links to the underlying evidence
2	Annex 1	Copy of the amendment to the Civil Service Act as published in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia No. 32/2025 dated 6 May 2025 and available at: https://www.uradni-list.si/glasilo-uradni-list-rs/vsebina/2025-01-1281/zakon-o-javnih-usluzbencih-zju-1
3	Annex 2	Copy of the strategy for the management of human resources in the civil service administration by 2030, dated May 2025
4	Annex 3	Government Decision No. 1001-2/2025/6 regulating the 2030 strategy for the management of Human Resources in the State Administration, dated 8 May 2025
5	Annex 4	Copy of the organigramme of the Ministry of Public Administration following the entry into force of the Act amending the Act regarding internal organisation and classification of posts in the Ministry of Public Administration
6	Annex 5	Copy of the Ministry of Public Administration’s Act amending the Act regarding internal organisation and classification of posts in the Ministry of Public Administration, Number: 100-365/2015/587, dated 27 May 2025.

7	Annex 6	Contract concluded between the Ministry of Public Administration and an external contractor for the project "Preparation, design and application of development solutions for the selection and development of civil servants in the national administration – Developing the competences of the future" dated 2 December 2024.
8	Annex 7	Two invitations by the Human Resource Centre to participants for oral interviews as part of the open competition procedures (dated 17 June 2025 and 12 August 2025)
9	Annex 8	Acceptance record, signed by the Ministry of Public Administration and the contractor Group Primera d.o.o., regarding activities carried out under the project 'Preparing, designing and applying development solutions in the area of staff selection and development in state administration bodies'
10	Annex 9	Invitation by the Human Resource Centre in the Ministry of Public Administration to civil servants in the Slovenian Statistical Office to the pilot phase of the project 'Preparing, designing and applying development solutions in the area of staff selection and development in state administration bodies', dated 12 August 2025.
11	Annex 10	Internal communication regarding the opening of the budgetary item and planning of financial resources for the Human Resource Centre in the budget of the Republic of Slovenia for 2026 and 2027, signed by the Head of the Human Resource Centre and dated 10 September 2025
12	Annex 11	Copy of the employment contract for the Head of Department in the Human Resource Centre, Department for Strategic Human Resources Development
13	Annex 12	Copy of the employment contract for the Head of Department in the Human Resource Centre, Department of Labour Support
14	Annex 13	Copy of the employment contract for the Head of Department in the Human Resource Centre, Competitions office
15	Annex 14	Copy of the employment contract for the Head of the Human Resource Centre
16	Annex 15	Copy of the employment contract for a civil servant in the capacity as Secretary in the Human Resource Centre, Department for Strategic Human Resources Development
17	Annex 16	Copy of the employment contract for a civil servant in the capacity as Administrator V in the Human Resource Centre
18	Annex 17	Copy of the employment contract for a civil servant in the capacity as Senior Adviser in the Human Resource Centre, Department for Strategic Human Resources Development
19	Annex 18	Copy of the employment contract for a civil servant in the capacity as Senior Adviser in the Human Resource Centre, Competitions office
20	Annex 19	Copy of the employment contract for a civil servant in the capacity as Under-Secretary in the Human Resource Centre, Competitions Office

21	Annex 20	Copy of the employment contract for a civil servant in the capacity as Secretary in the Human Resource Centre, Department of Labour Support
22	Annex 21	Copy of the employment contract for a civil servant in the capacity as Senior Adviser in the Human Resource Centre, Department for Strategic Human Resources Development
23	Annex 22	Copy of the employment contract for a civil servant in the capacity as Under-Secretary in the Human Resource Centre, Department of Labour Support
24	Annex 23	Copy of the employment contract for a civil servant in the capacity as Senior Adviser in the Human Resource Centre, Competitions Office
25	Annex 24	Copy of the employment contract for a civil servant in the capacity as Under-Secretary in the Human Resource Centre, Department for Strategic Human Resources Development
26	Annex 25	Copy of the employment contract for a civil servant in the capacity as Assistant VI in the Human Resource Centre, Department of Labour Support
27	Annex 26	Copy of the employment contract for a civil servant in the capacity as Under-Secretary in the Human Resource Centre, Department of Labour Support
28	Annex 27	Copy of the employment contract for a civil servant in the capacity as Under-Secretary in the Human Resource Centre, Department for Strategic Human Resources Development
29	Annex 28	Copy of the employment contract for a civil servant in the capacity as Analyst position VII/2 in the Human Resource Centre, Department for Strategic Human Resources Development

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Slovenia authorities cover all constitutive elements of the milestone.

The amendments to the Civil Service Act shall provide for the establishment of the Competence Centre - Human Resources Centre. Furthermore, in line with the measure description a **Competence Centre - Human Resources Centre shall be established by amending the Civil Service Act and become operational.**

The amendments to the Civil Service Act ("Act") published in the Official Journal of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 32/2025 on 6 May 2025 (Annex 1) established the Competence Centre for Human Resources (hereinafter referred to as "Centre").

As set out in Article 191 (1) of the Act, the amendment entered into force 15 days after the publication in the Official Journal of the Republic of Slovenia. As set out in Article 191(2) of the Act, the provisions under this Act are applicable from 1 January 2026 with the exception of Article 62(2) point 3 of this Act, which establishes the Competence Centre and applies from 1 June 2025 in line with Article 191(2) of the Act. As laid down in Article 62(2) point 3 of the Act, the Centre takes up its functions related to developing a system of personal competences and skills for civil servants in performing their work and the development of other staff management tools as of 1 June 2025. With the entry into force of the

Act and the application of Article 62(2) point 3 of the Act from 1 June 2025 onwards, the Centre becomes operational.

All other functions and roles defined under Article 62(2) of the Act apart from the ones defined in Article 62(2), point 3, will be taken up by the Centre as of 1 January 2026, when it will become fully operational. In line with Article 62(2) of the Act, the remaining functions concern the publication of open competitions, the examination of eligibility criteria, conducting the first part of the selection procedure in the open competitions, including the assessment of the candidates' basic personal competences and skills, and assisting the authorities in assessing the personal competences and skills to perform the work in the second part of the selection procedure in an open competition, and assist in the assessment of personal competences and skills in specific competitions. Following the adoption of Civil Service Act, the Ministry of Public Administration adopted the Act amending the Act on the internal organisation and classification of posts in the Ministry of Public Administration (Annex 5, Ministry of Public Administration act Number: 100-365/2015/587 dated 27 May 2025).

This Act amending the Act on the internal organisation and classification of posts in the Ministry of Public Administration entered into force on the 28 May 2025 and it is applicable as of 1 June 2025. The Act establishes the Centre in three departments (Department of Labour Support, Competitions office, Strategic Human Resources Development) under the Public Sector Directorate of the Ministry of Public Administration, allocates adequate resources in terms of official and technical posts and defines tasks and duties of the three departments within the Centre (Annex 3). The establishment and organisational setup of the Centre ire shown in the updated organisational chart of the Ministry of Public Administration (see Annex 4). The chart demonstrates the internal structure of the Centre with the three departments and sets out the operational responsibilities to guide the Centre in its actions.

Further to the institutional framework and the organisational structure, Slovenia provided evidence regarding the Human and Financial Resources of the Centre. Slovenia demonstrated the staffing established in the Centre, which make it operational and ready to carry out the tasks. Slovenia provided the employment contracts regarding 18 staff members deployed in the three established departments (Annexes 11 - 28), as well as the internal communication regarding allocation of financial resources from the Slovenian budget for 2026 to the Human Resource Centre to carry out its activities related to the development of the framework for competences and tools for the assessment of competences in the first part of the selection procedure for civil servants (Annex 10). In addition, Slovenia provided evidence showing that the Centre has carried out tasks related to the framework of competences for civil servants and the recruitment procedures. Notably, Slovenia provided invitations by the Centre to candidates participating in the open selection procedure regarding the oral interviews (Annex 7).

Slovenia also provided a signed acceptance record regarding activities carried out for the Competence Centre and the Ministry of Public administration by an external contractor under the project 'Preparation, design and application of development solutions for the selection and development of civil servants in the national administration – Developing the competences of the future', which confirmed that the project included activities related to selection procedures and designing a methodology for recruitment interviews as well as the upgrade of the existing competence model (Annex 8). Slovenia also provided an invitation by the Human Resource Centre to civil servants in the Slovenian Statistical Office to the pilot phase of the project 'Preparing, designing and applying development solutions in the area of staff selection and development in state administration bodies'

(Annex 9). The participants could test new approaches and tools related to Human Resources, which served as basis for further developing the competences and skills framework of civil servants.

This evidence demonstrates that the Centre has started undertaking its assigned responsibilities and functions related to the development of a system of competences for civil servants and staff management tools, as outlined in Article 62(2) point 3 of the amended Civil Service Act. On the basis of the organisational structure and establishment of posts, a clear definition of functions and responsibilities within the departments in the Competence Centre for Human Resources, the allocation of financial and human resources, number of employed staff, and clear evidence showing that the Centre has undertaken several activities and operational functions in line with Article 62(2) point 3 of the Act, it is considered that the Centre became operational.

The Centre shall be operational and responsible for i) conducting public competitions for the recruitment procedures in the state administration; ii) assessing candidates' skills in the recruitment procedures; iii) developing a system for personal competencies and skills in the state administration (including managerial competences); promoting tools for managing human resources in the state administration and establishing a framework to improve digital competences in the state administration. Furthermore, in line with the measure description, **the Centre shall assess competencies and skills in recruitment procedures, contribute to the development of competences and skills (including digital ones) of civil servants and develop other tools for managing human resources in state administration bodies. The law may provide for a reasonable transitional period for the effective application of the listed responsibilities of the Competence Centres and the full operationalization of the Competence centre.**

The Centre is established as an internal unit within the Ministry of Public Administration (Annex 4), which is reflected in the Act amending the Act regarding internal organisation and classification of posts in the Ministry of Public Administration which allocates human resources to the Competence Centre to start its operations (Annex 5). The Centre is responsible for the publication of competitions for the recruitment procedures in the state administration, then the examination of eligibility criteria and finally conducting the first stage of the **selection procedures** for civil servants, including the **assessment of skills**, according to Article 191 (1) of the amended Civil Service Act (Annex 1). The Centre selects the candidates and concludes the first stage of the recruitment procedures in public administration according to the procedure outlined in Article 62(2)(1) and Article 62(2)(2) and Article 67.

According to Article 62 of the amended Civil Service Act (Annex 1), the Centre is responsible for **developing a framework of competences (including managerial and digital skills)**. It is responsible for centralising the first stage of the selection procedures of the open competition for civil servants in public administration according to Article 62(1). According to Article 62 of the amended Civil Service Act (Annex 1), the Centre provides for the systematic application of the competence model in public administration. Furthermore, according to Article 62(2), the Centre is responsible for the assessment of competences and skills in the first part of the selection procedures. The Centre also supports the assessment and development of the competences and skills in the selection procedures for officials in top management position in public administration (Article 62(2).

As set out in Article 62(2) of the amended Civil Service Act (Annex 1), the Centre is responsible for the **development of other staff management tools in state administration bodies**. **The Centre contributes to the development of core and managerial competences, which are relevant for civil**

servants in public administration, by promoting tools for managing human resources in the state administration, namely the competence model. In fact, the Centre takes care of updating and further **developing the competence model** in accordance with the identified needs in the specific areas of work of the public administration. In line with the latest version of the competence model, it steers trainings for civil servants to develop their skills. In **accordance with Article 6(15) of the amended Civil Service Act, competences are skills to perform the professional duties of the job**.

The Centre enhances the application, implementation and further development of the competence model in a systematic manner through tools, including questionnaires, to assess the competences in selection procedures. It provides systematic support to state administration authorities in handling of existing and new human resources in state administration bodies. The Centre develops the potential of employees in the state administration by assessing their basic personal skills and skills to perform the specific duties of the relevant body, including management skills. These actions support identifying training needs for the civil servants, including on managerial and digital skills (Annex 1, Annex 2).

As set out in Article 62(2), **one of the development tasks of the Centre is to ensure that the competence model is upgraded in accordance with the identified needs in the specific areas of work of the state administration and that staff are trained to apply the applicable competence model**. Based on the overall competence framework for civil servants, **digital skills** are essential to perform the professional duties of an official. The proper implementation of digitalisation projects by civil servants are promoted by the Competence centre. The new competence model includes the core competence ‘Use of digital solutions’, which is considered a basic competence for all civil servants. In the context of this competence, digital tools have to be used by the public official in a responsible, prudent and safe manner. In order to enhance their digital literacy, civil servants are encouraged to actively monitor digital developments and adapt their working methods to new technologies (Annex 2). In this regard, the project “Preparing, designing and applying development solutions in the field of selection and development of personnel in the civil service – Developing the competences of the future” was implemented (Annex 6).

The Council Implementing Decision envisages that the amendments to the Civil Service Act may provide a reasonable transitional period for the effective application of the listed responsibilities of the Competence Centre and the full operationalisation of the Centre. Article 191(2) specifies that the provisions under this Act are applicable from 1 January 2026 with the exception of Article 62(2) point 3 of this Act, which is applicable from 1 June 2025, and it establishes the Centre. In particular, the transitional period will ensure the effective operationalisation of the centralised recruitment system under the Competence Centre and it will allow the procurement of IT solutions (Contract with the Ministry of public administration with an external contractor for the project “Preparation, design and application of development solutions for the selection and development of civil servants in the national administration – Developing the competences of the future” Annex 6). The full operationalisation of the Centre will be completed by 1 January 2026, as set out in Article 191(2), and it will take up all its operational function of conducting open competitions for State Administration and other local authorities as of 1 January 2026, which is laid down in Article 62(2).

Furthermore, in line with the description of the measure, **a Civil Service Management Strategy on talent management, career development, life-long learning, and the new realities brought by the COVID-19 pandemic shall be adopted.**

The Government of the Republic of Slovenia has adopted the 2030 Strategy for the Management of Human Resources in the State Administration on 8 May 2025 (Annex 2, Annex 3). The strategy was prepared by the Ministry of Public Administration in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic with the aim of increasing the attractiveness of the working environment for civil servants and managing staff in a strategic and comprehensive manner by improving talent management, enhancing life-long learning in the civil service and introducing new approaches to managing working environment (Annex 2), for example by:

- identifying tools to identify and develop talents and successors, including the use of artificial intelligence and advanced HRM analytics (talent management);
- introducing 'coaching' to staff development, to support the achievement of professional objectives and to strengthen the leadership roles (career development); and
- developing new programmes and providing a stable source of funding for lifelong learning for civil servants (life-long learning); and
- continuous monitoring of developments in the area of flexible working arrangements and their integration, taking into account the needs of the work process (flexible forms of work – new realities by COVID-19).

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled.

Number and name of the Target SI-C7-IJ-T106: Additional education institutions with optical connections above 1 Gbps

Related measure: SI-C7-IJ: Digitalisation of education and science

Quantitative indicator: Number

Baseline: 0

Target: 204

Time: Q2/2024

1. Context:

The objective of this investment is to enhance the digitalisation of educational institutions in Slovenia. By establishing infrastructure with high-speed connectivity, the investment supports the digital transformation of pedagogical processes for primary, secondary and adult educational institutions. To this end, the upgraded information and communication infrastructure will reduce the digital divide in Slovenia by supporting the development of digital skills. In particular, the investment will ensure connectivity for primary and secondary institutions, higher vocational colleges, as well as adult education organisations.

Target 106 concerns the establishment of fibre optic connections with network speed of above 1 Gbps for 204 educational institutions. The established infrastructure covers more than 18% of all existing educational institutions in Slovenia and more than 35,000 pupils. The target applies to primary and secondary schools, institutions for children and young people with special needs, student dormitories, and adult education organisations, while prioritising educational institutions without existing fibre optic connections.

Target 106 is the second target of the investment, and it is accompanied by the completion of target 107. It will be followed by target 108, related to the provision of IT solutions for the digitalisation of pedagogical processes. The investment has a final expected date for implementation in December 2025.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence	Short description
1	Summary document	Summary document duly justifying how the target (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactory fulfilled, with appropriate links to the underlying evidence
2	Annex 1 – List of educational institutions in the project	List of educational institutions covered with details regarding the institutions connected to the fibre optic network, including the number and types of institutions, and the number of students at each institution.
3	Annex 2 – List of procurement lots with links to evidence	List of procurement lots with links to the decisions and contracts, showing the verification and acceptance record for the established fibre connections.
4	Annex 3 - Technical specifications for the purchased fibre optic cables.	Technical specifications for the purchased fibre optic cables, section 2.1.

5	Annex 4 - Acceptance records for the purchase of optical fibres	Acceptance records for the purchase of optical fibres, signed by the Academic and Research Network of Slovenia (ARNES) and the fibre providers and including the names of educational institutions, IRopticIDs and dates of purchase and handovers.
6	Annex 5 – List of pupils in educational institution covered by the investment	Official register data regarding number of pupils enrolled in and type of educational institutions covered by the investment issued by the Ministry of Education, dated 23 May 2025.
7	Annex 6 List of pupils in all educational institutions	Official register data regarding number of pupils enrolled in educational institutions in Slovenia issued by the Ministry of Education, dated 23 May 2025.
8	Sample of 60 acceptance records	Acceptance records signed by the Academic and Research Network of Slovenia (ARNES) and the fibre providers and including the names of educational institutions, IRopticIDs and dates of purchase and handovers, for the 60 random sample.

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Slovenia authorities cover all constitutive elements of the target.

204 primary and secondary education institutions as well as adult education organisations shall be connected to optical connections above 1Gbps.

The Slovenian authorities provided a list of 204 education institutions, of which 181 primary and 11 secondary schools and 5 adult education institutions, with the corresponding identification number assigned to the fibre optic connection for which the high-speed connection above 1 Gbps was established (Annex 1, Annex 2). A sample of 60 education institutions was drawn from this list regarding the acceptance records (Annex 4). To verify that the education institutions have been connected to the Slovenian fibre optic network with a connection speed of above 1 Gbps, several pieces of evidence were analysed.

Following the selection of a random sample of 60 institutions, Slovenia submitted the acceptance records for the purchase of the optic fibres signed by the Academic and Research Network of Slovenia (ARNES) and the fibre providers (Annex 4), demonstrating the purchased connections between educational institutions and the ARNES network, and the technical specifications (Annex 3; section 2.1), demonstrating the speed/capacity of the connections. The evidence provided for a sample of 60 institutions confirmed that the requirements of the target have been met.

The acceptance records for the purchase of the optic fibres (Annex 4) included the copy of the entry in the public infrastructure cadastre, demonstrating that the education institution was connected to the ARNES fibre optic network. In addition, the acceptance records included the identification number of the fibre optic connection IRopticID and the name of the education institutions covered by the optic fibre links. The evidence confirmed that education institutions are connected to optical connections. The connections were established by ARNES and all 204 education institutions were integrated into the Slovenian fibre optic network managed by ARNES. According to Annex 4, ARNES purchased the fibre optic links for 204 education institutions with a speed requirement above 1 Gbps.

As set out in the tender specifications under the technical requirements (Annex 3, chapter 2.1), the optic fibre connections are required to meet at least the specifications of the standard ITU-T G.652. ITU-T G.652 is an international standard with a standardisation up to 800 Gbps. At the entry points of the fibre optic data nodes, ARNES uses the relevant equipment (Cisco model C9500-48Y4C) (item 1, summary document), which has suitable interfaces for utilizing fibre optic links for speeds above 1 Gbps. Thus, the fibre optic connections are technically suitable for speed above 1 Gbps.

This is expected to cover about 18 % of the existing educational establishments in the country, and around 35,000 pupils.

According to the evidence provided, Slovenia completed optic fibre connections of 204 educational institutions, covering 56,187 pupils (annex 5, annex 6). According to Annex 6, Slovenia has a total of 1,002 education institutions on 23 May 2025, thus the 204 institutions with connections cover 20.35% of the existing education institutions. Therefore, Slovenia exceeds the target of 18% of educational establishments and 35,000 pupils by 2.35 percentage points and 21,187 pupils.

The Commission services conducted an on-the-spot check on 17 June 2025 to verify the alignment of the copy from the official database of the Ministry of Education regarding basic registers in education submitted to show the number of pupils and type of education institutions with the data from the actual database. This check was completed successfully, confirming that the information in the official database from the Ministry of Education regarding number of learners per educational institution matches the data in the copies shared by the Slovenian authorities (Annex 5, Annex 6).

The following types of educational institutions shall be covered by the investment: primary schools, secondary schools, institutions for children and young people with special needs, student dormitories and adult education organisations.

According to the extract from the official database from the Ministry of Education (Annex 5), the investment covers primary schools, primary schools for children with special needs, secondary schools, special needs schools for higher education, student dormitories, and adult education institutions.

The Commission services conducted an on-the-spot check on 17 June 2025 to verify the alignment of the copy from the official database of the Ministry of Education regarding basic registers in education submitted to show the number of pupils and type of education institutions with the data from the actual database. This check was completed successfully, confirming that the information in the official database from the Ministry of Education regarding the type of educational institutions in Slovenia matches the data in the copies shared by the Slovenian authorities (Annex 5, Annex 6).

Furthermore, in line with the description of the measure, **the investment shall ensure in particular: connectivity for primary and secondary institutions, higher vocational colleges, as well as adult education organisations**.

As specified in Annex 5, the investment covers primary, secondary and higher education institutions as well as adult education institution, including higher vocational colleges.

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled.

Number and name of the Target SI-C7-IJ-T107: Additional 100 Gbps backbone optical connections

Related measure: SI-C7-IJ: Digitalisation of education and science

Quantitative indicator: Number

Baseline: 0

Target: 40

Time: Q4/2023

1. Context:

The objective of the investment is to provide adequate information and communication infrastructure, high speed connectivity, and data storage and enhance competences in open data and open science within the research organisations. In particular, the investment will provide for the high-speed fiber optic backbone network between Points-of-Presence of the Academic Research Network of Slovenia and data repositories for preservation of open research results.

Target 107 concerns the establishment of backbone optical connections between the data nodes of the public institutes in the Academic Research Network of Slovenia. At least 40 long-distance optical connections are permanently deployed, which cover at least 75% of all connections between public institutes.

Target 107 is accompanied in this payment request by target 106 related to the provision of optical connections above 1 Gbps to education organisations and is followed by target 108, related to IT solutions for teaching, learning, and tracking of vocational education graduates. The investment has a final expected date for implementation in December 2025.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence	Short description
1	Summary document	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactory fulfilled, with appropriate links to the underlying evidence
2	Annex 1	Tender specification for purchase of an inalienable right of use (IRU) of optical fibres by ARNES.
3	Annex 2	Copies of handover records for the purchase of the right of use of optical fibres regarding 40 connections, signed by ARNES and the optical fibre providers between March and September 2023.
4	Annex 3	Government decision No. 7/2023 regarding the transformation of the public institute Academic and Research Network of Slovenia into a public infrastructure institute, dated 20 January 2023 and available at: Uradni list RS - 007/2023, Uredbeni del
5	Annex 4	Scientific Research and Innovation Activity Act
6	Annex 5	Printout of list of 18 public research institutes connected to the ARNES network, dated 31 December 2023, signed by ARNES. Link to the list of 19 public research institutes in Slovenia https://www.gov.si/teme/javni-raziskovalni-zavodi/.

7	Annex 6	List of 40 backbone connections with links to the award decisions, contracts signed and public procurement notice
8	Annex 7	Table of 40 backbone connections and geographical course of the connection route

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Slovenian authorities cover all constitutive elements of the target.

The backbone optical connections shall connect the data nodes of the public institutes in the Academic and Research Network of Slovenia. At least 40 long-distance optical connections of 100 Gbps shall be permanently deployed, […]

Annex 3 sets out that on 20 January 2023, the Academic and Research Network of Slovenia (ARNES) was established by the Government of the Republic of Slovenia as a public infrastructure institute, which is responsible to provide network connection services to research, educational and cultural organisations and enhance their cooperation. Article 4(2) of Annex 3 specifies that ARNES is established to provide the infrastructure to support scientific research activities. Article 4(3) of the Annex further specifies that ARNES is responsible to plan, organise, establish and manage the communication network infrastructure and connection links for scientific research and other organisations, as well as connections to other networks in the Republic of Slovenia and abroad. As set out in Article 4(3) of the Annex, ARNES was established by the Government of the Republic of Slovenia with the aim of enabling research organizations from Slovenia to access the internet network and provide the necessary infrastructure and services. The ARNES backbone network provides the public research institutes in Slovenia with access to the Internet through the data nodes, which are connected within the backbone optical network. As such, the public institutes must be connected to the backbone of the ARNES network. All connections established by ARNES are connected to the ARNES backbone network.

According to the handover records for the purchase of rights to use the optical fibre connections in Annex 2, ARNES deployed additional 40 optical backbone connections in Slovenia during March-September 2023, which are integrated into the ARNES network. For each of the optical connections, a copy of the signed handover records was provided (Annex 2). The connection identification number and geographical route in Annex 2 are identical with the information provided in Annex 6, which provides the links to the award decisions, contracts signed and public procurement notices. Furthermore, Annex 7 shows the geographical course of the optical connection routes. The geographical routes of the connections are spread across Slovenia and due to the geographical distance between the connection points, these are considered long-distance connections.

As set out in the tender specifications under the minimum technical requirements (Annex 1), the optic fibre connections are required to meet at least the specifications of the standard ITU-T G.652. ITU-T G.652 is an international standard with a capacity up to 800 Gbps According to the tender specifications, each link between two Points-of-Presence is always made up of two optical fibres. ITU-T G.652 is an international standard that describes the geometrical, mechanical, and transmission attributes of a single-mode optical fibre and cable, developed by the Standardization Sector of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU-T) that specifies the most popular type of single-mode optical fibre (SMF) cable. According to the technical standard ITU-T G.652, optical fibres at long distances are standardized up to 800 Gpbs. Since the deployed infrastructure is in line with this standard, it is compliant with the required capacity/speed of 100 Gbps, while at the same time ensuring that the capacity of the backbone Internet connections can be increased in the future.

Consequently, the connections are considered high-speed connections and meet the technical speed requirement. The Slovenian authorities demonstrated that the fibre deployed provides connection speed of 100 Gbps in a permanent manner.

[…] which are expected to cover at least 75 % of all connections between public institutes.

Public research institutes are established for the purpose of performing a public service, as provided for in Article 67(1) of the Slovenian Scientific Research and Innovation Activity Act (Annex 4). As set out in Annex 5, and supported by Annex 2, the 18 public research institutes are connected to the ARNES network. Slovenia has a total of 19 public research institutes. Since 18 out of the total 19 public institutes were connected and integrated into the ARNES backbone network as of 31 December 2023, 94.74 % of all connections between public institutes are covered by the investment.

Furthermore, in line with the description of the measure, **the investment shall ensure high-speed fiber optic backbone network between Points-of-Presence of the Academic Research Network of Slovenia and data repositories for preservation of open research results**.

According to Article 4(3) in Annex 3, ARNES is responsible to provide a backbone network infrastructure in Slovenia and plan, organise, set up and manage data centres for research, education, cultural and other organisations. The connection identifier and geographical routes of the established data nodes set out in the handover records (Annex 2) correspond to connection identifier and geographical routes of the established data nodes provided in Annex 1. The ARNES backbone infrastructure connects the Points-of-Presence network nodes of public institutes in the ARNES network. Points-of-Presence are network nodes to which research institutes and other organizations eligible for ARNES services are connected and are present in major Slovenian towns. As set out in Annex 3 (Article 4(3)), ARNES is responsible to establish and manage data centres for research and education institutes in Slovenia.

Furthermore, in line with the description of the measure, **the investment shall ensure high speed connectivity, data storage and enhancing of competences for open data and open science within the research organisations.**

As set out in Article 4(2) of Annex 3, ARNES provides network services to research organisations and enables high-speed connectivity. ARNES also provides servers capacity for national data repositories, data storage and long-term preservation of open research data. The repositories and the national Open Science portal, which are connected through the ARNES optical backbone network, make the research results of Slovenian research organizations accessible to researchers, students, businesses, and other users in Europe and around the world. The digital objects from the national infrastructure are used in the Slovenian national supercomputers. The entire system of research data storage, sharing of research data in Slovenia and around the world, and their processing on a supercomputer only works if the connection is via the ARNES optical backbone. The infrastructure enables Slovenia to implement the policy of open access to the results of nationally funded research and thus, promotes open science in academia.

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled.

Number and name of the Milestone SI-C10-RA-M135: Entry into force of the Act establishing a "crisis" short-time work scheme

Related measure: SI-C- A: Structural measures to strengthen the resilience of the labour market

Qualitative indicator: Provision in the law indicating the entry into force of the Act establishing a "crisis" short-time work scheme

Time: Q2/2024

1. Context:

The objective of the reform is to increase the resilience of the labour market by establishing a permanent short-time work scheme in case the employers fall into difficulties caused by exceptional occurrences beyond their control. Similar measures were enacted on ad hoc basis during the COVID-19 crisis and during the energy crisis in 2022. The employees subject to short-time work shall have education and training obligations during part-time work.

The act will establish a permanent short-time work scheme with the objective of preserving jobs in the event of unforeseen circumstances (crisis). The draft act will be prepared on the basis of a needs analysis and experience with the implementation of the intervention measure during the COVID-19 epidemic and during the 2022 energy crisis, in cooperation with the social partners. The act will also provide for training and education obligations during the period of short-time work measure implementation.

Milestone 135 is part of the implementation of the reform A. While the reform also includes milestones 136, 137, 138, 139 and 140, related to the entry into force of the Labour Market Regulation Act, preparation and entry into force of the pension reform and an adoption of the Guidelines for the implementation of active labour market policy 2026-2030, the establishment of the permanent short-time work scheme is a self-standing element of the reform. The reform has a final expected date for implementation on 31 December 2025.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence. For legal acts please provide the full legal reference and date of entry into force	Short description
1	The Act on the Implementation of Partial Reimbursement of Wage Compensation for Short-Time Working Hours adopted by the National Assembly, published in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, no. 47/2025 on 27 June 2025, entered into force on 12 July 2025	Official publication of the Act that establishes the 'crisis' short-time working scheme and stipulates its parameters.
2	Needs Analysis - Analytical basis for the needs of establishing a permanent scheme of reduced working hours in Slovenia, prepared by the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities in December 2022 and published at its webpage on 9 January 2023	Needs analysis carried out by the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities to design the reform

3	Act on intervention measures to mitigate and eliminate the consequences of the epidemic COVID-19 approved by the National Assembly, 29 May 2020, entered into force on 31 May 2020	This Act established temporary measures to mitigate and eliminate the consequences of the COVID-19 epidemic
4	Act on intervention measures to help the economy and tourism mitigate the effects of the epidemic COVID-19 approved by the National Assembly, 7 July 2021, entered into force on 14 July 2021	The Act amended temporary measures of adopted legislation to mitigate the consequences of the COVID-19 epidemic
5	Act on aid to the economy to mitigate the effects of the energy crisis adopted by the National Assembly, 16 December 2022, entered into force on 28 December 2022	The Act established temporary measures to support the economy and preserve jobs due to the extremely high increases in energy prices
6	Minutes of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd meeting of the Economic and Social Council's Negotiating Group for the preparation of the Act on the Implementation of Partial Reimbursement of Wage Compensation for Short-Time Working Hours from 19 December 2024, 8 January 2025 and 14 January 2025 taken by Ms Bernarda Keblič	Minutes from three meetings present detailed interventions of members of the Economic and Social Council on the draft Act on the Implementation of Partial Reimbursement of Wage Compensation for Short-Time Working Hours.
7	Proposal for the first parliamentary discussion - Act on the Implementation of Partial Reimbursement of Wage Compensation for Short-Time Working Hours determined at the 144th regular Government Session on 5 March 2025	The draft Act provides proposed legal provisions and the Explanatory Memorandum to the Act

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Slovenian authorities covers all constitutive elements of the milestone.

The act shall establish a crisis short-time work scheme with the objective of preserving jobs in the event of unforeseen circumstances. Furthermore, in line with the description of the measure **the reform shall ensure the entry into force of the act establishing a permanent crisis short-time work scheme for businesses in difficulties or seriously threatened with severe difficulties caused by exceptional occurrences beyond their control, building on the experience acquired during the COVID-19 crisis, and during the energy crisis in 2022**

On 18 June 2025 Slovenian Parliament adopted the Implementation of Partial Reimbursement of Wage Compensation for Short-Time Working Hours, which established a permanent crisis short-time work scheme (hereinafter referred to as *"Act", Evidence 1)*. The Act was published in the Official Journal of the Republic of Slovenia on 27 June 2025 (OJ 47/2025. p. 5321). According to the Article 28 of the Act, it entered into force 15 days after its publication. The Act does not stipulate an expiry date for the scheme, therefore establishing the crisis short-term work scheme as a permanent measure.

Article 1 of the Act allows an employer (company or sole proprietor who employs workers) to temporarily ask full-time employees to work part-time if, due to the extraordinary unforeseen, crises-related circumstances, it is impossible to offer full-time work (Evidence 1). Extraordinary unforeseen circumstances for activating the scheme are defined in two ways: a) natural or other disasters (Evidence 1, Article 8); or b) governmental decision regarding the existence of temporary economic circumstances making the activation of the scheme necessary (Evidence 1, Article 12).

The extraordinary circumstances (exceptional occurrences) required for the activation of the Act (natural and other disaster, serious general economic crisis) are by nature those that are beyond the control of companies. (Evidence 1, Article 12). The Act targets companies (employers who employs workers on the basis of a full-time employment contract and is a legal or natural person registered in the Business Register of Slovenia, or a natural person who carries out agricultural activity registered in the Register of Agricultural Holdings), which cannot provide at least 30% of workers at least 90% of work on a monthly basis (Evidence 1, Article 3). This condition demonstrates that they are facing difficulties or seriously threatened with severe difficulties (Evidence 1, Article 12). Without the possibility to offer part-time employment the companies are likely to proceed with layoffs. Furthermore, the legislation includes strong restrictions for the companies that take advantage of the possibility: Article 15 of the Act provides that if the company distributes income to the shareholders or pays bonuses to the management, the funds received should be reimbursed to the government. If such profit sharing takes place within one year, 100% of the funds would be reimbursed. In the second and third year the reimbursement would be 50%. This provision effectively guarantees that only companies in difficulties or threatened with difficulties would apply, as companies not facing difficulties would be expected to prefer to maintain the options to distribute profits.

Based on the adopted reform, the employer will continue to pay to the employees the salary for the reduced hours worked for the company, whereas the government compensates to the employees 60% of the salary (without contributions that have to be paid by the employer) for the hours not worked due to the unforeseeable circumstances (Evidence 1, Article 16). The maximum duration is six months (Article 14).

The draft act shall be prepared on the basis of a needs analysis and experience with the implementation of the intervention measure during the COVID-19 epidemic and during the 2022 energy crisis

The Slovenian Authorities carried out the needs analysis (Evidence 2) and published it on 9 January 2023 on the homepage of the Ministry of Labour (hereinafter referred to as "Needs Analysis"). This includes the analysis of the key features of past job retention schemes in Slovenia, key characteristics of permanent short-time working schemes in other EU countries and the satisfaction survey of past beneficiaries.

Similarly to previous temporary schemes (COVID19 and energy crises temporary schemes (Evidence 3, 4, 5)), the permanent scheme aims at protecting the employment during the crisis. The temporary schemes had narrowly defined target groups and time periods, whereas the general scheme is more universal. The Needs Analysis assessed advantages of a permanent short-term work scheme and features of permanent short-term work schemes in other Member States (Evidence 2, chapters 2 and 5) and analyses the experience with previous short-term work schemes in Slovenia (Evidence 2, chapter 4).

The Proposal for the first parliamentary discussion of the Act refers to the Needs Analysis (Evidence 7, footnote 3) and international research as well as summarised experience from other Member States (Evidence 7, chapters 1 and 2.1.) as the background for the preparation of the proposed Act.

The permanent scheme took into account suggestions for possible improvements to the COVID-19 pandemic short-time working hours scheme (Evidence 2, Chapter 6, pages 40-42), by setting of clear and verifiable entry conditions (Evidence 1, Article 3) and allowed for the possibility of a differentiated distribution of short-time work in company (Evidence 1 Article 10). Future Covid-19 type events would be covered by Article 8 of the Act. Future energy crisis type of events are covered by Article 12 of the Act. Based on positive experiences from the prepared 2022 energy crisis scheme, the authorities transposed several of its legal solutions into the permanent scheme. The fully or almost fully transposed legal solutions are among others general conditions for eligibility, rights and obligations of workers, including the amount of wage compensation, obligations of the employer and reasons for repayment of funds.

[...] in cooperation with the social partners

Slovenian authorities have provided the official minutes of three meetings of the Negotiating Group of the Economic and Social Council for the preparation of the Act (Evidence 6). Negotiations with the social partners took place on 19 December 2024, 8 January 2025 and 14 January 2025, therefore demonstrating the cooperation with social partners.

The act shall also provide for training and education obligations during the period of short-time work measure implementation.

Article 5 of the Act (Evidence 1) states that during the period of part-time work, the employee must, within five working days, register with the public employment services and inform the employer. Article 19 of the Act specifies the training obligation. During the part-time work, the employer must guarantee the right and facilitate the fulfilment of the workers' obligations to training. The Employment Service of the Republic of Slovenia publishes the list of available trainings and educations on its website. Workers will be entitled to additional commuting allowances, if applicable, to take part of the trainings and additional cash reward for successfully completing the training.

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled.

Number and name of the Milestone SI-C10-RA-M136: Entry into force of amendments to the Labour Market Regulation Act

Related measure: SI-C- A: Structural measures to strengthen the resilience of the labour market

Qualitative indicator: Provision in the law indicating the entry into force of amendments to the Labour Market Regulation Act

Time: Q2/2024

1. Context:

The objective of the reform is to increase the resilience of the labour market by ensuring the entry into force of legislative changes in the field of unemployment benefits. The provisions in the Labour Market Regulation Act on unemployment benefits shall be amended with a view to increasing the employment rate of older workers and preventing early exit from the labour market. Work shall build on the OECD's analysis of the pension and disability insurance system in Slovenia.

The amendments in the field of unemployment insurance shall aim at promoting longer working lives and reducing the gap between labour market exit age and the statutory retirement age.

Milestone 136 is part of the implementation of the reform A. While the reform also includes milestones 135, 137, 138, 139 and 140, related to the entry into force of the Act establishing a "crisis" short-time work scheme, preparation and entry into force of the pension reform and an adoption of the Guidelines for the implementation of active labour market policy 2026-2030, the establishment of the permanent short-time work scheme is a self-standing element of the reform.

The reform has a final expected date for implementation on 31 December 2025.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence. For legal acts please provide the full legal reference and date of entry into force	Short description
1	Summary Document with annexes	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled
2	Act on Amendments to the Labour Market Regulation Act approved by the National Assembly on 20 June 2025, published in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, no. 70/2025 on 19 September 2025, entered into force on 20 September 2025	Copy of the Official Gazette which includes the Amendments to the Act on the Regulation of the Labour Market, containing provisions reducing the excessive unemployment benefits of elderly unemployed
3	Impact assessment of the proposed amendments to the Labour Market Regulation Act in relation to older persons aged 55 or over who are retiring from unemployment status published by the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities on 22 January 2025	An analysis of the foreseen impact of the amendments on promoting longer working lives
4	An analysis document for the target group of insured persons and a set of	Summary of forecasts of economic trends and statistical data on unemployment in

	possible proposals for measures and legislative changes in the field of unemployment benefit in the light of premature exit from employment and transition to inactivity prepared by EvaluaPro, Sebastjan Kodelja s.p., September 2023)	Slovenia, summary of the current regulation of social rights under unemployment insurance and the regulation of the right to compensation, and proposals for amending the legislation on unemployment benefit in the light of premature exit from employment and transition to inactivity
5	Act on employment, self-employment and work of foreigners (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 91/21 – official consolidated text, 42/23 and 32/25)	The Act determining the conditions for employment, self-employment and work of foreigners and the related tasks of the Republic of Slovenia for regulating and protecting the labour market
6	OECD Reviews of Pension Systems of Slovenia, 22 January 2022	This OECD Pension Review provides an assessment of Slovenia's retirement income provision from an international perspective and focuses on the capacity of the pension system to deliver adequate retirement income in a financially sustainable way.

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Slovenian authorities cover all constitutive elements of the milestone.

Provision in the law indicating the entry into force of amendments to the Labour Market Regulation Act and, in line with the description of the milestone, **entry into force of legislative changes in the field of unemployment benefits.**

The Act on Amendments to the Labour Market Regulation Act (hereinafter the Act) was adopted by the National Assembly on 20 June 2025. The act was published in the Official Journal on 19 September 2025 and entered into force on 20 September 2025 (Evidence 2, Article 72).

The amendments in the field of unemployment insurance shall aim at promoting longer working lives and reducing the gap between labour market exit age and the statutory retirement age. Furthermore, in line with the description of the measure, **the provisions in the Labour Market Regulation Act on unemployment benefits shall be amended with a view to increasing the employment rate of older workers and preventing early exit from the labour market.**

Slovenia's Labour Market Regulation Act includes a general provision (Article 60(1)) that an unemployed person older than 58 years who has contributed 28 years to unemployment insurance can claim cash benefits for a period of 25 months in case they become unemployed. Prior to the reform, based on Article 69(2) and Article 59(2) of the same act, insured persons who were at least 57 years old or had completed 35 years of insurance, could exceptionally regain the right to the 25 month unemployment benefits after working for just 10 months in the past 24 months preceding the unemployment (normally, the rule is that persons working for 10 months have a right to 3 months of unemployment benefits). Thus, effectively, prior to the reform, older workers with long careers could choose to work just 10 months during the last 5 years before the retirement and collect unemployment benefits during the rest of the time. This, de facto, lowered the effective labour market exit age. In 2023, 15.2% of workers retired from unemployment while receiving the unemployment benefit. In addition to cash unemployment benefits, the insured have also right to other social security benefits (Evidence 3, page 75). Benefits paid based on this exception represented close to 5% of all unemployment benefits or 6.5 million euros (Evidence 2 p.2, Evidence 3 p.97). Therefore, before the reform, older workers appeared to take advantage of the generous benefits and used these as a “bridge to retirement”, lowering the employment rate and creating a gap between the exit age and statutory retirement age.

In order to increase the employment rate of older workers, to reduce the gap between the statutory retirement age and the effective labour market exit age and to promote longer working lives, Article 69(2) of the Labour Market Regulation Act (Evidence 2, Article 36) was amended. With this reform, the exception in the law for elderly people was modified to tighten the conditions for re-acquiring the right to the 25-month unemployment benefits:

a) Instead of 57 years of age, they should be 59 years old **and**
b) Instead of 35 years of insurance, they should have 37 years of insurance period (thus the conditions of being 59 years old **and** having 37 years of insurance period were made cumulative, while before the reform either being 57 years old or having 35 years of insurance period was sufficient);
c) Instead of 10 months work in the preceding 24 months, they should have worked 16 months.

If all these strict conditions are fulfilled, the elderly workers will still be entitled to the cash benefits for the next 25-month period based on the (unmodified Article 60(1) in the Labour Market Regulation Act). Based on the estimates of the Slovenian authorities, those conditions reduce the number of people entitled to this benefit by over 90%. Thus, the conditions of the insurance are tightened and the gap between the labour market exit age and the statutory retirement age is expected to become smaller.

The reform provides additional elements to promote longer working lives. It also reforms the Employment Relationships Act (Evidence 2, Article 58) to regulate part-time work for workers prior to retirement. A worker in a full-time employment who has reached the age of 58 (gradually increasing to 60 between 2028 and 2035, in parallel with the statutory retirement age) or has completed 35 years of service can reach an agreement with their employer to convert to part-time work (up to 80 % of full-time work). This amendment aims to prolong working lives by also incentivising an employer to keep older workers employed.

In addition, the amended Labour Market Regulation Act introduced a possibility of granting an employment incentive in the amount of 40% of the monthly net unemployment allowance to the unemployed worker older than 59 years, who at time of the entitlement to the unemployment benefit, enters into a full-time employment. The aim of this provision is to encourage unemployed older people to re-enter the labour market. (Evidence 2, Article 66b).

In order to lower the incentives for companies to lay off older workers, Slovenia has revised the Employment, Self-Employment and Work of Foreigners Act (Evidence 5, Article 17), in such way that the companies who have dismissed older workers for business reason in the past six months could be denied single permits issued by the Public Employment Service, to employ non-EU workers for the same type of job. Significant number of insured persons over 58 years of age were dismissed for business reasons from 1 January 2022 to 31 May 2023 (Evidence 4, page 99). For employers, foreign employees are in some cases more attractive candidates than older workers because the former receive lower wages (e.g. for lack of experiences). In these companies, working permits to employ extra-EU workers on the posts previously occupied by older workers would not be awarded. This change will reduce an incentive to lay off older workers.

Furthermore, in line with the description of the measure, the act shall build on the OECD’s analysis of the pension and disability insurance system in Slovenia.

The OECD Reviews of Pension Systems of Slovenia (Evidence 6) formed the basis for the revision of the Labour Market Regulation Act, because the Act fixes weaknesses identified in OECD report (as explained below). In 2019 half of women and a quarter of men retired before the age of 60 (Evidence 6, Figure 1.19. on page 31). The OECD's analysis further concluded that unemployment insurance is favourable to older workers and could contribute to earlier retirement. The OECD specifically noted (p. 34) that this was due to the so-called bridge to retirement – the option for older worker (57+ years old or 35 years of contribution period) to receive again full 25 months of unemployment benefit with only the minimum required insurance period of 10 months in the past 24 month. Through measures for increasing working activity of older unemployed workers (Article 69(2) mentioned above) the Act responded to the OECD analysis (Evidence 6, chapter 1.4.7. on page 34). Increases in the statutory retirement age, part of RRP reforms (Milestones 137, 138, 139), would be undermined if OECD analysis was not incorporated into the Act and therefore in practice, significant share of workers would effectively leave the labour market due to the unchanged/favourable unemployment insurance much earlier than according to the statutory retirement age.

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled.

Number and name of the Milestone SI-C10-RA-M138: Legislative proposal for comprehensive amendments to the Pension and Disability Insurance Act transmitted to the National Assembly

Related measure: SI-C- A: Structural measures to strengthen the resilience of the labour market

Qualitative indicator: The proposal for legislative amendments is adopted by the Government of the Republic of Slovenia and transmitted to the National Assembly.

Time: Q2/2023

1. Context:

The overall objective of the reform is to increase the resilience of the labour market by ensuring, in particular, its adaptation to the negative demographic trends.

Milestone 138 concerns the adoption of the draft amendments to the pension legislation by the government and presenting the draft legislation to the Parliament. The proposal will ensure the fiscal sustainability of the pension system and adequacy of pensions. The proposal will extend the period of employment, increasing the labour market integration of older people, and ensuring the adequacy of pensions and the financial sustainability of the pension system.

Milestone 138 is the second step of the implementation of the reform, and it will be followed by milestones 139, related to the entry into force of the pension reform legislation. The reform has a final expected date for implementation on 31 December 2025.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence. For legal acts please provide the full legal reference and date of entry into force	Short description
1	Summary Document with annexes	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled
2	Government decision, No. 00704-97/2025/9 dated 8 May 2025 adopting the draft Act on Amendments and Supplements to the Pension and Disability Insurance Act	Government decision adopting the proposed Act on Amendments and Supplements to the Pension and Disability Insurance Act and transmitting it to the National Assembly (Annex 2 of the Summary Document)
3	Letter to Members of Parliament regarding the publication of the proposed Act on Amendments and Supplements to the Pension and Disability Insurance Act bill on the National Assembly network, No. 172-01/25-12/2 dated 9 May 2025	Information by the President of the National Assembly that the was proposed Act was published on the parliamentary website and that the legislative procedure started (Annex 3 of the Summary Document). The document is addressed to parliamentarians with copy to the government and some other stakeholders.
4	Draft amendments to the Pension and Disability Insurance Act	Text of the draft act as adopted by the government and presented to the first reading in the Parliament (EVA 2025-2611-0024)
5	Letter from the Institute of Economic Research to the European Commission, dated 19 June 2025 and signed by its director	Letter from the Institute of Economic Research (independent research institute) on the impact of the reform, including calculations regarding the impact of the reform

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Slovenian authorities covers all constitutive elements of the milestone.

The government adopts and transmits to the National Assembly legislation In line with the milestone, legislative proposal for comprehensive amendments to the Pension and Disability Insurance Act have been adopted by the government and transmitted to the National Assembly.

Following the Milestone 137, which envisaged the submission of draft amendments to the Pension and Disability Insurance Act (hereinafter referred to as "Act") aimed at ensuring the fiscal sustainability and adequacy of the pensions to the Economic and Social Council, the government launched consultations with employers, trade unions in Slovenia's Economic and Social Council, which lasted from September 2024 to March 2025.

A public consultation on the draft Act amending the Pension and Disability Insurance Act (*hereafter: the draft act*) was also carried out from 2 April to 22 April 2025.

In line with the second paragraph of Article 2 of the Act on the Government of the Republic of Slovenia (Evidence 2) the Government approved the draft amendment to the law on 8 May 2025 and transmitted the legislative proposal for amendments to the Pension and Disability Insurance Act (hereinafter referred to as "Act") to Parliament on 9 May 2025 (Evidence 3). The legislative procedure started in the National Assembly on 9 May 2025 (Evidence 3).

The proposed Act on Amendments and Supplements to the Pension and Disability Insurance Act includes amendments to the following crucial parameters of the pension system (Evidence 4):

- accrual rate for 40 years of contribution period;
- Minimum retirement age;
- Reference period for the pension assessment base calculation;
- Regular pension indexation;
- Minimum retirement age and accrual rate for widow pensions;
- Accrual rate of survivors' pensions; and
- Additional winter bonus and amended annual bonus.

The draft law envisaged entry into force from 1 January 2026. Based on the draft act, the increase in statutory retirement age, accrual rates and the longer reference period will be applicable as of 1 January 2026 for all workers, with limited transition periods for those near retirement. The authorities have provided in the summary document (Evidence 1) an explanation, why such an approach is taken:

- Gradual transition to avoid a rush towards retirement for older age cohorts. In 2012, following the previous pension reform, there was a nearly 100-percent increase in retirement, resulting in great strain on the pension budget and the pension institute processing the retirement claims and applications.
- The retirement system is currently still in rather solid financial condition based on the Ageing Report 2024, the risks are not short term but long-term. This means there is enough time to afford an orderly transition which is necessary considering the experience of the previous larger pension reforms.
- The Pension and Disability Institute, the implementing body of the pension system, needs time to adjust their working methods, IT systems, provide training to the employees etc.
- Taking into account the experience from the previous reforms, Slovenian authorities see that it is necessary to introduce the changes gradually and to a large extent, simultaneously.

The proposal shall ensure the fiscal sustainability of the pension system (risks stemming from age-related expenditure shall be significantly reduced from the current high-risk category)

Fiscal sustainability is addressed by numerous changes to the parameters of the pension system.

First measure improving fiscal sustainability is changing the pension benefits indexation system, which will imply increases of pensions more in line with inflation and less with wage growth as-of 1/1/2026. The weight of inflation will increase from 40% to 80% of the indexation formula by 2040 (Evidence 4, Article 67). The change in indexation has significant positive impact, 1.26 pp of GDP by 2070, on fiscal sustainability on its own (Figure 5, Evidence 5).

Fiscal sustainability is further improved by increasing the statutory retirement age by 2 years (Evidence 4, Article 17), from 65 to 67 (normal retirement) and from 60 to 62 (early retirement). Based on Figure 5, Evidence 5, the change lowers expenditure by ca 0.5 pp of GDP, with impact being especially significant between 2035 and 2050. The impact is expected to peak at 0.94 pp in 2046.

The draft act includes provisions to increase the reference period on calculation of pension rights. The entire contribution period (40 years with the possibility of excluding the 5 least favourable years) would be taken into account as the basis for calculating the benefits (Evidence 4, Article 20), replacing current 24 years in addition of reducing the pension expenditure by up to 0.75pp of GDP (Figure 6, Evidence 5).

The content of the draft legislation addresses the challenges as identified in the European Commission’s 2024 Ageing Report. The proposal has been compiled with the 2024 Ageing Report scenario considered to be the baseline against which the impact of the measures has been compared for the projected increase in the age-related expenditure. The authorities recognize the ageing-related challenges, and the proposal addresses these challenges, including the ageing of the population, and the lower ratio of workers to retirees. Based on the 2024 Ageing Report, pension expenditure is projected to increase from 10.20% of GDP in 2024 to 12% in 2040, 13.49% in 2050 and 13.70% in 2070 under unchanged policies. Based on the Institute of Economic Research calculations (Evidence 5) using their microsimulation model[2], the impact of the pension reform draft legislation, if adopted in the current form, is that the pension expenditure will increase to 10.84% of GDP in 2040, 11.75% of GDP in 2050 and to 12 1/3% in 2070 (Evidence 5, Figure 1). This significantly lower increase in pension expenditure will reduce Slovenia’s long term fiscal sustainability risk from its current high level. In addition, a review clause is introduced, which stipulates that every five years after the law is adopted, a re-evaluation of the pension expenditure situation will be carried out with the social partners to assess the possible need for further adjustments in the indexation formula. (Evidence 4, Article 94). Furthermore, the proposal will increase the available labour force for the economy due to longer careers induced by the higher retirement age, which in turn will have a beneficial impact on the economy and public finances. The impact, however, also includes an additional assumption of an increase in migration – an increase of 2000 persons per year compared to the baseline assumption of 5000 persons per year. The assumption is not covered by the articles but is in line with the recent migration trends (Evidence 5).

[...] and adequacy of pensions

Adequacy improving measures include higher accrual rates for the years worked (70% by year 2035), increases in widows’ pensions, expected higher uptake of a supplementary pensions system, introduction of winter bonus and annual bonus components. In addition, the amendment also ensures higher disability pensions and disability benefits and an increase in the guaranteed disability pension.

[2] DINAMIČNI pokojninski mikrosimulacijski model DYPENSI / Nataša Kump et al. - Ljubljana : Inštitut za ekonomska raziskovanja, 2023. - (EkonomIERa, ISSN 2630-2896)

The pension accrual rate will be increased from the current 63.5% to 70% by 2035 (Evidence 4, Article 24). This effectively means that all persons born after 1970 will have their pensions rights accrued to 70% based on the 40-year career, while those born earlier will have accrual rates between 64,75% to 69,25% for the same career.

The newly introduced annual allowance has five levels for pension recipients (from 160 to 470 euros) and three levels for disability insurance benefits recipients (160 to 270 euros) (Evidence 4, Article 61). Higer levels of the annual allowance will be granted to the recipients of lower pensions. This is expected to significantly improve the situation for recipients of low pensions. The annual allowance will be indexed 100% to inflation, not wage growth.

Similarly, the draft act introduces a winter allowance (Evidence 4, Article 65). This will be a fixed amount to all pensioners and similarly indexed to inflation.

Based on the calculations of Slovenia's Institute of Economic Research, the first pension received will be on average 8% higher than under the baseline scenario by 2045 (Figure 2, Evidence 5). The increase will be higher for the lower quintile classes (approximately 12%) and lower for the higher quintile classes (4-6%). The reform will ensure that the benefit ratio of an average old-age pension would increase from the current 65,4% to 68.1% by 2070 in a fiscally sustainable manner.

The draft legislation also aims at increasing the number of members of the collective supplementary pension scheme set up by the employer for its employees (Evidence 4, Article 115). The aim is also to improve the functioning of the supplementary pension scheme, so that more risks could be taken to increase the returns, and more options would be available to use the savings during the retirement (wider choice of annuities) (Evidence 4, Article 123). The draft act also reduces the maximum management fee of the supplementary pension funds (Evidence 4, Article 121).

The proposal shall extend the period of employment, increasing the labour market integration of older people

The draft act includes (Evidence 4, Article 27) a proposal to raise the retirement age from 65 to 67 years and the early retirement age (for those who have contributed for 40 years) from 60 to 62 years. The increase in statutory retirement age, accrual rates and the longer reference period will be applicable as of 1/1/2026 for all workers, with limited transition periods for those near retirement. Article 27 foresees a transition period for the retirement age to increase gradually from 2028 to 2035: all persons born after 1970 will retire, with immediate effect, at the age of 67 (or 62 with 40 years of contributions) after the adoption of the legislation. The transitional arrangements affect only those born between 1962 and 1967, who can still retire at the age of 65 or between the age of 60 and 64 in case they have contributed to the system for at least 40 years. Based on the calculations of the Institute of Economic Research (Evidence 5), this change reduces pension expenditure by 0.5% of GDP by 2070 compared to the baseline scenario defined in the Ageing Report 2024 (peak impact: -0.94 pp of GDP in 2046).

The draft act includes administrative measures that will result in earlier start of vocational rehabilitation, and introduction of a single evaluation body – these measures are also expected to increase labour market participation of people with disabilities.

Furthermore, additional incentives would be created for longer work – after completing 40 years of compulsory insurance, the accrual rate for each subsequent year is 3% (for the maximum of three years) (Evidence 4, Article 24).

Based on the measure description, the reform shall take into account the existing expenditure trends, pension conditions, indexation, contributions, linkages between payments and receipts, adequacy and transparency of pension and disability insurance

Existing expenditure trends have been taken into account, as the reform proposal uses the Ageing Report 2024 analysis as its baseline (Evidence 5, bottom of page 2).

The reform changes the indexation methodology, retirement age, reference period and accrual rate of pensions, as discussed above. During the negotiations with the social partners, contributions levels were also discussed but it was agreed that these would not be changed. Longer reference period improves the transparency of pensions.

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled.

Number and name of the Target: SI-C12-IE-T157: Professionals and managers having completed training in digital and sustainable development competences

Related measure: SI-C12-IE: The comprehensive transformation of green and digital education

Quantitative Indicator: Number

Baseline: 0

Target: 16 000

Time: Q2/2024

1. Context:

This investment is closely linked to Reform A "Renovating the education system for the green and digital transitions" of this component. Under the reform, more than 200 curricula in early childhood education and care as well as of primary and secondary schools are being updated in respect to digital competences, competences for sustainable development and financial literacy. Investment E complements the reform by strengthening digital competences, competences for sustainable development and financial literacy of professionals in education and training.

Target T157 concerns the training for professionals and managers in education and training to strengthen their digital competences, competences for sustainable development and financial literacy. Trainings are expected to last for 4.6 educational days on average. The measure will help bringing the updated curricula into the classrooms.

Target T157 is the first step of the implementation of the investment and will be followed by targets T158a, T158b, and T158c, related to projects to develop and strengthen digital, sustainable development and financial literacy, a proposal for updated and evaluated subject content for existing pedagogical study programmes, and adult financial literacy programmes. The investment has a final expected date for implementation in Q2/2026.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence. For legal acts provide the full legal reference and date of entry into force	Short description
1	List of participants	A list of the professionals and managers included in the measure and the area and duration of the training followed as well as the provider of the training
2	List of training programmes	List of training programmes available in the three areas of competence
3	Content of training programmes prepared by the providers forming part of the consortium	Descriptions of individual training programmes (Form for the preparation of the training programme)
4	Description of a database (KATIS) prepared by the Ministry of Education	
6	Rules on the selection and co-financing of programmes continuing education and training education professionals (Uradni list RS, št.	Rules defining methods and procedures as well as content, format, and method of maintaining documentation.

	33/2017 z dne 30. 6. 2017; entry into force: 15 July 2017)	
7	Decision 303-35/2022/77 on the selection of the consortium of training providers dated 8 March 2023.	Approval for the consortium led by Založba Rokus Klett to provide training to professionals and managers in education to strengthen digital, sustainable development and financial literacy competences following the call for tenders.
8	List of consortium members	List of providers that have been selected through an open call to carry out training
9	Sample of certificates of successful completion of training courses	Sample checked as part of the assessment
10	Evaluation questionnaire	Questionnaire to be completed by participant to assess the quality of the training course followed (identical with the template annexed to the Rules on the selection and co-financing of further education and training programmes for professionals in education and training
11	Records of validation of the training programmes	Records of the approval of training programmes by the so-called “Umbrella Development Group”
12	Table by the Ministry of Education listing evidence on the training programmes	Excel file listing pieces of evidence for the process of approval of training programmes in accordance with the Rules on the selection and co-financing of further education and training programmes for professionals in education and training
13	Protocol for preparation and development of training programmes	Protocol established within the project to define the organisation of the preparation, validation and registration in KATIS of each training programme

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the authorities of Slovenia cover all constitutive elements of the target.

Following the selection of a random sample of 60 units, Slovenia submitted 148 certificates of completion issued to the 60 participants for the training courses they had completed. Comparing the information included in the certificates of completion with information provided in the extract of the KATIS database (evidence 1), the correctness of the data entries in the extract of the KATIS database could be further verified. The evidence provided for 148 certificates granted to the 60 sample units confirmed that the following requirements of the target have been met:

1. The completion of the training courses – all 148 certificates of completion (evidence 9) demonstrated that the sampled units have completed respective training courses;
2. Qualitative target: 16000 participants – the names of the sampled units in the database matched with the names on the certificates of completion relevant for the sampled units, demonstrating that there were no fake entries in the sample and KATIS database;
3. The training participants in the sample were professionals and managers in education and training – this was demonstrated through the mentioning of their affiliation on the respective certificate and in the database;
4. That the training has to be carried out by providers in accordance with the Rules on the selection and co-financing of further education and training programmes for professionals in education and training – this was demonstrated by the fact that all providers who had issued

the certificates (evidence 9) were members of the consortium that was selected on the basis of an open call (evidence 8);

5. The trainings contributing to the strengthening of digital competences, competences for sustainable development or financial literacy – this was demonstrated via certificates on completion, which for all sampled units indicated their content, confirming that they fall within the three listed categories; additionally, the certificates also indicated subjects that were included in the list of reviewed training programmes (evidence 2);
6. Trainings are expected to last for 4.6 educational days on average per participant – this was demonstrated by the fact that the duration of the sampled training courses on the certificates coincided with the respective entries in the database (evidence 1).

The milestone is further specified in the Operational Arrangements, which require that **for the purposes of these operational arrangements, KATIS (Catalogue of Further Education and Training Programmes) or potential upgrades or replacement applications, is used to monitor the publication of training programmes, registration of participants, notification of registration, recording of attendance, confirmation of obligations, evaluation and certification.**

The training courses in the context of this milestone were organised with the dedicated database KATIS (Catalogue of Further Education and Training Programmes, evidence 4): Providers offer their training courses in this database and participants can only enrol via this database. Also, the award of certificates after the successful completion of a course takes place via this database. Access to the database is limited to training providers that have been selected according to the Rules on the selection and co-financing of further education and training programmes for professionals in education and training, teachers at educational institutions and their headmasters/managers, who have to authorise the enrolment of teachers in order to ensure that they are eligible and still employed by the respective institution. The list of participants (evidence 1) has been extracted from that database.

The Commission services conducted an on-the-spot check on 2 July 2025 to verify the origin of the data provided via the extract from the KATIS database (evidence 1). The functionalities of the KATIS database were explained and demonstrated by the Slovenian authorities and the comparison of the data between the extract (evidence 1) and the data entries in the KATIS database was performed with regard to the following elements of the requirements: i) the completion of the training courses; ii) qualitative target: 16000 participants; iii) the training participants shall be professionals and managers in education and training; iv) the training shall be carried out by providers in accordance with the Rules on the selection and co-financing of further education and training programmes for professionals in education and training, v) the trainings contributing to the strengthening of digital competences, competences for sustainable development or financial literacy, vi) trainings are expected to last for 4.6 educational days on average per participant, whereas the duration of the training courses for a random sample of 3 participants was performed via on-the spot-check. For all training courses in the sample the correct number of training days was registered in the database. And all unique identifiers were linked to professionals or managers in education and training.

This check was completed successfully, confirming that the extraction process and functionalities of the KATIS database provide reasonable assurance that the elements of the requirements of this milestone listed above, are accurately reflected in the KATIS database, as provided by the evidence 1, and that therefore that the above-mentioned requirements are met.

The training for professionals and managers in education and training, carried out by providers in accordance with the Rules on the selection and co-financing of further education and training programmes for professionals in education and training,

That only professionals and managers in education and training participate in the training is ensured by the features of the KATIS (Catalogue of Programs for Further Education and Training of Professional Staff in Education) platform, as demonstrated via on-the spot-check on 2 July 2025. KATIS is the official database which links training providers with potential participants. It has to be used by professionals interested to apply and register for training programmes and as well as by training providers and coordinators to offer training programmes. It is also the tool to record attendance and evaluations by participants, and to up- and download certificates of completion. As described in evidence 4, registration for the training courses is only possible via this database. In turn, passwords for the database are granted by school principals or managers only to professionals and managers in education and training, or more specifically teachers. Furthermore, applications for training have to be approved by the respective principals or managers.

The evidence provided for a sample of 60 units confirmed that the requirement of the target to provide training for professionals and managers in education and training has been met as explained above.

Furthermore, that this has been done in accordance with the Rules on the selection and co-financing of further education and training programmes for professionals in education and training (evidence 6, hereafter ‘the Rules’) is evidenced as follows: The training programmes were designed as ‘project programmes’ as defined in Article 5(5) of the Rules. From this follows that the following articles of the Rules are relevant for the assessment:

- Article 6 identifies the Catalogue of Further Education and Training Programmes (KATIS) as the tool for the Ministry for education to provide information on the offer of further education and training programmes and their content to practitioners and educational institutions on its website.
- Article 16 defines an evaluation questionnaire for the evaluation of programmes and providers.
- Article 17 specifies the certificates to be granted to participants and providers.

Compliance with Article 6 of the Rules was ensured through the use of forms for the preparation of the training programmes, including the relevant items listed in Article 6(3) (evidence 3) and a protocol for the preparation and development of training programmes (evidence 13) defining the flow of review and validation of the training programmes before publication in KATIS. All training programmes proposed by the consortium were reviewed by the project "Umbrella Development Group," the contract manager, and the relevant Ministry departments. The Commission services verified the descriptions of individual training programmes (evidence 3) and the records of validation of the training programmes (evidence 11). References to these documents were registered in the table produced as evidence 12, which includes the date of registration of each training programme in KATIS in compliance with the Rules.

The evaluation questionnaire used by the consortium (evidence 10) and the certificates of participation (evidence 9) follow the templates laid down in Annex 1 and Annex 2 of the Rules, respectively. The evidence provided for a sample of 60 units confirmed that this requirement of the target has been met.

… shall strengthen digital competences, competences for sustainable development and financial literacy.
49 training programs were implemented in the three areas of competence (digital competences, competences for sustainable development and financial literacy), a list of these programs has been

provided as evidence 3. In line with the list, 39 programs focused on digital competencies and content of computing and informatics, four on competencies for sustainable development, and six on competencies for financial literacy (evidence 2). The evidence provided for a sample of 60 units, covering 148 certificates, confirmed that this requirement of the target has been met.

Trainings are expected to last for 4.6 educational days on average. The target is further specified in the Operational Arrangements, which requires: **"the reference to 2,8 educational training days on average in the description refers to total days of training provided to eligible persons divided by the number of such persons receiving training. The differences in training intensity reflect different levels of prior knowledge and training".**

As demonstrated by the extract from the KATIS database (evidence 1), 15778 professionals and managers in education and training participated in the training courses. They followed in total 75097 training days, which equals 4.76 training days on average (evidence 1), based on the calculation method in line with which total days of training provided to eligible persons were divided by the number of such persons receiving training. The evidence provided for a sample of 60 units, covering 148 certificates, confirmed that figures provided in the KATIS database used as evidence for the fulfilment of the milestone is correct. The calculation method used is in accordance with the further specifications of the Operational Arrangements.

The Commission considers that there is a clerical error in the Further Specifications of the Operational Arrangements as regards the average duration of trainings and has undertaken the assessment on a revised basis. In such Further Specifications it is stated that "*the reference to 2,8 educational training days on average […]*" indicating that the average amount of educational training days should be 2.8. Further Specifications of the Operational Arrangements do not reflect the latest revision of the Council Implementing Decision in April 2025, which amended the requirement to "*Trainings are expected to last for 4.6 educational days on average*". Therefore, considering the recent revision of the Council Implementing Decision, which was not accurately reflected in the Further Specifications of the Operational Arrangements, the figure of the Council Implementing Decision should be the one considered relevant for the fulfilment of the target. The sentence regarding differences in training intensity does not create a requirement but serves to explain the use of averages instead of requesting the same number of training days for each participant. Against this background, the justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Slovenian authorities cover all constitutive elements of the target.

Quantitative indicator: unit: Number; base: 0; goal: 16000

The Council Implementing Decision required 16000 professionals and managers in education and training to participate in the training. In fact, 15778 professionals and managers in education and training participated in the trainings as demonstrated by evidence 1. This number falls 222 participants short of the target. Whilst this constitutes a minimal numerical deviation of 1.4% from the requirement of the Council Implementing Decision, the overall objective of this target is considered met notwithstanding this minor deviation. On this basis, it is considered that this constitutive element of the target is satisfactorily fulfilled.

The target is further specified in the Operational Arrangements: **Each individual shall be counted as an indicator only once. In the Life-Long-Learning area, the Ministry of Education shall monitor the number of participants.**

The dataset provided (evidence 1) has been checked for duplicates to see if the same participants have followed the same training twice. This was not the case. Furthermore, the sampling also confirmed that each individual has been counted for each training course only once. Finally, with the KATIS database the Ministry of Education can monitor the number of participants in total or, through filters, in certain training areas or training courses.

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled.

Number and name of the Milestone SI-C13-RB-M173: Entry into force of a law regulating the pay system in the public sector

Related measure: SI-C13-RB: Modern and resilient public sector

Qualitative indicator: Provision in the law indicating the entry into force of a law regulating the pay system in the public sector

Time: Q2/2024

1. Context:

The reform aims to modernize the public sector remuneration system by introducing variable pay and linking compensation to individual work performance. The reform is designed to enhance the efficiency of the public sector, while ensuring the fiscal sustainability of the wage system. It highlights the importance of differentiated compensation based on specific public sector pillars to improve human resource management and address workforce shortages.

Milestone 173 concerns the entry into force of a new law that enacts these changes. This law will provide a framework for variable remuneration, performance-based pay and differentiated regulation by pillar to accommodate various activities or professions within the public sector, while maintaining the fiscal sustainability of the wage system.

Milestone 173 is the only milestone of this reform.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence	Short description
1	Summary document	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled, with appropriate links to the underlying evidence.
2	Annex 1	Law on Common Foundations of the Public Sector Salary System (ZSTSPJS) https://www.uradni-list.si/glasilo-uradni-list-rs/vsebina/2024-01-2864 Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia No 95/2024 of 8 November 2024 Entry into force: 23 November. 2024 Entry into application: 1 January 2025
3	Annex 2	Agreement on the overhaul of the system of salaries and new classifications of posts and grades in the public sector https://www.uradni-list.si/1/?edition=202499 Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 99/24 of 25 November 2024
4	Annex 3	Assessment of the fiscal impact of the wage reform prepared by the Ministry of Public Administration in June 2025
4	Annex 4	Financial projections of public wage spending, including tables with data on the evolution of public wage spending bill under the baseline and reform scenarios prepared by the Ministry of Public Administration in June 2025
5	Annex 5	Draft Budgetary Plan, October 2024 Draft-budget-plan-2025.pdf
6	Annex 6	Fiscal structural plan, October 2024 Medium-term fiscal-structural-plan.pdf

7	Annex 7	Collective agreement for the public sector including Amount of allowances for civil servants https://www.uradni-list.si/glasilo-uradni-list-rs/vsebina/2024-01-3084 Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia No 99/2024 of 25 November 2024 Entry into force: 26 November 2024 Entry into application: 1 January 2025
8	Annex 8	Decree on the criteria for determining the amount of the position allowance for civil servants, including Amount of the position allowance for civil servants https://www.uradni-list.si/glasilo-uradni-list-rs/vsebina/2024-01-3548 Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia No 109/2024 of 20 December 2024 Entry into force: 21 December 2024 Entry into application: 1 January 2025
9	Annex 9	Public Sector Salary System Act (ZSPJS) UL RS Nos 108/09 – official consolidated version, 13/10, 59/10, 85/10, 107/10, 35/11 https://www.uradni-list.si/glasilo-uradni-list-rs/vsebina/2011-01-1743 – ORZSPJS49a, 27/12 – Constitutional Court decision. US, 40/12 – ZUJF, 46/13, 25/14 – ZFU, 50/14, 95/14 – ZUPPJS15, 82/15, 23/17 – ZDOdv, 67/17, 84/18, 204/21, 139/22, 38/24, 48/24 – paras. US and 95/24 – ZSTSPJS95/24 – ZSTSPJS Entry into force: 13 July 2002 Entry into application: 1 July 2004

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Slovenian authorities cover all constitutive elements of the milestone.

In line with the name of the milestone, the reform consists of the **entry into force of a law regulating the pay system in the public sector.** Furthermore, in line with the measure description, **the reform consists of the entry into force of a new law modernising the remuneration system of the public sector.**

The modernization of the remuneration system of the public sector in Slovenia was carried out through the entry into force of the Act on the Common Foundations of the Public Sector Wage System (hereinafter referred to as ZSTSPJS) which repealed the previous law on the salary system of the public sector, the Public Sector Salary System Act (ZSPJS). The ZSTSPJS was published in Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia No. 95 of 8 November 2024 and entered into force on the 15th day following that of its publication in line with its Article 123. Article 101 of the ZSTSPJS indicates that the new salary scale in the law becomes applicable as of 1 January 2025. In line with Article 1 of the ZSTSPJS, it applies to officials and civil servants in the public sector including State authorities and local communities; public agencies, public funds, public institutes and public economic institutes; and other bodies governed by public law which are direct or indirect recipients of the State or local authority budget.

The new public sector wage system shall include arrangements for variable remuneration and for linking remuneration to work outcomes.

The ZSTSPJS introduced new basic and uniform rules on the functioning of the salary system in the whole public sector. The new public sector wage system introduces a new approach by simplifying the framework for variable remuneration and ensuring adequate allocation of resources. Under the reform, the assessment of variable remuneration for individual performance and for additional workload are reorganised under a unified model (Articles 29-30 of ZSTSPJS). The law defines general criteria for variable remuneration (article 30 of ZSTSPJS), identifies resources for variable remuneration in each administrative unit (article 31 of ZSTSPJS) and sets out rules on how to disburse performance pay (article 32 of ZSTSPJS) alongside maximum amount of variable pay per employee (up to 30% of basic salary and up to 50% in special cases) (article 33 of ZSTSPJS). The law streamlines administrative processes, and enhances transparency, in rewarding civil servants based on work outcomes. To meet the diverse needs of the public sector (article 30(3) of ZSTSPJS), the law allows for specific criteria for variable remuneration, to be defined by sectoral agreements in each individual pillar and profession. This restructuring ensures that each administrative unit can effectively utilize resources designated for performance pay.

Additionally, the system provides for accelerated promotion opportunities for over-performers, as detailed in the law (Article 27 of ZSTSPJS). This provision allows for the recognition and incentivisation of over-performers through faster career progression enabling advancement by two salary steps instead of one. By integrating accelerated promotion into the variable remuneration system, the reform creates a dynamic and rewarding environment that encourages over-performance and fosters talent development, contributing to the overall effectiveness and efficiency of the public sector.

Furthermore, in line with the description of the measure, the new system shall establish differentiated remuneration dependent on the public sector segment, which is expected to create more flexibility and shall ensure that remuneration is linked to work performance. The law shall allow for differentiated regulation for specific activities or professions, while also addressing shortages of specific professions in the public sector.

The law introduces a five-pillar system, granting greater autonomy in collective bargaining and allowing differentiated wage arrangements for each pillar (article 51 of ZSTSPJS). In each pillar, collective agreements by pillar and profession define the classification of jobs in the salary step and specific criteria for performance pay, aligning them with the specific needs and features of segments and professions within the public sector (article 52 of ZSTSPJS). Article 52 of ZSTSPJS sets out the scope of collective agreements applicable to each pillar, thus enhancing the flexibility of the public sector wage system. Article 52 ensures that each pillar upholds equal pay for comparable positions while enabling negotiations on job classifications and variable pay criteria specific to each pillar and profession.

The law introduces specific measures aimed at enhancing the attractiveness of the public sector and addressing shortages in specific professions. Article 22 of ZSTSPJS law allows civil servants to be recruited at up to 10 pay grades higher than the starting grade of the post, resulting in approximately 34% higher basic salary. The flexibility serves as an incentive during recruitment, and it is conditioned on candidates possessing specific skills or professional experience, or in situations when there are recruitment challenges such as multiple unsuccessful job vacancies. Additionally, the new pillar system (Articles 51 and 52 of ZSTSPJS) allows tailored compensation agreements to effectively address sector-specific challenges and workforce shortages in particular segments and professions.

As such, the reform overall supports and improves the use of variable remuneration linked to performance. The new system enhances public sector competitiveness by allowing more flexibility across different public sector segments. These measures not only address the limitations of the previous pay structure but also enable addressing labour shortages in specific professions. On this basis, it is considered that these constitutive elements of the milestone are satisfactorily fulfilled.

The new public sector wage system shall be fiscally sustainable. Furthermore, in line with the measure description, **the reform shall preserve the fiscal sustainability of the public sector wage system.**

The introduction of the new salary scale, which involves translating value from the old to the new scale, initially increases public wage spending. However, the reform includes slower career progression and reduces the differences between pay grades, which in the long run help to moderate the growth of public wage spending. On one side, the new salary scale (Article 7 and Annex 1 of ZSTSPJS) and the rules on translating salary grades (Chapter 7 of ZSTSPJS) increase the basic salary of employees in the public sector. On the other side, the salary progression of employees will be slower due to the reduction of difference between each step from 4% to 3% in the new salary scale (see Annex 3, Assessment of the fiscal impact of the reform) and new rules on promotion to higher salary steps (articles 25-28 of ZSTSPJS). To limit the short-term financial impact of the salary increases, the law implements salary adjustments in six instalments until 2029 (Article 101 of ZSTSPJS).

Article 7 of ZSTSPJS establishes an annual adjustment mechanism for salary scale values to regulate cost-of-living increases, thereby supporting social dialogue and improving the predictability of public wage spending by helping to mitigate systemic imbalances over time and excessive ad hoc adjustments. Article 104 of ZSTSPJS complements this by regulating salary adjustments in alignment with consumer price indices during the transition period until 2029, ensuring that the adjustments remain consistent with economic conditions and fiscal objectives.

Article 31 of ZSTSPJS further supports fiscal sustainability by defining sources of funding and imposing limits on budget appropriation for variable remuneration at 3% of the basic salaries in each administrative unit, ensuring that costs for variable remuneration remain under control.

Article 49 of ZSTSPJS requires the annual monitoring of wage developments every April through a report prepared by the Ministry of Public Administration, which helps inform future negotiations by taking into account any changes or new trends. This regular monitoring plays a crucial role in maintaining the fiscal sustainability of the wage system by ensuring that salary adjustments and negotiations are aligned with economic developments.

Under Article 82 of ZSTSPJS, the Ministry of Finance has an oversight role on collective agreements to ensure that they are compatible with the overarching budgetary objectives. This comprehensive oversight protects the wage system's financial integrity and ensures that it remains aligned with broader economic and fiscal objectives.

Based on financial projections provided by the Ministry of Public Administration (see Annex 3, Assessment of the fiscal impact of the reform and Annex 4, financial projections of public wage spending), the growth rate of public wage spending is expected to decelerate over time, leading to reduced medium-term wage growth under the reform rules. According to these projections, by 2028 the public wage spending is projected to be lower than it would have been under the previous system, and by 2034, it is expected to be 0.5% of GDP lower compared to what it would have been under the previous system. These projections consider the effects of salary adjustments in 2025-2029, inflation indexation, and the implementation of slower salary progression.

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled.

Number and name of the Milestone SI-C14-M182: Establishment of an independent body to monitor and control quality in the HC system

Related measure: SI-C-14-RA: Healthcare System Reform

Qualitative indicator: An independent body to monitor and control quality in the healthcare system is operational

Time: Q2/2024

1. Context:

One of the objectives of the healthcare reform is a high-quality healthcare system. The reform consists of a revision of the legislative framework governing the health sector. It aims to ensure the quality, accessibility and financial sustainability of healthcare. This is to be supported by the establishment of an independent body for the monitoring of quality in the healthcare system.

The legislative part of the reform aims at establising the legal framework for the system. However, to ensure that the letter transforms into practice it was considered necessary to establish a body to monitor quality in the healthcare system. To do so more efficiently, several specialised bodies have been brought together in one entity.

Milestone M182 is the first step of the implementation of the reform and it will be followed by milestone M183, related to the legislative reform of the healthcare system. The reform has a final expected date for implementation by 31 December 2024.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence	Short description
1	Summary document	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled, with appropriate links to the underlying evidence.
2	Act on Quality Assurance in Healthcare, entry into force on 18 December 2024; Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia No. 102/2024	The Act determines the principles of quality in healthcare, the conditions for ensuring a quality system in healthcare with continuous improvement of quality and patient safety, the responsibilities of healthcare providers, the responsibilities of patients and other stakeholders in healthcare, the duties and responsibilities of the Public Agency of the Republic of Slovenia for Quality in HealthCare, the evaluation of health technologies and control of the quality system, with the aim of achieving the highest level of patient safety and reducing the risk to their life and health. The act is accessible at: https://pisrs.si/pregledNpb?idPredpisa=ZAKO9012&idPredpisaChng=ZAKO9012.
3	Regulation supplementing the Regulation on bodies within ministries, entry into force 3 June 2022; Official Gazette of the	The tasks of the Office for Control, Quality and Investments in Healthcare are defined by the Decree on Bodies within Ministries. The regulation is accessible at:

	Republic of Slovenia, no.78/2022 of 2 June 2022	https://www.uradni-list.si/glasilo-uradni-list-rs/vsebina/2022-01-1786.
4	Decision on the Establishment of the Public Agency of the Republic of Slovenia for Quality in Healthcare, entry into force on 21 March 2025	The decision adopted by the Government of the Republic of Slovenia establishes the agency and defines all its tasks, it is accessible at: https://www.uradni-list.si/glasilo-uradni-list-rs/vsebina/2025-01-0650/sklep-o-ustanovitvi-javne-agencije-republike-slovenije-za-kakovost-v-zdravstvu.
5	National strategy for quality and safety in healthcare, adopted by the Ministry of Health on 7 April 2023	The strategy is accessible at: https://www.gov.si/novice/2023-04-07-sprejeta-nacionalna-strategija-kakovosti-in-varnosti-v-zdravstvu-za-obdobje-2023-2031.
6	Act on Public Agencies, entry into force on 29 June 2024; Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia No. 102/2024	The Act regulates in more detail the public agency as a status form of a person under public law, it is accessible at: Zakon o javnih agencijah (ZJA) (PISRS).
7	Decision on the appointment of the Acting director, adopted on 25 April 2025	The decision issued by the Government of the Republic of Slovenia to ensure the operationality of the new agency until a director has been selected.
8	Agreement on the permanent takeover of civil servants from MZ and UNKIZ to JAKZ and on the provision of financial resources for the start-up of JAKZ's work and operations, concluded between the Ministry of Health (MZ), the Public Agency for Quality in Health (JAKZ) and the Office for Control, Quality and Investments in Healthcare (UNKIZ) on 10 June 2025	Agreement setting out material, staffing and financial conditions for the new agency to become operational in 2025.
9	Act on the classification of posts in the Public Agency for Quality in Health of the Republic of Slovenia, issued by the Acting director of the agency on 10 June 2025	Systematization of jobs in the agency in accordance with the regulations governing the public civil servant's system and job descriptions.
10	Decision on the appointment of the Council of the Public Agency for Quality in Health, no. 01410-4/2025/2, adopted on 28 May 2025	Government decision of the Council of the agency as set out in Act on Quality Assurance in Healthcare.
11	Decree on compulsory health insurance schemes for 2023, published in the Official Gazette on 23 January 2023, entry into force in accordance with Article 246 of the Decree on 24 January 2023.	The annual decrees define the facilities and the level of funding necessary for the implementation of the healthcare insurance for the given year. The decree for 2024 contains also the requirement for healthcare providers to monitor quality indicators.
12	Regulation on bodies in the composition of ministries, published in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia (91/2022) on 5 July 2022; entry into force in accordance with its Article 3 on the day following its publication.	This amendment of the regulation establishes the Office of the Republic of Slovenia for Control, Quality and Investments in Healthcare.

13	Decision of the Ljubljana District Court on the registration of the Public Agency for Quality in Health of the Republic of Slovenia as a new entity, 5 June 2025.	
14	Decision no. 41012-29/2025/3 of the government of 10 June 2025.	The decision sets out the opening of a separate budget line for the financing of the Public Agency for Quality in Health of the Republic of Slovenia.
15	Financing plan for the Public Agency for Quality in Health	Extract from the national database confirming the financing plan of the Public Agency for Quality in Health until 2028 as approved by the Government of the Republic of Slovenia.
16	Handover report on the transfer of content, no. 010-180/2025-2711-4 signed by the Ministry of Health, the Public Agency for Quality in Health and the Office for Control, Quality and Investments in Healthcare	The handover report provides for the transfer of the relevant ongoing tasks, the archives, records and other related content from the Ministry of Health and the Office for Control, Quality and Investments in Healthcare to the Public Agency for Quality in Health.
17	Agreement between the Ministry of Health, the Public Agency for Quality in Health and the Office for Control, Quality and Investments in Healthcare on the usage of premises	The agreement defines the conditions for the usage of the premises located at the address Ulica Ambrozica Novljana 7, Ljubljana, by the Public Agency for Quality in Health. The agreement entered into force 17 June 2025 with the signature of the agreement by all parties.
18	Minutes of the constituent session of the Council of the Public Agency of the Republic of Slovenia for Quality in Healthcare	The constituent meeting of the Council was held on 16 July 2025. The purpose of the meeting was to confirm the setup and the mandate of the Council, as well as to discuss the activities of the Agency.
19	Four contracts of employment	Four staff members have been transferred from the Ministry of Health and the Office for Control, Quality and Investments in Healthcare to the Public Agency for Quality in Health, whereby all the updated employment contracts entered into effect at the latest by 1 August 2025.
20	Task allocations of the Public Agency for Quality in Health of the Republic of Slovenia per staff member	The document entails a detailed task allocation of the Public Agency for Quality in Health of the Republic of Slovenia per staff member, covering all the tasks required to be performed by the agency.

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Slovenian authorities cover all constitutive elements of the milestone.

In line with the name of the milestone, **establishment of an independent body to monitor and control quality in the healthcare system.** Furthermore, in line with the measure description, **the reform also includes the establishment of an independent body monitoring quality and safety in the healthcare system.**

During the implementation of the milestone Slovenia transferred the responsibility for monitoring and controlling quality in the healthcare system from the Office of the Republic of Slovenia for the Monitoring, Quality and Investments in Healthcare (hereafter referred to as “UNKIZ”), which had been established as an independent body within the Ministry of Health by the Decree amending the Decree on Bodies within Ministries (evidence 12) on 7 July 2022, to the Public Agency of the Republic of Slovenia for Quality in Healthcare (hereafter referred to as the "agency").

The Act on Quality Assurance in Healthcare, adopted on 22 November 2024 and published in Official Gazette of Slovenia on 3 December 2024, envisages the establishment of an agency as an independent body governed by public law to ensure and develop quality in the health sector (Articles 21 and 45 of this Act) (evidence 2). In line with Article 48, the Act on Quality Assurance in Healthcare entered into force 15 days after its publication in the Official Gazette of Slovenia, that is on 18 December 2024. Article 21 of the Act on Quality Assurance in Healthcare states that the provisions of the Act governing public agencies apply to the agency. Article 2 of the Act on Public Agencies, in turn, states that "the public agency shall be autonomous in the performance of its tasks" (evidence 7).

On 20 March 2025, the government adopted formally a Decision on the Establishment of the Public Agency of the Republic of Slovenia for Quality in Healthcare (hereinafter referred to as the "Decision on the establishment of the Agency"), which was published in Official Gazette on 21 March (evidence 4) and entered into force on the day after its publication, that is on 22 March 2025, in line with its Article 30. The new independent body constitutes an upgrading of the existing body UNKIZ as the responsible entity to monitor and control quality in the healthcare system (evidence 3).

The tasks of this new agency to monitor and control quality in the healthcare system are defined in Article 22 of the Act on Quality Assurance in Healthcare and in Article 5 of the Decision on the Establishment of the Agency. According to Article 33 of the Act on Quality Assurance in Healthcare (evidence 2), Health Technology Assessment (HTA) evaluations should be carried out with a view to producing a systematic, transparent, impartial, reliable, objective and expert assessment to inform decisions on the eligibility of the use of health technology and its integration into the healthcare system. According to Article 33 of the Act on Quality Assurance in Healthcare, the agency must ensure that the evaluation is carried out in an independent, impartial and transparent manner.

Additionally, the arguments demonstrating the independence of the agency are: According to Article 23 of the Act on Quality Assurance in Healthcare, the bodies of the public agency are the Council and the Director. According to Article 12 of the Act on Quality Assurance in Healthcare, the council consists of 7 members. Its members are appointed and dismissed by the government. 3 members are appointed on a proposal from the Minister (of which two members are representatives of healthcare providers); one member on a proposal from the Medical Chamber of Slovenia, one member on the proposal of the Chamber of Health and Midwives of Slovenia – Association of Professional Societies of Nurses, Midwives and Health Professionals of Slovenia, one member, on a proposal from non-governmental organisations in the field of the protection of patients' rights, following a call for tenders from the Minister, and one member on a proposal from the Health Insurance Institute of Slovenia.

The members of the Council cannot be persons employed by that public agency, officials in the executive branch or persons for whom there is a potential conflict between their private interests and the public interests pursued by a public agency. According to Article 24 of the Act on Quality Assurance in Healthcare, the members of the board shall act in a professional and independent manner. They shall respect the principles of prevention of conflicts of interest and impartiality.

According to Article 27 of the Act on Quality Assurance in Healthcare, the director is appointed and dismissed by the government on proposal from the board of the council on the basis of an open competition. The Director cannot be employed or work for a healthcare provider or provide health services, have ownership or management links with healthcare providers or legal persons offering medicinal products and medical devices, or own or co-own a company or have management links with companies or legal persons whose activity is related to the agency's tasks and responsibilities.

In line with the qualitative indicator, **an independent body to monitor and control quality in the healthcare system is operational.**

As defined in Article 23 of the Decision on the establishment of the Agency (evidence 4), which sets out the conditions for the work and the operation of the agency, the agency is endowed with the necessary material and financial resources (point 1 of the Article), as well as the premises (point 2 of the Article) for the commencement of their work and their operations. In this regard, Article 3 of the Agreement on the permanent takeover of civil servants (evidence 8), determines the funds for the establishment and operation of the agency for the year 2025, covering all material and operating costs of the agency, including the salaries, equipment and rentals costs. Article 4 of the Agreement on the permanent takeover of civil servants (evidence 8) further determines the financing of the operation of the agency in the transitional period. Furthermore, to ensure the longer-term financing of the agency, a separate budget line was opened, and the funds were appropriated to the agency on 10 June 2025 (evidence 14), and a financing plan was determined until the year 2028 (evidence 15). As concerns the provision of the premises, those are provided to the agency in line with the conditions as set out in Article 2 of the Agreement (evidence 17).

In relation to the organisation of the agency, as defined in Article 7 of the Decision on the establishment of the Agency (evidence 4), the bodies ensuring the functioning of the Agency are the Council and the Director. The acting director of the agency was appointed on 25 April 2025 (evidence 7) and issued the Act on the systematisation of jobs of the agency on 10 June 2025 (evidence 9). The seven members of the Council of the agency were appointed on 28 May 2025 (evidence 10) and officially started their mandate on 16 July 2025 (evidence 18). In addition, the agency has been registered in the business register of Slovenia since 5 June 2025 (evidence 13).

As concerns the staffing of the agency, in order to ensure the uninterrupted implementation of the tasks, which the agency has taken over from the Ministry of Health and the Office for Control, Quality and Investments in Healthcare, Article 2 of the agreement on the permanent takeover of civil servants (evidence 8) determines the names of the staff, working on the tasks relevant for the agency, which have been transferred from the Ministry of Health and the Office for Control, Quality and Investments in Healthcare at the beginning of July 2025. The employment contracts for all the transferred staff were signed by the end July 2025 and took effect by 1 August 2025 in line with Article 2 of the employment contracts (evidence 19). In addition, along with the staff, the relevant ongoing tasks, the archives, records and other related content defined in Articles 2 and 3 of the handover report (evidence 16), were also transferred from the Ministry of Health and the Office for Control, Quality and Investments in Healthcare to the Public Agency for Quality in Health, including specific licences and memberships initially held by the transferred staff. Furthermore, the tasks of the individual staff members, in line with the tasks of the agency defined in Article 22 of the Act on Quality Assurance in Healthcare, are set out in more detail in the Task allocations of the Public Agency for Quality in Health of the Republic of Slovenia per staff member (evidence 20).

The body shall carry out all tasks relating to the management of the quality system, …

The agency is the central body in Slovenia for the management of the quality system in healthcare. Among other tasks, Article 22 of the Act on Quality Assurance in Healthcare requires the agency to:

1. ensure the development and operation of a health quality management system and monitor the implementation of the basic principles of quality of health treatment (point 1);
2. encourage cooperation between healthcare providers in the development of processes and organisational structures (point 2);
3. establish a health quality system based on recognised and established health standards and lays down quality management conditions for healthcare providers (point 3);
4. keep publicly available records of certified and accredited healthcare providers, clinical registers, clinical guidelines, professional standards, best practices and codes, quality indicators and alert

hazardous events and preventable adverse events (point 7).

5. manage the Health Technology Assessment process (point 15), which is an evidence-based process that determines the value of a health technology at different stages of its life cycle (Article 3, point 20);
6. establish a system for the assessment of new or existing health technologies and keep an inventory of the assessed health technologies (point 16);
7. coordinate operators or working bodies working in the field of quality management and monitoring and reporting in the field of vigilance of medicinal products, medical devices and substances of human origin (point 18);
8. carry out and participate in quality education and research, including safety systems and health technology assessment (point 19);
9. propose content on the quality of medical treatment to be included in education programmes for health professions (point 20);
10. carry out quality controls under this Act and administrative and systemic controls in accordance with the act governing healthcare activities (point 22).

… safety, …

The agency is also responsible with regard to safety in the healthcare system. Among other tasks, Article 22 of the Act on Quality Assurance in Healthcare requires the agency to:

1. prepare the national action plan referred to in Article 14 of this Act (point 8), which is related to the obligation of the healthcare providers to create a patient safety system.
2. determine the types and methods of monitoring the alert hazardous events in healthcare (point 13);
3. set out systemic measures and recommendations to prevent alert hazardous events (point 14);
4. carry out and participate in quality education and research, including safety systems and health technology assessment (point 19).

… the development of standards and …

The agency is also in charge of the development of standards for the quality of healthcare at the public healthcare providers in Slovenia. Among other tasks, Article 22 of the Act on Quality Assurance in Healthcare requires the agency to:

1. establish, monitor and update a list of minimum standards and relevant health standards for the accreditation and certification of healthcare providers (point 4).

… the monitoring of quality indicators, and …

To ensure that healthcare providers comply with the set standards, the agency is monitoring indicators of the quality of healthcare at the various healthcare providers. Among other tasks, Article 22 of the Act on Quality Assurance in Healthcare requires the agency to:

1. establish quality indicators, method and criteria for the achievement of quality and safety of medical treatment for healthcare providers (point 6);
2. determine how data are to be transmitted for the analysis of quality indicators and how quality indicators are to be monitored by healthcare providers (point 9);
3. ensure the publication of the results of monitoring the quality of medical treatment and patients' experiences with healthcare and other collected quality indicators of treatment

(point 11);

4. draw up an annual report on quality in healthcare, which is dealt with by the Government of the Republic of Slovenia and communicate it to the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia (point 5).

… the management of big data in the healthcare system to monitor quality.

The agency, through the use of appropriate IT tools, is responsible for managing and analysing large amounts of data (big data) gathered through the quarterly reporting on the various quality indicators by more than a thousand healthcare providers in Slovenia in accordance with the applicable annual Decree on Service Programmes (evidence 11), which obliges healthcare providers to monitor and report on a list of quality indicators defined in an annex to the Decree. To this aim, Article 22 of the Act on Quality Assurance in Healthcare requires the agency to:

1. analyse contractors' data to calculate the values of the quality indicators (point 10);
2. participate in the establishment of a national data monitoring infrastructure to manage and manage the quality of medical treatment for healthcare providers (point 12).

The body shall also renew the health quality management strategy.

In 2022, the Office for Control, Quality and Investments in Healthcare (UNKIZ), which was established on 7 July 2022 to monitor and control quality in the healthcare system, revised the health quality management strategy and submitted it to the Ministry of Health for adoption. In April 2023, the Ministry of Health adopted the National Strategy for the Quality and Safety of Healthcare Services (2023–2031) (evidence 5). The new agency, that was established in 2025, has taken over from UNKIZ the responsibility for ensuring improvements in the development and operation of the quality management and safety systems, as well as for monitoring, analysing and delivering the data on the implementation of the set strategic goals (Article 22, points 1, 5 and 10 of the Act on Quality Assurance in Healthcare) and is responsible for providing the relevant information for the updating of the health quality management strategy post-2031. In addition, the Agency is also responsible for encouraging the collaboration between healthcare providers in the overall renewal of processes and organisational structures (Article 22, point 2, of the Act on Quality Assurance in Healthcare).

The Council Implementing Decision required that the body shall also renew the health quality management strategy. Slovenia established an independent body to monitor and control quality in the healthcare system, UNKIZ, in 2022, which had the task to revise the health quality management strategy (evidence 12). The revised National Strategy for the Quality and Safety of Healthcare Services (2023–2031), prepared by UNKIZ in 2022, was adopted by the Ministry of Health on 6 April 2023 (evidence 5). In 2025, a new independent body was established, namely the Public Agency of the Republic of Slovenia for Quality in Healthcare, which constitutes an upgrading of the existing body UNKIZ as the responsible entity to monitor and control quality in the healthcare system (evidence 3). The new agency has taken over the relevant tasks initially performed by UNKIZ in relation to the quality of the healthcare system, including those related to the renewal of the health strategy post-2031 (evidence 2). Whilst it constitutes a minimal formal deviation from the requirement of the Council Implementing Decision that the renewal was not done by the newly created body, the evidence provided by Slovenia confirms that the health quality management strategy was renewed by an independent body in 2023 and has been put in place for the period 2023-2031. Furthermore, the evidence confirms that the new agency has taken over the relevant tasks initially performed by UNKIZ in relation to the quality of the healthcare system, including those related to the future renewal of the strategy.

As of this, this minimal deviation does not change the nature of the measure and does not affect the progress towards achieving the reform that the milestone represents. On this basis, it is considered that this constitutive element of the milestone is satisfactorily fulfilled.

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled.

Number and name of the Milestone SI-C14-IC-M185: Award of contract for a national telemedicine system

Related measure: SI-C14-IC: Digital transformation of healthcare

Qualitative indicator: Communication of award

Time: Q2/2024

1. Context:

The objectives of the investment are to ensure fast access to high-quality harmonised data in healthcare, primarily by integrating new digital services into healthcare, and to promote the use of information technology to communicate with patients and other health system stakeholders. The aim is also to introduce quality monitoring based on real-time data and to improve capacity and patient management planning and planning of hospital facilities, medical services and material requirements.

Milestone 185 concerns the award of contract for a national telemedicine system, which will enable patient communications with healthcare professionals and cooperation between health professionals. It also ensures the development of the necessary digital infrastructure for the implementation of telehealth, a single health card, and single administrative data model.

Milestone 185 is the first step of the implementation of the investment. It will be followed by target 186 and target 187, related to the digital transformation of healthcare. The investment has a final expected date for implementation on 31 December 2025.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence	Short description
1	Summary document	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled, with appropriate links to the underlying evidence.
2	Public tender with tender documentation	The public tender for telehealth with the corresponding tender documentation was published by the National Institute of Public Health on the public procurement portal (No. of publication JN002106/2024-EUe16/01) on 3 April 2024. The tender with the documentation is available here: https://www.enarocanje.si/#/pregled-objav/803247.
3	Contract award decision	On 24 May 2024, National Institute of Public Health announced the decision on the award of contract (no. 37L220324), with which the service provider was selected. The contract award decision is accessible here: https://www.enarocanje.si/#/pregled-odlocitev/132721.
4	Signed contract with the service provider	The contract (no. 4300-94/2024-1) between the National Institute of Public Health and the selected service provider was signed on 28 June 2024. The contract is available here: https://www.enarocanje.si/#/pregled-pogodb/270972.
5	Project establishment document	The project establishment document prepared by the Ministry of Health and National Institute of Public Health, in cooperation with the service provider, dated 18 July 2024 specifies the project implementation in more detail. The project establishment document is a part of the project

		documentation and needs to be taken into account in the implementation of the project as defined in the contract between the National Institute of Public Health and the selected service provider.
6	Data Protection Impact Assessment	The Data Protection Impact Assessment prepared by the National Institute of Public Health in March 2025, assesses the impact of the existing eHealth solutions, which include the zVEM system, in terms of data protection, IT-security and data storage.

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Slovenian authorities cover all constitutive elements of the milestone.

In line with the name of milestone, the **award of contract for a national telemedicine system**

The public tender for the development of the national telemedicine system was published by the National Institute of Public Health on the national public procurement portal (publication no. JN002106/2024-EUe16/01) on 3 April 2024. The contract award decision for the national telemedicine system (no. 37L220324) was announced by the National Institute of Public Health on 24 May 2024 (evidence 2). The contract with the service provider (no. 4300-94/2024-1) was signed on 28 June 2024 (evidence 3). The Commission services accessed the links provided by the authorities on 7 August 2025 to verify that the contract has been awarded and signed. This check was completed successfully, confirming that the requirement that the contract has been awarded and signed is satisfactorily fulfilled.

The selected national telemedicine system shall enable patient communications with healthcare professionals and cooperation between health professionals.

As set out in Chapter 2.2.2.2, page 15, of the Project establishment document (evidence 5), the national telemedicine system – through the development of the zVem patient communication platform – is envisaged to ensure communication between patients and healthcare professionals (for example their general practitioners, paediatricians, gynaecologists, and dentists) for all designated message types (asynchronous communication types or telehealth services). Patients should be able to safely and reliably communicate with any healthcare professional they are connected with (for example general practitioners, specialists, district nurses).

As defined in Chapter 1.1, page 5, of the Project establishment document (evidence 5)), the establishment of teams and the upgrade of the communication platform will enable communication and cooperation between healthcare teams (consisting of different healthcare professionals). This integration and upgrade is expected to support personal physicians and teams managing waiting lists or specialist teams and is also expected to further facilitate communication and cooperation through the zVEM Plus application, which is a healthcare professionals' portal (Chapter 1.1, page 6, of the Project establishment document (evidence 5)). Furthermore, as part of the upgrade of the central record of organizations and healthcare professionals, a central record of healthcare professional teams is also established to enable an efficient implementation of the communication processes (Chapter 1.1, page 5, of the Project establishment document (evidence 5)).

In addition, in terms of communication between healthcare professionals, the focus is expected to be on a new e-Consultation process piloted for rheumatology but will be expandable to other specialist fields, which includes the setting-up of a central hub to support the triage process for individual referrals, aimed at determining eligibility and facilitating communication in this regard (such as in cases of referral rejections) (Chapter 1.1, page 6, of the Project establishment document (evidence 5)).

It shall provide necessary digital infrastructure for the implementation of telehealth,…

As specified in Chapter 1, page 5, of the Project establishment document (evidence 5), the necessary digital infrastructure for the implementation of telehealth services is expected to be provided through an upgrade of the existing zVem portal within the national eHealth platform, whereby new functionalities and basic modules to be used by different eHealth services are to be added. This includes the development of the zVEM communication platform as an upgrade of the central patient platform zVEM (Chapter 2.2.2.2, page 15, of the Project establishment document (evidence 5)) and the development of the zVEM connect Application Programming Interface (API) to connect the health information systems used by healthcare providers to the zVEM communication platform (Chapter 2.2.2.5, page 18, of the Project establishment document (evidence 5)).

…a single health card…

As defined in Chapter 2.2.2.2, page 15, of the Project establishment document (evidence 5), the gradual upgrade of the zVem communication system is expected to provide a single patient e-health card, which should enable the recording of all relevant content and communication, notably all the patient's communication and messages, combined with medical data provided to each healthcare team and healthcare professional that has access to patient's data, in the appropriate format in the Central Register of Patient Data (CRPD).

…and single administrative data model.

As defined in Chapter 1.1, page 7, point 5, and Chapter 2.2.2, page 14, of the Project establishment document (evidence 5), the single administrative data model at national level for healthcare teams, covering administrative and clinical data (including telehealth services data, patient vital signs data capture, and other clinical data), is expected to be achieved within the project through the integration with the Central Register of Patient Data (CRPD), where the data will be entered directly and in real-time. The new system is expected to store telehealth-related data in already existing healthcare specific data standards, namely the OpenEHR (Open Electronic Health Record) and FHIR (Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources). The CRPD system is the core system of eHealth in Slovenia, designed for exchanging and sharing electronic health records at national level. The telehealth services' communication data are expected to be stored in the CRPD and to be accessible as part of the electronic health record.

It shall also ensure appropriate privacy, data protection,…

As defined in Chapter 3.2, page 35, of the Project establishment document (evidence 5), and considering that the national telemedicine system is expected to be developed within the zVEM system, which is already part of the national eHealth solution, the telehealth system would use the same, already tested hardware and software to ensure privacy and data protection. As stated in Chapter 3.3, page 27, of the Data Protection Impact Assessment (evidence 6), the existing zVEM system is ensuring the appropriate level of privacy and data protection as the system has in place all the legally required organisational and technical measures to prevent the unauthorised processing of personal data. In addition, as specified in Chapter 3.3, page 27, within the system limited access to data is ensured based on user rights, all access and other forms of data processing are recorded using audit trails, appropriate network traffic filtering and data protection with centrally managed antivirus protection are also ensured.

…IT security,…

As defined in Chapter 3.2, page 35, of the Project establishment document (evidence 5), and considering that the national telemedicine system is expected to be developed within the zVEM system, which is already part of the national eHealth solution, the same authentication tools and high-security standards for IT-security will be used for telehealth. As stated in Chapter 3.1, page 15, of the Data Protection Impact Assessment (evidence 6), the existing zVEM system is ensuring the appropriate level of IT security as the system, for example, is secured with the according authentication mechanisms, enables the encryption of the connections and ensures that data transfers between different parts of the system are carried out using the secure zNET network, which also ensures data encryption. In addition, particular attention will be paid in the implementation of the project to security checks of the mobile application and portal, which are open to the web, and therefore regular external security checks by an independent contractor are also planned (evidence 5).

… storage,…

As defined in Chapter 1.1, pages 5-7, of the Project establishment document (evidence 5), and considering that the national telemedicine system is expected to be developed within the zVEM system, which is already part of the national eHealth solution, the telehealth system will use the respective proprietary storage used by other eHealth solutions in Slovenia, and specifically those used by the zVEM system to ensure better interoperability. As specified in Chapter 3.3, page 27, of the Data Protection Impact Assessment (evidence 6), the existing zVEM system is ensuring the appropriate storage of data. For example, by using licensed software solutions with guaranteed long-term support, the hardware also enables the execution of different data processes, and there is adequate redundancy, which includes two geographically separate data centres for regular secure data storage.

…and compatibility requirements...

Since the national telemedicine system is expected to be developed within the zVEM system, which is already part of the national eHealth solution, the compatibility with all the connected central eHealth solutions will be ensured throughout all the stages of the project implementation (Chapter 1.1, pages 5-7, of the of the Project establishment document (evidence 5)). In addition, compatibility is expected to be achieved through the development of the API service for the integration of the Healthcare IT-systems in Slovenia, which is expected to ensure that professional end-users (healthcare providers) will also be able to easily integrate the system into their workflows (Chapter 2.2.2.5, page 18, of the Project establishment document (evidence 5)).

…and specification of the form of communication.

As set out in Chapter 2.2.2.1, page 14, of the Project establishment document (evidence 5), communication between participants on the platform is expected to take place in the form of an exchange of messages between different participants (including audio and video conversations). As further specified in Chapter 2.2.2.1, page 14, of the Project establishment document (evidence 5), the type of conversation defines various aspects of the communication, from the format of the messages and structured data exchanged by participants to the predefined process statuses and business rules related to processes that occur in connection with the conversations. By specifying these different sets of data fields in different types of conversations and declaring them mandatory or optional, the specification of the form of communication aims to make communication more efficient, faster and having uniform datasets.

Furthermore, different types of conversations are expected to be used to support the administrative processes (such as requests for appointments, prescriptions, referrals, sick leave, scheduling and other related tasks) or to facilitate the delivery of remote services (such as consultations on health conditions, questions and discussions about test results and other documents, inquiries about prescriptions and medication usage) (Chapter 2.2.2.2, page 15, of the Project establishment document (evidence 5)).

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled.

Number and name of the Milestone SI-C14-IE-M190: Award of a contract for the construction of Ljubljana Infectious Clinic

Related measure: SI-C14-IE: Effective treatment of communicable and chronic diseases

Qualitative indicator: Communication of award

Time: Q4/2023

1. Context:

The objective of this investment is to increase and upgrade the capacity to treat communicable and chronic diseases in Slovenia by upgrading the infectious clinic at the university clinic UKC Ljubljana, as well as by acquiring linear accelerators for the clinic UKC Maribor.

Milestone M190 concerns the award of a contract for the construction of the Ljubljana Infectious Clinic for the treatment of infectious diseases. The clinic is expected to comply with the requirements for nearly zero energy buildings.

Milestone M190 is the first step of the implementation of the investment, and it will be followed by milestone M192, related to the completion of the construction works of the Ljubljana Infectious Clinic up to the third construction phase and of accompanying works from the fourth and fifth construction phases. The investment has a final expected date for implementation on 30 June 2026.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence	Short description
1	Summary document	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled, with appropriate links to the underlying evidence.
2	Public call for tender documentation	The public call for tender for the Upgrade of the Clinic for Infectious Diseases and Ferbile conditions UKC Ljubljana -1. Phase (Tender number JN004304/2023-B01, TED number 2023/S 126-400252) is available at: Podrobnosti javnega naročila (gov.si) and Uradni list RS - Portal javnih naročil.
3	Contract award decision	The Contract award decision issued by the Office of the Republic of Slovenia for the Monitoring, Quality and Investments in Healthcare on 27 October 2023, no. 4110-58/2023-2718-33 is available at: https://www.enarocanje.si/#/pregled-odlocitev/119816.
4	Contract and Annex 1	The contract between the Ministry of Health, the UKC Ljubljana clinic and the contractor, no. 4110-58/2023-2718-43, and the annex to the contract on the additional works, signed on 19 January 2024 are available at: https://www.enarocanje.si/#/pregled-pogodb/259139.
5	Investment programme	The investment programme was prepared by an external expert in accordance with the Decree on a uniform methodology for the preparation and treatment of investment documentation in the field of public finance (Official Gazette Nos 60/06, 54/10 and 27/16) and approved by a Decision signed by the Director-General of the University Medical Centre Ljubljana on 15 June 2023. It entails the extract of the

		relevant parts of the technical specifications of the project proving alignment with the description of milestone and of the description of the investment in the CID.
6	Statement of the energy properties of the building according to the Rules on the efficient use of energy in buildings (Official Journal of the RS, N0 70/2022, 161/2022, 129/23)	The statement of the energy properties of the building, prepared by an external expert, lists the building's energy efficiency indicators and supports the compliance with the requirements for nearly-zero energy buildings and listing the building's energy efficiency indicators.
7	Thermal response study	Elaboration of the thermal response study of the extension of the Clinic for Infectious Diseases and Febrile Conditions of UKC Ljubljana determining the energy indicators, report no. P001-32-INO, prepared by an external expert, dated 2 May 2023.
8	Technical report on the thermal response study	Technical report on the thermal response of the extension of the Clinic for Infectious Diseases and Febrile Conditions UKC Ljubljana determining the energy indicators and using the hourly method, report no. P001-24-INO, prepared by an external expert, dated 29 February 2024.

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Slovenian authorities cover all constitutive elements of the milestone.

Award of a contract for the construction of Ljubljana Infectious Clinic for the treatment of infectious disease.

The Office of the Republic of Slovenia for the Monitoring, Quality and Investments in Healthcare published a public tender for the »Upgrade of the Clinic for Infectious Disease and Febrile Conditions at UKC Ljubljana – Phase 1«[3] on 3 July 2023 on the portal for public tenders (no. JN004304/2023-B01) and on the TED portal on 4 July 2023 (no. 2023/S 126-400252) (evidence 2). On 27 October 2023, the Office for Control, Quality and Investments in Health Care decided on the award of contract for the construction of the Clinic for Infectious Diseases and Febrile Conditions of UKC Ljubljana (evidence 3). The contract with the selected contractor was signed on 19 January 2024, while Annex 1 on the additional works to be executed before the start of the main construction works was signed on 12 April 2024 (evidence 4). The Commission services accessed the links provided by the authorities on 8 August 2025 to verify that the public tender had been published on the two portals and that the award decision has been signed and published. This check was completed successfully, confirming that the requirement that a contract for the construction of Ljubljana Infectious Clinic for the treatment of infectious disease has been awarded is satisfactorily fulfilled.

The clinic shall comply with requirements for nearly zero energy buildings.

As specified in the investment programme, subchapter 9.1, pages 76-77 (evidence 5), the clinic is designed as a nearly zero-energy building, which is planned to be achieved, for example, by using a

[3] The construction of the clinic is planned to be implemented in two phases. 'Phase 1' covers the entire construction project partially financed by the RRF, namely the southern tract of the Ljubljana Infectious Clinic, which is itself split into five construction phases. 'Phase 2' covers a separate construction project for the northern tract, which is not related to or financed by the RRF.

double glass facade, which is expected to reduce heat loss by 20-25%, installing a heat pump, which will use groundwater, for the building's cooling needs, and the construction of a solar power plant on the building's roof. In line with the investment programme and as set out in the public tender documentation, section 2.2, page 2 (evidence 2), the clinic needs to be constructed as a nearly zero-energy building. Furthermore, the compliance with the requirements for nearly zero energy buildings is supported by the Thermal response study (evidence 7) and the Technical report on the thermal response study (evidence 8), both prepared by external experts, which confirm that the building meets all the necessary criteria prescribed by the Rules on the efficient use of energy in buildings for a nearly zero-energy building (Official Gazette, No 70/2022, 161/2022, 129/23), adopted by the Minister for the Environment and Spatial Planning and entered into force on 4 June 2022. This is further substantiated by the Statement of the energy properties of the building, which confirms the building's energy efficiency indicators (evidence 6).

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled.

Number and name of the Milestone SI-C15-RA-M197: Entry into force of the LTC Act, including the provisions on compulsory LTC insurance

Related measure: SI-C15-RA: Establishing a single system for long-term care

Qualitative indicator: Provision in the law indicating entry into force of the Long-term Care Act

Time: Q2/2023

1. Context:

Milestone 197 is part of reform C15.RA "Establishing a single system for long-term care or continuous care" aiming to implement a new social security pillar focused on the specific needs of those requiring long-term care and ensuring equal access regardless of socio-economic status. In order to ensure more diversified financing sources, compulsory long-term care insurance shall be introduced.

Milestone 197 requires the entry into force of a new law establishing an integrated long-term care system and compulsory long-term care insurance in Slovenia (hereinafter referred to as "LTC Act").

Milestone 197 is the second step in the implementation of reform C15.A. It follows milestone #196 "Adoption of a national monitoring model for quality indicators for long-term care providers in institutions" and will be followed by milestone 198 "Entry into force of implementing acts and guidelines under the Long-Term Care Act" and milestone 200 "All rights and services under the integrated long-term care system are fully applicable".

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence	Short description
1	Long-Term Care Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia No. 84/23), available at: https://pisrs.si/pregledPredpisa?id=ZAKO8819, entry into force: 3 August 2023, and its amendments: - First amendment to the LTC Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia No. 112/24), available at: Vsebina Uradnega lista | Uradni list, entry into force: 28 December 2024. - Second amendment to the LTC Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia No. 44/25) available at: Vsebina Uradnega lista | Uradni list, entry into force: 23 June 2025. The unofficial consolidated Long-Term Care Act is available at: Zakon o dolgotrajni oskrbi (ZDOsk-1) (PISRS)	The LTC Act regulates the system of long-term care the rights and obligations of providers, persons insured, the tasks of the Republic of Slovenia and municipalities in relation to long-term care, as well as compulsory insurance for long-term care and sources of financing for LTC in the Republic of Slovenia. Among the more significant changes, the amendment stipulates changes regarding entry into the register of long-term care providers and introduces an analysis of the long-term care system every three years for the purpose of better planning of long-term care expenditures.
2	Medium-term Fiscal-Structural Plan of the Republic of Slovenia for 2025-2028, available at: Medium-term-Fiscal-Structural-Plan-of-the-Republic-of-Slovenia-2025-2028.pdf	The plan is part of the EU economic governance framework. It describes the fiscal policy, structural reforms and investments of the Member State.

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Slovenian authorities cover all constitutive elements of the milestone. Specifically:

In line with the name of the milestone, **entry into force of the Long-term Care Act, including the provisions on compulsory long-term care insurance. Long-Term Care Act shall establish long-term care as a new pillar of social security through the integration of social and health services.** Furthermore, in line with the description of the measure, **the reform consists of entry into force of a new law establishing an integrated long-term care system and compulsory long-term care insurance in Slovenia, including amendments to by-laws in the field of social security.**

The Long-Term Care Act (hereafter referred to as: LTC Act) was adopted on 21 July 2023 and published in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia No. 84/23 on 2 August 2023 (evidence 1). It came into force on 3 August 2023, in line with its Article 152. Since then, the LTC Act has undergone two amendments. The first amendment to the LTC Act entered into force on 20 December 2024 (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia No. 112/24) and the second amendment to the LTC Act entered into force on 23 June 2025 (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia No. 44/25). This analysis takes into account the mentioned amendments.

Before the adoption of the LTC act, long-term care (LTC) was not regulated consistently and comprehensively in Slovenia. Care was partially financed from healthcare or pension insurances, with some municipalities also providing care of various kind and extent. The LTC act establishes for the first time clear rights and obligations of providers and beneficiaries of LTC, the tasks of the Republic of Slovenia and the self-governing local communities in relation to LTC, and the sources and method of financing LTC in Slovenia. This creates a new pillar of social security along the existing pillars of unemployment, health and pension insurance.

Section 2 of the LTC act entails the provisions for a new compulsory long-term care insurance. Article 52 describes its nature, Article 53 its coverage. Article 54 lays down who is insured and Articles 55 and 56 define the contributions to the insurance.

The LTC Act integrates health and social services by ensuring vertical integration of these services, addressing both social and health care components together. Article 14 of the LTC Act defines three types of LTC services: (i) assistance with basic daily living activities, (ii) assistance with support activities, and (iii) nursing care related to basic daily activities. While nursing care services are classified as health services, the other services are categorized as social services.

Integration of social and health services is also reflected in the organizational structure. The quality and safety system, for example, is to be established by the Ministry for the Solidarity-Based Future in collaboration with the Ministries of Social Welfare and Health (Article 8 of the LTC Act). In addition, the Expert Council, which the LTC Act creates, consists, among others, of representatives from various ministries (Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Social Welfare, and Ministry of Health) (Article 9 of the LTC Act).

To align them with the LTC Act, Article 145 of the LTC Act amends provisions of laws in the field of social security: the Act on Social Security Provision to Slovenian Citizens who are entitled to pensions from the Republics of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia No 16/07); the Act on pension and invalidity insurance rights for former military insured persons (UL RS Nos 12/07 – official consolidated text, 28/09 and 61/10 – ZSVarPre); the Social Security Benefits Act (UL RS Nos 61/10, 40/11, 14/13, 99/13, 90/15, 88/16, 31/18, 73/18 and 196/21 – ZDOsk); the War Veteran Act (UL RS Nos 59/06 – official consolidated text, 61/06 – ZDru-1, 101/06 – Constitutional Court Decision). US, 40/12 – ZUJF, 32/14, 21/18 – ZNOrg and 174/20 – ZIPRS2122).

The Act shall set conditions for the provision of quality and safe long-term care services,

The LTC Act establishes clear conditions for the provision of quality and safe long-term care services. Key provisions of the LTC Act address these requirements are:

- *General framework for quality of LTC* : Paragraphs 2 and 3 of Article 2 of the LTC Act (evidence 1) set out general principles for the quality and safety of LTC. Furthermore, point 9 of Article 6(1) of the LTC Act states that one of the tasks of the Republic of Slovenia in the field of LTC is to monitor the efficiency, accessibility and quality of the LTC system as well as to adopt and monitor the implementation of the rules governing LTC. This is also emphasized by Article 82 of the LTC Act, which obliges private LTC providers with concessions to establish internal control and a quality and safety system.
- *Definition of quality of LTC* : Article 5, point 5, of the LTC Act defines the quality of LTC, focusing on key aspects such as efficiency, safety and continuity.
- *Staff training and qualifications:* With the aim of ensuring quality and safety of LTC, the LTC Act also introduces mandatory training of staff in the field of LTC, which is regulated at the national level. Article 30 of the LTC Act refers to the training of the family carer, that is a person providing LTC to a relative. Article 6, point 8, refers to training for the LTC coordinator and Article 88 (5) and (7) to the training of LTC advisors. Articles 60 and 65 of the LTC Act define minimum qualification requirements for LTC staff and for LTC coordinators, respectively; see below for more detail.
- *Monitoring the quality and safety of LTC*: Article 8(1) of the LTC Act mandates the relevant ministries to set up a system of quality and safety management in the field of LTC, comprised in particular of the planning of quality and safety measures in the field of LTC and the performance of tasks related to professional development in the field of LTC. Furthermore, Article 9 of the LTC Act requires the establishment of an expert council, that is an advisory body that may propose or comment on legislative and strategic documents in the field of LTC. LTC providers are obliged to report annually in their annual report on the quality and safety standards and indicators Set out in the National monitoring model for quality indicators for LTC providers.
  Supervision over the quality and safety of LTC: Article 135 of the LTC Act envisages the establishment of an LTC Inspectorate within the Ministry in charge of LTC.

…including standards and norms for employees in the field of long-term care.

The LTC Act sets clear standards and norms for employees in the LTC sector. Key provisions of the LTC Act addressing this requirement are:

Regulation of LTC providers and entities:

- *Eligibility and requirements:* Article 59 (1) of the LTC Act states that LTC services, as outlined in Article 14 of the LTC Act, can only be provided by organizations in the public network. These include public institutions, legal entities, and sole proprietors who acquire a concession via a dedicated public tender.
- *Conditions for providers*: All LTC providers must meet the specific conditions, including staffing, spatial, and technical requirements, as specified in Article 60 of the LTC Act.
- *Registration and supervision:* LTC providers must be registered in the national register of LTC providers and are subject to a uniform system of supervision (further detailed in chapter IX of the LTC Act).

Professional protocols and ethical standards:

- Article 60 of the LTC Act requires LTC employees to work according to established professional protocols, standards, and ethical guidelines. The same Article sets forth, that regular training is mandatory to keep employees updated on the latest advancements in LTC, aiming to ensure that they meet the evolving needs of beneficiaries.

Educational Standards and Qualifications

- *Qualifications for LTC employees:* Article 60(2) of the LTC Act defines the educational requirements for employees providing assistance with basic and supportive daily living activities, health care services, and services aimed at maintaining independence. These standards are expected to ensure that employees are qualified for their roles and responsibilities.
- *LTC coordinators' qualifications*: Article 65(2) of the LTC Act sets out the educational requirements for LTC coordinators. These coordinators are expected to have appropriate qualifications to manage and oversee LTC services effectively.
- *LTC advisors and administrative personnel*: Article 88 of the LTC Act outlines the educational standards for LTC advisors and administrative staff working at the entry points for beneficiaries. Paragraphs 5 and 6 of Article 88 specify the required scope and level of education for advisors and administrative personnel, while paragraph 7 mandates that LTC advisors undergo refresher training every 3 years to maintain up-to-date knowledge and competencies.

It shall ensure that beneficiaries with comparable needs shall have access to equal rights, regardless of their social - economic or other personal characteristics, and the place where they want to benefit from the right to long-term care services.

The LTC Act aims to ensure that all LTC beneficiaries are treated equally and have access to the LTC services regardless of their background or circumstances. Key provisions of the LTC Act addressing these requirements are:

Principles of equality and non-discrimination:

- *General Framework:* Article 2 (1) and (2) of the LTC Act lay down fundamental principles such as universality, solidarity, equality, and the prohibition of discrimination. It ensures that LTC services are provided based on the principle of equality, guaranteeing access to services for all beneficiaries according to their needs, without discrimination based on personal characteristics.
- *Uniform definition of the quality of the LTC rights:* The concept of equality is further reinforced in Article 5 of the LTC Act. Article 5, point 5, of the LTC Act defines the quality of LTC as one that achieves “integrated, professional, user-oriented long-term care, considering the fundamental principles of quality, such as efficiency, safety, timeliness, continuity, effectiveness, equity and user-centredness”.

Equal accessibility:

- *Ensuring equal access to LTC services:* Article 6, points 4 and 6, of the LTC Act mandates the Republic of Slovenia to develop a public network in collaboration with municipalities, ensuring that LTC services are available and accessible to all insured persons across the entire territory of the country.

- *Right to LTC services based on needs:* Article 14(1) provides beneficiaries with the right to receive services that meet their needs, including assistance with daily living activities, health care, and services to promote independence. Article 15 provides that these services are to be made available both in institutions and at home, ensuring that beneficiaries who need care at home can access the same services as they would in an institution.

Uniform assessment and eligibility criteria:

- Article 5, point 13, of the LTC Act states that the assessment scale is a uniform tool for assessing an insured person's entitlement for LTC rights. Furthermore, Article 36(4) and Article 12(5) of the LTC Act introduce a unified assessment scale for evaluating eligibility for LTC. This ensures that all beneficiaries are assessed under the same criteria, providing a fair and consistent process for determining entitlement to care.

The LTC Act also aims to ensure that beneficiaries with comparable needs shall have access to the place where they want to benefit from the right to LTC services. The following provisions of the LTC Act are to ensure this:

Possibility to choose different type of LTC services:

- Article 10(1) of the LTC Act outlines various types of LTC services which the LTC insurance covers and that LTC beneficiaries have the right to choose between the forms of LTC services, including institutional care, home care, cash benefits, and the option of 24-hour care provided by a family member.

Public network of the LTC services:

- The LTC Act mandates the development of a public network of LTC providers across Slovenia. As outlined in Article 6 (1), points 4 and 6, of the LTC Act, in collaboration with municipalities, the government ensures equal access to services.

The Act shall ensure the financing of the long-term care system through diversified sources, including the state budget. Furthermore, in line with the description of the measure, **a special law shall ensure more diversified financing sources, notably with the introduction of compulsory long-term care insurance.**

There are three potential sources of financing for the LTC system. Article 48 of the LTC Act (evidence 1) stipulates that the rights to LTC are to be financed from the following sources: contributions to the newly created compulsory insurance for LTC; state budget resources; and users' own contributions.

The Act shall ensure a transition from predominantly budgetary funding to financing predominantly through compulsory long-term care insurance. It shall ensure that at least 30 % of the costs of long-term care services shall be financed by such insurance as of 1 January 2026.

According to calculations by the Slovenian government with the use of a dynamic model, the funds collected from compulsory contributions are estimated to reach approximately EUR 620 million in 2026. This estimate of EUR 620 million is based on salary and pension data, using statistics and forecasts from the Institute for Macroeconomic Forecasting and Development (UMAR) and the Pension and Disability Institute of Slovenia. The estimate has also been reported by the Slovenian Government in the Medium-term Fiscal-Structural Plan of the Republic of Slovenia for 2025-2028, (evidence 2, page 13).

Projections also estimate that total public expenditures for LTC will amount to EUR 785 million (for year 2026). These projections are based on macroeconomic forecasts by UMAR, as well as Ministry's estimates of expenditures, the number of users, and administrative costs of the system.

As a result, more than 80% of public funding for long-term care will be provided through compulsory long-term care insurance (for 2026).

The Act shall provide mechanisms to ensure financial sustainability of the long-term care system. Contributions by users to the financing of the long-term care system can be introduced.

To ensure financial sustainability of the LTC system, Article 8(5) of the LTC Act mandates the ministry in charge of LTC to analyse the implementation of this Act and submit a report to the Government at least every three years. According to Article 8(5), this report explicitly has to cover financial sustainability and to include proposals for legislative or other administrative measures necessary to ensure the financial sustainability of the LTC system in the long term. An own contribution is specified in Article 57 of the LTC Act as a contribution of 10 % of the value of the non-monetary LTC services which beneficiaries receive under the LTC Act.

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled.

Number and name of the Milestone SI-C15-RA-M198: Entry into force of implementing acts and guidelines under to the LTC Act

Related measure: SI-C15-RA: Establishing a single system for long-term care

Qualitative indicator: Provision in the law indicating entry into force of implementing acts and guidelines under the Long-Term Care Act

Time: Q2/2023

1. Context:

Milestone 198 is part of reform C15.RA "Establishing a single system for long-term care or continuous care" aiming to implement a new social security pillar focused on the specific needs of those requiring long-term care and ensuring equal access regardless of their socio-economic status.

Milestone 198 requires the entry into force of implementing acts and guidelines under the Long-Term Care Act (hereinafter referred to as "LTC Act"). Whereas the LTC Act provides the framework for the LTC system, details and operational aspects on how to implement the LTC Act are contained in the implementing acts and guidelines.

Milestone 198 is the third step in the implementation of reform C15.A. It follows milestone 196 "Adoption of a national monitoring model for quality indicators for long-term care providers in institutions" and milestone 197 "Entry into force of the Long-term Care Act, including the provisions on compulsory long-term care insurance". It will be followed by milestone 200 "All rights and services under the integrated long-term care system are fully applicable".

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence. For legal acts please provide the full legal reference and date of entry into force	Short description
1	Rules on the methodology of monitoring the criteria for determining the public network of long -term care providers at the level of the statistical region / Pravilnik o načinu spremljanja meril za določitev javne mreže izvajalcev DO na ravni statistične regije (Official Gazette No. 133/23), available at: https://www.uradni-list.si/_pdf/2023/Ur/u2023133.pdf Entry into force: 11 January 2024	Rules define the method for monitoring the criteria used to determine the network of LTC providers, the schedule for the analysis of indicators, and stipulates that the analysis must be published on the website of the Ministry of Solidarity-Based Future.
2	Rules on the method of keeping a list of spare capacities and reporting by long-term care providers / Pravilnik o načinu vodenja seznama prostih zmogljivosti in poročanju izvajalcev dolgotrajne oskrbe (Official Gazzete No. 2/24), available at: https://www.uradni-list.si/glasilo-uradni-list-rs/vsebina/2024-01-0101 Entry into force: 27 January 2024	Rules specify the method for managing and reporting data LTC providers on: - bed capacity and changes in bed occupancy of LTC providers in institutions, - scheduling capacity for providing LTC at home, - changes in the occupancy of time slots for providing LTC at home and - number of candidates eligible for admission to full-day and daily LTC or for the use of LTC services at home, as well as their category.

3	Rules on services, personnel conditions, training and supervision in long-term care / Pravilnik o storitvah, kadrovskih pogojih, usposabljanju in superviziji v dolgotrajni oskrbi (Official Gazzete No. 15/24), available at: https://www.uradni-list.si/_pdf/2024/Ur/u2024015.pdf Entry into force: 24th of February 2024	Rules define: - staffing standards related to the type of education, work experience, required additional knowledge, lack of criminal record, and method and scope of supervision, - more detailed content of long-term care services and the manner of their delivery, the content of services for strengthening and maintaining independence, and services provided by the LTC coordinator, rules for recording LTC services.
4	Rules on minimum spatial and technical conditions for the LTC / Pravilnik o minimalnih prostorskih in tehničnih pogojih za opravljanje dolgotrajne oskrbe (Official Gazzete No. 19/24), available at: https://www.uradni-list.si/_pdf/2024/Ur/u2024019.pdf Entry into force: 23 March 2024	Rules set out the minimum spatial and technical conditions for providing LTC, specifically the number, purpose, equipment, and size of the spaces in which LTC services are provided. It more specifically defines the spatial, technical, and safety conditions for institutional care providers, conditions for providing daily LTC and conditions for home-based LTC providers.
5	Guidelines for establishing a quality and safety of care model at social welfare service providers under the authority of the ministry for solidarity and the future and at long-term care providers. available at: (https://www.gov.si/zbirke/javne-objave/smernice-za-vzpostavitev-modela-kakovosti-in-varnosti-obravnave-pri-izvajalcih-socialnovarstvenih-storitev-v-pristojnosti-ministrstva-za-solidarno-prihodnost-in-pri-izvajalcih-dolgotrajne-oskrbe/) Publication date: 31 March 2025	Guidelines establish a quality and safety-of-care framework for social welfare and long-term care providers, including institutional care, home care, and social welfare service providers, under the authority of the Ministry for Solidarity. These guidelines aim to support the creation and maintenance of high-quality care standards across different care settings.

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Slovenian authorities cover all constitutive elements of the milestone.

In line with the name of the milestone, **entry into force of implementing acts and guidelines under the Long-Term Care Act The implementing acts shall set out the rules governing the implementation of the law,…**

The Long-Term Care Act (LTC Act) (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia No. 84/23, published on 2 August 2023, entered into force on 3 August 2023) provides a framework for implementing the long-term care system, while the detailed implementation aspects are defined by the implementing acts as stipulated in Article 138 of the LTC Act. Article 138 of the LTC Act is the general legal basis for the following implementing acts:

- Rules on professional principles for implementing support measures, further implementing Article 104 of LTC Act, came into force on 14 August 2023, in line with its Article 7;

- Rules on the methodology of monitoring the criteria for determining the public network of long -term care providers at the level of the statistical region, further implementing Article 7(3) of LTC Act, came into force on 11 January 2024, in line with its Article 4;
- Rules on the method of keeping a list of spare capacities and reporting by long-term care providers, further implementing Article 64 of LTC Act, came into force on 27 January 2024, in line with its Article 8;
- Rules on the application for enrolment in the Register of long-term care providers, further implementing Article 61 of LTC Act, came into force on 11 January 2024, in line with its Article 4;
- Rules on the content of the cognitive aptitude test, further implementing Article 12 of LTC Act, came into force on 13 January 2024, in line with its Article 3;
- Rules on the assessment scale for assessing entitlement to long-term care, further implementing Article 12 of LTC Act, came into force on 13 January 2024, in line with its Article 3;
- Rules on the Council of Experts for Long-Term Care, further implementing Article 9(5) of LTC Act, came into force on 27 January 2024, in line with its Article 8;
- Rules on services, personnel conditions, training and supervision in long-term care, further implementing Article 14(5) and Article 60 (3) of LTC Act, came into force on 24 February 2024, in line with its Article 12;
- Rules on the method and conditions of access to data from the central database on long-term care rights, further implementing Article 92 of LTC Act, came into force on 24 February 2024, in line with its Article 10;
- Rules on more detailed conditions for obtaining and performing a concession, further implementing Article 80 of LTC Act, came into force on 16 March 2024, in line with its Article 10;
- Rules on the content, scope of training and catalogue of knowledge for long-term care counsellors and external experts, further implementing Article 88 of LTC Act, came into force on 2 March 2024, in line with its Article 6;
- Rules on minimum spatial and technical conditions for long-term care, further implementing Article 60(3) of LTC Act, came into force on 23 March 2024, in line with its Article 32;
- Rules on content of the application and form for exercising right to a caregiver for a family member carer choosing caregiver for a family member, further implementing Article 35 of LTC Act , came into force on 1 January 2025, in line with its Article 3;
- Rules on price list and methodology for pricing accommodation and meals at the LTC provider, further implementing Article 10 of LTC Act, came into force on 22 March 2025, in line with its Article 16;
- Rules on starting points for the pricing of hourly rates on long-term care, further implementing Article 14 of LTC Act, came into force on 22 March 2025, in line with its Article 14;
- Guidelines for establishing a quality and safety of care model at social welfare service providers under the authority of the ministry for solidarity and the future and at long term care providers, issued based on point 4 of the Article 63(2) of the LTC Act, published on 31 March 2025.

All the above referenced implementing acts and guidelines have been adopted and are in force.

…in particular, the minimum technical conditions and the standards of residence in institutions,…

Article 1 of the Rules on minimum spatial and technical conditions for long-term care (evidence 4) outlines the scope of the implementing act. It states that the implementing act specifies conditions for the provision of LTC by regulating the number, purpose, equipment, and size of the spaces in which LTC services are delivered. Key provisions of the implement act that address these requirements are:

- *Spatial requirements (Articles 4–6 and Articles 10–14)*: The implementing act defines the minimum number, purpose, equipment, and size of premises where long-term care services are provided. This includes requirements for living spaces, sanitary facilities, common areas, and other functional units necessary for service delivery.
- *Technical and safety standards (Articles 6–9 and Articles 13 and 14):* Facilities must be designed and equipped to ensure safe movement for users, accessibility for persons with reduced mobility, and adequate working conditions for staff. Requirements also include fire safety, ventilation, lighting, and other technical systems.
- *Location of the facility (Article 4):* Long-term care facilities must be located in settlement areas with established transport infrastructure and access to public or organized transport, ensuring accessibility for users and visitors.

…staffing conditions, conditions and standards relating to the education of the staff…

Article 1(1) of the Rules on services, personnel conditions, training and supervision in long-term care (evidence 3) outlines the scope of the implementing act. It states that the implementing act specifies detailed personnel standards and requirements, including the type of education, work experience, additional knowledge, criminal record clearance, and the manner and scope of supervision. In addition, it lays down the rules for recording long-term care services. Key provisions of the implementing act that address these requirements are:

- *Staff qualifications and conditions (Article 2):* The implementing act lays down specific requirements for staff of LTC providers, such as the acceptable fields and levels of education, recognition of national vocational qualifications in health and social care, and compliance with professional competence rules for nursing staff. Staffing must also respect the classification rules under the collective agreement for health and social welfare.
- *Training and supervision (Articles 3–5 and 7):* These provisions define the content and duration of training to obtain a national professional qualification (480 hours), set requirements for initial and refresher training for various profiles, and require providers to organise at least 10 hours of group supervision per year to support staff in maintaining service quality and professional development.

…as well as the monitoring of demand for long-term care services and capacity of the long-term care providers according to the manner in which long-term care is provided.

The Rules on the Methodology for Monitoring the Criteria for Determining the Public Network of Long-Term Care Providers (evidence 1) and the Rules on the Methodology for Maintaining the List of Available Capacities and Reporting by Long-Term Care Providers (evidence 2) address the monitoring of both demand and capacity in long-term care (LTC) services. Article 2 of evidence 1 mandates the monitoring of LTC demand at the statistical region level through indicators such as population size, the number of people needing care, and LTC users across various services (institutional care, home care, etc.). Article 3 further specifies the monitoring of users and applicants in different LTC categories of need. This data, updated regularly, informs about the development of the national LTC network, as outlined in Article 7.

Evidence 2 complements this by requiring LTC providers to maintain detailed records on users and candidates for different care types (Article 2). Article 3 mandates monthly reporting of capacity data, including bed occupancy and available spaces, to the Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Social Protection (IRSSV), with deadlines for submission defined in Article 4.

Indicators for monitoring the quality of services in the field of long-term care shall be set out in the guidelines adopted by the minister, as provided by the Long-Term Care Act.

Indicators for monitoring the quality of long-term care services are listed and described in Guidelines for establishing a quality and safety of care model at social welfare service providers under the authority of the Ministry for Solidarity based future ("Ministry") and at long term care providers (evidence 5). The guidelines were adopted by the Minister, based on point 4 of the Article 63(2) of the LTC Act.

The guidelines (pages 11-20) define specific quality and safety-of-care indicators for different types of care providers, such as institutional LTC providers and home care providers. In addition to these provider-specific indicators, the guidelines also establish systemic indicators that must be monitored across all providers, including additional data like employees' sick-leave rates (page 20).

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled.

Number and name of the Milestone SI-C17-RA-M210: Entry into force of the Act on the deployment of installations for the production of electricity from renewable energy sources

Related measure: SI-C16-RA: Reform of the promotion of renewable energy sources in Slovenia (scaled-up)

Qualitative indicator: Provision in Act indicating the entry into force

Time: Q4/2023

1. Context:

Milestone 210 is part of Reform A under Slovenia's REPowerEU chapter on promotion of renewable energy sources in Slovenia. The objective of the reform is to facilitate the accelerated deployment of renewable energy installations for the production of electricity through the scale-up of the existing reform A of Component 1.

Milestone 210 concerns entry into force of the Act on the deployment of installations for the production of electricity from renewable energy sources.

Milestone 210 is the first milestone of the measure and is followed by Milestone 211 on the adoption of a Decree laying down detailed rules for siting of photovoltaic installations. The reform has a final expected date for implementation by 30 June 2024.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence	Short description
1	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled, with appropriate links to the underlying evidence	A cover note was provided explaining the entry into force of the Act on deployment of installations for the production of electricity from renewable energy.
2	Copy of the Act on deployment of installations for the production of electricity from renewable energy	Copy of the Act on the Deployment of Plants for the Production of Electricity from Renewable Energy Sources published in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia No 78/23 from 23 July 2023: https://www.uradni-list.si/glasilo-uradni-list-rs/vsebina/2023-01-2478/zakon-o-uvajanju-naprav-za-proizvodnjo-elektricne-energije-iz-obnovljivih-virov-energije-zunpeove

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Slovenia authorities cover all constitutive elements of the milestone.

In line with the name of the milestone, **entry into force of the Act on the deployment of installations for the production of electricity from renewable energy sources.** In line with the description of the measure**, the reform shall be implemented with the entry into force of the Act on deployment of installations for the production of electricity from renewable energy.**

The Act on the Deployment of Plants for the Production of Electricity from Renewable Energy Sources (hereinafter: the Act) was adopted by the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia on 6 July 2023 and published in the Official Journal No. 78 on 23 July 2023 (evidence 2). The Act entered into force on 3 August 2023, as set out in Article 94 of the Act.

The Act shall remove regulatory barriers to the deployment of renewable energy installations (solar PV and wind) in certain areas, such as roadsides, water surfaces, and rooftops. Furthermore, in line with the description of the measure, **the scaled-up reform shall remove regulatory barriers to the deployment of renewable energy installations (solar PV and wind) in certain areas, such as roadsides, water surfaces, and rooftops.**

Articles 5-13 of the Act establish the concept of priority siting areas for renewable energy installations, including solar PV and wind, and introduce rules for the identification of such areas, where certain spatial planning and permitting procedures are removed on the basis that this is a designated area for renewable energy installations. More specifically, Article 5 mandates the adoption of a national action programme by the government which should identify potential priority areas for photovoltaic and wind installations. In line with Article 6, these priority areas are then specified in more detail through a national implementing spatial plan. Furthermore, Article 8 designates priority areas for the placement of photovoltaic installations an obligation of installation of photovoltaic power plants, including rooftops, roadsides, closed landfills, and decommissioned mines. In these areas, solar photovoltaic installations may be deployed regardless of the local energy concept (Article 8, paragraph 2). By requiring the designation of priority areas for the siting of photovoltaic and wind energy installations, the Act aims to avoid lengthy and complex administrative and permitting procedures for investors in renewable energy installations that would otherwise apply outside of the designated priority areas.

Article 42 of the Act defines the concept of accompanying energy activity for the production of electricity from photovoltaic and wind installations and lays down the rules for deployment of these installations in such cases. In line with Article 41 (1), the deployment of photovoltaic and wind installations in areas serving both the primary purpose and the accompanying energy activity is enabled. This concerns specifically areas of agricultural land, areas of forest land or forests, areas of waters, areas of mineral resources, areas of landfills and areas of traffic. By introducing a definition and rules for accompanying energy activity for the production of electricity from photovoltaic and wind installations, Article 42 enables the dual land use in areas with untapped renewable energy potential, which were so far subject to regulatory barriers. More specifically, this allows for the construction of solar or wind energy installations in locations that would otherwise be restricted under existing sectoral regulations—for example, installing solar photovoltaic installations on the surface of water dams or on the side of roads.

Article 72 (1-3) of the Act lowers the required consent threshold for the deployment of solar photovoltaic installations in co-owned properties or condominium buildings. Instead of requiring unanimous agreement or full consent from all co-owners, only a majority of more than 75% of co-owners are needed to approve:

- The installation, operation, and maintenance of a solar photovoltaic system (Article 72, paragraph 1).
- Contracts related to deployment of solar photovoltaic installations (Article 72, paragraph 2).
- Legal acts such as establishing easements or building rights (Article 72, paragraph 3).

Furthermore, the Act shall define the competencies and procedures for overriding public interest. Furthermore, in line with the description of the measure, **the reform shall also define the competencies and procedures for overriding public interest.**

Article 17 of the Act establishes the competence and procedure for determining the overriding public interest in cases where the siting of photovoltaic or wind energy installations may conflict with nature conservation interests. In line with Article 17 (1), the competent authority for initiating the procedure to assert the overriding public interest is the ministry responsible for the environment, while the final decision is taken by the government upon the ministry's proposal. According to Article 17 (2), the overriding public interest may be asserted, in particular, in three procedural contexts: (i) if a negative opinion on nature conservation grounds is issued during the building permit procedure under Article 54 Building Code (GZ-1); (ii) if the competent authority concludes that a nature conservation consent must be refused pursuant to Article 105.a of the Nature Conservation Act (ZON); or (iii) if the authority concludes that a permit for an intervention in nature must be refused under Article 104.a of the Nature Conservation Act. In line with Article 17 (3) of the Act, if the government adopts a decision recognising the overriding public interest, that decision must be incorporated into the relevant administrative act (e.g. building permit, nature conservation consent, or intervention permit). Furthermore, Article 17 (4) introduces a general legal presumption that the planning, construction, and operation of photovoltaic and wind energy installations, along with associated network infrastructure, are in the overriding public interest and serve public health and safety.

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled.

Number and name of the Milestone SI-C17-RA-M211: Provision in the decree indicating the entry into force

Related measure: SI-C17-RA: Reform of the promotion of renewable energy sources in Slovenia (scaled-up)

Qualitative indicator: Provision in the decree indicating the entry into force

Time: Q2/2024

1. Context:

Milestone 211 is part of Reform A under Slovenia's REPowerEU chapter on promotion of renewable energy sources in Slovenia. The objective of the reform is to facilitate the accelerated deployment of renewable energy installations for the production of electricity through the scale-up of the existing reform A of Component 1.

Milestone 211 concerns the adoption of a Decree laying down detailed rules for the siting of photovoltaic installations.

Milestone 211 is the second and last milestone of the measure, and is preceded by milestone 210, concerning to the entry into force of the Act on the deployment of installations for the production of electricity from renewable energy sources. The reform has a final expected date for implementation by 30 June 2024.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence.	Short description
1	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled, with appropriate links to the underlying evidence	A cover note was provided explaining the aim of the Decree.
2	Copy of the publication of the Decree on detailed spatial planning rules for the installation of photovoltaic installations and solar energy receivers in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia No 27 of 29 March 2024	Government decision adopting the Decree on more detailed spatial planning rules for the installation of photovoltaic installations and solar energy receivers: https://pisrs.si/pregledPredpisa?id=URED8826

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Slovenian authorities cover all constitutive elements of the milestone.

In line with the name of the milestone**, adoption of a Decree laying down detailed rules for the siting of photovoltaic installations.** In line with the description of the measure**, the reform shall be implemented with the adoption of a Decree laying down detailed rules for siting of photovoltaic installations.**

The Decree laying down detailed rules for siting of photovoltaic installations (hereinafter: "the Decree") was adopted by the Government of the Republic of Slovenia on 28 March 2024 and published in the Official Journal No 27 of 29 March 2024 (evidence 2). The Decree entered into force on 13 April 2024, as confirmed by its Article 28.

The Decree shall detail the rules for the siting of photovoltaic installations in areas such as rooftops, water surfaces, and roadsides.

According to Article 1 of the Decree, the content of the Decree covers the establishment of detailed siting rules for the installation of photovoltaic installations in three categories, as follows (i) mandatory installation on the rooftops of newly constructed and renovated buildings, (ii) in designated priority areas, such as roadsides, where simplified spatial planning rules apply and (iii) in other areas and facilities outside of the first two categories.

Chapter 3 (Articles 8-14) of the Decree lays down detailed rules for the mandatory installation of photovoltaic installations on the rooftops of newly constructed and renovated buildings. More specifically, Article 8 details the cases of mandatory installation of solar photovoltaic installations, Article 9 on the exceptions to the mandatory installation, Article 10 on enforcement of the installation obligation, Article 11 and 12 on spatial implementing conditions for referencing on the roofs of the buildings, Article 13 and 14 on spatial implementing conditions for placement in parking areas.

Chapter 4 (Articles 15-25) of the Decree lays down detailed rules for the siting of photovoltaic installations in designated priority, including on certain buildings (Article 16), parking lots (Article 17), roadsides and other road infrastructure (Article 18), on railways (Article 20), and on closed landfills (Article 24).

Chapter 5 (Articles 26-27) of the Decree lays down detailed rules for the siting of photovoltaic installations other areas and facilities, different that the ones defined in the preceding chapters. This includes, for example, the installation of photovoltaic systems outside designated priority areas.

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number and name of the Milestone SI-C17-IC-M214: Launching of a call for proposals for new or upgraded medium-voltage distribution network

Related measure: SI-C17-IC: Strengthening the electricity distribution network (medium-voltage network)

Qualitative indicator: Publication of call for proposals

Time: Q2/2024

1. Context:

Milestone 214 is part of Investment C under Slovenia's REPowerEU chapter on promotion of renewable energy sources in Slovenia. The objective of this investment is to modernise the medium-voltage and low-voltage electricity distribution network and to enable the connection of renewables, as well as heat pumps and recharging points for electric vehicles.

Milestone 214 concerns the launching of a call for proposals for new or upgraded medium-voltage distribution network.

Milestone 214 is the first step of the implementation of the investment. It will be followed by target 215, related to the length of new or upgraded operational distribution network (medium-voltage), and target 215bis on the Length of new operational distribution network (low-voltage). The investment has a final expected date for implementation by 30 June 2026.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence	Short description
1	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled, with appropriate links to the underlying evidence	Summary document was provided
2	Copy of publication of call for proposals to co-finance the construction of a new or reconstruction of an existing medium-voltage distribution network for the period 2023 to 2026 (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia No 89/2024 of 18 10.2024)	Publication in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia: Uradni list RS (UL RS; Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia) No 89/2024 of 18 10. 2024

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Slovenian authorities cover all constitutive elements of the milestone.

The call for proposals for the construction of new or upgraded medium-voltage electricity distribution network is published.

The call for proposals was published in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia 89/2024 of 18.10.2024 (evidence 2). In line with sub-section 3.1 "Purpose and objective" of the call for proposals, the purpose of the call is for the construction of new or upgraded medium-voltage electricity distribution network.

In line with the milestone and measure descriptions, **the investment shall promote the digitalisation of the network by covering new control systems and sensor technologies that enable interactive and intelligent monitoring, measurement, quality control or management of energy generation, transmission, distribution or consumption within the distribution network.**

The milestone is further specified in the Operational Arrangements, which requires: **For the purposes of these operational arrangements, the call shall include the digitalisation of the network by covering new control systems and sensor technologies that enable interactive and intelligent monitoring, measurement, quality control or management of energy generation, transmission, distribution or consumption within the distribution network.**

Slovenia has reflected the milestone requirement, further specified in the Operational Arrangements, in sub-section 7.1 “Conditions for establishing eligibility” of the call for proposals (evidence 2), as one of the eligibility criteria for project proposals. More specifically, the text of the criterion on technical conditions states that projects must ensure the interoperability of data and enable data to be exchanged between the various actors in the electricity market (generation, transmission, distribution, market) through the integration of different control systems and sensor technologies based on appropriate communication protocols. Such technical conditions guarantee that projects carried out in line with them will result in digitalization of the network by integrating new control systems and sensor technologies that will enable interactive and intelligent monitoring, measurement, quality control and management of energy production, transmission, distribution or consumption in the distribution network, including possibilities for the integration of databases and real-time control needs to be met. The text in sub-section 7.1 “Conditions for establishing eligibility” further specifies that the applicant is further required to submit a completed, signed and stamped Form No 5: A statement by the applicant that the action will be implemented in accordance with the technical conditions. Furthermore, in line with sub-section 5.2 “Amount of co-financing and payment”, final beneficiaries must enclose with their request for payment of funds proof of the deployment of new equipment, as part of the proven eligible costs, in order to receive payment.

In line with the milestone and measure descriptions, **the eligibility criteria shall ensure compliance with the ‘do no significant harm’ Technical Guidance (2021/C58/01).** Furthermore, **it is expected that this measure does not do significant harm to environmental objectives within the meaning of Article 17 of Regulation (EU) 2020/852, taking into account the description of the measure and the DNSH Technical Guidance (2021/C58/01).**

Slovenia has reflected the milestone and measure requirements in sub-section 7.1 “Conditions for establishing eligibility” of the call for proposals, as one of the eligibility criteria for projects proposals. More specifically, the text of the criterion states that the applicant must demonstrate that the project will be implemented in accordance with the ‘Do No Significant Harm’ (DNSH), set out in Article 17 of Regulation (EU) 2020/852 and in the Technical Guidance (2021/C58/01) on the application of the ‘do no significant harm’ principle. The applicant is further required to submit a completed, signed and stamped Form No 7: A statement by the applicant that the action will be implemented in accordance with the ‘Do No Significant Harm’ (Do No Significant Harm – DNSH) principle.

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled.

Number and name of the Milestone SI-C17-ID-M216: Launch of support scheme for energy efficiency and decarbonisation of the economy

Related measure: SI-C17-ID: Energy efficiency and decarbonisation of the economy

Qualitative indicator: Publication of a call for proposals

Time: Q2/2024

1. Context:

The objective of this investment is to support the decarbonisation of companies through a range of possible measures, such as (i) introduction of renewables, electrification of production processes, (ii) deployment of energy and heat storage, and (iii) energy efficiency improvements.

Milestone 216 concerns the publication of a call for proposals for energy efficiency and decarbonisation of the economy.

Milestone 216 is the first milestone of Investment C17.ID and is followed by Target 217 on the number of completed projects in energy efficiency and decarbonisation of economy. The investment has a final expected date for implementation by 31 June 2026.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence	Short description
1	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled, with appropriate links to the underlying evidence.	A cover note was provided
2	Copy of call for proposals for energy efficiency and decarbonisation of the economy	Publication in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia no 57/24 of 12 July 2024: https://www.uradni-list.si/_pdf/2024/Ra/r2024057.pdf Publication on the SPIRIT website: https://www.spiritslovenia.si/razpis/421
3	Copy of call for proposals for energy efficiency and decarbonisation of the economy for electricity storage facilities	Publication in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia no 44/25 of 20 June 2025: https://www.uradni-list.si/glasilo-uradni-list-rs/vsebina/2025004400027?ral=2025004400027 Publication on the Borzen website: https://borzen.si/sl-si/podpore-za-zelene-investicije/subvencije-za-hranilnike-elektricne-energije/subvencije-za-hranilnike-elektricne-energije-za-pravne-osebe

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Slovenian authorities cover all constitutive elements of the milestone.

In line with the name of the milestone, **launch of support scheme for energy efficiency and decarbonisation of the economy.** In line with the description of the milestone, **publication of a call for proposals for energy efficiency and decarbonisation of the economy.**

The support scheme for energy efficiency and decarbonisation of the economy was launched via the publication a call for proposals for energy efficiency and decarbonisation of the economy on the website of the Public Agency for Investment, Entrepreneurship and Internationalization (SPIRIT) of Slovenia and in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia (No 57/24) of 12 July 2024 (evidence 2). An additional call for proposals for energy efficiency and decarbonisation of the economy focusing on support for deployment of electricity storage facilities was launched on the website of Slovenian market electricity operator (Borzen) and in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia no 44/25 of 20 June 2025 (evidence 3).

In line with Section 2 "Purpose, objective and subject" of the first call for proposals (evidence 2), the call for proposals is carried out in relation to Investment D 'Energy efficiency and decarbonisation of the economy', Component 17, of Slovenia's Recovery and Resilience Plan. Furthermore, in line with Sub-section 2.2 "Objective of call for proposals", the objective of the call is to support at least 22 projects focusing on energy efficiency investment in industry, investments to decarbonise or reduce greenhouse gas emissions from industrial activities, and investments in electricity and/or thermal energy storage tanks.

In line with Section 3 "General information about the call" of the additional call for proposals (evidence 3), the call for proposals is carried out in relation to Investment D 'Energy efficiency and decarbonisation of the economy', Component 17, of Slovenia's Recovery and Resilience Plan. Furthermore, in line with Sub-Section 3.1 "Purpose and objective of the call", the objective of the call is to support the energy efficiency and decarbonisation of the economy through the deployment of electricity storage facilities in industry.

The Council Implementing Decision required publication of a call for proposals for energy efficiency and decarbonisation of the economy. Slovenia did not launch just one call for proposals for energy efficiency and decarbonisation of economy, but launched also an additional call for proposals for this investment on 20 June 2025 through publication of a call for proposals for energy efficiency and decarbonisation of the economy for electricity storage facilities on the website of Slovenian market electricity operator (Borzen) and in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia no 44/25 of 20 June 2025 (evidence 3). Whilst this constitutes a minimal formal deviation from the requirement of the Council Implementing Decision, the deviation related to the publication of an additional call for proposals does not affect the achievement of the objective of the measure to support the decarbonisation of companies through a range of possible measures. As of this, this minimal deviation does not change the nature of the measure and does not affect the progress towards achieving the investment that the milestone represents. On this basis, it is considered that this constitutive element of the milestone is satisfactorily fulfilled.

The conditions of the scheme shall be in line with the measure description.
The eligibility criteria shall ensure compliance with the 'do no significant harm' Technical Guidance (2021/C58/01).

In line with the description of the measure**, in case of support for the deployment of hydrogen technologies, only renewable hydrogen shall be supported in line with the REPowerEU Guidance on the Recovery and Resilience Plans (2023/C 80/01), Directive (EU) 2018/2001 and the currently published delegated acts. In case of support for biomethane use technologies, only sustainable biomethane shall be supported in line with the REPowerEU Guidance on the Recovery and Resilience Plans (2023/C 80/01). Any industrial facilities using hydrogen have to reach projected GHG emissions intensity significantly below the ETS benchmark**[4]**. In addition, the following list of**

[4] Where the activity supported achieves projected greenhouse gas emissions that are not significantly lower than the relevant benchmarks an explanation of the reasons why this is not possible shall be provided. Benchmarks established for free allocation for activities falling within the scope of the Emissions Trading System, as set out in the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/447.

activities shall not be supported: (i) activities related to fossil fuels, including downstream use[5]; (ii) activities under the EU Emission Trading System (ETS) achieving projected greenhouse gas emission intensity that is not significantly below the relevant benchmarks[6]; (iii) activities related to waste landfills, incinerators[7] and mechanical biological treatment plants[8].

The conditions of the scheme are listed in Section 4 "Conditions for applicants" of the first call for proposals (evidence 2) and in Section 6 "Conditions and requirements for applicants" of the additional call for proposals (evidence 3). In line with the CID requirements, Section 4 of the first call and Section 6 of the additional call provide that applicants and their project proposals must meet all the conditions listed in the respective sections, including its sub-sections, and if at any time during the evaluation process it is determined that any of the conditions are not met, the application will be rejected. For the first call, Sub-section 4.2 "Project Terms and Conditions" of the same section lists the specific eligibility conditions for project proposals. Points 12, 13 (i-iii), 14, 17, 18, along with the footnotes contained in them, under sub-section 4.2 reflect the specific requirements of the measure and milestone description, which concern the application of the 'do no significant harm' principle . For the additional call, Sub-section 6.6 "Compliance with the 'do no significant harm' principle" and the sub-section 6.7 "Exclusion conditions for the investment", including points a) to c), list specific eligibility conditions for project proposals that reflect the corresponding requirements of the measure and milestone description, which concern the application of the 'do no significant harm' principle. Under the additional call for proposals only projects in electricity storage facilities are eligible for support in line with the de minimis aid scheme 'Promotion of electricity and heat storage', as stated in Sub-section 4.3 "Eligible investment costs". On that basis, support for investments related to the deployment of hydrogen technologies and biomethane use technologies are excluded. Therefore, the respective DNSH requirements relating to support for the for the deployment of hydrogen technologies and biomethane use technologies are not relevant for the additional call for proposals.

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled.

[5] Except for (a) projects under this measure in power and/or heat generation, as well as related transmission and distribution infrastructure, using natural gas, that are compliant with the conditions set out in Annex III of the 'Do no significant harm' Technical Guidance (2021/C58/01) (b) activities and assets under point (ii) for which the use of fossil fuels is temporary and technically unavoidable for the timely transition towards a fossil fuel free operation.

[6] Where the activity supported achieves projected greenhouse gas emissions that are not significantly lower than the relevant benchmarks an explanation of the reasons why this is not possible shall be provided. Benchmarks established for free allocation for activities falling within the scope of the Emissions Trading System, as set out in the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/447.

[7] This exclusion does not apply to actions under this measure in plants exclusively dedicated to treating non-recyclable hazardous waste, and to existing plants, where the actions under this measure are for the purpose of increasing energy efficiency, capturing exhaust gases for storage or use or recovering materials from incineration ashes, provided such actions under this measure do not result in an increase of the plants' waste processing capacity or in an extension of the lifetime of the plants; for which evidence is provided at plant level.

[8] This exclusion does not apply to actions under this measure in existing mechanical biological treatment plants, where the actions under this measure are for the purpose of increasing energy efficiency or retrofitting to recycling operations of separated waste to compost bio-waste and anaerobic digestion of bio-waste, provided such actions under this measure do not result in an increase of the plants' waste processing capacity or in an extension of the lifetime of the plants; for which evidence is provided at plant level.

Number and name of the Milestone SI-C17-IE-M218: Publication of a call for proposals for the deployment of recharging or refuelling infrastructure

Related measure: SI-C17-IE: Promoting the deployment of alternative fuels infrastructure in transport (scaled-up)

Qualitative indicator: Publication of a call for proposals

Time: Q2/2024

1. Context:

The objective of this investment is to accelerate the development of a market for alternative fuels in transport and increase the uptake of zero-emission vehicles in Slovenia.

Milestone 218 concerns the provision of co-financing for the deployment of recharging or refuelling infrastructures for zero-emission vehicles, which shall be publicly accessible or owned by the state administration.

Milestone 218 is the first step in the implementation of the investment and will be followed by target 219 (operational recharging or refuelling points for zero emissions vehicles), 220 (supported electric and hydrogen buses) and 221 (supported zero-emission vehicles) in the tenth instalment of non-repayable support. The implementation of the investment is expected to be completed by 30 June 2026.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence	Short description
1	Summary document	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled, with appropriate links to the underlying evidence.
2	Copy of publication of the call for proposal to co-finance the installation recharging infrastructures for electric vehicles (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia No 13/2025) published on 28 February 2025, with tender documentation.	Publication in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia No 13/2025, 28 2. 2025 Publication on the Energy Portal (tendering documents and more detailed information) Public publication on the central state website (tendering documents and more detailed information)
3	Methodology for the assessment of the regional gap in the number of recharging points in Slovenia	The Ministry of Environment, Climate and Energy's internal methodology used to assess the needs for charging infrastructure in the Republic of Slovenia, prepared based on research from 2023 and 2024.

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Slovenian authorities cover all constitutive elements of the milestone.

Call for proposals for the deployment of recharging or refuelling infrastructure published.

The Ministry of the Environment, Climate and Energy (MOPE) published a call for proposals to co-finance the deployment of publicly accessible infrastructure for electric vehicles in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia (No. 13/2025) on 28 February 2025, as well on the central website of the state administration and the MOPE Energy Portal (evidence 2). The Commission services accessed the link provided by the authorities on 6 March.2025 to verify whether the call for proposals for the deployment of recharging or refuelling infrastructure was published. This check was completed successfully, confirming that the call for proposals to co-finance the deployment of publicly accessible infrastructure for electric vehicles is published and that the requirement is hereby satisfactorily fulfilled.

The conditions shall be in line with the measure description.

In line with the description of the measure, the investment shall include the **provision of co-financing for the deployment of recharging or refuelling infrastructures for zero-emission vehicles which shall be publicly accessible or owned by the state administration.** In line with the description of the measure, **Slovenia is scaling up Investment E of Component 4 with deployment of additional recharging/refuelling infrastructure (for the recharging of vehicles or hydrogen refuelling).**

The call for proposals to co-finance the installation of recharging infrastructures for electric vehicles establishes its subject matter as the award of a grant for the co-financing of investments in the installation of publicly accessible charging infrastructure for charging electric vehicles in the geographical territory of the Republic of Slovenia (point 3.2 – evidence 2). In line with Article 2(4)(a) of Regulation (EU) 2023/1804, ‘alternative fuels’ for zero-emission vehicles includes electricity and thereby electric vehicles are considered zero-emission vehicles. Further, the public call states that its aim is to accelerate the development of the market for alternative fuels in transport and the uptake of zero-emission vehicles in Slovenia (point 3.1 – evidence 2).

The call for proposals establishes that the recharging or refuelling infrastructure will be publicly accessible. The recharging infrastructure accessible to the public is required to be deployed at a location or on premises open to the general public, irrespective of whether the recharging infrastructure is located on public or private property. A publicly accessible recharging point is defined as a recharging point for recharging electric vehicles with electricity that allows users to have access under the same conditions, which may include different authentication, usage and payment options for the recharging service. The recharging points that are the subject of the project are made publicly accessible for at least 16 hours per day to all users on equal terms. Design requirements for publicly accessible recharging pools for electric vehicles is also listed under the technical specifications (evidence 2).

In line with the description of the measure, **the investment shall be implemented through a call for proposals that shall ensure adequate geographical distribution.**

Criterion 3 of the list of criteria for the evaluation of applications of the call for proposals (point 7.4 – evidence 2) takes into consideration the projects’ contribution to coherent regional development and appropriate geographical distribution of publicly accessible recharging infrastructure when scoring applications. The Statistical regions in the Republic of Slovenia which show the largest lag in achieving the required number of charging points - according to the internal methodology developed by the Ministry of Environment, Climate and Energy, based on research that took place across 2023 and 2024, which was used to assess the needs for charging infrastructure in the Republic of Slovenia (evidence 3) - are awarded the highest number of points for this criterion (table 4 under point 7.4 – evidence 2).

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: satisfactorily fulfilled.

Loan support

Number and name of the Milestone: SI-C3-ID-M49: Entry into force of legislative act(s) and regulation(s) for the implementation of public environmental protection services

Related measure: SI-C3-ID: Increasing the efficiency of the operation of public environmental protection services

Qualitative indicator: Provision in the law indicating the entry into force of the relevant legal provisions

Time: Q4/2023

1. Context:

The aim of the reform is to increase efficiencies in water management, notably by improving the operating of public utility service providers and upgrading the standard for the provision of the water services. The reform addresses the key challenge of water losses in Slovenia by improving the organisation and control of the public service and ensuring the sustainability of the financing of infrastructure investments.

Milestone 49 concerns the entry into force of the relevant legal provisions, which are expected to ensure the long-term sustainability of the financing of infrastructure investments and the upgrade of the information system for monitoring and reporting of the activity of public service providers.

Milestone 49 is the only milestone of this reform, related to increasing the efficiency of the operation of public environmental protection services.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence	Short description
1	Summary document	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactory fulfilled, with appropriate links to the underlying evidence.
2	Act on Drinking Water Supply and Municipal Wastewater Discharge and Treatment, no. 802-01/24-15/36, published in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia no. 21/2025 on 31 March 2025 and entered into force on 1 April 2025	The Act defines the provisions linked to public utilities in the field of drinking water supply and collection and treatment of urban wastewater. The National Assembly adopted the Act on 20 March 2025: https://www.uradni-list.si/_pdf/2025/Ur/u2025021.pdf.
3	Regulation on the water permit fee and water compensation, no. 00704-135/2025. The Government adopted the Regulation on 12 June 2025. It was published in the Official Journal no. 42/2025 on 13 June 2025 and entered into force on 28 June 2025	The regulation addresses the cost-effectiveness of charges on water use as it sets out criteria for determining the amount and method for the payment of water rights, acquired with water permits. The regulation is available at: https://www.uradni-list.si/glasilo-uradni-list-rs/vsebina/2025-01-1750/uredba-o-placilu-za-vodno-pravico-ki-je-pridobljena-na-podlagi-vodnega-dovoljenja-in-vodnem-povracilu.

4	Environmental Protection Act, no. 801-01/21-22/66, published in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia no. 44/2022 on 29 March 2022 and entered into force on 13 April 2022	The Act sets out the detailed requirements on the monitoring and reporting of the activity of public service providers. The Act is available at: https://pisrs.si/pregledPredpisa?id=ZAKO8286.

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Slovenian authorities cover all constitutive elements of the milestone.

In line with the name of the milestone, **entry into force of legislative act(s) and regulation(s) for the implementation of public environmental protection services.** Furthermore, in line with the description of the measure, **the reform shall be implemented with the entry into force of legislative act(s) and regulation(s) for the implementation of public environmental protection services.**

The Act on Drinking Water Supply and Municipal Wastewater Discharge and Treatment, no. 802-01/24-15/36 *(hereinafter referred to as "ZOPVOOV")* was published in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia no. 21/2025 on 31 March 2025 and entered into force on 1 April 2025 in line with its Article 68.

The Regulation on water permit fees and water reimbursement, no. 00704-135/2025 *(hereinafter referred to as "the Regulation")* was published in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia no. 42/2025 on 13 June 2025 and entered into force on 28 June 2025, in line with its Article 26.

The Environmental Protection Act, no. 801-01/21-22/66 *(hereinafter referred to as "ZVO-2")* was published in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia no. 44/2022 on 29 March 2022 and entered into force on 13 April 2022, in line with its Article 321.

The legal provisions shall ensure:
- the long-term sustainability of the financing of infrastructure investments by reviewing the cost-effectiveness of the charges and levies on water use. Furthermore, in line with the description of the measure, **the reform addresses the key challenge of losses in water management in Slovenia [...] and by ensuring the sustainability of the financing of infrastructure upgrades.** Furthermore, in line with the description of the measure, **the reform shall ensure long-term sustainability of the financing of infrastructure investments by reviewing the cost-effectiveness of the charges and levies on water use.**

As specified in Article 6 of ZOPVOOV, water infrastructure is owned by municipalities and water related services are provided to users by municipal utility companies. To ensure the long-term sustainability of the financing of infrastructure investments and address the losses in the water management system, ZOPVOOV sets of the framework for determining charges and levies on water use by addressing all cost components of public water utility services, the price setting mechanism, as well as by earmarking funds for the financing of the infrastructure. This relates, among others, to:

- Article 3, paragraph 25, which defines the network charge as a fixed part of the price for municipal public utility service. This charge covers the cost of public service infrastructure for drinking water supply or for wastewater collection and treatment.
- Article 6, which defines that for the provision of the public service, a municipality as the owner of the infrastructure charges a public service provider a rental fee or a network charge (paragraph 1). It also defines that the rental fee or the network charge is considered as municipal revenue,

which can only be used for investments, including infrastructure upgrades, and maintenance work on the public service infrastructure for which it was charged or for the construction of public service infrastructure (paragraph 2).

- Article 7, paragraph 1, which defines that the public service infrastructure must be planned, constructed and maintained in a way that ensures its optimal technical performance, including when it comes to water losses in the system, and is economically efficient.
- Article 14, paragraph 2, which stipulates that municipal funds earmarked for financing public service infrastructure represent a mandatory contribution to finance public service infrastructure. A municipality is eligible for additional EU or national funds only after it has spent the earmarked municipal funds for financing public service infrastructure. As further stipulated in paragraph 9, only projects, which contribute to the reduction of water losses in the water management system are eligible for cofinancing.
- Article 15, which defines the price setting of public utility services that has two components (i) the costs of providing public services and (ii) the costs of the infrastructure for public services. The price also considers the value and scope of the infrastructure.
- Article 16, which underpins the price setting with a study on the formulation of the price of the public service. The study is to be prepared by the provider of a public service and needs to ensure the effective and economic implementation of public services and long-term price stability.
- Article 17, which specifies that if the municipality determines that the price has been set too high relative to the consumer price index by the public service provider, the latter needs to prepare a plan to increase the cost-effectiveness of the public service.
- Article 18, which specifies that the Ministry needs to prepare a comparative analysis of the effectiveness and economic implementation of public services in municipalities at least every four years based on the provided studies on the formulation of the price.

As specified in Article 2, point 1, of the Regulation on water permit fees and water reimbursement, the water permit fee is paid for the right to special use of water and sediment, which the water right holder has acquired with a water permit. The Regulation defines the criteria for determining the amount of the water fee (Article 5), the basis for calculating the amount of the fee (Article 6) and the formula for calculating the amount of the fee for each calendar year (Article 7). Furthermore, the Regulation defines the payment of water reimbursements (Article 8), the criteria for determining the amount of water reimbursements (Article 10) and the basis for calculating the water reimbursement (Article 11). As determined in Article 23 of the Regulation, the water permit fee will be charged for the first time in 2026.

- the upgrade of the information system for monitoring and reporting of the activity of public service providers. Furthermore, in line with the description of the measure, **another key aim of the reform shall be the upgrade of the information system for monitoring and reporting of the activity of public service providers**

Article 154 of ZVO-2, upgrades the information system for monitoring and reporting on the activity of the public service providers by defining in more detail the information and documentation to be provided by the public service, introducing several additional monitoring and reporting requirements for public service providers, and by prescribing the content and manner of keeping the register in more detail. To ensure a comprehensive and integrated information system in the field of water protection, Article 8 of ZOPVOOV specifies the link between the register of public service providers defined in ZOPVOOV and the environmental protection register referred to in Article 154 of ZVO-2. This is important since as specified in Article 3, paragraph 7 of ZOPVOOV, the information system of public services for drinking water supply and wastewater collection and treatment is a system established for the purpose of monitoring the implementation of public services, prices and costs of public services. This information system covers data reported by the public service providers on the performance of their activities, which specifically relates to the reporting on the price setting study and the prices and costs of the public service (Article 18), the provision of drinking water supply (Articles 32 and 34), the discharge and treatment of wastewater (Articles 42 and 44), and the infrastructure of public services recorded in the aggregate cadastre (Articles 46-48). The established link between the information systems therefore allows for the further upgrading of the existing system and a better connectivity between different databases.

Furthermore, in line with the description of the measure, **the reform addresses the key challenge of losses in water management in Slovenia, by improving the organisation and control of the public service [...].** To improve the organisation of public services, Articles 2 and 9 of ZOPVOOV establish a legal basis for the cooperation of the municipalities and their joint provision of mandatory public utility services. This further reinforces the overall water management system in Slovenia. To improve the control of public services, Article 9 of ZOPVOOV enables the municipalities to prescribe municipal supervision over the implementation of the municipal regulations (paragraph 1) and enables the Ministry to review the legality of acts falling within the competence of municipalities (paragraph 7). Furthermore, to enable a better control over the according provision of the utility services, and in line with Article 27, the provider of public utility services is specifically responsible for ensuring a reduction of water losses, notably through the according management and maintenance of the infrastructure for the provision of the utility services, as well as by conducting hydraulic modelling of the drinking water supply system, which helps determine whether the system is functioning properly. Article 49 of ZOPVOOV determines the control of the implementation of the obligations of the providers of public utility services and the municipalities, including in relation to ensuring the reduction of water losses, by the competent inspection services.

Furthermore, in line with the description of the measure, **the reform shall upgrade the standard for the provision of the public service to increase efficiencies in water management and enabling reuse systems.** As specified in Article 2 of ZOPVOOV, the objective of ZOPVOOV is to ensure a reliable, efficient and transparent provision of public services for the supply of drinking water and the discharge and treatment of wastewater. Article 2 also introduces the cooperation of municipalities in the provision of public services, which enables the connection of more users to the supply systems and gives the contractor the possibility to introduce a higher performance standard through economies of scale, staffing and administrative rationalisation of the implementation, as well as through the upgrading of the professional system. In addition, Article 45 of ZOPVOOV introduces a new type of a special water service, namely the reuse of urban wastewater in compliance with the rules on water management, which contributes to the conservation of water resources.

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled.