

16 January 2026

Positive preliminary assessment of the satisfactory fulfilment of milestones and targets related to the sixth payment request submitted by Slovakia on 30 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 30 June 2025, Slovakia submitted a request for payment for the sixth instalment of the non-repayable support. The payment request was accompanied by the required management declaration and summary of audits.

To support its payment request, Slovakia provided due justification of the satisfactory fulfilment of all the 19 milestones and targets of the sixth instalment of the non-repayable support, as set out in Section 2(1.5) of the Council Implementing Decision of 13 July 2021 on the approval of the assessment of the recovery and resilience plan for Slovakia^[1].

For seven targets covering a large number of recipients, in addition to the summary documents and official listings provided by Slovakia, the 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.

Furthermore, the Commission is monitoring the continued implementation of other previously assessed milestones and targets, including milestone 16.2 entitled “Providing necessary infrastructure to support the fight against money laundering and corruption”. This milestone requires among others the full operationalisation of the Whistleblower Protection Office in order to support the fight against corruption. In that respect, it is noted that legislative amendments regarding the Office for the Protection of Victims of Crime and Whistleblowers of Anti-social Activities and other related laws of 9 December 2025 are subject to constitutional review by the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic which also suspended the effectiveness of these provisions. *The Commission will conclude whether a reversal has or has not occurred upon the ruling of the Constitutional Court.* 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 Slovakia, the Commission has made a positive preliminary assessment of the satisfactory fulfilment of all 19 milestones and targets.

The milestones and targets positively assessed as part of this payment request demonstrate significant steps in the implementation of Slovakia’s Recovery and Resilience Plan. They notably highlight the continuation of the reform momentum in key policy areas. This includes, among others, the implementation of legislative reforms such as the rollout of investments into heat pumps, acceleration of the connection of renewables to the grid, introduction of new training modules in secondary vocational schools and a training programme for teachers and adults on green skills. The milestones and targets also confirm progress towards the completion of investment projects related to education, innovation in

health, community-based social care capacities, the reduction of administrative burden on businesses, digitalization of public administration, and scholarships for talented domestic and foreign students.

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.

[\[1\]](#) ST 11205/23 INIT, ST 11205/23 ADD 1, ST 11205/23 ADD 1 COR 1, ST 14437/24, ST 14438/24 ADD1, ST 14450/25, ST 14450/25 ADD 1

Non-repayable support

Contents

SK-C[C6]-R[R1]-R[C6.16]: Entry into force of new prescriptive funding system for pre-primary education based on the standardised real annual staff and operational costs of kindergartens, as well as the achievement of the enrolment rate of children aged four years.	3
SK-C[C7]-R[R1]-R[C7.2]: Creation of a network of regional centres of support	12
SK-C[C9]-I[I2]-I[C9.7]: Number of collaborative projects and vouchers	15
SK-C[C9]-I[I4]-I[C9.13]: Number of selected projects addressing the challenges of the green transition	19
SK-C[C9]-I[I5]-I[C9.16]: Number of RDI projects selected under the calls addressing the challenges of digital transformation.	22
SK-C[C10]-I[I1]-I[C10.4]: Number of one-stop shops for integration in Slovakia	26
SK-C[C10]-I[I1]-I[C10.5]: Number of beneficiaries using the IOM Migration Information Centre services.....	33
SK-C[C10]-I[I3]-I[C10.7]: Number of awarded scholarships for talented students	37
SK-C[C11]-I[I3]-I[C11.12]: Increase in the provision of atrial fibrillation surgeries.....	42
SK-C[C14]-R[R1]-R[C14.2]: Reduction of the administrative burden on entrepreneurs	47
SK-C[C14]-I[I2]-I[C14.5]: A single, fully digitised insolvency process is fully operational.	50
SK-C[C16]-I[I2]-I[C16.5]: Training related to the police reform are rolled out	53
SK-C[C16]-I[I4]-I[C16.16]: Establishment of shared service centres	55
SK-C[C16]-R[R4]-R[C16.17]: Adoption a) of a corruption risk management methodology and b) of procedures regarding the supervision by NIKA of that methodology's implementation	59
SK-C[C17]-I[I6]-I[C17.18]: Number of secured IT systems in the public administration.....	62
SK-C[C19]-R[R1]-M[C19.4]: Support for heat pumps.....	68
SK-C[C19]-R[R2]-M[C19.8]: Entry into force of legislation on 'go-to areas' for renewables and adoption of the methodology for the establishment of 'go to areas'	70

SK-C[C19]-R[R2]-M[C19.12]: Integration of renewables into the electricity grid..... 77

SK-C[C19]-R[R6]-M[C19.26]: New training modules in educational programmes of secondary vocational schools and a training programme for teachers and adults81

SK-C[C6]-R[R1]-R[C6.16]: Entry into force of new prescriptive funding system for pre-primary education based on the standardised real annual staff and operational costs of kindergartens, as well as the achievement of the enrolment rate of children aged four years

Related Measure: C6.R1 Ensuring conditions for the implementation of compulsory pre-primary education for children from the age of 5 and introducing a legal entitlement to a place in kindergarten or other pre-primary education providers from the age of three.

Qualitative indicator: Adoption by the Parliament of Act No 597/2003, Act No 596/2003, Act 564/2004 Coll, amendment of Government Regulation No 668/2004 Coll., Government Regulation No 630/2008 Coll.

Time: 2025-Q1

1. Context:

The reform aims to implement compulsory pre-primary education for children aged 5 and a legal entitlement to a place in pre-primary education for children aged 3. To achieve this objective, the reform encompasses amendments to the relevant legislation, the construction of pre-primary education places, a revision of the funding system of pre-primary education, and an upgrade of the qualifications of teachers.

Milestone C6.16 concerns the entry into force of a new prescriptive funding system for pre-primary education and the attainment of an enrolment rate of at least 82% for 4-year-old children in pre-primary education.

The milestone is the third step in the implementation of the reform and follows the completion of milestone C6.M1, related to the introduction of a universal legal entitlement to a place in pre-primary education for children aged 3 and 4 and the upgrading of qualification requirement on teachers, and target C6.T2, related to increasing the enrolment rate of children aged 5. The milestone will be followed by C6.T3 related to the construction of places in pre-primary education. The reform has a final expected date for implementation by 30 June 2026.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence	Short description
1	Summary document ("SK-CC6-RR1-MC6.16.docx")	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled.
2	Table listing legislative amendments. Two versions have been provided, one in English ("Priloha_6_prehľad_zmien_EN.docx") and one in Slovak ("Priloha_6_prehľad_zmien_SK.docx")	The list of amendments covers amending Acts No. 278/2024, No. 290/2024, No. 415/2024 and No. 422/2024.

3	Act No. 278/2024 adopted on 3 October 2024 as effective from 1 January 2025 to 31 January 2025 amending Act No. 564/2004 on the budgeting of income tax revenue of local and regional authorities ("ZZ_2024_278_20250101.pdf")	The amendment reduced the amount of funding municipalities and self-governing regions receive from the State budget. The Act is retrievable at https://www.slov-lex.sk/ezbierky/pravne-predpisy/SK/ZZ/2024/278/20250101.html
4	Act No. 290/2024 adopted on 30 October 2024 as effective from 15 November 2024 to 31 December 2024 amending Act No. 597/2003 on the financing of primary schools, secondary schools and school facilities ("ZZ_2024_290_20241115.pdf")	The amendment ensured that the new funding system for pre-primary education entered into force, that it is prescriptive and transparent and that it ensures stability and the ring-fencing of funds allocated to pre-primary education. The Act is retrievable at https://www.slov-lex.sk/ezbierky/pravne-predpisy/SK/ZZ/2024/290/20241115.html
5	Act No. 290/2024 adopted on 30 October 2024 as effective from 1 January 2025 to 31 August 2025 amending Act No. 596/2003 on state administration in education and school self-government ("ZZ_2024_290_20250101.pdf")	The amendment transferred the competence to fund pre-primary education from local governments to the State. The Act is retrievable at https://www.slov-lex.sk/ezbierky/pravne-predpisy/SK/ZZ/2024/290/20250101.html
6	Act 415/2024 adopted on 18 December 2024 as effective from 1 January 2025 amending Act No. 668/2004 on the distribution of income tax revenue to local governments ("ZZ_2024_415_20250101.pdf")	The amendment revised the formula used to compute the amount which a local government receives from the State for providing education. The Act is retrievable at https://www.slov-lex.sk/ezbierky/pravne-predpisy/SK/ZZ/2024/415/20250101.html
7	Act No. 422/2024 adopted on 18 December 2024 as effective from 1 January 2025 amending Act No. 630/2008 laying down the breakdown of funds from the State budget to schools ("ZZ_2024_422_20250101.pdf")	The amendment ensured that the new funding system for pre-primary education is based on the standardised real annual staff and operational costs of kindergartens, that it is differentiated, and that it ensures resiliency.

		The Act is retrievable at https://www.slov-lex.sk/ezbierky/pravne-predpisy/SK/ZZ/2024/422/20250101.html
8	Act No. 564/2004 on the budgeting of income tax revenue of local and regional authorities adopted on 23 September 2004 as effective 1 May 2024 to 31 December 2024 ("ZZ_2004_564_20240501.pdf")	Version of Act No. 564/2004 as in force prior to the introduction of the relevant amendments by amending Act No. 278/2024. The Act is retrievable at https://www.slov-lex.sk/ezbierky/pravne-predpisy/SK/ZZ/2004/564/20240501.html
9	Act No. 564/2004 on the budgeting of income tax revenue of local and regional authorities adopted on 23 September 2004 as effective from 1 January 2025 to 30 April 2025 ("ZZ_2004_564_20250101.pdf")	Version of Act No. 564/2004 including the relevant amendments introduced by amending Act No. 278/2024. The Act is retrievable at https://www.slov-lex.sk/ezbierky/pravne-predpisy/SK/ZZ/2004/564/20250101.html
10	Act No. 596/2003 on state administration in education and school self-government adopted on 5 November 2003 as effective from 1 September 2024 to 31 September 2024 ("ZZ_2003_596_20240901.pdf")	Version of Act No. 596/2003 as in force prior to the introduction of the relevant amendments by amending Act No. 290/2024. The Act is retrievable at https://www.slov-lex.sk/ezbierky/pravne-predpisy/SK/ZZ/2003/596/20240901.html
11	Act No. 596/2003 on state administration in education and school self-government adopted on 5 November 2003 as effective from 1 January 2025 to 31 August 2025 ("ZZ_2003_596_20250101.pdf")	Version of Act No. 596/2003 including the relevant amendments introduced by amending Act No. 290/2024. The Act is retrievable at https://www.slov-lex.sk/ezbierky/pravne-predpisy/SK/ZZ/2003/596/20250101.html
12	Act No. 597/2003 on the financing of primary schools, secondary schools and school facilities adopted on 6 November 2003 as effective from 23 December 2023 to 14 November 2024 ("ZZ_2003_597_20231223.pdf")	Version of Act No. 597/2003 as in force prior to the introduction of the relevant amendments by amending Act No. 290/2024. The Act is retrievable at https://www.slov-lex.sk/ezbierky/pravne-predpisy/SK/ZZ/2003/597/20231223.html

13	Act No. 597/2003 on the financing of primary schools, secondary schools and school facilities adopted on 6 November 2003 as effective from 15 November 2024 to 31 December 2024 ("ZZ_2003_597_20241115.pdf")	Version of Act No. 597/2003 including the relevant amendments introduced by amending Act No. 290/2024. The Act is retrievable at https://www.slov-lex.sk/ezbierky/pravne-predpisy/SK/ZZ/2003/597/20241115.html
14	Act No. 630/2008 laying down the breakdown of funds from the State budget to schools adopted on 10 December 2008 as effective from 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024 ("ZZ_2008_630_20240101.pdf")	Version of Act No. 630/2008 as in force prior to the introduction of the relevant amendments by amending Act No. 422/2024. The Act is retrievable at https://www.slov-lex.sk/ezbierky/pravne-predpisy/SK/ZZ/2008/630/20240101.html
15	Act No. 630/2008 laying down the breakdown of funds from the State budget to schools adopted on 10 December 2008 as effective from 1 January 2025 ("ZZ_2008_630_20250101.pdf")	Version of Act No. 630/2008 including the relevant amendments introduced by amending Act No. 422/2024. The Act is retrievable at https://www.slov-lex.sk/ezbierky/pravne-predpisy/SK/ZZ/2008/630/20250101.html
16	Act No. 668/2004 on the distribution of income tax revenue to local governments adopted on 1 December 2004 as effective from 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2024 ("ZZ_2004_668_20230101.pdf")	Version of Act No. 668/2004 as in force prior to the introduction of the relevant amendments by amending Act No. 415/2024. The Act is retrievable at https://www.slov-lex.sk/ezbierky/pravne-predpisy/SK/ZZ/2004/668/20230101.html
17	Act No. 668/2004 on the distribution of income tax revenue to local governments adopted on 1 December 2004 as effective from 1 January 2025 ("ZZ_2004_668_20250101.pdf")	Version of Act No. 668/2004 including the relevant amendments introduced by amending Act No. 415/2024. The Act is retrievable at https://www.slov-lex.sk/ezbierky/pravne-predpisy/SK/ZZ/2004/668/20250101.html
18	Spreadsheet containing a list of all 4-year-old children who are registered as permanently residing in Slovakia with information on whether they are enrolled in pre-primary education and whether they are subscribed to Slovak	Spreadsheet containing the data used to compute the enrolment rate of children aged 4 years in pre-primary education.

	health insurance and/or a claimant of Slovak child-benefit payments ("Priloha_5_udaje_k_vypoctu_zaskolenosti_k_septembru_2024.xlsx").	
19	Consolidated version of Act No. 422/2024 adopted on 18 December 2024 as effective at the time of the submission of the request for payment ("Priloha_3_novelizacne_nariadenie_vlady_422_2024.pdf")	Version of Act No. 422/2024 at the submission of the request for payment.
20	Consolidated version of Act No. 278/2024 adopted on 3 October 2024 as effective at the time of the submission of the request for payment ("Priloha_2_novelizacny_zakon_278_2024.pdf")	Version of Act No. 278/2024 at the submission of the request for payment
21	Consolidated version of Act No. 290/2024 adopted on 30 October 2024 as effective at the time of the submission of the request for payment ("Priloha_1_novelizacny_zakon_290_2024.pdf")	Version of Act No. 290/2024 at the submission of the request for payment
22	Consolidated version of Act No. 415/2024 adopted on 18 December 2024 as effective at the time of the submission of the request for payment ("Priloha_4_novelizacne_nariadenie_vlady_415_2024.pdf")	Version of Act No. 415/2024 at the submission of the request for payment

3. Analysis:

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

The relevant provisions of Act 597/2003 Coll. on the financing of primary schools, secondary schools and school facilities, Act No 596/2003 Coll. on state administration in education and school self-government, Act 564/2004 Coll. on the budgeting of income tax revenue of local and regional authorities, the revision of the formula in Government Regulation No 668/2004 as well as the amendment of Government Regulation No 630/2008 shall be amended.

Act No. 597/2003 on the financing of primary schools, secondary schools and school facilities has been amended by amending Act No. 290/2024 which was adopted on 30 October 2024 and entered into force on 15 November 2024 as stated in Article 7 of the amending Act.

Act No. 596/2003 on state administration in education and school self-government has been amended by Article 3(16) of amending Act No. 290/2024 which was adopted on 30 October 2024 and entered into force on 1 January 2025 as stated in Article 7 of the amending Act. Article 3(16) amended Article 1(6)(1) of Act No. 596/2003 by transferring the competence to fund pre-primary education from local governments to the State.

Act No. 564/2004 on the budgeting of income tax revenue of local and regional authorities has been amended by Article 8(1-2) of amending Act No. 278/2024 which was adopted on 3 October 2024 and entered into force on 1 January 2025 as stated in Article 15 of the amending Act. Article 8(1-2) amended Article 2 and 3 of Act No. 564/2008 by reducing the amount of funding municipalities and self-governing regions receive from the State budget.

The formula in Government Regulation No. 668/2004 has been amended by Article 1(5) and 1(6) of amending Act No. 415/2024 which was adopted on 18 December 2024 and entered into force on 1 January 2025 as stated in Article 2 of the amending Act. Article 1(5) and 1(6) respectively amended Annex 3 and 4 to Act No. 668/2004 by omitting the coefficients for pre-primary education and reflecting this in the formula used to compute the amount which a local government receives from the State for providing education.

Government Regulation No 630/2008 has been amended by amending Act No. 422/2024 which was adopted on 18 December 2024 and entered into force on 1 January 2025 as stated in Article 2 of the amending Act.

This is also in line with the qualitative indicator which states: **Adoption by the Parliament of Act No 597/2003, Act No 596/2003, Act 564/2004 Coll, amendment of Government Regulation No 668/2004 Coll., Government Regulation No 630/2008 Coll.**

From the name of the milestone: **Entry into force of new prescriptive funding system for pre-primary education based on the standardised real annual staff and operational costs of kindergartens, [...]**.

A new funding system for pre-primary education entered into force, because pre-primary education is no longer funded by local governments but directly from the State budget:

Article 1(5) of amending Act No. 415/2024 reformulated Annex 3 to Act No. 668/2004 on the distribution of income tax revenue to local governments. The amendment was adopted on 18 December 2024 and entered into force on 1 January 2025 as stated in Article 2 of the amending Act.

Annex 3 lists the educational services which local government shall fund from the proceeds of the personal income tax which is levied and transferred to local governments by the State. The amendment excluded pre-primary education from Annex 3.

Moreover, Article 1(4) of amending Act No. 290/2024 introduced Article 1(4) in Act No. 597/2003 on the financing of schools. The amendments were adopted on 30 October 2024 and entered into force on 15 November 2024 as stated in Article 7 of the amending Act.

Article 1(4) states that the State budget funds pre-primary education.

The new funding system is prescriptive, because it is based on the principle of normative financing:

Article 1(35) of amending Act No. 290/2024 introduced Article 5a in Act No. 597/2003 on the financing of schools. The amendment was adopted on 30 October 2024 and entered into force on 15 November 2024 as stated in Article 7 of the amending Act.

Article 5a(1) states that the amount of funding for each kindergarten is based on normative financing. Article 5a(2) states that this means that amounts are determined in accordance with Article 4. Notably, Article 4(2) states that kindergartens shall receive funding based on the number of pupils enrolled at these. As explained below, the amount of funding which a kindergarten receives for a certain budget post is determined by the multiplication of the number of pupils enrolled at the kindergarten, the relevant coefficient, any correction factor to the latter coefficient and the baseline amount of funding which the Ministry of Education budgeted per pupil.

The new funding system is based on the standardised real annual staff and operational costs of kindergartens, because funding is allocated on the basis of uniform coefficients for all kindergartens covering kindergartens' staff- and operational costs in the current calendar year:

Article 1(3) and 1(23) of amending Act No. 422/2024 respectively added kindergartens to Article 3 and amended Annex 4 in Act No. 630/2008 laying down the breakdown of funds from the State budget to schools. The amendments were adopted on 18 December 2024 and entered into force on 1 January 2025 in accordance with Article 2 of Act No. 422/2024.

Article 3(2) states that the funding covers staff and operational costs and that the coverage of the cost for operation are divided in cost of heat, the educational process and the professional development of staff, as well as that the Ministry of Education budgets the baseline amount for staff- and operational costs per pupil separately each year. Annex 4 contains the uniform coefficients covering the staff and operational costs. The formulae underlying the computation of the coefficients, as stated in Annex 4, show that all coefficients are endogenous to the two ratios capturing the number of pupils per teaching staff member and the number of non-teaching staff per teaching staff member, apart from the coefficients linked to heating. Annex 3 contains the uniform coefficients for heating which are based on temperature zones in which kindergartens are located. The fact that the coefficients are determined by a kindergarten's number of enrolled pupils and staff members as well as temperature zone ensure that each calendar year kindergartens are funded based on their real annual staff and operational costs.

A differentiated and transparent system of funding for pre-primary education shall be set up to ensure stability, resilience and the ring-fencing of funds allocated to education. The legislation shall be adopted by 30 June 2024 and enter into force on 1.1.2025.

The Council Implementing Decision required the legislation to be adopted by 30 June 2024 and enter into force on 1 January 2025. Yet, the legislation was adopted later, with the last amendments to Act No. 630/2008 being adopted on 12 December 2024. Whilst this constitutes a minimal substantive deviation from the requirement of the Council Implementing Decision, the progress towards the achievement of the reform that the milestone represents is not affected because all legislation fulfilled the requirement to enter into force on 1 January 2025. 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.

The new funding system for pre-primary education is differentiated, because the system accounts for pupil-level differences in the amount of funding allocated to each kindergarten:

Article 1(16) of amending Act No. 422/2024 amended Article 6 of Act No. 630/2008 laying down the breakdown of funds from the State budget to schools. The amendment was adopted on 18 December 2024 and entered into force on 1 January 2025 in accordance with Article 2 of the amending Act.

Article 6(5-14) states that the amount of funding a kindergarten receives from the State is affected by the number of pupils: who are enrolled at the kindergarten, who follow education on part-time basis, who reached the age at which participation in education is compulsory, who have a health disadvantage, who are gifted, who reached the age at which participating in education is compulsory but who are home-schooled, and who are educated at a healthcare facility. These factors impose a positive or negative correction to the coefficients listed in Annex 4 to Act No. 630/2008.

The new funding system for pre-primary education is transparent, because the procedure for allocating funding to kindergartens and the data used to compute the amount of funding allocated to each kindergarten shall be publicly available:

Article 1(35) of amending Act No. 290/2024 introduced Article 5a in Act No. 597/2003 on the financing of schools. The amendment was adopted on 30 October 2024 and entered into force on 15 November 2024 as stated in Article 7 of the amending Act. Article 5a made kindergartens subject to Article 7(7) of Act No. 597/2003, because Article 5a(2) states that the amount of funding for kindergartens shall be determined in accordance with Article 4 which is referred to in Article 7(7).

Article 7(7) states that the Ministry of Education shall publish on its website within 30 working days of the entry into force of the State budget, the data and procedure used for allocating funding to kindergartens pursuant to Article 4.

The new funding system for pre-primary education ensures stability, because the amount of funding which the State budgets per pupil for the current calendar year is at least equal to the amount the State budgeted per pupil in the previous calendar year corrected for inflation.

Article 1(42) of amending Act No. 290/2024 introduced Article 7(6) in Act No. 597/2003 on the financing of schools. The amendment was adopted on 30 October 2024 and entered into force on 15 November 2024 as stated in Article 7 of the amending Act.

Article 7(6) states that the amount of funding which the State budgets for kindergartens for the current calendar year is at least equal to the multiplication of the number of pupils at the beginning of the current school year and last calendar year's average annual cost per pupil and the expected annual inflation rate for the current calendar year.

The new funding system for pre-primary education ensures resiliency, because the new funding system contains a guaranteed minimum amount of funding for each kindergarten such that the amount of funding which each kindergarten receives is not solely dependent on the composition of its staff- and pupil body and the temperature conditions in the geographic area where the school is located:

Article 1(20) of amending Act No. 422/2024 amended Article 10 of Act No. 630/2008 laying down the breakdown of funds from the State budget to schools. The amendment was adopted on 18 December 2024 and entered into force on 1 January 2025 in accordance with Article 2 of the amending Act.

Article 10 states that kindergartens shall receive a guaranteed minimum amount of funding. Article 10(b) states that this amount is equal to 95% of the volume of funds a kindergarten would receive if all pupils attended education full-time.

The new funding system for pre-primary education ensures the ring-fencing of funds allocated to education, because the amount allocated by the State shall unequivocally be distributed to kindergartens to provide pre-primary education:

Article 1(35) of amending Act No. 290/2024 introduced Article 5a in Act 597/2003 on the financing of schools. The amendment was adopted on 30 October 2024 and entered into force on 15 November 2024 in accordance with Article 7 of the amending Act.

Article 5a(1) states that public kindergartens shall receive the amount of funding allocated by the Ministry of Education and spend this on the salary- and operating expenses.

By 30 September 2024, the enrolment rate of children aged 4 years in pre-primary education shall be at least 82%. This shall encompass pre-primary education: (i) in kindergarten/special kindergarten included in the Slovak network of schools, (ii) in individual education, e.g. at the request of a legal representative at home, or (iii) at the establishment of a registered pre-primary education provider.

On 15 September 2024 the enrolment rate of children aged 4 years in pre-primary education was 84%. The enrolment rate captures the proportion of children who are enrolled in the Slovak education system in the population of 4-year-old children who permanently reside in Slovakia.

The authorities of Slovakia provided a spreadsheet containing the computation of the enrolment rate. The data used to compute the enrolment rate was retrieved from the Register of Natural Persons ("RFO"), the database of Employment, Social Affairs and Family Offices ("ÚPSVaR"), and the Central Register of Insured Persons ("ÚDZS").

The population comprises of 57 752 children who were 4-years of age on 31 August 2024, that is who are born between 1 September 2019 and 31 August 2020, and were registered as permanent resident in Slovakia on 30 September 2024, but excludes 1 340 4-year-old children who were registered but not enrolled in pre-primary education on 15 September 2024 and who were neither subscribed to Slovak health insurance nor a claimant of Slovak child-benefit payments in September 2024. In the population, 47 986 children were enrolled at a kindergarten, 533 children were enrolled at a kindergarten for children with special educational needs, and 7 children were enrolled at the establishment of a registered pre-primary education provider.

This is also in line with the qualitative indicator which states: **Entry into force of [...], as well as the achievement of the enrolment rate of children aged four years.**

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled.

SK-C[C7]-R[R1]-R[C7.2]: Creation of a network of regional centres of support

Related Measure: C7.R1 Reform of the content and form of education (curricular and textbook reform)

Quantitative Indicator: Number

Baseline: 0

Target: 40

Time: Q3 2024

1. Context:

The objective of the reform is to create new learning curricula, organised in cycles, in primary and lower-secondary schools. The implementation of the reform is supported by the creation of 40 regional centres providing activities such as mentoring, counselling and consultation and consisting, among others, of teachers, school directors, adult education professionals and experts. Additionally, the reform requires the provision of new textbooks.

The target concerns the creation of 40 regional centres for curricular management and support for schools, providing mentoring, counselling and consultation activities. The centres are comprised of teachers, school directors, and other specialists.

Target C7.2 is the second target of the reform, and it follows the completion of milestone C7.1. It will be followed by target C7.3 and target C7.4, related to the share of primary schools implementing the new curriculum and to the introduction of an online matura (final exam). The reform has a final expected date for implementation by 31 December 2025.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence	Short description
1	Summary document	Summary document duly justifying how the target (including all its constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled.
2	Annex 1 – Report from the Ministry of Education	The report includes information about the number, geographical distribution and composition of the staff of the centres created.
3	Annex 2 – List of activities of the regional centres	The list of activities carried out or to be carried out by each of the regional centres, with appropriate references to the activity reports of the centres concerned.
4	Annex 3 – Contract references of the regional centres	Links to the contracts between the Ministry of Education and the settlers of regional centres, stored in the Central Contract Register.

5	Annex 4 – First call of application	The published first call of application for the establishment of the first 16 regional centres.
6	Annex 5 – Second call of application	The published second call of application for the establishment of further 16 regional centres.
7	Annex 6 – Third call of application	The published third call of application for the establishment of the last 8 regional centres.
8	Annex 7 – results of the first call	The results of the evaluation of the submitted applications from the first call of application.
9	Annex 8 – results of the second call	The results of the evaluation of the submitted applications from the second call of application.
10	Annex 9 – results of the third call	The results of the evaluation of the submitted applications from the third call of application.
11	Annex 10 – Activity report for school year 2022-2023	Activity report containing information on the activities, selection and training of mentors for the first 16 centres in school year 2022-2023.
12	Annex 11 – Activity report for school year 2023-2024	Activity report containing information on the activities, selection and training of mentors for the 32 centres in school year 2023-2024.
13	Annex 12 – Manual for the call for applications	Detailed description of the call evaluation process for the third call.
14	Annex 13 – territorial division of the regional centres	Geographical distribution of centres and the allocation of mentors in each centre.

3. Analysis:

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

40 centres of curricular management and support for schools shall be set up at regional level.

Slovakia set up 40 regional support centres (RCPUs) by launching 3 separate calls for applications.

The first call (Annexes 4 and 7), launched on 1 March 2022 and expired on 31 March 2022, received 24 applications, out of which 16 were successful. The start of operation of the first 16 RCPUs was on 1 September 2022 (Annex 4). The second call (Annexes 5 and 8), launched on 2 December 2022 and expired on 16 January 2023, received 39 applications, out of which 16 were successful. The start of the operation of these further 16 RCPUs was on 1 September 2023 (Annex 5). Finally, the third call (Annexes 6 and 9), launched on 11 September 2023 and expired on 30 November 2023, received 22 applications, out of which 8 were successful. The latest 8 RCPUs started operations on 1 September 2024 (Annex 6). In total, 40 RCPUs were set up. Annex 3 contains links of the contracts between the Ministry of Education and the various settlors for providing financial support from the RRF for the establishment of the regional support centre.

The objective of the regional centres is to support schools and teaching staff in implementing the changes resulting from the new educational curricula, by providing mentoring, counselling and consultation activities. To this end, among others, the centres are tasked with (i) monitoring the needs of teachers in

the region, (ii) supporting the professional development of mentors and (iii) ensuring the quality of the activities carried out by mentors through feedback (Annexes 4, 5, 6).

As mentioned in the calls and in the contracts, particular emphasis is placed on supporting schools in the field of curricular management, i.e. the planning, implementation and evaluation of curricular change at school level, in order to ensure the quality and continuity of education.

The centres shall consist of a team of teachers and other specialists providing mentoring or similar supporting activities.

As outlined in the calls, the regional centres serve as employers of mentors. Each centre hosts a team of mentors composed of both practicing teachers and non-practicing professionals, including experts in education for children, youth, and adults, representatives from the third sector, and faculty members involved in teacher training.

At least 75% of the mentors in each regional centre are active teaching or professional staff working in schools. These individuals meet the requirements set out in Act No. 138/2019 on pedagogical and professional employees, including possession of a university degree and a minimum of five years of pedagogical experience. Up to 25% of the mentors are professionals with relevant experience in the development and support of educational services or adult learning. These individuals must also hold a university degree and demonstrate at least five years of professional experience in the field. Annex 1, which compiles data collected by the centres, details the number of mentors and the distribution of the various profiles across each centre.

As of 1 September 2024, there are 272 practicing teachers, 38 professionals in the field of education for children, youth and adults, 19 experts from the third sector and 13 professionals from faculties preparing teachers (Annex 1).

The support can take the form of mentoring, counselling and consultation, and can be delivered in groups or individually. In the 2023/2024 school year, individual mentoring through 32 RCPUs centres was provided to over 2900 teachers in Slovakia (Annex 11). The group support can be delivered through full-day or half-day workshops, panels and lectures, among others (Annex 10 and Annex 11). In school year 2023/2024, the total number of teachers that received support through group activities amounted to over 47000.

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

SK-C[C9]-I[I2]-I[C9.7]: Number of collaborative projects and vouchers

Related Measure: C9.I2 Support for cooperation between firms, academia and RD organisations

Quantitative Indicator: Number of projects

Baseline: 0

Target: 3538

Time: Q4 2024

1. Context:

The objective of this investment is to increase private participation in RDI and increase the share of innovative businesses in the economy.

Target 9.7 requires grant awards to at least 3538 projects, resulting in establishing at least two "transformative and innovative" consortia and in collaborative projects under matching grants and innovative and digital vouchers

Target 9.7 is the second target of the investment, and it follows the completion of milestone 9.6. It will be followed by target 9.8, related to the interim summary report on the implementation of calls for projects.

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 satisfactorily fulfilled.
2	Annex 1 List of projects (submitted on 30 June 2025)	This document lists the collaborative projects, digital and innovative vouchers and the consortia. It indicates beneficiary, company, amount, project code and name, beneficiary and a link to the published contract.
3	Supplement to Annex 1 List of additional vouchers (submitted on 20 October 2025)	This document lists additional submitted vouchers and indicates beneficiary, project code and name and a link to the published contract.
4	In the context of the sampling analysis, additional evidence provided for a sample of 80 units	The grant agreement set out the contractual relationship between the government and the universities, research institutes or companies. In case of collaborative projects, invoices demonstrating the commercial collaborations with companies were also provided.

5	Annex 3a Partnership Agreement establishing a consortium entitled “Smart Transformation and Innovation Consortium Slovakia” signed in May 2025, accompanied by Annex 4a Statement of achievement	This consortium is led by the University of Matej Bel and comprises 23 other members, including municipalities, companies and university from abroad. The main activity concerns interdisciplinary innovation environment in municipalities and municipal living labs.
6	Annex 3b Partnership Agreement establishing a consortium entitled “Smart Data Pipelines for the Cognitive Compute Continuum” signed in May 2025, accompanied by Annex 4b Statement of achievement	This consortium under project name SPICE is led by InterWay, a.s and comprises 9 other members, including Slovak companies and informatics institute as well as partners from Poland, Austria and Spain. The main activity concerns data analytics and intelligent systems in sectors such as ICT, Industry 4.0, Energy and Healthcare.
7	Annex 3c Partnership Agreement establishing a consortium entitled “Advanced Protein Biotechnology Consortium: a Model for Fostering Economic Growth and Mitigating Brain Drain in Eastern Slovakia” signed in May 2025, accompanied by Annex 4c Statement of achievement	This consortium under project name APBC is led by Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice and comprises 7 other members, including partners from Czechia, the Netherlands, Germany. The main activity concerns research, innovation, and capacity building in protein biotechnology.
8	Annex 3d Partnership Agreement establishing a consortium entitled “Development and design of sustainable composite materials for hybrid energy storage system based on Li-ion and redox-flow batteries” signed in May 2025, accompanied by Annex 4d Statement of achievement	This consortium under project name SUNFLOWER is led by Pavol Jozef Šafárik University and comprises 7 other members, including the Slovak Battery Alliance, partners from Czechia and Sweden. The main activity concerns development of novel materials for Li-ion and redox flow batteries, key for electric mobility and sustainable energy.
9	Annex 3e Partnership Agreement establishing a consortium entitled “InnovAlte Slovakia: Illuminating Pathways for AI-Driven Breakthroughs” signed in May 2025, accompanied by Annex 4e Statement of achievement	This consortium is led by Gratex International a.s. and comprises 10 other members, including partners from Czechia and Germany. The main activity concerns AI innovation, such as for example AI based optimisation in terms of energy consumption in building, job creation and skills development.
10	Annex 3f Partnership Agreement establishing a consortium entitled “Slovak Technical Ecosphere Platform”, signed in May 2025 accompanied by Annex 4f Statement of achievement	This consortium under project name STEPHANIK is led by Bizzcom s.r.o. and comprises 14 other members, including partners from Spain, Germany, Czechia as well as Slovak companies. The main activity concerns development of European space innovation ecosystem, and notably adoption of modular satellite technologies.

3. Analysis:

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

Of the overall objective of 3 931 projects, grant awards to at least 3 538 cooperation projects between companies, academia and R&D organisations and vouchers.

As evidenced by Annex 1, as supplemented on 20 October, the authorities submitted a list of grant awards to projects selected under the calls, assessed as part of the 3rd payment request. These grant awards concern 3 886 cooperation projects between companies, academia, and R&D organizations under matching grants as well as 827 digital vouchers and 515 innovative vouchers. Further, the authorities also submitted grant awards to six consortia. Therefore, both the overall objective of 3931 and the target of 3 538 cooperation projects between companies, academia and R&D organisations and vouchers were significantly overachieved.

The investment is expected to result in:

- **Establishing at least 2 “transformative and innovative” consortia**

The authorities submitted six partnership agreements, all of which were concluded in May 2025. The founding members of the consortia are Slovak companies, universities or institutes as well as partners from other Member States. As evidenced in Annexes 3a and 4a, 3b and 4b, 3c and 4c, 3d and 4d, 3e and 4e and 3f and 4f, as listed under Section 2 which detail the content of those projects, six consortia were established in sectors such as AI, informatics, biotechnology as well as social innovations which are considered as transformative and innovative sectors of economy.

Further, the authorities submitted grant awards concluded between the government and each of the six consortia. As demonstrated by Annex 1, these agreements were concluded between 6 and 20 June 2025 and are published in the registry of public contracts. In particular, these agreements set out that the duration of each project is 5 years (Article 4.3), the consortium is entitled to an advance payment of up to 40 % of the total amount for research equipment (Article 4.1) and the final deadline for reimbursement of eligible expenditure is 30 September 2027 at the latest (Article 3). The project descriptions are set out in attachment 2 of each agreement. As the agreements were e-signed and due to the inoperability of the Slovak electronic file with the supported electronic format in the European Commission, the authorities submitted these in a version that was not signed and dated. The Commission services conducted an on-the-spot check on 24 October 2025 to verify their date and electronic signatures. This check was completed successfully, confirming that six consortia were established.

- **2 760 collaborative projects under matching grants**

As evidenced by Annex 1, the authorities submitted a list of 3 886 collaborative projects under matching grants. These projects concerned a commercial collaboration of a university or a research institute with businesses from Slovakia or abroad (e.g. laboratory sample analysis, mechanical tests as well as research analysis concerning topics such as measurement of transport duration of consignments purchased from

these institutions and linked to their research). These collaborations were then matched by grant awards from the government to that university or research institute.

Following the selection of a random sample of 80 projects, Slovakia submitted the grant awards concluded between a government and the sampled institutions, including the list of collaborative projects with businesses, as well as invoices demonstrating for each sampled unit that the commercial collaboration took place. Further, Slovakia submitted the invoices for such projects that featured information identical to that related to the sampled units, that is in all the three categories of company name, amount and contract number. The evidence provided for a sample of 80 confirmed that the requirement of the target 9.7 whereby grant awards were provided to 2 760 collaborative projects under matching grants has been met. This evidence also provided reassurances that any projects featuring information duplicate to the sampled units took place at a different time.

- **450 innovative and 720 digital vouchers**

As evidenced by Annex 1 and Supplement to Annex 1, the authorities submitted two lists of innovative and digital vouchers, amounting to 515 innovative vouchers and 827 digital vouchers.

Following the selection of a random sample of 80 projects, Slovakia submitted the grant awards concluded between a government and the sampled companies that received innovative digital vouchers. The evidence provided for a sample of 80 confirmed that vouchers were granted to companies for funding of diverse innovative or digital projects, for example customized digitalization solutions, digital energy optimisation, cybersecurity, mobile apps for shared services and hence that the requirement of the target 9.7 concerning grant awards for 450 innovative and 720 digital vouchers has been met.

As the grant awards were e-signed and due to the inoperability of the Slovak electronic file with the supported electronic format in the European Commission, the authorities submitted these in a version that was not signed and dated. The Commission services conducted an on-the-spot check on 5 November 2025 to verify their date and electronic signatures. This check was completed successfully, confirming that the sampled grant agreements were signed.

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

SK-C[C9]-I[I4]-I[C9.13]: Number of selected projects addressing the challenges of the green transition

Related Measure: C9.I4 Research and innovation to decarbonise the economy

Quantitative Indicator: Number of projects

Baseline: 0

Target: 27

Time: Q4 2024

1. Context:

The investment aims at improving synergies in RDI topics between national and EU level. The focus shall be on the entire research and innovation cycle (Technology readiness level 1-9) with the highest allocation directed to demonstration projects and more advanced technology readiness levels (TRL).

Target 19.13 requires thematic calls to be launched to support the green transition as well as resilience and adaptation to climate change in line with topics expected in the thematic priorities of Horizon Europe, such as carbon free energy, electrification, hydrogen, battery technologies and alternative fuels, low emission industrial processes and materials and bio-economy.

Target 9.13 is the second target of the investment, and it follows the completion of milestone 9.12. It will be followed by target 9.14, related to the approval of a summary report on completed and ongoing projects. The investment has a final expected date for implementation by 30 June 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.
2	Annex 1: List of supported projects and beneficiaries with signed grant contracts (submitted 26 June 2025).	A document listing all selected projects with signed contracts, including a description and specification of the Technology Readiness Level to be supported, name and type of project, the name of the beneficiary as well as links to the published contracts available online.
3	Annex 2 (a–d): Published lists of applicants who met and did not meet the eligibility criteria for granting the Facility, and	Lists of applicants under each call with all relevant information, including the list of eligible applicants, the list of successful applicants and approved amounts.

	lists of beneficiaries under each call. (submitted 30 June 2025).	
4	Contracts between the Slovak government represented by the Research agency and Ministry of Economy and final beneficiaries	The contracts set out the contractual relationship between the government and the final beneficiaries. Moreover, they set out the call (including related Technology Readiness Levels) under which the project is supported, a description of the project, as well as the aims, outputs and milestones to be met by each project.
5	Horizontal summary description and specification of the technology readiness level for the projects supported under Investment 4	Document drafted by Slovak authorities describing the technology readiness level of the various supported projects, including examples

3. Analysis:

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

Of the overall objective of 30 projects, grant awards to at least 27 projects, under the calls addressing the challenges of the green transition and decarbonisation

As evidenced by Annex 1 (evidence no. 2), the Slovak authorities submitted a list of 30 projects selected under calls for expression of interest with signed award contracts, including a specification of the Technology Readiness Level to be supported, name and description of project, the name of the beneficiary as well as links to the published contracts available online.

As evidenced by Annex 2 (evidence no. 3), the Slovak authorities submitted a list of applicants who met and did not meet the eligibility criteria for the Facility, including lists of beneficiaries under each call concerned: (i) call for support of research projects aimed at decarbonising the economy in TRL levels 1-3, (ii) call for applications aimed at supporting projects that are part of an Important Project of Common European Interest (IPCEI) for the implementation of hydrogen technologies, (iii) call for supporting the development of innovative decarbonisation solutions and (iv) call for supporting the development of innovative decarbonisation solutions 2. The launch of calls (i), (ii) and (iii) has been assessed under the 3rd payment request.

Slovakia also submitted signed agreements for each project supported by a grant award (evidence no. 4). These agreements were concluded between final beneficiaries and the government, represented by the Research agency or the Ministry of Economy. In each contract (see Article 2 of the submitted contracts), the Slovak government commits to support projects selected for support under one of the four calls listed above. The vast majority of contracts were e-signed. Due to the inoperability of the Slovak electronic file with the supported electronic format in the European Commission, the Slovak authorities submitted such contracts in a version that was not signed and dated. The Commission services conducted an on-the-spot check on 24 October 2025 to verify the date and electronic signatures of all selected contracts. This check was completed successfully, confirming that the requirements of the target have been met, and that Slovakia has supported via grant awards 30 thematic projects under calls addressing the challenges of the green transition and decarbonisation, thus exceeding the target of 27 by 3 projects.

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled.

SK-C[C9]-I[I5]-I[C9.16]: Number of RDI projects selected under the calls addressing the challenges of digital transformation.

Related Measure: C9.I5 Research and innovation for the digitalisation of the economy

Quantitative Indicator: Number of projects

Baseline: 0

Target: 140

Time: Q4 2024

1. Context:

The investment aims at improving synergies in ‘digital’ RDI topics between the national and EU level. The investment consists of grant support and/or support via financial instruments to projects supporting the digitalisation of the economy, in line with the thematic priorities of Horizon Europe, such as for example digital and industrial technologies, internet of things, artificial intelligence and robotics. The support aims at the entire research and innovation cycle (Technology readiness level (TRL) 1-9).

Target 9.16 requires that, of the overall objective to select 155 projects, at least 140 projects are selected under the thematic schemes (such as demand-driven calls and/or financial instruments) for thematic projects addressing digital transformation challenges in different technology readiness levels (TRL 1-9).

Target 9.16 is the second step of the implementation of the investment, and it follows the completion of milestone 9.15, related to the launch of calls for thematic demand-driven projects addressing the challenges of the digital transition. It will be followed by the completion of milestone 9.17, related to the implementation of calls for thematic demand-driven projects addressing the challenges of the digital transition. The investment has a final expected date for implementation by 30 March 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.
2	Annex 1: List of supported projects and beneficiaries with signed grant contracts, as well as projects financed through the financial instrument (submitted 26 June 2025).	A document listing all selected projects with signed contracts, including a description and specification of the Technology Readiness Level to be supported, name and type of project, the name of the beneficiary as well as links to the published contracts available online.

3	Annex 2 (a–d): Published lists of applicants who met and did not meet the eligibility criteria for granting the Facility, and lists of beneficiaries under each call. (submitted 30 June 2025).	Lists of applicants under each call with all relevant information, including the list of eligible applicants, the list of successful applicants and approved amounts.
3	Annex 3: Financial instrument funding contract. (submitted 30 June 2025).	Financing contract for the financial instrument concluded between the Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic and Slovak Investment Holding, a.s.
4	Annex 3a: Information disclosed on the financial instrument. (submitted 30 June 2025).	A link to an official announcement by Slovak Investment Holding, a.s. concerning the introduction of a portfolio guarantee instrument supporting projects in digitalisation, automation, and research and development, funded from the Recovery and Resilience Plan.
5	Annex 4 (a–h): Contracts (and any relevant amendments) concluded with financial intermediaries. (submitted 30 June 2025).	Portfolio guarantee agreements signed between the National Development Fund III., s.r.o. (managed by the Slovak Investment Holding), as guarantor, and participating financial intermediaries.
6	In the context of the sampling analysis, additional evidence provided for a sample of 60 units, including the contracts between the Slovak government represented by the Research agency and Ministry of Economy and final beneficiaries (submitted 30 June 2025).	The contracts set out the contractual relationship between the government and the final beneficiaries. Moreover, they set out the call (including related Technology Readiness Levels) under which the project is supported, a description of the project, as well as the aims, outputs and milestones to be met by each project.
7	Horizontal summary description and specification of the technology readiness level for the projects supported under Investment 5	Document drafted by Slovak authorities describing the technology readiness level of the various supported projects, including examples

3. Analysis:

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

Of the overall objective of 155 projects, grant/loan awards to at least 140 projects under the thematic schemes (such as demand-driven calls and/or financial instruments) for thematic projects addressing digital transformation challenges.

As evidenced by Annex 1 (evidence no. 2), the Slovak authorities submitted a list of 146 projects selected under calls for expression of interest with signed award contracts, including a specification of the Technology Readiness Level to be supported, name and description of project, the name of the beneficiary as well as links to the published contracts available online. In addition, as evidenced by the same annex, the Slovak authorities submitted a list of 8 projects which received support under a financial instrument set up by the Office of the Government and the national promotional institution, Slovak Investment Holding. In total, 154 projects and/or companies were supported via grant/loan awards.

As evidenced by Annex 2 (evidence no. 3), the Slovak authorities submitted a list of applicants who met and did not meet the eligibility criteria for the Facility, including lists of beneficiaries under each call concerned: (i) call for support of research projects aimed at digitising the economy in Technology Readiness Level (TRL) levels 1-3; (ii) call for supporting the development of innovative digital solutions; (iii) call for applications aimed at supporting projects that are part of an Important Project of Common European Interest (IPCEI) in the field of microelectronics; and (iv) call for supporting the development of innovative digital solutions 2. The launch of calls (i), (ii) and (iii) has been assessed under the 3rd payment request. In addition, the Slovak authorities submitted evidence concerning support to companies via a financial instrument, including the contract concluded between the Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic and Slovak Investment Holding (Annex 3, evidence no. 4) and eight subsequently concluded contracts with participating financial intermediaries (and any relevant amendments) (Annex 4 a-h, evidence no. 5). All the above-mentioned thematic schemes (grant calls and financial instrument) support projects addressing digital transformation challenges.

Following the selection of a random sample of 60 projects, Slovakia submitted signed agreements for each project supported by a grant award (evidence no. 6). These agreements were concluded between final beneficiaries and the government, represented by the Research agency or the Ministry of Economy. In each contract (see Article 2 of the submitted contracts), the Slovak government commits to support projects selected for support under one of the four calls listed above. One of the projects in the sample concerned a company having benefitted from support under the financial instrument – for this project, proof of granting de minimis aid from the Antimonopoly Office of the Slovak Republic was provided. The vast majority of contracts were e-signed. Due to the inoperability of the Slovak electronic file with the supported electronic format in the European Commission, the Slovak authorities submitted such contracts in a version that was not signed and dated. The Commission services conducted an on-the-spot check on 24 October 2025 to verify the date and electronic signatures of all selected contracts. This check was completed successfully, confirming that the requirements of the target have been met, and that Slovakia has supported 154 thematic projects addressing digital transformation challenges with grants or loan awards, thus exceeding the target of 140 by 14 projects.

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled.

SK-C[C10]-I[I1]-I[C10.4]: Number of one-stop shops for integration in Slovakia

Related Measure: C10.I1 Support tools and assistance for specific target groups

Quantitative Indicator: Number of one-stop shops for integration in Slovakia

Baseline: 0

Target: 3

Time: Q4 2024

1. Context:

The objective of the investment is to help the integration of highly qualified foreign workers, foreign higher education students, Slovaks living abroad, returnees from abroad or family members of these target groups.

Target 10.4 requires setting up of three one-stop-shops providing services aimed at facilitating the establishment in Slovakia. A concept document for the setting up of one-stop-shops shall be elaborated.

Target 10.4 is accompanied by target 10.5 (services to beneficiaries through the IOM Migration Information Centre) in this payment request. They are the only two targets of this investment. The investment 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 target and the measure (including all the constitutive elements) were satisfactorily fulfilled.
2	Annex 1 - Concept document for setting-up of one-stop shops (named "Foreign Services Centres" in the Slovak official documents) for integration services in Slovakia	The concept document was approved and signed by the State Secretary in the Ministry of Interior of Slovakia on 30 May 2024. It describes the rationale behind the setting-up of the one-stop shops, their number and location, defines the requirements for the minimum range of services provided, and their organisational set-up within the Ministry of Interior.
3	Annex 2 - Website of the one-stop shops	The document provides the link to the webpage of the one-stop shops (within the official website of the Ministry of Interior), with key information about the target groups, services provided, location and working hours.
4	Annex 3 - Organisational structure of the one-stop shops	Document describing the organisational structure of the one-stop-shops, dated and signed by Lukáš

		Baňacký, a director at the Migration Office, on 13 August 2025.
5	Annex 3a - Scanned and signed employment contracts of the employees of one-stop shops	The 13 documents are scanned copies of employment contracts concluded between the Ministry of Interior and civil servants that have assigned activity in the methodological unit (1) or the three one-stop shops in Bratislava (5), Žilina (4), Košice (3). The documents are dated between 16 December 2024 and 10 April 2025.
6	Annex 3b - Amendment from 25 October 2024 of the internal rules and procedures of the Migration Office of the Ministry of Interior related to the organizational structure of the Migration Office	The document, last amended on 25 October 2024, inserts a new article 22a which introduces the “service centres for foreigners” (official name of one-stop shops in Slovak official documents) in Bratislava, Žilina and Košice into the organisational structure of the Migration Office and describes its tasks. Original name of the evidence: <i>“Ciastka_10_novela org. por. MO.pdf”</i>
7	Annex 3c - Proposal to designate the investment project "National University Hospital of General Milan Rastislav Štefánik" as a strategic investment	The document, dated from 29 April 2025, describes a strategic investment project, which will be built on the current premises of the Bratislava one-stop shop (Ministry of Interior building in Vajnory). The document was approved by the government on 30 April 2025: Material Detail Portal OV https://rokovania.gov.sk/RVL/Material/30729/1. The document explains in point 18 page 5 that the land in the administration of the Ministry of the Interior shall not be affected by the construction until the replacement of the facilities located on those lands has been provided.
8	Annex 4 - Job specifications for the staff employed in the one-stop shops	The document, dated and signed by Lukáš Baňacký, a director at the Migration Office, on 13 August 2025, specifies for each type of work profile (methodologist, coordinator, workers from the police department for foreigners, socio-cultural mediator and labour market officer), what are the qualifications required and the activities carried out as part of the job, as well as the weblinks to the selection procedure.

9	Annex 5a - Completion of trainings by staff employed in the one-stop shops	16 documents certifying the completion of various trainings by all staff employed in the one-stop shops (13 employees). The documents are dated between 4 February 2025 and 24 June 2025.
10	Annex 6 - Process map on services provided by the one-stop shops	This document, dated and signed by Lukáš Baňacký, a director at the Migration Office, on 13 August 2025, illustrates the process for handling requests from foreigners addressed to the one-stop shops.
11	Annex 7 - List of manuals available to employees of the one-stop shops and the manuals themselves	8 manuals are listed and provided as part of annex 7: • Manual on temporary residence for the purpose of employment and EU blue card, dated from 21 March 2025 • Manual on options for accommodation for foreigners, dated from 21 March 2025 • Manual with information on pre-primary education and kindergardens in Slovakia, dated from 28 March 2025 • Manual containing an overview of language schools, dated from 28 March 2025 • Manual with information on primary schools, dated from 31 March 2025 • Manual with information on secondary schools, dated from 31 March 2025 • Manual explaining the health insurance system, dated from 21 March 2025 • Manual explaining the social security system, dated from 31 March 2025
12	Annex 8 - List of trainings for specific target groups	List of trainings delivered or planned to be delivered by the employees of one-stop shops to specific target groups and focused on integration of foreigners.
13	Annex 8a - example of a training delivered by the employees of one-stop shops	The document dated from 14 July 2025 certifies that a training course was organised on 10 June 2025 in the premises of the Welcome Center of the Comenius University in Bratislava, providing practical introduction to the residence types for foreigners in Slovakia.

14	Annexes 9a and 9b - Statistical data on the number of in-person cases handled by the one-stop shops till 10 April 2025	Internal data gathered by the employees of one-stop shops displaying a total number of in-person consultations provided in the period from January 2025 to 10 April 2025, as well as a breakdown by one-stop-shop, type of information/service provided and related thematic area (residence matter, labour or social integration), for each target group.
15	Annex 10 - Template and example for reporting on cases handled by the employees of the one-stop shops	A document with an example of a reporting done by the central contact point (methodological unit) on cases handled in the period from 16 January 2025 to 10 April 2025 (original name of the evidence: <i>"Príloha 10 Prehľad vybavených klientov - centrálny kontaktný bod.pdf"</i>) and another one between 11 April and 31 July 2025 (original name of the evidence <i>"Pracovný výkaz 11.04. - 31.07. 2025_podpísaný.pdf"</i>). The annex also contains a reporting template applicable since 1 August 2025, which is to be used by each employee (original name of the evidence: <i>"Pracovný výkaz zamestnanca centra služieb cudzincom_NEW.xlsx"</i>).
16	Annex 10a - Examples of written email exchanges between one-stop shops employees and foreigners asking for assistance	12 different written exchanges illustrate inquiries submitted by foreigners and responses provided by the employees of the methodological unit/ one-stop shops. The documents are dated between March and August 2025. The annex also includes examples of 3 feedback forms dated between 18 July 2025 and 01 August 2025 filled out by foreigners receiving services and signed by the employees of the one-stop shops (original evidence name: <i>"PríkladySlužieb_CSCBratislava.pdf"</i>).
17	Annexes 11a, 11b, 11c - Confirmation by the Ministry of Interior that the one-stop shops in Bratislava, Košice and Žilina are set-up and operational	The documents provide a signed confirmation by the Minister of Interior of the Slovak Republic that the one-stop shops in Bratislava, Košice and Žilina were set up on 30 December 2024 and are providing services to foreigners, in line with the requirements of the Recovery and Resilience Plan of Slovakia.
18	Annex 12 - Description of the type of services provided by one-stop shops and personnel of each one-stop shops	The document, dated and signed by Lukáš Baňacký, a director at the Migration Office, on 13 August 2025 provides information on the type of services provided by the one-stop shops (first

		contact services, services in the area of residence matters and visa, social integration and integration into the labour market) and personnel recruited in each one-stop shop.
19	Annex 13 - List of staff recruited in each one-stop shop	The document lists the names of the staff recruited in each one-stop shop, per work profile, in the period from 31 December 2024 to 1 May 2025.
20	Annex 14 - guidelines for the operation of the one-stop shops (named “Foreign Services Centres” in the Slovak official documents) on the avoidance of double funding between activities carried out under the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) and the Slovak Recovery and Resilience Plan (RRP)	Guidelines from 23 January 2025 signed by the Migration Office of the Ministry of Interior explaining the dividing line between the services provided under AMIF through the Migration Integration Centre of the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and under the RRP through the one-stop shops.
21	Annex 15 - additional explanation on avoidance of double funding between activities carried out under AMIF and the RRP	The document provides additional explanation on the avoidance of double funding between activities carried out under AMIF and the RRP, with reference to eligibility conditions in the AMIF grant with the IOM (project implementation 1 April 2024 – 31 December 2026).
22	Annex 16 - Confirmation letter signed by the State Secretary of the Ministry of Interior on 22 August 2025	The letter signed by Lucia Kurilovská, a State Secretary at the Slovak Ministry of Interior confirming continuity of premises owned by the Ministry of Interior, which will be affected by the construction of a new hospital (Foreigners police department and Bratislava one-stop shop) and will have to change location.

3. Analysis:

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

Setting up of three one-stop shops [...]

Three one-stop shops, also called the “Foreign Service Centres” (FSC) in the official documents of Slovakia, were established under the authority of the Migration Office of the Ministry of the Interior. The three one-stop shops in Bratislava, Košice and Žilina were set up on 30 December 2024, as confirmed by the Minister of Interior of the Slovak Republic in Annexes 11a, 11b and 11c, with some of the employee contracts starting on 30 December 2024 (Annexes 3a and 13).

The internal rules and procedures of the Migration Office of the Ministry of the Interior were amended on 25 October 2024 adding a new article 22a, which introduces the “Foreign Service Centres” in Bratislava, Košice and Žilina into the organisational structure of the Migration Office and describes their tasks (Annex 3b). The centres operate under the coordination of a “methodological unit” at the Migration Office of the Ministry of interior. Each of the three centres has the same organisational structure (Annex 3), and its personnel includes the same work profiles (coordinators, officers dealing with residence matters, socio-cultural mediators and labour market integration officers, as described in Annex 4).

The Commission services conducted a hybrid (physical and online¹) on-the-spot check on 29 July and 8 August 2025 to verify that the three one-stop-shops were set up, are operational and used. This check was completed successfully, confirming that the three one-stop shops exist and have active staff providing services on the ground.

[...] providing services aimed at facilitating establishment in Slovakia.

The one-stop shops provide services to the following target groups: highly qualified foreigners from EU Member States and third countries; Slovak citizens returning to Slovakia from abroad; persons holding the status (certificate) of a Slovak living abroad; foreign students in higher education in Slovakia; and family members of persons falling within the above categories (see the official webpage of the one-stop shops in Annex 2 and page 1 of Annex 14).

Employees of the one-stop shops treat an incoming request from a client received by email, through an in-person visit or by telephone (Annex 6). The exact type of services provided are detailed in Annex 12. Eight different manuals were developed for the recruited staff of the one-stop shops (Annex 7) to guide them in the provision of services in areas aimed at facilitating establishment in Slovakia: procedures for the temporary residence for the purpose of employment and EU blue card; accommodation services for foreigners; information on pre-primary education and kindergartens; language schools; primary and secondary schools; health insurance and social security system in Slovakia. In the period between 1 January 2025 and 10 April 2025, a total number of 2197 persons contacted the one-stop shops in-person (Annex 9a), requesting information or assistance with procedures for applying for temporary stays, long-term residence, permanent residence, temporary refuge, national visas, Blue Card (Annex 9b). The one-stop shops also provide consultation services via email, as illustrated for example in the exchanges documented in Annex 10a related to questions on health insurance (26 June 2025), Blue Card application process (20 May 2025), or permanent residence (29 May 2025). Employees of the one-stop shops are recording the number of cases handled (see examples of reporting tables by the central contact point at the methodological unit in Annex 10). Since August 2025, beneficiaries of the services are invited to share their feedback on the way their query was addressed through a form signed by them and the employee of the one-stop shop (Annex 10a, document “*PríkladySlužieb_CSCBratislava.pdf*”).

In addition, integration workshops are currently being prepared by the employees of the one-stop shops for specific target groups on the following topics: job seeking opportunities for graduates and students, recognition of diplomas and qualifications; setting up a business in Slovakia; labour market integration and Slovak cultural context (Annex 8). One training was delivered on 10 June 2025 in the premises of the

¹ Physical for the methodological unit at the Migration Office, the Bratislava and Košice one-stop shop and online for Žilina one-stop shop.

Welcome Center of the Comenius University in Bratislava, which provided practical introduction on the residence policy and rules in Slovakia (Annex 8a).

The Commission services carried out a hybrid (physical and online) on-the-spot check on 29 July and 8 August 2025 to verify that the three one-stop-shops provide services aimed at facilitating establishment in Slovakia. This check was completed successfully, confirming that the services are being provided.

A concept document for the setting up of one-stop-shops shall be elaborated.

The concept document for the setting-up of the “one-stop-shops” (Annex 1) was elaborated prior to their set-up. The document explains the rationale behind setting up of these one-stop shops (pages 4-5), their location (pages 5-9) and services that should be provided (pages 10-11).

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled.

SK-C[C10]-I[I1]-I[C10.5]: Number of beneficiaries using the IOM Migration Information Centre services

Related Measure: C10.I1 Support tools and assistance for specific target groups

Quantitative Indicator: Number

Baseline: 0

Target: 7000

Time: Q4 2024

1. Context:

The objective of the investment is to help the integration of highly qualified foreign workers, foreign higher education students, Slovaks living abroad, or family members of these target groups.

Target 10.5 requires providing services of the IOM Migration Information Centre to at least 7000 beneficiaries. The beneficiaries shall fall under one of the following specific target groups: highly qualified foreign workers, foreign higher education students, beneficiaries belonging to the selected groups defined in the Resolution in Reform 1 or family members of these target groups.

Target 10.5 is accompanied by target 10.4 (services of the one-stop shops) in this payment request. They are the only two targets of this investment. The services to beneficiaries through the IOM Migration Information Centre provided under the target (10.5) were completed by 31 December 2024, which is the final expected date for the implementation of the investment.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence	Short description
1	Summary document	Summary document duly justifying how the target and the measure (including all the constitutive elements) were satisfactorily fulfilled.
2	Annex 1 – Contract between the Slovak Ministry of Interior and the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) on the provision of RRF funds	The contract between the Ministry of Interior and the IOM on the provision of RRF funds for the delivery of target C10.5 was signed on 1 July by the Ministry and 9 June 2022 by the IOM. It includes a project description in Annex A.
3	Annex 2 – List of beneficiaries receiving support from the IOM Migration Information Centre	An MS Excel file provided by the Ministry of Interior containing a list of 7 930 beneficiaries with unique identifiers, who were provided services by the IOM Migration Information Centre in the form of advice, language course services, labour market integration services, promotion of socio-cultural orientation or other.

4	Annex 3 – Stories of beneficiaries of the IOM services	Document providing stories of beneficiaries benefiting from the services of the IOM aimed at facilitating their establishment in Slovakia.
5	Annex 4a – Contract between the Ministry of Interior and IOM on the provision of AMIF funds for 2024-2026	The contract was signed on 12 November 2024. It has a duration from April 2024 till December 2026.
6	Annex 4b – Grant agreement between the Ministry of Interior and IOM on the provision of AMIF funds for 2020-2021	The grant agreement was signed on 20 December 2019. It has a duration from 1 January 2020 till 31 December 2021.
7	Annex 5 – Resolution Reform 1	Government resolution 105/2021 (UV-3248/2021) with links to supporting government materials and the subsequent Act 72/2022 which amends Act 40/1993.
8	Additional evidence for a sample of 60 units	In the context of the sampling analysis, additional evidence dated between 2022-2024 was provided for a sample of 60 units. This includes extracts from a database of the IOM recording the exact services provided to each beneficiary as well as the specific target group under which the beneficiary falls, and other supporting documents demonstrating the service provision (email correspondence, language certificates, traces of telephone conversation, proof of financial assistance for requalification, or other).
9	Annex 7 - Explanatory note of the IOM	The note signed by the IOM on 25 July 2025 provides additional explanation on the evidence submitted for the sample.
10	Annex 8 – Internal manual of IOM for the provision of services under the RRF	The manual signed on 1 August 2022 provides instructions for the employees of the IOM on how to determine target groups of beneficiaries (and link them to relevant funding source), record necessary information on the beneficiaries and ensure quality of information recorded.

3. Analysis:

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

During the period 2022-2024, [...]

As evidenced in the contract signed between the Ministry of Interior and the IOM on the provision of RRF funds (Article 3, Annex 1), services of the IOM Migration Information Centre to specific target groups have

a pre-determined duration from 1 January 2022 till 31 December 2024. All evidence submitted in the context of the sampling analysis was dated between 2022-2024.

[...] at least 7 000 beneficiaries shall be provided services of the IOM Migration Information Centre. The beneficiaries shall fall under one of the following specific target groups: highly qualified foreign workers, foreign higher education students, beneficiaries belonging to the selected groups defined in the Resolution in Reform 1 or family members of these target groups.

The types of beneficiaries and services provided are detailed in the contract between the Ministry of Interior and the IOM (Annex 1, annex A “Project Document”). As evidenced by Annex 2, the IOM provided services between 2022-2024 in the form of advice, language course services, labour market integration services, promotion of socio-cultural orientation or other to 7 930 beneficiaries. All of the 7 930 beneficiaries fall under one of the following specific target groups: highly qualified foreign workers, foreign higher education students, beneficiaries belonging to the selected groups defined in the Resolution in Reform 1, or family members of these target groups. One beneficiary could benefit from one or more services. The type of beneficiaries defined as beneficiaries belonging to the selected groups defined in the Resolution linked to Reform 1 (Resolution 105/2021 of 2021 and its supporting government material) refer to Slovaks living abroad and returnees, as evidenced in Annex 5. According to the internal manual of the IOM (Annex 8), the IOM assesses the beneficiary type and uniquely assigns them to the RRF source of funding, labelling them accordingly in the IOM internal database. The beneficiary type is specified for each beneficiary in Annex 2.

Slovakia exceeded the target of 7 000 by 930 beneficiaries.

Following the selection of a random sample of 60 beneficiaries, Slovakia submitted additional evidence including extracts from a database of the IOM recording the name and country of the beneficiary (where available), the beneficiary target group and the exact services provided to each of the 60 sampled beneficiaries. Additional evidence was submitted depending on whether the service was provided in person, via email or via phone call. This included tables listing email communications (without their content), phone call database extracts (operated through AmazonConnect) and registration forms. For language course services (including the promotion of socio-cultural orientation), registration confirmation emails and language course database extracts were provided. When available, the evidence was complemented by signed attendance sheets and language course certificates. For other types of labour market integration services, the evidence included financial support requests, webinar invitation emails, attendance sheets and registration forms. The submitted evidence allowed to establish that there were real beneficiaries, that the beneficiaries fell under one of the specific target groups and that services were provided to them.

The Commission services conducted a hybrid (physical and online) on-the-spot check on 19 September 2025 to verify that the IOM database for recording each beneficiary matched with the PDF extracts provided and that the phone call recording system and language course database matched with the respective PDF extracts. The Commission services notably checked the contact details, the beneficiary type and the EU funding source assigned to each sampled beneficiary. The Commission services also inspected and verified (through the physical on-the-spot check only) the contents of email correspondence between the IOM and the beneficiaries for the 60 sampled units, which could not be submitted officially nor shown online due to confidentiality concerns and the internal IOM privacy policy regulation.

The on-the-spot check and the evidence provided for a sample of 58 units confirmed that the requirements of the target have been met. The combination of the evidence listed above and the on-the-spot check verification confirmed that the beneficiaries fall under one of the target groups of highly qualified foreign workers, foreign higher education students, beneficiaries belonging to the selected groups defined in the Resolution in Reform 1, or family members of these targets groups and that services were provided to them by the IOM in the period 2022 – 2024.

Despite the on-the-spot check, the Commission services identified two cases from the sample of 60 for which it was not possible to establish that services were provided. These two cases were phone call advice consultations for which only limited supporting evidence was provided in addition to the database extract. These two units are considered invalid.

In addition, minor discrepancies were identified in several database entries with respect to the name of the beneficiary or the date of the service provided. However, the supporting evidence together with the on-the-spot check confirmed that these represented clerical errors as the email correspondence allowed to establish the correct beneficiary details and the date of the service provision. The additional documentation thus provided reasonable assurance on the validity of the units.

On this basis, a statistical analysis was carried out taking into account the overachievement of the target of 7 930 units for a required 7 000. Based on this, there is statistical assurance that the target has been met, and all its constitutive elements have been satisfactorily fulfilled.

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled.

SK-C[C10]-I[I3]-I[C10.7]: Number of awarded scholarships for talented students

Related Measure: C10.I3 Scholarships for domestic and foreign talented students

Quantitative Indicator: Number of awarded scholarships for talented students

Baseline: 0

Target: 4226

Time: Q4 2024

1. Context:

The objective of the investment is to financially support domestic and foreign talented students.

Target 10.7 requires awarding at least 4226 scholarships for most talented domestic students, top talents from abroad and talented socially disadvantaged students. It also requires supporting students entering a higher education institution between 2022 and 2024 during three years of their higher education studies. Contracts shall be signed to provide financial incentive for universities receiving the students.

Target 10.7 is the only target of this investment. The investment 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 target (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled.
2	Annex 1 – Methodology for awarding scholarships to talented domestic and foreign students in the academic year 2022-2023	The document, published on the official website of the call on 2 May 2022, explains the attribution of points to candidates and the process of selection of students for each of the target groups.
3	Annex 2 - Methodology for awarding scholarships to talented Slovak students and students from socially disadvantaged backgrounds or belonging to specific disadvantaged groups in the academic year 2023-2024	The document, published on the official website of the call on 12 June 2023, explains the attribution of points to candidates and the process of selection of students for each of the target groups.
4	Annex 3 - Methodology for awarding scholarships to talented students from abroad in the academic year 2023-2024	The document, published on the official website of the call on 28 August 2023, explains the attribution of points to candidates and the process of selection of talented students from abroad.
5	Annex 4 - Methodology for awarding scholarships to talented Slovak students and students from socially disadvantaged backgrounds or belonging to specific disadvantaged groups in the academic year 2024-2025	The document, published on the official website of the call on 15 May 2024, explains the attribution of points to candidates and the process of selection of students for each of the target groups.

6	Annex 5 – Methodology for awarding scholarships to talented students from abroad in the academic year 2024-2025	The document, published on the official website of the call on 27 February 2024, explains the attribution of points to candidates and the process of selection of talented students from abroad.
7	Annex 6 – List of universities that concluded a framework contract with the Slovak Ministry of Education, Research, Development and Youth on the provision of RRF funds	The table presents a list of 30 universities which signed contracts with the Slovak Ministry of Education, Research, Development and Youth (hereinafter referred to as the “Ministry of Education”) to receive RRF funds for students received under the scholarship scheme. The table contains the contract number, the year of conclusion of the contract, as well as the link to the Central Register of Contracts (CRZ).
	Annex 6a – signed contracts	Scanned copies of contracts signed by the Slovak Ministry of Education, Research, Development and Youth with 30 universities to receive RRF funds for students received under the scholarship scheme.
8	Annex 7 – List of 4226 scholarships	Excel spreadsheet listing 4226 scholarships declared for the fulfilment of this target (situation on 31.07.2025), indicating for each beneficiary the unique identifier, university, type of scholarship awarded, and when it was awarded. (Original name “ <i>Priloha c. 7. Zoznam stipendistov_verzia 2.xlsx</i> ”)
9	Annex 7a – Number of scholarships awarded	The document dated 29.07.2025, approved and signed by JUDr. Marcel Vysocký, PhD. Director-General of Section and Mr Róbert Zsemer, State Secretary of the Ministry of Education, certifies the number of 4226 scholarships awarded and provides a breakdown by year and target group of the number of scholarships. (Original name “ <i>scan podpísanej tabulky odpoctov stipendistov K10I03.pdf</i> ”)
10	Additional evidence for a sample of 60 units	In the context of the sampling analysis, additional evidence dated between years 2022-2024 was provided for a sample of 60 units. This includes application forms for scholarships (indicating high school graduation grades), results of standardized international tests where applicable, award decisions, diplomas demonstrating participation in extracurricular activities and where applicable, certificates proving that the student is socially disadvantaged.
11	Annexes 8-14	List of successful scholarship applicants for talented domestic students or students from socially disadvantaged backgrounds in calendar year 2022, 2023 and 2024

	Annex 15	PDF list of awarded domestic and foreign scholarships
12	Annex 16 - List of links	A list of websites indicating the publication of the yearly call for scholarships, together with the methodologies and the results of the selection process. (Original name " <i>list-of-links-68ff8c5e193ff.docx</i> ")

3. Analysis:

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

Award at least 4226 scholarships for: a) most talented domestic students, taking into account their high-school graduation grade; b) top talents from abroad measured by standardised international tests; and talented socially disadvantaged students, taking into account their high-school graduation grade. The RRF shall support students entering a higher education institution between 2022 and 2024.

The call for application for scholarships is published on the official website of the Ministry of Education, Research, Development and Youth (Annex 16) and explains that the RRF funds will be used to award scholarships for students entering a higher education institution between 2022 and 2024, therefore supporting scholarships until 2027.

The Slovak authorities provided a list of 4226 scholarships awarded for the three target groups (Annex 7). The excel spreadsheet includes a total number of 3070 scholarships awarded to most talented domestic students, 71 scholarships to top talents from abroad and 1085 scholarships for talented socially disadvantaged students. A breakdown of number of scholarships awarded by year and target group has also been provided by the Slovak authorities (Annex 7a), as well as a list of awarded domestic and foreign scholarships signed by the Minister of Education (Annex 15).

Following the selection of a random sample of 60 beneficiaries, Slovakia submitted additional evidence including application forms for every sampled student (indicating the academic year between 2022 and 2024 for which the student entered the higher education institution), scanned scholarship award decisions, as well as evidence related to the specific criteria of each of the target groups for the award of the scholarships.

The Commission services conducted an online on-the-spot check on 24 October and 10 November 2025 to verify that the information in the database of the Ministry of Education corresponds to the information submitted for each of the sampled unit. The Commission services inspected the profiles of each student and the year of their registration (2022-2024) to university and cross-checked the information with the scanned and signed scholarship award decisions. This check was completed successfully, confirming the correctness of the data.

Regarding each of the target groups:

- i. For the most talented domestic students, high school graduation grades were supplied by NIVAM and recorded on the website used for registration. The grades are indicated in the application

form of each student for the main subject (Slovak or Hungarian language), foreign language and mathematics where applicable as percentile (or grades in exceptional cases). Proofs of participation in extracurricular activities were also supplied. In line with the respective methodologies for the three academic years (Annexes 1, 2 and 4) the award of scholarships for this target group was based on a scoring system that grants points for the high-school graduation grades and extracurricular activities. The Commission services verified during the on-the-spot check that the graduation grades in the registration system corresponded with the submitted application forms for each subject of the exam and that points were awarded for them as part of the scoring system determining the scholarship award. The Commission services also checked that the main subject of the exam (Slovak language and literature) is visible in the application form, as this information was not fully visible in the PDF extract of the application forms due to technical issues.

- ii. Talented students from abroad had to submit proof of a different nationality than Slovak. Declarations of honour had to be provided to state that the candidate has not resided permanently or temporarily in Slovakia. The ranking of candidates was determined on the basis of the results of the international SAT test, which were attached to the application form. In order to apply for a scholarship, the candidate had to obtain an overall score of at least 1050 in the SAT test (Annexes 3 and 5). A scan of the SAT score of 1050 was provided for the sampled unit of a talented student from abroad.
- iii. In line with the respective methodologies for the three academic years (Annexes 1, 2 and 4), the same criteria applied to the talented socially disadvantaged students as for the category of talented domestic students, with the difference that a lower threshold for high school graduation grades was considered for the award of scholarship. The grades were indicated in the application form of each student for the main subject (Slovak or Hungarian language), foreign language and mathematics where applicable as percentile (or grades in exceptional cases). In addition, evidence was supplied for these sampled units that during the last four years of the secondary school studies they were either: a member of a household that is provided with assistance in material need; in possession of a state-funded social scholarship; an orphan or a semi-orphan; living in a placement center or foster care; coming from a socially disadvantaged background; receiving a financial contribution for personal assistance or has in care a person with a severe disability; an asylum seeker or subsidiary protection person or an "unaccompanied minor"; under a long-term unfavourable health condition for the purposes of disability pension. The Commission services verified during the on-the-spot check of 10 November 2025 that the graduation grades in the registration system corresponded with the submitted application forms for each subject of the exam and that points were awarded for them as part of the scoring system determining the scholarship award. The Commission services also checked that the main subject of the exam (Slovak language and literature) is visible in the application form, as this information was not fully visible in the PDF application forms due to technical issues.

The on-the-spot check and the evidence provided for a sample of 60 units (43 for most talented domestic students, one for top talents from abroad and 16 talented socially disadvantaged students) confirmed that the requirements of the target have been met. The combination of the evidence listed above and the

on-the-spot check verification confirmed that the scholarships were awarded to students from the three target groups, taking into account the high school graduation grades or measured by international tests, and that the scholarships supported students entering a higher education institution between 2022 and 2024.

The scheme shall provide scholarships for selected students during three years of higher education studies.

The methodologies published by the Slovak Ministry of Education (Annexes 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5) explain that the scholarships are awarded and limited to the first three years of the bachelor's degree. For bachelor's degree programmes with a standard length of study of four years, the scholarship is awarded for the first three years of study. In the case of study programmes combining the first and second cycle of study, the scholarship is awarded for the first three years of study.

The evidence provided for a sample of 60 units confirmed that this requirement of the target has been met as each of the 60 scholarship award decisions indicated that the *“scholarship is awarded to the candidate for the first three years of full-time bachelor's degree studies according to Section 52 of the Act on Higher Education or the first three years of a study program combining the first and second degree of higher education according to Section 53 Para 4 letters b) of the Act on Higher Education in a full-time study programme”*.

Contracts shall be signed to provide financial incentive for universities receiving the students.

According to the methodologies published by the Slovak Ministry of Education, Research, Development and Youth (Annexes 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5), scholarships are paid to the scholarship holder by the universities. Financial incentives for universities receiving the students from the target groups are provided by the Ministry of Education following conclusion of contracts between the university representative and the Ministry. The list of signed contracts between each of the university receiving the students from the target groups and the Ministry are provided in Annex 6. Scanned and signed copies of the contracts are provided in Annex 6a, explaining the calculation of the financial amount to be paid per academic year to the university and the type of eligible expenses.

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled.

SK-C[C11]-I[I3]-I[C11.12]: Increase in the provision of atrial fibrillation surgeries

Related Measure: C11.I3 Digitalisation in health

Quantitative Indicator: Percentage increase the number of successful atrial fibrillation ablation surgeries

Baseline: 0

Target: 20

Time: Q4 2024

1. Context:

The investment aims at supporting the implementation of Reform 3, focusing on the centralisation of the management of the largest hospitals. This includes the integration of the Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system for a shared services centre in a pilot project involving 19 hospitals under the Ministry of Health's responsibility. The systems will be prepared for integration into the planned central hospital information system, with these hospitals remaining in the network after its completion.

Target C11.T12 consists in the equipment of three institutes of cardiovascular diseases with advanced technology to perform atrial fibrillation surgery. The introduction of this technology shall reduce the average time spent on the surgery by at least 30% and increase the number of successful ablation surgeries performed by at least 20%.

Target C11.T12 is the first target of the investment. It will be followed by the completion of the target C11.T11, related to the integration of the Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system in 19 hospitals. 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 and the reform (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled.
2	Annex 1 – Copy of the contract for the equipment of the National Institute of Cardiac and Vascular Diseases	Contract signed by the Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic (MoH) and the National Institute of Cardiac and Vascular Diseases, on 10 and 23 August 2023, for the equipment of the new technology to perform atrial fibrillation surgeries. (Marked annex 7 in summary document)
	Annex 2 – Copy of the contract for the equipment of the Central Slovak Institute of Cardiac and Vascular Diseases	Contract signed by the MoH and the Central Slovak Institute of Cardiac and Vascular Diseases, on 14 and 23 August 2023, for the equipment of the new technology to perform atrial fibrillation surgeries. (Marked annex 8 in summary document)
3	Annex 3 – Copy of the contract for the equipment of Slovak Republic with the	Contract signed by the MoH and the Eastern Slovakian Institute of Cardiac and Vascular

	Eastern Slovakian Institute of Cardiac and Vascular Diseases	Diseases, on 24 August and 11 September 2023, for the equipment of the new technology to perform atrial fibrillation surgeries. (Marked annex 9 in summary document)
4	Annex 4 – Copies of installation protocols for the functionality of the medical equipment installed at the National Institute of Cardiac and Vascular Diseases.	Installation protocols signed by the National Institute of Cardiac and Vascular Diseases and the medical equipment providers between January and May 2024. (Marked annex 11 in summary document)
5	Annex 5 – Copies of installation protocols for the functionality of the medical equipment installed at the Central Slovak Institute of Cardiac and Vascular Diseases	Installation protocols signed by the Central Slovak Institute of Cardiac and Vascular Diseases and the medical equipment providers between December 2023 and April 2024. (Marked annex 12 in summary document)
6	Annex 6 – Copies of installation protocols for the functionality of the medical equipment installed at the Eastern Slovakian Institute of Cardiac and Vascular Diseases	Installation protocols signed by the Central Slovak Institute of Cardiac and Vascular Diseases and the medical equipment providers between November 2023 and June 2025. (Marked annex 13 in summary document)
7	Annex 7 – Data extraction and certificate on the number of successful atrial fibrillation surgeries	Data on the number of successful atrial fibrillation surgeries registered by year and cardiovascular institute by the Slovak Association of Cardiac Arrhythmias certified on 3 June 2025. (Marked annexes 14 and 15 in summary document)
8	Annex 8 – Data extraction and certificate on the duration of atrial fibrillation surgeries in the National Institute of Cardiac and Vascular Diseases	Data on the number and duration of atrial fibrillation surgeries in the National Institute of Cardiac and Vascular Diseases registered by year, certified on 3 June 2025. (Marked annex 16 in summary document)
9	Annex 9 – Data extraction and certificate on the duration of atrial fibrillation surgeries in the Central Slovak Institute of Cardiac and Vascular Diseases	Data on the number and duration of atrial fibrillation surgeries in the Central Slovak Institute of Cardiac and Vascular Diseases registered by year, certified on 2 June 2025. (Marked annex 17 in summary document)
10	Annex 10 – Data extraction and certificate on the duration of atrial fibrillation surgeries in the Eastern Slovakian Institute of Cardiac and Vascular Diseases	Data on the number and duration of atrial fibrillation surgeries in the Eastern Slovakian Institute of Cardiac and Vascular Diseases registered by year, certified on 2 June 2025. (Marked annex 18 in summary document)
11	Annex 11 – Summary of data extraction and computation based on Annexes 8, 9, 10	Summary document from the MoH performing basic computation on the data provided in Annex 8, 9, 10 (Marked annex 19 in summary document)
12	Annex 12 – Copy of certificate on training atrial fibrillation surgeries conducted in 2023	Certificate for the three institutes of cardiovascular diseases issued by InterMedical Plus, s.r.o. (Slovak distributor of medical devices) and Farapulse (medical technology and education

		platform developed by Boston Scientific) dated 22 December 2023. (Marked annex 21 in summary document)
--	--	--

3. Analysis:

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

3 institutes of cardiovascular diseases shall be equipped with a complex technology (intracardiac navigation equipment and pulsed electric field ablation equipment with relevant complementary medical equipment) to perform atrial fibrillation surgery, [...].

Three institutes of cardiovascular diseases have been equipped with a complex technology to perform atrial fibrillation surgery. This is demonstrated by the three contracts (annexes 1, 2, and 3) concluded by the Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic with three institutes of cardiovascular diseases, namely: i) the National Institute of Cardiac and Vascular Diseases (contract n. 779/2023, see annex 1); ii) the Central Slovak Institute of Cardiac and Vascular Diseases (contract n. 780/2023, see annex 2); and iii) the Eastern Slovakian Institute of Cardiac and Vascular Diseases (contract 781/2023, see annex 3).

The signed installation protocols of the three institute of cardiovascular diseases and the medical equipment providers (annexes 4, 5, 6) demonstrate that the intracardiac navigation equipment and pulsed electric field ablation equipment with relevant complementary medical equipment, have been installed and put in services. According to the protocols the equipment has been installed and put in service, including the “Heart non reversible electroporation system - generator”, the essential equipment to perform atrial fibrillation surgery, as well as equipment related to RTG angiography apparatus, electrophysiological recording system, and 3D electro-anatomic mapping in all the three institute of cardiovascular diseases. More specifically:

- Annex 4 includes installation protocols signed by each medical equipment provider and representatives of the National Institute of Cardiac and Vascular Diseases for the equipment provided to this institute.
- Annex 5 includes installation protocols signed by each medical equipment provider and representatives of the Central Slovak Institute of Cardiac and Vascular Diseases for the equipment provided to this institute.
- Annex 6 includes installation protocols signed by each medical equipment provider and representatives of the Eastern Slovakian Institute of Cardiac and Vascular Diseases for the equipment provided to this institute.

[...] which shall: reduce the average time spent on the atrial fibrillation surgery by at least 30% compared to the pre-investment baseline (that is, average time per surgery of the five year pre-investment period of 2018- 2022 compared to the 2024 period).

To calculate the pre-investment baseline, the data concerning the previous five years to the investment have been considered. The *complex technology*, referred in the summary document as the Pulsed Field Ablation (PFA) technology was introduced in 2023 and not before that date, as evidenced by the data on atrial fibrillation surgeries provided by the independent civic association “Slovak Association of cardiac arrhythmias” (annex 7). Trainings for the new PFA technology were carried out in 2023 across the three institutes, as part of an educational programme (annex 12). 2023 is then to be considered a transitional phase year, with only a limited number of surgeries performed using the new technology (annex 7) in the context of the training programme (annexes 12). Consequently, the five-year period from 2018 to 2022 has been used as the pre-investment baseline, during which the new PFA technology was not yet available. This baseline is compared against data from 2024, when the new PFA technology became fully operational in all three institutes (annex 7). The average time spent on atrial fibrillation in the pre-investment baseline is calculated by multiplying the average time per year by the number of operations, resulting in the total time for each year. The total time for all years is summed and then divided by the total number of operations performed annually.

- In the National Institute of Cardiac and Vascular Diseases, the average time spent on an atrial fibrillation surgery in the pre-investment baseline corresponds to 224 minutes, compared to the 2024 average of 94 minutes (annex 8).
- In the Central Slovak Institute of Cardiac and Vascular Diseases, the average time spent on an atrial fibrillation surgery in the pre-investment baseline corresponds to 168.5 minutes, compared to the 2024 average of 74 minutes (annex 9).
- In the Eastern Slovakian Institute of Cardiac and Vascular Diseases, the average time spent on an atrial fibrillation surgery in the pre-investment baseline corresponds to 129.7 minutes, compared to the 2024 average of 93 minutes (annex 10).

On average in the three institute of cardiovascular diseases, the average time spent on an atrial fibrillation surgery in the pre-investment baseline corresponds to 177 minutes, compared to the 2024 average of 86 minutes. Therefore, the average time spent on the atrial fibrillation surgery is reduced on average by 51.4% compared to the pre-investment baseline (annex 11). With this time reduction, the target is overachieved.

increase the number of successful atrial fibrillation ablation surgeries performed by at least 20% by Q4 2024, compared to the pre-investment baseline (that is, average yearly volume of the five year pre-investment period of 2018- 2022 compared to the 2024 period).

Following the same logic applied to the computation of the average time spent on the atrial fibrillation to calculate the pre-investment baseline, the data concerning the previous five years to the investment have been considered. The five-year period from 2018 to 2022 has been used as the pre-investment baseline, during which the new PFA technology was not yet available. This baseline is compared against data from 2024, when the new PFA technology became fully operational in all three institutes (annex 7).

The annual average number of successful atrial fibrillation surgeries for the three cardiovascular disease institutes in the pre-investment baseline corresponds to 406 (annex 7), so distributed:

- National Institute of Cardiac and Vascular Diseases: 141.

- Central Slovak Institute of Cardiac and Vascular Diseases: 159.
- Eastern Slovakian Institute of Cardiac and Vascular Diseases: 106.

Instead, the number of successful atrial fibrillation surgeries carried out in 2024 are 819 (annex 7), so distributed:

- National Institute of Cardiac and Vascular Diseases: 325.
- Central Slovak Institute of Cardiac and Vascular Diseases: 305.
- Eastern Slovakian Institute of Cardiac and Vascular Diseases: 189.

As a change from 406 to 819 successful atrial fibrillation surgeries represents an increase 101.7%, the target is overachieved.

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactory fulfilled.

SK-C[C14]-R[R1]-R[C14.2]: Reduction of the administrative burden on entrepreneurs

Related Measure: 14.1 Reducing regulatory burden on business

Qualitative Indicator: Entry into force of 300 measures

Time: Q4 2024

1. Context:

The objective of this reform is to reduce administrative burden to businesses, introducing three tools to reduce the regulatory burden and the entry into force of 300 measures.

Milestone 14.2 concerns the reduction of the administrative burden on entrepreneurs with the entry into force of 300 measures.

Milestone 14.2 is the second and last milestone of the reform, and it follows the completion of milestone 14.1, related to the introduction of the new regulatory burden reduction tools. The investment 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 and the measure (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled.
2	Annex 1 – Spreadsheet listing the measures	List indicating each measure that has entered into force, the responsible authority, the legislation containing the regulation, the form of compliance with the measure, the date of entry into force, the impact on the business environment, and the type of savings
3	Annex 2 – Evaluation of the inter-ministerial consultation procedure for the Anti-bureaucratic package 1	Evaluation of the inter-ministerial consultation procedure for the anti-bureaucratic package 1. It includes a summary of comments by the entities, the number of comments raised, evaluated and accepted or refused.
4	Annex 3 –Evaluation of the inter-ministerial consultation procedure for the Anti-bureaucratic package 2	Evaluation of the inter-ministerial consultation procedure for the anti-bureaucratic package 2. It includes a summary of comments by the entities, the number of comments raised, evaluated and accepted or refused.
5	Annex 4 – Spreadsheets listing the deductions of Anti-Bureaucratic Package 1	Part of the documentation that went through the legislative process for Act 249/2022 (anti-bureaucratic package 1)

6	Annex 5 - Spreadsheets listing the deductions of Anti-Bureaucratic Package 2	Part of the documentation that went through the legislative process for Act 109/2024 (anti-bureaucratic package 2)
7	Annex 6 - Declaration from the Slovak Union of Employers (RSU)	Declaration from the Slovak Union of Employers (RSU) signed in June 2025.
8	Annex 7 - Sampling evidence	In the context of the sampling analysis, additional evidence provided for a sample of 60 units including: for legislative measures (1) copies of Acts or Decrees entered into force; for non-legislative measures (2) copy of the guidance, reports and acceptance protocols

3. Analysis:

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

Reduction of the administrative burden on entrepreneurs

To fulfil the milestone, Slovakia achieved the adoption and entry into force of 303 measures designed to simplify administrative procedures. The content of these measures, listed in Annex 1 and sampled, demonstrates that they lead to a reduction in the administrative burden for entrepreneurs across various sectors.

300 measures, included in two packages, shall enter into force.

As evidenced by Annex 1, a total of 303 measures has entered into force, exceeding the milestone of 300 by three measures. Most of these measures were adopted in the form of Acts or Decrees, which entered into force between February 2020 and June 2025. Following the selection of a random sample of 60 units, Slovakia submitted both legislative and non-legislative evidence, including Acts and Decrees for the legislative measures and methodological guidance for the non-legislative ones, which demonstrates that these measures have entered into force. The evidence provided for a sample of 60 units confirmed that this requirement of the milestone has been met.

Each Act or Decree included in the evidence for the sample of 60 units shows that the measures contribute to the main objective of the measure, which is to improve the business environments reducing administrative and financial burdens (Annex 1, Column E).

To fulfil this requirement, Slovakia implemented a number of non-legislative measures which are part of the total 303 measures referred to above. These measures were also included in the random sample. For instance, a methodological guidance from Financial Supervision Services was published (see Annex 7 sampling evidence, unit 124) and a new online module was introduced on the website of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, allowing employers to request information, advice, and opinions on all matters within the competence of the Labour Inspectorate (see Annex 7 sampling evidence, unit 265).

Slovakia adopted two anti-bureaucratic packages as part of the documentation accompanying two legislative acts aimed at improving the business environment and reducing administrative burdens. While the first package accompanied Act No. 249/2022, which entered into force on 1 September 2022,

according to Article 16, the second package accompanied Act No. 109/2024, which entered into force on 1 July 2024, as stated in Article 5.

Only 303 measures, as part of these packages, entered into force. Of these, few measures were directly implemented through Act No. 249/2022 and Act No. 109/2024. The rest of the measures entered into force through separate legislative and non-legislative processes (see Annex 1 and sampling evidence).

Stakeholders were able to comment on all measures during the consultation process (Annexes 4 and 5), and the evaluation of their comments formed a mandatory part of the legislative procedure (Annexes 2 and 3).

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled.

SK-C[C14]-I[I2]-I[C14.5]: A single, fully digitised insolvency process is fully operational.

Related Measure: C14.I2 Digitalisation of insolvency processes

Qualitative Indicator: Launch of the IT system for insolvency proceedings, verified by the acceptance protocol

Time: Q4 2024

1. Context:

The objective of the investment is to digitalise and shorten insolvency procedures.

Target 14.5 consists in the launch of an IT system to handle insolvency processes. The IT system aims at digitalising liquidation, bankruptcy, restructuring, debt discharge, and pre-insolvency proceedings, allowing for the cross-border exchange of information and for the provision of simple statistical data. The access to the IT platform is granted to courts, creditors and the public.

Target 14.5 is the only milestone of this investment. The investment has a final expected date for implementation by 31 December 2024.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence	Short description
1	Statement by the Association of Insolvency Administrators of the Slovak Republic	The Association confirms that the new Insolvency Register, which replaced the previous one, has now been tested and successfully deployed.
2	Acceptance Protocol	The Acceptance Protocol, duly signed and dated, between the Ministry of Justice and the supplier, confirms that the IT system was launched on 1 October 2025 and is used in all insolvency proceedings
3	Overview of the system functionalities	This comprehensive guide details the electronic processes and modules used for managing various insolvency proceedings, including bankruptcy, restructuring, debt discharge, and winding-up.
4	IS REPLIK User Guide for Creditor, Debtor and General Submission	The User Guide for creditors, debtors and general submissions provide guidance on how to access and use the IT system, published on 30 September 2025
5	Copy of the contract award notice	The contract between the Ministry of Justice and IT company JumpSoft was signed on 9 April 2024 and has been in force since 10 April 2024.

3. Analysis:

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

The IT system for insolvency proceedings shall be launched.

The IT system for insolvency proceedings (*Insolvency Register* hereafter), IS REPLIK in Slovak, was launched in production environment on 1 October 2025. From this date, the Register becomes the only mandatory one for insolvency proceedings. This is confirmed and verified by the acceptance protocol (Annex 2) between the IT supplier JumpSoft and the Ministry of Justice. The contract, signed on 9 April 2024 between the Ministry and JumpSoft, confirms JumpSoft as the winning bidder for the project.

The IT system shall digitalise liquidation, bankruptcy, restructuring, debt discharge, and pre-insolvency proceedings.

From 1 October 2025, the Register became mandatory for various proceedings, including liquidation, bankruptcy, restructuring, debt discharge and pre-insolvency proceedings.

The Commission services conducted an on-the-spot check on 23 October 2025 to verify that the IT system had been launched and is fully operational. This check was completed successfully, confirming that the IT system digitalises liquidation, bankruptcy, restructuring, debt discharge and pre-insolvency proceedings; allows for the cross-border exchange of information and enables various actors to access it. The Commission services accessed the link provided by the authorities to verify the existence of the platform. This check was completed successfully, confirming that the platform has been launched.

As demonstrated at the on-the-spot check, the Insolvency Register facilitates electronic handling of all stages of insolvency processes, ensuring faster, transparent, and efficient operations. These processes, from filing applications to concluding proceedings, are executed digitally, enhancing communication among courts, debtors, creditors, and insolvency practitioners via dedicated electronic forms.

Functionality highlights, further elaborated in Annex 4, include electronic submissions via a dedicated portal, secure eID/eIDAS authentication, public data disclosure, and integration with legal entity registers. Communication among parties is fully digital, requiring electronic filings and guaranteeing document authenticity through electronic seals.

As presented during the on-the-spot check and included in Annexes 3 and 4, the system integrates with the Courts Information System for seamless service and publication of court decisions. It offers transparency via public access to timelines and milestones of proceedings, enabling multidimensional searches. This comprehensive digitisation encompasses all parties involved in insolvency processes, ensuring uniform communication, document sharing, and legal effect through electronic publication in the Insolvency Register.

It shall allow for the cross-border exchange of information and for the provision of simple statistical data.

As of 1 October 2025, the Slovak Insolvency Register is linked to the e-Justice Portal, facilitating the sharing of insolvency data for Slovak debtors. This connection, demonstrated during the on-the-spot check,

ensures that information on bankruptcy proceedings is accessible and searchable free of charge for cross-border use through a dedicated module in the Insolvency Register.

At the same time, the Register provides statistical information on the number of pending cases per court, by length of proceedings per court, number of closed bankruptcies by duration for each court, declared bankruptcy in selected years and restructurings authorised in selected years.

Courts, creditors and the public shall have access to it.

As demonstrated during the check, the Insolvency Register provides comprehensive access to data for courts, creditors, and the public, enhancing transparency and efficiency in insolvency proceedings. The system categorises information into modules based on the type of proceedings, facilitating easy access to relevant data.

As also demonstrated during the on-the-spot check, the general public can freely access insolvency, pre-insolvency, and winding-up proceedings without authentication. They have access to a chronological list of all cases, can set notifications for updates, and can generate extracts on specific proceedings. The public can search data by type of proceedings, court involved, time frame, debtor, or case reference number, providing vital information for assessing economic stability and potential risks associated with trading partners. Statutory judges can view specific proceedings and details, including file names, court designations, debtor information, and the status of cases. They can use separate modules to manage creditors, claims, assets, and documents, enabling streamlined decision-making and communication with insolvency practitioners electronically. Registered creditors can view proceedings where they have claims, along with detailed case information. The Insolvency Register facilitates electronic communication with courts and administrators, providing dedicated forms for interaction and enabling the management of claims, including details of amounts declared and established.

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled.

SK-C[C16]-I[I2]-I[C16.5]: Training related to the police reform are rolled out

Related Measure: C16.I2 Equipping and digitalising the police force

Quantitative Indicator: % of staff trained

Baseline: 0

Target: 100

Time: Q4 2024

1. Context:

The objective is to strengthen the capacity of the police, by providing training to all staff in the units established under Reform 2 of this component.

Target 16.5 requires that all officers appointed in the newly established units of the police forces are trained and that additional trainings are provided to police officers on communication to victims of crime.

Target 16.5 is the second target of the investment, and it follows the completion of target 16.6. It will be followed by milestones 16.7, 16.8 and 16.9, related to renovation of police buildings and digitalisation of processes. The investment has a final expected date for implementation by 31 August 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.
2	Annex 5 List of employees	The excel list contains the names and personal numbers of trained officers, their affiliation to the police unit
3	Annex 1 List of 619 trained officers, trainings	This excel file lists all underlying training certificates given to police officers.
4	In the context of the sampling analysis, additional evidence provided for a sample of 60 units, including training certificates and presence lists	The signed training certificates and presence lists contain either the name of the officer or his personal number matching with the above lists of trained officers provided by the Slovak authorities.

3. Analysis:

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

All officers appointed in the newly established units of the police forces (environmental crime, criminal analyses, criminal technology services) are trained.

Slovakia submitted a list of employees, including their names and personal numbers, affiliation to the newly established units and the number of trainings attended (Annex 5). The list indicates that one police officer out of 294 did not receive a training. The evidence provided for a sample of 60 units of police officers out of which 31 officers were appointed in the newly established units of the police forces specialised in environmental crime, criminal analyses and criminal technology confirms the participation of officers affiliated to the newly established units in one or more training programmes. This is evidenced by signed and dated training certificates as well as signed presence lists demonstrating the attendance and the type of training given.

The Council Implementing Decision required that all officers appointed in the newly established units are trained. Whilst this constitutes a minimal numerical deviation of less than 5% from the requirement of the Council Implementing Decision, the overall objective of this target is considered met. On this basis, it is considered that this constitutive element of the target is satisfactorily fulfilled.

At least 300 police officers are trained to improve the quality of communication to victims of crime for police officers.

Slovakia submitted a list of police officers who attended a training to improve the quality of communication with victims of criminal offenses (Annex 5). As stated above, the evidence provided for a sample of 60 units of police officers out of which 29 were affiliated to various police forces across Slovakia focusing on prevention from criminal behaviour confirms their participation in a training programme focused on communication with victims. This is evidenced by signed and dated training certificates dated from 2022 as well as signed presence lists demonstrating the attendance of the selected police officers in that training.

The target is further specified in the Operational Arrangements, which requires: **The training for at least 300 police officers to improve the quality of communication to victims of crime is additional to the training of all police officers appointed in the newly established units following reorganisation.**

Based on the provided list of 631 police officers who received training, 294 police officers were appointed in newly established units and 325 officers were from other police forces (Annex 5). The sample of 60 police officers who received trainings ensures proportionate representation across both categories and ascertains that the training on communication to victims of crimes is additional to the trainings provided to officers from newly established units.

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled.

SK-C[C16]-I[I4]-I[C16.16]: Establishment of shared service centres

Related Measure: C16.I4 Streamlining, optimising and strengthening administrative capacity at different levels of government

Quantitative Indicator: Number

Baseline: 0

Target: 20

Time: Q4 2024

1. Context:

The objective of the investment is to streamline, optimise and strengthen administrative capacity at different levels of government. In particular, it aims at improving the service delivery which is hampered by fragmented governance at municipal level. The implementation of the investment is expected to be completed by 30 June 2026.

Target 16.16 concerns the set-up of at least 20 shared service centres to improve the efficiency of public service delivery at the local level, particularly in disadvantaged regions.

Target 16.16 follows Milestones 16.13, 16.4 and 16.15 related to the establishment of the national implementation and coordination authority (NIKA) for implementation of the Slovak Recovery and Resilience Plan (RRP), and the creation of a repository for implementation of the RRP. The investment 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 justifying how the target (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled.
2	Annex 1 – List of shared services established	The list includes for each established shared service centre (SSC): - information on where it is located; - statistical data on the GDP/capita in the regions where the SSCs are established (as a share of EU GDP per capita in current prices for 2022 for the NUTS III and NUTS II regions); - A link to the agreement on the provision of funds between the Slovak Ministry of Interior and the municipality establishing the SSC; - A link to the agreements between the participating municipalities in each SSC, also including the competences assigned to it; - A copy of an official certificate on its establishment;

		- Copies of the organisation chart and staffing plan. The list also provides information on the name and address of the registered office, the statutory municipality, the name of the region, the number of employees; the number of municipalities participating in the SSC; and the date of establishment of the SSC.
3	Annex 2 – Resolution No. 550/2024 of 25 September 2024 on a proposal to designate selected beneficiaries of a direct call for ‘Establishment of shared service centres’	Copy of the first government resolution designating the selected beneficiaries of the direct call.
4	Annex 3 - Resolution No. 28/2025 of 22 January 2025 on a proposal to designate selected beneficiaries of a direct call for ‘Establishment of shared service centres’	Copy of the second government resolution designating the selected beneficiaries of the direct call.
5	Annex 4 – List of Shared Service Centres and their competences	A list of the 21 established shared service centres with the number of participating municipalities, the number of employees, and the competences assigned to them – all before and after the establishment.
6	Annex 5 – Act No. 369/1990 Coll. on the set up of municipalities Municipal Establishment, as amended, in force on 31 December 2023	Fundamental Act on the establishment of municipalities in the Slovak Republic, including provisions regarding cooperation between them.
7	Annex 6 – Annex to Resolution No. 550/2024 of 25 September 2024	Addition to the Resolution, explaining the reasons and criteria for selection and ranking linked to the first direct call for 22 SSCs. This document formed part of the deliberations of the government meeting where the Resolution was adopted.
8	Annex 7 – Annex to Resolution No. 28/2025 of 22 January 2025	Addition to the Resolution, explaining the reasons and criteria for selection and ranking linked to the second direct call for two additional SSCs. This document formed part of the deliberations of the government meeting where the Resolution was adopted.
9	Annex 8 – Signed agreements on the provision of funds between the Slovak Ministry of Interior and the municipalities establishing the SSCs	Agreements on the provision of funds between the Slovak Ministry of Interior and the municipalities establishing the SSCs
10	Annex 9 – Signed agreements between the participating municipalities in each SSC	Agreements between the participating municipalities in each SSC, also including the competences assigned to it

11	Annex 10 – Open call of 21 June 2023 for the submission of applications to the Recovery and Resilience Facility for the establishment of Shared Service Centres	Open call of 21 June 2023 for the submission of applications to the Recovery and Resilience Facility for the establishment of Shared Service Centres
----	---	--

3. Analysis:

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

20 shared service centres shall be established with a focus in the most lagging regions.

The Slovak authorities demonstrated the establishment of 21 shared service centres (SSCs) through the certificates included in Annex 1 as well as various agreements (Annexes 8 and 9). The certificates in Annex 1 confirm that the first SSC was formally set up on 28 February 2025 and others were set up gradually, with a total of 21 SSCs established by 15 June 2025. It concerns SSCs based in the following municipalities: Becherov, Dlhé nad Cirochou, Filakovo, Gemerská Polomoa, Gíraltovce, Liptovský Hrádok, Margecany, Medzev, Medzilaborce, Michalovce, Nižný Orlík, Ptičie, Sabinov, Sečovce, Sobrance, Spišská Stará Ves, Stará Ľubovňa, Tornaľa, Trebišov, Veľké Kapušany, and Vranov nad Topľou. The agreements on the provision of funds between the government and the municipality establishing the SSC (Annex 8) set out the financing agreement between these parties, as well as the budgetary and legal obligations of the project under the RRF and the designation of the statutory municipality.

A list of 22 SSCs was proposed in Resolution No. 550/2024, adopted on 25 September 2024 (Annexes 2 and 6). Initially, an open call was launched on 21 June 2023 for the submission of applications for the establishment of Shared Service Centres (Annex 10). However, this initial open call failed due to a lack of interest, as explained in Resolution No. 550/2024. The Resolution was adopted as a direct call for 22 SSCs. As the approval by the municipal councils could not be ensured for three out of these 22 SSCs (Trhovište, Hnúšťa and Vinica), a second Resolution or direct call was adopted on 22 January 2025, proposing the establishment of two other SSCs (in Dlhé nad Cirochou and Liptovský Hrádok) (Annexes 3 and 7).

The new SSCs are predominantly established in the most lagging regions of Slovakia. The list of SSCs in the direct calls from the Ministry of Interior take into account various selection criteria, including that all municipalities/cities in the SSC belong to a region with a GDP per capita that stands below 75% of GDP of the average in the EU, in line with Cohesion policy funds. All SSCs are based in Central and Eastern Slovakia, which are the two most lagging regions in Slovakia according to the NUTS II classification (59,2% and 51,3% of EU GDP in 2022, respectively – see Annex 1). In addition, the NUTS III classification places 20 out of the 21 SSCs in the regions of Prešov, Banská Bystrica and Košice, which feature among the five most lagging NUTS III regions in Slovakia (out of 13)².

These shared service centres shall help pool capacity at the local level in providing public services.

The delivery of municipal services through a shared service centre (SSC), instead of several municipalities separately, enables economies of scale and higher efficiency. The initial open call (Annex 10), which was the basis for the designation of SSCs through direct calls (Annexes 2 and 3), clarified that the establishment of SSC aimed at jointly offering services with the same quality standard to a larger territory, especially as several municipalities faced difficulties to deliver high-quality services in a context of limited budget. It envisaged several positive effects, such as specialisation of quality employees, economies of scale, saving of resources, strengthening of methodological management, standardisation and improvement of the

² https://datacube.statistics.sk/#/view/en/VBD_SK_WIN/nu3002rr/v_nu3002rr_00_00_00_en

quality of provided services. Each SSC provides the service(s) in the name of the participating municipalities, for their inhabitants.

The agreements between the participating municipalities in each SSC (Annex 9) form the basis for the cooperation at technical level. These agreements contain signatures of all participating municipalities and lay down the competences of the SSC and services to be provided. They also contain the various contractual obligations regarding cooperation between the municipalities. The 21 newly established SSCs provide services on behalf of in total 649 municipalities (column M in Annex 1), as also demonstrated by the agreements in Annex 9. As more municipalities can join an SSC over time and the number of services provided by an SSC can also evolve, as allowed for by the setup of the SSCs, this number and the evidence in Annexes 1 and 9 represents the situation on 17 October 2025. With each competence that is assigned by several municipalities to an SSC, this pools the capacity of those participating municipalities in that area. For all SSCs, the agreements indicate the transfer of similar competences to the SSC, thus proving that they pooled capacity in providing public services. The agreements specify in most cases precisely which competences have been transferred by each individual municipality to the SSC. For the 10 SSCs where this is not specified, the SSC provides the services listed in the agreements for *all* its participating municipalities.

All 649 participating municipalities, represented by their mayors and local governing bodies, signed the agreements creating the SSCs with clearly defined competencies, administration and financing, transferring their competences to a more centralised level. This process also reflects the Slovak legal system, which defines which municipal competencies are transferred from the national level and which are exclusively assigned to the regional level. Instead of a decentralised system, where some municipalities could provide these services only partially, the SSCs cover both levels (transferred and exclusive) and thus make the provision of services more structured and citizen oriented. Services provided by the SSCs include the areas of water and waste management, pollution control, nature protection, local tax administration, territorial planning, smart city coordination, and schooling. The precise competences of each SSC are specified in the agreements in Annex 9.

In order to achieve this, the criteria set out by the Ministry of Interior for the selection of SSCs provide that an SSC should be established with at least five participating municipalities and that at least three services are provided in each (Annex 6). The agreements in Annex 9 demonstrate that this is the case. The contracting municipalities establishing an SSC agree that services are provided “jointly” through the shared service centre. The list of joint services was decided on a voluntary basis among the municipal competences or services. The list in Annex 4 indicates for nearly all pre-existing JMAs an increase in participating municipalities following the establishment of the SSC, as well as an increase in the number of services provided. This is confirmed by the information in Annex 9. In reality, the number of participating municipalities in the SSCs is at least 10 (Veľké Kapušany SSC), whereas the highest number of participating municipalities is 85 (Becherov SSC).

The transfer of competences to the SSC involves a transfer of a share of the municipal staff to the SSCs. The staffing plans of the established SSCs (included in Annex 1) indicate new staff profiles such as a lawyers, smart city coordinators, public procurement employees, project managers, etc., which were previously not part of the municipal staff due to the high cost. The establishment of the SSCs was also accompanied by investments in technical equipment and IT tools for the competent staff, as explained in the Cover Note and confirmed by the budgets included in Annex 8.

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled.

SK-C[C16]-R[R4]-R[C16.17]: Adoption a) of a corruption risk management methodology and b) of procedures regarding the supervision by NIKA of that methodology's implementation

Related Measure: C16.R4 Audit and Control

Qualitative Indicator: Adoption and publication of the revised methodology for the management of corruption risks which is applicable to all bodies implementing the RRF and adoption of procedure of the Coordinating body on the supervision of implementation of that methodology

Time: Q2 2025

1. Context:

This reform aims at protecting Union financial interests in the context of the RRF, in particular through the adoption a) of a corruption risk management methodology and b) of procedures regarding the supervision by NIKA of that methodology's implementation. The efficient protection of the financial interests of the Union when implementing the Recovery and Resilience Facility is subject to the establishment of appropriate measures to prevent, detect and correct fraud, corruption and conflict of interests as defined in Article 61 of the Financial Regulation. Therefore, the improvement of the control and audit environment is a pre-requisite for the efficient implementation of the plan in compliance with the applicable Union and national law.

Milestone C16.M17 concerns the adoption by the Government office of the revised methodology for the management of corruption risks. The methodology shall be binding for all bodies implementing the RRF and provide minimum standards for the management of corruption risks. The coordinating body shall additionally adopt a procedure on how the implementation of the methodology for the management of corruption risks will be monitored.

Milestone C16.M17 is the only milestone of this reform. The reform has a final expected date for implementation by 31 May 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.
2	Copy of the Methodology on the management of corruption risks	The revised methodology, dated 25 June 2025, and a link to the published copy https://www.bojprotikorupcii.gov.sk/19499-sk/metodicke-odporucanie-k-riadeniu-korupcnych-rizik/ .
3	Copy of email to anti-corruption coordinators	Email informing about the new methodology, dated 27 June 2025.

4	Copy of the Methodological Guidance for bodies implementing the Recovery and resilience plan of the Slovak Republic on the procedure in managing corruption risks	The instruction, dated 26 June 2025, binding all bodies implementing RRF to follow the revised methodology.
5	Copy of email to implementing bodies	Email dated 26 June 2025, informing implementing bodies about the binding character of the Methodology.
6	Copy of the Internal Manual of Procedures of NIKA Version 1.3	Updated Internal manual of the Coordinating body, dated 26 June 2025.
7	Copy of email informing about the updated Internal Manual of Procedures	Email dated 27 June 2025, informing the Coordinating body employees about the updated Manual.
8	Copy of the Internal guidance on monitoring of corruption risk management	Internal procedure 01/2025 (not dated) of the Coordinating body on the supervision of implementation of the corruption risk methodology.
9	Copy of email informing on the issue of the Internal guidance	Email dated 27 June 2025, informing the Coordinating body employees about the updated Internal procedure.

3. Analysis:

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

The Government office shall adopt the revised methodology for the management of corruption risks.

The revised Methodology for the management of corruption risks (Metodické odporúčanie k riadeniu korupčných rizík) (hereinafter referred to as “revised methodology”) was adopted by the Government Office, Department for the Prevention of Corruption on 25 June 2025 (evidence No 2). The previous methodology “Methodological recommendation on corruption management risks” dated 30 January 2019 was replaced by this revised methodology.

The revised methodology was published on the official website of the Government Office (evidence No 2). *The Commission services accessed the link provided by the authorities on 23 October to verify publication of the revised methodology. This check was completed successfully, confirming that the revised methodology was published. Moreover, the information about the adoption of the revised methodology was also sent to the anti-corruption coordinators in individual ministries via email from the Government Office on 27 June 2025 (evidence No 3).*

This is also in line with the name of the qualitative indicator of the milestone, which states respectively **Adoption and publication of the revised methodology for the management of corruption risks [...]**

The methodology shall be binding for all bodies implementing the RRF and provide minimum standards for the management of corruption risks.

The Coordinating body of the RRF (NIKA) issued MeMethodological Guidance for bodies implementing the Recovery and resilience plan of the Slovak Republic on the procedure in managing corruption risks (Metodické usmernenie k postupu vykonávateľov Plánu obnovy a odolnosti Slovenskej republiky pri riadení korupčných rizík; hereinafter referred to as “Guidance”) for bodies implementing the Recovery and Resilience Plan of the Slovak Republic on the procedure for managing corruption risks. The Guidance, effective since 26 June 2025, is applicable to all bodies implementing the RRF (evidence No 4).

On the same date NIKA circulate the Guidance via email to the implementing bodies, explicitly informing them of its binding nature (evidenceNo 5).

The revised methodology for the management of corruption risks includes (i) basic concepts, (ii) purpose and objectives, (iii) institutional responsibilities, (iv) specificities and underlying factors, and (v) causes of corruption risks. The revised methodology also describes the procedures for identifying, assessing and evaluating processes and risks, and outlines measures for addressing them, including mitigation plans, monitoring and communication (evidence No 2).

The revised methodology addresses the shortcomings identified in the former methodology, mainly the lack of a definition of the standard risk assessment scale to be used by implementing bodies and the need to ensure that serious impacts or high/medium probability risks are appropriately reflected in the final risk significance score (evidence No 2).

This is also in line with the qualitative indicator **of the milestone, which states: [...] which is applicable to all bodies implementing the RRF.**

The coordinating body shall additionally adopt a procedure on how the implementation of the methodology for the management of corruption risks will be monitored.

NIKA updated its Internal Manual of Procedures of NIKA Version 1.3 (Interný manuál procedúr Národnej implementačnej a koordinačnej authority) (evidence No 6). “Overview of the performance of NIKA’s regular tasks” was supplemented with a new process on “Risk Assessment” setting out the procedure within the Coordinating body’s tasks and organisational responsibilities (evidence No 6).

In addition, the NIKA issued Internal Guidance on Monitoring the Management of Corruption Risks (Usmernenie k monitorovaniu riadenia korupčných rizík zo strany VIR; hereinafter referred to as “Internal Guidance”) (evidence No 8). This Internal Guidance defines NIKA’s procedures for supervising the implementation of corruption risk management at the level of implementing bodies and describes the monitoring process (evidence No 8).

The updated Internal Manual of Procedures (version 1.3) and Internal Guidance were circulated to NIKA staff members by two e-mails on 27 June 2025 (evidence No 7 and No 9).

This is also in line with the qualitative indicator of the milestone re, which states [...] **and adoption of procedure of the Coordinating body on the supervision of implementation of that methodology.**

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled.

SK-C[C17]-I[I6]-I[C17.18]: Number of secured IT systems in the public administration

Related Measure: C17.I6 Preventive measures, speed of incident detection and resolution (ITVS – Information technologies for public administration)

Quantitative Indicator: Number of secured IT systems

Baseline: 70

Target: 1000

Time: Q4 2024

1. Context:

The objective of the investment is to increase the cybersecurity resilience and security of critical infrastructure of the public administration.

Target 17.18 requires securing of 930 IT systems, which shall be integrated into the Cybersecurity Incident Management System. For each IT system the necessary hardware/software elements, bidirectional encrypted communication, and warning dispatch shall be secured. New technological solutions of the early warning system shall be integrated into the cybersecurity incident management infrastructure. A threat catalogue shall be set up and a methodology for cybersecurity management shall be drafted.

Target 17.18 is the first step of the implementation of the investment and it will be followed by milestone 17.19 related to security audits of IT systems and applications in the public administration and reconstruction of secured spaces for critical infrastructure. 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	Summary document duly justifying how the target (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled.
2	Annex 1 – List of declared secured IT systems	Excel spreadsheet listing 1 234 IT systems declared for the fulfilment of this target (situation on 4 June 2025), indicating for each system the unique identifier, type and owner of the equipment.
3	Annex 2 – Acceptance protocol for the Extended Detection and Response (XDR) security tool and summary of functionality tests	The Annex contains the acceptance protocol signed on 24 April 2025 for XDR (Annex 2b), as well as the acceptance scenarios that have been used to demonstrate the functionality of the XDR technology (Annex 2a).

4	Annex 3 – Description of the implementation of Investment 6	Document prepared by the Ministry of Investments, Regional development and Informatisation (MIRRI) describing the implementation of Investment 6 (functional and technical part) – version of 1 February 2024
5	Annex 4 – Call for the provision of RRF funds for increasing the level of the cybersecurity of IT systems in the public administration through development of Security Operations Centres	The call 17I06-04-V01 was launched on 28 August 2023 and ended on 4 December 2023.
6	Annex 5 – Contract between MIRRI and the National Agency for Network and Electronic Services (NASES) to carry out part of the tasks related to the implementation of Investment 6	The contract was signed on 29 November 2023. On the basis of this contract, NASES implements the investments related to the strengthening of the Security Surveillance Centre (SOC) of MIRRI and the procurement of hardware and software for the central part and the public authorities involved (city of Pezinok and the Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute).
7	Annex 6 – Definition of tasks in relation to the contract between MIRRI and NASES in Annex 5	The document specifies the tasks and the budget for NASES.
8	Annex 7 – Internal guidelines of MIRRI on the definition of IT system	The internal document of MIRRI dated from 15 January 2025 provides a definition for “IT systems” in the context of cybersecurity and Early Warning System (EWS).
9	Annex 8 – Contract between MIRRI and the Ministry of Employment, Social Affairs and Family on the provision of RRF funds for the development of their Security Operations Centre	The contract was signed on 28 June 2024.
10	Annex 9 – Contract between MIRRI and the Ministry of Interior on the provision of RRF funds for the development of their Security Operations Centre	The contract was signed on 9 July 2024.
11	Annex 10 – Contract on the delivery of the XDR security tool for detecting and responding to cybersecurity incidents at endpoints, which also includes XDR Cloud	The contract was signed on 19 November 2024.

12	Annex 11 – Agreement between MIRRI and the Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute to secure IT systems through EWS tools	The agreement was signed on 31 October 2024. The entity will be involved in the SOC of MIRRI, managed by NASES.
13	Annex 12 – Agreement between MIRRI and the city of Pezinok to secure IT systems through EWS tools	The agreement was signed on 6 November 2024. The entity will be involved in the SOC of MIRRI, managed by NASES.
14	Annex 13 – Purchase agreement on the delivery of hardware equipment for the SOC of MIRRI, including acceptance protocols, a list of delivery and invoice	The purchase agreement was signed on 9 December 2024. Annex 13 also contains acceptance protocols (signed on 27 December 2024), list of names and number of products delivered, as well as an invoice from 27 December 2024.
15	Annex 14 – Analysis of current cybersecurity methodologies and standards in the public sector	Internal document prepared by MIRRI – version of 13 September 2022
16	Annex 15 – Methodological guidelines on the implementation of minimum cybersecurity standards	Document prepared by MIRRI, which describes the required tools and procedures to meet the minimum cybersecurity requirements – version of December 2022. The document is also available online: https://kyberportal.slovensko.sk/documents/86/3-Bezpecnostne-minimum.pdf
17	Annex 16 – Proposal for ethical standards for the Information Technology in Public Administration (ITVS) sector	Internal document prepared by MIRRI, which defines ethical standards for employees and experts in the ITVS sector – version of 30 March 2023.
18	Annex 17 - Handover and installation protocols for new hardware for the city of Pezinok and the Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute	The Annex contains the handover and installation protocol for new hardware signed on 11 February 2025 with the city of Pezinok (Annex 17a) and on 12 February 2025 with the Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute (Annex 17b).
19	Annex 18 – Screenshot for IPSec tunnels	The Annex contains a screenshot showing the configuration status for IPSec (Internet Protocol Security) tunnels for the public authorities (with statistics on bidirectional encrypted communication data transfers).
20	Annex 19 – Screenshot on import of events into the SOAR system	The Annex contains a screenshot showing active XDR (Annex 19a) and SIEM connector (Annex 19b) with configuration for the import of detected events into the SOAR system.

21	Annex 20 – Screenshots of Malware Information Sharing Platform (MISP)	The Annex contains a set of screenshots demonstrating the overall MISP architecture, processing of the indicators of compromise (IoC) and MISP's readiness to integrate with the Threat Intelligence Platform (TIP). MISP is freely downloadable on the following link .
22	Annex 21 – Grant agreement between the Ministry of Transport and MIRRI for the project "Vulnerability detection of end-service points"	The grant agreement was signed on 8 April 2019. The project is the predecessor of Investment 6 and was co-financed by the European Regional and Development Fund (ERDF).
23	Annex 22 – Description of the implementation of the project "Vulnerability Detection of Service Points"	Document prepared by MIRRI describing the implementation of the project – version of 26 January 2021
24	Annex 23 – List of contracts in the Central Register of Contracts	Document with links to the Central Register of Contracts on which can be found that contracts for Annexes 5, 8, 9, 10, 11,12 and 13.
25	Annex 24 – List of 70 IT systems secured under the project "National Cybersecurity Incident Management System in Public Administration" financed by the ERDF	Excel spreadsheet listing 70 IT systems secured prior to Investment 6, indicating for each system the unique identifier, name of the installation and log source type.
26	Annex 25 – Law of 27 March 2019 on information technology in the public administration	The regulation entered into force on 28 June 2025.
27	Annex 26 – Central Cybersecurity Portal (CCP)	Document providing information on and a link to the CCP: https://kyberportal.slovensko.sk/
28	Annex 27 – Licensing Agreement for the Threat Intelligence System (TIS)	The agreement was signed on 10 October 2025.
29	Annex 28 – Contract for the Network Detection and Response (NDR) tool	The contract was signed on 15 October 2025.
30	Annex 29 – Expert certificate	Document providing a link to the Ministry of Justice's registry of experts, showing that the expert who issued the certificates for the sample is registered in this registry. An explanation of the responsibilities of the expert is also provided.

3. Analysis:

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

Securing of 930 IT systems. The IT systems shall be integrated into the Cybersecurity Incident Management System, which is part of the Early Warning System (EWS). For each IT system, the necessary hardware/software elements, bidirectional encrypted communication, and warning dispatch shall be secured.

The target of 1 000 secured IT systems builds on a baseline of 70 IT systems which were already secured as part of the project “National Cybersecurity Incident Management System in Public Administration” financed by the ERDF (Annex 24). Hence, the aim of this investment was to secure an additional 930 IT systems to reach the target of 1 000.

As evidenced by Annex 1, 1 234 IT systems were secured (situation of 4 June 2025) and declared under this target. Slovakia exceeded the target of 930 by 304 IT systems.

Following the selection of a random sample of 60 beneficiaries, Slovakia submitted certificates signed by an independent third-party expert on security and protection of IT systems (Annex 29), who verified that each sampled IT system is integrated into the cybersecurity incident management system as a part of the EWS. He also verified that the necessary hardware and/or software elements, bidirectional encrypted communication, and the warning dispatch were secured for each IT system. The evidence provided for a sample of 60 units confirmed that the requirements of the target have been met.

New technological solutions of the early warning system shall be integrated into the cybersecurity incident management infrastructure.

The cybersecurity incident management infrastructure of the Slovak public administration consists of a Security Information and Event Management (SIEM) system, which provides real-time monitoring and analysis of events (Annex 3). The Security Orchestration, Automation and Response (SOAR) system is the main incident management system used to monitor and manage cybersecurity incident responses. These systems are used by the Security Operations Centres (SOCs), to monitor and respond to cybersecurity incidents.

Several new technological solutions of the EWS were integrated into the cybersecurity incident management infrastructure to further enhance it. New hardware equipment was purchased for the Security Operations Centre (SOC) of MIRRI (Annex 13), as well as new collectors of logs for SIEM in the locations of the city of Pezinok and the Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute (Annex 17). New software equipment was also procured, namely the Extended Detection and Response (XDR) (Annexes 2, and 10) and Network Detection and Response (NDR) (Annex 28). These tools provide comprehensive monitoring and analysis of the IT infrastructure of public authorities. Specifically, the NDR focuses on network traffic, XDR covers multiple layers including endpoints and cloud, and SIEM aggregates and correlates logs and events from diverse sources. All these tools are operated by the SOCs.

In addition, the Malware Information Sharing Platform (MISP), which is freely downloadable, is being used by MIRRI (Annex 20) and a Threat Intelligence System (TIS) (Annex 27) was procured. The TIS collects and

analyses threat intelligence from various sources, which is then shared through the MISP to facilitate collaboration and timely dissemination of indicators of compromise.

A threat catalogue shall be set up [...]

The Council Implementing Decision required the set-up of a threat catalogue. Instead of setting up a threat catalogue, the Slovak authorities enriched the existing library of vulnerability indicators operated by the Government's CSIRT Cyber Security Incident and Response Team (CSIRT) by purchasing a licence for Threat Intelligence System (TIS) (Annex 27). Whilst this constitutes a minimal formal deviation from the requirement of the Council Implementing Decision, the aim of this requirement, which is that a threat catalogue exists and serves to inform the MIRRI SOC of existing threats, is met. The benefit of purchasing this as a service is that a regular threat update is included in the product licence, thus streamlining the costs and capabilities of CSIRT. As of this, this minimal deviation does not affect the progress towards achieving the investment that the target represents. On this basis, it is considered that this constitutive element of the target is satisfactorily fulfilled.

[...] and a methodology for cybersecurity management shall be drafted.

A methodology for public authorities to conduct a basic gap analysis and propose improvements to their cybersecurity to achieve minimum security standards in terms of legislative requirements was drafted and published (Annex 15). As supporting document, the Slovak authorities also prepared an analysis of the state of play of cybersecurity methodologies and standards in public administration conditions (Annex 14). It aims to help public authorities navigate the different methodologies and standards emanating from international organizations and national regulators. Additional supporting documentation outlines draft ethical standards for the Information Technology and Cybersecurity sector, including requirements for staff selection and recruitment, to reduce the risk of insider attacks (Annex 16). The Central Cybersecurity Portal has also been established, providing a centralised access point for public authorities to access the necessary cybersecurity material, contributing to raising the overall knowledge and technical level of cybersecurity in the Slovak Republic (Annex 26).

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled.

SK-C[C19]-R[R1]-M[C19.4]: Support for heat pumps

Related Measure: REPowerEU – Reform 1- Sub-measure 3- Heat pump support

Qualitative Indicator: Provision in the law indicating the entry into force

Time: Q3 2024

1. Context and objective

The objective of this reform is to promote sustainable energy, including the roll-out of water-to-water heat pumps by removing the burden of groundwater usage fees for thermal extraction in the context of the transition to low-carbon heating systems.

Milestone 19.4 requires entry into force of legislation which exempts water-to-water heat pumps from charges for the use of groundwater for energy purposes (with exception of geothermal waters).

Milestone 19.4 is the first milestone of the reform, and it will be followed by 19.1, 19.2, 19.3, 19.5, 19.6, and 19.7, related to the promotion of sustainable energy. The reform has a final expected date for implementation by 31 March 2026.

2. Evidence provided

	Name of the evidence	Short description
1	Summary document	Summary document justifying how the milestone and the reform (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled
2	Annex 1 – Act No 277/2024 of 3 October 2024 amending Act No 364/2004, on water and amending Slovak National Council Act No 372/1990 on offences (so called Water Act)	In line with the national law, the law entered into the force and into application on 25 October 2024.
3	Annex 2 – Consolidated version of Act No 364/2004 on water and amending Slovak National Council Act No 372/1990 on infringements	Updated consolidated version of the Water Act reflecting the changes introduced by Act No 277/2024.

3. Analysis

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

A legislative amendment shall introduce an exemption from the obligation to pay a charge for the use of groundwater (with exception of geothermal waters) for energy use for water-to-water heat pumps.

The Act No 277/2024, amending the Slovak Water Act (Act No 364/2004), which was published in the Official Journal and entered into force on 25.10.2024 introduces an exemption from the obligation to pay a charge for the energy use of groundwater for water-to-water heat pumps under an amended Section 79(3) letter i). This amendment provides that fees pursuant to Section 79 shall not apply to groundwater *“abstractions to exploit their thermal potential if they are subsequently discharged into underground waters, excluding the abstraction of geothermal waters”*.

Before the adoption of the Act No 277/2024, the Slovak legislation required that fees for groundwater abstraction shall be payable by those who abstract groundwater above 15 000 m³ per calendar year or above 1 250 m³ per month, in case no exception was applied under Section 79(3).

Therefore, this legislative amendment removes the cost relating to the payment for the energy use of ground water for the “water-to-water” heat pumps, i.e. technical solutions that are transferring the thermal potential through groundwater that is after the use discharged back into the underground waters. The reform will also significantly reduce the administrative burden related to the fees, contributing to a more streamlined and efficient process for the use of groundwater in energy systems. Furthermore, it also ensures that the geothermal water (in view of its precious nature) is not included as an exemption from the obligation to pay a charge for the use of groundwater.

4. Commission preliminary assessment: Satisfactory fulfilled.

SK-C[C19]-R[R2]-M[C19.8]: Entry into force of legislation on ‘go-to areas’ for renewables and adoption of the methodology for the establishment of ‘go to areas’

Related Measure: C19.R2 Supporting the green transition in renewables

Qualitative Indicator: Provision in the law indicating the entry into force of the law

Time: Q4 2024

1. Context:

The objective of this reform is to support the green transition, in particular the investments into renewables. Sub-measure 1 is focused on acceleration of the deployment of new renewable wind energy sources by reform creating a more conducive environment for investments in so-called “go-to areas”.

Milestone 19.8 envisages entry into force of legislation that introduces specific simplified permitting and grid connection procedures for the development of installations within the go-to areas for wind energy. It also includes the adoption of the final version of a methodology for the establishment of ‘go-to areas’ suitable for the development of wind energy.

Milestone 19.8 is the second milestone of the reform, following the completion of milestone C19.10 related to the adoption of the Hydrogen Action Plan by the Slovak government. It will be followed by milestone C19.12, milestone C19.11 and target C19.9, related to measures streamlining and accelerating the connection of renewables to the grid, measures to promote the uptake of hydrogen, and the establishment of the pilot go-to zones for wind energy. The reform has a final expected date for implementation on 31 December 2024.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence.	Short description
1	Summary document	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone and the reform (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled.
2	Annex 1 – Act No 383/2025 of 3 December 2025 amending Act No 24/2006 on Environmental Impact Assessment and amending Certain Acts and amending Act No 245/2003 on Act on Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control	The Act is published in the Official Journal on 19 December 2025 and entered into force on the same day.

	and Amending Certain Acts	
3	Annex 2 – Act No 269/2025 of 23 September 2025 amending Act No 24/2006 on Environmental Impact Assessment and amending Certain Acts and amending and Act No 245/2003 on Act on Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control and Amending Certain Acts.	The Act is published in the Official Journal on 21 October 2025 and entered into force on 11 November 2025.
4	Annex 3 – Act No 259/2025 of 9 September 2025 amending Act 309/2009 on The Promotion of Renewable Energy Sources and High-Efficiency Cogeneration and Amending Certain Acts.	The Act is published in the Official Journal on 7 October 2025 and entered into force on 1 November 2025.
5	Annex 4 – The Decree of 11 December 2025 issued by the Ministry of Environment on the practical application of the Methodology for Wind Energy Development in the Slovak Republic – Preparation of acceleration zones suitable for wind energy development	The Act is published in the Official Journal on 17 December 2025 and entered into force on 22 December 2025.
6	Annex 5 – Wind Energy Methodology	The Wind Energy Methodology entered into force on 22 December 2025 as an annex to the Decree of the Ministry of Environment on the practical application of the Methodology for Wind Energy Development. It further stipulates in greater detail the designation and assessment of acceleration zones for wind energy.

7	Annex 6 – Records of the meetings of the Working Party on Wind Energy	Minutes taken at meetings of the Working Party on Wind Energy throughout 2023-2025 where the Wind Energy Methodology had been discussed. The respective minutes are titled: 230905 Zapis PS_VE_2.pdf, 240214 Zapis PS_VE_3.pdf, 241113 Zapis PS_VE_5.pdf, 241210 Zapis PS_VE_6.pdf, 250312 Zapis PS_VE_7.pdf, 250205 Zapis Podskupina_VE_komunikacia.pdf
8	Annex 7 – Announcement of the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic (MŽP SR) of the public consultation on the draft Wind Energy Methodology	Hyperlink to the announcement of MŽP SR on the public consultation of the draft Wind Energy Methodology. The announcement contains an e-mail address of a functional mailbox and form that should be used for submitting comments: https://www.minzp.sk/poo/aktuality/envirorezort-zverejnil-pracovny-navrh-metodiky-rozvoju-veternej-energetiky-ramci-plnenia-uloh-vplyvajucich-z-planu-obnovy.html (accessed on 22 December 2025)
9	Annex 8 – Announcement by the RRP National Implementation and Coordination Authority (NIKA) of the public consultation on Chapter 7 of the draft Wind Energy Methodology	Hyperlink to the announcement of NIKA on the public consultation on Chapter 7, concerning communication, of the Wind Energy Methodology. The announcement contains and e-mail address and form that should be used for submitting comments: https://www.planobnovy.sk/aktuality/verejne-pripomienkovanie/ (accessed on 22 December 2025)
10	Annex 9 – Final list of comments from the public on the draft Wind Energy Methodology	An Excel table of the final list of comments of relevant stakeholders and the public on the draft Wind Energy Methodology collected throughout the public consultation period. The table also contains information on whether or not a comment had been taken on board and reasoning for it.

3. Analysis:

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

Entry into force of legislation on ‘go-to areas’ (...)

On 7 May 2025, Slovakia adopted an amendment to the Act no. 309/2009, included in Annex 3, on the promotion of renewable energy sources and high-efficiency cogeneration (RES Act), which introduces a legal definition of renewable acceleration areas (go-to zones) in Article 2(1)(r) (p. 78) and sets the deadline for the designation of Renewable Acceleration Areas (RAAs) in Slovakia to 21 February 2026 under Article 14(17) (p. 84).

On 23 September 2025, Slovakia adopted Act No. 269/2025 amending Act No. 24/2006 Coll. on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA Act) and on the Act No. 39/2013 Coll. on Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control (IPPC), included in Annex 1 and Annex 2, respectively. These laws introduce provisions which, taken together, introduce provisions that streamline permitting procedures and assessment deadlines for the development of installations in go-to zones (these new provisions are further detailed below).

Finally, Slovakia adopted the Wind Energy Methodology on 11 December 2025, as an annex to a Decree of the Ministry of Environment on the practical application of the Methodology for Wind Energy Development in the Slovak Republic – Preparation of acceleration zones suitable for wind energy development (Annex 4) pursuant to Section 64b of the EIA Act, describing and enforcing the practical application of the criteria for establishing acceleration zones and specific permitting processes for installations that would be developed within these areas. This Decree has entered into force on 22 December 2025, the same date as the signature of the minister.

(...) introducing specific simplified permitting procedures for the development of installations within such areas. The reform shall also streamline the screening and mandatory assessment procedures (under the EIA Act) related to ‘go-to areas’.

The specific permitting and mandatory assessment procedures for developing RES installations within renewable acceleration areas have been introduced through legislative amendments which collectively form a functional legislative framework.

- i) Strategic document mandating the use of a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

Slovakia amended the EIA (Annex 1) and RES Acts (Annex 3) obligating the Ministry of Economy to designate the acceleration zones for wind energy projects. Pursuant to the newly introduced Article 14(17) of the amended RES Act, the Ministry of Economy shall ensure the preparation of a strategic document by February 21, 2026, which will designate acceleration zones for renewable energy sources for one or more types of renewable energy sources.

Following the pre-existing legislative framework, namely Article 4(1) of the EIA Act, strategic documents that are prepared in the area of energy and the environment shall be the subject to a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) procedure. Moreover, Art 3(f) of the EIA Act defines a strategic document as a document with nationwide impact which is approved by the government of the Slovak Republic. These assessments are mandatory when the documents are likely to have a significant impact on the environment and simultaneously create a framework for approving any of the proposed activities in Annex 8 of the EIA Act, where under point 12, the facilities for utilizing wind to generate electricity are also listed.

Therefore, the reform mandates the development and designation of the acceleration zones through a strategic document, as outlined in Art 14(17) RES Act, which are required to undergo mandatory assessment under the existing legal framework, specifically the SEA procedure pursuant to Article 4(4) of the EIA Act. This process culminates in a decision regarding the strategic document’s assessment pursuant to Articles 14 and 15 of the EIA Act, thereby establishing the prerequisites for project approvals in the acceleration zones in advance. The following sections of this analysis detail how this initial step allows RES

installations in designated go-to zones in Slovakia to simplify the standard full EIA process, thereby streamlining the development of RES investment projects in these areas.

ii) Mitigating measures which exempt investors needing to undertake an individual EIA

According to the new legislative amendments, the streamlining of permitting processes is enhanced by mitigating measures, which are determined during the SEA process.

The decision on the assessment of the strategic document's impact on the environment shall contain clear and specific conditions for individual acceleration zones, including the description of mitigating measures as set out in Article 14 of the EIA Act. Thus, the Slovak Environmental Inspectorate (SEI) and other involved parties (such as environmental authorities, municipalities, operators of distribution and transmission systems, and others) shall define their conditions for the approval of projects in the respective acceleration zone within the SEA process. By establishing these conditions upfront in the SEA process, the new framework reduces the complexity and effort required from individual investors in developing projects in the acceleration zones.

Pursuant to Article 2 of the newly adopted Decree, and Annex 2, the responsible authority shall, when, designating acceleration zones, ensure that for each designated zone an impact assessment under Article 37 EIA Act (Annex 1) is carried out. This means that the entire zones, rather than specific projects, undergo the EIA process. The decision stemming from the EIA process will be conducted without referencing specific investments, investors, or projects, as per Article 39b(1) of the EIA Act. In addition, as set out in Article 37(4) and (5), the EIA decision will detail the mitigating measures and other conditions for approval of projects in a specific zone.

All in all, these amendments mandate that each renewable acceleration zone shall be subject to an EIA carried out by the SEI, so as to pre-determine conditions for the approval of projects for individual investors. This approach significantly reduces the administrative and permitting burden for RES project investors, facilitating quicker and more efficient development of the renewable projects in the acceleration zone.

iii) Reduction of the administrative burden concerning the environmental assessment for potential investors

The most important simplification of the permitting process under this reform arises from the exemption of the investors from individual environmental assessments, thereby substantially reducing the administrative burden and accelerating the timeline for renewable project approvals in the acceleration zones.

The EIA Act, under Article 39c(3) requires that each investor shall submit the relevant documentation to verify the compliance of the project with the EIA which was carried out for the zone as a whole. In case of compliance with the EIA decision, the administrator of an acceleration zone is obliged to contractually transfer the rights arising from such EIA decision to an individual investor, as stipulated in Article 39b(1) of the EIA Act. Therefore, the EIA decision for the entire zone applies to every applicant within the zone and exempts them from separate environmental assessments, if they comply with the EIA conditions (as stipulated for individual zones).

iv) Integration of the Permitting Processes Within Acceleration Zones

Finally, the legislative amendments have further streamlined the remaining environmental, public health, agriculture, and construction permitting processes that apply to RES projects in renewable acceleration zones.

Article 39a(2) of the EIA Act establishes that the environmental assessment for wind turbine energy projects located in the acceleration zones shall be conducted as part of the integrated permitting process. As outlined in Article 3(2) of the IPPC regulation, the outcome of this integrated permitting process is an "integrated permit." Article 29a of the IPPC law defines an "integrated permit" as a decision that grants the applicant the right to operate the energy facility. This permit replaces those required under the previous legislative framework for environmental protection, public health, agriculture, and construction planning. According to Article 29c(1)(e), for installations that shall be developed in renewable acceleration areas, this integrated permit must be issued within a 12-month timeframe.

Overall, the legislative reforms in Slovakia have introduced a specific permitting process for wind turbine energy projects in designated acceleration zones. Firstly, the RES Act now defines these zones and sets a clear deadline for their establishment under Articles 2(1) and 14(17) of the RES Act – set for 21 February 2026. Secondly, investors are exempt from undergoing a dedicated Environmental Impact Assessment, if their projects align with the established conditions, with the rights transferred from the EIA decision for the zone as a whole. This is provided for in Article 39b(1) EIA Act. Lastly, this simplified process mandates the Slovak authorities that the integrated permit for energy projects must, according to Article 29c(1)(e) IPPC, be issued within a 12-month deadline, expediting the administrative permitting procedure for wind energy projects within these zones.

Adoption of the methodology for the establishment of ‘go-to areas’ suitable for the development of wind energy (“Wind Energy Methodology”) in the form of a decree.

Slovakia adopted the Wind Energy Methodology on 11 December 2025 (Annex 4), in the form of a Decree pursuant to Section 64b of the EIA Act, describing and enforcing the practical application of the criteria for establishing acceleration zones and specific permitting processes for installations that would be developed within these areas.

The Wind Energy Methodology shall introduce unified criteria for the selection and assessment of sites suitable areas for wind energy development.

The Decree (annex 4) obligates the Ministry of Economy to designate the zones by following the Wind Energy Methodology (annex to the Decree) when identifying, delineating, and evaluating acceleration zones for wind energy production—pursuant to Article 1 of the Decree. The Decree lists the unified criteria for the selection of acceleration zones in Article 3, while making a link to detailed criteria description in Annex 2.

The methodology shall introduce also environmental, economical, technical and public participation and grid connectivity criteria for demarcating the go-to areas.

i) Environmental Criteria:

Concerning environmental criteria, in view of Article 4 referencing Annex 2 of the Decree, the Decree (Annex 4) specifies the exclusion of areas with significant ecological importance such as NATURA 2000 sites, national parks, and biosphere reserves. It requires ongoing monitoring of impacts on birds and bats

post-implementation. It further conditions the designation of acceleration zones on the protection of birds and bats, which involves modelling collision and migration paths and implementing turbine shutdown regimes during low wind speeds or migration periods. It also mandates visual modelling of landscape impacts before and after project implementation, and the inclusion of compensatory elements if necessary.

The acceleration zones can be launched if all threshold values are respected, and no new circumstances emerge that were not previously assessed according to specific regulations. Post-deployment monitoring obligations include continuous monitoring of avian and bat populations in four-year cycles, maintaining operational records of noise and shadow effects, submitting technical reports annually, and implementing additional measures if significant environmental impacts are identified. Upon the decommissioning of turbines, operators are required to remediate the area, remove technological elements, and restore the original condition of the site as per documentation.

ii) Economic Criteria:

Regarding economic criteria, the Decree (Annex 4) stipulates that proposed acceleration zones must demonstrate an estimated capacity coefficient of at least 25%, ensuring economic viability. It requires modelled data confirming the wind potential is suitable for the profitable operation of renewable energy sources. The annex prioritizes identifying zones in less developed regions and areas with high renewable energy demand related to industrial growth.

iii) Technical criteria:

Concerning technical criteria, the Decree (Annex 4) defines energy suitability by requiring either an average annual wind speed of at least 4.50 m/s at 100 meters height or confirmed modelled data on wind potential viable for economically operating renewable energy sources. It addresses noise and distance thresholds, stipulating a minimum clearance distance from permanently inhabited structures of 1000 meters or compliance with noise models so that permissible sound levels per Slovak Ministry of Health decrees are not exceeded. Maximum allowable noise at the facades of residential buildings is 45 dB(A) at night and 50 dB(A) during the day. It sets a minimum distance from sensitive objects such as schools and hospitals at 1000 meters.

iv) Public Participation Criteria:

For public participation criteria, the Decree (Annex 4) mandates consultations with local governments and communities to evaluate proposed acceleration zones. It includes assessing and incorporating the positions of local municipalities and residents into the decision-making process regarding the establishment of wind energy projects.

v) Grid connectivity criteria:

The Decree (Annex 4) requires that acceleration zones demonstrate feasible grid connection capabilities, stipulating that they must be within 20 kilometres of existing or planned transmission and distribution infrastructure. It mandates the availability of reserved transmission capacity and includes considerations to ensure the stability of the energy grid.

The methodology shall be developed in cooperation with relevant stakeholders, including through public consultation and transparent dialogue.

The National Implementation and Coordination Authority (NIKA) established a working group to ensure comprehensive consultation and involvement of stakeholders throughout the process of preparing the Methodology on wind acceleration areas (Annex 6, Annex 7, Annex 8). This group included experts from the key governmental bodies, such as the Ministry of the Environment and the Ministry of the Economy of the Slovak Republic (MH SR), as well as representatives from Jadrová Energetická Spoločnosť Slovenska (Nuclear Energy Company of Slovakia), a.s. (JESS, a.s.), municipal and regional organizations, and various non-governmental organizations like the Climate Coalition, Slovak Ornithology Society, and Slovak Sustainable Energy Association (SAPI). Additional stakeholders, such as transmission and distribution system operators, the Office for the Regulation of Network Industries, the Public Health Authority, energy experts, and external specialists, were also integral to the methodology's development (Annex 6, Annex 8).

To ensure transparency and public involvement, the ministry of Environment facilitated the preparation of the methodology's working draft through an expert team coordinated by JESS, a.s. This draft was made publicly accessible for comments from April 2 to May 7, 2025, via the website of MŽP SR (Annex 7). Furthermore, the RRP National Implementation and Coordination Authority (NIKA) invited the public to submit comments on the methodology's update, specifically for chapter C7 on communication, by May 30, 2025. These comments were being reviewed and discussed at NIKA working Party meetings throughout 2025, ensuring that public input is considered and integrated into the final methodology (Annex 5, Annex 6, Annex 8).

The assessment of the satisfactory compliance of the milestone for the purposes of payments from the Recovery and Resilience Facility does not prejudge the evaluation by the Commission of the transposition of Directive 2023/2413 and Directive 2014/52 by Slovakia, in particular in the proceedings on the basis of Article 258 TFEU.

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled.

SK-C[C19]-R[R2]-M[C19.12]: Integration of renewables into the electricity grid

Related Measure: REPowerEU – Reform 2: Supporting the green transition in RES - Submeasure 3- Integration of renewables into the electricity grid

Qualitative Indicators: Entry into force of a set of mandatory measures addressing five objectives

Time: Q1 2025

1. Context

The objective of this reform is to support the green transition in renewables. Sub-measure 3 is focused on the integration of renewable energy sources (RES) into the Slovak electricity grid by removing barriers to grid connection and enhancing grid connection efficiency and transparency.

Milestone 19.12 envisages the entry into force of a set of mandatory measures lowering barriers for grid connection, in particular through adapting rules for the re-release of unused reserved capacities and specification of time limits for reserving grid capacities.

Milestone 19.12 is the only milestone under this reform. The reform has a final expected implementation date of 31 March 2025.

2. Evidence provided

	Name of the Evidence	Short Description
1	Summary document	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone and the reform (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled.
2	Decree of the Regulatory Office for Network Industries (ÚRSO) No. 207/2023 of 27 September 2023	The amendment lays down rules for the functioning of the internal market in electricity, the content of the operating rules of the system operator, the short-term electricity market operator and the scope of commercial conditions that are part of the system operator's operating rules.
3	Decree of the Regulatory Office for Network Industries (ÚRSO) No. 154/2024 of 15 April 2024	The amendment lays down price regulation in the electricity sector and certain conditions for carrying out regulated activities in the electricity sector.

3. Analysis

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

On 17 April 2023, Slovakia adopted the Decree No. 207/2023, laying down rules for functioning of the internal market electricity, which entered into force on 1 January 2025. On 12 June 2024, Slovakia adopted an amendment of the Decree No. 154/2024 establishing price regulation in the electricity sector and certain conditions for carrying out regulated activities in the electricity sector, which entered into force on 1 January 2025.

The measures, applied by the national authorities or grid operators, shall include:

- **1/ lowering barriers for connection to the grid through adaptation of rules for the re-release of unused capacities; and at least one of the following: a) specifying the time limits for reservation of grid capacities; b) introduction of financial incentives discouraging the non-utilization of allocated capacities in due time.**

In line with the description of the milestone, Slovakia submitted evidence on adaptation of rules for the re-release of unused capacities for connection to the grid on both above mentioned conditions. As regards a) specifying the time limits for reservation of grid capacities, according to ÚRSO Decree No. 207/2023,

Section 5d (2), the reservation of the required capacity is only maintained if the applicant accepts the draft connection agreement or draft future connection agreement. If the applicant fails to do so within the periods specified in Section 5e (2) (3) or (4), the reservation is automatically terminated. For low- and high-voltage levels (Section 5e), the applicant must accept the draft connection contract within 30 days and pay the full connection fee within 14 days of receipt of the advance invoice. For extra high-voltage levels, the deadline for acceptance is extended to 90 days (with 50% of the connection fee to be paid within 14 days). These provisions ensure that reserved capacity is released if the connection procedure is not completed in a timely manner. As regards b) introduction of financial incentives discouraging the non-utilization of allocated capacities in due time, the new legislative framework includes a financial disincentive to holding unused capacity by tying the validity of the draft connection agreement to the timely payment of the connection fee. According to the ÚRSO Decree No 207/2023, Section 5e, if the payment is not made within the prescribed period, the draft contract expires. This rule applies across all voltage levels (paragraph 2 and paragraph 3).

- **2/ measures increasing transparency of connection process (the connection decisions in particular) through regularly updated online information on available grid connection capacities and other relevant information, both at the level of regional distribution system operators and the transmission system operator. The transparency requirements should be unified across all distribution companies.**

In line with the description of the milestone, the ÚRSO Decree No. 207/2023, section 5h determines the rules governing the publication of information on available grid capacity and allocated capacity in the system. The available and allocated capacities must be published on the websites of all transmission and distribution system operators per section 5h(1). According to section 5h (2), the updated values on available and allocated capacities in the system shall be published on the website of the transmission system operator within five working days after the capacity has been booked (and at least once a calendar month) and at two week intervals on the website of regional distribution system operators. Furthermore, Section 5h (3) specifies that this information must be made public by nodal area. This set of measures ensures that the market participants are informed in a timely and consistent manner about the state of available grid capacity.

- **3/ harmonisation of rules for connection of renewable installations to the electricity distribution systems across all regional distribution system operators, particularly through a unified process of issuing approvals for grid connection.**

In line with the description of the milestone, the ÚRSO Decree No. 207/2023 (Sections 5a,b,c) establishes a basis for harmonisation of rules for connection of renewables through a single and legally binding process applicable to regional distribution system operators (DSOs) and the transmission system operator (TSO) in the Slovak Republic.

- Section 5a presents the key preconditions for connecting electricity equipment to the grid by all system operators (excluding small sources) as follows: (a) the submission of a complete connection request; (b) the reservation of the required capacity to be guided by the Decree; and (c) the conclusion in form of a network connection contract, if in compliance with the commercial and technical conditions of the system operator.

- Section 5b standardises the conditions for submitting the connection applications. Paragraph (1) requires that the application must be submitted before the start of construction or planned reconstruction, or before termination of a previous connection contract. Paragraph (2) clarifies that the applications to the relevant operator may also be submitted electronically and that the incoming applications are preferably to be processed in chronological order. Paragraph (3) requires the inclusion of a construction certificate into applications, where applicable.
 - Section 5c regulates how applications are assessed and the conditions for issuing approvals for grid connections. Paragraph (1) presents the key evaluation criteria to be applied by all operators (notably related to location and method of connection; requested capacity; connection reliability and availability of connection capacity). Paragraph (2), on incomplete applications, states that the reasons for refusal must be communicated to the applicant within 30 days. Paragraph (3) establishes procedures for requesting additional documentation. Paragraphs (4) (5) harmonise the issuance of a draft connection contract that must be sent within 30 days of receipt of a complete application for connection to the distribution system or within 60 days for the transmission system. Paragraph (6) requires the operator to notify the applicant of the refusal to connect within 30 days, with reasons why connection is not possible due to technical constraints.
- **4/ adoption of regulatory incentive mechanisms for DSOs by the Regulator of Network Industries to invest in distribution grid development for supporting the grid integration of RES.**

In line with the description of the milestone, the new ÚRSO Decree No. 154/2024 Coll. on the price regulation in the electricity sector defines the conditions under which distribution system operators (DSOs) make investments into the grid and sets out the related incentive mechanisms. Section 5 (point 4) of the Decree strengthens investment incentives for DSOs by introducing updated regulatory financial parameters for the operators. This includes an increase in the Weighted Average Cost of Capital (WACC) to 5.39% in 2025 (as compared to 4.99% from the preceding ÚRSO Decree No 246/2023), ensuring that the DSOs are able to cover larger parts of their debt costs while maintaining appropriate returns to shareholders. Additional investment incentives for DSOs are included in the depreciation regime set out in Annex 1 to ÚRSO Decree No. 154/2024. These rules are based not on tax regulations, but rather on technical end-of-service values. This allows DSOs to apply depreciation rates closely aligned with the real operational lifespan of the asset base, enhancing their ability to finance upgrades of the networks. Furthermore, the Regulatory Asset Base (RAB), determining the value of DSO assets used in regulated activities, remains a central tool in calculating the allowed returns for the DSOs, hereby the operators retain certainty that their investments into the grid development remain reflected in their revenues.

- **5/ introduction of binding time limits for the grid connection procedures for small scale and local renewables.**

The ÚRSO Decree No. 207/2023 Section 5g regulates the conditions for connection of small-scale sources, including the time limits for receiving the connection agreement and for connection to the grid. According to point (2) of Section 5g, the draft connection agreement shall be sent to the applicant within ten working

days of the application. Section 59(3) sets out time limits in case the request for connection is incomplete, where the DSO must specify the reasons for non-acceptance. Following the file completion, the DSO is required to issue a written opinion and send a draft connection contract to the applicant within 30 days. In case of the fulfilment of technical and commercial conditions, the facility must be then connected to the distribution system within five working days. A similar procedure is applied for the local sources under Section 5c of the ÚRSO Decree No. 207/2023, which makes reference to the limits as established in the Act No. 309/2009 under Article 4b. Specifically, point (5) requires that the DSOs are required to issue a binding opinion on the reserved capacity for grid connection of local sources within 15 working days from receiving the connection request (this decision remains then valid for 12 months).

4. **Commission preliminary assessment:** Satisfactory fulfilled.

SK-C[C19]-R[R6]-M[C19.26]: New training modules in educational programmes of secondary vocational schools and a training programme for teachers and adults

Related Measure: C19.R6 Skills for the green transition

Qualitative Indicator: Approval by the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic the updated curriculum for secondary vocational schools and the training programme for teachers and adults

Time: Q4 2024

1. Context:

The reform aims at updating education and training programmes to meet the labour market's demand for green skills. It includes adapting the curriculum for secondary vocational schools to focus on renewable energy and electromobility, updating teacher qualification standards and training programmes in these

areas, and developing adult training programmes to address skill shortages and transitions in sectors like heavy industry and automotive.

Milestone C19.M26 consists in the preparation of an updated curriculum and teachers' programme in alignment with the ESCO (European Classification of Occupations, Skills, and Competences) classification of green skills. The updated curriculum is approved by secondary vocational schools, while the teachers' programme has received approval from the Ministry of Education, Science, Research, and Sport of the Slovak Republic.

Milestone C19.M26 is the only milestone of this reform. The reform has a final expected date for implementation on 30 December 2024.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence.	Short description
1	Summary document	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone and the reform (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled.
2	Annex 1 – Certificate of qualification for the provision of innovative education	Certificate of qualification produced by the Ministry of Education, Research, Development and Youth of the Slovak Republic issued on 5 December 2024 for authorising the State Institute of Vocational Training to provide innovative education programs.
3	Annex 2 – The secondary vocational school curriculum for education in the field ‘Technique for energy facilities in buildings’	The secondary vocational school curriculum developed by the State Institute of Vocational Education on 4 November 2024, focused on renewable energy sources.
4	Annex 3 – The secondary vocational school curriculum for education in the field ‘Electromobility’	The secondary vocational school curriculum developed by the State Institute of Vocational Education on 19 May 2025, focused on electromobility.
5	Annex 3a – Cover letter approving the two secondary vocational school curricula	Cover letter issued by the Ministry of Education, Research, Development and Youth of the Slovak Republic on 7 November 2024 to endorse the two secondary vocational school curricula.
6	Annex 4 – The approval opinion of school heads on the updated curriculum	The approval opinion of school heads, provided during December 2024, on the updated curriculum

		at the secondary vocational schools in question.
7	Annex 5 – Approval of the Ministry of Education for the educational programmes for adults	The decision of the Ministry of Education, Research, Development and Youth of the Slovak Republic from 29 November 2024, approving the educational programmes for adults.
8	Annex 6 – Documentation related to the educational programmes for teachers	The documentation includes the decision of the Ministry of Education, Research, Development and Youth of the Slovak Republic approving the educational programmes for teachers; and model learning programme for educators in line with the ESCO classification for each of programme. The documents are dated between 11 December 2024 and 2 June 2025.
9	Annex 7 – Summary report and the individual reports from independent bodies on which it is based	This report from the State Institute of Vocational Education is based on the evaluation of five independent bodies, these evaluation/reports are provided. The summary is dated 24 June 2025, the individual reports are dated between the 3 January 2025 and 23 June 2025.
10	Annex 8 – Confirmation from the Slovak Government Council for Vocational Education and Training on transparent and expert-led process in updating State Education Programmes	Confirmation from the Slovak Government Council for Vocational Education and Training, issued on 24 June 2025, demonstrating that the programmes were developed in close cooperation with key stakeholders.
11	Annex 9 – Approval of the Ministry of Education for updated curricula for secondary vocational schools	Document of the Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic, issued on 24 June 2025, for approving the updated curricula for secondary vocational schools.
12	Annex 10 – Documentation related to the educational programmes for teachers	Cover letters, dated on 5 December 2025, for the creation of new accredited education programmes and Accredited Photovoltaic Education Programmes, Heat Pumps Hydrogen, Smart and Electromobility

3. Analysis:

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

The updated curriculum as well as the teachers' programme shall be prepared in line with the ESCO (The European Classification of Occupations, Skills and Competences) classification of the green skills.

The secondary vocational school curriculum has been updated with two new fields of studies, prepared in line with the ESCO classification of the green skills:

1. The field of study *3693 K Technik in energy installations in buildings* (Annex 2). This part of the updated curriculum focuses on renewable energy sources, given the main objective is to prepare graduates to successfully cope with the challenges of a dynamically developing area of energy installations in buildings, with an emphasis on recent trends and technological innovation (Annex 2). Students will be familiar with a wide range of topics, including in-house building distribution technology, heating, cooling and air-conditioning systems, gas equipment, water supply systems, as well as renewable energy (RES) issues such as photovoltaics, heat pumps, hydrogen systems and smart (SMART) management systems (Annex 2). The programme relies on the European Classification of Skills, Competences, Qualifications and Occupations (ESCO). The alignment with the ESCO classification is explained in detail in the "CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE IN THE COMPLETION OF ALL PROFESSIONAL - ESCO objects" Section of Annex 2. The subjects included under the new field of study correspond to ESCO codes for occupations like energy saving professional, solar installation worker, refrigeration air conditioning and heat pump technician, energy consultant, and energy analyst. these occupations involve promoting energy savings, installing and maintaining renewable energy equipment, designing and maintaining energy-efficient systems, and advising clients on energy-efficient products and methods. By acquiring skills in these areas, individuals can pursue careers that contribute to reducing energy consumption and carbon footprint, and promoting sustainable development, which is in line with the ESCO classification of green skills (Annex 2).
2. The field of study *2495 K Autotronic* (Annex 3). This part of the updated curriculum focuses on electromobility, given the main objective is to prepare graduates to service, diagnose, and maintain electric vehicles with an emphasis on modern automotive technologies. It combines knowledge of electrical engineering, vehicle mechanics, automation, and diagnostics, including work with high-voltage systems, CAN bus, and software tools. Graduates are trained in safety standards, environmental responsibility, and the use of advanced manufacturing technologies such as virtual reality and robotisation. The program equips students with the skills needed for Industry 4.0 and the evolving e-mobility sector. This new field of study aligns closely with ESCO green and technical competencies, particularly those for auto mechanics, auto electricians, and battery repairers. The subjects included under the new field of study correspond to ESCO codes for occupations like auto mechanical professionals, who inspect, maintain, and repair vehicle components such as engines, tyres, and lubricants; auto electricians, who install and service electronic and electrical systems in vehicles, including lighting, air conditioning, and wiring;

battery repairers, who install, test, and maintain car batteries; and general electricians, who handle the installation and repair of wiring, circuits, and electrical equipment in various environments (Annex 3).

The two curricula included in Annex 2 and Annex 3, are supported by Annex 3a, i.e. internal approval signed cover letters from the Ministry of Education, Research, Development and Youth of the Slovak Republic, confirming the endorsement of two model school education programmes for secondary vocational schools.

The teachers' programme has been updated to cover the previously mentioned field of studies (i.e. *3693 K Technik in energy facilities in buildings* and *2495 K Autotronic*) and prepared in line with the ESCO classification of the green skills (Annexes 1 and 6). As stated in the certificate of qualification for the provision of innovative education (Annex 1), the Ministry of Education has authorized the State Institute of Vocational Training to provide innovative education programmes for teachers and has set up the content of the programmes. The teachers' programme focuses on modern theory and practical knowledge related to green technologies, especially renewable energy and electromobility. It includes principles, design, technical solutions, and problem-solving skills. This education aims to help teachers continuously improve their expertise and teaching skills in using renewable energy sources like solar power, hydrogen, heat pumps, geothermal energy, and smart technologies for operating these systems and supporting electromobility (Annex 1). The model learning teachers' programme provided by the State Institute of Vocational Training (Annex 6) confirms the ESCO compliance of the programme.

The State Institute of Vocational Education has also developed and adopted several accredited adult education programs focused on green skills (Annex 10). These include a 48-hour course in electromobility, a 25-hour course in photovoltaics, a 25-hour program on geothermal energy and heat pumps, a 25-hour course on SMART systems for measurement and control, and a 48-hour program on the hydrogen ecosystem (Annex 10).

Furthermore, the content of the updated curriculum for secondary vocational schools and educational programmes for teachers and adults and their alignment with the ESCO green skills classifications to support the green transition in areas like renewable energy and electromobility, has also been positively evaluated by several independent bodies:

- Slovak Smart City Cluster (independent body report - Annex 7a)
- Technical University of Košice (assessment of the updated curriculum for Autotronic - Annex 7b)
- National Energy Cluster NEK (independent body report - Annex 7c)
- Energy cluster of the Prešov region (assessment of the updated curriculum for the field of study 3693 K Technik for energy installations in buildings – Annex 7d) support the green transition, focusing on renewable energy, energy efficiency, smart technologies, and electromobility.
- University of Žilina (Report by an independent body on the content of the updated curriculum for secondary schools – Annex 7e)

This is also in line with the name of the milestone, which states respectively **“new training modules in educational programmes of secondary vocational schools and a training programme for teachers and adults”**.

The updated curriculum shall be approved by secondary vocational schools [...].

As demonstrated by Annex 4a and 4b, the updated curriculum has been approved by secondary vocational schools. More specifically, the school heads of the following secondary vocational schools have provided their approval for the updated curriculum for energy installations in buildings (annex 4a): the Technical High School in Košice, the Joint School in Banská Bystrica, the Joint School in Martin, IMS Construction in Žilina, High Level Technical School in Prešov, the Secondary Vocational School of Technology and Crafts in Bratislava, High School of Electrical Engineering in Trnava. Furthermore, the school heads of the following secondary vocational schools have provided their approval for the updated curriculum for autotronik (annex 4b): High School of Transport in Prešov, Secondary Professional School of Services and Industry in Trebišov, High Vocational School of Machinery in Kysuck Novom Mesta, the Private SOŠ Automobile Dual Academy, Private Secondary Vocational School of Polytechnic DSA in Nitra, Kvačalova Secondary Vocational School of Transport in Bratislava, Automobile secondary vocational school in Trnava.

[...], the teachers’ programme shall be approved by the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic.

The teachers’ programme has been approved by the Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic, as demonstrated by the Certificate of qualification for the provision of innovative education issued by this Ministry (Annex 1). Through this certification the Ministry of Education has authorized the State Institute of Vocational Training to provide innovative education programmes for teachers and has set up the content of the programmes.

The Council Implementing Decision required that the teachers’ programme shall be approved by the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic. The teachers’ programme has been approved by the Ministry of Education, however effective from 1 February 2024, the name "Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic" is changed to "Ministry of Education, Research, Development and Youth of the Slovak Republic." This change is in accordance with Act No. 7/2024 Coll. of 16 January 2024. Whilst this constitutes a minimal formal deviation from the requirement of the Council Implementing Decision, the Ministry of Education has not changed his status in respect to the education competences required for this milestone. 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.

This is also in line with the qualitative indicator of the milestone, which states **“approval by the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic the updated curriculum for [...] the training programme for teachers [...]”**.

Furthermore, in line with the qualitative indicator of the milestone, **“approval by the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic the updated curriculum for secondary vocational schools and the training programme for [...] adults”**.

The updated curriculum for secondary vocational schools has been approved by the Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic, as demonstrated by an official opinion of the Ministry (Annex 9). This document verifies that the curricula for the education fields of Construction with a focus on renewable energy sources and machinery with a focus on autotronics and electromobility have been reviewed and approved by the Ministry (Annex 9).

The training programme for adults has been approved by the Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic, as demonstrated by the Decision (case number: 2024/19367:3-c2940) issued by this ministry (Annex 5). Through this Decision the Ministry of education has granted accreditation to the State Institute of Vocational Education for seven adult education programs. The accredited programs include electromobility, photovoltaics, geothermal energy and heat pumps, smart systems for measurement and control, hydrogen ecosystem.

The Council Implementing Decision required the approval by the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic the updated curriculum for secondary vocational schools and the training programme for [...] adults. These programmes have been approved by the Ministry of Education, however effective from 1 February 2024, the name "Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic" is changed to "Ministry of Education, Research, Development and Youth of the Slovak Republic." This change is in accordance with Act No. 7/2024 Coll. of 16 January 2024. Whilst this constitutes a minimal formal deviation from the requirement of the Council Implementing Decision, the Ministry of Education has not changed his status in respect to the education competences required for this milestone. 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.

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactory fulfilled.