

Slovakia and the European funds 2014 – 2020



Partnership Agreement

Areas of support and Good Practice Examples

2014-2020 Supported Areas

In the **2014-2020** programming period, more than **EUR 15.3 billion** is allocated from EU resources for Slovakia.

1 Strengthening research, technological development and innovation

2 Information and communication technologies and services for citizens, businesses and the public sector

3 Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)

4 Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors

5 Promoting climate change adaptation and preventive measures

6 Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency

7 Promoting sustainable transport

8 Promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility

9 Promoting social inclusion, combating poverty and any discrimination

10 Investing in education, training and vocational training for skills and lifelong learning

11 Strengthening the efficiency of public administration

Operational programmes co-funded by the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF):

OP Research and Innovations (OP R&I)

OP Human resources (OP HR)

OP Integrated Infrastructure (OP II)

OP Quality of Environment (OP QE)

Integrated Regional Operational Programme (IROP)

OP Effective Public Administration (OP EPA)

OP Technical Assistance (OP TA)

OP Fisheries (OPF)

Interreg V-A SK-CZ

Interreg V-A SK-AT

PS INTERACT III

Rural Development Programme (RDP)

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Innovations and technologies at enterprises including research and development



1 Strengthening research, technology development and innovation



CENTRE FOR FUNCTIONAL AND SURFACE FUNCTIONALIZED GLASS, ALEXANDER DUBČEK UNIVERSITY OF TRENČÍN

Upgrading existing research centre in synergy with the Horizon 2020 Programme



Project supported by the OP R&I

- » One of ten centres of excellence in the Central Europe was established in 2017. The centre was supported by successful Horizon 2020 project;
- » The unique project supports transformation of an existing workplace in the field of glass science and technologies to the level of international scientific excellence;
- » Team of 35 Slovak scientists work with researchers from Belgium, India, Iran, Spain, Egypt, China, Belorussia, Germany and Mexico.



The ESIF in this field support:

- ✓ Implementation of the Smart Specialisation Strategy (RIS3) in all five domains of the strategy;
- ✓ Positive trend in increasing investments in research and development;
- ✓ Increasing innovation performance of the Slovak enterprises;
- ✓ Improving quality of the Slovak scientific publications globally;
- ✓ Development of applied research and its commercial outputs.



Following measures are needed to maximise the ESIF effects

- ✓ Investing in human resources, especially in education of young researchers and attracting talented young scientists from abroad;
- ✓ Increasing success rates of the Slovak universities and the Slovak Academy of Sciences in the European research programmes;
- ✓ Increasing innovative potential in enterprises and connecting enterprise and research sector;
- ✓ Investing in transformation of industry according to the *Industry 4.0 principles*.



The European Investment and Structural Funds (ESIF) allocate **EUR 1.8 billion** into strengthening research, technology development and innovation in the **2014 – 2020** programming period in Slovakia.

Examples of supported investments

- ✓ Support to modernisation and development of the infrastructure for research and development;
- ✓ Support to industry research and development centres;
- ✓ Development of collaboration between the enterprises, research and development centres, universities and the Slovak Academy of Sciences;
- ✓ Product and technology innovations;
- ✓ Applied research, experimental research and protection of intellectual rights.

2 Information and communication technologies and services for citizens, businesses and the public sector



The ESIF’s amount of **EUR 0.8 billion** is allocated for Slovakia to support the implementation of digital technologies in the **2014-2020** programming period.

Examples of supported investments

- ✓ Innovative e-services of the public administration for citizens and entrepreneurs (e-Government);
- ✓ Electronic cloud and cloud services;
- ✓ Development of a central platform for open data;
- ✓ Protection of data and information systems (cyber security).

Call “WIFI FOR YOU”

Free internet available in public areas



Call supported from the OP II

- » Designed for cities and municipalities to set up free WiFi zones of their choice in public places such as squares, offices, parks or libraries;
- » Support is for more than 750 towns and municipalities;
- » The aim is to offer a modern solution supporting the creation of a high-quality environment for citizens’ internet communication in public places and to ensure the access of people to free and fast internet.



The ESIF in this field support:

- ✓ Increasing the quality, standard and availability of eGovernment services for citizens and businesses;
- ✓ Increasing the percentage of Slovak households’ access to broadband internet. Currently, 79% of households have a connection¹;
- ✓ Increasing the availability of published data in the form of open data;
- ✓ Application of the latest trends in digital economy.



Following measures are needed to maximise the ESIF effects

- ✓ Enable access to e-services for every citizen, including the elderly, disabled or socially disadvantaged (eInclusion);
- ✓ Adherence to the “one time, enough” principle, the state requests data from citizens and entrepreneurs only once;
- ✓ Increase citizens’ digital literacy;
- ✓ Migration of public administration IT systems to the government cloud.

¹ Eurostat (2019): Digital economy and society

3 Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises



In the area of strengthening the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) as well as the agriculture, fisheries and aquaculture sectors, nearly **EUR 1 billion** ESIF sources are allocated in the **2014-2020** programming period.

Examples of supported investments

- ✓ Purchase of new technologies by companies;
- ✓ Wide range of services for SMEs at the domestic and foreign markets;
- ✓ Upgrading in agricultural production and aquaculture;
- ✓ Investment in the processing and development of agricultural products;
- ✓ Support for young farmers and small farms.

National project “SUPPORT OF INTERNATIONALIZATION OF SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED ENTERPRISES”



More than **EUR 30 million** for SMEs with the potential to expand their business at domestic and foreign markets



Project supported by the OP R&I

- » The project allows to support the involvement of SMEs in international cooperation;
- » Provides specialized advice - expanding the skills and expertise in marketing, investment activities, negotiating trade agreements, etc.;
- » Allows SMEs to participate in international fairs and exhibitions;
- » Offers an active search for new sales opportunities at foreign markets;
- » Supports alternative forms of entrepreneurship and the involvement of businesses in the EU Community programmes.



The ESIF in this field support:

- ✓ Increasing productivity and improving overall SMEs performance;
- ✓ Product and process innovations and technology transfer;
- ✓ Improving product quality, marketing and sales at new markets;
- ✓ Stabilization of the workforce, generational exchange in agriculture and growth in production;
- ✓ Increasing the internationalization of SMEs;



Following measures are needed to maximise the ESIF effects

- ✓ Support SMEs at all stages of the business / life cycle;
- ✓ Support SMEs in the lagging regions;
- ✓ Strengthen the production, technological and export potential of SMEs;
- ✓ Develop and strengthen new business models for SMEs.



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Environment



4 Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors



National project

“GREEN LIGHT FOR HOUSEHOLDS”

More than EUR 90 million for households to use renewable energy sources



Project supported by the OP QE

- » Support to the purchase and installation of small electricity and heat production facilities;
- » As many as 18,507 vouchers for the purchase of equipment were reimbursed to households within the project, including 3,673 photovoltaic panels, 6,979 solar collectors, 5,242 heat pumps and 2,613 biomass boilers;
- » The project also promotes development of a market for households renewable energy appliances;
- » The source of information for the general public is www.zelenadomacnostiam.sk.



The ESIF in this field support:

- ✓ Reducing greenhouse gas emissions;
- ✓ Achieving savings in energy consumption;
- ✓ Enhancing positive trends in energy production;
- ✓ Reducing energy consumption in heating;



Following measures are needed to maximise the ESIF effects

- ✓ Increase support for renewable energy production by increase in supporting small and medium-sized enterprises;
- ✓ Continue the trend of projects such as “Green light for households” and reduce emissions from domestic heating, including special focus on groups of residents in the zone of “energy poverty”;
- ✓ Develop comprehensive approaches to sustainable mobility, public and alternative transport and respond to passenger problems hand in hand with energy savings.



In the 2014-2020 programming period, ESIF in Slovakia contribute to support the transition to a low-carbon economy by more than EUR 1 billion.

Examples of supported investments

- ✓ Renewable energy production, including biomass;
- ✓ Renovation of buildings, settlements and services with a focus to reducing energy consumption;
- ✓ Increasing the efficiency of the energy use in industry;



5 Promoting climate change adaptation and preventive measures



Climate change affiliated with unusual weather conditions, which make the regions of Slovakia impacted by droughts, forest fires, tidal rains and floods, creates a situation that requires a complex of preventive measures. In the 2014-2020 programming period, ESIF in Slovakia contribute by nearly EUR 1 billion to support climate change adaptation.

Examples of supported investments

- ✓ Preventive measures to improve protection against floods and landslides;
- ✓ Emergency management systems;
- ✓ Irrigation and drainage systems and improved water retention in the country;
- ✓ Support to non-project measures on agricultural and forestry land within the Rural Development Programme;
- ✓ Forest fires and natural disasters preventive measures.

PROJECTS FOCUSED ON FLOOD RISK MITIGATION

Increasing the adaptive capacity of the country and preventing risk situations



Projects supported from the OP QE and the RDP

- Flood protection measures are carried out especially through
- » Watercourse treatments;
 - » Creation and reconstruction of blue infrastructure;
 - » Drainage ditches;
 - » Infiltration tanks.

Flood prevention is a priority in the interests of general public, protecting lives, health, property, infrastructure and the economy.



The ESIF in this field support:

- ✓ Preserving and strengthening soil, water and ecological functions of agricultural and forestry areas;
- ✓ Increasing the number of persons benefiting from flood protection measures;
- ✓ Building early warning systems for the population.



Following measures are needed to maximise the ESIF effects

- ✓ Improve cooperation of key stakeholders and the population in overcoming technical, property rights related and administrative problems;
- ✓ Improve rapid and coordinated response capability for extreme weather events.



6 Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency



All components of the environment compose a unique resource that needs to be protected and used sustainably. This creates the preconditions for our long-term survival and cooperation with the environment we depend on. ESIF in Slovakia contribute almost **EUR 2 billion** to this priority area in the **2014–2020** programming period.

Examples of supported investments

- ✓ Waste treatment;
- ✓ Water, air and soil quality;
- ✓ Protecting and restoring the diversity of animal and plant species;
- ✓ Environmentally friendly farming;
- ✓ Addressing old environmental liabilities;
- ✓ Green infrastructure.



BUILDING WATER SUPPLIES AND SEWAGE INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

Improving the quality of life and the environment in towns and villages



Projects supported from the OP QE, IROP and the OP HR

- » Through projects, water, sewage and sewage treatment plants are being built, expanded or reconstructed in all regions of Slovakia;
- » Part of the investment is aimed at building access to drinking water in disadvantaged Roma settlements;
- » Construction and operation of new infrastructure creates conditions for synergy effects of various types of support and can serve as a catalyst for development of local economies.



The ESIF in this field support:

- ✓ Reducing energy and raw material consumption in order to protect the environment while maintaining economic growth;
- ✓ Creating the basic preconditions for improving the quality of life of the population and further development of the regions;
- ✓ Preserving agriculture in areas with natural constraints;
- ✓ Protecting and preserving biodiversity, particularly in NATURA 2000 sites.



Following measures are needed to maximise the ESIF effects

- ✓ To make investments plans in accord with the development possibilities of cities, municipalities and regions;
- ✓ Consider in planning what is rate of return, sustainability, value of territories and their resources;
- ✓ Focus efforts on waste management;
- ✓ Especially in the case of small municipalities and areas with marginalized Roma communities consider use of alternative wastewater treatment such as root-water treatment plants or individual solutions by small household-level facilities where recent technological advances allow alternatives.

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Transport



7 Promoting sustainable transport



The ESIF resources for transport development in the 2014 - 2020 programming period account for EUR 3.5 billion. This is almost one quarter of the total ESIF resources available in Slovakia.

Examples of supported investments

- ✓ Railway infrastructure;
- ✓ Road infrastructure;
- ✓ Public passenger transport;
- ✓ Waterway infrastructure.



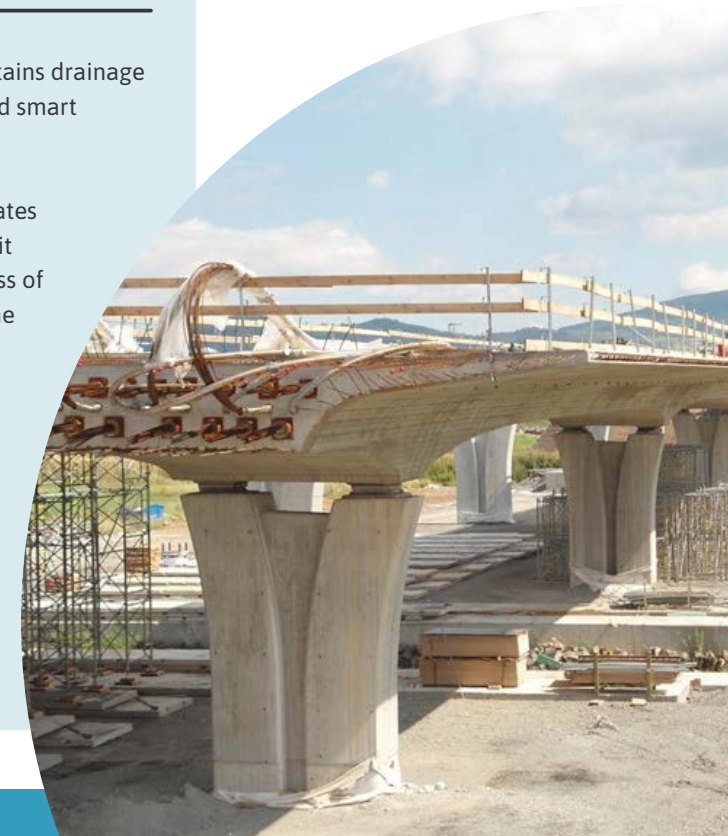
R2 ZVOLEN, EAST – PSTRUŠA, PHASE 2

Development of road network within the European transport corridors



Project supported by the OP II

- » Aim of the project is to alleviate the existing I/16 road from burden of transit traffic with high shares of heavy lorries, increase road safety, and improve quality of life in adjacent municipalities;
- » Building 7.85 km long part of the dual carriageway R2 within the TEN-T network;
- » The project incorporates one elevated crossing including feeder road for dual carriageway, seven bridges, eight shifting roads of lower classes, 3.5 km long anti-noise screens and four frame walls;
- » Dual carriageway contains drainage with oil separators, and smart information system;
- » The investment generates some indirect effect – it increases attractiveness of the southern part of the Central Slovakia for investors.





JUNCTION TERMINAL SVÄTÝ JUR

Development of public transport in municipalities



Project is supported by the IROP

- » The project integrates transport systems in the railway station of Svätý Jur;
- » A modern junction terminal helps inhabitants who arrive by car, bus or bicycle and then can reach Bratislava in 15 minutes by train;
- » Connecting to cycle route running under the Malé Karpaty hills;
- » The project contributes to the local sustainable development and mobility of inhabitants in the town and adjacent villages.



The ESIF in this field support:

- ✓ Extending network of transport corridors;
- ✓ Improving quality of transport infrastructure;
- ✓ Increasing attractiveness of public passenger transport via building information systems, modernising transport means, etc.:
- ✓ Integrating transport modes and simplifying transition from individual to public passenger transport;
- ✓ Building cycle paths and cycle routes.



Following measures are needed to maximise the ESIF effects

- ✓ Improving quality of existing road infrastructure (especially II. and III. class roads)
- ✓ Modernising rail transport and achieving expected effects in time savings;
- ✓ Improving passenger safety, comfort and satisfaction;
- ✓ Improving travel comfort for disadvantaged passengers;
- ✓ Decreasing transport-related emissions, especially in environmentally loaded city quarters and recreation zones.



7 Promoting sustainable transport



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Social affairs and education



8 Promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility



National project

“A CHANCE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE”

Support for young jobseekers to enter the labour market



Project supported by the OP HR

- » The target group were the young jobseekers aged up to 29 years (those not in employment, education or training) registered by employment offices;
- » 19 634 young participants were provided with individualized services;
- » Human capacities at 43 employment offices were strengthened by 60 job counsellors;
- » The accessibility of the career counselling addressed to young people was increased and the innovations in career counselling were introduced.



The ESIF in this field support:

- ✓ Increasing the employment rate – employment rate in Slovakia got close to the EU-28 average;
- ✓ Promoting regions with the highest unemployment rate – 62% of the total budget allocated for the purposes of the active labour market policies were distributed in three regions with the highest unemployment rate, in the Banská Bystrica, Prešov and Košice regions;
- ✓ Increasing the employment of people with disabilities – 14% of the total number of the people with disability who are employed got the job supported by the ESIF.



Following measures are needed to maximise the ESIF effects

- ✓ To reduce the negative effects of the upcoming trends of automation and robotization on the employment of the low-skilled workers;
- ✓ To implement the programs focused on the upskilling, competences development and life-long learning of the job seekers;
- ✓ To provide individualized services.



Examples of supported investments

For the 2014-2020 programming period, there is EUR 1.3 billion allocated from ESIF for the employment related issues in Slovakia. The specific objective is to reduce long-term unemployment and youth unemployment, employment of people with disabilities, eliminate gender inequalities at the labour market, promote labour mobility and increase the quality of public employment services.

- ✓ Active labour market policies support;
- ✓ Employment in the cultural and creative industries
- ✓ Provision of individualised counselling;
- ✓ Promotion of childcare facilities.
- ✓ Job creation through business activities diversification;



9 Promoting social inclusion, combating poverty and any discrimination



National project

“HEALTHY COMMUNITIES 2A”

Improving the situation of people from marginalised Roma communities in the field of health



Project supported by the OP HR

- » The aim of the project is to increase health literacy and awareness in health care, to improve the health-related manners and to reduce barriers in health care accessibility;
- » More than 750 medicine doctors and other health professionals are involved in the project;
- » 245 health mediation assistants and 22 regional coordinators are working in 218 Roma communities involved in the project; almost all health mediation assistants are Roma living directly in the involved communities.



The ESIF in this field support:

- ✓ Decreasing the number of people at risk of poverty. The number of people at the risk of poverty was reduced by 255,000 and number of households receiving social assistance benefit (in material and social deprivation) was reduced by 55%²;
- ✓ Improving the quality of social services provision;
- ✓ Improving the situation of marginalised Roma communities.



Following measures are needed to maximise the ESIF effects

- ✓ To adopt systematic measures in the field of education, housing or attitudes of the majority population towards minorities in order to reduce the level of social exclusion;
- ✓ To mitigate the critical situation of the specific groups, i.e. people from the marginalized Roma communities, people with disabilities, lonely parents or the significant group of seniors;
- ✓ To improve an accessibility of community-based services, including the care services of elderly and disable people provided directly at the client’s home.



For the 2014-2020 programming period, there is EUR 1.4 billion allocated from the ESIF for the social inclusion, poverty reduction and anti-discrimination related issues. Regarding the social inclusion of people from marginalized Roma communities, the ESIF resources are fundamental, if not the only, source of funding.

Examples of supported investments

- ✓ Assistance for people at the risk of social exclusion and poverty;
- ✓ Field social work and community centres support;
- ✓ Civil patrol services in municipalities with the presence of marginalised Roma communities;
- ✓ Housing in the municipalities with the presence of marginalised Roma communities;
- ✓ Deinstitutionalization of the social services and child care services.

² Evaluation of Progress in Implementation of the Partnership Agreement SR as of 31.12.2018, ÚPVII Bratislava, 2019, 284 p.

1 Investing in education, training and lifelong learning



Examples of supported investments

Quality education and educated workforce rank to basic pillars of economic and employment growth, and life quality of inhabitants. In the programming period **2014 – 2020**, there are **EUR 730 million** from the ESIF allocated in this area of support in Slovakia.

- ✓ Building and modernising preschool facilities;
- ✓ Preparation of future pedagogic and professional employees in education sector;
- ✓ Inclosing schools in models of inclusive education – quality education for each child;
- ✓ Reconstructions of and equipment for vocational schools and classrooms;
- ✓ Supporting partnerships between employers and professional associations.

National project

“DUAL EDUCATION AND INCREASING ATTRACTIVITY AND QUALITY OF PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING”



Project supported by the OP HR

- » The national project aims at a broader application of dual education – a system of preparation for job and deepening relations between employers, secondary schools and students;
- » Some 1450 employers, seven professional associations and 280 vocational secondary schools joined the system of dual education by end of 2018;
- » Some 31 education standards 21 model education plans and schedules; and eight state education programmes were innovated, elaborated and approved within the national project;
- » Students with social or health disadvantages, regardless their nationality, are also included in this project.



The ESIF in this field support:

- ✓ Development of dual education programmes;
- ✓ Starting implementation of the life-long learning of adults in areas of digital, financial, entrepreneurial and citizen literacy;
- ✓ Increasing numbers of population with tertiary education in Slovakia. Some 40 % of population aged 30-34 years may achieve tertiary education by 2020³.



Following measures are needed to maximise the ESIF effects

- ✓ Implementing programmes for improving the quality of preparation for teacher’s profession for primary, secondary and tertiary schools;
- ✓ Financing higher numbers of professional employees in schools, teacher assistants, social pedagogues, school psychologists, and special pedagogues;
- ✓ Applying system of certifying internationally recognised key competences of adults as to improve their employability in practical life;
- ✓ Investing in inclusive education to solve the problem with early school leavers.

³ Europe 2020 country-based objective

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Public administration.



11 Strengthening efficiency of public administration



An important national strategic goal is a modern, professional, efficient, reliable, non-corrupted and transparent public administration by 2020 in Slovakia. The ESIF resources allocate **EUR 267 million** in this area in the **2014 – 2020** programming period.

Examples of supported investments

- ✓ Extending network of client centres and improving quality of their services;
- ✓ Investments in development of human resources in public administration;
- ✓ Investments for increasing efficiency of the courts;
- ✓ Support to institution and analytical capacity building in sectors of public administration;
- ✓ Concepts for digital solutions of processes in public administration.

National project

“STRENGTHENING AND COMPLETING CAPACITIES IN THE AREA OF LEGAL ASSISTANCE AND ESCALATION OF LEGAL PROBLEMS”



Project supported by the OP EPA

- » High-quality, available and efficient legal assistance for people in material deprivation and natural persons facing distraintment;
- » Over 170 thousand personal, phone and email consultations provided;
- » Increasing professional levels of employees of the Legal Assistance Centre via continual education;
- » Implementing electronic provision of the information services.
- » Creating bureaus and consultancy workplaces of the Legal Assistance Centre (www.centrumpravnejpomoci.sk);



BEHAVIOURAL POLICY
FOR THE CITIZEN-CENTERED CITY

Innovating approach to improving quality of life in the city



Project supported by
the OP EPA

- » The project applies behavioural knowledge for improving public administration for the first time in Slovakia; the cities can use this knowledge in following ways:
- » Solving some specific problems, e.g. an inefficient tax collection or breaking rules of waste separation by citizens;
- » Improving relations with citizens and increasing their willingness to participate in improvement of the city life via online solutions, e.g. for citizen-assisted budget creation, grouping problems according to their importance and monitoring measurable goals of the behavioural policies;
- » New methodologies and tools will be available for other cities.



The ESIF in this field
support:

- ✓ Increasing efficiency, quality, transparency as well as availability of public administration services;
- ✓ More efficient provision of legal assistance to the citizens;
- ✓ Better law enforcement and increased trustworthiness of the judiciary system;
- ✓ Improved efficiency, quality and independency of the judiciary system;
- ✓ Decreasing bureaucracy hassle;
- ✓ Decreasing corruption.



Following measures are
needed to maximise the ESIF
effects

- ✓ Continuous improvement in citizens' access to quality and integrated public services;
- ✓ Continuous improvement in co-operation between the state administration and self-government;
- ✓ Support to building administrative capacities of public administration on local and regional levels.

11 Strengthening
the efficiency
of public
administration

Contribution of operational programmes
to areas of support:

- | | |
|-----|---|
| 1. | Strengthening research, technological development and innovation
OP Research and Innovations, Rural Development Programme |
| 2. | Information and communication technologies and services for citizens, businesses and the public sector
OP Integrated Infrastructure, Rural Development Programme |
| 3. | Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises
OP Research and Innovations, Integrated Regional Operational Programme, OP Fisheries |
| 4. | Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors
OP Quality of Environment, Integrated Regional Operational Programme, Rural Development Programme |
| 5. | Promoting climate change adaptation and preventive measures
OP Quality of Environment, Rural Development Programme |
| 6. | Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency
OP Quality of Environment, Integrated Regional Operational Programme, Rural Development Programme, OP Fisheries |
| 7. | Promoting sustainable transport
OP Integrated Infrastructure, Integrated Regional Operational Programme |
| 8. | Promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility
OP Human resources, Integrated Regional Operational Programme, Rural Development Programme |
| 9. | Promoting social inclusion, combating poverty and any discrimination
OP Human resources, Integrated Regional Operational Programme, Rural Development Programme |
| 10. | Investing in education, training and lifelong skills development
OP Human resources, Integrated Regional Operational Programme, Rural Development Programme |
| 11. | Strengthening the efficiency of public administration
OP Effective Public Administration |

2019



Office of the Deputy Prime Minister
of the Slovak Republic for Investment
and Informatization

Central Coordination Body

Štefánikova 15
811 05 Bratislava

Unless stated otherwise, the presented data are taken from ITMS2014 +, annual reports of Operational Programmes and from progress evaluations of implementation of the Partnership Agreement of the Slovak Republic. Data and information as of December 31, 2018.