

**INTERREG V-A
ITALY - SLOVENIA
2014-2020**

CCI 2014TC16RFCB036

**ANNEX I
to the
Annual Implementation Report
2015.0**

CITIZEN'S SUMMARY

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A citizen's summary of the contents of the annual and the final implementation reports shall be made public and uploaded as a separate file in the form of annex to the annual and the final implementation report

The Cooperation Programme between Italy and Slovenia supports the Europe 2020 strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. The total Programme budget is EUR 91.682.299,00, with EUR 77.929.954,00 from the European Union funds and EUR 13.752.345,00 as National counterpart (public and private).

It will cover the entire period 2014-2020 capitalizing on the experiences of 2007-2013 Programme, which financed 87 projects focused on competitiveness, research and innovation, protection and development of cultural and natural resources, and cross-border services.

The Programme preparation phase started in May 2013 with the establishment of a Task Force composed by the Institutional partners of the Programme (Representatives of the Republic of Slovenia an Italy, Region of Friuli Venezia Giulia, Region of Veneto and European Commission). Additionally, the ex-ante evaluation and external technical assistance were also introduced as a supported process of defining and building the strategy of the Cooperation Programme. The Programme eligible area has been reduced in comparison to the 2007-2013 programme and it is now the same as it was in INTERREG II and INTERREG III. Past experiences have shown that this is indeed a more functional area in terms of cross-border relationships and this should avoid the occurrence of those unbalances which negatively affected the implementation of operations during the 2007-2013 edition.

The phase of programming finished in July 2015 when the definitive text of the Cooperation Programme has been approved by the Task Force of the Programme by means of the 8th written procedure and finally submitted to the European Commission, after 2,5 years of preparation, on December 3, 2015. Approval by the European Commission was on December 15, 2015 by Decision C (2015) 9285 of 12.15.15, officially notified through the data circuit SFC2014 on December 21, 2015.

The INTERREG V-A Italy-Slovenia Programme intends to implement smart solutions answering to territorial challenges in the fields of innovation, low carbon economy, environment, natural and cultural resources, and institutional capacity building.

The overall objective of the INTERREG V-A Italy-Slovenia Programme is:
"Promote innovation, sustainability and cross border governance to create a more competitive, cohesive and liveable area"

The following 4 Priority Axes have been identified to answer to the existent needs and challenges:

- Priority Axis 1: Promoting innovation capacities for a more competitive area
SO 1.1: Strengthen the cooperation among key actors to promote the knowledge transfer and innovative activities in key sectors of the area.
- Priority Axis 2: Cooperating for low carbon strategies
SO 2.1 Promotion of implementation of strategies and action plans to promote energy efficiency and to improve territorial capacities for joint low-carbon mobility planning.
- Priority Axis 3: Protecting and promoting natural and cultural resources
SO 3.1: Conserving, protecting, restoring, and developing natural and cultural heritage
SO 3.2: Enhance the integrated management of ecosystems for a sustainable development of the territory
SO 3.4: Development and the testing of innovative environmental friendly technologies for the improvement of waste and water management

- Priority Axis 4: Enhancing building and cross border governance
SO 4.1: Strengthen the institutional cooperation capacity through mobilizing public authorities and key actors of the Programme area for planning joint solutions to common challenges.

In order to speed up the implementation of the Programme the Managing Authority published a public tender for external technical assistance to the Managing Authority/Joint Secretariat in the Official Bulletin of the Autonomous Region Friuli Venezia Giulia on December 12, 2014. The group of expert officially started working in January 2016.

The negotiation phase for the establishment of Joint Secretariat started in 2014. Afterwards, the two selection notices for the Joint Secretariat staff were published on January 4, 2016 in the Official Bulletin of the Autonomous Region Friuli Venezia Giulia. The deadline for application was February 16, 2016. The establishment of JS will be provided by Summer 2016.

The online Monitoring tool on line FEG (Front-End Generalizzato) will be used to draft and submit applications.

All the activities regarding the process for the publication of the first call for standard projects started fully in 2016. The first call is planned to be launched in June 2016.