

The summary of the audit report on information and publicity of the contribution from the Structural Funds and the Cohesion Fund in the 2004-2006 programming period

The goals of the measures in the field of information and publicity are to increase information and publicity of the general public and individual target groups on the projects and activities, partly financed by the funds of the Structural Funds (the European Regional Development Fund – ERDF, the European Social Fund - ESF, the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund – EAGGF, and the Financial Instrument for Fisheries Guidance - FIFG) and the Cohesion Fund, and to increase recognisability of the European Union's role.

The Court of Audit of the Republic of Slovenia examined whether the auditees were successful in information and publicity of the contribution from the Structural funds and the Cohesion Fund in the 2004-2006 programming period, so that it would be possible to detect the risks concerning the non-compliance of the measures in the field of information and publicity in due time and potential loss of European funds as a result thereof, and to point out the inactivity in the field of increasing the recognisability of the European Union among the citizens of the Republic of Slovenia.

The Court of Audit of the Republic of Slovenia audited 14 recipients of funds with the total project investment value in the amount of SIT 66,282,665 thousand (EUR 276,593 thousand), of which partial financing from the European funds represents SIT 20,693,557 thousand (EUR 86,353 thousand). Five auditees received the ERDF funds, three received the EAGGF funds – the Guidance Section, and six received the Cohesion Fund funds. The share of the EU funds, which the auditees received in the 2004-2006 programming period, represents 20.17 percent of all funds available to the Republic of Slovenia in the frame of the Single Programming Document of the Republic of Slovenia and the Cohesion Fund.

Mandatory technical facilities in the field of information and publicity, which the auditees had to install, were billboards and permanent commemorative plaque. Additionally, they could inform the public also with other measures, like posters, radio shows, flyers, websites, folding booklets, audio-visual material, information events etc.

For individual auditees the Court of Audit of the Republic of Slovenia assessed that they were successful if they installed the mandatory technical facilities and performed other additional information and publicity measures, and unsuccessful if they failed to install the mandatory technical facilities and did not perform other additional information and publicity measures, and partially successful if they chose wrong mandatory technical facilities but performed other additional information and publicity measures. The efficiency could not be assessed if during the audit the auditees did not install the appropriate mandatory technical facilities, because either they did not receive fixed assets yet or they did not begin with the construction works.

Seven auditees successfully informed the public in the period, to which the audit refers, two auditees were unsuccessful, one was partially successful, and in case of four auditees it was not possible to assess their efficiency.

With regard to information and publicity, the auditees acted according to the instructions by the Government Office for Local Self-Government and Regional Policy and intermediate bodies, which, however, do not explain the European regulation requirements in sufficient detail and consistency. Therefore, the auditees had difficulties to install and mark the mandatory technical facilities.

Because the auditees already corrected the determined irregularities during the audit procedure, which refer to the instalment of mandatory technical facilities, the Court of Audit of the Republic of Slovenia did not demand a response report.

Ljubljana, 30 May 2007

