



BASIS FOR THE INTEGRATION OF COASTAL CLIMATE RESILIENCE MEASURES INTO THE COHESION POLICY PROGRAMME

Izola, 15 September 2025





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Inclusion of climate resilience measures in the EU strategic framework for climate adaptation

- The EU Climate Change Adaptation Strategy - Long-term goal: to **create a climate-resilient society by 2050**.
- The EU Water Resilience Strategy – Key Objectives (published 3/6/2025):
 - **Restore and protect the water cycle from source to sea**
 - **Adopt water-smart practices and green infrastructure** to improve water retention on land, prevent water pollution and tackle pollutants in drinking water
- The strategy directly supports coastal zone actions through three main pillars:
 - Nature-based solutions (restoration of wetlands, floodplains, green spaces, ecosystem infrastructure),
 - Integrated policies and directives (Water Framework Directive - WFD, Floods Directive, Marine Strategy Framework Directive – MSFD, ICZM – Integrate Coastal Zone Management, Marine Spatial Planning – MSP),
 - Digital monitoring, data management and innovation for adaptive, targeted coastal security.



Inclusion of climate resilience measures in the SLO strategic framework for climate adaptation

- The Climate Change Adaptation Strategy of Slovenia (under preparation) is a fundamental document for:
 - Reducing vulnerability of regions and
 - Strengthening the resilience of social and natural systems.
- As an important part of the strategy, it is necessary to highlight:
 - The establishment of an institutional framework and
 - The involvement of relevant stakeholders, including ministries, agencies and local communities.



Proposal for the new Multiannual Financial Framework – MFF 2028-2034

- The current proposal for the MFF 2028-2034 (still under discussion) foresees almost €2 trillion
- 35% of all funds will be dedicated to the environment, climate change and biodiversity
- Key changes compared to the 2021-2027 period:
 - introduction of partnerships for the preparation of national/regional programmes (closer cooperation between national institutions and regional entities),
 - merging funds for cohesion policy, agriculture, fisheries and coastal policy under a "Single Fund" (more synergy between EU funds)
- The MFF 2028-2034 indicates a clear intention of the COM: financing coastal regions through integrated and targeted mechanisms.



Planning of coastal zone actions – key rules for implementing the cohesion policy (1)

- **Ensuring compliance with EU and Slovenian strategies**, including the national Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (currently under preparation)
- Ensuring compliance with other relevant national plans and strategies (such as: NECP, Spatial Development Strategy, Sustainable tourism development, etc.)
- **Consideration of cohesion policy requirements:**
 - Climate Proofing of infrastructure,
 - Application of the „Do No Significant Harm“ principle - DNSH
 - Integrating Nature Based Solutions
 - Specific rules on eligibility of investments
- Use of **external technical expertise**, especially from the perspective of implementing the cohesion policy rules (such as the technical support of the JASPERS initiative)



Planning of coastal zone actions – key rules for implementing the cohesion policy (2)

- Establishing cooperation between key stakeholders (an important aspect) with the aim of:
 - **Achieving an “in principle” agreement on priorities** (through programming partnerships)
 - **ranking measures among the state's priorities.**
- It is important to develop the right approach to inclusion and participation of stakeholders: workshops, consultations, thematic working groups, etc.



Funding for Water Resilience Strategies, including coastal zone measures – *EU level*

- European Commission and Cohesion Policy:
 - For the period 2028-2034, **confirmed figures are not yet available** on how much cohesion policy will allocate for water infrastructure or water resilience.
 - According to available data, **approximately EUR 16.9 billion of investments for "access to water and sustainable water management"** are planned under cohesion policy for the period 2021–2027; of which more than EUR 13.2 billion (EU co-financing))
- Joint Funds: *LIFE* (EU initiative for financing environment and climate action), *Horizon Europe* (research and innovation) and the *EU Mission: Adaptation to Climate Change* (figures for 2028-2034 not yet confirmed)
- European Investment Bank: EIB has allocated more than €15 billion for projects related to water protection for the period 2025-27: *pollution prevention, water saving, innovation, infrastructure and NBS*



Funding for Water Resilience Strategies, including coastal zone measures- *Local level*

- The Local communities can contribute to the implementation of the strategy through local and regional initiatives:
 - by investing in relevant projects to strengthen resilience (including within the CP Programme)
 - by joining other European projects currently being implemented in Slovenia (such as LIFE4ADAPT: Slovenia's strategic integrated project in the field of climate change adaptation, Pathways2Resilience: implemented within the framework of the EU Mission "Climate Change Adaptation")



SUMMARY

- On the strategic planning of coastal climate resilience measures, it is necessary to highlight:
 - The proper alignment of measures with the EU and Slovenian strategies
 - The timely and appropriate involvement and cooperation with all relevant stakeholder
 - The consideration of specific rules of the cohesion policy.
- When designing financing models:
 - considering all possible sources of financing and combining funds (European and national)
 - taking into account complementary local/regional measures that can be implemented by local communities and financed through various European programs or initiatives - LIFE4ADAPT, Pathways2Resilience, etc.)



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