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This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under grant agreement No.101131556



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INSPIRING ERA Exchange

A New Era in Research Management? Building Strategic Capacity for Europe

How Slovenia used RFF to boost RM?

Maja Peharc, Ministry for Education, Science and Youth

15.10.2026

Recovery and Resilience Facility



- €723.8+ billion of NextGenerationEU plan, to help EU member states recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and build sustainable economies.
- Active from February 2021 to June/December 2026.
- Slovenia focused on sustainable growth, healthcare resilience, and digital skills.



**Next
Gen
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RRF at Ministry for Education, Science and Youth > Science Division



C3 K8, MEASURE A

Development area: Smart, Sustainable and Inclusive Growth

Component: RDI - Research, Development and Innovation

Reform: Operation and Management of the RDI system

Goal:

To improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the research and innovation ecosystem in Slovenia to improve its position within the European Innovation Index, and to promote a focus on the green and digital transition.

C2 K2, MEASURE J

Development area: Digital Transformation

Component: Digital Transformation of the Public Sector and Public Administration

Investment: Digitalization of Education, Science and Sports

Goal:

High-speed connectivity, data storage and strengthening of open data and open science competencies will be ensured in research organisations. This should contribute to the development of digital knowledge, skills and competences and the reduction of the digital divide.

Scientific Research and Innovation Act (ZZrID)



Key innovations:

- stable financing of scientific research and innovation activities by increasing public financial investment in R&I to 1% of GDP,*
- enabling synergies between different sources of funds,
- introducing a development pillar of financing as the basis for the development of new propulsive areas;
- mechanisms for financing different age groups of researchers,
- establishing measures for the ethical conduct of researchers and integrity and equal opportunities,
- establishing the foundations for operating according to the principles of open science.

*One of the criteria for evaluation and approval of stable funding a research organisation must have signed **at least two contracts for research or innovation projects of the EU Framework Programme for Research, Development and Innovation** or projects resulting from partnership projects of the EU Framework Programme, or **at least one contract for a centre of excellence funded under central EU programmes, in the last eight years.**



Strengthening project offices at RPOs



- **Call:** Published in 2022, *Activities to strengthen project offices of public research organizations* - [link](#).
- **Scope:**
 - ✓ support up to 4 consortia, with a balanced composition of more and less experienced PROs;
 - ✓ create at least 20 jobs in the project offices of consortia members, with each of the participating institutions creating at least one full-time job;
 - ✓ develop a development plan for the project office support environment, which will also include a strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) analysis;
 - ✓ Organise at least 131 events aimed at strengthening the competences and skills of project office staff and others responsible for project application and management.
- **Eligibility:** A consortium consisting of at least three (3) public research organizations.
- **Funds:** 5.117.390,00 EUR



Strengthening project offices PRO



- Aim:
 - ✓ **Strengthen staff capacity and capability in RM/project offices:** to carry out activities related to applications to centralized EU programs, partner networking, exchange of knowledge and good practices, transfer of good practices from and to Slovenia, and strengthen the capacity of the support environments.
 - ✓ **After the completion of the project - systemic changes:** sustained employment of staff, implementation of planned activities, more tailored services for higher-quality proposals, improved competencies of existing staff, optimizing the scope of work tasks and the necessary support within public research organizations.



Four consortium projects were selected in the public call for proposals:



Consortia	5xPRO	KRPAN	ROAD3P	SKUPP
Members	- National Institute of Chemistry - National Institute of Biology - Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts (ZRC SAZU) - Institute of Metal Materials and Technology - Institute of Contemporary History	- University of Ljubljana - University of Maribor - University of Primorska - Institute „Jožef Stefan“ - Science and Research Centre Koper (ZRS Koper)	- Slovenian National Building And Civil Engineering Institute - Institute for Economic Research - Urban Planning Institute - Institute for Ethnic Studies - Institute for Hydraulic Research - Institute of Mathematics, Physics and Mechanics	- Agricultural Institute of Slovenia - Geological Survey of Slovenia - Slovenian Forestry Institute - Educational Research Institute
Website / contact	https://www.ki.si/en/about-the-institute/project-management-office/translate-to-english-projekt-5xpro/	https://krpan-projekt.si/en/	https://www.road3p.si/	https://www.gozdis.si/en/active-projects/cooperation-to-strengthen-the-performance-of-project-offices-skupp-/
Funds	1.240.356,80 EUR	1.267.929,86 EUR	1.090.162,89 EUR	1.259.200,76 EUR

Results - KRPAN



- New staff employed: 11
- Events organised: 40, attended by +2.600 participants

KPI	Plan	Result
Success rate of applications HEU21-27	+2%	+4,34%
Materials published on Zenodo*	30	131

* Zenodo community KRPAN with all published materials of all 4 consortia.

Results - ROAD3P



- New staff employed: 7
- New project/RM offices established: 5
- Events organised: 35, attended by +1.000 participants

KPI	Plan	Result
Success rate of applications HEU21-27	+2%	-4%*
Materials published on Zenodo**	10	18

**Success rate was 11,06% out of 217 applications to centralized EU programmes.*

** Zenodo community KRPAN with all published materials of all 4 consortia.*

Results - 5xPRO



- New staff employed: 10
- Events organised: 42, attended by +700 participants

KPI	Plan	Result
Success rate of applications HEU21-27	+11,9%	+14,2%
Materials published on Zenodo*	28	41

* Zenodo community KRPAN with all published materials of all 4 consortia.

Results - SKUPP



- New staff employed: 12
- Events organised: 35, attended by +800 participants

KPI	Plan	Result
Success rate of applications HEU21-27	+22,86%	+23,42%
Materials published on Zenodo*	10	14

* [Zenodo community KRPAN](#) with all published materials of all 4 consortia.

The future?



- Some newly established RM/project offices and staff continue work, for some when the funds ran out, the work slowed or stopped.
- A vibrant community has been established or re-ignited, and hopefully with the emergence of a SI-EARMA, the cooperation will continue.
- Overall, the projects were a success.
- Future success rate? To be seen!



Thank you!



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