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INTERREG ITALIA-SLOVENIJA 2021-2027

STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

SCOPING REPORT

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CONTENT

1. Introduction to Interreg Italia-Slovenija 2021-2027 Programme

1.1 The Italia-Slovenija Programme

The Interreg Italia-Slovenija Programme is one of the crossborder cooperation programmes established in the framework of the EU Cohesion Policy and Territorial Cooperation.

As for the other European Territorial Cooperation (ETC) programmes, the Italia-Slovenija Programme is supported by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). It aims to promoting cooperation among the involved regions.

The Interreg Italia-Slovenija Programme covers five Italian NUTS3 regions (Venice, Udine, Pordenone, Gorizia and Trieste) and five Slovenian NUTS3 regions (Primorsko-Notranjska, Osrednjeslovenska, Gorenjska, Obalno-kraška and Goriška), extending over a total surface of 19,841 square kilometers and a population of approximately three million inhabitants.

The area is characterized by the presence of quite diverse natural landscapes and the existence of both – predominantly densely populated areas (Trieste, Udine, Gorizia, Ljubljana, Pordenone, Venice the conurbation Koper-Izola-Piran, Nova Gorica, Kranj and Postojna), and more rural areas on the Slovenian side.

Picture 1: The Interreg Italia-Slovenija Programme Area

1.2 Biodiversity, natural resources and sustainability in the area: a summary

The Programme area is characterized by a relevant richness in biodiversity and by different landscapes, ranging from the Alps to the Adriatic Sea. The territory encompasses Alpine landscapes, foothills and plains, two river basin areas (among which the cross-border Vipava and Soča/Isonzo), seashore lagoons and coastal areas.

The Programme area can list a remarkable number of natural parks and protected areas: National and Regional Parks, Marine protected areas, Nature (Municipal, State and Regional) Reserves, according to the national and IUCN classification system. Friuli Venezia Giulia, can list a Marine Protected Area (Miramare, in the NUTS III of Trieste), two regional parks (Friuli Dolomites, in the NUTS IIIs of Pordenone and Udine, and Julian Prealps in the NUTS III of Udine), 15 reserves, more than 30 biotopes and 63 Natura 2000 sites, covering 19% of the regional territory. The list of protected areas is completed by the Sile River (Venice Metropolitan City), and the Triglav National Park, Sečovljesalina nature park, the Škocjanskejame park and the Notranjska Regional Park on the Slovenian side. Both Friuli Dolomites and Škocjan Caves take part of the UNESCO World Heritage List. Among the UNESCO sites there is also the Snežnik forest in Slovenia, one of the beech woods belonging to the UNESCO World Heritage Series "Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe". Finally, the large cross-border MAB (Man and Biosphere) Reserve of the "Julian Alps" covers part of the former NUTS III of Udine and Slovenia, including the aforementioned Parks of the Julian Pre-alps and Triglav, as well as the neighboring territories.

Another relevant environmental endowment of the area is given by the geological heritage, with the Geological Park of Idrija (Slovenia) and the institutions of two additional protected areas are planned for the future: the regional geopark of Karnische Alps (NUTS III of Udine) and the trans-boundary geopark of Carso-Kras. As a matter of fact, the Karst plateau is a unique environmental habitat, covering a region shared between Italy and Slovenia.

With respect to water management and the connected environmental issues, the Venice area has been characterized by the special relationships with water, both internal and marine, throughout its history. The territory is interested by the final stretch of many important Italian rivers flowing in the Adriatic Sea: Livenza, Piave, Sile, Brenta-Bacchiglione, and Adige. Most of the watercourses are dammed, in some cases with the riverbed higher than the countryside level, typical of reclaimed lands. Those natural conditions, conjoint with a strong overbuilding, are the reasons for progressively more frequent flooding events, due to the difficulty in absorbing rainwaters. According to ARPA's data, the pollution of hydrographic basins of the cited rivers are good. In a Likert scale 1 (very good)-5 (very bad), 93% of the 66 hydrometric stations shows a water quality assessed as "good" (2) or "very good" (1), with the missing 7% (equal to 11 stations) covered by the "medium" level (3). The latter category regards almost uniquely the Brenta-Bacchiglione, where 10 hydrometric stations out of 28 (37%) register a 3 value.

In Friuli Venezia Giulia there are basins of national (Isonzo, Tagliamento, Livenza), interregional (Lemene and Piave) and regional importance (Slizza, Levante and many watercourses that deliver to the Grado and Marano lagoon and the Trieste Karst). There are also two transnational basins between Slovenia and Italy: Soča/Isonzo and Timavo/Reka Reka. Tagliamento, Livenza, Lemene and Piave are also shared with the NUTS III of Venice, where there are also other important waterways such as the Bren-ta and the Adige, together with other more local ones, including the Basin of the Ven-ice Lagoon, the Bacchiglione and others. Sava, Vipava, Idrijca, Rižana, Sora in Ljubljanica represent major rivers of the Slovenian part of the programme area, which is divided into two river basins – Danube river basin to the east and Adriatic river basin to the west. The chemical condition of all stated water bodies was estimated as good in 2019, while ecological status was predominantly good, with exception of few sections of Sava, Sora and Ljubljanica river.

Maritime waters in the Friuli Venezia Giulia and gulfs and lagoons show a potentially good condition. The most problematic spots are in the area of Marano and Grado Lagoon closer to the coast. Nonetheless, the whole Lagoon is a SCI of Natura 2000 network (SCZ – IT3320037). Maritime waters in Obalno-kraška region are in similar good conditions, also due to the same water currents. No potentially bad quality spot is signaled by the environmental monitoring system in the Gulf of Trieste, also characterized by the presence of the mentioned National Marine Protected Area of Miramare, and in Obalno-kraška region the Slovenian coast. The climate change impact, with the rise in air temperatures, will be negative and cause an additional rise of the sea waters, as on the entire coast of the Northern Adriatic

In 2015, all United Nations Member States (Italy and Slovenia too) approved the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The document entails 17 Sustainable Development Goals. Both countries have a high score in year 2020, Slovenia ranks 12th with a score of 79,8 and Italy ranks 30th with a score of 77,07 out of 162. Both countries urgently need to take up climate change action . Following the UN agreements on climate change and EU strategies, all EU countries have to prepare and adopt a 10-year integrated National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP). The document contains a national agenda of each EU Member State for energy efficiency, renewable energy, reduction of emissions, interconnections and R&I. Both Italy and Slovenia have submitted the final versions of their NECP. Main elements of these climate plans envisage the reduction of fossil energy sources in traffic, industry, households and agriculture (e.g. thermic renovation of buildings, strengthening environmental friendly production processes, increasing the attractiveness and thus the share of public transport systems, sustainable forestry), the promotion of renewable energy (solar, geothermal, wind, biomass) and the protection of biodiversity and habitats. Important in all CO2 reduction plans are also measures for increasing the awareness about these thematic in the population and R&D activities. Strategies are also dealing with actions that are helping to better adapt the various sectors of society and economy to the undergoing and upcoming to the inevitable effects of climate change. Main focusses that are also relevant for the region are e.g. regarding the management of surface and underground waters, flood risk prevention, measures for improving biodiversity, adaptation of agricultural crops and forest management, disaster prevention and response measures and support of sustainable tourism and diversification in tourism, many of them under the umbrella concept of circular economy.

Circular economy has potential in supporting bottom-up approaches in designing and implementing material flow in loops that are terminating at local or regional level (i.e. waste of one industry is material for another, leading in reduced pressure on natural resources, etc.). The Government has declared circular economy and green development as Slovenia's strategic objectives and adopted the Framework Programme for the Transition to a Green Economy in 2016. Furthermore, a Roadmap towards Circular Economy in Slovenia was prepared in 2018. In Slovenia, Strategic Research and Innovation Partnership Circular economy connects business sector, educational and research institutions, NGOs and other partners into new value chains. Such partnerships focus on sustainable energy, biomass and alternative raw materials, secondary row materials, functional materials, processes and technologies, and circular business models. Several attempts were also made to introduce circular practices into tourism.
EU Directives on Circular economy have been transposed in the Italian legal system through Legislative Decree no. 116/2020, mainly focused on waste reduction and recycling. It has been anticipated by Friuli Venezia Giulia Regional Law No. 34/2017, that enforces the regional waste management system emphasizing reuse, restore and recycling

besides of the reduction in waste production, introduces a regional forum on circular economy composed by experts and stakeholders, and enhances the practice of Green Public procurement.

2. Strategic Environmental Assessment Process for the Interreg Italia-Slovenija 2021-2027 Programme

2.1 Aims of the Strategic Environmental Assessment

The Strategic Environmental Assessment (hereafter SEA) is an evaluation process aimed to integer the consideration for environmental issues in planning activities and programmes. European Union introduced it with 2001/42/EC Directive, suggesting a continuous flow of information on environmental impacts and problems of a plan from the beginning and during the whole planning process. Driven by the Precautionary Principle (COM/2000/0001), the first goal of SEA is to analyze existing relations among the programme and the state of the environment in the programme area, assessing the impact of the programme itself on the ecological assets and on the eco-system services provision.

In this procedure, the goal of SEA is to strengthen environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of the Interreg Italia-Slovenija 2021-2027 Programme, aiming to:

- consider impacts and contributions of the proposed programme on the relevant environmental policy objectives adopted at the European Union level;
- assess the likely significant impacts (positive and adverse) of interventions proposed in the programme and their cumulative effects on key environmental issues in the programme area;
- suggest mitigation measures that help to avoid, minimize or offset potentially adverse impacts and enhancement measures that amplify environmental benefits and positive side-effects of the programme;
- support sustainable development considerations and aspirations formulated, e.g. in the European Green Deal during the elaboration of the programme proposal;

Furthermore, due to the rapidly evolving policy and development context associated with outbreak caused by the SARS-CoV-2, the assessment also considers the relevant health concerns in accordance with the recommendations contained in the Resource Manual to Support Application of the Protocol on SEA (UN, 2012).

2.2 The scoping phase and the purpose of the scoping report

In the whole SEA process the Scoping phase, the first one to be activated, is aimed to provide information for relevant environmental authorities in the involved territories, in order to obtain their advice on the scope of the SEA study and on the level of detail of the information to be considered to assess the potential impacts of the Programme. Nonetheless, redacting the SEA in parallel with the preparation of the whole programme means the impossibility to have a final draft of operation and specific objectives, axis and measures to be discussed with Environmental Authorities.

For this reason, the present Scoping report is based on the first outcomes of the context analysis and of the Draft Strategic Orientations collected by the experts of Archidata. It has to be stated that documents are still in a draft form and can be subject to change.

However, the SEA team assesses that the Programme intervention logic discussed in first 15 Meetings of the Task Force Interreg VI Italy-Slovenia 2021-2027 during 2021, represents the core basis of the CP Italia-Slovenija 2021-2027, and it can be used for scoping purposes. If any significant changes will happen in the following process the conclusions of the scoping phase will be revised and adequately supplemented.

Consequently, next step in the SEA process is presentation of the expected likely significant environmental effects and environmental objectives to the relevant environmental authorities in order to receive their opinion and confirmation of the scoping conclusions.

2.3 Structure of this Report and request to the reader

The SEA scoping report presents the relevant environmental policy framework for Interreg VI Italia-Slovenija 2021-2027 and the preliminary review of interactions between the proposed Policy Objectives (POs) and Specific Objectives (SOs) of this programme and the relevant environmental issues potentially connected with them.

Readers of this report are invited to share their views on two primary questions:

- are there any other important linkages between the relevant environmental issues and the priorities and the objectives of the Interreg VI Italia-Slovenija 2021-20207 programme?
- Does this scoping report omit any significant environmental issue that should be considered within the Interreg VI Italia-Slovenija 2021-2027 programming process? What should be added or changed?

3. Objectives and Environmental Issues in Interreg VI Italia-Slovenija 2021-2027 Programme

3.1 The Policy and Specific Objectives

The General Regulation proposes a cohesion policy design with no interruptions from the previous 2014-2020 programme period and the development of new solutions for strategical and management simplification as a response to the beneficiaries and Management Authorities indications.

It points out five strategic or Policy Objectives (POs), claimed to favor more complementarities within the objectives and to over-take some theoretical distinctions among different policy areas that contribute to the same objective, allowing even a wider flexibility in the financial resources reallocation during the programmes implementation, due to a larger perimeter of the identified objectives. With respect to Italia-Slovenia programme, just three out of the mentioned five POs have been elicited:

- PO 1 – A more competitive and smarter Europe by promoting innovative and smart economic transformation and regional ICT connectivity
- PO 2 – A greener, low-carbon transitioning towards a net zero carbon economy and resilient Europe by promoting clean and fair energy transition, green and blue investment, the circular economy, climate change mitigation and adaptation and risk prevention and management;
- PO 4 – A more social and inclusive Europe implementing the European Pillar of Social Rights;

In addition the first Interreg Specific Objective (ISO1) – A better cooperation governance has been selected.

As we can see in Logical Framework section (see Tab. 3), the Draft Strategic Orientations dropped two POs as not relevant for Interreg VI Italia-Slovenija 2021-27, contextually selecting the following set of related SOs:

- SO 1.4 - Developing skills for smart specialization, industrial transition and entrepreneurship;
- SO 2.4 - Promoting climate change adaptation and disaster risk prevention, resilience, taking into account ecosystem-based approaches;
- SO 2.6 - Promoting the transition to a circular and resource efficient economy;
- SO 2.7 - Enhancing protection and preservation of nature, biodiversity, and green infrastructure, including in urban areas, and reducing all forms of pollution;
- SO 2.8 - Promoting sustainable multimodal urban mobility, as part of transition to a net zero carbon economy;
- SO 4.6 - Enhancing the role of culture and sustainable tourism in economic development, social inclusion and social innovation;
- ISO 1.ii - Enhance efficient public administration by promoting legal and administrative cooperation and cooperation between citizens, civil society actors and institutions, in particular, with a view to resolving legal and other obstacles in border regions;
- ISO 1.iii - Build up mutual trust, in particular by encouraging people-to-people actions;

3.2 The Relevant Environmental Issues

The SEA main purpose is to frame the Relevant Environmental Issues (REIs) potentially involved by the programme, to assess their relevance, and to propose a set of mitigation measures. According to the Guidelines for the SEA procedure by Italian National Environmental Agency (ISPRA - Istituto Superiore per la Protezione e la Ricerca Ambientale) consistent with the Italian legislation (Dlgs no. 152, 3rd April 2006), REIs are classified by environmental element and listed as follows:

1. **AIR: Air pollution; Population exposure to air pollution.**
2. In the Italian part of the Programme area, among the most common pollutants only PM10 (daily limit value) and O3 (daily maximum of the 8-hour moving aver-age) show widespread exceedances within the limits of the law, to which is added a local excess in the limits of benzopyrene (a measuring point in Province of Venice). Pollution by PM10 afflicts the areas of the Po Valley, while O3 is a much more widespread pollutant, which in certain years exceeds the limits in all monitored stations. **CLIMATE CHANGE: Effects on human and animals' health; Increasing in hydrogeological in-stability; Effects on water resources; Marine ecosystems alteration; Coastal erosion; Soil degradation; Deglaciation and permafrost dissolution; Effects on forests; Effects on biodiversity; Effects on air quality.**

   Climate change affects the Programme area, in terms of global warming and increasing average temperature, vulnerability to floods and natural disasters. The latest data on GHGs emissions provided by European Environment Agency (EEA) and Eurostat (published October 2020, situation in 2018) confirm that both Italy (-17.9%) and Slovenia (-7.2%) are reducing emissions compared to 2005 level, but still not reaching the -20% target set for 2020 by the EU Climate and Energy Package. Annual average temperatures in Friuli Venezia Giulia and Veneto shows an increase between +1°C and + 2°C in last 50 years, accelerating after 1991. Since 2000, average temperature in the regional lowlands have never get back to 13°C, while in 2015 five heath waves were registered, maximum temperatures exceeded 40°C and, relating to Trieste, the summer season has lasted 140 days against an average of 75 days in 1971-2000.

   The increase in the share of renewables is essential to reach the EU climate and energy goals. The EU target is to reach 20% of its energy from renewable sources by 2020 and at least 32% by 2030: Italy has reached its national 2020 target, although its share is below the EU average 20%. Slovenia has not yet reached its national 2020 target (-3.9 pp), however with a national share above the EU average 20%. In Slovenia, in 2015, the domestic energy sources – domestic coal, electricity produced by nuclear power and hydropower and other renewable energy sources (solar, biomass, biogas, and waste) covered 51% of the energy needs. Slovenia produces negligible amounts of oil and refined oil and natural gas, and thus is completely reliant on imports of these two fuels. Transport is the main energy consumer, followed by manufacturing and construction, and households. The energy demand in Slovenia is expected to remain fairly constant through the next years, but with a significant difference between the different energy sources: oil-based energy consumption will most probably remain the most used energy source, but its usage will probably decline. Programmes put in place to promote the use of renewable energy sources such as hydropower will increase, and supply of natural gas will be prioritized. In 2018, Friuli Venezia Giulia Region produced

10,494 GWh of electricity, with a deficit of 580.7 GWh compared to consumption (a percentage of 5.5%). The Veneto Region, on the other hand, has a deficit between production and consumption of electricity of 48.1%, also due to one of the most developed production systems in Italy. The demand for energy for housing and productive system consumption is growing, although the current sanitary emergency could reverse the trend. Both Friuli Venezia Giulia and Veneto Regions are growing in the production of energy from renewable sources, in line with the effort at national level with respect to the achievement of European and international targets.

At the local level, 75 out of the 259 municipalities of the Italian side territorially involved in the Programme are signatories of the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy (29%), with an absolute preeminence in the NUTS III area of Udine (25 municipalities) and Pordenone (24 municipalities), and a relative one in the NUTS III area of Trieste (50%) and Pordenone again (49%), Venezia and Meolo in the metropolitan area of Venice. Many Slovenian municipalities are also signatories, the majority is located in Gorenjska region, but there are also others, among which Idrija, Koper, Nova Gorica, Ajdovščina, Pivka and the two urban municipalities of Nova Gorica and Ljubljana.

3. **INTERNAL, TRANSITION AND MARINE WATERS: Pollution of water resources; Efficient use, saving and reuse of water resources; Saline intrusion; Waste in the sea; Sea and marine habitats conservation.**

   The Venice area has been characterized by the special relationships with water, both internal and marine, throughout its history. The Italian territory is interested by the final stretch of many important Italian rivers flowing in the Adriatic Sea, mostly of them heavily dammed, but with a good and very good water quality with respect to pollutants. In Friuli Venezia Giulia the quota of river and lake with high and good quality of waters is 42.1%, similar to the national value (41.7%), while treated waste raised of 5% in last 10 years, even though remaining below the national average and the North-eastern Italy values. The Slovenian side is divided into two river basins, Danube river basin to the east and Adriatic river basin to the west. The chemical condition of all stated water bodies was estimated as good in 2019, while ecological status was predominantly good, with exception of few sections of Sava, Sora and Ljubljanica river.

   Maritime waters show a potentially good condition, with some problematic spots in the Venice Lagoon and in Marano and Grado Lagoon. They are all nodes of Natura 2000 network, from the wide Lagoon of Venice system (IT3250033, IT3250046, IT3250030, IT3250031), the Mort and Eraclea Lagoon (IT3250013) in Venice metropolitan City, the Marano and Grado Lagoon (IT3320037) in Friuli Venezia Giulia, and the Stjuža (SI5000031) in Slovenia. In the area are located two National Protected Marine Area: Miramare (UNESCO Biosphere Reserve), in the Gulf of Trieste, and the Slovenian Strunjan Reserve, in the homonymous gulf. In Friuli Venezia Giulia the percentage of bathing coasts is 42%, lower than the national (66.5%) and the North-eastern Italy (56.5%) values.

4. **SOIL: Soil consumption and flashing; Soil contamination; Hydrogeological instability; Desertification, loss in organic materials, and saline intrusion; Loss in forestry; Coastal erosion; Loss in valuable agricultural land.**

   The lowlands in the area, belonging essentially to the Venice area, are characterized by the typical reclaimed land landscape and by strong overbuilding, making it to progressively more frequent flooding events, due to the difficulty in absorbing

rainwaters, and related loss in arable land. The mountain territory on both sides of the borderline is subjected to landslides, but in Friuli Venezia Giulia the population exposed to them is 0.5%, far below the national average (2%); the same happens for exposure to flooding (7% against 10% of the Italian average).

One of the most prominent environmental issues in the Italian part of the Programme area is the territorial and agricultural soils fragmentation, calculated in 44% for Friuli Venezia Giulia and in 58% in Veneto, the top value for the whole Italy.

5. **BIODIVERSITY: Disturbance and loss in species and habitats; Allochthonous species diffusion; Ecosystem services loss; ecological connectivity loss.**

   The area lists a remarkable number of natural parks and protected areas. Top of the list for its uniqueness is the area of Classical Karst, destined to become a Geopark, the second one to be established in the region after Geopark Idrija. In the Italian part, Friuli Venezia Giulia can list sixty-three Natura 2000 sites, covering 19.3% of the regional territory, slightly below the national value (21.6%); similarly, in the Metropolitan City of Venice there are 32 sites Natura 2000 (24% of the total provincial area). In the Slovenian side, 41% of the territory is covered by Natura 2000 sites. Besides of the afore mentioned Marine Protected Areas, the Programme area hosts six Natural Parks: the Triglav National Park, located in the statistical regions of Gorenjska and Goriška, the Friuli Dolomites, the Julian Prealps (Friuli Venezia Giulia), the Sile River (Venice Metropolitan City) on the Italian side; the Sečovlje salina nature park, the Škocjanskejame park and the Notranjska Regional Park on the Slovenian side. The Triglav National Park and the Julian Prealps are included in a UNESCO area declared The Julian Alps Biosphere Reserve. Snežnik forest (Slovenia) is one of UNESCO's "Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe"

6. **LANDSCAPE AND CULTURAL ASSETS: Landscape transformation; Loss and deterioration of Landscape and cultural items; Landscape continuum interruption; Loss of naturality in landscape.**

   The Programme area is characterized by landscapes, ranging from the Alps to the sea. Plenty of natural resources, but also the necessity of tackling actions against its fragility due to hydrogeological and seismic risks, as well as the risk of subsidence and coastal erosion. Cultural heritage is an asset of the Programme area, strictly connected with its natural heritage. A number of UNESCO World Heritage Sites are located both in the Slovenian and the Italian regions of the area, highlighting the most valuable cultural and tourist sites, to cite some: Venice, the Prehistoric Pile Dwellings site of Palù di Livenza Idrija, Aquileia, Ljubljana and Ljubljansko barje, the Dolomites, Cividale del Friuli, Lipica, Trieste, Koper, Bled and Štanjel castle, Palmanova and Piran. This mix of history, traditions and culture that is one of its most attractive assets of the area will certainly get the possibility to be further explored at the time of the 2025 activities of the Nova Gorica-Gorizia European Capital of Culture.

   The Programme area is characterized by a great geological heritage. This is particularly true for Friuli Venezia Giulia and Slovenia. Indeed, Friuli Venezia Giulia is one of the richest Italian regions in geosites (234) and it also boasts the presence of 22 geosites of international interest (i.e. a good part of those present in Italy); in addition, it shares with Slovenia one of the most unique environments, the Classical Karst, which is preparing to become a transboundary geopark. Other ar-

eas that stand out for geodiversity are the already recognized the UNESCO Geopark of Idrija (Slovenia) and the planned regional geopark of Karnische Alps (NUTS III of Udine). In the NUTS III of Venice, instead, there are only three geosites.

Finally, even due to the new scenario depicted by pandemic, we suggest considering an additional REI:

7. **POPULATION AND HUMAN HEALTH: impacts by climate change and environmental issues on population (heatwaves, floods and changes in the distribution of vector-borne diseases), impact of loss of biodiversity and land degradation on human well-being, societal or health pressures.**

   The Healthcare Sector of both Italy and Slovenia has been heavily affected by the pandemic like the rest of the world. Nonetheless, structural indicators seem to reflect a change in the mainstream of services, with a shift from hospital care towards the place-based one, confirming the downsizing of the supply of hospital services. The approach aimed at shifting part of the treatments from the hospital level to the district level (not only basic medicine and affiliated pharmaceuticals, but also, for example, territorial emergency and home and residential socio-health assistance) responds to principles of efficiency (minor management cost) and appropriateness (adequacy of treatment with respect to the disease), but requires a strong integration between the two levels and compensation in the allocation of expenditure. According to Eurostat and to National Institute for Public Health of the Republic of Slovenia data, both Italy and Slovenia are facing a decreasing number of hospital beds per capita. In Italy that number – in percentage - fell from 3.9 beds per 1.000 inhabitants in 2007 to 3.2 in 2018, against a European average which decreased from 5.7 to 5. In Slovenia, considering a wider interval from 1980 to 2018, the decrease of hospital beds per capita ranges from 6.9 beds per 1.000 inhabitants to 4.4. Looking at NUTS II level regions, 2018 data show better figures for the border regions in the Programme area compared to the national ones: in the cohesion region Zahodna Slovenija the percentage of beds per 1.000 inhabitants reaches 5.2, while in Vzhodna Slovenija is 3.8. Similarly, region Friuli Venezia Giulia has a ratio of 5.2 beds per 1.000 inhabitants, while Veneto 3.5.

Table 1 shows and summarizes the most relevant objectives associated to previous EI at the EU level, for the two member states of Italy and Slovenia.

Table 1: Environmental Issues and related objectives on international and national levels relevant for the Interreg VI Italia-Slovenija 2021-2027 area

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	KEY ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES AND CONCERNS	ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY FRAMEWORK AT		
		INTERNATIONAL LEVEL	NATIONAL LEVEL - ITALY	NATIONAL LEVEL - SLOVENIA
Air	Impacts on human health and well-being	By 2030, cut the health impacts of air pollution (in terms of premature mortality due to PM and O3) by 52 % compared with 2005. *Clean Air Programme for Europe (EC, 2013); SDG 11 Sustainable cities (UN, 2015)*	The emissions of the following substances must be reduced compared to 2005: - nitrogen oxides NO X: by 40% each year until 2029, then by 65%; - sulfur dioxide SO 2: by 35% each year until 2029, then by 71%; - non-methane volatile organic compounds NMVOC: by 35% each year until 2029, then by 46%; - ammonia NH 3: by 5% each year until 2029, then by 16%; - fine particles PM 2.5: by 10% each year until 2029, then by 40%. *Dlgs 81/2018 (reduction of national emissions of certain atmospheric pollutants. Implementation of directive 2016/2284 /EU)*	By 2030, emissions of the following substances will be reduced compared to 2005: - nitrogen oxides NO X : by 65%, - non-methane volatile organic compounds NMVOC: by 53%, - sulfur dioxide SO 2 : by 92%, - ammonia NH 3 : by 15%, - fine particles PM 2.5 : by 60%. *Resolution on the National Environmental Protection Program for the period 2020-2030 (ReNPVO20-30)*
	Impacts on ecosystems	Achieve the national exposure reduction target for SO2 and NOx. *Ambient Air Quality Directive (EU, 2008); Clean Air Programme for Europe (EC, 2013)*		
Climate	Mitigation (GHG emission reductions, renewable energy, energy efficiency)	EU-wide emissions and removals of greenhouse gases regulated in Union law shall be balanced at the latest by 2050, thus reducing emissions to net zero by that date. *European Climate Law proposal (EC, 2020)*	33% reduction of non-ETS sectors' 2005 emissions by 2030 (+3% of EU target) 30% of energy gross final consumption covered by renewable energies within 2030 (-2% of EU target) 22% of energy consumption in transports covered by renewable energies within 2030 (+8% of EU target) 1.3% of annual increase in energy consumption for heating and cooling covered by renewable energies within 2030 (equal to EU target) 43% of primary energy consumption with respect to PRIMES 2007 scenario (+11,5% of EU target) by 2030 0,8% of annual decrease of end-use energy savings through energy efficiency obligation scheme (equal to EU target)	By 2030: - reducing the total greenhouse gas emissions by 36%, - at least a 35% improvement in energy efficiency, which is higher than the target adopted at EU level (32.5%), - at least a 27% share of renewable energy sources; due to the relevant domestic circumstances, Slovenia had to agree to a lower target than that of the EU (32%), but will strive to increase this ambition in the next NEPN update (2023/24) *Integrated National Energy and Climate Plan of the Republic of Slovenia (NEPN)*

			10% of electrical interconnectivity level (-5% of EU target) 14.375 MW of electrical interconnection capacity (>5.090 MW respect EU target) Carbon phase out from electricity production by 2025 *Integrated national energy and climate plan (2019)*	
	Adaptation (adaptive capacity and adaptation measures)	Strengthen resilience and the capacity to adapt to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries. *SDG target 13.1 (UN, 2015a); Paris Agreement (UNFCCC, 2015b)* Mitigate the effects of floods and droughts. *Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)* Reduce the adverse consequences associated with floods. *Floods Directive (2007/60/EC)*	- Containment of vulnerability and increase of the adaptability of natural, social and economic systems; - Promote training, awareness and the exchange of information between public decision makers, the scientific community, local communities and citizens; *National strategy (2015) and Plan (2018) for adaptation to climate change* - Within 2020 substantial reduction of CC on biodiversity through adaption and increasing in resilience of natural and semi-natural ecosystems *National strategy for biodiversity (2010)*	Climate change adaptation measures in Slovenia will result in lower exposure to the effects of climate change, sensitivity and vulnerability, and increased resilience and adaptability of society. *Resolution on the National Environmental Protection Program for the period 2020-2030 (ReNPVO20-30)* In the field of water regulation: - protection against the adverse effects of water, - water quantity conservation and balancing. *National Water Management Program (NPUV) within Resolution on the National Environmental Protection Program for the period 2020-2030 (ReNPVO20-30) that is based on River basin management plans for the Danube Basin and the Adriatic Sea Basin 2016–2021 and Flood Risk Management Plan 2017–2021*
Water	Protection and restoration of water ecosystems and wetlands	Protect, conserve and enhance freshwater and marine water, as well as the biodiversity that supports this natural capital *7th EAP, PO 1 (EC, 2013)*	- 11 targets to be hit by 2024 to have good ecological status of marine waters (biodiversity conservation, water and seafood pollution, marine energy sources sustainability) *Italian strategy for the sea for the period 2018-2024* The EU objective of achieving the "good" quality status at 2015 for all water bodies in Italy had to deal with the real possibility of achieving WFD's objectives. While keeping this objective in mind, the Re-	By 2030 in the field of water protection and use: - good chemical and ecological status of all surface water bodies and prevention of deterioration of all surface water bodies, - good ecological potential and good chemical status for all artificial and heavily modified surface water bodies, - good chemical and quantitative status of groundwater, - preventing the further deterioration of aquatic ecosystems and protecting and improving the status of surface and groundwater-dependent ecosystems, - the gradual reduction of pollution by priority
	Hydro-morphological pressures	Good chemical and ecological status of surface water bodies Good chemical and quantitative status of groundwater bodies. *Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)* Good environmental status of ma-		

		rine waters. *Marine Strategy Framework Directive (2008/56/EC)*	gions have formulated others: - where existing, the "high" state of environmental quality shall be maintained (Veneto Region, *Water protection plan*) - where existing, the maintenance of "good" and "high" environmental quality shall be ensured (Friuli-Venezia-Giulia Region, *Water protection plan*) - Extension to the achievement of the objective of the chemical status of surface waters for 4 water bodies of the Ven-ice Lagoon that have recently deteriorated and of the objective of the chemical status of groundwater for some water bodies in Veneto and Friuli Venezia Giulia (Water management plan of the Eastern Alps, 2015-2021) - Derogation to the achievement of the objective of the ecological status of surface waters for 41 water bodies (less stringent objective) of Veneto and Friuli Venezia Giulia for pressures that cannot be mitigated or only partially mitigated, and of the objective of the chemical status of surface waters for 15 coastal water bodies in Friuli Venezia Giulia for historical pollution with a persistent impact. (Water management plan of the Eastern Alps, 2015-2021) -exemption to the achievement of the objective of the ecological status of surface waters for some water bodies in Veneto and Friuli Venezia Giulia due to lack of knowledge of the causes of degradation and of the objective of the chemical status of groundwater for two water bodies (one per Region) due to the impossibility of achieving the objective (Water management plan of the Eastern Alps, 2015-2021) Progressively de-polluting the waters discharged into the lagoon to bring them back to levels of contamination that allow everywhere the conditions of mesotrophic stability already existing in large	substances and the cessation or phasing out of emissions, discharges and losses of priority hazardous substances, - changes in all significant and sustained increases in the concentration of any pollutant resulting from the impact of human activity in order to gradually reduce groundwater pollution, - sustainable use of water, enabling different types of use, taking into account the long-term protection of available resources and their quality, - programming, planning and implementation of water use in such a way as not to worsen the state of water, to enable protection against harmful effects of water, preservation of natural processes, natural balance of aquatic and riparian ecosystems, - protection, improvement and restoration of groundwater bodies and ensuring a balance between groundwater abstraction and restoration, - implementation of the principle "polluter pays the costs caused by the pollution of the environment" and "the user pays for the use of the natural resource", - international coordination in a river basin in which water management may have transboundary effects By 2030, in the field of protection of the marine environment: - improving and / or maintaining the good status of the marine environment in relation to biodiversity, which means that the quality and presence of habitats and the distribution and abundance of species are in line with the prevailing physiographic, geographical and climatic conditions, - improving and / or maintaining the good state of the marine environment in terms of nutrient enrichment, so that eutrophication due to human activity does not lead to adverse effects (biodiversity loss, ecosystem degradation, harmful algal blooms and lack of oxygen in the lower water layers), - the state of the seabed at a level which ensures the protection of the structure and func-
	Pollution pressures on water and links to human health	Eliminate challenges to human health and well-being, such as water pollution and toxic materials *7th EAP, PO 3 (EC, 2013)*		
	Water abstraction and its pressures on surface water bodies and groundwater	Water stress in the EU is prevented or significantly reduced *7th EAP; PO 2 (EC, 2013)* Provide the sufficient supply of good quality surface water and groundwater. *Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)*		

			neighboring lagoon areas. Director Plan 2000, Veneto Region - Implement integrated water management at all planning levels - Maximize water efficiency and adapt withdrawals to water scarcity *National strategy for sustainable development (2017)*	tions of ecosystems and prevents adverse effects, in particular on benthic ecosystems, - changes in hydrographic conditions do not change or only slightly change the ecological conditions (do not cause biodiversity loss, habitat degradation, harmful algal blooms and lack of oxygen in the bottom layer), - pollutant concentrations are at levels that do not adversely affect organisms, populations, communities or ecosystems, - concentrations of contaminants in fish and shellfish intended for human consumption do not exceed the limit values, - the presence of marine litter does not harm the marine water ecosystem, - the level of marine noise does not harm the marine ecosystem. *National Water Management Program (NPUV) within Resolution on the National Environmental Protection Program for the period 2020-2030 (ReNPVO20-30) that is based on River basin management plans for the Danube Basin and the Adriatic Sea Basin 2016–2021 and Marine environment management plan 2017–2021*
Soil	Ensuring sustainable use of land and soil	No net land take by 2050 7th EAP *(EC, 2013)*	- By 2030 stop soil consumption and fight desertification (aspirational objective) *National strategy for sustainable development (2017)* - Zero soil consumption by 2050 (legal objective for Veneto region) *L.R. 14/2017 (Provisions for the containment of soil consumption)* - By 2030 reconstruct, prevent, simlpify and strengthen the governance on hydrological instability *National plan for hydrogeological risk mitigation (2019)*	Increased capacity to provide soil ecosystem services by: - managing degradation processes related to the reduction of soil organic matter, the prevention of soil erosion, the prevention of soil pollution and the remediation and revitalization of degraded areas. - through sustainable land and land management and reduced net annual growth of built-up land by 25% by 2030 and with the goal of zero growth of built-up area from 2050 onwards. *Resolution on the National Environmental Protection Program for the period 2020-2030 (ReNPVO20-30)*
	Preventing loss of soil and soil pollution	Reduce soil erosion, increase soil organic matter, and promote remedial work on contaminated sites *Roadmap to a resource efficient Europe (EU)*		
Biodiversity and Natura 2000	Protection and preservation of biodiversity and natural ecosystems	Effectively manage all protected areas, defining clear conservation objectives and measures, and mon-	Within 2030: - Safeguard and improve the conservation	To maintain a high level of biodiversity and preserve natural values, while achieving the following specific objectives:

		itoring them appropriately *EU biodiversity strategy to 2030*	status of species and habitats for ecosystems, both terrestrial and aquatic - Stop alloctonous invasive species diffusion - Increase the land and sea protected area and ensure the effectiveness of management - Ensuring the sustainable management of forests and fighting their abandonment and degradation - Protect and restore genetic resources and natural ecosystems related to agriculture, forestry and aquaculture - Integrate the value of natural capital (of ecosystems and biodiversity) into plans, policies and accounting systems *National strategy for sustainable development (2017)* Within 2020: Ensure biodiversity conservation and ecosystem services restoration	- maintaining the favorable status of indigenous wild species, - maintaining a favorable status for the range and quality of habitat types, in particular those in ecologically important and Natura 2000 sites (detailed objectives and measures are defined in the RMP), - preventing the introduction and spread of invasive alien species or controlling their introduction and spread, - identification, evaluation and conservation of landscape diversity and landscape features important for the conservation of biodiversity, - monitoring the situation to the extent that it is possible to determine the state of conservation of all European important species and species and habitat types, crucial as indicators of the situation, and the state of natural values, - fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources and their subsequent use and marketing, - mapping and evaluation of ecosystem services and their value taken into account in the preparation and adoption of development, spatial and other strategic or operational documents, - establishment and maintenance of critical green infrastructure, - increase knowledge of biodiversity and its importance at all levels of society; - long-term preservation of natural values in such a way that their value properties change as little as possible, - use of natural values, which, as a priority over other forms of general or special use, enables everyone to get to know and experience natural values in their natural characteristics and givens, - regulated and controlled general special use of natural values without negative effects on the value properties of natural values, - improved data on natural values and their condition, including value properties by individual species, - regular monitoring of the state of natural values; - effective management of already established protected areas,
	Promotion of green infrastructure and ecosystem-based management	Integrate green infrastructure (GI) into key policy areas, improving the knowledge base and encouraging innovation in relation to GI, improving access to finance including supporting EU-level GI projects. *Green infrastructure – Enhancing Europe's natural capital (GI strategy)*		
	Protection and preservation of Natura 2000 species and habitats	Protect species and habitats under the nature directives *Birds Directive, Habitats Directive (EU, national); EU biodiversity strategy to 2020, Target 1; Action plan for nature, people and the economy*		

				- establishment of new wider protected areas (map shown in Figure 4) and narrower protected areas, preferably in the most nature-sensitive areas; *Resolution on the National Environmental Protection Program for the period 2020-2030 (ReNPVO20-30)*
Population and human health	Public health and environmental health	Contributing to innovative and sustainable health systems, increasing access to better and safer healthcare for citizens, promoting good health and preventing diseases, protecting citizens from cross border health threats *EU Health for Growth Programme (2014-2020) (COM (2011) 709)*	- Within 2025: improving population's health literacy, empowering people to act for personal and common health, improving health system efficiency through programming and networking of health institutions in different territories. *National prevention plan for the period 2020-2025* - Decrease the exposure of the population to environmental and anthropogenic risk factors - Counteracting risk factors and the impact of health emergencies: perfect early warning and prevention mechanisms *National strategy for sustainable development (2017)*	Protect the population from environmental risks. *Resolution on the National Environmental Protection Program for the period 2020-2030 (ReNPVO20-30)*
	Noise	Define a common approach intended to avoid, prevent or reduce on a prioritized basis the harmful effects, including annoyance, due to exposure to environmental noise *EU Environmental Noise Directive (END) (2002/49/EC)*	- Creation by each municipality of the Acoustic Classification Plan - Compliance with the maximum permitted noise levels and achievement of the quality levels determined by the acoustic class of each zone National law 447/1995	The pattern of reducing the number of people exposed to excessive noise in the environment is maintained *Resolution on the National Environmental Protection Program for the period 2020-2030 (ReNPVO20-30)*
Cultural heritage	Protection and preservation of cultural heritage	Protection and preservation of cultural and natural heritage at the international level. *Convention Concerning the protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, 1972 (UNESCO, 1972)*	- Creating an education system involving a plurality of people in future actions of protection and knowledge acquisition on cultural heritage and landscape (long-term and aspirational objective) *National Plan for Cultural Heritage Education (2017, 1st version)* - Ensure the restoration and defragmen-	By 2026: - Raise the awareness of the social values of cultural heritage; - Encourage the involvement of individuals, communities and other stakeholders in cultural heritage linked activities; - Improve access to cultural heritage; - Achieve greater recognition of cultural heritage in Slovenia and broad

			tation of ecosystems and foster urban / rural ecological connections - Contribute to the diversification of activities especially in rural, mountain and inland areas, to the generation of income and employment, to the promotion of sustainable tourism, to urban development and to the protection of the environment, cultural heritage, support for cultural industries and tourism industry, the enhancement of local crafts and the recovery of traditional crafts - Intensify activities aimed at education and training, strengthening institutional capacities, transferring know-how, technology, innovation, intervening to protect assets even in post-conflict crisis situations and natural disasters - Program and systematize experimental projects oriented towards a greater knowledge of the landscape and natural heritage aimed at the different categories of public *National strategy for sustainable development (2017)*	*Cultural Heritage Strategy for the period 2018-2026 (MK, 2019)* - Contribute to the diversification of activities especially in rural, mountain and in land areas, to the generation of income and employment, to the promotion of sustainable tourism, to urban development and to the protection and maintenance of the cultural heritage, support for cultural industries and tourism industry, the enhancement of local crafts and the recovery of traditional crafts - Intensify activities aimed at education and training, strengthening institutional capacities, transferring know-how, technology, innovation, intervening to protect assets even in postconflict crisis situations and natural disasters. *Cultural Heritage Strategy for the period 2020-2023 (MK, 2021)*
	Promotion of participatory management of cultural heritage	Promotion of good governance based on participatory management. *European Cultural Heritage Strategy for the 21st Century (COE, 2017)*		
Landscape	Protection and preservation of landscapes	Protection and preservation, sustainable management and planning of European landscapes, assuring higher cooperation between the EU Member States. *The European Landscape Convention (COE, 2000)*		Identification, evaluation and conservation of landscape diversity and landscape features important for the conservation of biodiversity and (cultural) identity. *Resolution on the National Environmental Protection Program for the period 2020-2030 (ReNPVO20-30) and Cultural Heritage Strategy for the period 2020-2023 (MK, 2021)*
	Protection and valorisation of geodiversity and geological heritage	Protection and management of areas of special geological interest, identifying the areas of greatest interest, supporting information and education programs and strengthening co-operation (also at international level) *Recommendation Rec(2004)3 on conservation of the geological her-*	- Sustainable and effective management of geosites and geoparks (Friuli Venezia Giulia Region) - Increasing knowledge in geodiversity and its importance at all society levels (Friuli Venezia Giulia Region) *Regional law 15/2016 (Friuli Venezia Giulia)*	Protection and valorisation of geodiversity and geological heritage

		itage and areas of special geological interest		

3.3 The Logical Framework and methodology for the Scoping phase

In the Scoping procedure the involved Environmental Authorities are requested to associate a potential impact of POs and SOs to each REI, accordingly with the following Logical Framework.

The Programme defines a set of POs, SOs and Specific Actions which determine a number of potential impacts (presented in Table 3). Each potential impact can be associated to the elicited REIs, and assessed by the Environmental authorities using a Likert scale method based on the following 5-classes Table 2:

Table 2: The Likert-scale suggested for Interreg VI Italia-Slovenija 2021-2027 Scoping impact assessment

Impact class	Description
0	no impact or a very limited impact
+ +	significant positive impact
+	negligible (indirect) positive impact
-	negligible (indirect) negative impact
- -	significant negative impact

Although potential impacts were identified, it has to be stated that at this point, presented Logical Framework represents the current status of a very dynamic programming process, which is still on-going. This means that POs, SOs, but most of all specific actions could still change. We emphasize that such changes will be appropriately addressed in the following steps of the SEA process.

Due to above stated reasons the decision was made to carry out a strategic level assessment in the scoping phase, assessing impacts cumulatively on the level of POs, using the description of SOs and specific actions for deeper understanding of potential impacts.

These will be used, alongside comments from responsible environmental authorities received within the framework of the scoping procedure, to navigate the Interreg Italia-Slovenija 2021-2027 programming team in further programming steps. In the next step of the SEA process, the SEA team will use same inputs to define environmental objectives of the Environmental Report and indicators used to assess impacts of the Interreg Italia-Slovenija 2021-2027 Programme on the environment.

Table 3: The Logical Framework of the Interreg VI Italia-Slovenija 2021-2027 – for the Scoping process

POs	SOs	Specific actions	Potential impacts to be considered in the SEA (red = negative impacts)
PO 1 – a more competitive and smarter Europe by promoting innovative and smart economic transformation and regional ICT connectivity	SO 4 - Developing skills for smart specialisation, industrial transition and entrepreneurship	**A 1 4.1 – Promoting a cross-border ecosystem for research and innovation in common specialisations areas** • Building partnerships among clusters / business networks, innovation poles and other actors to improve their positioning (and that of the companies involved) in existing or new global value chains; • Developing partnerships through the approach of the quadruple helix -public bodies, enterprises, research centres and civil society- in order to stimulate knowledge sharing, open innovation strategies, etc. • Supporting the cross-border mobility of researchers to ease knowledge transfer and produce innovation • Fostering synergies with Horizon to facilitate the creation of enlarged networks between local actors and the biggest innovation players in EU • Supporting the creation of networks among SMEs and University/ research to foster innovation processes through joint pilot actions	• Improved knowledge and skills on circular economy processes • Overall reduction of environmental footprint • New research on circular economy, environmental protection and climate change • Reduction in pesticide use • Reduction in the use of raw materials • Reduction in GHG emission • Reducing air pollution • Improvement in environmental and energy performance in SMEs
PO 2 – a greener, low-carbon transitioning towards a net zero carbon economy and resilient Europe by promoting clean and fair energy transition, green and blue investment, the circular economy, climate change mitigation and adaptation and risk prevention and management	SO4 - Promoting climate change adaptation and disaster risk prevention, resilience, taking into account ecosystem-based approaches	**A 2.4.1 - Foster resilience capacity to climate change and mitigate risks related to natural disasters** • Strengthen cross border cooperation among local authorities to build up integrated risk management systems and joint action plan • Application of joint tools to counteract the effects of climate change and extreme events and to improve quality of life in the cross-border space • Design of coordinated rescue protocols and actions • Promote active awareness of risks due to anthropogenic changes and related climate changes on local ecosystems • Promote investments for the development / strengthening / modelling of joint early warning and risk monitoring systems as well as small infrastructures for risk prevention and management	• Improved condition (state) and management of natural heritage Natura 2000 areas and protected areas. • Improvedi monitoring of Natura 2000 sites • Reduction in GHG emissions • Reduction in air pollutants • Reduction in water pollutants • Improved knowledge and skills on circular economy processes • Use of green technologies for the sustainable enhancement (vineyards, gardens, parks)

	SO6 - promoting the transition to a circular and resource efficient economy	**A 2.6.1 - Develop shared model/solutions for the circular economy** • Innovative and sustainable solutions for the conversion of production activities from a linear model towards a circular economy model • Developing and testing innovative technologies following the concepts of industrial symbiosis • Supporting the creation of experimental supply chains in the context of the circular economy, using digital technologies and artificial intelligence • Exchanges of good practices for the design of new models for the optimization of the use of resources and the diffusion of eco-innovations through the quadruple helix approach. • Promoting process innovation in SMEs through ICT • Developing cross-border services based on ICT solutions in order to increase the efficiency and sustainability of economic activities (logistic, delivery, mobility services, etc.)	• Improvement and conservation of the coastal and marine habitat • Efficient management of hydraulic risk • Improvement in environmental and energy performance in SMEs • Potential negative impact of new infrastructures (energy sites, e-mobility infrastructures)
	SO7 - Enhancing protection and preservation of nature, biodiversity, and green infrastructure, including in urban areas, and reducing all forms of pollution	**A 2.7.1 - Conservation, protection, promotion of the cross-border area natural capital** • Promoting, applying, capitalising joint strategies for the conservation and protection of biodiversity in the cross-border area (through the protection of habitats, the reduction of the presence of invasive species, the promotion of protected areas) • Preserving and restoring the natural capital of the cross-border area limiting the anthropogenic pressure, also through inclusive actions involving public institutions, businesses, third sector organisations and citizens • Promoting green and blue infrastructures (for example green urban spaces, protection of ecosystems, development of ecological quality in agriculture, protection and restoration of coastal and marine biodiversity and Natura 2000 sites) • Projects aiming at developing common solutions for jointly reducing and preventing pollution	
	SO 8 - Promoting sustainable multimodal urban mobility, as part of transition to a net zero carbon economy	**A 2.8.1 - Joint investments for the development of innovative, inclusive and sustainable mobility** • Fostering clean transport services and small infrastructures (i.e., cycling routes) • Exploiting opportunities coming from ICT to provide improved services (Intelligent Transport Systems technologies, integrated ticketing solutions, etc.) • Defining joint plans to develop e-mobility infrastructures and services in urban and rural/coastal sites also for industrial and	

		tourism purposes • Supporting innovating strategies for multimodal accessibility in view of a better connectivity among urban, rural and coastal areas	
PO 4 – a more social and inclusive Europe implementing the European Pillar of Social Rights	SO 6 - enhancing the role of culture and sustainable tourism in economic development, social inclusion and social innovation	**A 4.6.1 – Implementing sustainable and innovative practices in tourism to boost local economy** • Developing cross-border tourism products based on the natural and cultural resources of the area (such as itineraries, local cooking and typical products) • Creating synergies with the GO 2025 Nova Gorica · Gorica through networking, exchange and cooperation among actors across the border to increase attractiveness of the whole area in all seasons • Developing joint strategies, structures and communication platforms for the exchange of experience and know-how in tourism sector • Digitalising tourism sector to help product diversification and recovery after the pandemic • Promoting the cultural and linguistic minorities **A 4.6.2 - Preservation, maintenance and promotion of the cultural heritage** • Reinforce the resilience of the cultural sector, financing joint solutions for the transition to sustainable business models • Promoting action plans and synergies to implement cultural itineraries based on rural, urban and coastal linkages • Implementing cross border key themes to promote common cultural heritage: contemporary art, language, folk culture (architecture), culinary heritage, historical heritage, literature, visual arts, music etc. **A 4.6.3 – Promoting education and training in cultural and tourism sector to foster employability and social inclusion** • Increasing the linkage between education and tourism/cultural labour market by investing in bilingual education and training • Promoting training targeted at acquisition of skills necessary for recovery from emergencies (e.g., COVID-19 crisis) especially in the tourism sector	• Development of green tourism as an alternative • Realization of sustainable tourism visits • Improved quality of tourism supply (with prolonged time of stay) • Improved condition (state) and management of natural heritage and protected areas. • Increased pressures to the environment due to tourism (disruption of flora and fauna in protected areas and Natura 2000 sites) • Increased pressures to the environment due to tourism (higher water and soil pollution) • adversely affection of tangible and intangible attributes of cultural and natural heritage
INTERREG Specific Objectives	ISO 1.ii - enhance efficient public administration by promoting legal and administrative cooperation and cooperation between citizens, civil society actors and institutions, in particu-	**A ISO1.ii.1 Increase governance capacity to optimize services for citizens** • Sharing and processing cross border data to improve quality and accessibility of public services through the ICT; • Exchange of experience and training programs to enhance the	• Improved management, environmental accessibility and risk management • Efficient management of hydraulic risk • Improved monitoring and management of target water basins and rivers

	lar, with a view to resolving legal and other obstacles in border regions	capacity of public authorities to design and implement integrated cross-border initiatives on strategic issues for the Programme area (inner and maritime mobility, health services, sustainability, etc.) • Improving institutional multilevel governance to reduce administrative cultural and social obstacles and promote common legal frameworks in all sectors (labour market, health services, nature and environment protection, climate change adaptation, etc.) • Actions to support the consolidation of European groups of territorial cooperation, in different fields such as: environmental accessibility and risk management • Investing jointly in innovative and bilingual digital services for the benefit of the most isolated and remote areas (i.e. through telemedicine, e-services for and disadvantaged groups etc.) • Investing in CLLD strategies to be defined at cross-border level and implemented through pilot actions **A ISO1.ii.2 Inter-programme coordination** • Actions dedicated to the development of interinstitutional cooperation with ETC programs and with mainstream programmes to maximize the complementarity and the effectiveness of the interventions. • Creation of cross-programme networks to increase sustainability and transferability of results capitalizing projects funded other ETC programme. • Development of joint monitoring systems to measure the impact of different programmes on common issues concerning the same territory/maritime basin • Promoting concrete solutions to embed macro regional flagships projects	• Circulation on information on common environmental issues • Increased networking and cooperation in the field of nature conservation • Development of green Technologies for a cross- border water and dangerous waste management
	ISO 1.iii - build up mutual trust, in particular by encouraging people-to-people actions	**A ISO1.iii.1 Support small-scale and people-to-people cross-border initiatives** • Supporting all types of joint actions in order to strengthen the cross-border common roots and identity, to build trust and to overcome existing obstacles (language, culture, geography); • Promoting exchange of experiences, networking, living labs bringing together citizens and local actors to foster cooperation in the field of, sport, education, nature, and other fields of common interest;	

		• Developing pilot initiatives to increase the stakeholder's participation at all level (within administrative procedures, process for the definition of new laws, designing of cross-border agreement); • Implementing pilot actions involving citizens and enterprises in the design of new public services to meet their demands	

Table 4: The environmental impacts identification and assessment table of Interreg VI Italia-Slovenija 2021-2027 Scoping procedure

Potential impacts of specific objectives and their actions to be considered by the SEA			Air	Climate change	Waters	Soil	Biodiversity	Landscape and cultural assets	Population and human health
POs	**Specific Actions**	**Potential impacts to be considered in the SEA**							
PO 1 - SO 4 - Developing skills for smart specialisation, industrial transition and entrepreneurship	A 1 4.1 – Promoting a cross-border ecosystem for research and innovation in common specialisations areas	• Improved knowledge and skills on circular economy processes • Overall reduction of environmental footprint • New research on circular economy, environmental protection and climate change • Reduction in pesticide use • Reduction in the use of raw materials • Reduction in GHG emission • Reducing air pollution • Improvement in environmental and energy performance in SMEs	0	0	0	0	0	0	+
PO 2 - SO4 - Promoting climate change adaptation and disaster risk prevention, resilience, taking into account ecosystem-based approaches	A 2.4.1 - Foster resilience capacity to climate change and mitigate risks related to natural disasters	• Improved condition (state) and management of natural heritage Natura 2000 areas and protected areas. • Improvedi monitoring of Natura 2000 sites • Reduction in GHG emissions • Reduction in air pollutants • Reduction in water pollutants • Improved knowledge and skills on circular economy processes • Use of green technologies for the sustainable enhancement (vineyards, gardens, parks)	+	+	+	+	++	+	++
PO2 - SO6 - promoting the transition to a circular and resource efficient economy	A 2.6.1 – Develop shared model/solutions for the circular economy				-	-	-	-	
PO2 – SO7 - Enhancing protection and preservation of na-	A 2.7.1 - Conservation, protection, promotion of the cross-border area								

ture, biodiversity, and green infrastructure, including in urban areas, and reducing all forms of pollution	natural capital	• Improvement and conservation of the coastal and marine habitat • Efficient management of hydraulic risk • Improvement in environmental and energy performance in SMEs • Potential negative impact of new infrastructures (energy sites, e-mobility infrastructures)							
PO2 – SO8 - Promoting sustainable multimodal urban mobility, as part of transition to a net zero carbon economy	A 2.8.1 - Joint investments for the development of innovative, inclusive and sustainable mobility								
PO4 - SO 6 - enhancing the role of culture and sustainable tourism in economic development, social inclusion and social innovation	A 4.6.1 – Implementing sustainable and innovative practices in tourism to boost local economy A 4.6.2 - Preservation, maintenance and promotion of the cultural heritage A 4.6.3 – Promoting education and training in cultural and tourism sector to foster employability and social inclusion	• Development of green tourism as an alternative • Realization of sustainable tourism visits • Improved quality of tourism supply (with prolonged time of stay) • Improved condition (state) and management of natural heritage and protected areas. • Increased pressures to the environment due to increased tourism flows (disruption of flora and fauna in protected areas and Natura 2000 sites) • Increased pressures to the environment due to increased tourism flows (higher soil and water pollution, higher water consumption) • Adversely affection of tangible and intangible attributes of cultural and natural heritage	+ -	+ -	-	-	++ -	++ -	+
ISO 1.ii - enhance efficient public administration by promoting legal and administrative cooperation and cooperation between citizens, civil society actors and institutions, in particular, with a view to resolving legal and other obstacles in border	A ISO1.ii.1 Increase governance capacity to optimize services for citizens A ISO1.ii.2 Interprogramme coordination	• Improved management, environmental accessibility and risk management • Efficient management of hydraulic risk • Improved monitoring and management of target water basins and rivers • Circulation on information on common environmental issues • Increased networking and coopera-	0	0	0	0	0	0	+

regions		tion in the field of nature conservation • Development of green Technologies for a cross- border water and dangerous waste management							
ISO 1.iii - build up mutual trust, in particular by encouraging people-to-people actions	A ISO1.iii.1 Support small-scale and people-to-people cross-border initiatives								

It is clear from Table 4 results that Interreg Italia-Slovenija 2021-2027 Programme will most likely have predominantly positive impacts. Only two real points of concern or potentially negative impact were recognized:

- Increased pressures to the environment due to increased tourism.
- Potential negative impact of new small-scale infrastructures.

On the other hand, Interreg Italia-Slovenija 2021-2027 Programme offers further opportunity for enhancements of positive impacts on environment. For example – currently, the Programme predominantly focuses on adaptation to climate changes, however almost no effort (except from sustainable mobility) is put to mitigation of climate change.

Subsequently, we recommend to the programming team to address above recognized key issues in the following programming steps, especially on the level of description of proposed/potentially supported activities.

This being said, we have to emphasize that at this point, presented Logical Framework still represents the current status of a very dynamic programming process, which is still on-going. This means that POs, SOs, but most of all specific actions could still change. We emphasize again that such changes will be appropriately addressed in the following steps of the SEA process.

We must also point out the implementation power of this programme, which is one of the key reasons the SEA team was quite reserved when assessing the actual significance of identified impacts. Namely, even a well written action with potentially very positive/negative impacts depends on the amount of funds invested into it, types of projects actually implemented and final effects of their results.

In the next step of the SEA process, the SEA team will use the inputs form the scoping procedure to define environmental objectives of the Environmental Report and indicators used to assess impacts of the Interreg Italia-Slovenija 2021-2027 Programme on the environment.

4. Received comments to the draft of the Scoping Report with responses of the SEA team and the Programming team

The draft of the Scoping Report for the Interreg VI Italia-Slovenija 2021-2027 Programme was sent out to responsible Environmental Authorities in the programme area in June 2021. In both countries a written scoping procedure was carried out, collecting written responses and comments about the Scoping Report. In Slovenia, this process was finalized with an on-line scoping workshop, organized on September 7th, 2021.

In this chapter all received comments were summarized. Some of them refer not only to the Scoping Report, but also to the IP itself, which is why the decision was made that the response to individual comments have been provided by the SEA team or the Programing team. As requested by SEA procedure, such response will ensure transparency of the decision-making process and will provide a sound base for the next steps in the SEA process.

Although comments or observations of responsible Environmental Authorities were summarized for the purpose of this Report, their full comments are presented in full in the attachment to this report (Attachment: Received comments to the Preliminary Scoping Report for the Interreg VI Italia-Slovenija 2021-2027 Programme).

With responses to received comments on the draft of the Scoping Report, the scoping process is concluded. At the same time, this Scoping Report represents a foundation for the following steps of the SEA process and will be heavily relied upon during the preparation of the Environmental Report and Appropriate Assessment for the Interreg Italia-Slovenija 2021-2027 Programme.

We emphasize again that presented Logical Framework of the IP still represents the current status of a very dynamic programming process, which is still on-going. This means that POs, SOs, but most of all specific actions could still change. Such possible changes will be appropriately addressed in the following steps of the SEA process.

In such cases, all provided comments will be (if necessary) revisited and (if necessary) included in the Environmental Report and Appropriate Assessment.

Table 5: Received comments to the Preliminary Scoping Report for the Interreg VI Italia-Slovenija 2021-2027 Programme with responses of the SEA team and the Programming team

Macroarea	Office	Observation	Reply by SEA experts	Reply by IP experts
FVG	DG Environment, Energy and Sustainable Development, Water management Office	The Environmental issue "Internal, Transition and Marine Waters" should consider even ground waters	NOTED – to be addressed in the Environmental Report: The issue has been added in a specific paragraph of the Environmental Report (4.3.3 Ground Water) within the Chapter 4, dedicated to Water. In the final version of the Scoping report the issue has been considered (Table 1, dedicated to the Environmental policy framework.)	
		Objectives must be supported by actions aimed to reduce ground water withdrawal for civic, industrial and irrigation use	NOT A SEA TOPIC: This issue is addressed directly by the IP.	REJECTED: Observation inconsistent with the TF decisions
	DG Environment, Energy and Sustainable Development, Geologic Office	Six corrections on the Draft of the scoping Report text	NOTED – already addressed in this Scoping Report The text of the Scoping Report has been emended and the mistakes corrected following the suggestions.	
		Sensitive transborders basins such as Classical Kars must be considered	NOTED – to be addressed in the Environmental Report: The issue has been added in a specific paragraph of the Environmental Report (4.3.3 Ground Water) within the Section 4,3 dedicated to Water.	
		Considering the raise in the interest for geological heritage, a new PO and SO on geodiversity protection is strongly suggested	NOT A SEA TOPIC: This issue is addressed directly by the IP.	NOTED: To be integrated within the existing actions relating to PO2 SO7
		Among the Relevant Environmental Issues, consider "Geodiversity and geological heritage"	NOTED – to be addressed in the Environmental Report: A very good point. The issue has been added in a specific paragraph of the Environmental Report (4.6.3 Geodiversity and geological heritage) within the Section 4.6 dedicated to Landscape and Cultural heritage. In the final version of the Scoping report, we added information on this topic, (see 3.2 The Relevant Environmental Issues); the placement of the issue within the more general "Landscape and Cultural heritage" have been decided together with the Managing Authority	
	Public health authority, FVG Region	Identify sustainable measures devoted to contrast the pressures of tourists on the local environmental condi-	NOTED – to be addressed in the Environmental Re-	NOTED:

		tions	port: The remark has been considered for both the SEA Environmental Report and for the Programme. In the first case, it will be considered among the indications for mitigation and compensation measures (Chapter 5 - Potential significant impacts on the environment, measures to prevent, mitigate or compensate negative impacts, alternatives). In the second, the IP will take count of the indication accordingly with the findings of the Environmental Report.	To be integrated within the existing actions relating to PO2 SO7
	ARPA FVG	Complete the information framework of the Scoping Report (Table of environmental policies) with some addition	NOTED – already addressed in this Scoping Report In the final version of the Scoping report the issue has been considered (Table 1, dedicated to the Environmental policy framework.)	
		Suggestion of documents where to find out information to complete the state of the art for Environmental issues	NOTED – to be addressed in the Environmental Report: The suggestion has been registered and it will be useful for the definition of Chapter 4 of the Environmental Report (Chapter 4. - Environmental objects, current state of the environment and the zero option)	
		Complete the information on the 264 geosites	NOTED – to be addressed in the Environmental Report: Coupling the suggestion with Regional Geologic Office, we will consider it (see supra)	
		Suggestion for the Environmental Report of SEA to match with more precision potential impacts and Specific Actions, reporting in the ER even the description of criteria and methodology to be used for the selection of grantable projects	NOTED – to be addressed in the Environmental Report: The remark is correct. Nonetheless, at this level of the process we do not have a definitive version of Specific Actions (SAs) to be matched precisely with potential impacts. Defined SAs will be considered in the Environmental Report and associated to impacts in one-by-one scheme, together with selection criteria for projects (Chapter 5 - Potential significant impacts on the environment, measures to prevent, mitigate or compensate negative impacts, alternatives).	
		Draft the ER accordingly with ISPRA guidelines 124/2015 “Operational indications for SEA reporting	NOTED – to be addressed in the Environmental Report: The whole SEA procedure follows the Italian legislation and suggested procedure (being the Managing Authority based in Italy). In line with it, the SEA sticks to ISPRA guidelines from the beginning and to the end, In any case, we acknowledge the suggestion	
		Consider in the ER the procedure for the elaboration of the Italia-Slovenia IP, and the contribution of the SEA in	NOTED – to be addressed in the Environmental Re-	

		each phase of the process (Scoping included)	port: The whole SEA procedure follows the Italian legislation and suggested procedure (being the Managing Authority based in Italy). In line with it, each phase of the SEA will have an influence on Italia-Slovenia IP, and it will be highlighted in a dedicated section of the Environmental Report (1.4 Contribution of the SEA to the Programme), In any case, we acknowledge the suggestion	
		Consider the main results of the previous planning period for the programme (2014-2020), mainly with respect to environmental issues and weaknesses, monitoring results included;	NOTED – to be addressed in the Environmental Report: The issue has just been considered in the Draft version of the Scoping Report and it will continue to be considered in the Environmental Report, transversely to the different topics.	
		Contemplate the opportunity of designing environmental criteria to be inserted in the calls for the selection of projects	NOTED – to be addressed in the Environmental Report: The aim of the Environmental Report is to highlight potential impacts and propose possible mitigation and compensation measures. In this sense, the Environmental Report will contemplate the opportunity of designing environmental criteria in the Programme tenders whenever the assessment will suggest it	NOTED: To be addressed in the implementation phase of the Programme
		Ensure the measurability of prospected results through a set of indicators to be defined in the ER	NOTED – to be addressed in the Environmental Report: Accordingly with the SEA Italian legislation and the mentioned ISPRA Guidelines, a set of indicators (Section 6.2 - Environmental indicators) within a monitoring and ex-post assessment procedure (Section 6.2 Implementation of the monitoring system) will be considered in the Environmental Report (Chapter 6.- Monitoring and ex-post assessment Measures). In any case, we acknowledge the suggestion	
		Consider in ER alternate scenarios related to the IP and connected environmental sustainability issues, Option zero (i.e. no intervention) included	NOTED – to be addressed in the Environmental Report: Accordingly with the SEA Italian legislation and the mentioned ISPRA Guidelines, alternate scenarios will be considered in the Environmental Report, both without (Chapter 4. - Environmental objects, current state of the environment and the zero option), and with intervention (Chapter 5.- Potential significant impacts on the environment, measures to prevent, mitigate or compensate negative impacts, alternatives). In any case, we acknowledge the suggestion	
		With respect to Scoping Report, reframe Table 3 match-	NOTED – to be addressed in the Environmental Re-	

		ing each potential impact to an action	port: In the Preliminary Report it has not been possible, due to the lack of final definition of actions. We will consider the suggestion for the ER	
		With respect to ER, describe tools and methods that will be put into effect to assess the impacts of the single actions and of the programme as a whole (secondary impacts, cumulated impacts and synergies in the short-, middle- and long-run) during and after the programme implementation	NOTED – to be addressed in the Environmental Report: We will accept this suggestion in a specific section (2.3 Assessment of direct, secondary, cumulated impacts and synergies in the short-, middle- and long-run), in the chapter dedicated to methodology of the Environmental Report devoted to it (Chapter 2. - Methodological approach)	
		The ER and the SEA document must identify mitigation and compensation measures to stop, mitigate or compensate possible negative impacts on the environment due to the programme implementation	NOTED – to be addressed in the Environmental Report: As previously stated, Chapter 5 of the Environmental Report will address the issue (Chapter 5.- Potential significant impacts on the environment, measures to prevent, mitigate or compensate negative impacts, alternatives). Again, the Environmental Report will contemplate the opportunity of designing environmental criteria in the Programme tenders whenever the assessment will suggest it	
		Define a monitoring system for both controlling the impacts on the environment due to the programme implementation, and the reaching of set sustainability targets	NOTED – to be addressed in the Environmental Report: Accordingly with the SEA Italian legislation and the mentioned ISPRA Guidelines, a monitoring procedure (Section 6.2 Implementation of the monitoring system) will be considered in the Environmental Report (Chapter 6.- Monitoring and ex-post assessment Measures). In any case, we acknowledge the suggestion	
VEN	Organizational Unit SEA and Appropriate Assessment	Remark in the ER the role of SEA with respect to IP programme, and deviations from current environmental dynamics and providing instructions on possible options	NOTED – to be addressed in the Environmental Report: Coupling the suggestion with ARPA FVG, we will consider it (see supra)	
		Consider in the analysis the topics of the Regional Strategy for sustainable development and Agenda 2030	NOTED – to be addressed in the Environmental Report: The issue has just been considered in the Draft version of the Scoping Report and it will continue to be considered in the Environmental Report, transversely to the different topics.	
		Consider internal and external coherence of the IP programme with the planning documents for Veneto Region	NOTED – to be addressed in the Environmental Report: Applied to the Programme area and not strictly to Ve-	

			neto Region, the suggestion has been registered and it will be useful for the definition of Chapter 3. Of the Environmental Report (Chapter 3. - Coherence with the planning and programming context).	
		For each environmental object, a focus on Veneto territory must be considered, to highlight possible environmental critical issues	REJECTED: The assessment run in the Environmental Report is strategic for the whole area. This means that each and only territory of the Programme Area will be considered in the Environmental Report itself (See Picture 1 in this Scoping Report)	
		Specific chapters on different environmental objects (territory, sustainable development natural risks, air quality, water quality, noise, landscape and cultural landscape, biodiversity, soil and ground, must be considered in the ER, with updated analysis, critical issues, mitigation and compensation measures	NOTED – to be addressed in the Environmental Report: Accordingly with the SEA Italian legislation and the mentioned ISPRA Guidelines, Environmental Report will deal with all the requested environmental objects. They will be addressed in a dedicated section (Chapter 4. - Environmental objects, current state of the environment and the zero option). In any case, we acknowledge the suggestion	
		Consider and assess prescriptions and recommendations by Environmental authorities	NOTED – already addressed in this Scoping Report Accordingly with the SEA Italian legislation and the mentioned ISPRA Guidelines, this is one of the purposes of the Scoping procedure, and the present Section of the Scoping Report is devoted to it.	
		Consider, describe and assess in the ER the possible alternatives for actions with a potential environmental impact	NOTED – to be addressed in the Environmental Report: Coupling the suggestion with ARPA FVG, we will consider it (see supra)	
		With respect to normative, consider the opportunity of Appropriate assessment (VINCA/Dodatek))	NOTED – to be addressed along with the Environmental Report: The remark is relevant and proposed even by the Slovenian Environmental Authorities. We will run an Appropriate assessment of the Programme along with the Environmental Report	
		ER must follow instructions from DPR 152/06 (Italian normative on SEA)	NOTED – to be addressed in the Environmental Report: Coupling the suggestion with ARPA FVG, we will consider it (see supra)	
		Define a monitoring system for both controlling the impacts on the environment due to the programme implementation, and the reaching of set sustainability targets	NOTED – to be addressed along with the Environmental Report: Coupling the suggestion with ARPA FVG, we will consider it (see supra)	

SLOVENIA	Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Nature Conservation	Due to the strategic level of evaluation in this concrete SEA, as well as the fact that such impacts will not be considered on the lower assessment levels, special attention must be put on wider impacts of various sectors – e.g. impacts of increased tourism flows, resulting in increased numbers of visitors and increased pressures on the natural environment. Such impacts should be considered in the Environmental Report and adequate mitigation measures should be proposed. As an example, we present the following mitigation measures recognized in the Environmental Report for the Interreg Slovenia-Austria 2021-2027 Programme: • Carrying capacity studies should be prepared prior to development of projects for important nature protected areas in order to reduce increased tourism flow pressures. • Visitor Management Plans should be requested as a part of project application forms for all projects focused on tourism development in biodiversity rich areas (e.g. Natura 2000, protected areas).	NOTED – to be addressed in the Environmental Report: As already proposed by the Draft Scoping Report, such impacts will be focused on in the Environmental Report. In regard to both proposed mitigation measures and as discussed during the on-line scoping meeting, the SEA can only enhance/mitigate on the level of the IP. This means that it is not possible to propose measures outside scope and mandate of the Managing Authority and Joint Secretariat – and the preliminary preparation of Carrying Capacities Studies is a clear example of such. Nonetheless, both proposed mitigation measures will be taken into consideration during development of the Environmental Report. At this point we believe that both Carrying Capacities Studies and Visitor Management Plans could be promoted as integral parts of projects in high-biodiversity sensitive areas co-financed by the IP.	NOTED: To be integrated within the existing actions relating to PO2 SO7
		Natural values, especially non-biodiversity related ones, should be added as a specific topic with a specific indicator.	NOTED – to be addressed in the Environmental Report: The Draft of the Scoping Report was prepared in line with the Italian legislation (as the Managing Authority is based in Italy). In line with it, the SEA should address key topics, as presented in the Draft of the Scoping Report. All natural values will be addressed as a part of the "Biodiversity" topic within the Environmental Report.	/
		Appropriate Assessment (VINCA/DODATEK) was requested to be prepared, alongside the Environmental Report.	NOTED – to be addressed in the Environmental Report: As the Appropriate Assessment (VINCA/DODATEK) was requested to be prepared by responsible Environmental Authorities in both countries, it will be prepared, alongside the Environmental Report.	/
	Ministry of Health & National Institute of Public Health	Airconditioning devices, as a source of noise pollution were pointed out.	REJECTED: As discussed and agreed during the on-line scoping workshop, the IP will not support installation of air-conditioning devices as a specific activity. Also, the level of IP and subsequently the SEA, is too strategic for this issue to be addressed within the Environmental Report as a specific environmental issue.	/

		Reduction of social inequalities of citizens should be addressed as a specific health issue.	NOT A SEA TOPIC: As discussed and agreed during the on-line scoping workshop, this issue is addressed directly by the IP.	NOTED: To be integrated within the existing actions relating to PO4 SO6
	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food & Slovenia Forest Service	Forest, its protection regimes and management to be included as a specific environmental topic – also with a clear link to expected climate change issues.	NOTED – to be addressed in the Environmental Report: The Preliminary Scoping Report was prepared in line with the Italian legislation (as the Managing Authority is based in Italy). In line with it, the SEA should address key topics, as presented in the Preliminary Scoping Report. Forests will be addressed as a part of the "Biodiversity" topic within the Environmental Report. However, as discussed and agreed during the on-line scoping workshop, the IP is of a "non-investment" character, and no major negative impacts are expected on forests. In case the final IP version recognizes forests also in light of climate change mitigation measures, this will also be addressed properly within the Environmental Report as a part of the "Climate Change" topic.	NOTED: To be integrated within the existing actions relating to PO2 SO4
		Agricultural land, loss, degradation and fragmentation to be included as a specific environmental topic.	NOTED – to be addressed in the Environmental Report: The Preliminary Scoping Report was prepared in line with the Italian legislation (as the Managing Authority is based in Italy). In line with it, the SEA should address key topics, as presented in the Preliminary Scoping Report. Agricultural land will be addressed as a part of the "Soil" topic within the Environmental Report. However, as discussed and agreed during the on-line scoping workshop, the IP is of a "non-investment" character, and no major negative impacts are expected on soil due to soil pollution or agricultural land loss, degradation and fragmentation.	/
		Concrete infrastructure projects (e.g. new renewable energy infrastructure) are to be stated and assessed.	REJECTED: As discussed and agreed during the on-line scoping workshop, the IP is of a "non-investment" character. This means that no major infrastructure projects of the described sort will be co-funded and subsequently no major negative impacts are expected on soil due to soil pollution or agricultural land loss, degradation and fragmentation. This is why we consider this comment not relevant for the SEA and the Environmental Report.	/

	Ministry of Culture	Comments linked to improvement of the content of the chapter 3.2 Relevant Environmental Issues.	NOTED – already addressed in this Scoping Report: New information provided in comments was (as suggested) already incorporated in this Scoping Report and will be used also in the Environmental Report.	/
		Comments linked to improvement of the content of the chapter 3.3 The logical Framework and methodology for the Scoping phase.	NOT A SEA TOPIC: As discussed and agreed during the on-line scoping workshop, this comment is linked to the content of the IP itself and can not be considered a SEA topic at this point.	NOTED: Provided comments will be taken into consideration in the IP content finalization process.
		Cultural heritage to be assessed as a potential for circular economy.	NOT A SEA TOPIC: As discussed and agreed during the on-line scoping workshop, this comment is linked to the content of the IP itself and can not be considered a SEA topic at this point.	REJECTED: Observation inconsistent with the TF decisions
	Slovenian Water Agency	Comments linked to improvement of the content of the chapter 1. Introduction to Interreg Italia-Slovenija 2021-2027 Programme	NOTED – to be addressed in the Environmental Report: This comment is linked to the content of the IP itself and can not be fully considered a SEA topic at this point. However, we consider additional provided information useful – thus, it will be (as suggested) used also in the Environmental Report.	/
		Comments linked to improvement of the content of the chapter 3.2 Relevant Environmental Issues – 3. INTERNAL, TRANSITION AND MARINE WATERS.	NOTED – to be addressed in the Environmental Report: This comment is linked to the content of the IP itself and can not be fully considered a SEA topic at this point. However, we consider additional provided information useful – thus, it will be (as suggested) used also in the Environmental Report.	/
		Comments linked to improvement of the content of the chapter 3.2 Relevant Environmental Issues	NOTED – to be addressed in the Environmental Report: All relations between Environmental elements and Key environmental issues will be explained and dealt with in the Environmental Report, where also final potential impacts will be identified – all based on the latest available IP version.	/

		Comments linked to improvement of the content of the chapter 3.2 Relevant Environmental Issues – Table 1: Environmental Issues and related objectives on international and national levels relevant for the Interreg VI Italia-Slovenija 2021-2027 area:	NOTED – already addressed in this Scoping Report: New information provided in comments was (as suggested) already incorporated in this Scoping Report and will be used also in the Environmental Report.	/
		Comments linked to improvement of the content of the chapter 3.3 The logical Framework and methodology for the Scoping phase - Table 4: The environmental impacts identification and assessment table of Interreg VI Italia-Slovenija 2021-2027 Scoping procedure (comments on the scoping scoring methodology and results).	REJECTED: Explanation of the scoring in the case of PO 1 – SO4 - proposed positive impacts are of secondary nature (IP is only developing skills for smart specialization, industrial transition and entrepreneurship), with a very limited impact. Thus, the scoring is in line with the proposed methodology. Comment to PO 2 - SO4/6/7/8 is not relevant due to the a "non-investment" character of the IP, which is why no major infrastructure is expected to be co-financed by the IP. This is why they are not listed in the IP. Explanation of the scoring in the case of PO 4 – SO 6 – for both topics (waters and climate change) we have both positive impacts (due to reinforcement of green and sustainable tourism and subsequently reduced pressures), as well as negative impacts (due to increased tourism flows and subsequently enhanced pressures). Explanation of the scoring in the case of ISO 1.ii/iii - proposed positive impacts are of secondary nature (IP is only developing enhance efficient public administration by promoting legal and administrative cooperation and cooperation between citizens, civil society actors and institutions, in particular, with a view to resolving legal and other obstacles in border regions), with a very limited impact. Thus, the scoring is in line with the proposed methodology. NOTED – to be addressed in the Environmental Report: Regardless of above explanations, we emphasize that no topic was eliminated from the Environmental Report during the scoping process and potential impacts will be reconsidered after the preparation of the new version of the IP, as changes to proposed activities are expected. At that point all above comments will be reconsidered.	/
	Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning - Environment Di-	No concrete comment, just a collection of all already above-described comments from Slovenian Environmen-	ALREADY RESOLVED, AS STATED ABOVE.	/

	rectorate - Strategic Environmental Assessment Division	tal Authorities.		