10 February 2026

Positive preliminary assessment of the satisfactory fulfilment of milestones and targets related to the seventh payment request submitted by Slovakia on 28 November 2025, transmitted to the Economic and Financial Committee by the European Commission

Executive summary

In accordance with Article 24(2) of Regulation (EU) 2021/241, on 28 November 2025, Slovakia submitted a request for payment for the seventh instalment of the non-repayable support. The payment request was accompanied by the required management declaration and summary of audits.

To support its payment request, Slovakia provided due justification of the satisfactory fulfilment of 17 out of 18 milestones and targets of the seventh instalment of the non-repayable support, as set out in Section 2(1.5) of the Council Implementing Decision of 13 July 2021 on the approval of the assessment of the recovery and resilience plan for Slovakia[1].

For three targets covering a large number of recipients, in addition to the summary documents and official listings provided by Slovakia, the Commission services have assessed a statistically significant sample of individual files. The sample size has been uniformly set at 60, which corresponds to a confidence level of 95% or above in all cases.

Furthermore, the Commission is monitoring the continued implementation of other previously assessed milestones and targets, including milestone 16.2 entitled "Providing necessary infrastructure to support the fight against money laundering and corruption". This milestone requires among others the full operationalisation of the Whisteblower Protection Office in order to support the fight against corruption. In that respect, it is noted that legislative amendments regarding the Office for the Protection of Victims of Crime and Whistleblowers of Anti-social Activities and other related laws of 9 December 2025 are subject to constitutional review by the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic which also suspended the effectiveness of these provisions. *The Commission will conclude whether a reversal has or has not occurred upon the ruling of the Constitutional Court.* Upon receipt of the payment request, the Commission has assessed on a preliminary basis the satisfactory fulfilment of the relevant milestones and targets. Based on the information provided by Slovakia, the Commission has made a positive preliminary assessment of the satisfactory fulfilment of 17 out of 18 milestones and targets.

The milestones and targets positively assessed as part of this payment request demonstrate significant steps in the implementation of Slovakia's Recovery and Resilience Plan. They notably highlight the continuation of the reform momentum in key policy areas. This includes, among others, the implementation of legislative reforms such as the introduction of programmes in lower secondary vocational education, implementation of the centralisation of the hospital management, establishing a governmental entity for mental health, entry into force of provision on environmental permits, as well as the adoption of measures to promote the uptake of hydrogen and of an energy efficiency strategy for government buildings. The milestones and targets also confirm progress towards the completion of

investment projects related to decarbonisation, primary care, nursing, palliative care, mental healthcare, reduction of administrative burden, digitalization of public administration, and removal of barriers in school buildings.

By the transmission of this positive preliminary assessment and in accordance with Article 24(4) of Regulation (EU) 2021/241, the Commission asks for the opinion of the Economic and Financial Committee on the satisfactory fulfilment of the relevant milestones and targets.

[1] ST 11205/23 INIT, ST 11205/23 ADD 1, ST 11205/23 ADD 1 COR 1, ST 14437/24, ST 14438/24 ADD1, ST 14450/25, ST 14450/25 ADD 1

Non-repayable support

Number and name of the Milestone: SK-C[C4]-I[I2]-M[C4.4] Capacity increasing investments for the Slovak Inspectorate of the Environment 3

Number and name of the Milestone: SK-C[C6]-R[R4]-M[6.9] F-programmes adapted 11

Number and name of the Target: SK-C[C6]-I[I1]-T[C6.15]: Elimination of architectural barriers at secondary schools 15

Number and name of the Target: SK-C[C11]-R[R3]-T[C11.5] Number of hospitals involved in central management system 19

Number and name of the Milestone: SK-C[C11]-I[I1]-M[C11.8] Public calls for the establishment of new primary care outpatient practices 25

Number and name of the Milestone: SK-C[C12]-R[R1]-M[C12.1] Establishment of one entity for mental health, and the expansion of the competencies for an association for psychologists 29

Number and name of the Target: SK-C[12.6]-I[I8]-T[C12.6] Number of persons trained in mental healthcare 32

Number and name of the Milestone: SK-C[C13]-I[I2]-M[C13.11] Extension and renewal of home nursing providers 36

Number and name of the Target: SK-C[C13.14]-I[I3]-T[C13.14] Extension and renewal of the mobile hospices network (indicator: number of new and rebuilt units) 39

Number and name of the Milestone: SK-C[C14]-I[I1]-M[C14.3] Application of the 1in-2out rule, the principle of protection against unjustified gold-plating and ex-post evaluations of existing regulation 42

Number and name of the Target: SK-C[C15]-I[I2]-M[C15.8] Modernisation of court IT equipment for the court staff 45

Number and name of the Milestone: SK-C[C16]-I[I2]-M[C16.8] Electronicising residence permit processes to simplify processes for the public 55

Number and name of the Target: SK-C[C17]-I[I5]-T[C17.16] Number of organised hackathons 60

Number and name of the Milestone: SK-C[C19]-R[R1]-M[C19.2] Entry into force of legislative and procedural changes 64

Number and name of the Milestone: SK-C[C19]-R[R1]-M[C19.6] Assessment of the trajectories of sustainable use of biomass and supply of biomass in Slovakia 71

Number and name of the Milestone: SK-C[C19.11]-R[R2]-M[C19.11] Measures to promote the uptake of hydrogen 74

Number and name of the Milestone: SK-C[C19]-R[R4]-M[C19.18] Strategy for the management of central government buildings 81

Number and name of the Milestone: SK-C[C4]-I[I2]-M[C4.4] Capacity increasing investments for the Slovak Inspectorate of the Environment

Related Measure: C4.I2 Ensuring the functioning of the Slovak Inspectorate of the Environment linked to decarbonisation

Qualitative Indicator: Delivery of new equipment and modernised facilities of the Slovak Inspectorate of the Environment

Time: Q2 2025

1. Context

The objective of this investment is to strengthen the monitoring capacity of the Slovak Environmental Inspectorate in the decarbonisation process.

Milestone 4.4 concerns implementing the investments into the Slovak Environmental Inspectorate. In particular, it requires the provision of new vehicles with office and measuring technology for the environmental inspections and modernisation of the Inspectorate's facilities.

Milestone 4.4 is the only milestone of the investment. The investment has a final expected date for implementation on 30 June 2025.

2. Evidence provided

	Name of the evidence	Short description
1	Annex 1 - Summary document (update from 17/12/2025) - SK-CC4-II2-MC4.4 COVER NOTE_v2.docx	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled.
2	Annex 2 - Purchase contracts for the SZIP inspectorate's cars:	The purchase contracts of the SZIP Inspectorate for, overall, 51 cars. The purchase contracts are duly signed by the Slovak Environmental Inspectorate

	i) Measurement cars: SK-C[C4]-I[I2]-M[C4.4]01_04__Zmluva_39_2024_3ks dodávky (Peugot Boxer – 3 items) ii) Emergency cars: SK-C[C4]-I[I2]-M[C4.4]01_02__zmluva 280_2023_zásahové vozidlá 12ks (Mitschubishi Eclipse cross PHEV invite – 12 items) iii) Off-road cars: 01_01__zmluva SK-C[C4]-I[I2]-M[C4.4]279_2023_terénne vozidlá 24ks (Mitsubischi Eclipse Cross – 24 items) iv) Mobile offices cars: SK-C[C4]-I[I2]-M[C4.4]01_03__zmluva 275_2023_mobilné kancelárie 12ks (Ford Custom Tourneo – 12 items)	(hereinafter referred to as "SIZP") representatives and by the contract providers, in accordance with national legislation. The contract for measurement vehicles was signed on 25 July 2024. The contract for emergency vehicles was signed on 26 October 2023. The contract for off-road vehicles was signed on 11 December 2023. The contract for mobile offices vehicles was signed on 11 December 2023.
3	Annex 3 - Handover protocols of the SZIP inspectorate's cars: 1) Measurement vehicles: - SK-C[C4]-I[I2]-M[C4.4] 01_04_dodací list_AA732LM.pdf - SK-C[C4]-I[I2]-M[C4.4] 01_04_dodací list_AA776LM.pdf - SK-C[C4]-I[I2]-M[C4.4] 01_04_dodací list_AA781LM.pdf 2) Emergency cars – measuring air quality: - SK-C[C4]-I[I2]-M[C4.4] 01_02_dodací list_EL264AF - SK-C[C4]-I[I2]-M[C4.4] 01_02_dodací list_EL265AF - SK-C[C4]-I[I2]-M[C4.4] 01_02_dodací list_EL266AF - SK-C[C4]-I[I2]-M[C4.4] 01_02_dodací list_EL267AF - SK-C[C4]-I[I2]-M[C4.4] 01_02_dodací list_EL268AF - SK-C[C4]-I[I2]-M[C4.4] 01_02_dodací list_EL269AF - SK-C[C4]-I[I2]-M[C4.4] 01_02_dodací list_EL270AF - SK-C[C4]-I[I2]-M[C4.4] 01_02_dodací list_EL271AF	The handover certificates for overall the SIZP Inspectorate 51 cars, signed by the SZIP representatives and by the contract providers, in accordance with national legislation. The handover protocols for measurement vehicles were signed on 29 October 2024. The handover protocols for emergency vehicles were signed on 13 December 2023. The handover protocols for off-road vehicles were signed between 26 March 2024 and 11 April 2024. The handover protocols for mobile offices vehicles were signed on 26 August 2024.

	- SK-C[C4]-I[I2]-M[C4.4] 01_02_dodací list_EL272AF - SK-C[C4]-I[I2]-M[C4.4] 01_02_dodací list_EL273AF - SK-C[C4]-I[I2]-M[C4.4] 01_02_dodací list_EL274AF SK-C[C4]-I[I2]-M[C4.4] 01_02_dodací list_EL275AF 3) Off-road vehicles (vehicles for waste management departments) - SK-C[C4]-I[I2]-M[C4.4] 01_01_dodaci list_12ks_1 - SK-C[C4]-I[I2]-M[C4.4] 01_01_dodaci list_12ks_2 4) mobile offices – utility vehicles: - SK-C[C4]-I[I2]-M[C4.4] 01_03_preberací_protokol_AA099SY - SK-C[C4]-I[I2]-M[C4.4] 01_03_preberací_protokol_AA102SY - SK-C[C4]-I[I2]-M[C4.4] 01_03_preberací_protokol_AA126SY - SK-C[C4]-I[I2]-M[C4.4] 01_03_preberací_protokol_AA129SY - SK-C[C4]-I[I2]-M[C4.4] 01_03_preberací_protokol_AA132SY - SK-C[C4]-I[I2]-M[C4.4] 01_03_preberací_protokol_AA136SY - SK-C[C4]-I[I2]-M[C4.4] 01_03_preberací_protokol_AA138SY - SK-C[C4]-I[I2]-M[C4.4] 01_03_preberací_protokol_AA372SV - SK-C[C4]-I[I2]-M[C4.4] 01_03_preberací_protokol_AA410LU - SK-C[C4]-I[I2]-M[C4.4] 01_03_preberací_protokol_AA506SF - SK-C[C4]-I[I2]-M[C4.4] 01_03_preberací_protokol_AA918SV - SK-C[C4]-I[I2]-M[C4.4] 01_03_preberací_protokol_AA919SV	
4	Annex 4 - The technical specifications of the SZIP inspectorate cars (including on the CO2 emissions): - SK-C[C4]-I[I2]-M[C4.4] 01_01_DNSH_2_Veľký TP_EL576AO.pdf	The vehicle registration certificates for all new SIZP 51 cars (4 types). The registration certificates (issued between 6 December 2023 and 8 March 2024) for “emergency cars”

	(Mitsubishi Eclipse cross, 46 g/km) - SK-C[C4]-I[I2]-M[C4.4] 01_02_DNSH_2_Veľký TP_EL264AF.pdf (Mitsubishi Eclipse cross, 46 g/km) - SK-C[C4]-I[I2]-M[C4.4] 01_03_DNSH_2_Veľký TP_AA129SY.pdf, (Ford Turneo Custom, 196 g/km) - SK-C[C4]-I[I2]-M[C4.4] 01_04_2_Veľý TP_AA732LM.pdf (Peugot Boxer, 208 g/km)	and "off-road cars" (all Mitsubishi Eclipse cross) show the CO2 emissions at 46g/km, i.e. below the DNSH benchmark of 50 g/km . The registration certificates for the "measurement cars" and "mobile offices" cars (issued between 31/5/2024 and 20/8/2024) show that the CO2 emissions at 196 g/km 208 g/km, respectively, i.e. above the DNHS benchmark of 50 g/km benchmark (note that the statement by the Joint Research centre of the European Commission on the best available technology for both "measurement cars" and "mobile offices" is included in Annex 12).
5	Annex 5 – The purchase contracts for the specialised SZIP car equipment - XRF mobile spectrometers and portable LED filter photometers, with related laboratory accessories. a) Mobile XRF spectrometer with accessories: • SK-C[C4]-I[I2]-M[C4.4] 03_01__zmluva_BAS Rudice_XRF spektrometer.pdf • https://www.crz.gov.sk/zmluva/9452082/ b) Mobile LED photometer with accessories: • SK-C[C4]-I[I2]-M[C4.4] 03_02__zmluva_Ecotest_Led photometer.pdf • https://crz.gov.sk/zmluva/9451912/	The purchase contracts a) and b) for the specialised SZIP car equipment were signed by the SZIP representatives and contractors between on 28 June 2024, in force as of 29 June 2024 (also online versions available).
6	Annex 6 – The handover protocols for the specialised SZIP equipment - XRF mobile spectrometers and portable LED filter photometers, with related laboratory accessories. a) Mobile XRF spectrometer with accessories: • SK-C[C4]-I[I2]-M[C4.4] 03_01_Dodací list _BAS Rudice	The handover protocols for the specialised SZIP car equipment were signed by the SZIP representatives and contractors between 13 August 2024 and 11 September 2024

	a) b) Mobile LED photometer with accessories: • SK-C[C4]-I[I2]-M[C4.4] 03_02_dodací list ECOTEST pečiatka.pdf	
7	Annex 7 – The purchase contracts for the IT equipment for the SZIP's cars and offices (i – notebooks, 115+12 pcs) - č. 272/2023 https://www.crz.gov.sk/zmluva/8450786/ (ii - docking stations, 115 pcs) - č. 272/2023 https://www.crz.gov.sk/zmluva/8450786/ (iii – monitors, 115 pcs) - č. 272/2023 https://www.crz.gov.sk/zmluva/8450786/ (iv - multifunctional equipment - 3pcs) - č. 272/2023 https://www.crz.gov.sk/zmluva/8450786/ (v- notebook cars, 12 pcs) - č. 272/2023 https://www.crz.gov.sk/zmluva/8450786/ (vi - printer – portable 24 pcs) - č. 272/2023 https://www.crz.gov.sk/zmluva/8450786/ (vii- scanner – portable 24 pcs) - č. 272/2023 https://www.crz.gov.sk/zmluva/8450786/	The purchase contracts for the IT equipment for the SZIP's cars and offices were signed by the SZIP representatives and contractors between 16 October 2023 and 28 June 2024.
8	Annex 8 – The handover protocols for the IT equipment for the SZIP's cars and offices (i -notebooks, 115 pcs) - SK-C[C4]-I[I2]-M[C4.4] 02_dodací list_zostavy_Lenovo127_dock115_monitor115 (ii - docking stations, 115 pcs) - SK-C[C4]-I[I2]-M[C4.4] 02_dodací list_zostavy_Lenovo127_dock115_monitor115 (iii – monitors, 115 pcs) - SK-C[C4]-I[I2]-M[C4.4] 02_dodací list_zostavy_Lenovo127_dock115_monitor115 (iv - multifunctional equipment/printer - 3pcs) - SK-C[C4]-I[I2]-M[C4.4] 02_dodací list_Xerox_Altalink_3ks (v- notebook cars, 12 pcs) - SK-C[C4]-I[I2]-M[C4.4] 02_dodací list_zostavy_Lenovo127_dock115_monitor115 (vi- printer – portable – 24ks) - SK-C[C4]-I[I2]-M[C4.4] 02_dodací list_Epson 24ks + 24ks (vii – multifunctional portable scanner -24 ks) - SK-C[C4]-I[I2]-M[C4.4] 02_dodací list_Epson 24ks + 24ks	The handover protocols for the IT equipment for the SZIP's cars and offices were signed between 9 November 2023 and 20 December 2023.

9	Annex 9 – The purchases contracts – the refurbishment works on the SZIP inspectorate premises (three locations): - Kosice: SK-C[C4]-I[I2]-M[C4.4] 06_02_KE__zmluva 103_2024.pdf; Kosice (contract addendum): SK-C[C4]-I[I2]-M[C4.4] 06_02_KE__Dodatok č. 1 279_2025-D.pdf - Banska Bystrica: SK-C[C4]-I[I2]-M[C4.4] 06_01_BB__zmluva 101_2024.pdf - Zilina: SK-C[C4]-I[I2]-M[C4.4] 06_03_ZA__zmluva 102_2024.pdf	The purchase contracts of the reconstructions of the SZIP Inspectorate for3 SZIP locations (Kosice, Banska Bystrica, Zilina). The contracts for the reconstructions of the SZIP Inspectorate premises were signed by SZIP representatives ad contractors between 21 February 2025 and 28 August 2025.
10	Annex 10 – Reconstruction works on the premises of the SZIP inspectorate – the official documentation on the Approval of Installations (in Slovak "kolaudacni rozhodnutie"): - Kosice: SK-C[C4]-I[I2]-M[C4.4] 06_02_KE_Kolaudačné rozhodnutie.pdf (e-signed/file reference) - Banska Bystrica: SK-C[C4]-I[I2]-M[C4.4] 06_01_BB_Kolaudačné rozhodnutie.pdf ((e-signed/file reference) - Zilina: SK-C[C4]-I[I2]-M[C4.4] 06_03_ZA_Kolaudačné rozhodnutie.pdf (e-signed/file reference)	The Approvals of the Installations ("kolaudacne rozhodnutie") of the reconstructions of the SZIP Inspectorate premises were issued by the Slovak authorities between 18 September 2025 and 26 November 2025.
11	Annex 11 - A compiled overview listing of the evidence on delivery of the SZIP investments under milestone 4.4 - Zoznam príloh č.1V2.xlsx - Zoznam príloh č.2V2.xlsx	SK authorities provided a detailed overview of the evidence/documentation on delivery of the SZIP investments, in line with the overview provided upon the RRP submission.
12	Annex 12 - Email by the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission on the "best available technology" for both measurement cars and mobile offices vehicles (dated on 28/11/2025). - FW UPDATE DNSH question special purpose vehicles in SK.msg - FW UPDATE DNSH question special purpose vehicles in SK 1.msg	The technical specifications for the "measurement cars" and "mobile offices cars" (annex 4) show that the CO2 emissions at 196 g/km 208 g/km, respectively, i.e. above i.e. 50 g/km DNSH benchmark. This email message (dated from 28 November 2025) confirms the view by the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission that the purchased vehicles were the best available technology for both "measurement cars" and "mobile offices".

13	Annex 13 – The purchase contracts for the "fit-ins" of the SZIP's measurement cars (adjustment and equipment) 04__zmluva_281_2025_meracie vozidlá.pdf	The purchase contract for the "fit-ins" of the SZIP's measurement cars was signed between 5 August 2025 and 19 August 2025.
14	Annex 14 – The handover protocols for the "fit-ins" of the SZIP's measurement cars (adjustment and equipment) - 04_BA Preberací protokol 20.1.2026.PDF - - 04_BB Preberací protokol.PDF - 04_KE Preberací protokol 30.12.2025.PDF 04_BB Odstránenie nedorobkov 20.1.2026.pdf 04_KE Odstránenie vád a nedorobkov 20.1.2026.pdf	The handover protocols for the "fit-ins" of the SZIP's measurement cars was signed between 16 December 2025 and 20 January 2026.

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Slovak authorities cover all constitutive elements of the milestone.

The investment shall include: (1) New inspectorate vehicles outfitted with office and measuring technology, specifically for inspecting of air protection, water protection and waste management;

Procurement contracts (Annex 2) and hand-over protocols (Annex 3) present an evidence overview of the purchase of 51 new vehicles by the Slovak Environmental Inspectorate (hereinafter referred to as "SIZP"), in line with specifications provided by the Slovak authorities in the RRP submission. The new SIZP fleet includes three measurement cars, 12 emergency cars, 24 off-road vehicles and 12 mobile office cars, with deliveries to the SIZP documented by procurement contracts (Annex 2) and hand-over protocols (Annex 3). The emergency and off-road cars are hybrid vehicles (in total 36 units, Mitsubishi Eclipse cross PHEV) exhibiting CO2 emissions at 46g/km (annex 4), i.e. below the DNSH benchmark of 50g/km. The technical specifications for the "measurement cars" (3 units, Peugot Boxer) and "mobile offices" (12 units, Ford Custom Turneo) cars show the CO2 emissions at 196 g/km and 208 g/km, respectively (Annex 4), i.e. above the DNSH benchmark of 50g/km. Related to the latter two types, the Joint Research centre of the European Commission (Annex 12) confirmed that for both measurement cars and mobile offices vehicles, it can be accepted that the electrified (i.e. low-emission) counterpart of the purchased vehicle would not be the best technical solution, based on the specific needs of the SIZP.

The new inspectorate vehicles are equipped with office and measuring equipment for inspecting of air protection, water protection and waste management, in line with the specifications provided by the Slovak authorities in the RRP submission and as described below.

The SZIP cars have been purchased different degrees of equipment, both built-in and mobile, in line in line with the specifications provided by the Slovak authorities in the RRP submission. The three "measurement cars" Peugeot Boxer were adjusted and outfitted specifically for the SIZP needs (Annex 13, Annex 14). Specifically, the vehicles were equipped with stationary and portable analytical systems, sampling and gas handling components and supporting infrastructure necessary for field-based environmental measurements. (Annex 13, Annex 14)

The new fleet of SIZP cars have at their disposal also newly purchased 6 sets of XRF mobile spectrometers and 6 sets of portable LED filter photometers with related laboratory accessories and consumables intended for mobile vehicle-based use (Annex 5, Annex 6). Together, this purchased equipment is capable of measuring selected environmental parameters relevant to environmental monitoring and safety assessment (Annex 5b, 6b). It is used during on-site inspections to support the inspection of air protection, water protection, and waste management, as required by the reform. (Annex 5b, 6b, 13 and 14).

The new mobile equipment to be shared between the newly purchased vehicle includes 24 portable printers (Annex 7 and 8 – vi), 12 notebooks (Annex 7 and 8 – v) as well as and 24 multifunctional portable scanners (Annex 7 and 8 – vii). The SIZP has also invested into three new multifunctional three "all-in" printing devices (Annex 7 and 8 – iv).

[…] (2) Refurbished building premises of the Inspectorate, including but not limited to the insulation of the premises or renovation of the sanitation system.

Slovakia provided a copy of the procurement contracts for all three reconstruction sites of the SIZP (Kosice, Zilina, Banska Bystrica – Annex 9), and a copy of the administrative certificates of the official Approval of Installations (Annex 10).

The reconstruction of the SZIP buildings included the insulation of the premises in all three locations, consisting of the improving the energy efficiency parameters of the outer walls and roofs as well as of the replacement of windows (Annex 9).

The reconstructions also consisted of the replacement of electrical and sanitary installations (SIZP B. Bystrica), of electrical, sanitary, heating and air-conditioning installations (SIZP Zilina) and of electrical, sanitary and heating installations (SIZP Kosice), as detailed in Annex 9).

The SIZP administration is newly equipped with 115 IT-sets including notebooks, docking stations and monitors. Related to this, the purchase contracts and handover protocols are included in Annex 7 and Annex 8, respectively (under points i, ii, iii).

Furthermore, this is also in line with the name of the milestone, the qualitative indicator and the description of the measure which states respectively "**Capacity increasing investments for the Slovak Inspectorate of the Environment**", "**Delivery of new equipment and modernised facilities of the Slovak**

Inspectorate of the Environment", "**the measure consists in implementing investments into modernisation of equipment and facilities of this institution"**.

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number and name of the Milestone: SK-C[C6]-R[R4]-M[6.9] F-programmes adapted

Related Measure: C6.R4: Adapt F-type study programmes.

Qualitative Indicator: Entry into force of the amendment to Decree No. 287/2022.

Time: 2025 Q2

1. Context:

The measure introduces the option to attain the level of lower secondary education in lower secondary vocational education programmes, so called "F-programmes".

Milestone 6.9 adapts the list of F-programmes offered after requesting input from professional organisations.

Milestone 6.9 is the second and last milestone of the reform, and follows the completion of milestone 6.8, related to the legislative amendment introducing the option to complete lower secondary education in lower secondary vocational programmes at secondary vocational schools. The reform has a final expected date for implementation on 30 June 2025.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence.	Short description
1	Summary document ("*SK-C[C6]-R[R4]-M[C6.9].docx*").	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled.
2	Decree No. 217/2025 on the system of fields of study for secondary schools and the subject matter of fields of study adopted on 29 July 2025 as effective from 1 September 2025 to 30 September 2025 ("*Podpríloha 1_3 Vyhláška 217-2025 účinná od 1-9-2025 do 30-9-2025.pdf*").	Version of Decree No. 217/2025 containing the adaptation to the list of F-programmes. The Decree is retrievable at https://www.slov-lex.sk/ezbierky/pravne-predpisy/SK/ZZ/2025/217/20250901.html
3	Annex 3 to Decree No. 217/2025 on the system of fields of study for secondary	Version of Annex 3 containing the adapted list of F-programmes.

	schools and the subject matter of fields of study adopted on 29 July 2025 as effective from 1 September 2025 to 30 September 2025 ("*Podpríloha 3_2 Zoznam F-odborov po reforme.pdf*").	The Annex is retrievable at https://static.slov-lex.sk/pdf/prilohy/SK/ZZ/2025/217/20250901_5751394-2.pdf
4	Consolidated version of Decree No. 217/2025 on the system of fields of study for secondary schools and the subject matter of fields of study adopted on 29 July 2025 as effective at the time of the submission of the request for payment ("*Príloha 1 Vyhláška 217-2025.pdf*").	Version of Decree No. 217/2025 as in force at the submission of the request for payment.
5	Decree No. 251/2018 on the system of fields of study for secondary schools and the subject matter of fields of study adopted on 5 September 2018 as effective from 1 October 2021 to 30 September 2022 ("*Podpríloha 1_2 Vyhláška 251-2018.pdf*").	Version of Decree No. 251/2018 as in force prior to the introduction of Decree No. 287/2022. The Decree is retrievable at https://www.slov-lex.sk/ezbierky/pravne-predpisy/SK/ZZ/2018/251/20211001
6	Annex 3 to Decree No. 251/2018 on the system of fields of study for secondary schools and the subject matter of fields of study adopted on 5 September 2018 as effective from 1 October 2021 to 30 September 2022 ("*Podpríloha 3_1 Zoznam F-odborov pred reformou.pdf*").	Version of Annex 3 listing F-programmes offered prior to the introduction of Decree No. 287/2022. The Annex is retrievable at https://static.slov-lex.sk/pdf/prilohy/SK/ZZ/2018/251/20211001_5252186-2.pdf
7	Decree No. 287/2022 on the system of fields of study for secondary schools and the subject matter of fields adopted on 11 August 2022 as effective from 1 October 2023 to 31 August 2024 ("*Podpríloha 1_4 Vyhláška 287-2022 účinná od 1-10-2023 do 31-8-2024.pdf*").	Version of Decree No. 287/2022 as in force on 24 June 2024, the date on which input was requested from professional organisations. The Act is retrievable at https://www.slov-lex.sk/ezbierky/pravne-predpisy/SK/ZZ/2022/287/20231001.html
8	Annex 3 to Decree No. 287/2022 on the system of fields of study for secondary schools and the subject matter of fields adopted on 11 August 2022 as effective from 1 October 2023 to 31 August 2024 ("*Podpríloha 3_3 Zoznam F-odborov účinný od 1-10-2023 do 31-8-2024.pdf*").	Version of Annex 3 listing F-programmes offered when input was requested from professional organisations. The Annex is retrievable at https://static.slov-lex.sk/pdf/prilohy/SK/ZZ/2022/287/20231001_5578310-2.pdf

9	Annex 9 to Decree No. 287/2022 on the system of fields of study for secondary schools and the subject matter of fields adopted on 11 August 2022 as effective from 1 October 2023 to 31 August 2024 ("*Príloha 4 - Vecná pôsobnosť príslušných SAPO k skupinám odborov vzdelávania.pdf*").	Version of Annex 9 listing what professional organisation(s) shall be consulted for what code of F-programmes. The Annex is retrievable at https://static.slov-lex.sk/pdf/prilohy/SK/ZZ/2022/287/20231001_5445352-2.pdf
10	Decree No. 287/2022 on the system of fields of study for secondary schools and the subject matter of fields adopted on 11 August 2022 as effective from 1 October 2024 to 30 September 2025 ("*Podpríloha 1_1 Vyhláška 287-2022.pdf*").	Version of Decree No. 287/2022 as in force prior to the adaptation to the list of F-programmes. The Act is retrievable at https://www.slov-lex.sk/ezbierky/pravne-predpisy/SK/ZZ/2022/287/20241001.html
11	Annex 3 to Decree No. 287/2022 on the system of fields of study for secondary schools and the subject matter of fields adopted on 11 August 2022 as effective from 1 October 2024 to 30 September 2025 ("*Podpríloha 3_4 Zoznam F-odborov účinný od 1-10-2024 do 30-9-2025.pdf*").	Version of Annex 3 listing F-programmes offered prior to the adaptation of the list. The Annex is retrievable at https://static.slov-lex.sk/pdf/prilohy/SK/ZZ/2022/287/20241001_5578310-2.pdf
12	Five emails from professional organisations ("*Dotazník_APZD.msg*", "*FW_ Dotazník_AZZZ.msg*", "*RE Dotazník.msg*", "*Fwd_ SOPK_ Dotazník.msg*", "*RE_ Dotazník_SPPK.msg*").	The emails contain the professional organisations' response to the Ministry of Education's questionnaire intended to map proposals for changes to F-programmes.
13	Five PDFs containing the professional organisations' response to the Ministry of Education's questionnaire ("*Dotazník_APZD.pdf*", "*Dotazník_AZZZSR.pdf*", "*Dotazník_RÚZ.pdf*", "*Dotazník_SOPK.pdf*", "*Dotazník_SPPK.pdf*").	The PDFs are also attached to the five emails from professional organisations.
14	Summary of professional organisations' input ("*Súhrn podnetov stavovských a profesijných organizácií.docx*").	The summary provides an overview of proposed changes and whether these have been incorporated.

15	Spreadsheet summarising the changes made to the F-programmes ("*Príloha 3 - Zoznam F-odborov.xlsx*").	The spreadsheet provides an overview of the changes to the list of F-programmes.

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Slovak authorities cover all constitutive elements of the milestone.

From the qualitative indicator: **Entry into force of the amendment to Decree No. 287/2022.**

The Council Implementing Decision required the amendment to Decree No. 287/2022 to enter into force. Yet, Decree No. 287/2022 on the system of fields of study for secondary schools and the subject matter of fields of study (evidence 10) was not amended but replaced by Decree No. 217/2025. Decree No. 217/2025 is also named "on the system of fields of study for secondary schools and the subject matter of fields of study" and was adopted on 29 July 2025 and entered into force on 1 September 2025 as stated in Article 7 of the Decree (evidence 2). Whilst this constitutes a minimal formal deviation from the requirement of the Council Implementing Decision, the progress towards the achievement of the reform that the milestone represents is not affected because the Decree No. 217/2025 continues to concern the system of fields of study for secondary schools and the subject matter of fields of study. As of this, this minimal deviation does not affect the progress towards achieving the reform that the milestone represents. On this basis, it is considered that this constitutive element of the milestone is satisfactorily fulfilled.

The list of F-programmes shall be adapted after requesting input from professional organisations.

The list of F-programmes is adapted, because the list of F-programmes has been amended. That is, a subset of the F-programmes was discontinued or renamed and/or recoded.

Article 1(4) of the aforementioned Decree No. 217/2025 (evidence 2) states that the lower secondary vocational programmes taught at secondary vocational schools of which successful completion culminates in a lower secondary education qualification are listed in Annex 3 to the Decree (evidence 3). The description of reform 4 as provided in the Annex to the Council Implementing Decision states that such programmes constitute "F-programmes".

Annex 3 to the aforementioned Decree No. 217/2025 (evidence 3) lists the F-programmes offered. Compared to Annex 3 to Act No. 287/2022 (evidence 11), two F-programmes have been discontinued 2477 ("Metalworking") and 2498 ("Technical Services in Car Repair Shops"), the name and code of one F-programme has been changed 2448 ("Assistant in Mechanical Engineering"), the name of one F-programme has been changed 3686 ("Construction Assistant"), and the code of one F-programme has been changed 3169 ("Practical Work").

The request for input was issued before the list of F-programmes was adapted, because the request for input was issued on 24 June 2024 (evidence 12) whereas Decree No. 217/2025 was adopted on 29 July 2025 and entered into force on 1 September 2025 as stated in Article 7 of the Decree (evidence 2).

The authorities of Slovakia provided five emails containing organisations' response to a questionnaire issued to these organisations by the Ministry of Education (evidence 12). The input was received respectively on 28 June 2024, 8 July 2024, 10 July 2024 (twice) and 26 August 2024. Three threads of emails show that the ministry sent the questionnaire on 24 June 2024.

The questionnaire states on p. 1 (evidence 13) that the aim of the questionnaire is to map proposals for changes to F-programmes.

Input was requested from professional organisations, because all five organisations which responded to the aforementioned questionnaire (evidence 12) are legally recognised as professional organisation and legally encompass all relevant professional organisations.

The version of Decree No. 287/2022 on the system of fields of study for secondary schools and the subject matter of fields as adopted on 11 August 2022 and effective on 24 June 2024 (evidence 7), the date on which the questionnaire was sent, contains Annex 9 (evidence 9) which lists what professional organisation(s) shall be consulted on each code of F-programme. The code of each F-programme is listed in Annex 3 to the Decree (evidence 8).

The following professional organisations shall have been, and were indeed, consulted, as evidenced by the aforementioned responses to the questionnaire (evidence 12): Association of Industrial Unions and Transport ("Asociácia *priemyselných zväzov a dopravy*"), Association of Employers' Unions and Associations of the Slovak Republic ("*Asociácia zamestnávateľských zväzov a združení Slovenskej republiky*"), Slovak Chamber of Agriculture and Food ("*Slovenská poľnohospodárska a potravinárska komora*"), Slovak Chamber of Commerce and Industry ("*Slovenská obchodná a priemyselná komora*"), and Republican Union of Employers ("*Republiková únia zamestnávateľov*").

Furthermore, this is also in line with the description of the measure, which states that **this measure consists in the amendment of legislation and the adaptation of the list of F-programmes offered.**

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled.

Number and name of the Target: SK-C[C6]-I[I1]-T[C6.15]: Elimination of architectural barriers at secondary schools
Related Measure: SK-C[C6]-I[I1]: Removing barriers in school buildings

Quantitative Indicator: Number

Baseline: 0

Target: 135

Time: 2025 Q2

1. Context:

This measure removes architectural barriers at secondary schools.

Target 6.15 reduces architectural barriers at 135 secondary schools.

Target 6.15 is the second and last milestone or target of this investment and follows the completion of milestone 6.14 which created a manual establishing a standard by which architectural barriers are removed. The investment has a final expected date for implementation on 30 June 2025.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence.	Short description
1	Summary document ("*Súhrnný_dokument_SK-CC6-II1-TC6.15 27.11.2025*").	Summary document duly justifying how the target (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled.
2	32 handover protocols ("*Preberací Protokol*"), 28 usage decisions ("*Kolaudačné Rozhodnutie*"), and 14 annexes to some of the 32 handover protocols and 28 usage decisions.	An agreement between the secondary school and the contractor on the satisfactory completion of the works reducing architectural barriers ("*Preberací Protokol*") or a permit issued by the building authority allowing the use of the school building at which architectural barriers were reduced ("*Kolaudačné Rozhodnutie*"), is available for each of the 60 randomly sampled secondary schools. For 13 of the latter secondary schools, 14 supplementary documents have been provided. Examples of these are detailed descriptions of the works, project documentation, and an overview of expenses.
3	Call for applications 06I01-20-V01 issued by the Ministry of Education Research, Development and Youth on 24 August 2022 ("*Príloha_1_Výzva_Debarierizácia_budov_odstránenie_architektonických_bariér.pdf*")	Call for applications to founders of secondary schools to remove architectural barriers at secondary schools with at least 275 pupils on 15 September 2021. The call is retrievable at https://www.minedu.sk/vyzva-na-debarierizaciu-vacsich-strednych-skol/
4	List of accepted applicants and corresponding application codes for the call 06I01-20-V01 ("*Príloha_2_Zoznam_žiadateľov.pdf*")	List of 197 accepted applicants. The list is retrievable at https://www.minedu.sk/data/att/6b8/34730.3daa9a.pdf

5	List of applicants which meet the conditions for receiving funding and corresponding application codes for the call 06I01-20-V01 (“*Príloha_3_Zoznam_žiadateľov,_ktorí_splnili_podmienky_výzvy.pdf*”)	List of 163 eligible applicants, subset of ”*Príloha_2_Zoznam_žiadateľov.pdf”.* The list is retrievable at https://www.minedu.sk/data/att/2b8/34731.76a57a.pdf
6	List of beneficiaries and corresponding application codes for the call 06I01-20-V01 (“*Príloha_4_Zoznam_prijímateľov.pdf*”)	List of 134 beneficiaries, subset of “*Príloha_3_Zoznam_žiadateľov,_ktorí_splnili_podmienky_výzvy.pdf*”. Project 06I01-20-V01-00089 at “*Stredná odborná škola železničná*” is listed twice whereas project 06I01-20-V01-00056 at “*Obchodná akadémia Košice, Watsonova 61, Košice*” is not listed but listed in “*Príloha_3_Zoznam_žiadateľov,_ktorí_splnili_podmienky_výzvy.pdf*” and “*Príloha_5_Zoznam_projektov.xlsx*”. The list is retrievable at https://www.minedu.sk/data/att/194/34729.9a6e96.pdf
7	A corrected version of “*Príloha_4_Zoznam_prijímateľov.pdf*” (“*Príloha_4_Zoznam_prijímateľov_OPRAVA-1.pdf*”), a handover protocol (“*14_06I01-20-V01-00056_PP.pdf*”) and an annex to the latter handover protocol (“*14_06I01-20-V01-00056_Dodatok_k_PP.pdf*”).	Corrected version of “*Príloha_4_Zoznam_prijímateľov.pdf*. The corrected list of 134 beneficiaries is retrievable at https://www.minedu.sk/data/att/781/35001.afa016.pdf Evidentiary documents of the implementation of project 06I01-20-V01-00056 at “*Obchodná akadémia Košice, Watsonova 61, Košice*”.
8	Spreadsheet containing two tabs which respectively list 134 funded projects including a description and background information of these (“*Zoznam škôl*”) and 131 uniquely identifiable secondary school names (“*Prehľad*”) (“*Príloha_5_Zoznam_projektov.xlsx*”)	List of 131 uniquely identifiable secondary schools at which architectural barriers were reduced. That is, two projects were implemented at respectively: i) “*Obchodná akadémia Košice, Watsonova 61, Košice*”; ii) “*Stredná odborná škola obchodu a služieb, Športová 1, Rimavská Sobota*”; and iii) “*Spojená škola, Slančíkovej 2, Nitra*”.

9	Spreadsheet containing four tabs which respectively list all: i) grammar schools and secondary sports schools in Slovakia; ii) conservatories in Slovakia; iii) secondary vocational schools in Slovakia; and iv) special secondary schools in Slovakia ("*Priloha_6_ Zoznam_strednych_škôl_v_SR.xlsx*")	Overview of secondary schools in Slovakia for the school year 2024-2025, as provided by the Centre of Scientific and Technical Information of the Slovak Republic ("*Centrum Vedecko-Technických Informácií SR*"). The spreadsheet highlights the rows referring to the secondary schools at which architectural barriers were reduced. The tabs of the spreadsheet are retrievable at https://www.cvtisr.sk/cvti-sr-vedecka-kniznica/informacie-o-skolstve/publikacie-casopisy.../zistovanie-kvalifikovanosti/prehlad-strednych-skol.html?page_id=9574

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Slovak authorities cover all constitutive elements of the milestone.

Architectural barriers shall be reduced at 135 secondary schools.

The Council Implementing Decision required a reduction of architectural barriers at 135 secondary schools. Yet, the list of implemented projects, named "*Príloha_5_Zoznam_projektov.xlsx*" (Annex 8), shows that architectural barriers were reduced at 131 uniquely identifiable secondary schools. Whilst this constitutes a minimal numerical deviation of 3.0% from the requirement of the Council Implementing Decision, the overall objective of this target is considered met notwithstanding this minor deviation. On this basis, it is considered that this constitutive element of the target is satisfactorily fulfilled.

Architectural barriers were reduced, because following the selection of a random sample of 60 secondary schools, Slovakia submitted for each of the 60 secondary schools either an agreement between the secondary school and the contractor on the satisfactory completion of the debarring works ("*Preberací Protokol*") or a permit issued by the building authority allowing the use of the debarred school building ("*Kolaudačné Rozhodnutie*") (Annex 2). The evidentiary documents contain the name of the secondary school, a reference to architectural debarriesation works (for instance installation of an elevator, creation of a toilet accessible for persons with reduced mobility, and construction of a ramp proving access for persons using a wheelchair) and the period in which the debarring works were implemented. The evidentiary documents are signed and stamped by representatives of the secondary school and the contractor, or the building authority. Originally digitally signed evidentiary documents have a certification from the Slovak Post ("*Slovenská pošta, a.s.*") and in one instance a notary. The evidence provided for a sample of 60 units confirmed that the requirements of the target have been met.

The schools are secondary schools, because the 60 randomly sampled schools are present in the spreadsheet, named "*Priloha_6_ Zoznam_stredných_škôl_v_SR.xlsx*", listing all secondary schools in Slovakia on 15 September 2024, as provided by the Centre of Scientific and Technical Information of the Slovak Republic ("*Centrum Vedecko-Technických Informácií SR*") (Annex 9). This is corroborated by the names of the schools as stated on evidentiary documents for the 60 randomly sampled units referring to terms such as "secondary school", "secondary vocational school", "high school" and "gymnasium" (Annex 2). Moreover, the call for applications (06I01-20-V01) states that only founders of secondary schools were eligible to apply on pp. 3 and 4 (Annex 3).

Furthermore, this is also in line with the description of the measure, which states that **this measure consists in […] and the removal of barriers at 135 secondary schools**, and in line with the name of the milestone, which states **elimination of architectural barriers at secondary schools**.

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number and name of the Target: SK-C[C11]-R[R3]-T[C11.5] Number of hospitals involved in central management system

Related Measure: C11.R3 Centralisation of the management of the largest hospitals

Quantitative Indicator: Number

Baseline: 0

Target: 19

Time: Q2 2025

1. Context:

The measure aims to centralize the management of state-owned hospitals through a single system, covering areas such as central controlling, budgeting, monitoring, purchasing of medical products, and human resources. The reform will be tested through a pilot project involving 19 hospitals.

Target C11.5 concerns the implementation of the central management system on the 19 state-controlled hospitals.

Target C11.5 is the second and last target of the reform, and it follows the completion of milestone C11.4, related to the establishment of the central management system. The reform has a final expected date for implementation on 30 June 2025.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence	Short description
1	Summary document	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone and the reform (including all the

		constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled.
2	Annex 1 – Act No. 575/2001 Coll. on the organisation of government activities and the organisation of central state administration as amended by Act No. 201/2024 Coll.	The Act entered into force on 1 October 2024. (Príloha 5 in the Summary document)
3	Annex 2 – Act No. 201/2024 Coll. amending – Act No. 575/2001 Coll. on the organisation of government activities and the organisation of central state administration as amended and amending certain acts.	The Act was adopted on 27 June 2024 and entered into force on 1 January 2025 in line with Article 13 of the Act. (Príloha 4 in the Summary document)
4	Annex 3 - Organisational Rules of the Ministry of Health.	Dated 14 May 2025 (Príloha 1 in the Summary document)
5	Annex 4 - List of hospitals involved in the of central management (in pdf), as published on the Ministry of Health website.	Link to the Ministry of Health website: Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic • list of hospital with effect from 1 January 2025: https://health.gov.sk/Zdroje?/Sources/dokumenty/Zoznam-nemocnic-pilotna-faza-centralne-riadenie.pdf • list of hospital with effect from 1 January 2026: https://www.health.gov.sk/Zdroje?/Sources/dokumenty/Zoznam-nemocníc-pilotná-fáza-centralne-riadenie-2026.pdf The two lists report the same 19 hospitals. (Príloha 7 and 60 in the Summary document)
6	Annex 5 – Entries for 14 hospitals from Statistical Register of Organisations which demonstrate that these hospitals are state-owned	Extracts have been requested in October 2025. (Príloha 45 to 58 in the Summary document)
7	Annex 6 – Entries for 5 hospitals from Commercial Register of the Slovak Republic which demonstrate that the Ministry of Health is the sole shareholder.	Extracts have been requested in October 2025. (Príloha 40 to 44 in the Summary document)
8	Annex 7 – Employment contracts in the central management section	Contracts dated between September 2024 and July 2025. (Príloha 8 and 9 in the Summary document)
9	Annex 8 – Communication on guidelines and instructions for drafting 2026–2028 strategic plans	Communication to the hospitals dated 3 October 2025. (Príloha 16, 16a to 16f in the Summary document)

10	Annex 9 – Audit contracts on personel and performance indicators for five selected hospitals on	Contracts signed between 18 June and 9 July 2025 (Príloha 18 to 22 in the Summary document)
11	Annex 10 – Signed attendance lists and meeting invitations to the Steering Committee meetings	The list and the invitations concern the meetings from June to September 2025. (Príloha 24 and 25 in the Summary document)
12	Annex 11 – Website link and tender documents included in the link related to the central public procurement for electricity and gas.	Website link: https://josephine.proebiz.com/sk/tender/32480/summary. Deadline for the submission of tenders on 11 September 2025. (Príloha 32 in the Summary document)
13	Annex 12 - Website link and tender documents included in the link related to the central public procurement for substitute power sources.	Website link: https://josephine.proebiz.com/sk/tender/69107/summary Deadline for the submission of tenders on 19 August 2025, extended to 1 September 2025. (Príloha 33 in the Summary document)
14	Annex 13 – Contract concluded as a result of the tender in Annex 12.	Contract signed on 27 and 29 October 2025. (Príloha 34 in the Summary document)
15	Annex 14 - Website link and tender documents included in the link related to the central public procurement on digital pathology.	Website link: https://josephine.proebiz.com/sk/tender/67538/summary. Deadline for the submission of tenders on 28 July 2025, extended to 30 July 2025. (Príloha 35 in the Summary document)
16	Annex 15 – Contract concluded as a result of the tender in Annex 14.	Contract signed on 2 October 2025. (Príloha 36 in the Summary document)
17	Annex 16 - Website link and tender documents included in the link related to the central public procurement for anaesthesiologic devices.	Website link: https://josephine.proebiz.com/sk/tender/70071/summary. Deadline for the submission of tenders on 20 October 2025. (Príloha 37 in the Summary document)
18	Annex 17 – Request for data collection to the hospitals related to legal, professional, advisory, consulting and other service costs and data extract collected from the hospitals	Request dated 13 March 2025 with deadline to provide information on 17 March 2025. (Príloha 28c and 28d in the Summary document)
19	Annex 18 – Request for data collection on the hospitals related to laundry and hazardous waste disposal and	Request dated 1 September 2025 with deadline to provide information on 5 September 2025. (Príloha 28e to 28i in the Summary document)

	data extract collected from the hospitals	
20	Annex 19 – Request for data collection to the hospitals related to medicines, medical supplies and devices and data extract collected from the hospitals	Request dated 7 January 2025 with deadline to provide information on 15 January 2025. (Príloha 28, 28a, 28b in the Summary document)
21	Annex 20 – Minutes, attendance list and, as annex, pilot transition strategy and timetable phases	Dated 2 February 2025 (Príloha 59 in the Summary document)

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Slovak authorities cover all constitutive elements of the target.

Central management system shall embrace 19 state controlled hospitals […]

The Central management system has been established on 1 October 2024 by Article 19 of Act No. 575/2001 Coll. (Annex 1), as amended by Article 1(11) of Act No. 201/2024 Coll. (Annex 2). This Act empowers a "separate organisational unit" of the Ministry of Heath, known as "Central Management and Coordination Section of subordinate organisations", to centrally coordinate state-controlled hospitals (Art. 89 to Art. 92, Annex 3).

This central management system embraces 19 state-controlled hospitals. The list of hospitals, including the name of the hospital, the place of establishment of the hospital operator, the identification number of the organisation of the hospital operator, if any, and the legal form of the hospital operator, is published in the website of the Ministry of Health (Annex 4). The 19 hospitals covered are:

1. Detská fakultná nemocnica s poliklinikou Banská Bystrica (Children's Faculty Hospital with Polyclinic Banská Bystrica)
2. Detská fakultná nemocnica Košice (Children's Faculty Hospital Košice)
3. Fakultná nemocnica s poliklinikou F. D. Roosevelta Banská Bystrica (Faculty Hospital F.D Roosevelta Banská Bystrica)
4. Fakultná nemocnica Nitra (Nitra Faculty Hospital)
5. Fakultná nemocnica s poliklinikou Nové Zámk (Faculty Hospital with PolyclinicNové Zámky)
6. Fakultná nemocnica Trenčín (Trenčín Faculty Hospital)
7. Fakultná nemocnica Trnava (Trnava Faculty Hospital)
8. Fakultná nemocnica s poliklinikou Žilina (Faculty Hospital with Polyclinic Žilina)
9. Národný onkologický ústav v Bratislave (National Oncology Institute in Bratislava)
10. Národný ústav detských chorôb (National Institute of Children's Diseases)
11. Univerzitná nemocnica Bratislava (University Hospital Bratislava)
12. Univerzitná nemocnica L. Pasteura Košice (University Hospital L. Pasteura Košice)
13. Univerzitná nemocnica Martin (Martin University Hospital)
14. Národny ústav tuberkulózy, pľúcnych chorôb a hrudníkovej chirurgie Vyšné Hágy (Vyšné Haga National Institute of Tuberculosis, Pulmonary Diseases and Thoracic Surgery)
15. Národný ústav srdcových a cievnych chorôb (National Institute of cardiac and vascular diseases)
16. Nemocnica Poprad (Poprad Hospital)

17. Stredoslovenský ústav srdcových a cievnych chorôb (Central Slovak Institute of Cardiac and Vascular Diseases)
18. Východoslovenský onkologický ústav (Eastern Slovak Oncology Institute)
19. Východoslovenský ústav srdcových a cievnych chorôb (Eastern Slovakian Institute of Cardiac and Vascular Diseases)

These 19 hospitals are state-controlled. The Ministry of Health is the owner of 14 of them, as demonstrated by the extract from the Statistical Register of Organisations (Annexes 5), and the sole shareholder of the five that are joint stock companies, as demonstrated by the extracts from the Commercial Register of the Slovak Republic (Annexes 6).

The central management is embracing and is operational in the 19 hospitals, as demonstrated through several activities:

- Employment contracts concluded for the personnel working at the central management have been provided in Annex 7.
- The central management provided the 19 hospitals with guidelines and instructions for drafting their 2026–2028 strategic plans (Annex 8).
- The central management has launched procedural and personnel audits in five selected hospitals. In particular, the University Hospital Bratislava, Faculty Hospital F.D Roosevelta Banská Bystrica, Nitra Faculty Hospital, Faculty Hospital with Polyclinic Žilina, Eastern Slovak Institute of Cardiac and Vascular Diseases. The audits cover the development of an overview of the staffing arrangements concerning costs and performance indicators between hospitals (Annex 9).
- As part of the management and active communications with hospital management, Steering Committees have been held on which each hospital has a representative, in this way the central management has regular information on the processes currently set up in hospitals and receives up-to-date information directly from representatives from centrally-managed hospitals. Steering Committees take place on a regular basis and include for discussion areas such as medical products, medical devices, catering, and economic proxies, as demonstrated by the signed attendance list and the invitations to the meetings (Annex 10).
- The central management unit is active in optimising the procurement costs. In this sense, the unit has already completed the central public procurement for electricity and gas, with tender results and prices finalized. Participation in the central contract is not mandatory for hospitals that already have cheaper energy prices, to avoid economic losses and inefficiency. Hospitals are now being contracted if the centrally tendered prices are more favourable than their existing ones. The Commission services accessed the link provided by the authorities on 9 December 2025 to verify that a call for the procurement of electricity and natural gas was launched and completed (Annex 11). This check was completed successfully, confirming that the tender (ID 32480, titled “Zabezpečenie nákupu, dodávky a distribúcie elektriny a plynu pre potreby rezortu Ministerstvo zdravotníctva Slovenskej republiky”) to set up a central purchasing system for electricity and gas supplies for the Ministry and its subordinate organisations (i.e. hospitals) was launched and completed (the status is “Ukončená” (which means “Completed/Closed”). The website content is also available in Annex 11.
- The central management unit has also launched and finalised a tender for substitute power sources. The Commission services accessed the link provided by the authorities on 9 December 2025 to verify that a call for the construction works and replacement of original backup power supplies was launched (Annex 12). This check was completed successfully, confirming that the tender (ID 69107, titled “Stavebné práce a výmena pôvodných náhradných zdrojov elektrickej

energie") was launched and completed (the status is "Ukončená" (which means "Completed/Closed"). The website content is also available in Annex 12 and the contract concluded in 13.

- The central management unit has also launched and finalised a tender on digitalised pathology. The Commission services accessed the link provided by the authorities on 9 December 2025 to verify that a call for the construction works and replacement of original backup power supplies was launched and completed (Annex 14). This check was completed successfully, confirming that the tender (ID 67538, titled "Digitalizovaná patológia podporovaná umelou inteligenciou - HW") was launched. The website content is also available in Annex 14 and the contract concluded in Annex 15.
- The central management unit has also launched an ongoing tender for anaesthesiologic devices. The Commission services accessed the link provided by the authorities on 9 December 2025 to verify that a call for the construction works and replacement of original backup power supplies was launched and completed (Annex 16). This check was completed successfully, confirming that the tender (ID 70071, titled "Anestéziologický prístroj") was launched. The website content is also available in Annex 16.
- The central management is also focusing on data collection on operational areas to contribute to the procurement strategy, data collection in operational area includes: i) legal, professional, advisory, consulting and other services (Annex 17); ii) medicines, medical supplies and devices (Annex 18); iii) costs of laundry and hazardous waste disposal (Annex 19).

[…] in the piloting phase.

The central management system is currently implemented in a pilot phase, as confirmed in *the Pilot Transition Strategy and Timetable Phases for the Final Phase of Central Hospital Management* (Annex 20), henceforth referenced as Pilot Strategy.

In accordance with Pilot Strategy (Annex 20), the pilot phase is characterised by the implementation and testing of standardised management and control processes, improvements in data quality, development of benchmarking methodologies, and pilot central procurement, while maintaining a limited organisational scope (Annex 20, Pilot Strategy – *Scope of the pilot phase* section).

The implementation and testing of standardised management and control processes are evidenced by the establishment of regular Steering Committees involving representatives of all centrally managed hospitals, which serve as a governance and coordination mechanism (Annex 10). In parallel, the central management has launched procedural and personnel audits in selected hospitals, focusing on staffing arrangements, cost structures, and performance indicators, with the objective of implementing control processes (Annex 9). Improvements in data quality and the development of benchmarking methodologies are further supported by the issuance of guidelines for the preparation of 2026–2028 strategic plans, requiring hospitals to produce harmonised and comparable data on costs, staffing, and production (Evidence 8). This is complemented by structured data collection across key operational areas, including services, medical supplies, and ancillary costs, to strengthen the analytical basis for management and procurement decisions (Annexes 17–19). The pilot nature of centralised procurement is demonstrated by the completion of first central public procurement procedures for electricity and gas, as well as the launch and finalisation of additional central tenders in selected areas, allowing the central management to test procurement mechanisms and assess efficiency gains without imposing mandatory participation across the hospitals (Annexes 11, 12, 14, and 16).

Taken together, the Pilot Strategy (Annex 20) and the evidence of ongoing testing, verification, and trial implementation of central management functions within a limited group of 19 hospitals confirm that the central management system is currently implemented and operated in a pilot phase, in accordance with the milestone requirements. The Pilot strategy (Annex 20) further provides for a formal evaluation of the pilot phase in 2027, after which a decision will be taken on the scope and design of the final phase, planned to commence from 2028.

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled.

Number and name of the Milestone: SK-C[C11]-I[I1]-M[C11.8] Public calls for the establishment of new primary care outpatient practices
Related Measure: C11.I1 Support the opening of new primary care practices in underserved areas

Qualitative Indicator: Launch of public calls

Time: Q2 2025

1. Context:

This investment aims to improve healthcare access in underserved areas by encouraging physicians to open new outpatient practices where there is a shortage of general practitioners for adults and children. It does this by offering temporary financial assistance to doctors.

Milestone C11.M8 consists in launching public calls for the establishment of new primary care outpatient practices for general practitioners across eight regions.

Milestone C11.8 is the only milestone of this investment. The investment has a final expected date for implementation on 31 June 2025.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence. For legal acts please provide the full legal reference and date of entry into force	Short description
1	Summary document	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone and the reform (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled.
2	Annex 1 - Act No. 578/2004 on healthcare providers, healthcare professionals, professional organizations in healthcare, and on the amendment and	§-u 102az of the Act entrusts Healthcare Surveillance Authority to evaluate the state of the optimal network of general outpatient care providers

	supplementation of certain laws	§ 5 of the Act defines territorial eligibility for the financial support
3	Annex 2	First Call for applications for RRF funds - Financial support for new and existing providers of general outpatient care for the establishment of general outpatient clinics in areas of shortage (call code: 11I01-21-V08). Call opened on 30 September 2022 and closed on 31 July 2023.
4	Annex 2b	List of contracts granting the RRF funding from the first call signed between December 2022 and July 2023, divided according to the regions
5	Annex 3	Second Call for Applications for RRF Funding - Financial Support for New and Existing General Ambulatory Care Providers to Establish General Ambulatory Care Clinics in Deficit Areas (Call Code: 11I01-21-V28). Call opened on 10 October 2023 and closed on 1 August 2024.
6	Annex 3b	List of contracts granting the RRF funding from the second call signed between February 2024 and October 2024, divided according to the regions
7	Annex 4	Third Call for Applications for RRF Funding - Financial support for new and existing providers of general outpatient care to establish general outpatient clinics in areas of shortage (call code: 11I01-21-V37). Call opened on 1 August 2024 and closed on 3 June 2025.
8	Annex 4b	List of contracts granting the RRF funding from the third call signed between August 2024 and August 2025, divided according to the regions
9	Annex 5	Evaluation of the state of the public minimum network from 1 January 2024
10	Annex 6	Website “New practice”, link: https://novaambulancia.sk/
11	Annex 7	List of agreements granting the RRF funding signed between December 2022 and July 2025
12	Annex 8	Signed agreements granting the RRF funding between December 2022 and July 2025
13	Annex 9	Report on the geographical distribution of supported outpatient procedures. Report was issued following the finalization of the three aforementioned calls.

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Slovak authorities cover all constitutive elements of the milestone.

Launch of public calls for the establishment of new primary care outpatient practices for general practitioners in eight regions [...]

The Ministry of Health conducted three calls for applications for the RRF funds to support establishment of primary care outpatient practices (Annex 2, Annex 3, Annex 4). The first call (Annex 2) was opened on 30 September 2022 and closed on 31 July 2023. The call specifies that the doctors or healthcare providers applying could not have been having the practice in the district for the past 36 months before applying, thus fulfilling the condition of the establishment of new primary care practices. Moreover, call specifies (Annex 2, p. 7) that the doctors applying for the support must be general practitioners or paediatricians, further fulfilling the requirement of the specialisation.

The second call (Annex 3) was opened on 10 October 2023 and closed on 1 August 2024. The call specifies the requirement of no previous provision of healthcare in the district for the previous 12 month before applying, thus fulfilling the condition of the establishment of new primary care practices. Moreover, call specifies (Annex 3, p. 7) that the doctors applying for the support must be general practitioners or paediatricians, further fulfilling the requirement of the specialisation.

Lastly, the third call (Annex 4) was opened on 1 August 2024 and closed on 3 June 2025. The call specifies the requirement of no previous provision of healthcare in the district for the previous 12 month before applying, thus fulfilling the condition of the establishment of new primary care practices. Moreover, call specifies (Annex 4, p. 7) that the doctors applying for the support must be general practitioners or paediatricians, further fulfilling the requirement of the specialisation.

Under the first call (Annex 2, p. 17), financial support is disbursed in four instalments over the first 12 months following the submission of the required documents. Under the second and third calls (Annex 3, p. 21, and Annex 4, p. 19), the support is paid in a single instalment within 12 months of the submission of the relevant documents. In all cases, the support constitutes temporary financial assistance corresponding to the first year of operation associated with the establishment of new outpatient practices. The financial support is of a temporary nature, and it is expected that the practices will be self-sufficient thereafter. The calls require beneficiaries to continue providing the relevant services for at least five years.

As showed in Annex 9, all eight regions were supported, as required by the CID Annex.

[...] Bratislava Region,

48 new outpatient practices in Bratislava Region were supported across the three calls. Five practices were supported under the call 11I01-21-V08 (Annex 2 and Annex 2b), 22 practices were supported under the call 11I01-21-V28 (Annex 3 and Annex 3b) and 21 practices were supported under the call 11I01-21-V37 (Annex 4 and Annex 4b).

[...] Trnava Region,

9 new outpatient practices in Trnava Region were supported across the two calls. Five practices were supported under the call 11I01-21-V28 (Annex 3 and Annex 3b) and four practices were supported under the call 11I01-21-V37 (Annex 4 and Annex 4b).

[...] Trenčín Region,

16 new outpatient practices in Trenčín Region were supported across the three calls. Four practices were supported under the call 11I01-21-V08 (Annex 2 and Annex 2b), four practices were supported under the call 11I01-21-V28 (Annex 3 and Annex 3b) and eight practices were supported under the call 11I01-21-V37 (Annex 4 and Annex 4b).

[...] Nitra Region,

15 new outpatient practices in Nitra Region were supported across the three calls. Four practices were supported under the call 11I01-21-V08 (Annex 2 and Annex 2b), six practices were supported under the call 11I01-21-V28 (Annex 3 and Annex 3b) and five practices were supported under the call 11I01-21-V37 (Annex 4 and Annex 4b).

[...] Žilina Region,

17 new outpatient practices in Žilina Region were supported across the three calls. One practice was supported under the call 11I01-21-V08 (Annex 2 and Annex 2b), 13 practices were supported under the call 11I01-21-V28 (Annex 3 and Annex 3b) and three practices were supported under the call 11I01-21-V37 (Annex 4 and Annex 4b).

[...] Banská Bystrica Region,

11 new outpatient practices in Banská Bystrica Region were supported across the three calls. Four practices were supported under the call 11I01-21-V08 (Annex 2 and Annex 2b), five practices were supported under the call 11I01-21-V28 (Annex 3 and Annex 3b) and two practices were supported under the call 11I01-21-V37 (Annex 4 and Annex 4b).

[...] Prešov Region

19 new outpatient practices in Prešov Region were supported across the three calls. Two practices were supported under the call 11I01-21-V08 (Annex 2 and Annex 2b), 12 practices were supported under the call 11I01-21-V28 (Annex 3 and Annex 3b) and five practices were supported under the call 11I01-21-V37 (Annex 4 and Annex 4b).

[...] Košice Region

13 new outpatient practices in Košice Region were supported across the three calls. One practice was supported under the call 11I01-21-V08 (Annex 2 and Annex 2b), seven practices were supported under the call 11I01-21-V28 (Annex 3 and Annex 3b) and five practices were supported under the call 11I01-21-V37 (Annex 4 and Annex 4b).

For the applicants' convenience, Slovakia developed a website (Annex 6) providing necessary information and requirements for the calls' eligibility. The Commission services accessed the link provided by the authorities on 8 December 2025 to verify the accessibility of the website and the information provided.

This check was completed successfully, confirming that the website is available and provides all necessary information related to the calls.

Slovakia proved that three calls were launched to establish new primary care outpatient practices for general practitioners in eight regions (Bratislava, Trnava, Trenčín, Nitra, Žilina, Banská Bystrica, Prešov and Košice regions) with overall 148 practices supported (Annex 8).

Furthermore, this is also in line with the description of the measure which states that the measure consists in providing temporary financial support to physicians setting up new outpatient practices, covering either first-year operating costs or initial investment expenses.**4. Commission Preliminary Assessment:** Satisfactory fulfilled.

Number and name of the Milestone: SK-C[C12]-R[R1]-M[C12.1] Establishment of one entity for mental health, and the expansion of the competencies for an association for psychologists

Related Measure: C12.R1 Coordinated inter-ministerial cooperation and regulation

Qualitative Indicator: Establishment of a government council as a coordination body, expansion of the competencies for an association for psychologists and submission of an epidemiological study

Time: Q2 2025

1. Context:

This reform aims at strengthening strategic governance, professional regulation, and evidence-based policy making in the field of mental health in Slovakia. It seeks to establish clearer responsibilities and coordination mechanisms among relevant institutions, improve the regulatory framework in the mental-health policy and support the development of policies that are based on robust epidemiological data.

Milestone 12.1 establishes a governmental council to coordinate mental health policy across all relevant ministries, providing strategic direction and effective interministerial cooperation. It also strengthens the professional association for psychologists by expanding its legal mandate to maintain a registry of psychologists, improving transparency and access to recognised practitioners. A comprehensive epidemiological study maps the prevalence of mental disorders in Slovakia, supplying the reliable data needed for evidence-based policymaking and future strategic planning.

Milestone 12.1 is the only milestone in the reform. The reform has a final expected date for implementation on 30 June 2025.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence. For legal acts please provide the full legal reference and date of entry into force	Short description

1	Summary document	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone and the reform (including all the constitutive elements) has been satisfactorily fulfilled.
2	Annex 1 - Government Decision of the Slovak Republic No. 112 of 24 February 2021, on the proposal to establish the Government Council of the Slovak Republic for Mental Health	This government decision confirms the establishment of the Government Council of the Slovak Republic for Mental Health (as stated in A.1) and approving its statute (as stated in B.1).
3	Annex 2 - Statute of the Government Council of the Slovak Republic for Mental Health, approved by Government Decision No. 112/2021 of 24 February 2021	This Statute defines the Council's responsibility to coordinate inter-ministerial policies and activities in the field of mental health and to participate in their development (as stated in Article 3.3(d)).
4	Annex 2a - Amendment to the Statute of the Government Council of the Slovak Republic for Mental Health, approved by Government Decision No. 49/2024 of 1 February 2024	This amendment introduces minor changes to the Statute of the Government Council.
5	Annex 3 - Act No. 242/2025 of 10 September 2025 on Psychological Activities and on the Amendment and Supplementation of Certain Acts, published in the Official Journal (Zbierke zákonov Slovenskej republiky) on 26 September 2025	This Act assigns the Slovak Chamber of Psychologists the responsibility for maintaining the registry of psychologists (as stated in § 24(1)(c), together with § 28(1)).
6	Annex 3a - Draft Act No. 242/2025 of 10 September 2025 on Psychological Activities and on the Amendment and Supplementation of Certain Acts	This Draft Act assigns the responsibility for maintaining the registry of psychologists to the Slovak Chamber of Psychologists.
7	Annex 3b - Draft Act No. 242/2025 of 10 September 2025 on Psychological Activities and on the Amendment and Supplementation of Certain Acts	This Draft Act assigns the responsibility for maintaining the registry of psychologists to the Slovak Chamber of Psychologists.
8	Annex 4 - Acceptance protocol on the register of psychologists from 26 November 2025	This acceptance protocol confirms the operational status of the register of psychologists.
9	Annex 5 - Link to the U.S. National Library of Medicine	This is the link to the U.S. National Library of Medicine, where the study will be published, if positively peer reviewed.
10	Annex 5a – Email confirming the acceptance of the study from 15 November 2025	This email confirms the acceptance of the study's manuscript by the peer-reviewed journal named European Psychiatry.
11	Annex 6 - Document confirming the submission of an epidemiological study to a peer-reviewed journal from 15 November 2025	This manuscript confirms that an epidemiological study mapping mental disorders in Slovakia has been submitted to the peer-reviewed journal named European Psychiatry for a future publication. The

		submission date of this study can be inferred from Annex 5a (15 November 2025).

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Slovak authorities cover all constitutive elements of the milestone.

A governmental council shall be established which shall be tasked to coordinate mental health policy across ministries.

The Government Decision of the Slovak Republic No. 112 of 24 February 2021 (hereinafter referred to as ''Government Decision No. 112'') - (Annex 1), concerning the proposal to establish the Government Council of the Slovak Republic for Mental Health (hereinafter referred to as ''Government Council''), was published on the official website of the Government of the Slovak Republic in the section of Government Decisions on 1 March 2021. The publication of this governmental decision on the Government website is considered as an equivalent to publication in the Official Journal; governmental decisions are not normally published in the Official Journal, as they do not constitute standard legal acts. The Government Decision No. 112 confirms the establishment of the Government Council, as stated in Section A.1, and entered into force immediately upon the approval of the Government Decision No. 112.

The Statute of the Government Council (Annex 2) was approved by the Government Decision No. 112 (Annex 1, Section B.1). The Statute of the Government Council, as stated in Article 3.3(d), confirms its responsibility for coordinating inter-ministerial mental-health policies and activities, as well as contributing to their development. According to the Article 12 of Annex 2, the Statute of the Government Council enters into force on the day of its approval by the Slovak Government, therefore on 24 February 2021. This enters into force applies also to the Government Decision No. 112.

The professional association for psychologists shall be responsible for maintaining a registry of psychologists.

To ensure citizens' access to a complete list of all psychologists operating in Slovakia and to improve the quality of data needed for mental health policy development, the professional association for psychologists shall be responsible for maintaining a registry of psychologists.

This responsibility is delegated to the professional association for psychologists according to § 24(1)(c), combined with § 28(1) of Act No. 242/2025 Coll. on Psychological Practice and on Amendments to Certain Acts (hereinafter referred to as 'Act No. 242/2025') - (Annex 3). Act No. 242/2025 was published in the Zbierka zákonov Slovenskej republiky (Official Journal) on 26 September 2025, however, § 24(1)(c) and § 28(1) of Act No. 242/2025 entered into force on 1 October 2025 (Article VII of Annex 3).

A study which maps the epidemiological situation of mental disorders in Slovakia shall be submitted to a peer reviewed journal with a view to future publication.

In order to establish a targeted mental-health care policy, Slovakia has conducted an epidemiological study of mental disorders to serve as an evidence-based document for future decision-making. The study

examines the prevalence of affective disorders, anxiety disorders, and alcohol dependence using an internationally standardized assessment tool on a representative sample of the adult population (Annex 6).

According to the confirmation email (Annex 5a), Slovakia submitted an epidemiological study (Annex 6) to the peer-reviewed journal named European Psychiatry on 15 November 2025, with a view to future publication. The European Psychiatry is a leading international periodical that publishes peer-reviewed research, reviews, opinion pieces, and short communications across all areas of psychiatry and related disciplines.

Furthermore, this is also in line with the description of the measure, which states that this measure consists of the establishment of a government council as a coordination body, the expansion of the competencies for an association for psychologists and the submission of an epidemiological study with a view to future publication.

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactory fulfilled

Number and name of the Target: SK-C[12.6]-I[I8]-T[C12.6] Number of persons trained in mental healthcare

Related Measure: C12.I8 Training in mental health for staff

Quantitative Indicator: Number

Baseline: 0

Target: 336

Time: Q2 2025

1. **Context:**

This investment aims to increase the availability and quality of mental healthcare in Slovakia. This measure consists of training individuals who work in the field of mental healthcare, as well as providing a national mental health care support line, thereby ensuring better access to support services for the population.

Target 12.6 envisages that 336 persons who work in the domain of mental healthcare shall be trained. Moreover, a national mental health line shall be operated from 2021 to 2023.

Target 12.6 is the only target in the investment. The investment has a final expected date for implementation on 30 June 2025.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence. For legal acts please provide the full legal reference and date of entry into force	Short description
1	Summary document	Summary document duly justifying how the target (including all the constitutive elements) has been satisfactorily fulfilled.
2	Annex 1 - Call for applications for further training of health professionals in the field of mental health launched on 16 August 2022, along with information on amendments (Annexes 1a, 1aa and 1aaa)	This call provides the opportunity to apply for support for the professional development of healthcare practitioners within the field of mental health care. The amendments updated the call by revising parameters such as the duration of the program and the amount of funding available. Information on the amendments is also available here: *https://www.health.gov.sk/Clanok?plan-obnovy-vzdelavanie-v-rezorte*
3	Annex 2 – List of trained individuals and details on the training provided	List of trained health professionals, including the name of each individual trained, the content of the learning activity, the training provider, the duration of the training, the type of education, the type of certificate issued, and the associated cost.
4	Annex 3.1 – List of calls of the National Mental Health Line	Call logs for the period between October 2021 and September 2023.
5	Annexes 3.2, 3.3 and 3.3a – Invoices for phone services related to the National Mental Health Line	Monthly invoices related to the operation of the National Mental Health Line for the period from July 2021 to September 2023 The number of the National Mental Health Line is also stated publicly in the Ministry of Health announcement available in this link: https://www.health.gov.sk/Clanok?mzsr-linka-dusevne-zdravie.
6	Annex 3.4 – Agreement for operation of a call centre system signed on 23 September 2021	Agreement between Ministry of Health and company Bubble, s.r.o. for the provision of a comprehensive call centre system operation service and related technical support, including purchase orders related to the extension of this service from June to September 2023.

7	Annex 3.5 – Agreement for phone services signed on 6 May 2021	Agreement between the Ministry of Health and Slovak Telekom, a.s. for the provision of a secure Voice VPN and selected telecommunication services, including phone lines, ISDN connections, business accounts, and free or discounted numbers (0800 and 0850).
8	Annexes 3.6 and 3.7 – Invoices for the operation of the call centre	Monthly invoices related to the call centre of the National Mental Health Line for the period from July 2021 to September 2023 with the exception of the periods July-September 2021 and January-February 2022 when services were provided for free.
9	Annex 3.6a	Confirmation from Bubble, s.r.o. that call center services were provided free of charge for the periods July–September 2021 and January–February 2022.
10	In the context of sampling analysis, additional evidence was provided for a sample of 60 units, including (i) the contracts concluded between Ministry of Health and individuals (i.e., training participants) that refer to the call for applications and (ii) the training completion certificates containing the relevant information on the type and content of the training.	The contracts set out the contractual relationship between the Ministry of Health and the health professionals and specify the training programme supported. The training completion certificates confirm the successful completion of the training and provide information on the type, content, and duration of the training, as well as the identity of the participant. The trainings were conducted between February 2020 and June 2025 (different dates for each individual). Certificates were issued at the end of each training.

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Slovak authorities cover all constitutive elements of the target.

336 persons who work in the domain of mental healthcare shall be trained.

On 16 August 2022, the Ministry of Health launched a call to support the training of health professionals in mental health care (Annex 1). Eligibility, as defined in Section 3.1 of Annex 1, was limited to applicants able to demonstrate employment as professionals in the field of mental health, verified on the basis of submitted documentation, including the employment contract. In accordance with the terms of the call,

all trainings commencing after 1 February 2020 were considered eligible, thereby allowing retroactive support for trainings implemented prior to the launch of the call.

Out of 593 applicants, 391 satisfied the eligibility criteria, while 202 did not. The call, originally published on 16 August 2022, was amended four times. Amendments were issued on 22 November 2022, 14 April 2023, 7 November 2024, and 30 September 2025. The amendments updated the call by revising parameters such as the duration of the program and the amount of funding available. These changes do not affect the fulfilment of the requirement in any way. Following the call, contracts were concluded directly with the individual training participants. All contracts were signed in paper form and published in the Central Register of Contracts (CRZ). Annex 3.1 provides a detailed list of each trained health professional operating in the domain of mental health, including the learning activity, training provider, duration, type of education, certificate issued, and associated cost. In total, 343 mental health professionals were trained against a target of 336.

Following the selection of a random sample of 60 health professionals, Slovakia submitted contracts and training completion certificates for each individual (Annex 10). These agreements were concluded between the Slovak government and the health professional. In each contract (see Article 2 of the submitted contracts under the sampling documents), the provision of funding and participation in the training is explicitly linked to the positively assessed applications submitted under the relevant call, which confirms the eligibility of participants as health professionals in the domain of mental healthcare. In the sample of 60 signed contracts, the Commission services' verifications identified minor administrative discrepancies in a limited number of units, namely incorrect or inconsistent personal identification data (date of birth), missing signatures or stamps, and low scan quality affecting certificate legibility. All discrepancies were addressed through formal project change notifications or by providing corrected or higher-quality documentation (see sampling documents under Annex 10). The evidence provided for the sample confirms that the requirements of the target have been met, and that Slovakia has supported 343 health professionals working in mental health care with training, thus exceeding the target of 336 by seven trained individuals. Based on the above, there is statistical assurance that the target of at least 336 persons working in the domain of mental healthcare having been trained has been achieved.

Furthermore, this is also in line with the description of the measure, which states that **this measure consists in the training of persons working in the domain of mental healthcare**, and also in line with the name of the target, which states **number of persons trained in mental healthcare.**

A national mental health line shall be operated from 2021 to 2023.

As demonstrated by Annex 3.4 and Annex 3.5, the Ministry of Health concluded two separate agreements to establish and operate a national mental health line.

The first agreement, concluded with Slovak Telekom, a.s. on 6 May 2021 (Annex 3.5), concerned the provision of a secure Voice VPN and selected telecommunication services, including telephone lines, ISDN connections, business accounts, and free or discounted numbers (0800 and 0850).

The second agreement, concluded with Bubble, s.r.o on 23 September 2021 (Annex 3.4), concerned the provision of a comprehensive call centre system operation service and related technical support. This service was further extended through purchase orders issued between June and September 2023. In

accordance with the Public Procurement Act, this arrangement is considered sufficient for low-value contracts, as the formal conclusion of a contract is not required.

The Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic publicly announced the operation of the National Mental Health Support Helpline at the number 0800 193 193, which was made available to anyone in need of professional assistance with mental health issues. The number of the National Mental Health Line is also stated publicly in the Ministry of Health website (see link in table of evidence under Annexes 3.2 and 3.3): the Commission services accessed the link provided by the authorities on 26 January 2026 to verify that the phone number corresponds to the invoices submitted as part of the supporting evidence. This check was completed successfully, confirming that a national mental health line was operated from 2021 to 2023. According to the Ministry announcement, the helpline was launched in July 2021 and continued operating at least until September 2023, providing anonymous psychological and social counselling, crisis intervention, and support for healthcare professionals facing high stress levels. This operational period is further confirmed by invoices relating to both the telephone services (Annexes 3.2, 3.3, and 3.3a) and the operation of the call centre (Annexes 3.6 and 3.7), which demonstrate that the line was active from July 2021 to September 2023. The telephone number referenced in these invoices corresponds to the helpline number publicly announced by the Ministry. In addition, call-log records (Annex 3.1) show that incoming calls were recorded continuously during this period, confirming that the helpline was not only operational but actively used. Therefore, the requirement to operate a national mental health line from 2021 to 2023 has been fulfilled.

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactory fulfilled

Number and name of the Milestone: SK-C[C13]-I[I2]-M[C13.11] Extension and renewal of home nursing providers

Related Measure: C13.I2 Extension and renewal of after-care and nursing capacities

Qualitative Indicator: Investment in the technical equipment of home nursing providers

Time: Q1 2025

1. Context:

The investment aims to enhance the availability of home-based nursing services through the establishment and re-equipment of home nursing agencies, and to strengthen post-hospitalization care by creating new after-care beds, with the overall goal of ensuring timely, high-quality care and enabling patients to remain in their home environment longer.

Milestone 13.11 concerns the establishment of at least 11 new home nursing agencies and the re-equipment of at least 80 existing ones.

Milestone 13.11 is the first milestone of the investment, and it will be followed by the second (last) milestone 13.12, which aims at creating after-care beds either by renovating acute and chronic beds or by building new after-care capacity. The investment has a final expected date for implementation on 31 March 2025.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence. For legal acts please provide the full legal reference and date of entry into force	Short description
1	Summary document	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone and the reform (including all the constitutive elements) has been satisfactorily fulfilled.
2	Annex 1 – List of supported home nursing agencies	This document lists the names of the 91 supported home nursing agencies, the project name and code, an indication of whether each agency is newly established (11) or already existing (80), the place of implementation, the type of evidence provided, and the equipment purchased.
3	Annex 2 – Project documentation for individual projects (Annex 2.1 to Annex 2.91), produced between 2023 and 2025	The set of 91 documents comprises invoices and documentation confirming the registration of each asset as part of the agency's property, with each document corresponding to one new (11) or existing home nursing agency (80). The technical equipment purchased for the existing home nursing agencies includes devices intended for long-term use to support home healthcare delivery and communication.
4a	Annex 3.1 – Calls for the submission of applications for the provision of funds under the mechanism	This call concerns the Expansion of the Home Nursing Care Network (13I02-21-V04), which was published on the official website of the Slovak Ministry of Health. The call was open from 29 July 2022 to 31 October 2022.
4b	Annex 3.2 – Calls for the submission of applications for the provision of funds under the mechanism	This call concerns the Restoration of the Home Nursing Care Network (13I02-21-V05), which was published on the official website of the Slovak Ministry of Health. The call was open from 29 July 2022 to 30 November 2022.
4c	Annex 3.3 – Calls for the submission of applications for the provision of funds under the mechanism	This repeated call concerns the Restoration of the Home Nursing Care Network (13I02-21-V40), which was published on the official website of the Slovak Ministry of Health. The call was open from 17 October 2024 to 31 December 2024.
5	Annex 4 – Operating permits for home nursing care agencies (Annex 4.1 to Annex 4.91)	The set comprises 91 operating permits for supported home nursing agencies, of which 11 concern newly established agencies after 1 February 2020 and 80 concern existing ones. Each operational permit includes the official

		authorization issued by the competent regional authority, allowing the provider to operate home nursing services. The permits specify identification details, the place of operation, and confirm that the provider meets all legal requirements to deliver healthcare services.
6	Annex 5 – Contracts for the provision of funds under the mechanism (Annex 5.1 to Annex 5.91), produced between 2023 and 2025	The set comprises 91 contracts for the provision of funds under the RRF, including any possible amendments, for 11 newly established and 80 existing home nursing agencies. Each contract outlines the rights and obligations of the parties, the scope and purpose of the supported project, the eligible costs, the financing arrangements, and the reporting and monitoring requirements.

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Slovak authorities cover all constitutive elements of the milestone.

At least 11 new home nursing agencies shall be established [...]

The Slovak authorities have submitted the list of supported home nursing agencies (Annex 1), clearly indicating 11 newly established home nursing agencies.

Particularly, the Slovak authorities have submitted the operational permits for these 11 newly established home nursing agencies (Annex 4). Each operational permit includes the official authorization issued by the competent regional authority, allowing the provider to operate home nursing services. The permits specify identification details, the place of operation, and confirm that the provider meets all legal requirements to deliver healthcare services. The operational permits clearly demonstrate that these 11 new home nursing agencies were established after 1 February 2020.

The Commission services conducted an on-the-spot check on 12 December 2025 to verify signatures on operational permits. The check was completed successfully, confirming that all operational permits are duly signed. Consequently, the requirement to establish at least 11 new home nursing agencies has been satisfactorily fulfilled.

[...] and at least 80 existing home nursing agencies shall be re-equipped.

In order to fulfil this requirement, the Slovak authorities opened two calls for the submission of applications for funding under the RRF. The first call (13I02-21-V05) was announced on 29 July 2022 and closed on 30 November 2022 (Annex 3.2). As this call did not attract a sufficient number of existing home nursing care agencies that met the conditions for receiving funding, the Slovak authorities subsequently opened a repeated call (13I02-21-V40) announced on 17 October 2024 and closed on 31 December 2024 (Annex 3.3). Both calls were published on the official website of the Slovak Ministry of Health.

To demonstrate that applicants were existing home nursing care agencies, both calls (Annexes 3.2 and 3.3) required the submission of operational permits issued by the competent regional authorities (Annex 4). These permits confirm the agencies' authorization to provide home nursing services.

Annex 1 provides the list of the 80 existing home nursing agencies that were supported with funding for re-equipment. The funding contracts (Annex 5) confirm that these 80 existing home nursing agencies received support for re-equipment. The project documentation for individual projects (Annex 2) includes invoices and documentation confirming the registration of concerned assets as part of the agency's property. The investments covered items such as personal cars, EKG devices, rehabilitation equipment, Bioptron lamps, oxygen concentrators, pulse oximeters, electric suction devices, tablets and mobile phones.

The Commission services conducted an on-the-spot check on 12 December 2025 to verify signatures on contracts and operational permits. The check was completed successfully, confirming that all contracts and operational permits are duly signed. Consequently, the requirement to re-equip at least 80 existing home nursing agencies has been satisfactorily fulfilled.

Furthermore, this is also in line with the description of the measure, which states that the measure consists of […] supporting home nursing providers by establishing new ones and equipping existing facilities.

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactory fulfilled

Number and name of the Target: SK-C[C13.14]-I[I3]-T[C13.14] Extension and renewal of the mobile hospices network (indicator: number of new and rebuilt units)

Related Measure: C13.I3 Enhancing and restoring palliative care capacities

Quantitative Indicator: Number

Baseline: 0

Target: 26

Time: Q1 2025

1. Context:

This investment aims to strengthen the palliative care system for patients with terminal illnesses. The measure supports the creation of new palliative care beds in low-capacity hospices, the upgrading of hospital palliative wards, and the expansion of mobile palliative care through the establishment of new mobile hospices and the improvement of existing ones.

Target 13.14 consists of equipping 26 mobile hospices with the necessary technical and material equipment. This includes support for both newly established units and existing ones.

Target 13.14 is the first step of the implementation of the investment. It will be followed by milestone C13.13, related to expansion and renewal of residential palliative care capacities. The reform has a final expected date for implementation on 31 March 2025.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence. For legal acts please provide the full legal reference and date of entry into force	Short description
1	Summary document	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled.
2	Annex 1 – List of supported mobile hospices	List indicating the supported mobile hospices, including the project name and code, place of implementation, and the equipment purchased.
3	Annex 2 (from Annex 2-1 to Annex 2-26) - Project documentation	Invoices for the technical equipment purchased for mobile hospices. The equipment includes material supplies and devices used directly to deliver medical care in the patient's home, such as compression dressings, gauze and patches. It also includes technical devices, equipment and technologies that support healthcare delivery, communication, planning, data collection and documentation. The invoices are dated between June 2022 and November 2025
4	Annex 3 (from Annex 3-1 to Annex 3-3) - Calls for applications	Three calls for applications (Renewal and expansion of the mobile hospice network, Expansion of the mobile hospice network and, Extension and renewal of the mobile hospice network) published on the Ministry of Health website and on the official site of the public administration of the Slovak Republic. The calls have been published between July 2022 and May 2025.
5	Annex 4 (from Annex 4-1 to Annex 4-26) - Mobile hospices operating permit	Operating permits of the 26 new and existing hospices. Each contract includes the official authorisation issued by the competent regional authority allowing the provider to operate mobile hospice and home-nursing services, including identification details, the place of

		operation and confirmation that the provider meets all legal conditions to deliver healthcare services. The operating permits are dated between September 2013 and May 2025
6	Annex 5 (from Annex 5-1 to Annex 5-26) - Contracts for the provision of funds	Contracts for the provision of funds under the Recovery and Resilience Facility for the 26 new and existing mobile hospices. Each contract includes the rights and obligations of the parties, the scope and purpose of the supported project, the eligible costs, the financing arrangements, and the reporting and monitoring requirements. The contracts are dated between September 2023 and September 2025

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Slovak authorities cover all constitutive elements of the target.

Technical equipment of 26 mobile hospices [...]

The Ministry of Health published three calls between 2022 and 2025 to support the equipment of new and existing mobile hospices. The call for applications for the Recovery and Resilience Facility "Extension and renewal of the mobile hospices network", call code 13I03-21-V01 (Annex 3-1), was launched on 6 July 2022. The call for applications "Mobile hospices network expansion", call code 13I03-21-V32 (Annex 3-2), was launched on 14 October 2024. Finally, the call for applications "Renewal and extension of the mobile hospices network", call code 13I02-21-V42 (Annex 3-3), was launched on 22 May 2025.

As evidenced in Annex 2, the invoices provided relate to the technical equipment purchased for the 26 mobile hospices. The equipment comprises supplies and devices used directly to provide medical care in the patient's home. These include consumable and specialised medical items essential for treatment, follow-up and care, such as dressings (compression dressings, gauze, patches), disinfectants, disposable gloves, syringes and needles. The technical equipment also consists of technologies that support healthcare delivery, communication, planning, data collection or documentation, typically intended for long-term use. Examples include laptops, tablets, printers, mobile phones, vehicles, and medical devices such as EKG equipment.

[...], supporting both new and existing units.

As evidenced by the contracts for the provision of funds signed between the Ministry of Health and the contractors (Annex 5), 26 mobile units have been supported, of which 13 existing and 13 newly created. For the newly established mobile hospices, it was necessary to demonstrate the licence to operate the service until the completion of the project (Annex 4). For the renewal of the existing mobile hospices network, it was essential to provide proof of authorisation to operate the mobile hospice at the time of submitting the request for funds to the mechanism (Annex 4).

The Commission services conducted two on-the-spot checks on 12 December 2025 and 9 January 2026 to verify that certain documents from Annex 4 and Annex 5 were duly signed, as visible signatures were missing in certain documents uploaded to FENIX, and to confirm that the facilities were therefore operational. On the first on-the-spot check, the Commission services verified that the relevant documents were signed through an online platform, including the use of electronic signatures. The second on-the-spot check was carried out only for two facilities, for which the signatures on the relevant documents were not visible. The Commission services therefore conducted a second on-the-spot check directly at the facilities concerned. Both checks were completed successfully, confirming that new and existing hospices were supported.

Furthermore, this is also in line with the measure description, which states that the measure **consists in the [...] extension of mobile palliative care services by establishing new mobile hospices and upgrading existing ones, and** also with the name of the milestone, which states **extension and renewal of the mobile hospices network (indicator: number of new and rebuilt units).**

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactory fulfilled.

Number and name of the Milestone: SK-C[C14]-I[I1]-M[C14.3] Application of the 1in-2out rule, the principle of protection against unjustified gold-plating and ex-post evaluations of existing regulation

Related Measure: C14.I1 Capacities for reforms to reduce regulatory burden

Qualitative Indicator: Training courses for submitters of legislative and non-legislative materials

Time: Q2 2025

1. Context:

The objective of the investment is to have training courses for the submitters of legislative and non-legislative materials involved in the application of the 1-in 2-out rule, the principle of protection against unjustified gold-plating, and ex-post evaluation of existing regulations.

Milestone 14.3 provides for training courses to be carried out for the submitters of legislative and non-legislative materials on the application of the 1-in 2-out rule, the principle of protection against unjustified gold-plating, and the ex-post evaluation of existing regulations.

Milestone 14.3 is the only milestone of this investment. The investment has a final expected date for implementation on 30 June 2025.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence	Short description
	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone (including all	

	the constitutive elements) has been satisfactorily fulfilled.	
1	Annex 1 - Email invitation to the training course	An email was sent out to invite participants to the training courses on the 1-in 2-out rule of 15 June 2022 (Annex 4), 22 November 2023 (Annex 13), 17 April 2024 (Annex 22); to the training courses on the protection against unjustified gold-plating of 22 November 2023 (Annex 36), 17 April 2024 (Annex 46) and 21 May 2025 (Annex 57); to the training courses on ex-post evaluations of existing regulations of 4 October 2022 (Annex 64), 7 November 2023 (Annex 69), 20 March 2024 (Annex 74) and 25 September 2024 (Annex 85).
2	Annex 2 – poster invitation	The Slovak authorities created poster invitations for training courses on 1-in 2-out rule (Annex 12 – 22 November 2023; Annex 21 – 17 April 2024), on the protection against unjustified gold-plating (Annex 35 – 22 November 2023; Annex 45 – 17 April 2024; Annex 45 - 21 May 2025) and on the ex-post evaluations of existing regulations (Annex 68 – 7 November 2023; Annex 73 – 20 March 2024; Annex 84 – 25 September 2024).
3	Annex 3 - Signed attendance list	The Slovak authorities provided signed attendance lists for all training courses, namely the ones on the 1-in 2-out rule of 15 June 2022 (Annex 5), 22 November 2023 (Annex 14), 17 April 2024 (Annex 23); those on the protection against unjustified gold-plating of 22 November 2023 (Annex 37), 17 April 2024 (Annex 47) and 21 May 2025 (Annex 58); and those on ex-post evaluations of existing regulations of 4 October 2022 (Annex 65), 7 November 2023 (Annex 70), 20 March 2024 (Annex 75) and 25 September 2024 (Annex 86).
4	Annex 4 – Excel attendance list	The Slovak authorities provided the excel version of the attendance lists for eight training courses, namely the ones on the 1-in 2-out rule of 15 June 2022 (Annex 6), 22 November 2023 (Annex 15), 17 April 2024 (Annex 24); those on the protection against unjustified gold-plating of 22 November 2023 (Annex 38), 17 April 2024 (Annex 48) and 21 May 2025 (Annex 59); and those on ex-post evaluations of existing regulations of 20 March 2024 (Annex 76) and 25 September 2024 (Annex 87).
8	Annex 5 – Teams attendance list	The Slovak authorities provided the Teams attendance lists for two online training courses on ex-post evaluation, held on 4 October 2022 (Annex 66) and on 7 November 2023 (Annex 71).
5	Annex 6 – Power Point presentation (theoretical part)	The Slovak authorities provided the PowerPoint presentations containing the theoretical content for all training courses, namely the ones on the 1-in 2-out rule of 15 June 2022 (Annex 7), 22 November 2023 (Annex 16), 17

		April 2024 (Annex 25); those on the protection against unjustified gold-plating of 22 November 2023 (Annex 39), 17 April 2024 (Annex 49) and 21 May 2025 (Annex 60); and those on ex-post evaluations of existing regulations of 4 October 2022 (Annex 67), 7 November 2023 (Annex 72), 20 March 2024 (Annex 77) and 25 September 2024 (Annex 88).
6	Annex 7 – Learning material (Case studies, practical examples, etc)	For most training courses, case studies were carried out by the participants under the guidance of the experts and practical examples were shown. The learning material for the 1-in 2-out rule are in Annexes 8 to 11 (training on 15 June 2022), 17 to 20 (training on 22 November 2023), 26 to 29 (training on 17 April 2024). The learning material for the protection against unjustified gold-plating are in Annexes 40 to 44 (training on 22 November 2023), 50 to 52 (training on 17 April 2024), 61 to 63 and 96 (training on 21 May 2025). The learning material for the ex-post evaluations of existing regulations are in Annexes 78 to 80 (training on 20 March 2024), and 89 to 92 (training on 25 September 2024).
7	Annex 8 – photos of the training sessions	The Slovak authorities provided photos for the training courses on the 1-in 2-out (Annex 30 to 34 – 17 April 2024), on the protection against unjustified gold-plating (Annex 53 to 55 – 17 April 2024), and on the ex-post evaluations of existing regulations (Annex 81 to 83 – 20 March 2024; Annex 93 to 95 – 25 September 2024).

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Slovak authorities cover all constitutive elements of the milestone.

Training courses shall be carried out for the submitters of legislative and non-legislative materials on the application of the 1-in 2-out rule, the principle of protection against unjustified gold-plating, and the ex-post evaluation of existing regulations.

Following the introduction of new tools to reduce the regulatory burden, namely the 1-in 2-out rule, the ex post evaluation of existing regulations (hereinafter “ex-post evaluation”), and the protection against unjustified gold-plating (C14.R1.M1) (hereinafter “gold-plating”), a series of training courses was organised by the Ministry of Economy to explain the principles of each tool, present concrete practices and examples and provide space for discussions.

In total, 10 trainings were organised: three on the 1-in 2-out rule on 15 June 2022, 22 November 2023 and 17 April 2024; three on gold-plating on 22 November 2023, 17 April 2024 and 21 May 2025; and four on ex-post evaluation on 4 October 2022, 7 November 2023, 20 March 2024 and 25 September 2024.

Email invitations for all sessions were sent to participants (Annex 1). Poster invitations were also created for most training courses (Annex 2).

The participants of the trainings were the submitters of legislative and non-legislative materials, namely the staff of ministries and central government bodies responsible for preparing the legislative and non-legislative materials, submitting them to the consultation procedure, incorporating any relevant comments and finalising the document before submitting it to the government for approval. The training participants signed an attendance sheet (Annex 3) and their names, email addresses and Ministry they work at are recorded in an excel spreadsheet (Annex 4).

Most training courses consisted of a theoretical (Annex 6) and a practical part (Annex 7). For the theoretical part, the authorities provided us with the respective power point presentations displayed in class. On top of this, for most training courses, case studies were carried out by the participants under the guidance of the experts and practical examples were shown. The training sessions on ex-post evaluation that took place on 4 October 2022 and on 7 November 2023 only consisted of a theoretical presentation. These two training sessions, unlike all others, were delivered online, as demonstrated by Teams attendance list (Annex 5).

To further verify the actual roll-out of the trainings, the Slovak authorities also provided photos for some of them (Annex 8).

Furthermore, this is in line with the measure description, which states that **this measure consists in the introduction of three tools to reduce the regulatory burden, namely the 1-in 2- out rule, the principle of protection against unjustified gold-plating, and the ex-post evaluation of existing regulations**.

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number and name of the Target: SK-C[C15]-I[I2]-M[C15.8] Modernisation of court IT equipment for the court staff
Related Measure: C15.I2 Digitalisation and analytical capacities

Quantitative Indicator: Number

Baseline: 0

Target: 24 000

Time: Q2 2025

1. Context:

The objective of the investment is to improve the effectiveness of the reformed judicial network by improving the use of digital technology.

Target 15.8 requires the delivery of 24 000 pieces of modern IT equipment to courts: new notebooks, docking stations, monitors, phones and MS Teams licenses. The target also includes the delivery of digital

technology for courts for the efficient conduct of hearings and remote proceedings, which include: network servers for central storage of network components and information systems; network cards to support videoconferencing technology; network components and resort wifi: Wide Area Network (WAN), Local area Networks (LAN), WiFi infrastructure, Firewalls, Identity and Context Security Management, and Virtual Private Networks (VPN); Videoconferencing technology: a server platform as well as videoconferencing hardware.

Target 15.8 is the first step in the implementation of this investment, followed by milestone 15.9 on the creation of an analytical support platform for access to case law in courts and milestone 15.6 on the development and handover of an electronic Business Register. The investment has a final expected date for implementation by 30 June 2026.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence	Short description
1	Summary document	Summary document duly justifying how the target and the investment (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled.
2	Annex 1.1 - Contract award notice No 51127 VST	Contract award notice from 21 December 2022 on the outcome of a public procurement procedure for the purchase of hardware for the end user, which is publicly available at *https://www.uvo.gov.sk/vestnik-a-registre/vestnik/oznámenie/detail/587396?cHash=e65833ea3ef82b7faa958e71e1340d77*.
3	Annex 1.2 - Sales contract No MS/221/2022-92	Sales contract signed by the Ministry of Justice and the economic provider on 20 December 2022 for the purchase and delivery of end-user hardware, publicly available at *https://www.crz.gov.sk/zmluva/7279088/*.
4	Annex 1.3 - Acceptance Protocol _Regional Courts Annex 1.4 - Acceptance Protocol _Administrative Courts Annex 1.5 - Transposition Protocol _Municipal Courts Annex 1.6 - Certificate of acceptance _district courts I Annex 1.7 - Take-over protocol _district courts II Annex 1.8 - Acceptance protocol _transfers	270 acceptance protocols for the delivery of notebooks, docking stations, monitors and phones, signed by the representatives of national courts and the contractor, in accordance with national legislation, between January 2023 and August 2023.
5	Annex 1.10 - Zoznam IT vybavenia pre zamestnancov súdov_merge_with_phones_check_SN_20260108.xlsx	List of 19754 pieces of notebooks, docking stations, monitors and phones delivered to national courts

6	Annex 1.10a - Accounting records of 13 courts (Krajský súd Bratislava, Krajský súd Trnava, Okresný súd Komárno, Okresný súd Levice, Okresný súd Lučenec+Veľký Krtíš, Okresný súd Námestovo +Dolný Kubín, Okresný súd Nitra, Okresný súd Pezinok, Okresný súd Rimavská Sobota, Okresný súd Spišská Nová Ves, Okresný súd Žilina, Mestský súd Bratislava 4, Mestský súd Košice)	13 accounting records supporting evidence for the delivery of sampled docking stations to 13 national courts, signed by the representatives of national courts, between June 2025 and August 2025.
7	Annex 1.9 - Contracts for the transfer of property courts Annex 1.13 - Asset transfer contracts replenishment Annex 1.14 - Asset transfer contracts – replenishment of 2701 pieces of equipment	Contracts for the transfer of 19754 pieces of notebooks, docking stations, monitors and phones from the Ministry of Justice to national courts, signed by representatives of the Ministry of Justice and representatives of national courts.
8	Annex 1.11 - Delivery notes for IT equipment	Documents for the delivery of 19754 pieces of notebooks, docking stations, monitors and phones to the Ministry of Justice signed by representatives of the Ministry of Justice and the contractor.
9	Annex 2.2 - Sales contract No. MS/1/2025-92	Sales contract signed by the Ministry of Justice and the economic provider on 13 January 2025 for the purchase and delivery of phones, publicly available at https://www.crz.gov.sk/zmluva/10288474/?csrt=8763804716107457628.
10	Annex 2.4 - Take-over protocol_regional and district courts	48 acceptance protocols for the delivery of notebooks, docking stations, monitors and phones, signed by the representatives of national courts and the contractor, in accordance with national legislation, in June 2025.
11	Annex 2.6 - Report on the public procurement contract	Report on the outcome of the selection procedure for licenses for operating systems, office suite, user access to the server and related services, which is publicly available at https://www.uvo.gov.sk/vyhladavanie/vyhladavanie-zakaziek/detail/431882?cHash=aabf0eb6efcfe8459b799e7763e9dc60.
12	Annex 2.7 - Contract for the Purchase of Microsoft Products and Services No MS/86/2022-94	Contract for the purchase of Microsoft licences for the Ministry of Justice, signed and dated 29 June 2022, which is publicly available at https://crz.gov.sk/zmluva/6631193/.

13	Annexes 2.8 - 2.10 - Contract delivery notes for contract MS/86/2022-94 for 2022, 2023 and 2024	Delivery notes of Microsoft licences to the Ministry of Justice signed by the contracting authority and the contractor, dated 30 June 2022, 3 July 2023 and 28 June 2024.
14	Annex 2.12 - List of licenses for the employees of courts	List of 5961 licenses assigned to staff from national courts
15	Annex 3.1 - Contract award notice No 15046 VST	Contract award notice from 24 April 2023 on the procurement procedure for supply of hardware and software for a server farm with virtualisation of HyperV cluster and vSphere, which is publicly available at https://www.uvo.gov.sk/vestnik-a-registre/vestnik/oznámenie/detail/602922?cHash=5a3789b948e0c3c858a2092409802b9f.
16	Annex 3.2 - Sales contract No MS/35/2023-94	Sales contract signed by the Ministry of Justice and the economic provider on 27 March 2023, in accordance with national legislation, for the delivery of facilities and operating system licences and virtualisation licences for vSphere, which is publicly available at https://www.crz.gov.sk/zmluva/7750732/.
17	Annex 3.3 - Acceptance report	Acceptance report signed by The Ministry of Justice and the contractor, on 12 June 2023 listing the facilities and licences delivered for the HyperV cluster and vSphere.
18	Annex 3.4 - List of server devices	List of server devices purchased by the Ministry of Justice.
19	Annex 3.5 - Contract award notice No 15242 VST	Contract award notice from 25 September 2025 on the delivery of server components and operating system licenses with the aim of replacing existing obsolete servers and their accessories with a centralized solution based on clustering and virtualization technology, which is publicly available at https://www.uvo.gov.sk/vestnik-a-registre/vestnik/oznámenie/detail/1367693?cHash=a887b64040d8d3817e5fc7731047fe0c.
20	Annex 3.6 - Sales Agreement No MS/277/2025-96	Contract signed by the Ministry of Justice and the economic provider on 12 September 2025 for the delivery of server components and operating system licenses with the aim of replacing existing obsolete servers and their accessories with a centralized solution based on clustering and virtualization technology, which is publicly available at https://crz.gov.sk/zmluva/11296700/?csrt=13894219821145936959.
21	Annex 3.8 - HyperV cluster II delivery acceptance protocol	Acceptance protocol signed by The Ministry of Justice and the contractor on 30 October 2025 listing the delivery of server components and operating system licenses with the aim of replacing existing obsolete servers and their accessories with a centralized solution based on clustering and virtualization technology.

22	Annex 3.9 - Contract award notice No 23137 VST	Contract award notice from 25 April 2022 on the replacement of Datacenter BA components – Network modules for datacenter switches "Nexus cards", which is publicly available at https://www.uvo.gov.sk/vestnik-a-registre/vestnik/oznámenie/detail/558563?cHash=c1b6bc5f8451bac24f2307223db75e10
23	Annex 3.10 - Sales contract No MS/50/2022-94	Contract signed by the Ministry of Justice and the economic provider on 20 April 2022 for the supply of network cards for the videoconfering technology, which is publicly available at https://crz.gov.sk/zmluva/6358636/ .
24	Annex 3.11 - Acceptance Protocol of 27 February 2023	1 acceptance protocol, signed by representatives of the Ministry of Justice and the provider and dated 27 February 2023
25	Annex 3.12 - Contract award notice No 10554 VST	Contract award notice from 30 June 2025 on the renewal of network components in the Ministry of Justice, which is publicly available at *https://www.uvo.gov.sk/vestnik-a-registre/vestnik/oznámenie/detail/1353965?cHash=47b2279130c4432de584e5a49a8ec231*
26	Annex 3.13 - Sales Agreement No MS/171/2025-94	Contract signed by the Ministry of Justice and the economic provider on 5 and 25 June 2025 for the supply of network components and resort wifi, which is publicly available at *https://crz.gov.sk/zmluva/10983786/*
27	Annex 3.14 - Handover protocols Annex 3.19 Scan licences	4 acceptance protocols, signed by representatives of the Ministry of Justice and the provider and dated 11 August 2025 – 30 September 2025 for physical network components & 1 acceptance protocol signed by representatives of the Ministry of Justice and the provider and dated 30 September 2025 for delivery of licences
28	Annex 3.16 - List of network components	List of network components assigned to national courts
29	Annex 3.15 - Installation logs and AP engagement logs	73 installation protocols, signed by representatives of the national courts and the provider and dated August-October 2025
30	Annex 3.17 - Contract award notice No 16310 VST	Contract award notice from 10 October 2025 for the development and renewal of a videoconferencing solution in the justice sector, which is publicly available at *https://www.uvo.gov.sk/vestnik-a-registre/vestnik/oznámenie/detail/1369198?cHash=36eee75004f0c363014aec686f568abb*
31	Annex 3.18 - Contract No MS/283/2025-96	Contract signed by the Ministry of Justice and the economic provider and dated on 16 September 2025 for the construction of a comprehensive autonomous videoconferencing solution, used mainly for the purpose of court hearings, which is publicly available at https://crz.gov.sk/zmluva/11373661/?csrt=13894219821145936959

32	Annex 3.20 - Videoconferencing acceptance protocols	7 acceptance protocols, signed by representatives of the Ministry of Justice and the provider and dated 25 November 2025 – 23 December 2025
33	Annex 3.21 - Videoconferencing installation protocols	46 installation protocols, signed by representatives of the Ministry of Justice and the provider and dated 17 November 2025 - 9 January 2026
34	Annex 3.22 - Videoconferencing acceptance tests & Annex 3.22a - Videoconferencing acceptance test part 1 and part 2	45 acceptance tests, signed by representatives of the Ministry of Justice and the provider and dated 27 November 2025 – 9 January 2026. 1 acceptance test, signed by a representative of the Ministry of Justice and the provider and dated 23 December 2025

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Slovak authorities cover all constitutive elements of the target.

Delivery of 24 000 pieces of modern IT equipment to courts (among new notebooks, docking stations, monitors, phones and MS Teams licenses).

The purchase and delivery of notebooks, docking stations, monitors and phones was carried out by the Ministry of Justice through a public procurement procedure. The Ministry of Justice provided, as supporting evidence, the contract award notice from the Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic on the outcome of a public procurement for the purchase of hardware for the end user (Annex 1.1). The Commission services accessed the link provided by the authorities on 15 January 2026 to verify the information and details on the results of the procurement procedure. This check was completed successfully, confirming that the result of the procurement was published on 21 December 2022 and explains that the successful contract was awarded among six economic operators to the tender offering the lowest total price.

Following the result of the public procurement procedure, the contract was signed on 20 December 2022 between the Ministry of Justice and the economic provider for the purchase and delivery of end-user hardware for the general use of the Ministry of Justice and of the national courts: 3 600 notebooks, 2 700 ultrabooks, 700 AiO PC with keyboard sets, 6300 docking stations, 6 300 monitors, 2 700 wireless keyboards, 3 600 notebook bags, 2 700 ultrabook bags, 76 projectors, 76 canvas on the rack (Annex 1.2, page 25). The Commission services accessed the link provided by the authorities on 15 January 2026 to verify the publication of the contract in the Slovak Central Registry. This check was completed successfully, confirming that the contract was published in the Slovak Central Registry on 20 December 2022.

The Slovak authorities provided a list of 19 754 entries representing pieces of modern IT equipment delivered from the Ministry of Justice to courts, divided as follows: 6 613 notebooks, 5 931 docking stations, 6 610 monitors and 600 phones (Annex 1.10). Each piece of equipment is identified through unique serial numbers and presents details related to the type of the product, producer, model, reference

to the purchase contract, delivery note or takeover protocol, as well as the name of the national court and location to which the equipment was delivered. Following the selection of a random sample of 60 items out of the total of 19 754 items (among which 23 notebooks, 18 docking stations, 17 monitors and 2 phones), the Slovak authorities submitted additional evidence including procurement contracts of the equipment, delivery notes from the supplier, takeover protocols from the supplier or Ministry of Justice to the respective national courts and asset transfer agreements between the Ministry of Justice and the respective national courts. (Evidence No. 3,4,7,8)

The evidence provided by the Slovak authorities confirmed that 23 notebooks, identified by their serial numbers, were delivered to national courts. Since the procurement contract indicated the total number of notebooks purchased, without individual specification of serial numbers, the Commission services verified the serial numbers of the sampled networks in the delivery notes, the takeover protocols and the assets transfer agreements (Annexes 1.2, 1.9, 1.11, 1.14), confirming the delivery of 23 notebooks to the corresponding courts. The evidence provided by the Slovak authorities confirmed that 17 monitors, identified by their serial numbers, were delivered to national courts. Since the procurement contract indicated the total number of monitors purchased, without individual specification of serial numbers, the Commission services verified the serial numbers provided in the delivery notes, the takeover protocols and the assets transfer agreements (Annexes 1.2, 1.4, 1.5, 1.6, 1.7, 1.9, 1.11), confirming the delivery of 17 monitors to the corresponding courts. The evidence provided by the Slovak authorities confirmed that 2 phones, identified by their serial numbers, were delivered to courts. Since the procurement contract indicated the total number of phones purchased, without individual specification of serial numbers, the Commission services verified the serial numbers provided in the delivery notes, the takeover protocols and the assets transfer agreements (Annex 1.14, 2.2, 2.4), confirming the delivery of 2 phones to the corresponding courts.

Concerning the delivery of the 18 docking stations to the corresponding courts, the procurement contracts of the equipment, delivery notes from the supplier and takeover protocols were not specifying the unique serial numbers of the docking stations (Annexes 1.2, 1.3, 1.5, 1.6, 1.7, 1.8, 1.9, 1.11). The Commission requested additional evidence to assess the delivery of the docking stations to the corresponding courts (Evidence No.5), and the Slovak authorities submitted accounting records of the 13 national courts to which the 18 docking stations were delivered, as several IT equipments were delivered to the same court (Annex 1.10a). The Commission services verified the serial numbers for the sampled docking stations, their reference in the accounting records and whether their activation date in the accounting records was after the date of the signature of the assets transfer agreement or of the acceptance protocol, as the activation date is the date to which an equipment is entering the system of the national court after being verified by its services. This check was completed successfully, confirming the delivery of 18 docking stations to 13 courts.

The Commission services carried out an online on-the-spot check on 28 January 2026 to verify that the information provided by the authorities in one of the accounting records referring to a docking station delivered to court named Mestský súd Bratislava 4 matches the information in the database of the court named Mestský súd Bratislava 4. The Commission services verified the serial number of the docking station, the inventory number and the activation date of the docking station in the database of the court. This check was completed successfully, confirming that the requirements of the Council Implementing Decision are satisfactorily fulfilled.

The evidence provided for the sample of 60 units thus confirmed that this requirement of the target was met for 59 units. For one out of the sampled 60 units, the Commission services were not able to fully identify the serial number in the evidence provided and the activation date of the equipment does not match the signature dates of the evidence provided for the purchase, delivery note, acceptance protocol and assets transfer agreement for this unit. A statistical analysis was carried out taking into account the overachievement of the target by 1715 IT equipments for a required 24000 IT equipments. Based on this, there is statistical assurance that the target has been met, and all its constitutive elements have been satisfactorily fulfilled.

Regarding the purchase and delivery of MS Teams licences, the Ministry of Justice provided, as supporting evidence, the contract award notice from the Ministry of Investments, Regional Development and Informatization of the Slovak Republic on the outcome of a central procurement notice of licenses for operating systems, office suite, user access to the server and related services (Annex 2.6). The Commission services accessed the link provided by the authorities on 15 January 2026 to verify the information and details on the results of the procurement procedure. This check was completed successfully, confirming that the result of the procurement was published on 28 May 2021 and explains that the successful contract was awarded among 19 economic operators to the tender offering lowest total price in EUR plus VAT. The contract was signed between the Ministry of Justice and the economic provider on 29 June 2022 for 6 574 licences purchased for the Ministry of Justice, for a maximal duration of 36 months (Annex 2.7). The Commission services accessed the link provided by the authorities on 15 January 2026 to verify the publication of the contract in the Slovak Central Registry. This check was completed successfully, confirming that the contract was published in the Slovak Central Registry on 29 June 2022. As established per the contract,the 6 574 licences were delivered to the Ministry of Justice for a functional period 2022-2024 (Annex 2.8, Annex 2.9, Annex 2.10). Out of the 6574 licences purchased by the Ministry of Justice, 5961 were assigned to staff from national courts (Annex 2.12).

According to the evidence provided, Slovakia delivered 19 754 notebooks, docking stations, monitors and phones delivered to national courts and assigned 5 961 Microsoft licences assigned to staff from national courts completed, thus exceeding the goal of Target 15.8 by 1 715.

In addition, delivery of digital technology for courts for the efficient conduct of hearings and remote proceedings. This shall include:

(i) network servers for central storage of network components and information systems; […]

Regarding the network servers for central storage of network components and information systems, the Ministry of Justice requested the modernisation of the server farm called *HyperVcluster* through two procurement procedures. For the first procurement procedure, the contract (Annex 3.2) was signed between the Ministry of Justice and the economic provider on 27 March 2023, with the objective of delivery of 1 Blade chassis, 12 Blade servers, 1 operating system licence, 1 virtualisation licence vSphere, 1 disk field, 2 FC SAN switches. The Commission services accessed the link provided by the authorities on 15 January 2026 to verify the publication of the contract in the Slovak Central Registry. This check was completed successfully, confirming that the contract was published in the Slovak Central Registry on 17 April 2023. As supporting evidence, the Ministry of Justice provided the contract award notice (Annex 3.1) on the outcome of the procurement procedure with the objective to supply hardware and software for

the HyperVcluster server farm with virtualization. The Commission services accessed the link provided by the authorities on 15 January 2026 to verify the information and details on the results of the procurement procedure. This check was completed successfully, confirming that the result of the procurement was published on 18 April 2023 and that it explains the details of the procurement procedure. The acceptance report (Annex 3.3) regarding the delivery of the above-mentioned equipment identified through name and serial numbers was signed by The Ministry of Justice and the contractor on 12 June 2023.

For the second procurement procedure, the contract (Annex 3.6) was signed between the Ministry of Justice and the economic provider on 12 September 2025 with the objective of delivery of 1 rack cabinet, 2-3 Blade chassis, 8 Blade server type 1 and 16 Blade server type 2, 1 operating system licence, 1 virtualisation licence. As part of the delivery, the Ministry also required the installation of equipment, implementation in a rack cabinet, wiring and initial commissioning. The Commission services accessed the link provided by the authorities on 15 January 2026 to verify the publication of the contract in the Slovak Central Registry. This check was completed successfully, confirming that the contract was published in the Slovak Central Registry on 12 September 2025. As supporting evidence, the Ministry of Justice provided the contract award notice (Annex 3.5) with the objective to deliver server components and operating system licenses with the aim of replacing existing obsolete servers and their accessories with a centralized solution based on clustering and virtualization technology. The Commission services accessed the link provided by the authorities on 15 January 2026 to verify the information and details on the results of the procurement procedure. This check was completed successfully, confirming that the result of the procurement was published on 23 September 2025 and that it explains the details of the procurement procedure.

The acceptance protocol (Annex 3.8) regarding the delivery of the above-mentioned equipment identified through name was signed by The Ministry of Justice and the contractor on 30 October 2025. The acceptance protocol details the delivered equipment, matching the detailed descriptions of the server components and operating system licenses found in the contract (Annex 3.6, pages 14-17).

[…] (ii) network cards to support videoconferencing technology; […]

Regarding the network cards to support videoconferencing technology, the Ministry of Justice requested the purchase and delivery of network cards to ensure videoconferencing and remote hearing. The contract (Annex 3.10) was signed between the Ministry of Justice and the economic provider on 20 April 2022 for the supply of network modules as follows: 4 Nexus 7000 F3-Series 48-Port Fiber 1 and 10G Ethernet Module and 8 Cisco Nexus 7000 M3-Series 48-Port 1/10G Ethernet Module (page 13 of Annex 3.10). The Commission services accessed the link provided by the authorities on 15 January 2026 to verify the publication of the contract in the Slovak Central Registry. This check was completed successfully, confirming that the contract was published in the Slovak Central Registry on 22 April 2022. As supporting evidence, the contract award notice (Annex 3.9) was provided, detailing the outcome of the procurement procedure. The Commission services accessed the link provided by the authorities on 15 January 2026 to verify the publication of the contract award notice. This check was completed successfully, confirming that the contract award notice was published on 25 April 2022. The acceptance protocol (Annex 3.11) regarding the delivery of the above-mentioned equipment identified through name and serial number

was signed by representatives of the Ministry of Justice and the provider on 27 February 2023. The acceptance protocol details the delivered equipment to the Ministry of Justice by the economic operator, matching the detailed descriptions of the server components and operating system licenses found in the contract.

[…] **(iii) network components and resort wifi: Wide Area Network (WAN), Local area Networks (LAN), WiFi infrastructure, Firewalls, Identity and Context Security Management, and Virtual Private Networks (VPN)**; […]

Regarding the network components and resort wifi, which include Wide Area Network (WAN), Local area Networks (LAN), WiFi infrastructure, Firewalls, Identity and Context Security Management, and Virtual Private Networks (VPN), the Ministry of Justice requested the rehabilitation of network components in the justice sector in order to ensure an efficient network infrastructure within the Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic and entities organisationally linked to the Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic, in order to avoid network outages and services provided by the Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic, to increase the speed of network permeability and to prevent security threats.

The contract (Annex 3.13) was signed between the Ministry of Justice and the economic operator on 5 and 25 June 2025 for the supply of 10 aggregation/skeletal switch - type 1, 81 access switch – type 1, 102 access switch – type 2, 44 access switch – type 3, 130 access switch – type 4, 30 starting modules for access switch type 1, 2, 3, 4, 34 compact access switch – type 1, 160 compact access switch – type 2, 50 installation sets up to 19" distributor for compact type 1 access switch, 606 Wireless devices – Wi-Fi access point type 1, 4 routers – Type 1, 4 routers – Type 2, 136 routers – Type 3, 2 Wireless devices – Wi-Fi teller type 1, 2 Firewall – Type 1, 2 Firewall – Type 2, 2 Virtual appliance management for new generation firewalls – type 1, 1 Virtual LAN controller and SDN Type 1, 1 Virtual control system for WAN networks and SDNs – Type 1, 2 Virtual Identity and Contextual Security Management – Type 1, 11000 Identity and context security management – Type 1 licences, 1200 Identity and context security management – Type 2 licences, 1200 User VPN software package – Type 1, 150 SFP RJ45 reimbursable with network facilities offered, 150 Optical gigabit ethernet SFP multimode LC, 150 10G SFP+ multimode LC, 400 Network cable RJ45 CAT5E FTP 1 metre, 300 Network cable RJ45 CAT5E FTP 2 metre, 200 Network cable RJ45 CAT5E FTP 3 metres, 300 Optical cable OM4 LC-LC multimode 2 metres (Annex 3.13, page 14). The Commission services accessed the link provided by the authorities on 15 January 2026 to verify the publication of the contract in the Slovak Central Registry. This check was completed successfully, confirming that the contract was published in the Slovak Central Registry on 26 June 2025. As supporting evidence, the contract award notice (Annex 3.12) was provided, detailing the outcome of the procurement procedure. The Commission services accessed the link provided by the authorities on 15 January 2026 to verify the publication of the contract award notice, confirming that the contract award notice was published on 30 June 2025. Four handover protocols, signed by representatives of the Ministry of Justice and the provider and dated 11 August 2025 – 30 September 2025 (Annex 3.14), detail the delivery of the physical equipment described in the contract (Annex 3.13, page 14), except the network cables and optical cables. A more detailed breakdown on the assignment to the national courts of each of the network components mentioned in the handover protocols was also provided by the Slovak authorities (Annex 3.16). One

handover protocol, signed by representatives of the Ministry of Justice and the provider and dated 30 September 2025, confirms the delivery of licences (Annex 3.19). 73 installation protocols (Annex 3.15) signed by representatives of the national courts and the provider and dated August-October 2025 confirm the delivery and installation of network cables and optical cables mentioned in the contract, as well as the equipment mentioned in the contract to national courts. As supporting evidence, the Slovak authorities also provided a detailed breakdown of the attribution of each network component to the national courts, identified by product code, serial number and reference to the installation protocol (Annex 3.16).

[…] (iv) Videoconferencing technology: a server platform as well as videoconferencing hardware.

For the delivery of videoconferencing technology including a server platform as well as videoconferencing hardware, the Ministry of Justice launched a procurement process for the development and renewal of a videoconferencing solution in the justice sector. The Ministry selected an offer among 3 economic operators (Annex 3.17) and a contract was signed between representatives of the Ministry of Justice and the provider on 16 September 2025 with the objective of construction of a comprehensive autonomous videoconferencing solution, used mainly for the purpose of court hearings (Annex 3.18). The Commission services accessed the link provided by the authorities on 15 January 2026 to verify the publication of the contract award notice. This check was completed successfully, confirming that the contract award notice was published in the Slovak Central Registry on 1 October 2025.

Seven acceptance protocols, signed by representatives of the Ministry of Justice and the provider and dated 25 November 2025 – 23 December 2025 (Annex 3.20), detail the delivery of central component (servers), and of facilities for videoconferencing rooms (mobile rack including Codec support, soundbar with camera and TV, display screen, table-top microphone, control tactile panel, Codec control unit, camera and loudspeaker system, camera document, jack audio cable extension, microphone, HDMI cable 20.3 m, Ethernet cable CAT5E 5m and 8 m, USB-C3.1 cable) according to the contract (Annex 3.18, page 18). 46 installation protocols (Annex 3.21) signed by representatives of the Ministry of Justice and the provider and dated 17 November 2025 – 9 January 2026 and 46 acceptance tests (Annex 3.22 & Annex 3.22a) signed by representatives of the Ministry of Justice and the provider and dated 27 November 2025 – 9 January 2026 confirm the installation and conformity test of the described equipment to national courts.

Furthermore, this is also in line with the description of the measure, which states that **the measure consists of a number of actions, including the procurement of IT tools for court staff and buildings** […] , and the name of the milestone, which states **modernisation of court IT equipment for the court staff**.

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled.

Number and name of the Milestone: SK-C[C16]-I[I2]-M[C16.8] Electronicising residence permit processes to simplify processes for the public

Related Measure: C16.I2 Equipping and digitalising the Police Force – new or upgraded modules of Foreign Residents Registration Information System (IS ECU)

Qualitative Indicator: Delivery of the new or upgraded modules

Time: Q4 2024

1. **Context:**

The objective of the investment is to build the capacities, equip and digitalise the police force to make it more effective.

Milestone 16.8 concerns the delivery of the new or upgraded modules of the Foreign Residents Registration Information System (IS ECU).

Milestone 16.8 follows Milestone 16.4, Target 16.5 and Target 16.6, it is assessed in the same payment request of Target 16.7 on the energy-efficient renovation of police buildings and will be followed by Target 16.9 on the setting in operation of an automated system for detecting road traffic infringements into full operation. The investment has a final expected date for implementation on 30 June 2026.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence.	Short description.
1	Summary document	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled.
2	Annex 1 – Handover protocol for the delivery of products	Handover protocol, signed by the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic and the contractor, DitEC, a.s. on 30 April 2025, confirming that the products and services were delivered without reservation and in full compliance with the contractual requirements.
3	Annex 2 – Conditional acceptance protocol for the delivery of products	Conditional acceptance protocol, signed by the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic and the contractor, DitEC, a.s. on 31 December 2024, listing reservations as regards a number of functionalities, to be delivered in full compliance by deadlines stipulated in the document
4	Annex 3 – Acceptance protocol for the delivery of products	Acceptance protocol, signed by the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic and the contractor, DitEC, a.s. on 30 April 2025, confirming that the products and services were delivered without reservation and in full compliance with the contractual requirements.
5	Annex 4 – User Manual – ECU Portal	User manual for the ECU Portal
6	Annex 5 – Order of Services – ECU Portal	Order of Services, signed by the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic on 20 August

		2024, listing upgrades of functionalities ordered from contractor DITEC, a.s.
7	Annex 6 – List of builds within the ECU Portal	Builds and fixes implemented between August 2024 and September 2025
8	Annex 7 – Status Quo of the ECU Portal	Ministry of Interior presentation regarding the ECU Portal updates, restrictions, number of users, and fixes implemented from 10 October 2025

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by Slovakia's authorities cover all constitutive elements of the target.

New or upgraded modules of the Foreign Residents Information System shall be delivered […]

The Foreign Residents Registration Information System (hereafter FRRIS or ECU Portal) is an existing portal of the Ministry of the Interior used for the registration of persons from abroad who would like to apply for a residence permit in Slovakia.

The new functionalities, including new modules and upgrades of existing modules under the FRRIS, were delivered by a supplier who previously developed the FRRIS system, under a service contract. The functionalities were deployed in the production environment by 31 December 2024, when a partial acceptance protocol was signed by the Ministry of Interior, also pointing out several issues to be remedied by the supplier by 31 January 2025 (Annex 2). The hand-over protocol and acceptance protocol of 30 April 2025 (Annex 1 and Annex 3 respectively) confirm that all modules were delivered without reservations by that time. These modules are listed in the Annex 1 and 5, in particular: 00010 and 00020 (ECU upgrade of accommodation provider registration functionality), 00030 and 00040 (ECU upgrade of the consent of the property owner functionality), 00050 and 00060 (ECU upgrade of the notification functionality), 00070 and 00080 (ECU upgrade of "My zone" functionality), 00090 and 00100 (ECU upgrade of residence registration functionality), 00130 and 00140 (ECU upgrade of residence renewal functionality) and 00150 and 00160 (ECU upgrade of "Documents" functionality). Updated modules were delivered to decrease the administrative burden as well as to optimise the processes for and the communication with the foreigners.

The Commission services conducted an on-the-spot check on 20 June 2025 and on 27 June 2025 to verify that the new functionalities of ECU Portal have been set up in line with the requirements and are operational and used. The Commission services also conducted, on 29 July 2025, a physical on-the-spot check of the service contract and related offer by the supplier for the provision of services for the functionalities as required by the Council Implementing Decision. This check was completed successfully, confirming that the new and upgraded modules of the ECU Portal are fully operational, in active use, and fulfilling the requirements set out in the Council Implementing Decision.

[…] with the following key functionalities: enhanced digital safety features within submission of an application for residence for third country nationals […],

The functionality for the submission of a residence application allows an unauthorised applicant (foreigners without a residence permit) to complete and submit an application for residence and book an appointment with the Foreign Police Department. On the other hand, the authorized users of the system (the persons who are logged in with a valid document or those whose document is 'lost' but still valid) have access to a separate set of appointments in the offices of the Department of Foreign Police that are not available to the public and cannot be booked by unauthorised persons. An extended description of the functionality, including screenshots, can be found in Annex 4 as of page 34 (unauthorised users) and as of page 51 (authorised users).

Enhanced digital safety features implemented within submission of an application process include reCaptcha feature (a tool to verify that the user is not an automatic program), a two-factor authentication and other technological security measures that prevent unauthorised automated programs (scripts) from unlawfully obtaining information on the available deadlines (listed in Annex 6). The Commission services conducted an on-the-spot check on 20 June 2025 and on 27 June 2025 to verify that the new functionalities of the ECU Portal have been set up in line with the requirements, are operational and used. This check was completed successfully, confirming that this functionality has been enriched with a simple Captcha and reCaptcha functionality and an SMS authentication that prevent unauthorised automated programs (scripts) from unlawfully obtaining information on the available deadlines.

[…] renewal of residence[…],

The electronic renewal of an application for residence is a new service for foreign residents, introduced via a new module in the FRRIS portal in line with the Council Implementing Decision requirement. The Commission services conducted an on-the-spot check on 20 June 2025 and on 27 June 2025 to verify that the new functionalities of the ECU Portal have been set up in line with the requirements, are operational and used. This check was completed successfully, confirming that the system pre-fills the application form for the renewal of the residence permit with the data initially provided by the applicant logged in. The user amends and completes the application, attaches annexes, lodges the application and signs it with a qualified electronic signature. The user then receives an electronic request for payment of the relevant fee.

Before the introduction of this module, it was not possible to renew the application for residence without a physical visit at the Foreign Police Department, with payment of the fee on the spot.

Proof of implementation of this new functionality can be found in Annex 1 (page 2, section 1, points 11 and 12 and on page 3, point 6) in Annex 3 (page 2, lines 00130 and 00140), and in Annex 5 (page 1, lines 00130 and 00140). An extended description of the functionality, including screenshots, can be found in the Annex 4 as of page 127. This evidence proves that the functionality "renewal of residence" was delivered and deployed, while the on-the-spot check further verified their operationalisation and use.

[…] registration of residence for European Union residents; […],

The possibility of electronic registration of residence is a new service for European Union residents, introduced via a new module in the FRRIS portal in line with the Council Implementing Decision requirement. The Commission services conducted an on-the-spot check on 20 June 2025 and on 27 June 2025 to verify that the new functionalities of the ECU Portal have been set up in line with the

requirements, are operational and used. This check was completed successfully, confirming that a resident of the European Union can register their residence in Slovakia online, by logging in the system through the eIDAS node (electronic IDentification, Authentication and Trust Services) using their national e-card. The data obtained from the eIDAS node are pre-filled in the system; the person completes the data for the residence registration form, and signs with a qualified electronic signature. The user no longer needs to request a registration appointment and physically visit the Foreign Police Department with paper documentation (and possibly repeat the whole process if the documentation is found incomplete).

Proof of the implementation of this functionality can be found in Annex 1 (page 2, section 1, points 9 and 10 and on page 3, point 5), in Annex 3 (page 2, lines 00090 and 00100), and in Annex 5 (page 1, lines 00090 and 00100). An extended description of the functionality, including screenshots, can be found in the Annex 4 as of page 103. This evidence proves that the functionality "registration for European Union residents" was delivered and deployed, while the on-the-spot check further verified their operationalisation and use.

[…] computerisation of the application for a document […],

The electronic application for the issuance of a document confirming the residence permit is a new service for applicants, introduced via a new module in the FRRIS Portal in line with the Council Implementing Decision requirement. Before its introduction, applications for document issuance could only be submitted in person.

The Commission services conducted an on-the-spot check on 20 June 2025 and on 27 June 2025 to verify that the new functionalities of the ECU Portal have been set up in line with the requirements, are operational and used. This check was completed successfully, confirming that the FRRIS portal now allows persons with a valid authorised stay to submit an application through which a document issuance form is pre-filled, allowing the person to amend and complete the pre-filled data, submit the application and sign it with a qualified electronic signature. The user then receives an electronic request for payment of the relevant fee.

Upon payment, the applicant is instructed to visit the Foreign Police Department for a biometric scan, as the only step in the process that cannot be done online. The applicant then receives the document certifying their residence permit via the postal service.

Proof of implementation of this functionality can be found in Annex 1 (page 2, section 1, points 13 and 14 and page 3, point 7), in Annex 3 (page 2, lines 00150 and 00160), and in Annex 5 (page 1, lines 00150 and 00160). An extended description of the functionality, including screenshots, can be found in the Annex 4 as of page 116. This evidence proves that the functionality "registration for European Union residents" was delivered and deployed, while the on-the-spot check further verified their operationalisation and use.

[...] notification modules and computerisation of communication in the course of the procedure.

Upgraded modules under FRISS allow to send two types of notification to ensure computerisation of communication in the course of the procedure. It concerns notifications sent (1) to the foreigners and (2) to the Foreign Police Department.

1. The notifications for foreigners concern 22 situations (such as expiry of a document, termination of stay, confirmations of receiving a payment or a rejection of an application). The notification module of the FRRIS daily evaluates and sends notifications or automatic messages to the users by means of messages automatically delivered to the electronic mailbox of the Central Public Administration Portal (eDesk), SMS messages and email notifications. The contact email and SMS number will be taken from the last application for a document, residence permit, or eGov card. The notifications are also displayed in the personal zone 'My data'.
2. The notification for the Foreign Police Department concerns the online registration of the application (in the form of a task), and the revocation of the consent of the owner of a property to the residence of the foreigner.

The Commission services conducted an on-the-spot check on 20 June 2025 and on 27 June 2025 to verify that the new functionalities of the ECU Portal have been set up in line with the requirements, are operational and used. This check was completed successfully, confirming that this functionality is operational as described above.

Proof of the implementation of the functionality related to the notification module can be found in Annex 1 (page 2, section 1, points 5 and 6 and on page 2, point 3), in Annex 3, (page 2, lines 00050 and 00060) and in Annex 5 (page 1, lines 00050 and 00060).

Proof of implementation of the functionality related to the automatic sourcing of the contact email and SMS number can be found in Annex 1 (page 2, section 1, points 7 and 8 and on page 3, point 4), in Annex 3 (page 2, lines 00070 and 00080) and in Annex 5 (page 1, lines 00070 and 00080).This evidence proves that the functionality "computerisation of communication" was delivered and deployed, while the on-the-spot check further verified their operationalisation and use.

Furthermore, this is also in line with the description of the measure, which states that **[it] consists of a number of actions, such as [...] the procurement of modernised IT solutions**; and the name of the milestone, which states **electronicising residence permit processes to simplify processes for the public.**

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled.

Number and name of the Target: SK-C[C17]-I[I5]-T[C17.16] Number of organised hackathons

Related Measure: C17.I5 Hackathons

Quantitative Indicator: Number

Baseline: 0

Target: 17

Time: Q3 2025

1. Context:

This investment aims to design digital solutions to address societal challenges.

Target C17.16 concerns the organisation of seventeen hackathons, involving public administration bodies and representatives from various categories, including start-ups, companies, research institutions, and universities. The hackathons aim to find innovative solutions, with winning teams providing their solutions to the public administration. The public administration bodies sign contracts to receive funds for implementing the winning solutions.

Target C17.16 is the only target of this investment. The investment has a final expected date for implementation on 30 September 2025.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence	Short description
1	Summary document	Summary document duly justifying how the target (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled.
2	Annex 1 – List of organised hackathons	Excel spreadsheet indicating for each hackathon the year in which it was organised, its project identifier (unless it was an internal hackathon), the recipient, whether the solution has been implemented, the amount (EUR) allocated to each hackathon and other relevant information.
3	Annex 2 – Attendance sheets of hackathons that took place between 7 October 2022 and 11 October 2025	Signed attendance sheets for each hackathon showing the participation of registered participants (from the state and public administration environment, expert mentors, specialists and partners from various public and private organisations, including universities, research institutions, companies, start-ups).
4	Annex 3 – Internal instruction No. 1/2025 of the Secretary-General of the Service Office on the allocation of financial resources for internal hackathons	The internal instruction of the Secretary General of the Service Office of the Ministry of Investment, Regional Development and Informatization of the Slovak Republic (hereafter referred to as "MIRRI") was signed on 12 November 2025 and takes effect as of 17 November 2025 until 30 September 2026. It allocates funds for the implementation of three internal hackathons, for which the MIRRI SR acts as the implementer and the beneficiary at the same time. The document lists four hackathons, but only three of them received financial support under Investment 5 (the three hackathons are: "Tackling Disinformation", "My Data", and "Smart Selection Procedures").
5	Annex 4 – Licence agreements between MIRRI and winning teams of hackathons	Licence agreements signed between 14 December 2023 and 24 September 2025 between MIRRI and the winning teams, confirming the transfer of rights to use the solution. The annex also contains

		links to sublicence agreements for the use of the solutions between MIRRI and the final beneficiary (for hackathons that were not internal), accompanied by screenshots that demonstrate the electronic signatures on these agreements.
6	Annex 5 – Contracts between MIRRI and beneficiaries of hackathon solutions on the provision of funds for the implementation of the hackathon	Links to contracts signed between 17 August 2023 and 4 March 2025, accompanied by screenshots that demonstrate the electronic signatures on these contracts. The annex also contains a letter from the Ministry of Culture informing about the withdrawal from the implementation of hackathon nr. 6 "Registry of cultural subjects".
7	Annex 6 – Framework agreement No 970/2022 with Campus city s.r.o. on the organisation and implementation of 20 hackathons	The framework agreement was signed on 19 July 2022.
8	Annex 7 – Call documentation related to three calls open to public entities to benefit from hackathons	Links to the websites where the calls for applications 17I05-04-V01, 17I05-04-V02 and 17I05-04-V03 were published.

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Slovak authorities cover all constitutive elements of the target.

17 hackathons shall be organised.

Slovakia organised 18 hackathons. Each hackathon is listed in Annex 1. As evidenced in Annex 6, a framework contract was signed with Campus city s.r.o. for the organisation of all hackathons. In addition, for each organised hackathon, the Slovak authorities provided:

i) link to the website of the hackathon, where the winning solution is described (Annex 1);
ii) link to a press release about the hackathon (Annex 1);
iii) link to the implemented solution, where available (Annex 1); and
iv) signed attendance sheet (Annex 2).

The Commission services accessed the links provided by the authorities on 9 and 12 December 2025 to verify that the hackathons did indeed take place. This check was completed successfully, confirming that 18 hackathons have been organised, hence overachieving the target.

Furthermore, this is also in line with the name of the milestone which states **number of organised hackathons** and the quantitative indicator **17**. **The hackathons shall involve a public administration body and representatives of the following categories: start-ups, other companies, research institutions, universities and their students, or other specialists.**

The Slovak authorities provided an attendance sheet for each hackathon (Annex 2). Each attendance sheet indicates which organisation each participant belongs to (i.e., the name of the public administration body, company, start-up, research institution, university, etc.). These attendance sheets confirm that overall, the hackathons involved public administration bodies and representative of start-ups, other companies, research institutions, universities and their students, or other specialists.

Furthermore, this is also in line with the description of the measure which states that **this measure consists in organising hackathons in collaboration with public administration bodies and involving representatives of the following categories: start-ups, other companies, research institutions, universities and their students, or other specialists.**

Winning teams shall provide their solutions to the public administration.

The Slovak authorities provided licence agreements for the use of the winning solution of each hackathon (Annex 4). In these licence agreements, the winning teams confirm the transfer of the rights to MIRRI, which subsequently grants the respective beneficiary public authority a sublicence authorising it to use and implement the solution in practice. The Slovak authorities also provided links to 15 sublicence agreements (Annex 4). MIRRI is the direct beneficiary of the remaining three hackathons, hence sublicence agreements were not needed for those.

As the 15 sublicence agreements published in the online database of contracts (CRZ) do not bear handwritten signatures, the Slovak authorities also provided screenshots to demonstrate that each contract was signed electronically (Annex 4). These screenshots serve as evidence of the electronic signature, while the sublicence agreements themselves remain available for reference in the online database (CRZ). The Commission services accessed the links provided by the authorities on 11 December 2025 to verify that the sublicences were granted. This check was completed successfully, confirming that winning teams provided their solution to the beneficiary public administration.

Contracts shall be signed with the public administration bodies to provide them with funds for the implementation of the solutions of the hackathons.

The Slovak authorities provided links to 15 contracts with beneficiaries, which provide them with funds for the implementation of the solutions of the hackathons (Annex 5). The remaining three hackathons are to be implemented by MIRRI, hence no contract was signed for those (as detailed below).

As the 15 contracts published in the online database of contracts (CRZ) do not bear handwritten signatures, the Slovak authorities also provided screenshots to demonstrate that each contract was signed electronically (Annex 5). These screenshots serve as evidence of the electronic signature, while the contracts themselves remain available for reference in the online database (CRZ). The Commission services accessed the links provided by the authorities for the 15 contracts on 5 and 8 December 2025 to verify that the contracts were granted. This check was completed successfully, confirming that these contracts provide public administrations with funds for the implementation of the solutions of the hackathons.

Annex 5 also contains a letter from the Ministry of Culture informing about the withdrawal from the implementation phase of hackathon nr. 6 “Registry of cultural subjects”. Following this withdrawal, the eighteenth internal hackathon has been set up.

For those solutions which are to be implemented by MIRRI and where no contracts for the provision of funds could be concluded, the Slovak authorities provided internal instruction No. 1/2025 by means of which the Secretary-General of the Service Office of MIRRI allocates resources for the three internal hackathons (Annex 3). While this constitutes a minimal substantive deviation from the requirement of the Council Implementing Decision, because contracts cannot be signed by MIRRI for their own internal hackathons, this minimal deviation does not change the nature of the measure and does not affect the progress towards achieving the investment that the target represents. On this basis, it is considered that this constitutive element of the target is satisfactorily fulfilled.

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled.

Number and name of the Milestone: SK-C[C19]-R[R1]-M[C19.2] Entry into force of legislative and procedural changes

Related Measure: C19.R1 Promoting sustainable energy

Qualitative Indicator: Provision in the laws indicating the entry into force

Time: Q2 2025

1. Context:

The objective of this reform is to create an environment conducive to rapid and efficient implementation of fossil fuel substitution in Slovakia, through renewable energy and decarbonisation projects.

The milestone 19.2 envisages the entry into force of legislative amendments which streamline procedures for renewable energy projects under the EIA and IPPC Acts by establishing a single process that includes both environmental impact and other assessments, along with a construction permit, creating an integrated permit. For projects which will not be subject to an integrated procedure, the permitting process shall be simplified by updating and interconnecting existing registries and information systems.

Milestone C19.2 is the second milestone of the reform, and it follows the completion of milestone C19.4. It will be followed by milestone C19.6, milestone C19.5, milestone C19.7, target C19.1 and target C19.3, related to the assessment of the trajectories of sustainable use of biomass and supply of biomass, the establishment of a Best Available Technology (BAT) centre, developing and promoting the production of bio-methane and organic fertilisers, technical assistance to accelerate and improve the quality of environmental permitting procedures, and “Passportisation” of geothermal wells. The reform has a final expected date for implementation on 30 June 2026.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence. For legal acts please provide the full legal reference and date of entry into force	Short description
1	Summary document	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone and the reform (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled.
2	Annex 1 – Act No 269/2025 of 23 September 2025 amending Act No 24/2006 on Environmental Impact Assessment and amending Certain Acts and amending and Act No 245/2003 on Act on Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control and Amending Certain Acts.	The Act is published in the Official Journal on 21 October 2025 and entered into force on 11 November 2025.
3	Annex 2 – Act No 259/2025 of 9 September 2025 amending Act 309/2009 on The Promotion of Renewable Energy Sources and High-Efficiency Cogeneration and Amending Certain Acts.	The Act is published in the Official Journal on 7 October 2025 and entered into force on 1 November 2025.
4	Annex 3 – Act No 25/2005 of 5 February 2025 on Construction and Amending Certain Acts.	The Act is published in the Official Journal on 19 February and entered into force on 15 March 2025.
5	Annex 4 – Handover protocol for the support for the operation,	Handover protocol for the delivery of support, maintenance, and development of the KSED, signed by the Slovak Environment Inspectorate

	maintenance, and development of the Comprehensive Information System for Environmental Surveillance (hereinafter referred to as “KSED”).	(hereinafter referred to as “SEI”) and the contractor, in accordance with national legislation, on 13 November 2025.
6	Annex 5 – Invoice for the provision of services for the operational support, maintenance, and development of the KSED.	A copy of the invoice issued by the contractor to the SEI, for providing services including operational support, maintenance, and development of the KSED, signed by both parties on 25 November 2025.
7	Annex 6 – Organisational rules of the SEI	Annex 1 to the Decision of the Director General of the SEI no. VP-2025-36 of 7 November 2025, detailing new organisational rules and competences that have entered into force with the decision.
8	Annex 7 – Organisational structure of the SEI	Annex 2 to the Decision of the Director General of the SEI no. VP-2025-36 of 7 November 2025, detailing the new organisational structure of the SEI which entered into force with the decision.

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Slovakia authorities cover all constitutive elements of the milestone.

Legislative amendments shall streamline procedures for renewable energy projects under the EIA and IPPC Acts by establishing a single process that includes both environmental impact and other assessments, along with a construction permit, creating an integrated permit.

As evidenced by Annex 1, on 23 September 2025, Slovakia adopted amendments to the Act No. 24/2006 Coll. on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA Act) and on the Act No. 39/2013 Coll. on Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control (IPPC).

Article 29a of the amended IPPC law defines an "integrated permit" as a decision that grants the applicant the right to operate a new energy facility. This permit replaces those required for environmental protection, public health, agriculture, and construction planning. Article 39a (2) of the amended EIA Act establishes that the environmental assessment for special operations, which include renewable energy source (RES) projects, shall be conducted through the integrated permitting process. Article 39a(5)(a) requires that the application include a report detailing the significant impacts of the project on its surroundings, along with a building permit request for the project's realization. Consequently, the

applicant must request both a building permit and the integrated EIA permit simultaneously, and they are to be issued together as the integrated permit. The integrated permit also contains the environmental impact assessment opinion as set out under Article 29c(1)(a) of the IPPC law. The issuance of all these elements collectively constitutes the so-called "integrated permit," which authorizes the applicant to proceed with project realization as established under Article 29a(5) of the IPPC law.

Thus, the amendment of the two laws created a legal framework for an integrated permit for the development and construction of new RES projects.

Granting a construction permit shall depend on completing development consent procedures.

Section 37 of the amended EIA Act (Annex 1) mandates that the outcome of the environmental impact assessment process is a final decision, which serves as a binding decision for subsequent permitting procedures. This final statement functions as a prerequisite for the applicant, allowing them to initiate a development consent procedure with the application for a construction permit only after receiving a positive assessment outcome.

Section 38(3) of the amended EIA Act (Annex 1) reinforces the dependency by stipulating that the permitting authority is prohibited from issuing a construction permit without first obtaining either a final statement or a binding decision from the screening process. This requirement applies to any proposed activity that falls under the assessment procedures of the EIA Act. By mandating the completion of these assessments prior to permitting, this section ensures that all environmental risks and impacts are systematically addressed.

Collectively, these legislative sections create a cohesive framework that links the issuance of construction permits to the successful completion of development consent procedures. This integrated approach ensures that all environmental impact assessments and evaluations are carried out.

The legislation shall ensure that there is a clearly stipulated right of the public concerned to appeal against decisions issued under the EIA Act.

The amendment to the EIA Act introduces new Section 30 (Annex 1), which now delineates the process for submitting appeals against decisions arising from the environmental screening procedure. The provision formalises the appeal process by empowering individuals and community groups to challenge decisions that they perceive as potentially harmful to environmental integrity or their communities. This formalization ensures that the public has a pathway to seek redress against the environmental screening decision which precedes the final decision under Section 37 (annex1).

Additionally, the final environmental decision issued under Section 37 of the EIA Act (Annex 1), as an administrative decision, is subject to the full, already established, remedial regime of Act No. 71/1967 Coll. on Administrative Proceedings. Under Section 53 of the Act on Administrative Proceedings, a party affected in its rights is entitled to lodge an appeal against an administrative decision. Section 47 of the same legislation confirms this right by requiring every decision to contain instruction on available

remedies, ensuring that the public is fully informed of their rights and the legal mechanisms available to pursue appeals.

Collectively, these legislative provisions within the EIA Act guarantee that the public concerned has a clearly stipulated right to appeal against all decisions issued under the EIA Act

For projects which will not be subject to an integrated procedure, the permitting process shall be simplified by updating and interconnecting existing registries and information systems.

Slovakia provided evidence (Annexes 5 and 6) of conducting a redevelopment of the Comprehensive Information System for Environmental Surveillance (KSED) in Slovakia. This process integrated existing registries and information systems to enhance the operational efficiency of the Slovak Environmental Inspectorate (SEI).

The redevelopment of the KSED has been undertaken to enhance operational efficiency across all relevant projects. By updating and connecting these systems, the SEI ensures that both projects subject to integrated procedures and those that are not can benefit from a simplification. The electronic services offered through the KSED portal further contribute to this simplification by allowing for easy access and submission of necessary documents and appeals related to environmental permits and regulations. Therefore, the redevelopment of the KSED IT system effectively supports all relevant projects, aligning with the requirements to simplify the permitting process across the board. Evidence, such as Annexes 5 and 6, demonstrates how these changes are being implemented comprehensively to enhance environmental oversight processes and offer simplified procedures for everyone involved.

KSED is available to both individuals and legal entities interested in information pertaining to state-regulated environmental protection, as well as parties subject to regulation or involved in related proceedings. While open data is accessible without logging in, some data requires authentication via a chip-enabled national ID card.

The handover protocol, contained in Annex 4, confirms that extensive efforts have been made by the SEI and their contractor to update, support, and enhance the KSED system, ensuring seamless integration of registries and information systems. Consequently, all relevant projects benefit from this system, fulfilling the requirement to simplify processes effectively.

The implementation of the reform, i.e., the updating of the KSED database, is evidenced by a handover protocol (Annex 4) signed by representatives of the SEI and the contractor. Services provided by the contractor pertain specifically to the development, support, maintenance, and enhancement of KSED, ensuring the integration and optimization of existing registries and information systems to facilitate improved efficiency in environmental oversight processes.

The SEI shall become the authority in charge of the above-mentioned single process. The competence to assess the impacts of the proposed or modified activity and issue an integrated permit shall pass to the SEI.

The newly introduced Section 3(l) of the EIA Act (Annex 1) transfers the competence to assess the environmental impacts of proposed or modified activities directly to the SEI. Thus, the SEI becomes the authority in charge of the unified permitting process, specifically for renewable energy projects.

To this end, a new competence for the individual authorities within the SEI structure shall be introduced, with the regional inspectorates serving as the first-instance authority and the SEI headquarters designated as the second-instance authority for EIA in relation to renewable energy sources.

The SEI adopted new Organisational Rules of the Slovak Environmental Inspectorate as Annex 1 of an internal Decision by the Director General No. VP-2025-36 (Annex 6) on 7 November 2025. This internal regulatory act introduces a new organizational framework of the SEI.

Pursuant to Article 2(1) of Annex 6, the Decision specifies that the SEI is organizationally divided into the central headquarters and regional inspectorates subordinate thereto. As per Article 2(6)(f) and 2(6)(h) of Annex 6, the SEI exercises its competence in the area of integrated permitting procedure as well as environmental impact assessment. To this end, regional environmental inspectorates now include a Department of Environmental Assessment and Permitting - Article 2(4)(g).

Placing this new organisation of the SEI into the existing legal framework, Article 10(5) of Act No. 525/2003 on State Administration in the Field of Environmental Protection provides that environmental inspectorates of the SEI have authority over first-instance proceedings under its competence, whereas the central headquarters of the SEI oversee second-instance proceedings. Therefore, following the new organizational structure, regional inspectorates are vested with the competences of a first-instance authority and are responsible, among other things, for carrying out the environmental screening procedure as well as issuing integrated permits.

Finally, regarding second-instance procedures, the latest legislative reform of the EIA Act (Annex 1) introduced a review mechanism concerning the result of an environmental screening decision. In particular, Article 30(4) of the EIA Act stipulates that the appeal authority in environmental screening procedures is the authority of the immediately higher level of the body that issued the contested decision. Given that the inspectorates are organizationally subordinate to the central headquarters of the SEI, as established in Article 1(1) of Annex 6, this reform designates the headquarters of the SEI as the second-instance authority.

The threshold values in annexes of the EIA Act shall be amended to accelerate the EIA procedures for geothermal and wind energy. Instead of a mandatory EIA assessment, a screening procedure under the EIA Act shall be required for the installation of individual wind turbines between 0.1 and 1 MW inclusive. For geothermal energy, it shall be subjected to a screening procedure under the EIA Act for wells with a depth of more than 300 m (inclusive).

For wind energy, the legislation mandates a transition from mandatory EIA assessments to screening procedures for the installation of individual wind turbines with a capacity between 0.1 and 1MW

(inclusive), as stipulated in Annex 4 of the amended EIA act (Annex 1). The change allows for smaller-scale wind projects to by-pass the complete EIA process and therefore significantly accelerate the necessary procedure under the EIA Act.

Similar principle applies to geothermal energy projects as they, according to the latest legislative reform, benefit from a stipulation in Annex 3 of the amended EIA Act which states that wells with a depth of more than 300 meters (inclusive) are subject to a screening procedure instead of a full environmental assessment. This, just like in the case of wind energy projects, significantly expedites the procedures under the EIA Act as not all projects will have to undergo a full EIA as long as no negative impact on the environment is determined in the screening procedure under 29(17) EIA Act (Annex1)

The amended EIA Act shall introduce new binding, enforceable time limits for all procedures under the EIA Act and create a "partially specialised state administration" for procedures under the EIA Act. For all renewables projects with the exception of hydro energy, a mandatory assessment shall take no longer than 8 months and a screening assessment no longer than 3 months.

The legislation specifies that the scope of the environmental assessment of the investor's application should not exceed 60 days from the submission of information regarding the proposed activity or its change, but no later than six months from the date of receiving the activity evaluation report as per Article 37(2) EIA Act (Annex 1).

Art 29 of the same law introduces a similar timeframe constraints are applied to the screening procedure, with the issuance of a binding statement from the screening not exceeding 60 days, extendable to 90 days in complex situations. Enforceability of these time limits is ensured through a formal control and sanction mechanism set out in Section 64a of the EIA Act. Where statutory deadlines are not met, the applicant or affected municipality may submit a written complaint, following which the control authority may determine maladministration and require the competent authority to remedy the failure without delay. In addition, the supervisory authority is empowered to investigate the delay and impose corrective measures thereby providing an institutional guarantee that the statutory deadlines are effectively enforced.

The Council Implementing Decision required Slovakia to introduce an eight-month deadline for mandatory assessments and a three-month deadline for screening assessments for all renewable energy projects, except for hydro energy. The amended EIA Act however does not exclude hydro energy projects from the expedited three-month deadline for screening assessments and thus covers all relevant renewable energy source projects (Annex 1). Whilst this constitutes a minimal substantive deviation from the requirement of the Council Implementing Decision, the shorter mandatory deadlines for the environmental assessment procedures also for hydro energy projects further supports progress towards achieving the objective of the reform. As of this, this minimal deviation does not change the nature of the measure and does not affect the progress towards achieving the reform that the milestone represents. On this basis, it is considered that this constitutive element of the milestone is satisfactorily fulfilled.

Furthermore, this is also in line with the sub-measure description, which states that **the measure consists in the adoption of legislative changes implementing streamlined procedures for proposed projects or their modifications in the field of renewable energy**, and the name and the qualitative indicator of the milestone, which states respectively **the adoption of legislative changes implementing streamlined procedures for proposed projects or their modifications in the field of renewable energy**, and **provision in the laws indicating the entry into force**".

The milestone is further specified in the Operational Arrangements, which require: **For the purpose of this Operational Arrangement, the values referred to in the description of reform 1 – submeasure 1 shall be considered as minimal targets where the Member State has the possibility to go above such targets provided that it adheres to the established EIA assessment procedures.**

Slovakia has complied with the requirement set out in the measure description of the Annex to the Council Implementing Decision amending Implementing Decision (EU) (ST 10156/21 INIT; ST 10156/21 ADD 1) of 13 July 2021 on the approval of the assessment of the recovery and resilience plan for Slovakia, referring to the threshold values in the description of reform 1 – submeasure 1 (as set out in the Annex to the Council Implementing Decision). In particular, Slovakia legislated a transition from mandatory EIA assessments to screening procedures for the installation of individual wind turbines with a capacity between 0.1 and 1MW (inclusive), as stipulated in Annex 4 of the amended EIA act (Annex 1). Also, the geothermal energy projects benefit from a stipulation in Annex 3 of the amended EIA Act which states that wells with a depth of more than 300 meters (inclusive) are subject to a screening procedure. These values are minimal targets which Slovakia chose not to overshoot.

***

The assessment of the satisfactory compliance of the milestone for the purposes of payments from the Recovery and Resilience Facility does not prejudge the evaluation by the Commission of the transposition of Directive 2014/52 by Slovakia, in particular in the proceedings on the basis of Article 258 TFEU.

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled.

Number and name of the Milestone: SK-C[C19]-R[R1]-M[C19.6] Assessment of the trajectories of sustainable use of biomass and supply of biomass in Slovakia

Related Measure: C19.R1 Promoting sustainable energy – Sub-measure 5 – Preparation of an assessment of the trajectories of sustainable use and supply of biomass in Slovakia for period 2025-2035

Qualitative Indicator: Publication of the assessment

Time: Q2 2025

1. Context:

The objective of sub-measure 5 of Reform 1 is to promote the development of sustainable biomass use for energy purposes and to assess the available sustainable biomass volumes and resources in Slovakia.

Milestone 19.6 consists in the publication of an assessment of the trajectories of sustainable use of biomass in Slovakia and its impacts on the Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) sinks and biodiversity for the period up to 2035.

Milestone 19.6 is the first step in the implementation of the reform, together with target 19.2 on entry into force of legislative amendments, and will be followed by 19.1 on organisational changes to the Slovak Environment Inspectorate, 19.3 on passportisation of geothermal wells, 19.4 on entry into force of legislative amendments, 19.5 on establishment of a technology center and 19.7 on publication of a bioeconomic roadmap. The reform (sub-measure 5) has a final expected date of implementation on 30 June 2025.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence. For legal acts please provide the full legal reference and date of entry into force	Short description
1	Summary document	Cover note describing the satisfactory fulfilment of the milestone.
2	Trajectories of sustainable use and supply of biomass in Slovakia for period of 2025-2035	Copy of the document Trajectories of sustainable use and supply of biomass in Slovakia for period 2025-2035 published on the website of Ministry of Environment on 30 June 2025: Trajektórie udržateľného využívania a dodávok biomasy na Slovensku na obdobie 2025 – 2035

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Slovak authorities cover all constitutive elements of the milestone.

The Ministry of Environment shall publish the assessment of the trajectories of sustainable use of biomass in Slovakia and its impacts on the Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry sinks, biodiversity as well as air quality in Slovakia for the period up to 2035.

The Ministry of Environment published the document Trajectories of sustainable use and supply of biomass in Slovakia for the period 2025-2035 (Annex 2) at the Ministry's website. The document was published on 30 June 2025. The Commission services accessed the link provided by the authorities on 3 December 2025 to verify whether the document was published by the Ministry of Environment. This check

was completed successfully, confirming that that the document Trajectories of sustainable use and supply of biomass in Slovakia for the period 2025-2035 was published by the Ministry of Environment at the Ministry's website.

The document (Annex 2) assessed (i) the trajectories of the use of solid biomass in Slovakia up until 2050 (chapter 3), (ii) the trajectories of sustainable use and supply of biomass up until 2050 (chapter 4.1), (iii) impacts on the Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry sinks until 2050 (chapter 4.2), impacts on biodiversity (chapter 4.3) and impacts on air quality in Slovakia (chapter 4.4).

Furthermore, this is also in line with the description of the measure, which states that t**he sub-measure consists in a publication of an assessment of the trajectories of sustainable use of biomass in Slovakia and its impacts on the Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) sinks and biodiversity for the period up to 2035.**

The impact on air quality shall be assessed to the extent of available data and if relevant, the gaps on data availability shall be identified by the evaluation.

Chapter 4.4 of Annex 2 covers the assessment of the impact of the use of biomass on air quality in Slovakia. According to the Assessment, based on the available data, PM2.5 emissions are estimated to decrease by 31 – 44 % in 2050.

The chapter also includes an assessment of gaps on data availability on the page 59 of Annex 2. According to the assessment, it is difficult to concretely quantify the impact on air quality due to (i) the lack of data on consumption of wood in the households, (ii) lack of data about the number and location of small sources of wood combustion, as only large sources are registered in Slovakia, and (iii) insufficient monitoring stations network.

The assessment shall provide recommendations to guide future biomass investments.

Chapter 5 of Annex 2 covers recommendations to guide future investments and monitoring of wooden biomass. The chapter identified four investment objectives: 1) decreasing the greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution and increasing the removals, 2) increasing the removals, 3) price availability of fuels, and 4) accessible and sustainable energy in regions and improvement of air pollution. For each objective, the Assessment proposes several actions that should be financed.

The assessment shall study the state of protected areas and forest ecosystems, [...]

The state of forest ecosystems and of protected areas is studied in chapter 4.5 of Annex 2. According to the Assessment, the national parks in Slovakia do not respect the international Union for Conservation of Nature standards. Many of the protected areas do not have their plans of protection approved, and where the plans are approved, they are often not implemented in practice. The consolidation of rules in protected areas is slow due to different interests of relevant actors.

[...] the greenhouse gas emissions associated with the cultivation, processing and transportation of the biomass [...]

Chapter 4.6 of Annex 2 addresses the impacts of biomass lifecycle on the greenhouse gas emissions. The Assessment introduces emission values for calculation of greenhouse gas emissions emitted by the

cultivation, processing and transport of the biomass, for three different types of biomass products: wood chips from forest residues, wood chips from the leftovers of the woodworking industry, and wood briquettes or pellets made from by-products of the woodworking industry. The values were set following the rules of Directive (EU) 2018/2001. Based on these emission values, wood pellets are the most emissions-intensive in terms of the greenhouse gas emissions associated with the cultivation, processing and transportation.

[...] and shall include the impact of imports of biomass from other countries.

Chapter 1.2 (page 15) of Annex 2 describes the import and export trade of wood. According to the Assessment, in 2023, Slovakia consumed 6.6 million m^3 of wood, where 20% of which was imported from other countries. The import has significantly decreased in 2023, due to the unstable situation on the wood market. The type of wood imported is mostly 3rd class broadleaved wood.

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactory fulfilled

Number and name of the Milestone: SK-C[C19.11]-R[R2]-M[C19.11] Measures to promote the uptake of hydrogen

Related Measure: C19.R2 Supporting the green transition in renewables

Qualitative Indicator: Entry into force of a set of legislative and other measures

Time: Q2 2025

1. Context:

The objective of this sub-measure is to set out priorities for the development of the primarily renewable national hydrogen ecosystem.

The reform aims to provide enabling conditions for the development of the ecosystem by adopting legislative and technical measures needed for the hydrogen economy. Moreover, it also seeks to ensure a medium and long-term predictable trajectory for the hydrogen ecosystem by requiring the Slovak Government to adopt a strategic document setting out priorities for the development of the national hydrogen ecosystem.

Milestone C19.11 is the second milestone and final of the hydrogen sub-measure of reform 2, and it follows the completion of milestone C19.10. Reform 2, sub-measure 2 has a final expected date for implementation on 30 June 2025.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence. For legal acts please provide the full legal reference and date of entry into force	Short description
1	Summary document	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled.
2	Evidence 1A – Act 251/2012 Energy Law and on amendments and supplements to certain acts	Consolidated text of Act 251/2012 on Energy Law (as amended).
3	Evidence 1B - Act 259/2025 amending and supplementing Act No. 251/2012 Coll. on Energy and on Amendments to Certain Acts, as amended, and amending and supplementing certain Acts	Act 259/2025 amending Act 251/2012 (Energy Law) and Act 309/2009 (Renewable Energy Law), adopted by the National Council on 9 September 2025, with entry into force on 1 November 2025.
4	Evidence 2 – Act 309/2009 on the promotion of renewable energy sources and high-efficiency cogeneration.	Consolidated text of Act 309/2009 on the promotion of renewable energy sources and high-efficiency cogeneration (Renewable Energy Law), applicable as of 1 January 2026.
7	Evidence 3A – Act 24/2006 on environmental impact assessment and on amendments and supplements to certain acts	Consolidated text of Act 24/2006 on environmental impact assessment (EIA Law) and on amendments and supplements to certain acts, applicable as of 13 December 2024.
8	Evidence 3B – Evidence 8 to Act 24/2006 on environmental impact assessment	Annex 8 to the EIA Law, setting out rules for environmental impact assessments for small hydrogen production plants
9	Evidence 3C – Act 350/2024 amending and supplementing Act No. 24/2006 Coll. on environmental impact assessment and on amendments to certain acts, as amended by later regulations, and on amendments to certain acts	Act 350/2024 amending the 2006 EIA Law, adopted by the National Council on 4 December 2024, with entry into force on 14 December 2024.
10	Evidence 4 List of technical norms	List of norms relevant to hydrogen adopted between February 2022 and November 2025, adopted by the Slovak Office of Standards, Metrology and Testing.
11	Evidence 5 – Slovak Government's Strategic document*: Development of the hydrogen ecosystem in Slovakia*	The strategic document adopted on 5 November 2025, which sets out medium-term and long-term production scenarios for clean hydrogen economy in Slovakia.

	along with medium-term and long-term production scenarios until 2050."	
12	Evidence 6 -Resolution of the Slovak Government Nr.544/2025 adopted on 5 November 2025.	Resolution of the Slovak Government adopting the strategic document titled *"Development of the hydrogen ecosystem in Slovakia along with medium-term and long-term production scenarios until 2050."*
13	Evidence 7 – Document on transposition of EU law	Document, prepared by the Ministry of Economy, providing a simplified guide to transposition of EU laws relevant to hydrogen into Slovak legislative framework.

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Slovak authorities cover all constitutive elements of the milestone.

As part of the enabling conditions of the Hydrogen Action Plan, the Slovak authorities shall adopt legislative measures and technical measures [...]. The legislative measures shall be adopted by the National Council of the Slovak Republic and shall enter into force by no later than 31 December 2025.

The Hydrogen Action Plan was adopted and presented for the assessment by the European Commission as part of the Fifth Payment Request (milestone C19.10). As part of milestone C19.10, a list of legislative measures and technical measures linked to the Slovak hydrogen economy also and positively assessed.

In order to enabling condition of the Hydrogen Action Plan, the National Council of the Slovak Republic adopted two laws submitted for the assessment of the present milestone. First, as per Evidence 1B, Act 259/2025 was adopted by the National Council on 9 September 2025. This act amends Act 251/2012 (Energy Law, see Evidence 1A) and Act 309/2009 (Renewable Energy Law, see Evidence 2). Second, as per Evidence 3C, Act 350/2024 was adopted by the National Council on 4 December 2024. This 2024 Act was adopted to amend the 2006 EIA Act (Evidence 3A).

Regarding entry into force of legislative measures, all legislative measures have entered into force. As to Evidence 1B, Article 8 of Act 259/2025 broadly sets entry into force of the amending law to 1 November 2025. Although this provision also provides for different dates of entry into force, the provisions relevant to the hydrogen economy, and thus to the fulfilment of this milestone, entered into force on 1 November 2025. As to Evidence 3C, Article 6 of Act 350/2024 sets entry into force at the date of publication on 14 December 2024. Therefore, both amending Acts entered into force before 31 December 2025.

As to the technical measures (technical norms) contained in Evidence 4, Slovakia adopted 99 technical norms between 1 February 2022 and 2025, which were adopted by the Slovak Office of Standards, Metrology and Testing, with immediate entry into force as of date of publication. Some of these will be discussed in the sections below. These were submitted to the Commission as a list of technical measures

(Evidence 4), including the numbering of the norms, name of the norm, the issue tackled by the norm in question, date of adoption and date of entry into force, and corresponding weblinks.

The measures were adopted as part of enabling conditions of the Hydrogen Action Plan adopted under milestone C19.10, namely element 3 of the Action Plan titled "Creation and modification of legislation, regulatory environment, technical and safety standards for hydrogen technologies". This element required Slovak authorities to prepare and adopt legislative proposals relevant legislation for the application of hydrogen technologies in the Slovak Republic, and adopt European technical norms into the Slovak system of standards.

[…] legislative measures and technical measures for the production of renewable hydrogen, hydrogen storage standards, and for industrial and energy use and for various transport modes [...].

The rules introduced by Act 350/2024 to the 2006 EIA Act ease the permitting for the deployment of smaller electrolysers (electrolysers are key devices to produce hydrogen). Thanks to Article 1(100) of Act 350/2024, a new version of Annex 8 is introduced in the 2006 EIA Act. Annex 8 now provides eased permitting rules for smaller electrolyser deployment, namely by introducing point 9(15) that sets a minimum threshold for requiring a full EIA assessment for electrolysers producing 50 tonnes of hydrogen per day or above. All electrolyser projects below that threshold would simply be required to undergo an EIA screening procedure, which is much less burdensome and much more timesaving than a full EIA assessment. On technical norms, Slovak authorities adopted STN EN 17124/ - 2022.06 (adopted on 1 June 2022, entry into force on the same day) which provides for quality of produced hydrogen, namely that is supplied to hydrogen stations.

On hydrogen storage standards, this issue is tackled solely through technical norms. As is evidenced by Evidence 4, a considerable number of norms was adopted under this category, for example norms for transporting gases including hydrogen gases. For instance, STN EN 17339/ - 2025.02 (adopted 1 February 2025, entry into force the same date), specifies minimum requirements for the materials, design, construction, prototype testing and routine manufacturing inspections of composite gas cylinders and tubes for compressed hydrogen.

For industrial applications, the target set for renewable fuels of non-biological origin (RFNBOs -renewable hydrogen and hydrogen-derived fuels) in industry is a crucial element to support the deployment of RFNBOs, as they create a strong incentive for industrial applications reliant on using hydrogen (e.g. ammonia and other chemicals) to switch from fossil hydrogen to RFNBOs (see a dedicated milestone requirement below). On technical norms for industry applications, the Slovak authorities adopted norms for industrial piping to allow for use of hydrogen in them (e.g. STN EN 13480-1/ - 2024.10, adopted 1 October 2024, entering into force on the same day), rules for large industrial boilers using also hydrogen (e.g., STN EN 12953-6/ - 2025.05 adopted 1 May 2025, entry into force the same day), and leak detection norms (e.g., STN EN 13160-2+A1/ - 2025.02 adopted 1 February 2025, entry into force the same day).

As to energy use, Article 1 of Act 259/2025 (Evidence 1B) introduces several key amendments to the 2012 Energy Law (Evidence 1A) that supports the use of hydrogen as an energy carrier. For instance, the 2012 Energy Law now recognises hydrogen as a type of energy economy (Articles 1), key definitions for hydrogen energy economy (Article 2(d) -3(d)), rules for setting up hydrogen undertakings and licensing

hydrogen undertakings (Articles 6-7), rules on hydrogen transmission and distribution (Article 15(17)) and technical conditions for access of hydrogen networks (Article 19(2)). For the technical norms in this field, the Slovak authorities adopted technical norms for the injection of hydrogen into the gas networks (e.g. hydrogen/natural gas mixtures), but also for dedicated hydrogen networks. For instance, STN EN 17928-1/ - 2024.12 and STN EN 17928-3/ - 2024.12 (adopted 1 December 2024, entry into force on the same day) provide both for general rules for gas injection into the networks and for dedicated hydrogen networks.

Turning to measures relevant for various transport modes, the revised Article 14a in the Renewable Energy Law (introduced by Article 4(28-45) of the Act 259/2025 updates the rules for introducing renewable energy content in transport applications. Of these updates, the updated rules now set targets for renewable fuels of non-biological origin (RFNBOs, or renewable hydrogen and hydrogen-derived fuels) in transport (see section a dedicated milestone requirement below), as well as provide multiplier factors that support it over other forms of sustainable fuels. For instance, under Article 14a(9d), RFNBOs are double counted for transport applications, while paragraph 9h provides 1.5X multipliers for RFNBOs supplied for aviation and maritime applications. As to the technical norms in this field, the Slovak authorities adopted a number of norms relevant for hydrogen refuelling. For instance, norm STN ISO 19880-1/ - 2024.05 (adopted on 1 May 2024, entering into force on the same day) provides for general rules on the construction, installation and operation of hydrogen refuelling stations, meanwhile norms STN ISO 19880-3/ - 2025.10 and STN ISO 19880-5/ - 2025.10 (both adopted 1 October 2025, both entered into force on the same day) provide technical norms for safety performance of gas valves at hydrogen refuelling stations.

Furthermore, this is also in line with the description of the measure, which states [...] **entry into force of a set of legislative and other measures**.

In particular, Slovakia shall amend its legislative framework to set targets for renewable fuels of non-biological origin.

The setting of targets for renewable fuels of non-biological origin (renewable hydrogen and hydrogen-derived fuels) is crucial in the Slovak legislative framework, as it gives clarity to the producers of hydrogen and offtakers, while also being required under EU law (for example, as part of Directive (EU) 2018/2001 Renewable Energy Directive).

As evidenced by Evidence 2A, Article 14 of Act 309/2009 (Renewable Energy Law) was amended through Article 4(27) of Act 259/2025 (Evidence 1B). Notably, this Article provides for a new paragraph 13, which sets targets for renewable fuels on non-biological origin in industrial use. Namely, the share of renewable fuels of non-biological origin in hydrogen used for final energy and non-energy purposes in industry are set at at least 42 % by 2030 and at least 60 % by 2035.

Meanwhile, Act 259/2025 through Article 4(43) also added a new paragraph 10 into Article 14a of Renewable Energy Law, which sets a minimum target for supply of renewable fuels on non-biological origin (RFNBOs) in transport use at 0.5%. When combined with Article 14a (9)(d) of Renewable Energy Law (also introduced through Act 259/2025 via Article 4(43)), which double counts the use of RFNBOs, it means that the actual targets set amounts to 1% of energy use having to be supplied through RFNBOs.

The list of measures shall be based on the list of legislative measures, and technical norms accompanied in the Hydrogen Action Plan.

As part of the previous milestone C19.10 assessing the Hydrogen Action Plan, the Slovak authorities submitted a list of legislative measures, and technical norms accompanied in the Hydrogen Action Plan.

The list of measures, namely the submitted legislative measures under Evidence 1B, Evidence 3B, and Evidence 3C is identical to those proposed measures under the list assessed as part of milestone C19.10, which specified that revisions of the Slovak Renewable Energy Law, the Slovak Energy Law, and a revision to the Slovak EIA Law would be part of measures to be submitted under milestone C19.11.

When it comes to the technical measures, Evidence 4 shows an expanded list of adopted technical norms, numbering at 99 different technical norms which have been adopted, have come into force and all have a direct or indirect relationship with the hydrogen economy, whereas the original list from the previous milestone only included 5 technical measures. As is evidenced by Evidence 4, the document notes one difference between the list of originally envisaged technical norms submitted under C19.10 and the full list adopted and submitted for milestone C19.11, namely that ISO 19880-8: 2024 was not adopted as it had duplicity with norm STN EN 17124: 2022. This is acceptable, as the current milestone's requirement does not require identical measures to have been adopted, rather that the list is based on the previous list of measures submitted under C19.10.

The Slovak Government shall adopt a strategic document of hydrogen ecosystem of Slovakia.

As is evidenced by Evidence 6, the Slovak Government adopted a resolution adopting a strategic document on hydrogen economy on 5 November 2025. The document, entitled "Development of the hydrogen ecosystem in Slovakia along with medium-term and long-term production scenarios until 2050", was submitted as Evidence 5.

The strategic document provides a comprehensive assessment of the expected development of the hydrogen ecosystem, assessing both economic and regulatory elements and barriers. Furthermore, this strategic document provides for a deeper medium term and long-term production trajectory, and import and exports analysis.

The strategic document shall set out priorities for the development of the national hydrogen ecosystem [...]

Turning to the priorities for the development of the national hydrogen economy, the strategic document provides for detailed priorities for the development of this ecosystem in Slovakia. The main priorities are set out across pages 153 to 155 (Evidence 5), split into policy and economic priorities.

For policy priorities, the strategic document sets out both domestic and external priorities. For instance, the document states that domestic policies should enable the build-up of domestic hydrogen production, a reduction in dependence on fossil fuel imports, and creating favourable conditions for investors in the field of manufacturing equipment and components for the hydrogen economy. As to foreign policy

priorities, the document proposes that Slovakia should create hydrogen import channels to the country, supporting the building of hydrogen production clusters in third countries and supporting the import of clean energy vectors for hydrogen.

On economic development priorities, the document identifies three development phases with their own sets of priorities. Phase 1 and 2 (2026-2029) focus on setting out a comprehensive legislative and regulatory framework for the support of hydrogen technologies, establishing a dedicated national project to create hydrogen know-how, coordinate hydrogen developments and set out a communication strategy led by the Ministry of Economy, define and ensure the implementation of support measures of various types in the form of specific project schemes, support projects by providing national co-financing for hydrogen production and hydrogen use. For Phase 3 and 4 (2030 to 2039), the document states that Slovakia should realise comprehensive decarbonisation of the chemical industry and steel industry, implement a scheme for the widespread deployment of zero-emission hydrogen buses and trains based on the suitability of deployment, create conditions for cutting aviation emissions, deploy hydrogen trains where electrification is ineffective or cost-prohibitive, and lastly to support large and complex hydrogen projects. Lastly, the last phase 2040 to 2050 focuses on stabilising the development of the hydrogen ecosystem to achieve the transition to the net-zero emission economy.

[...] and [set out] 2050 renewable hydrogen targets based on production balance scenarios, hydrogen consumption and hydrogen import and export balances within the European hydrogen transmission network.

Unlike the 2030 targets discussed above, the strategy document does not set targets for renewable hydrogen (RFNBOs) to 2050, rather the document presents projections towards 2050 based on production scenarios. These are divided based on segments of economy, based on three modelling assumptions: WAM (with additional measures, base model), WEM (with existing measure; pessimistic/status quo model), and the near-zero emission (NZE - ambitious) models.

A summary of projections for all three balance renewable scenarios, including renewable hydrogen production, consumption, and hydrogen import /export balances is provided in table 39 on page 144 of the strategic document (Evidence 5). More detailed balances per segment of the various types of industry (e.g. steel, chemicals, ammonia) and various modes of transport, are detailed across various dedicated chapters.

The issue of imports and exports is considered throughout the document, as the document notes that there will be low expected availability due to high levelized costs of hydrogen (LCOH) envisaged in Slovakia. This means that under the WAM and NZE models up to 80 percent of renewable hydrogen will have to be imported through the European hydrogen transmission network. The details of the connection to the emerging European hydrogen backbone are detailed in chapter 10 (pages 125-137), which expects Slovakia to be a major importer of hydrogen but simultaneously also a transit country for hydrogen importers into Europe.

The Council Implementing Decision required that the strategic document sets out 2050 renewable hydrogen targets based on production balance scenarios, hydrogen consumption and hydrogen import

and export balances within the European hydrogen transmission network. The strategic document instead provides detailed projections for use of production balance scenarios renewable hydrogen targets based on production balance scenarios, hydrogen consumption and hydrogen import and export balances within the European hydrogen transmission network. Whilst this constitutes a minimal substantive deviation from the requirement of the Council Implementing Decision, setting detailed 2050 targets in a nascent industry like clean hydrogen production is unrealistic due to the myriad unknown economic, technological, and geopolitical factors that can occur in the development of the industry both internationally and nationally. Therefore, providing concrete projections for various segments of the hydrogen economy in Slovakia for the year 2050 based on economic modelling is a more viable solution for this strategic document, without affecting the achievement of the policy objectives of the reform. On this basis, it is considered that this constitutive element of the milestone is satisfactorily fulfilled.

Furthermore, this is also in line with the description of the measure which states that, **this sub-measure consists of the adoption […] a strategic document on the Slovak hydrogen ecosystem [...].**

The assessment of the satisfactory compliance of the milestone for the purposes of payments from the Recovery and Resilience Facility does not prejudge the evaluation by the Commission of the transposition of Directive (EU) 2018/2001 and Directive (EU) 2024/1788 by Slovakia, in particular in the proceedings on the basis of Article 258 TFEU.

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Preliminary Assessment – M/T specific section:

Non-repayable support

Number and name of the Milestone: SK-C[C19]-R[R4]-M[C19.18] Strategy for the management of central government buildings

Related Measure: C19.R4 Management of central government buildings

Qualitative Indicator: Adoption of the strategy by the Government

Time: Q2 2025

1. Context:

The objective of this measure is to create the framework for an efficient management of central government buildings.

Milestone 19.18 consists in creating a strategy for the management of central government buildings, for increased energy efficiency, more efficient use of building space and strategic and prioritised planning of building renovations and construction.

Milestone C19.18 is the first step of the implementation of the reform. It will be followed by milestone C19.19, related to the establishment of a central coordinating body for the administrative buildings of the central government. The reform has a final expected date for implementation on 30 June 2025.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence. For legal acts please provide the full legal reference and date of entry into force	Short description
1	Summary document	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled.
2	Annex 1.1 - Strategy for the Management of Central Government Buildings	Strategy for the management of central government buildings dated June 2025 and published on the Open Government Portal on 15 August 2025 by the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic.
3	Annex 1.1.1 - List of abbreviations and definition of terms	Annex to the Strategy for the Management of Central Government Buildings providing definitions to all the abbreviations used in the strategy. This annex was published on the Open Government Portal on 15 August 2025 by the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic.
4	Annex 1.1.2 - Report on the background and state of play of the management of the central government's buildings	Annex to the Strategy for the Management of Central Government Buildings laying out the applicable legislative framework for the management of central government buildings, the current management system, the technical condition of the buildings, the existing asset management and information systems, and the barriers to reducing energy intensity in this area. This annex was published on the Open Government Portal on 15 August 2025 by the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic.
5	Annex 1.1.3 - Report on the key limitations and barriers of the current central government's building management system	Annex to the Strategy for the Management of Central Government Buildings laying out the key limitations and barriers to the current management system of the central government's buildings and trends from abroad in government buildings management. This annex was published on the Open Government Portal on 15 August 2025 by the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic.

6	Annex 1.2 - Study to map systems and tools to support the renovation of state buildings	Study mapping existing support schemes and financial instruments for the renovation of central government buildings. This document was published on 28 March 2025 on the website of the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic.
7	Annex 1.3 - Analysis of the Technical Condition, Spatial and Capacity Use of Administrative Buildings of Central State Administration Bodies	Analysis of the technical condition and the spatial and capacity utilization of the buildings of the central government. This document is dated 30 May 2025 and is published on the website of the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic.
8	Annex 1.4 - Energy Efficiency and Carbon Neutrality - Background and Proposals for Measures in the Field of Government Building Management	Study laying out Slovakia's commitments on environmental sustainability, the steps taken towards these commitments, the role of each institution regarding energy efficiency, the energy performance of central government buildings, the economic benefits of energy efficiency, and proposals for action. This document is dated April 2025 and is published on the website of the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic.
9	Annex 1.5 - Analysis of the current state of state real estate management	Study of the different building management systems and analysis of Slovakia's system. This document is dated April 2025 and is published on the website of the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic.
10	Annex 1.6 - Legal Opinion on the Analysis of the Applicable Legislation in the Field of State Property Management and the Proposal for the Legal Status of the Future Central Administrator of State Property, including the Specification of Necessary Legislative Changes	Analysis of the applicable legislation in the field of central government building management and proposal for the legal framework of a centralized central government building management system, including required legislative amendments. This document is dated May 2025 and is published on the website of the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic.
11	Annex 2 – Government resolution No. 388/2025 of 20 August 2025	Government resolution No. 388/2025 of 20 August 2025 on the Strategy for the Management of Central Government Buildings. This government resolution was published on the Open Government Portal on 28 August 2025 by the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic.

12	Annex 3 – List of documents available online	Document providing the links to the websites where annexes 1.1, 1.1.1, 1.1.2, 1.1.3, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 1.6 and 2 are published.

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Slovak authorities cover all constitutive elements of the milestone.

The strategy for the management of central government buildings shall define the tools and processes for i) the management of the central government's building stock [...]

The strategy, published on the Open Government Portal (Annex 3), defines seven procedural measures and tools for the management of central government buildings (Annex 1.1):

- Action 1.1 consists of establishing a central coordinating body which will be responsible for developing rules and standards for building management and ensuring that these are being complied with.
- Action 1.2 consists of introducing the role of "central building managers" which will be responsible for the day-to-day operations, maintenance, and management of the buildings in their portfolio.
- Action 1.3 consists of drawing up a list of buildings suitable for central management services.
- Action 1.4 consists of formulating binding procedures and methodologies, such as policies and guidelines, for building management and investment planning.
- Action 2.2 consists of implementing processes for the collection and updating of data on government buildings to enable their efficient management.
- Action 2.3 consists of designing and deploying analytical tools for the analysis of the portfolio of government buildings to enable data-driven decisions to acquire, reconstruct or dispose of some buildings.
- Action 4.1 consists of establishing a system of centralised procurement of energy, maintenance, and technical services for government buildings, aiming to reduce operating costs and increase the transparency of public procurement.

Furthermore this is also in line with the description of the measure which states that **this measure consists in creating a strategy for the management of central government buildings and a central coordinating body for administrative buildings of the central government, for [...] strategic and prioritised planning of building renovations and construction** and the name of the milestone which states **strategy for the management of central government buildings.**

[...] and the increase of its utilisation rate; [...]

The strategy defines nine procedural measures and tools to increase the utilisation rate of central government buildings (Annex 1.1):

- Action 1.1 consists of the establishment of a central coordinating body which will be responsible for developing rules and standards for building management which will help optimise the utilisation of building space.
- Action 1.2 consists of introducing the role of "central building managers" which, by managing the day-to-day operations of the buildings, will be responsible for identifying opportunities to increase their utilisation rate.

- Action 1.4 consists of formulating policies and guidelines for building management that will help to increase the utilisation rate of government buildings by reducing vacant areas and encouraging the sharing of facilities.
- Action 2.1 consists of analysing the need for and putting in place a digital platform that will enable the government to better manage its portfolio of buildings through data-driven decision making.
- Action 2.2 consists of establishing processes for collecting and updating data on government buildings, which will enable more informed decisions about how to increase the utilisation rate of its buildings.
- Action 2.3 consists of designing and implementing analytical tools that will enable the government to analyse the utilisation rate of its buildings.
- Action 3.4 consists of developing a systematic investment plan for the renovation of government buildings which prioritises upgrades that enhance functionality, quality, and appeal to increase occupancy and utilisation rates.
- Action 5.1 consists of re-designing office spaces in a way that makes the use of space more efficient, thereby reducing vacant areas.
- Action 5.2 consists of introducing a hybrid flexible model of work which will increase the adoption of teleworking and shared workspaces and thereby reduce the amount of office space needed.

Furthermore this is also in line with the description of the measure which states that **this measure consists in creating a strategy for the management of central government buildings and a central coordinating body for administrative buildings of the central government, for [...] more efficient use of building space and strategic and prioritised planning of building renovations and construction.**

[...] ii) increasing energy efficiency, pursuing energy savings [...]

The strategy defines two procedural measures to increase energy efficiency and pursue energy savings (Annex 1.1):

- Action 3.1 consists of renovating at least 30% of the most energy-inefficient government buildings, which will help to increase energy efficiency and achieve energy savings.
- Action 3.3 consists of the implementation of smart metering and energy management systems that will enable the government to monitor and manage energy consumption in real-time and identify opportunities for energy savings.

Furthermore, this is also in line with the description of the measure which states that **this measure consists in creating a strategy for the management of central government buildings and a central coordinating body for administrative buildings of the central government, for increased energy efficiency [...] and strategic and prioritised planning of building renovations and construction.**

[...] and increasing the use of renewable energy and environmentally friendly solutions, [...]

The strategy defines two procedural measures to increase the use of renewable energy and environmentally friendly solutions (Annex 1.1):

- Action 3.1 consists of renovating at least 30% of the most energy-inefficient government buildings, which will include the deployment of renewable energy and environmentally friendly solutions, such as blue-green infrastructure elements and intelligent lighting systems.
- Action 3.2 consists of deploying renewable energy sources in government buildings.

Furthermore, this is also in line with the description of the measure which states that **this measure consists in creating a strategy for the management of central government buildings and a central coordinating body for administrative buildings of the central government, for [...] strategic and prioritised planning of building renovations and construction.**

[...] and iii) lowering the overall cost of building use.

The strategy defines three procedural measures to lower the overall cost of building use (Annex 1.1):

- Action 4.1 consists of introducing a system of centralised procurement of energy, maintenance, and other building services, which will help achieve economies of scale and reduce administrative burdens.
- Action 4.2 consists of making use of hybrid financing models such as public-private partnerships and guaranteed energy services, to help reduce the burden on the national budget, thereby accelerating the pace of renovation and construction of the necessary capacities.
- Action 5.1 consists of re-designing office spaces in a way that improves space utilisation and decreases the existence of underutilised spaces, thereby minimising operating costs.

The strategy shall include an overview of the current regulatory, financial and operational frameworks for state buildings [...]

In the preparation of the strategy, analytical material was developed as a basis for the development of the strategy, which includes an overview of the current regulatory, financial and operational frameworks for government buildings (Annex 1.2, 1.5, and 1.6).

Regarding the regulatory framework, chapter 3.1 of Annex 1.5 lays out the legislative framework for the management of government property, including the legislative acts regulating the management of assets owned by the Slovak Republic, the powers and responsibilities of asset managers, and the rules and procedures for public procurement, financial management, construction, and energy efficiency. Furthermore, chapters 2 and 3 of Annex 1.6 lay out the legislative framework and processes for the management of government buildings, identify legislative constraints and barriers to effective management, and examine the state aid rules for the management of state property.

Regarding the financial framework, chapters 3.2.3, 5.4, and 6.3 of Annex 1.5 lay out the current financial framework for government building management while proposing recommendations covering aspects such as budgeting, funding sources, expenditure monitoring, and cost optimisation. Furthermore, chapter 2 of Annex 1.2 lays out the existing support schemes and financial instruments to support the renovation of government buildings.

Regarding the operational framework, chapter 4 of Annex 1.5 lays out the procedures for the management of central government buildings, including the recording of immovable property, building maintenance, investments in immovable property, and the disposal of property.

The Council Implementing Decision required the strategy to include an overview of the current regulatory, financial and operational frameworks for state buildings. Instead of including this overview in the strategy, the Slovak authorities conducted different studies which provide an overview of the current regulatory (Annex 1.5 and 1.6), financial (Annex 1.2 and 1.5) and operational (Annex 1.5) framework, to serve as a basis for the development of the strategy. These studies were published on the Open Government Portal on the same day as the strategy (Annex 3). Whilst this constitutes a minimal substantive deviation from the requirement of the Council Implementing Decision, it follows a certain logic that the strategy was

published in a separate document from the studies that were conducted to provide input for its development. As of this, this minimal deviation does not change the nature of the measure and does not affect the progress towards achieving the reform that the milestone represents. On this basis, it is considered that this constitutive element of the milestone is satisfactorily fulfilled.

[...] and shall be adopted by the government.

The strategy was adopted by the government by means of Government Resolution No. 388/2025 of 20 August 2025 (Annex 2) which is published on the Open Government Portal (Annex 3).

Furthermore, this is also in line with the qualitative indicator **Adoption of the strategy by the Government**.

The strategy shall also include a study mapping renovation support schemes and instruments together with proposals to optimise them and recommendations for deep renovation and energy management practices.

As an annex to the strategy, the Slovak authorities published a study mapping existing building renovation support schemes and financial instruments, proposals to improve these, and recommendations for deep renovation and energy management practices (Annex 1.2). More specifically, chapter 2 lays out the characteristics of different renovation support schemes and instruments, describes the principles of state aid schemes and alternative instruments such as public-private partnerships and energy performance agreements, and provides recommendations to improve these. Chapter 2 also lists and describes different deep renovation and energy management practices aimed at improving the energy efficiency and overall sustainability of buildings, such as thermal insulation, smart energy metering systems, and equithermic regulation. Finally, chapter 3 lays out a systematic approach to support the renovation of government buildings.

The Council Implementing Decision required the strategy to include a study mapping renovation support schemes and instruments together with proposals to optimise them. Instead of including this study in the strategy, the Slovak authorities published this as an annex to the strategy (Annex 1.2 and 3). Whilst this constitutes a minimal substantive deviation from the requirement of the Council Implementing Decision, it follows a certain logic that the strategy was published in a separate document from the study conducted to provide input for its development. In addition, the renovation and energy management practices recommended in chapter 2 of the annex form an integral part of Action 3.1: “Deep renovation of energy-efficient buildings” and Action 3.3: “Development of energy management and digitalisation of consumption” of the strategy (Annex 1.1). As of this, this minimal deviation does not change the nature of the measure and does not affect the progress towards achieving the reform that the milestone represents. On this basis, it is considered that this constitutive element of the milestone is satisfactorily fulfilled.

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled