

Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra  
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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CAP IN PREVIOUS PERIOD  
AND THE READINESS IN THE FUTURE PERIOD 2023-27  
IN SLOVENIA



**Strateški načrt  
skupne kmetijske politike  
2023–2027 za Slovenijo**

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Nitra, 15 June 2022.

## Structure of presentation

1. Preparation and adoption of the Slovenian CAP strategic plan for MFF 2023-2027
2. Overall description of the Slovenian CAP strategic plan 2023-2027  
(objectives, needs and proposed interventions with some observations from the European Commission)
  - 2.1. Economic component
  - 2.2 Green (environmental-climate) component
  - 2.3 Social component
3. Main points from Slovenia's official reply to observations from the European Commission

## PREPARATION OF THE SLOVENIAN CAP STRATEGIC PLAN

Already in 2018, 5 working groups were set up to prepare the CAP 2023-2027 Strategic Plan for five defined areas:

- ❑ Smart, resilient and competitive agriculture (covers specific objectives SC1, SC2, SC3),
- ❑ Environmental protection and climate change (covers specific objectives of SC4, SC5, SC6),
- ❑ Rural development (covers specific objectives SC7, SC8, SC9),
- ❑ Special Working Group on Active Farmer and
- ❑ Horizontal Working Group for the entire CAP Strategic Plan 2023-2027.

More than 200 different public consultations, meetings, presentations and other events ) has taken place dealing with this topic.

Various advisory bodies of the Minister of Agriculture, for example, the Agriculture and Rural Council, the Areas with Natural Constraints Council, the Livestock Council, etc. were involved. More than 30 meetings with individual agricultural sectors were held.

## PREPARATION OF THE SLOVENIAN CAP STRATEGIC PLAN

Two public debates were organized.

The first public debate from 1 November 2020 until 2 December 2020 was dedicated to situation analysis, SWOT analysis and the needs.

In the second public debate, which took place from 2 July 2021 to 15 August 2021, proposals were published on individual contents of the strategic plan, namely a summary of the situation analysis identified needs, interventions, financial cut-offs, unit amounts and impact indicators. In this time 9 public consultations on the regional level were organized.

On 23 December 2021, the proposal of strategic plan was confirmed by the government and submitted to the European Commission.

On 28 April 2022, the European Commission's observations to the strategic plan and the Slovenian official reply were published.

# THREE GENERAL, NINE SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES AND ONE HORIZONTAL OBJECTIVE

## GENERAL OBJECTIVES OF THE CAP (Art. 5 of Reg. 2021/2115/EU)

<p><b>FOSTERING A SMART, COMPETITIVE, RESILIENT AND DIVERSIFIED AGRICULTURAL SECTOR ENSURING LONG-TERM FOOD SECURITY</b></p>	<p><b>SUPPORTING AND STRENGTHENING ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, INCLUDING BIODIVERSITY, AND CLIMATE ACTION AND TO CONTRIBUTE TO ACHIEVING THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE-RELATED OBJECTIVES OF THE UNION, INCLUDING ITS COMMITMENTS UNDER THE PARIS AGREEMENT</b></p>	<p><b>STRENGTHENING THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC FABRIC OF RURAL AREAS</b></p>
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## SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES THROUGH WHICH THE ACHIEVEMENT OF OF THE GENERAL OBJECTIVES WILL BE PURSUED (Art. 6 of Reg. 2021/2115/EU)

<p>(1)   Supporting viable farm income and resilience of the agricultural sector across the Union in order to enhance long-term food security and agricultural diversity as well as to ensure the economic sustainability of agricultural production in the Union</p>	<p>(4) Contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation, including by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and enhancing carbon sequestration, as well as to promote sustainable energy</p>	<p>(7)   Attracting and sustaining young farmers and new farmers and facilitate sustainable business development in rural areas;</p>
<p>(2) Enhancing market orientation and increase farm competitiveness both in the short and long term, including greater focus on research, technology and digitalisation</p>	<p>(5) Fostering sustainable development and efficient management of natural resources such as water, soil and air, including by reducing chemical dependency</p>	<p>(8)   Promoting employment, growth, gender equality, including the participation of women in farming, social inclusion and local development in rural areas, including the circular bio-economy and sustainable forestry</p>
<p>(3) Improving the farmers' position in the value chain</p>	<p>(6)   Contributing to halting and reversing biodiversity loss, enhance ecosystem services and preserve habitats and landscapes</p>	<p>(9)   Improving the response of Union agriculture to societal demands on food and health, including high-quality, safe and nutritious food produced in a sustainable way, to reduce food waste, as well as to improve animal welfare and to combat antimicrobial resistance.</p>

## HORIZONTAL OBJECTIVE

Modernisation of agriculture and rural areas through fostering and dissemination of knowledge, innovations and digitalisation

# PRIORITIZATION OF NEEDS AT THE LEVEL OF STRATEGIC PLAN 2023-2027

In the process of preparation of strategic plan, the discussion revealed 37 needs relevant for achievement of agricultural policy objectives and pursuing of strategic documents and legislation.

These needs were prioritised into three groups:

- very important,
- moderately important and
- important

and classified into four substantial complexes, denominated as:

- economic component,
- environmental component,
- social component as well as
- needs with regard to horizontal objective.

# PRIORITIZATION OF 37 NEEDS

No.	Denomination of the need	Prioritisation on the Strategic Plan level	Addressed by the Strategic Plan	Selection of specific and horizontal objectives
1	Ensuring comparable and stable KMG's income position	Very important	Yes	
2	Preservation of production potential agricultural land on OMD	Very important	Yes	SO1
3	Achieving risk management sustainable income and farm resilience	Important	Partly	SO1, SO3
4	Improving the income position of sectors in difficulty	Very important	Yes	SO1
5	Ensuring food security	Very important	Yes	SO1, SO6
6	Increasing productivity, competitiveness and added value in agriculture	Very important	Yes	SO2, SO3
7	Increasing competitiveness and technology development of FPI	Moderately important	Yes	SO2
8	Increasing productivity, competitiveness and technological development in forestry	Important	Yes	SO2
9	Developing food value chains and promoting local markets	Important	Yes	SO3
10	Better visibility and organization manufacturers to enter the market together	Moderately important	Yes	SO3
11	Strengthening integration into quality SOhemes and visibility of quality SOhemes	Moderately important	Yes	SO3, SO2
12	Raising consumer awareness of safe, quality and locally grown food	Moderately important	Yes	SO3
13	Reduction of LPG and ammonia emissions in agriculture	Very important	Yes	SO4,SO5,SO9
14	Preservation of organic matter and production potential of agricultural soils	Very important	Yes	SO5,SO3.SO4. SO9
15	Climate mitigation and adaptation changes in agriculture and forestry	Very important	Yes	SO4,SO2,SO3
16	Reforestation after natural disasters and adverse weather conditions	Important	Yes	SO4
17	Reducing the negative effects of agriculture on surface and groundwater status	Very important	Yes	SO5, SO3, SO9
18	Preservation and improvement of biotic status diversity of habitats and species	Very important	Yes	SO6, SO3
19	Preservation and improvement of biotic diversity of forest habitats and species	Important	No	SO6

The European Commission found out that three needs namely, the Need 29 'Improving the coverage of rural areas with fast broadband infrastructure', Need 19 'Conservation and improvement of biodiversity in forest habitats' and Need 03 'Risk management', were included in the needs assessment, but were not addressed by the Plan (pt. 34).

No.	Denomination of the need	Prioritisation on the Strategic Plan level	Addressed by the Strategic Plan	Selection of specific and horizontal objectives
20	Preservation of cultural landscape and areas with highly diverse characteristics	Very important	Yes	SO6, SO5
21	Preservation of pollination by improvement habitat of wild pollinators	Moderately important	Yes	SO6
22	Ensuring genetic diversity and conservation of local breeds and varieties	Moderately important	Yes	SO6
23	Effective generational rejuvenation of farm holders	Very important	Yes	SO7, SO1
24	Promoting employment and maintaining jobs in rural areas	Very important	Yes	SO7, SO1, SO8
25	Providing easier access to relevant financial resources	Moderately important	Yes	SO7
26	Promoting sustainable energy use and development of the circular and bioeconomy	Moderately important	Yes	SO8, SO2
27	Improving the quality of life and developing services and rural infrastructure	Very important	Yes	SO8
28	Strengthen social inclusion, cooperation and connecting rural people	Moderately important	Yes	SO8
29	Improving the coverage of rural areas with high-speed broadband connections	Horizontal objective	No	HO
30	Promoting the rational use of antimicrobials medicines for the treatment of animals	Important	Partly	SO9
31	Reduction of PPP use and development and use non-chemical plant protection methods	Very important	Yes	SO9, SO5
32	Providing animal-friendly ways breeding	Very important	Yes	SO9
33	Reduction of food losses and waste in food supply chain	Important	Partly	SO9, SO2
34	Improving knowledge sharing and transfer information	Horizontal objective	Yes	SO2, SO3, HO
35	Improving coordination and establishment single online platform AKIS	Horizontal objective	Yes	HO
36	Strengthening research, development, innovation and cooperation	Horizontal objective	Yes	HO
37	Promote digitization and empowerment competencies in agriculture, forestry	Horizontal objective	Partly	SO2, SO3

# PRIORITIZATION OF NEEDS AT THE LEVEL OF STRATEGIC PLAN 2023-2027

Prioritisation of needs as very important, moderately important or important was made in several steps which included:

- ❑ online survey,
- ❑ technical report on assessment of needs,
- ❑ complexity, which was evaluated by two subcriteria:
  - connection of needs with interventions and
  - connection of needs with specific objectives
- ❑ measurability (connection of needs with impact and outcome indicators).

summing up points from online survey, technical report on assessment, complexity and measurability, needs were ranked according to their importance.



# CLASSIFICATION OF NEEDS

Classification of needs according to their importance	Classification of needs into four substantial complexes			
	Smart, resilient and competitive agriculture (Economic component)	Protection of environment and sustainable management of natural resources (Environmental and climate component)	Quality of life and strengthening of economic activities in the rural areas (Social component)	Horizontal objective: Strengthening of knowledge creation and transfer
Very important	5	8	3	
Moderately important	8	3	2	5
Important	3	4	/	
<b>Total needs (37)</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>

# STRATEGIC PLAN AND OTHER PROGRAMMING DOCUMENTS

The Strategic Plan refers to the current situation and trends, natural and structural conditions of the Slovenian countryside and needs of agriculture, food, forestry, rural, consumer and wider community, relevant European and national documents.

## EU documents

- European Green Deal
- EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030
- Farm to Fork Strategy for a fair, healthy and environmentally-friendly food system
- EU Forest Strategy
- EU Nature Restoration Targets
- EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change
- EU Strategy to Reduce Methane Emissions
- EU Soil Strategy
- A sustainable Bioeconomy for Europe
- Circular Economy Action Plan for a cleaner and more competitive Europe
- Zero Pollution Action Plan
- A long-term Vision for the EU's Rural Areas

## National documents

- Resolution »Our food, countryside and natural resources from 2021“
- Resolution on the National Environmental Protection Program for the period 2020-2030
- National Energy Climate Plan
- Organic Agriculture Development Action Plan (ANEK)
- Action plan for the development of organic farming

# ECONOMIC COMPONENT OF THE SLOVENIAN CAP STRATEGIC PLAN 2023-2027: SWOT ANALYSIS

## ADVANTAGES

- many family farms have a more stable non-agricultural income
- diversification of agricultural income and income from ancillary activities and forestry increases the resistance of farms (more in areas with natural constraints and in smaller farms),
- public support (especially direct and for areas with natural constraints) reduces income disparities, buffers the volatility, stabilizes income and preserves productive potential),
- sectors of suckler cow breeding, cattle fattening, sheep breeding, milk production in the mountain ANC (sectors with herbivores) exploit the characteristics of the Slovenian agricultural landscape, where permanent grassland predominates,
- abolition of payment entitlements will lead to a reallocation of funds from above-average farms to below average KMG.

## WEAKNESSES

- extremely low incomes of Slovenian farms compared to the rest of the EU and other sectors of Slovenian economy due to high number of very small farms, a large number of self-sufficient farms, many non-specialized farms,
- most of the Slovenian agricultural landscape is classified in areas with limited factors for farming, incomes here are lower than in other areas.

## OPPORTUNITIES

- demand for Slovenian agricultural products on the EU market and in third markets,
- advancement of techniques and technologies in society and their transfer to agriculture
- increased customer interest in local and organic crops and short chains.

## THREATS

- decrease in employment in the primary sector as a result of lower long-term income position of agriculture,
- long-term downward trend in agricultural prices,
- occurrence of disturbances in the EU internal market and third markets due to the occurrence of health and sanitary accidents, and foreign trade disputes,
- increasing incidence of catastrophic weather events and climate change,
- high volatility in agricultural markets (products and "inputs"),
- small size of the Slovenian market,
- reducing the level of public funds intended for agriculture and tightening the conditions for obtaining public funds,
- social, economic and demographic factors are becoming increasingly important in abandoning farming.

## ECONOMIC COMPONENT OF THE SLOVENIAN STRATEGIC PLAN 2023-2027 - Specific objective 1: *Supporting sustainable farm incomes and resilience across the Union to increase food security*

Interventions that are expected contribute to achieve this objective, are:

- INP1 basic income support for sustainability,
- INP2 complementary redistributive income support for sustainability,
- INP3-INP7 tied income support,
- IRP1 payment for natural or other area-specific constraints.

# ECONOMIC COMPONENT OF THE SLOVENIAN CAP STRATEGIC PLAN 2023-2027 - Specific objective 1: *Supporting sustainable farm incomes and resilience across the Union to increase food security*

## **Basic income support for sustainability in Slovenia:**

- will be paid as uniform amount per hectare (not based on previous payment entitlements),
- the amount of basic income support will not be differentiated amongst different groups of territories (art. 23 of Reg 2021/2115/EU),
- a special regime of payments for small farmers will not be introduced (art. 28 of Reg 2021/2115/EU).

Table 1: Basic income support for sustainability in Slovenia: planned amount per unit, planned effect and planned total funding

Financial year	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	
Calendar year	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Planned amount per unit (EUR/ha)	184.2	184.2	184.2	184.2	184.2	
Planned effect (ha)	450,001.29	450,001.29	450,001.29	450,001.29	450,001.29	
Planned effect* planned amount per unit (EUR)	82,890,237.29	82,890,237.29	82,890,237.29	82,890,237.29	82,890,237.29	
<b>Total public funding (EUR)</b>						<b>414,451,188.09</b>

ECONOMIC COMPONENT OF THE SLOVENIAN CAP STRATEGIC PLAN 2023-2027 - Specific objective  
1: *Supporting sustainable farm incomes and resilience across the Union to increase food security*

**Complementary redistributive income support for sustainability** in Slovenia:

will represent 5% of the national envelope for direct payments allocated to all farmers for the first 8.2 hectares (this is average size of agricultural holding in Slovenia, which submits a collective application). The income support addresses farms in a poor income position.

Table 2: **Complementary redistributive income support** in Slovenia: planned amount per unit, planned effect and planned total public funding

Financial year	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	
Calendar year	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Planned amount per unit (EUR/ha)	23.16	184.2	184.2	184.2	184.2	
Planned effect (ha)	283,959.52	283,959.52	283,959.52	283,959.52	283,959.52	
Planned effect* planned amount per unit (EUR)	6,576,502.48	6,576,502.48	6,576,502.48	6,576,502.48	6,576,502.48	
Total public funding (EUR)						32,882,512,42

Source: Strateški načrt skupne kmetijske politike za Slovenijo, MKGP, Ljubljana 2021, p. 278.

# ECONOMIC COMPONENT OF THE SLOVENIAN CAP STRATEGIC PLAN 2023-2027 - Specific objective 1: *Supporting sustainable farm incomes and resilience across the Union to increase food security*

**Coupled direct payments** address certain sectors whose production potential is declining or very volatile. The production linked payments aim at maintaining farming, economy and production volumes in these sectors.

The Slovenian CAP Strategic plan 2023- 2027 foresees coupled payments in the following sectors:

- sheep meat and goat meat* (planned annual single payment 20,30 EUR per animal),
- beef and veal* (planned annual single payment 56,65 EUR per animal born and slaughtered in Slovenia, 43,58 EUR per other animal)
- sucker cow breeding in mountainous regions* (planned annual single payment 96,6 EUR per animal),
- milk production in mountainous regions* (planned annual single payment 91 EUR per milking cow),
- production of protein crops* (which have important role in cattle breeding (planned annual payment 260 EUR per hectar).

# ECONOMIC COMPONENT OF THE SLOVENIAN CAP STRATEGIC PLAN 2023-2027 - Specific objective 1: *Supporting sustainable farm incomes and resilience across the Union to increase food security*

**Payments for areas facing natural and other area-specific constraints** are intended to compensate for all or part of the additional costs and income foregone due to natural or other constraints. Beneficiaries are holders of agricultural holdings, natural or legal persons or associations of natural or legal persons who:

- have at least 1 ha of eligible agricultural land on which conditionality requirements are met,
- carry out an agricultural activity which is the production of agricultural products, including the breeding of agricultural animals (eg grazing), or at least the maintenance of agricultural land in a condition suitable for cultivation or grazing, by mowing at least once a year until (15.10 of the current year),
- are active farmers.

Eligible areas are:

- mountain areas
- areas with special natural constraints, except mountain
- areas with other special restrictions



# ECONOMIC COMPONENT OF THE SLOVENIAN STRATEGIC PLAN 2023-2027 - Specific objective 2: Enhancing market orientation and increase farm competitiveness both in the short and long term, including greater focus on research, technology and digitalisation

## Structure of agricultural holdings

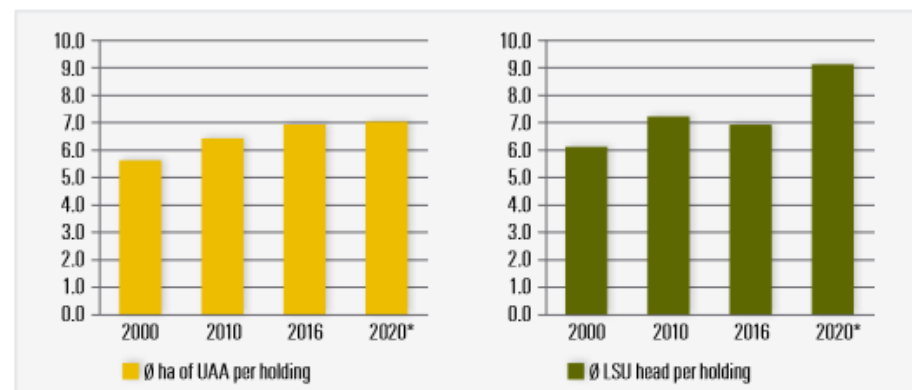
Agricultural holdings by land use and number of livestock								
	Number of holdings				Ø ha, heads/holding			
	2000	2010	2016	2020*	2000	2010	2016	2020*
<b>Land use on agricultural holdings</b>								
Holdings, total	86,467	74,646	69,902	67,927	5.6	6.4	6.9	7.0
Holdings with arable land	80,858	63,272	66,675	57,561	2.1	2.7	2.6	3.1
Gospodarstva s trajnimi nasadi	58,050	39,400	36,560	33,321	0.5	0.7	0.7	0.8
Holdings with permanent grassland**	74,230	61,949	60,401	58,812	3.8	4.5	4.6	4.6
<b>Livestock on agricultural holdings</b>								
Holdings with livestock (LSU)	77,452	58,648	57,749	44,974	6.1	7.2	6.9	9.1
Holdings with cattle	56,097	36,119	34,087	28,485	8.9	13.1	13.6	16.7
Holdings with pigs	44,623	26,441	23,700	12,198	13.5	14.4	12.1	19.3
Holdings with poultry	58,929	36,240	36,657	27,015	114.2	135.2	132.5	260.7
Holdings with sheep	4,330	6,181	6,243	5,016	22.2	22.3	20.9	22.8
Holdings with goats	4,775	4,214	4,022	3,374	6.2	8.3	8.6	8.1

Source: SORS (Agricultural Holdings), Eurostat (Agricultural Holdings Survey), calculated by KIS

\* provisional data

\*\* common grassland is not included

## Average household (number of UAA hectares and number of LSU)

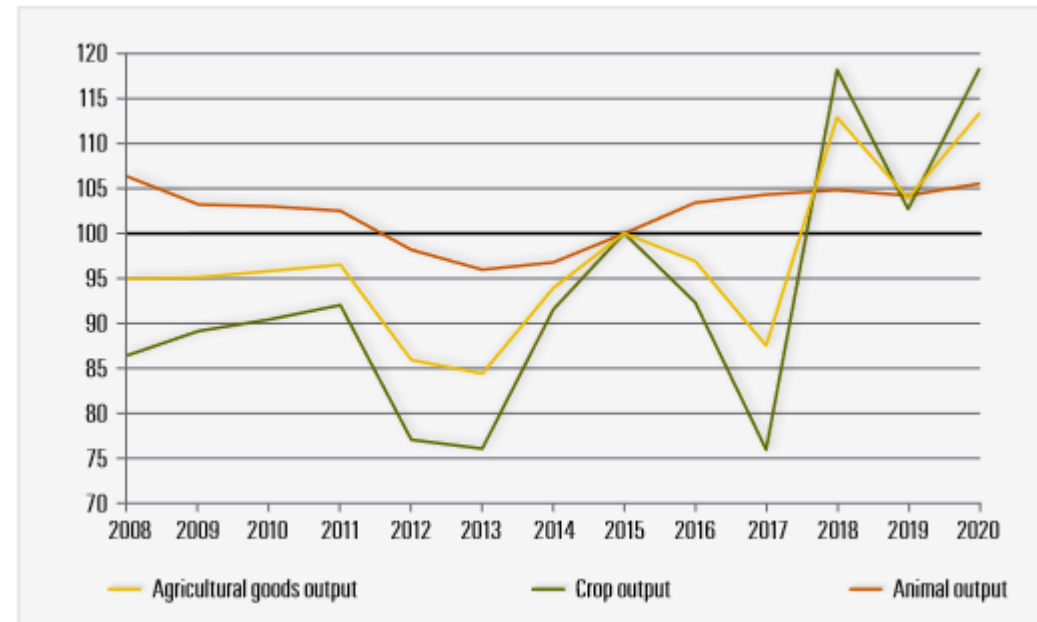


Source: Agricultural Institute of Slovenia, Slovenian Agriculture in Numbers 2021, Ljubljana 2021, p. 7.

Main problems from the SWOT analysis:

The Slovenian agriculture is marked by a considerable level of land fragmentation, high number of farms and plots and comparably small average size of the farm (in 2016, EU: 16.6 ha, Slovenia: 6.9ha of UAA). The growth of average size of the farms is very slow.

## Changes in agricultural goods output by volume (2015=100)



Source: SORS (Economic Accounts for Agriculture), calculated by AIS

Source: Agricultural Institute of Slovenia, Slovenian Agriculture in Numbers 2021, Ljubljana 2021, p. 7.

# ECONOMIC COMPONENT OF THE SLOVENIAN STRATEGIC PLAN 2023-2027 - Specific objective 2:

Enhancing market orientation and increase farm competitiveness both in the short and long term, including greater focus on research, technology and digitalisation

## Interventions

### EFRD

- Collective investments in agriculture for development of strong and resilient food supply value chains
- Investments in construction of irrigation systems
- Investments in raising productivity and technological development, including the digitalisation of agricultural holdings and FPI
- Implementation of agro-melioration and land consolidation of agricultural land
- Investments in the purchase of new machinery and equipment for work in the forest
- Investments in primary wood processing and digitization
- Investments in the development and increase of competitiveness and market orientation of organic farms
- Investments in forest arboriculture
- Investments in forest infrastructure

### EAGF

#### *Beekeeping:*

- Knowledge transfer in beekeeping
- Support for beekeepers and beekeeping associations
- Breeding queen bees
- Research work in the field of beekeeping
- Promotion and market research of the beekeeping sector
- Quality and safety of bee products

#### *Wine sector:*

- Wine promotion in third countries
- Restructuring and conversion of vineyards
- Information measures on Union wines in the Member States

# ECONOMIC COMPONENT OF THE SLOVENIAN STRATEGIC PLAN 2023-2027 – Specific objective 3:

## Improving the farmers' position in the value chain

A major problem: weak supply chains in some sectors. Small farms and fragmented land cause insufficient market orientation of certain agricultural producers. The instability of plant production due to too weak resistance to weather conditions and price non-competitiveness compared to competition from abroad because are factors contributing to lower motivation to enter into long-term business relationships with other participants in the supply chains.

### Interventions

#### EFRD

- ❑ IRP 10 support for „collective forms cooperation“ in agriculture and forestry sector with three sub-interventions:
  - *support for establishment and start of cooperation in agricultural and forestry sector;*
  - *support for information and promotion of quality schemes products,*
  - *support for interbranch organizations,*
- ❑ IRP 11 - support for new participation in quality schemes,
- ❑ IRP12 - support for regional integration of producers with a focus on organic production.

#### EAGF

##### SI10 -13 sub-interventions in fruit and vegetables sector:

1. planning and organization of production, adjusting production to demand, in particular with regard to quality and quantity, optimization of production costs and returns on investments, and establishing producer prices;
2. concentration of supply and placing on the market of the products, including through direct marketing;
3. improvement of medium- and long-term competitiveness, in particular through modernization;
4. research into, and development of, sustainable production methods,
5. improving water use and management;
6. reducing the amount of non-degradable waste in the production and processing process;
7. contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation;
8. boosting products' commercial value and quality, including improving product quality and developing products with a protected designation of origin or with a protected geographical indication or covered by Union or national quality schemes recognized by Member States;
9. promotion and marketing of the products;
8. increasing consumption of the products of the fruit and vegetables sector,
10. crisis prevention and risk management;
11. withdrawal from the market for free distribution;
12. green harvesting,
13. harvest insurance.

# ECONOMIC COMPONENT OF THE SLOVENIAN CAP STRATEGIC PLAN IN OBSERVATIONS FROM THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

In light of the Russian war on Ukraine, the European Commission urged Slovenia, to also consider interventions that will help reduce dependence on fossil fuels and other externally sourced inputs to preserve the long-term sustainable production capacity and viability of farms.

The Commission proposed:

- ❑ *better targeting of problems, needs and beneficiaries* since some interventions are too wide or overlap,
- ❑ *better targeted interventions since some of them cover a large range of activities* (e.g. agricultural and non-agricultural activities, bio-economy, cultural heritage, digitalisation and renewable energy) without clearly and comprehensively targeting the problems, the needs, the priorities and the beneficiaries (European Commission, 2022, pt. 204),
- ❑ *inclusion of comprehensive general conditions for investment supports* in the CAP strategic plan (European Commission, 2022, pt. 194),
- ❑ *improved targeting of investment supports*, including selection criteria (European Commission, 2022, pt. 200),
- ❑ *reassessment of the Slovenian redistribution strategy with justification and additional explanations including a quantitative analysis showing the combined effects of all proposed income support tools on redistribution* (European Commission, 2022, pt. 7, 118 and 119).

# ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE COMPONENT OF THE CAP 2023-2027 – GENERAL FRAMEWORK

The new CAP is marked by a stronger contribution to the goals of the European Green Deal. This approach is based on several principles:

- **green ambitions must be in accordance with environmental and climate legislation and higher** than in previous period (no backsliding),
- *national strategic plans must **contribute to the Green Deal targets**,*
- **enhanced conditionality** links the CAP payments to a stronger set of mandatory requirements (at least 3% of arable land on the farm must be earmarked for biodiversity and non productive elements, with a possibility to receive support via eco-schemes to achieve 7%),
- at least **25% of the budget for direct payments will be allocated to eco-schemes**, providing stronger incentives for climate- and environment-friendly farming practices and approaches (such as organic farming, agro-ecology, carbon farming, etc.) as well as animal welfare improvements;
- *at least 35% of **rural development funds** will be allocated to measures to support climate, biodiversity, environment and animal welfare;*
- in the *fruit and vegetables sector*, **operational programmes will have to allocate at least 15% of their expenditure towards the environment** (compared to 10% during the current programming period);
- **at least 40% of the CAP budget will have to be climate-relevant** and strongly support the general commitment to dedicate **10% of the EU budget to biodiversity objectives** by the end of the EU's multiannual financial framework (MFF) period.

# GREEN COMPONENT OF THE SLOVENIAN CAP STRATEGIC PLAN 2023-2027 - Specific objective 4: *Contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation, including by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and enhancing carbon sequestration, as well as to promote sustainable energy – SWOT analysis*

## STRENGTHS

- More than half of Slovenia's land area is covered by forests (58%), while 34% of the area is devoted to agriculture, app. 4% are artificial areas, 3% non-forest natural growth and less than 1% water land. Forests play a positive role (storage of CO<sub>2</sub>, water protection and air purification).
- The National Energy and Climate Plan envisages that Slovenia will, compared to 2005, decrease total GHG emissions by 2030 by up to 36% (of which agriculture by 1%). Most emissions in the non-ETS sector originate from the transport sector, followed by agriculture and other sectors.

## OPPORTUNITIES

- Due to the slow transition to renewable energy sources, there are new opportunities for the use of waste plants biomass, livestock manure and dead wood biomass for energy.
- Climate change may partly enable new productive use of certain land.

## WEAKNESSES

- Cattle breeding is also the most important agricultural branch in Slovenia and contributes almost 90% of all GHG emissions in livestock production due to abundance of cattle. This situation in Slovenia reflects a large share of permanent grassland.
- In forests, spruce monocultures are vulnerable to climate change.
- The access to local sources of irrigation water is not satisfactory.
- Data for monitoring GHG emissions at the level of agricultural and forest land are scarce.

## THREATS

- The awareness and economic interest of farmers for adapting agricultural practices to climate change are low.
- Unfavourable parcel and holdings structure makes efficient energy use in agriculture difficult.
- The use of more valuable forest assortments for production energy would be undesirable.

GREEN COMPONENT OF THE SLOVENIAN CAP STRATEGIC PLAN 2023-2027 - Specific objective 4:  
*Contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation, including by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and enhancing carbon sequestration, as well as to promote sustainable energy*

Interventions:

- IRP16: *Investments in adjustment to climate change in permanent crops*: support is granted for investments in the purchase and installation of hail nets, arrangement of intensive permanent plantations and meadow orchards, the purchase of equipment for frost protection and the restoration of the potential of agricultural production affected by natural disasters or exceptional occurrences in permanent crops.
- IRP15: *Investments in rehabilitation and reconstruction of forests after natural disasters and adverse weather conditions* will be implemented through three subinterventions (in the form of non-refundable support):
  - purchase of forest seedling material and seedling protection material
  - work to eliminate damage, restore forests and establish greater resilience and stability of forests
  - arrangement of tractor roads needed to carry out reforestation.
- IRP17: *Investments in efficient use nitrogen fertilizers*: support will be granted for individual and collective investments in the purchase of agricultural machinery intended for fertilization with organic fertilizers with low air emissions in air.
- IRP14: *Technological updates of irrigation systems* will be implemented through non-refundable support aiming at sustainable use of water (providing at least 50% savings in water consumption in areas where the water status is evaluated less than good and at least 15 % savings in other areas).

# GREEN COMPONENT OF THE SLOVENIAN CAP STRATEGIC PLAN 2023-2027 - Specific objective 5: *Fostering sustainable development and efficient management of natural resources such as water, soil and air, including by reducing chemical dependency* – SWOT analysis

## STRENGTHS

- Slovenia has many natural water resources preserved in their natural or almost natural state.
- At least one third of the groundwater pumped for drinking water can be supplied to consumers in its natural state without further treatment.
- There is a downward trend in the content of nitrates and PPPs in groundwater.
- Soil is mostly well supplied with organic matter, but there are spatially limited areas, with soil degradation, which allows for the design of concrete and effective interventions.
- Ammonia emissions in 2014 were 4% lower than the limit value, which should not exceed in 2010 onwards.

## OPPORTUNITIES

- Rational use of water through introducing crops that are more adapted to temperature fluctuations, and the construction of reefs.
- Proper tillage and handling can protect the soil and increase its soil carbon fertility and sequestration; and soil biodiversity.
- Measures to reduce ammonia emissions into the air allow growers to increase the amount of plant nutrients and reduce the cost of mineral fertilizers.

## WEAKNESSES

- Groundwater load with nitrates and PPPs and their decomposition products in individual areas is still excessive.
- Only 59% of surface water bodies achieve good ecological status or good ecological potential.
- The largest balance surplus of nitrogen was found in the north-eastern Slovenia.
- The consumption of PPPs per ha of arable land in Slovenia is slightly higher than in most other countries EU.
- Only small areas are ready for irrigation.
- Ammonia emissions mean loss of nitrogen, a valuable plant nutrient (10 mio EUR per year).
- The soil monitoring and data recording have not been sufficient.

## THREATS

- There is a risk of excessive water use.
- Increased water needs for irrigation increase the risk for water resources (surface water has priority for irrigation).
- Improvement of air quality requires adjustment of breeding methods, regulation of storage capacities for livestock manure, changed uses of PPPs and fertilizers, etc.



## GREEN COMPONENT OF THE SLOVENIAN CAP STRATEGIC PLAN 2023-2027 - Specific objective 5: *Fostering sustainable development and efficient management of natural resources such as water, soil and air, including by reducing chemical dependency* - Interventions

Two interventions directly address the specific objective 5:

- ❑ IRP18: *Agri-environment-climate payments* (KOPOP) - intervention includes several sub-interventions under three schemes: a management based scheme with prescribed management practices, management-result scheme and result-based scheme. Support for the intervention is annual and covers additional costs and loss of income due to the commitment. For nature conservation and water protection, sub-interventions support is 100% of the amount of support calculated according to the model calculation, and for other sub-interventions 40% of the basic amount. It is awarded for arable land areas, permanent crops, permanent grassland, boundaries and animals. Payment is granted per hectare, in case of local breeds on livestock unit and for boundaries per meter. The calculation may also take into account operating costs (transaction costs) of up to 25% for an individual beneficiary and up to 35% for a group of beneficiaries.
- ❑ IRP19: *Organic farming*: support for organic farming is annual and covers additional costs and loss of income due to the obligations. The calculation also takes into account operating costs (up to a maximum of 25% for each beneficiary); planned effect: in 2024: 56,000, in 2028: 81,000 eligible hectares.

# AGRI-ENVIRONMENT-CLIMATE PAYMENTS: SUBINTERVENTIONS

MANAGEMENT BASED SCHEMES	
A.1 Special grassland habitats	A.16 Water resources
A.2 Grassland butterfly habitats	A.17 Preservation of the crop rotation
A.3 Litter	A.18 Integrated crop production
A.4 Wet grassland habitats	A.19 Integrated vegetable production
A.5 Conservation of wetlands and bogs	A.20 Integrated hop production
A.6 Dry karst meadows and pastures	A.21 Integrated fruit and olive production
A.7 Tall meadow orchards	A.22 Integrated grape production
A.8 Steep meadows	A.23 Use of biotechnical methods for pest control in permanent crops
A.9 Hilly meadows	A.24 Abolition of herbicides in vineyards
A.10 Preservation of boundaries	A.25 Abolition of insecticides in vineyards
A.11 Control of invasive alien plant species	A.26 Precision fertilization and spraying
A.12 Coexistence with large carnivores	A.27 Hay production
A.13 Mountain grazing	A.28 Improving feed quality and planned feeding of cattle
A.14 Local breeds	A.29 Nitrogen feeding in fattening pigs
A.15 Local varieties	A.30 Improving feed quality and planned feeding of sheep and goats

## MANAGEMENT-RESULT-BASED SCHEME

B.1 Habitats of birds of moist extensive meadows

## RESULT-BASED SCHEME

C.1 Preservation of dry grasslands

The agricultural holding as beneficiary must:

- have at least 1 hectare of agricultural land;
- complete a training or counseling program of at least 15 hours during the commitment period (in five years);
- observe the ban on the use of sludge from municipal sewage treatment plants and digestate and compost;
- keep records of the work performed by sub-interventions.

# GREEN COMPONENT OF THE SLOVENIAN CAP STRATEGIC PLAN 2023-2027 - Specific objective 6: *Contributing to halting and reversing biodiversity loss, enhance ecosystem services and preserve habitats and landscapes – SWOT analysis*

## STRENGTHS

- Protected areas, Natura 2000 sites and ecologically important areas together cover more than 50 % of the area of Slovenia. Natura 2000 sites in Slovenia have been designated to ensure the favorable status of 233 species of European importance and 60 habitat types and cover 37.46% of the area Slovenia, which is the highest share in the EU (average of EU-27: 18.5%).
- Slovenia still has a relatively high diversity of wild bees (more than 570 species), but 14% are threatened with extinction. Slovenia has a long tradition of sustainable, multifunctional and sustainable management of all forests.

## OPPORTUNITIES

- In 2018, the Forest Fund began to finance measures in the Natura 2000 area where ecocells are identified and established without action, even in private forests.

## WEAKNESSES

- Biodiversity in Slovenia is declining, mainly due to unsustainable space management resulting in loss of habitats .
- Only under half of all habitat types are in a favourable conservation status in Slovenia. Habitat types of grasslands, freshwaters and bogs and swamps are in a less favourable status.
- The Slovenian Agricultural Landscape Birds Index decreased significantly in the period 2008-2020 (-18.6 % +/- 2.5). Over the last five years, the trend has been rising slightly. Most of the decline was found among meadow species.

## THREATS

- Small farms where production orientation is not a priority, gradually disappear.
- The interest to adopt nature-friendly farming practices is weak.
- Unproper practices of farming with inadequate, excessive inputs of PPPs, fertilizers and inappropriate tillage still occur.
- Abandonment of agricultural activity, especially the keeping of herbivores, in more remote areas andf areas natural constraints has a negative impact on biodiversity.

# GREEN COMPONENT OF THE SLOVENIAN CAP STRATEGIC PLAN 2023-2027 - Specific objective 6: *Contributing to halting and reversing biodiversity loss, enhance ecosystem services and preserve habitats and landscapes* – Interventions

## EAFRD:

- ❑ IRP21: *Investments in the purchase of agricultural machinery and equipment for grassland habitats and optimal nutrient use and sustainable use of PPPs*
- ❑ IRP33: *Implementation of measures defined by management plans of protected areas*: beneficiary is the manager of the wider or narrower protected area, who leads a contractual partnership, within which compensation is provided for owners and users of agricultural land and forest areas for implementing measures defined by protected areas plans.
- ❑ IRP34: *Conservation, sustainable use and development of plant genetic resources in agriculture*: the intervention subsidizes activities of research institutions that support conservation of plant genetic resources in situ and ex situ,
- ❑ IRP20: *Natura 2000 payments* - annual support will cover additional costs and loss of income due to the implementation of the requirements arising from Directives 92/43/EEC (Habitat Directive) and 2009/147/EC (Birds Directive).
- ❑ IRP22: *Non-productive investments*, is split up into three sub-interventions:
  - Non - productive investments in the conservation of extensive pastures
  - Non - productive investments in the arrangement of borders, dry stone walls and other landscape features
  - Non-productive investments in the protection of animals on pasture against attacks by large carnivores
- ❑ IRP23: *Conservation and maintenance pastures for wild herbivores* - conservation and maintenance of pastures used on the one hand by farmers for their agricultural activity and on the other hand represent grazing for wild herbivores.

## EAGF

INP8: *Agri-environmental payments (eco-schemes)* according to art. 31 of Reg. 2022/2115/EU which must be based on higher standards than enhanced conditionality.

# AN OVERVIEW OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE ARCHITECTURE

## ENHANCED CONDITIONALITY:

- is the starting point for the whole green architecture established by the new CAP
- merges existing cross-compliance and requirements of so called green components of direct payments from the current period
- consists of mandatory rules or standards that all beneficiaries have to meet in order to receive direct pillar I payments or other CAP payments, bound to surfaces or animals
- standards set out in Annex III to Regulation (EU) 2021/2115 on strategic plans in the field of environmental protection, animal and human health and animal welfare, are classified as
  - a) statutory management requirements (SMR) covering rules under EU law
  - b) good agricultural and environmental conditions (GAEC), these are standards for maintaining good agricultural and environmental condition of land (Art. 12 of Regulation 2022/2115/EU).

# AN OVERVIEW OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE ARCHITECTURE

## SCHEMES FOR THE CLIMATE, THE ENVIRONMENT AND ANIMAL WELFARE (Art. 31 of Reg. 2021/2115/ EU) - SCHEME FOR CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT

### *MANAGEMENT-BASED SCHEMES:*

1. EXTENSIVE GRASSLAND
2. TRADITIONAL USE OF GRASSLAND
3. NITROGEN STABILIZERS IN MANURE AND USE OF ADDITIVES
4. FERTIZING USING ORGANIC FERTILIZERS WITH LOW AIR EMISSIONS (+ additional national requirements)
5. CATCH CROPS AND SUB-CROPS
6. GREENING OF ARABLE LAND OVER THE WINTER
7. CONSERVATIVE TILLAGE
8. USE OF ONLY ORGANIC FERTILIZERS TO PROVIDE NITROGEN IN PERMANENT CROPS
9. CONSERVATION OF BIODIVERSITY IN PERMANENT CROPS
10. COMPOSTING HOPS (+ additional national requirements)
11. BARE GROUND PATCHES FOR THE FIELD LARK (*Alauda arvensis*)

### *RESULT-BASED SCHEME*

12. PROTECTION OF LAPWING (*Vanellus Vanellus*) NESTS

Payments shall be granted annually in the form of an annual payment for all eligible hectares covered by liabilities. Payments are compensation for all or part of the incurred additional costs and loss of income due to commitments (these payments may also cover operating costs). Bare Patch scheme for field lark and the Protection of lapwing, where the payment complements the income support for sustainability.

# AN OVERVIEW OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE ARCHITECTURE: NEW INTERVENTIONS IN THE FIELD OF ENVIRONMENT

## IRP 27 - BIOTIC PLANT PROTECTION

is intended to reduce the use of chemical plant protection products and promoting above-standard plant protection practices against pests and diseases, thereby contributing to the protection of water resources and soil.

## IRP33 - SELECTED MEASURES IN PROTECTED AREAS (14% of the Slovenia's territory)

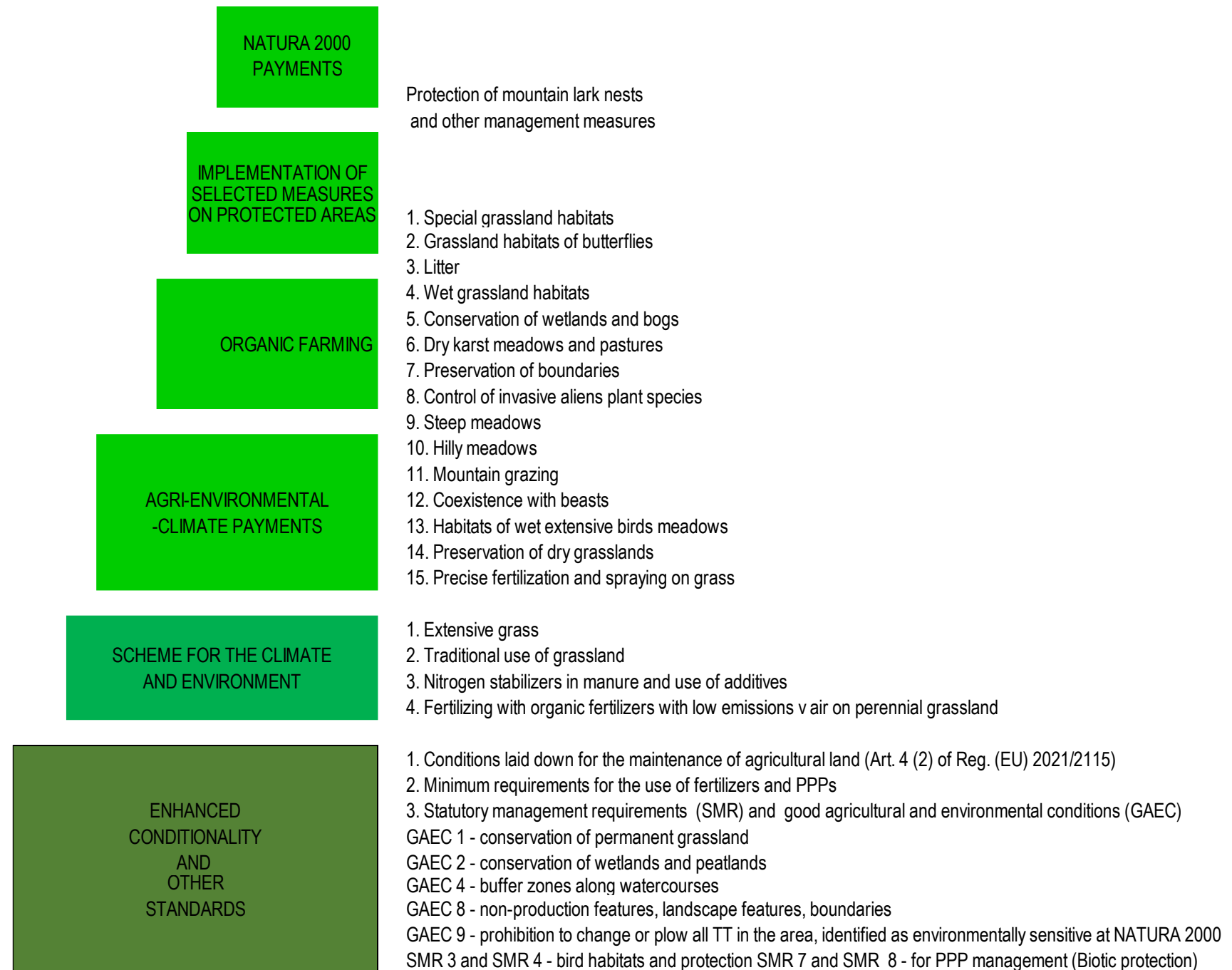
Protected areas (natural parks, regional parks, landscape parks, natural reservates etc.) are areas of nature with great biotic, abiotic and landscape diversity, high density and diversity of natural values. The intervention is intended to promote above-standard sustainable agricultural practices aimed at conserving biodiversity and the landscape. It provides beneficiaries compensation for the implementation of measures on agricultural and forest areas according to the management plans of protected areas.

Support is linked to specific requirements that go beyond the relevant mandatory standards and requirements, depending on restrictions arising from Directives 92/43/EEC and 2009/147/EC.

The intervention will contribute to more efficient management wider protected areas.

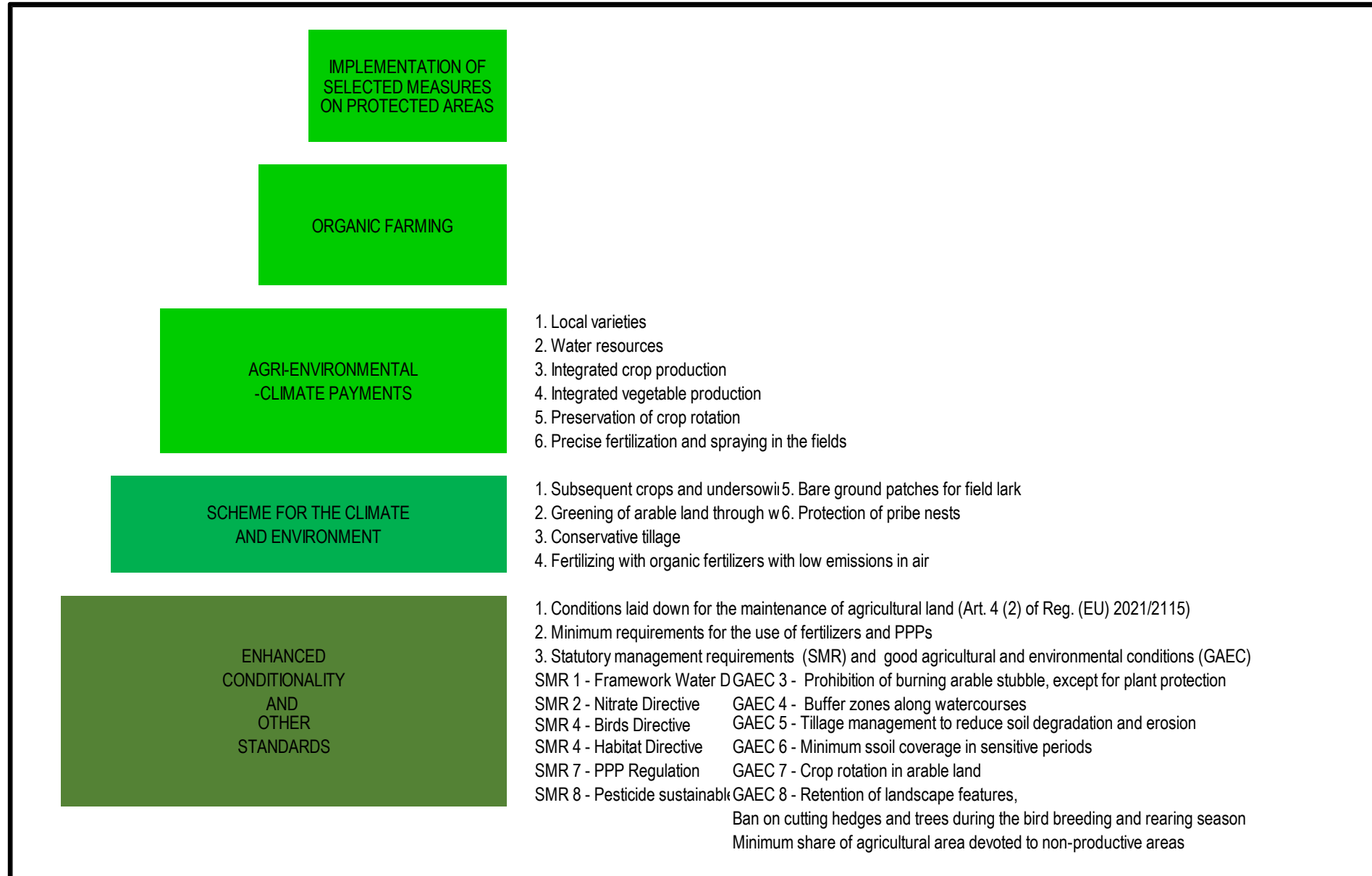
# COMPLEMENTARITY BETWEEN BASIC CONDITIONS AND INTERVENTIONS: PERMANENT GRASSLAND (58 % OF UTILIZED AGRICULTURAL AREA)

Source: Strateški načrt skupne  
kmetijske politike za Slovenijo,  
MKGP, Ljubljana 2021, p. 228.



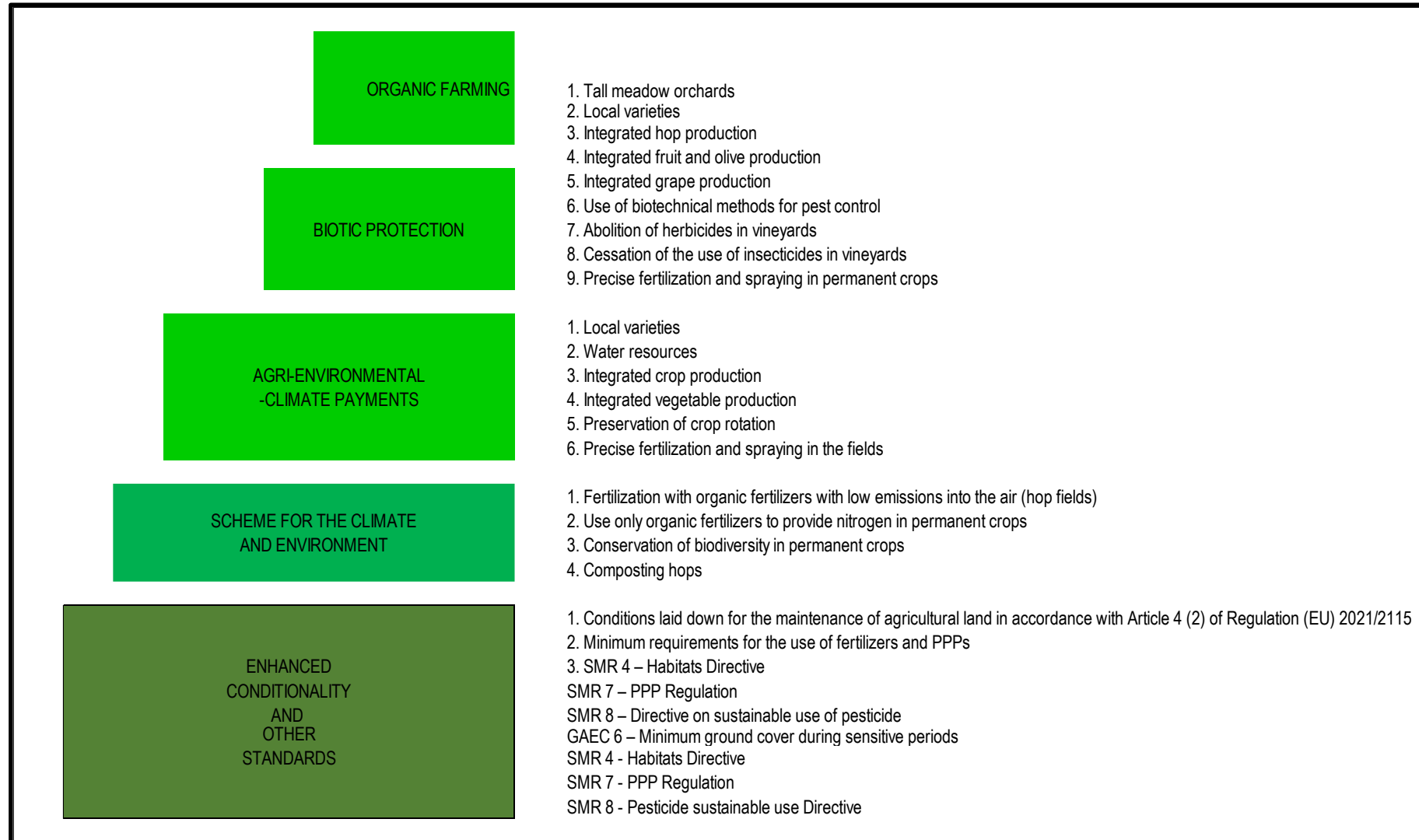


# COMPLEMENTARITY BETWEEN BASIC CONDITIONS AND INTERVENTIONS: ARABLE LAND (36 % OF UTILIZED AGRICULTURAL AREA)



Source: Strateški načrt skupne kmetijske politike za Slovenijo, MKGP, Ljubljana 2021, p. 231.

# COMPLEMENTARITY BETWEEN BASIC CONDITIONS AND INTERVENTIONS: PERMANENT CROPS (6 % OF UTILIZED AGRICULTURAL AREA)



## GREEN COMPONENT OF THE SLOVENIAN CAP STRATEGIC PLAN AND SOME OBSERVATIONS FROM THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

The European Commission observed that the Slovenian CAP strategic plan „needs a higher overall ambition level regarding the contribution to environmental care and climate actions to contribute to the EU environmental and climate objectives and fully reflect the relevant Slovenian environmental and climate needs“ (pt. 3) and „needs to be amended“ (European Commission, 2022, pt. 10).

According to the Commission, the plan *does not take into account legal acts on the EU level and some national strategic documents on energy and climate change* (European Commission, 2022, pt. 12).

Slovenia was requested *to clarify and amend certain Good agricultural and environmental condition on land (GAEC)* so that they would fully comply with the regulatory framework and to improve some eco-schemes with regard to conditionality requirements and level of payments (European Commission, 2022, pt. 14).

The Commission *held the strategic plan inconsistent with commitments of Slovenia with regard to reduction of GHG emissions* (European Commission, 2022, pt. 15) and *did not find in the Plan any measure related to emissions associated with manure storage accounting for 14% of GHG agriculture emissions* (European Commission, 2022, pt. 16).

The plan *should also address the problem of soil erosion* which is recognised, but not addressed by the needs and intervention strategy.

## STRENGTHENING THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC FABRIC OF RURAL AREAS - Specific objective 7: - : *Attracting and sustaining young farmers and new farmers and facilitate sustainable business development in rural areas*

Problem: Young farmers face barriers to accessing the land they reach high prices, loans, natural farming conditions and intergenerational frictions. Support for young farmers with additional income support after the initial establishment, represents a financial stimulus for rural development, strengthens cooperation and the introduction of new technologies.

Interventions:

- INP9 Complementary income support for young farmers*
- IRP24 Support for setting-up of young farmers*

**STRENGTHENING THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC FABRIC OF RURAL AREAS - Specific objective 7: - :  
*Attracting and sustaining young farmers and new farmers and facilitate sustainable business  
development in rural areas***

*Complementary income support for young farmers may be paid for a maximum duration of 5 years in form of a annual decoupled payment per eligible hectare for a maximum of 90 hectares.*

Table: Complementary income support for young farmers: planned amount per hectare, planned effects and public funding

<b>Financial year</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2027</b>	<b>2028</b>	<b>Total 2024-2028</b>
<b>Calendar year</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>Total 2023-2027</b>
<b>Planned amount per ha (EUR/ha)</b>	<b>54,8</b>	<b>54,8</b>	<b>54,8</b>	<b>54,8</b>	<b>54,8</b>	<b>/</b>
<b>Planned effect (ha)</b>	<b>27,000.83</b>	<b>27,000.83</b>	<b>27,000.83</b>	<b>27,000.83</b>	<b>27,000.83</b>	<b>/</b>
<b>Total planned public funding (EUR)</b>	<b>1,972,950.65</b>	<b>1,972,950.65</b>	<b>1,972,950.65</b>	<b>1,972,950.65</b>	<b>1,972,950.65</b>	<b>9,864,753.24</b>

Source: Strateški načrt skupne kmetijske politike za Slovenijo, MKGP, Ljubljana 2021, p. 332.

**STRENGTHENING THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC FABRIC OF RURAL AREAS - Specific objective 7: - :  
*Attracting and sustaining young farmers and new farmers and facilitate sustainable business  
development in rural areas***

*Support for setting-up of young farmers* is a flat-rate aid in the form of a grant to the beneficiaries. It consists of basic and additional supports.

<b>Basic and additional supports for setting-up of young farmers</b>	<b>Amount (EUR)</b>
Basic support	18,600
Additional investment cost for young farmers included in pension, disability and health insurance on the basis of agricultural activity on the acquired holding, sole proprietors and companies	12,400
Education obtained in agricultural and biotechnical educational establishments, or obtained a master's degree in beekeeping	5,000
Keeping double-entry bookkeeping in accordance with Slovenian accounting standards for tax purposes	3,000
Inclusion in pension, disability and health insurance under performing agricultural activity on the acquired holding, sole proprietor or company	9,000
Maximum possible additional 10% share of support per sum of individual lump sums from organic farming	4,800
Maximum possible flat rate support	52,000

## STRENGTHENING THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC FABRIC OF RURAL AREAS - Specific objective 8: - *Promoting employment, growth, gender equality, including the participation of women in farming, social inclusion and local development in rural areas, including the circular bio-economy and sustainable forestry - Interventions*

The Slovenian countryside is facing many structural problems:

- concentration of the population in central Slovenia, especially around the motorway junction and well access centers,
- the countryside is characterized by daily migrations of the population, as well as the emigration of young people in particular,
- emigration of young people from rural areas and daily migration must be tackled by stimulating economic activity in the countryside.

Interventions:

- ☐ *IRP25: Support for investments in the establishment and development of non-agricultural activities, including the bioeconomy and in the preservation of cultural heritage:* the level of public support is 30 percent of eligible costs and can be increased for 5 percentage points for: investments in the bioeconomy and the circular economy, investments by youth; by organic farmers; and by small mountain farms and for 10 percentage points for investments in cultural heritage conservation.

Public support rates may be aggregated, but may not exceed 50 percent of the eligible costs.

Financial table: Support for investments in the establishment and development of non-agricultural activities, including the bioeconomy and in the preservation of cultural heritage for period 2023-2027

Planned amount per unit (EUR)	Planned effect (no. of beneficiaries)	Total public expenditure (EUR)	Total financial contribution of the EU (EUR)
90,899	99	8,998,011.00	3,221,287.94

STRENGTHENING THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC FABRIC OF RURAL AREAS - Specific objective 8: - *Promoting employment, growth, gender equality, including the participation of women in farming, social inclusion and local development in rural areas, including the circular bio-economy and sustainable forestry - Interventions*

- ❑ LEADER is part of the Common Community-Based Local Development (CLLD) approach set out in the Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 laying down common provisions to be implemented in Slovenia in the programming period 2023-2027 EAFRD and ERDF funds.

The goal of the LEADER intervention is, through approved local action groups (LAG) and local development strategies (LDS), to promote employment, growth, social inclusion and local development in rural areas, and contribute to the objectives of the strategic plan.

Support will be granted from EAFRD funds in the form of a grant for costs actually incurred or using one of the simplified forms of costs for:

- implementation of operations, including cooperation activities and their preparation, selected under the SLD (the level of public support is up to 80%),
- management, monitoring and evaluation of the strategy and its animation (the rate of public support is up to 100% of eligible costs).



## SOCIAL COMPONENT OF THE SLOVENIAN CAP STRATEGIC PLAN AND SOME OBSERVATIONS FROM THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

The European Commission proposed Slovenia: *to set higher objectives for job creation and to decrease unemployment of women in rural areas and to better address the need for developing entrepreneurship and promoting growth in rural areas* (European Commission, 2022, pt. 23).

With regard to support for setting\_up of young farmers, Slovenia was invited *to justify why only the owners of farms are targeted as beneficiaries and to provide more specifications on the business plan in the description of the eligibility conditions* (European Commission, 2022, pt. 234).

*The inter-generational knowledge transfer from one generation to another should be broader and should not involve only transferors and the transferees* (European Commission, 2022, pt. 265).

*With regard to investments in the establishment and development of non-agricultural activities, Slovenia was invited to better define the principles of selection by types of activities and to justify the different ranges of support* (e.g. prioritization of cultural heritage comparing to other types of activities).

# HORIZONTAL OBJECTIVE: Modernisation of agriculture and rural areas through fostering and dissemination of knowledge, innovations and digitalisation - SWOT analysis

## STRENGTHS

- Slovenia has a functioning system for the creation and exchange of knowledge and innovation in agriculture, forestry and nutrition (AKIS - Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation System).
- Within the public sector, R&D activity in agriculture takes place within four universities and two larger and two smaller institutes.
- The number of researchers per 1000 employees is above the European average.
- Access to formal and non-formal education in the field of agriculture, forestry and nutrition is good.
- Formal education of farmers is increasing.
- Younger farmers are on average better educated, more receptive to innovation and better adapted to market condition.

## OPPORTUNITIES are:

- international research cooperation, development partnerships between research and education institutions and providers of public services,
- publication of all research assignments and projects on the single AKIS web platform,
- renovation of secondary school curricula and introduction of newer technologies, digitalisation in school curricula,
- rejuvenation of public advisory service.

## WEAKNESSES

- Transfer of knowledge and innovation from the research sphere to planning, implementation and evaluation agricultural policy and in agricultural and forestry practice could be more effective.
- Research institutions and some public services are under-nourished in terms of research infrastructure and equipment.
- There is no adequate system for recording the research and transfer needs of farmers and forest owners knowledge into practice.
- Unsuccessful cooperation between research institutions and exchange of knowledge.
- Specialist knowledge in the fields of introduction of modern technologies and digitalization, entrepreneurial, managerial and financial skills, adaptation and mitigation of climate change, plants and animals health, conservation and protection of natural resources and biodiversity is still lacking.

## THREATS

- Unattractiveness of the farmer's profession, as enrollment in middle and tertiary education is gradually diminishing.
- Empowerment of farmers to respond to recurring crises and sudden changes seems to be insufficient, too.
- Traditional distrust of farmers in various forms of cooperation and networking and fear of farmers about the use of new technologies and digitalisation in agriculture in connection with safety, use and possible misuse of data must also be mentioned.

HORIZONTAL OBJECTIVE: Modernisation of agriculture and rural areas through fostering and dissemination of knowledge, innovations and digitalisation

The achievement of the horizontal objective will be supported by three interventions:

- ❑ IRP30 - *support for intergenerational transmission of knowledge from the transferor of agricultural holding to the transferee* within the framework of anticipated succession (*successio anticipata*), according to written agreement which guarantees independent position of the transferee who is obliged to report annually about the transferred knowledge and experience (planned number of beneficiaries in the whole period 2023-2027: 700);
- ❑ IIRP31 - *support for EIP projects and research development partnerships of research institutions* in form of non-refundable grant splits up into two subinterventions:
  - *support for EIP projects*: contractual partnership, which must consist of at least three partners, namely agricultural holding, consultant and researcher and is established for implementation of an EIP (planned number of projects in the 5-year period: 34);
  - *support for development partnership of research institutions*: support is given to development partnership projects (planned number: 12) of research institutions;
- ❑ IRP32 - *support for knowledge exchange and transfer information and training advisers* is granted as a non-refundable support and splits up into two subinterventions:
  - *exchange of knowledge and transfer of information to farmers and forest owners* through various forms and methods of knowledge transfer (planned number of participants: 78,000);
  - *training of advisors*: continuous training of advisors encourages the modernization of the sector through the exchange of knowledge and the dissemination of best environmentally friendly production practices, as well as innovation and the digital transition in agriculture, forestry and rural areas (planned number of participants: 144).

## HORIZONTAL OBJECTIVE OF THE SLOVENIAN CAP STRATEGIC PLAN IN THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION OBSERVATIONS

The Commission noted the intentions to fully address *the need for fast broadband in rural areas is connected with resources outside the Plan and invited Slovenia to provide further information on the foreseen actions to fully cover the rural areas with fast broadband by 2025*, including, if needed, investments in the Plan (European Commission, 2022, pt. 26).

The established *need to improve knowledge transfer and knowledge exchange seems to be broader than the intervention. Slovenia is thus expected to broaden the intervention instead of narrowing it down to trainings for area-based interventions* (European Commission, 2022, pt. 266).

Slovenia *should complement information on the prioritisation of topics* (European Commission, 2022, pt. 267).

Slovenia should *increase the number of consultants trained given the number of topics covered and to mention specialist consultants for climate topics* (European Commission, 2022, pt. 268).

## INSTEAD OF CONCLUSION: SOME EXCERPTS FROM THE OFFICIAL REPLY OF SLOVENIA TO THE COMMISSION'S OBSERVATIONS

„...We are aware, however, that in some parts it will be necessary strengthen the intervention logic and set out more clearly the objectives and define the measures to be taken the results of the Strategic Plan have also been implemented. (...)

In our view, the Commission may have to some extent ignored some in its assessment important characteristics of Slovenian agriculture, ie small-scale structure agriculture and land fragmentation, predominantly difficult natural and topographical conditions and the relatively high proportion of preserved natural ecosystems.

(...) Given that Slovenia is still always a “hotspot” of biodiversity in Europe, the Strategic Plan aims to conservation and, where necessary, to improve biodiversity, but with much-needed development of agriculture, without endangering food production in Slovenia and by preserving production potential of agricultural land. Our goal is sustainable agriculture, which must also enable the economic survival of agricultural holdings. It is not the moment to transition to uncontrolled extensification and thus loss production potential...”