

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME  
OF  
SOUTH PRIMORSKA

Summary

2007 - 2013

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REGIONALNI RAZVOJNI CENTER KOPER  
REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT CENTRE KOPER

RDA SOUTH PRIMORSKA



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# REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME OF SOUTH PRIMORSKA 2007 - 2013

Summary



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## INTRODUCTORY NOTES

*This is a Regional Development Programme of South Primorska 2007-2013, outlining the main development guidelines for the region in the coming seven years. The region shall be directed primarily to the improvement of its economic conditions, particularly in comparison with the neighbouring region of Friuli Venezia Giulia. Until the end of the period, the region shall complete the basic infrastructure for waste management, waste water treatment, drinking water supply and sustainable mobility. The construction of basic environmental infrastructure, as well as pollution abatement, is one of the obligations of Slovenia as a member of the European Union.*

*The economic development of the region shall be based on appropriately qualified and trained human resources; therefore, much attention will be paid to human resource development. Educational programmes will follow the needs of the economy. It is the aim of the projects provided for in the Regional Development Programme to eliminate disparity between the companies' personnel requirements and the available work force. South Primorska is a tourist region, hence harmonious and integrated development of tourism has been outlined for all its parts to the largest extent possible. The objective of special projects, dedicated to rural development, is to prevent the young people from leaving the villages and seeking work in towns or in the capital city. Through the establishment of adequate infrastructure, conditions will be created for the development of entrepreneurship, tourism and other activities also in rural areas.*

*The vision set forth, which envisages good economic performance of the region, will be realised through the achievement of the set objectives and also in the light of the principles of sustainable development and the preservation of natural and cultural wealth. We believe that, through joint efforts and carefully considered and concerted planning, we will succeed.*

Uroš Slamič



Vojko Čok



*Uroš Slamič, Mayor of the Municipality of Komen,  
Chairman of the Regional Council of South Primorska*

*Vojko Čok, President of the Management Board of Banka Koper d.d.,  
Chairman of the Regional Development Council of South Primorska*

# INTRODUCTION

## 1 BACKGROUND

The Regional Development Programme of South Primorska (hereinafter referred to as RDP) is a joint project of eight South Primorska Municipalities, comprising the territories of Slovene Istra (Municipalities of Izola, Koper and Piran), Kras (Municipalities of Divača, Hrpelje-Kozina and Sežana) and Brkini (Municipality of Ilirska Bistrica). The RDP defines the main development tasks, the priority regional programmes, the programmes of cross-border cooperation, the progress of the Slovene minority in Italy and the indigenous Italian community in Slovenia. The purpose of the Programme is to promote balanced regional development in the fields of economy, spatial planning and social services. This should contribute to the reduction of development disparities in the region, prevent the emergence of new areas with major development problems, stem the brain-drain and emigration, contribute to the protection of the environment, natural and cultural heritage and other public assets.

## 2 REGIONAL BODIES

The main regional bodies are: the Regional Council of South Primorska, the Regional Development Council of South Primorska and the Regional Development Agency (RDA).

The Regional Council consists of the Mayors of eight South Primorska Municipalities: Divača, Hrpelje-Kozina, Ilirska Bistrica, Izola, Komen, Koper, Piran and Sežana. The Regional Council carries out several tasks. Among other things, it adopts the RDP and approves its implementation plan, represents the region and cooperates with regions in other countries. The Regional Council has a Chairman and a Deputy Chairman who rotate annually in the alphabetical order of the Municipalities.

The Regional Development Council is composed of 20 members: eight municipal representatives, eight business representatives and one representative of the Italian community, the managers of protected areas, trade unions and non-governmental organizations.

The Regional Development Agency of South Primorska monitors implementation of the RDP, directs activities related to its realisation and establishes the results achieved in the framework of the on-going projects. In performing its work, the Agency cooperates with other development institutions in the region.



# KEY FINDINGS OF THE ANALYSIS OF THE SITUATION

According to a series of socio-economic indicators, the South Primorska region is among the most successful in comparison with statistical regions in Slovenia. Nevertheless, it is facing many development problems, which have remained unsolved from the previous years.

One of the important objectives of the RDP of South Primorska for the period 2002–2006 was to reduce the disparities between Slovene Istra and the Kras-Brkini area. During the short period of RDP implementation, the disparities were not eliminated; however, some indicators show that they have been reducing. Namely, the fall in the size of population has stopped slightly in the Kras-Brkini area but it is still stagnating. Population growth in South Primorska has been underpinned by immigration, as the natural increase has been negative everywhere except in the Municipality of Izola. Accelerated ageing of the population is a process which has covered the whole of Slovenia and it is not expected to end.

Since 2001, the registered unemployment rate has fallen throughout South Primorska, except in the Municipality of Divača. The difference between Slovene Istra and the Kras-Brkini area has increased a little.

The performance of companies in the Kras-Brkini area is still worse than in Slovene Istra, which is also due to the strong business centre in Koper. Nevertheless, business performance in the Kras-Brkini region has been improving and, in terms of net sales revenues generated in foreign markets, this area has already overtaken Slovene Istra. The economic strength of companies in Kras and Brkini is still weak, however, the difference between the Kras-Brkini municipalities and those in Slovene Istra has diminished.

Urban waste waters impose the highest burden on waters in the region. The main source of drinking water in Slovene Istra is the Rižana River which, rises in the Hrastovlje Valley. The spring of the Rižana River is the main and the only own source of drinking water supply for Slovene Istra and it is of a distinctive karstic character. The catchment area covers 247 km<sup>2</sup>, comprising for the most part well-developed underground karstic systems of high permeability. The water supply networks in Kras and the Municipality of Ilirska Bistrica have enough water for a long term, while the Rižana water supply network is water deficient. The Kras water distribution system has no security of supply, as 120 settlements can be provided with water only from the water source at Klariči.



The main sources of pollution are industry, traffic and furnaces. Industry and traffic pollute the air throughout the year. Air pollution is characterised by weekly and seasonal variations. The highest emissions are recorded in summer during weekends, when traffic is most dense.

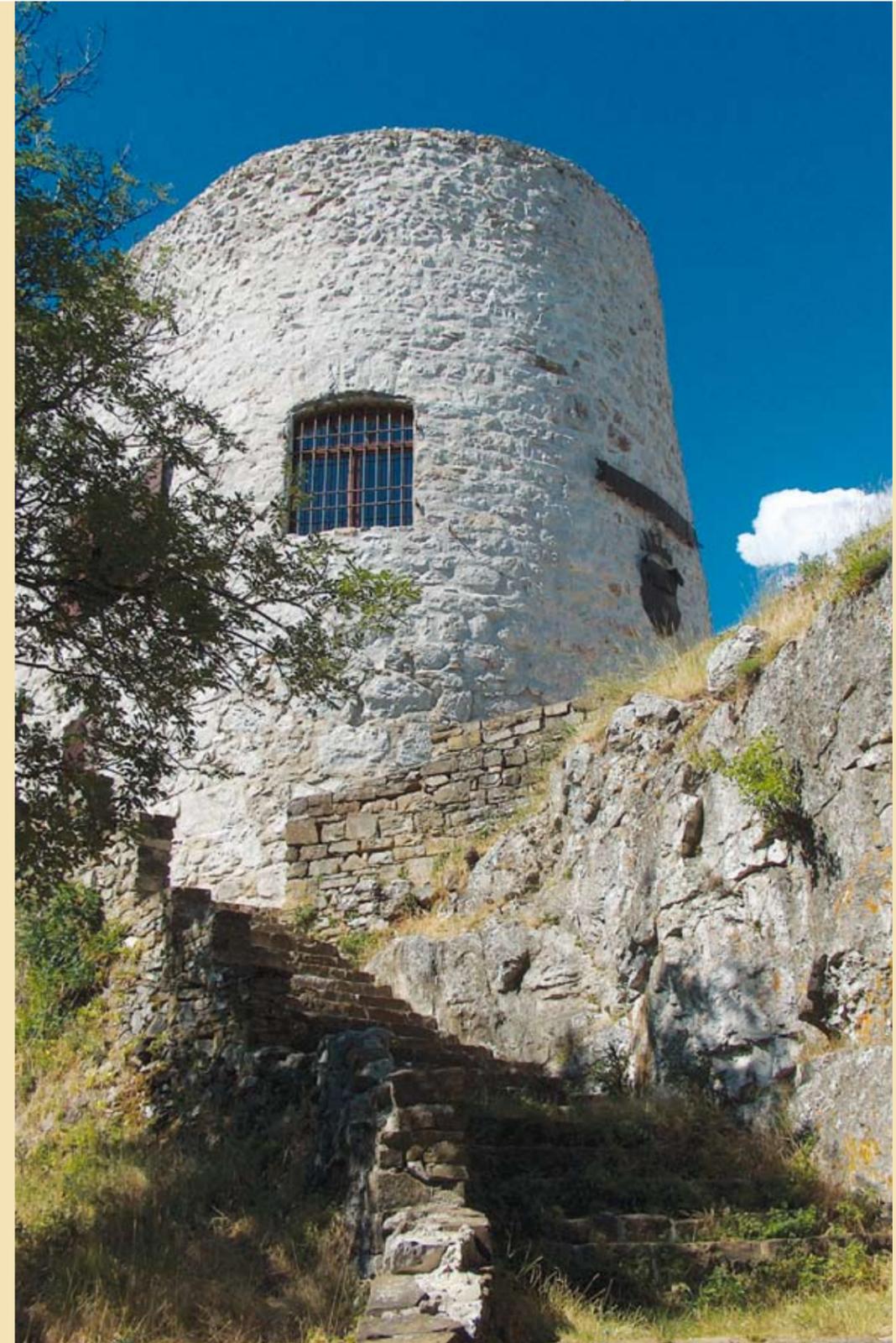
The growing number of cars gives rise to ever more complex problems particularly in densely urbanised areas. There is more noise, road safety is worse, parking lots occupy considerable space which could be used more reasonably. Access to transport services for schoolchildren and the elderly (the number of the latter is growing) is poorer and the cost of traffic control is rising.

One of the main problems in the Municipalities is that of filled-up landfill sites. The Municipalities have concluded a cooperation agreement by which they are bound to undertake waste management in accordance with the common positions, guidelines, expert groundwork and projects. In cooperation with the Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning, the Municipalities shall harmonise the development and investments in the field of management of all kinds of waste.

#### Basic information on the region (2005)

Area (km <sup>2</sup> )	1.524
Number of Municipalities	8
Population	119.475
Population density (per km <sup>2</sup> )	78
Population growth rate (1991–2005) (%)	6,4
Registered unemployment rate (%)	7,7
Number of jobs	46.875
Export orientation (2004) (%)	29,9

Source: Janja Pečar, Socio-economic Analysis of South Primorska, Working material for the preparation of RDP, March 2006.



# 1 VISION AND DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES OF THE REGION

## VISION OF THE REGION

SOUTH PRIMORSKA –  
AN ECONOMICALLY SUCCESSFUL  
REGION WITH THE HIGHEST QUALITY  
OF LIVING IN THE NORTHERN ADRIATIC  
AREA, BASED ON SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT AND NATURAL  
AND CULTURAL WEALTH.

### 1.1 VISION OF THE REGION

### 1.2 LONG-TERM OBJECTIVES

**South Primorska – an economically successful region with the highest quality of living in the northern Adriatic area, based on sustainable development and natural and cultural wealth.**

- Until the end of 2013, the region will increase the value added per inhabitant to EUR 20,000 and thus reduce lagging behind the Italian region of Friuli Venezia Giulia.
- Until the end of 2013, the region will complete the establishment of basic environmental infrastructure requisite for waste management, waste water treatment, drinking water supply and sustainable mobility.

### 1.3 PRIORITY TASKS

#### 1.3.1 KNOWLEDGE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

In the region, as also in other parts of Slovenia, there are too many people with higher qualifications who cannot obtain employment due to the structure of the economy. During the recent years, not enough has been done to support the restructuring of the economy into knowledge-intensive industry sectors which require higher technologies, higher value added and employment of highly qualified personnel. With the establishment of the University of Primorska, the region gained an institution capable of responding swiftly to the future challenges of global competitiveness by adapting the educational programmes to the needs of the economy and vice versa. The development of a technology park and incubator will facilitate the linkage between the educational institutions and companies. Therefore, the region will prepare and implement projects on technology parks, incubators, business zones, integration of companies and the development of new, modern educational programmes.

#### 1.3.2 INFRASTRUCTURE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

In addition to technological development, the region intends to prepare and implement projects in the areas of environmental protection, transport infrastructure, water supply and other similar projects until the end of the programming period. This will ensure long-term competitive advantage since the quality of life will be considerably improved. Taking into account also favourable climatic conditions, South Primorska will be able to boast of a pleasant living environment in the northern Adriatic area. This is also one reason why the RDP foresees large investments in environmental and transport projects by which the region will achieve the objectives in this field.



# 2 PROGRAMMES, MEASURES AND ACTIVITIES OF THE RDP



## ECONOMY

The economy, as one of the cornerstones of regional development, should make a breakthrough in the coming years in order to become globally competitive. The key elements of economic development are creative and educated people who are constantly concerned with their personal development. However, the only generator of employment is the value added which should increase to create new jobs.

**The objectives of this Programme are:**

1. Higher value added per unit of product/service
2. More jobs

### MEASURE 1: INTEGRATION FOR TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT

**Activities:**

- Support to enterprise development
- Development of products and services
- Integration for presence on foreign markets

**Indicative projects:** Technology park; Construction of business zones; Development of financial instruments for start-up and spin-off companies; Promotion of entrepreneurial innovation culture; Strengthening of regional development potentials (IN-PRIME); Services of the support environment.

### MEASURE 2: EXTERNAL REGIONAL INTEGRATION

**Activities:**

- Road transport infrastructure
- Railway transport infrastructure
- Maritime infrastructure
- Development of information-telecommunication technologies

**Indicative projects:** Construction and modernization of road network; Adrialpika tourist-trade road; Second railway line; Maritime passenger terminal; Multimodal logistic centre; Development of regional information-communication backbone.

### MEASURE 3: DEVELOPMENT OF TOURIST SERVICES

**Activities:**

- Tourism support infrastructure
- Integration and development of tourist services and the establishment of destination management organization to manage the areas of valuable natural features and for sustainable development of tourism.

## HUMAN RESOURCES

**Indicative projects:** Thematic paths; Arrangement of camping sites; Arrangement of promenade along the entire length of the coast; Arrangement of cycling network; Regional destination management; Development of tourist sub-regional destinations (Brkini, Slovene Istra); Development of Kras/Carso cross-border tourist destinations.

In modern world, the area of human resources development is of key importance for high-quality and sustainable social and economic development. Both follow the so-called “soft infrastructure” and are therefore not reliant only on productivity and work but are also oriented towards the knowledge-based society. It is therefore essential to pay more attention to and earmark resources for life-long learning, interdisciplinarity of knowledge, educational and research system and information-communication technologies. Education, development of innovative capabilities, interrelation of the economy and the educational and research spheres, strengthening of research infrastructure and efficiency of social services are all factors which create high-quality human resources.

**The objectives of this Programme are:**

1. Establishment of a knowledge-based society for sustainable development
2. Increased level of the quality of life

### MEASURE 1: KNOWLEDGE FOR THE ECONOMY

**Activities:**

- Vocational training and life-long learning
- University education and research
- Development of infrastructure

**Indicative projects:** Extension of the offer of programmes for raising literacy and other basic skills and programmes for dropouts and marginalized groups; Development and extension of the network of information and advisory services and the vocational orientation services and development of the network of publicly available points of life-long learning; Centre of vocational training and life-long learning; Regional scholarship scheme; Establishment of University campus; Improvement and extension of study programmes; Regional cross-border centre for design at the University of Primorska; Establishment of Mediterranean cultures center; University education system support institutions; Student campus in Koper.

## RURAL AREAS, AGRICULTURE, FISHERY AND FORESTRY

### MEASURE 2: EFFICIENT AND HIGH-QUALITY SOCIAL SERVICES

**Activities:**

- Improved access to social services for the whole population
- Promotion and strengthening of an open, tolerant and caring society
- Development and integration of cultural activities
- Strengthening of cross-border cooperation and international recognition

**Indicative projects:** Integrated development of social care; Integrated development of health care; Integrated development of sports and recreational activities; Marketing of cultural heritage; Establishment of a network of cultural institutions; Joint promotion and cooperation: Development possibilities for the identity of minorities; Inter-cultural communication.

Rural areas can increase the profitability of agriculture and positively influence the development by valuation of typical products, produce and food, and by improving the quality. For this purpose, it is necessary to introduce modern technologies and know-how, develop new products and services, strengthen the integration of production and processing, processing and marketing, and enforce the certifications of quality, origin and trade mark of the region. Tourism may also represent an important development factor, particularly with regard to cultural heritage. Fishery should be provided with proper infrastructure and services to ensure the economy of this activity.

**The objectives of this Programme are:**

1. Higher value added of products/services
2. Maintenance of the population density in rural areas
3. Rural development on the basis of sustainable forms of agriculture, forestry and fishery

### MEASURE 1: INTEGRATION OF SUPPLY AND MARKETS

**Activities:**

- Integration of production and processing in development of new products and services, promotion of gainful activities and marketing

**Indicative projects:** Regulation of fish trade; Arrangement of market places; Protection, marketing and promotion of typical crops and products; Dispersed hotel; Rural development in cross-border Kras (Carso) area.

## MEASURE 2: DEVELOPMENT OF NEW AND PRESERVATION OF TRADITIONAL PRODUCTS AND SERVICES, PROMOTION OF ENVIRONMENT-FRIENDLY FARMING, PRESERVATION OF RURAL SETTLEMENT

### Activity:

- Promotion of the modernization of agricultural holdings

**Indicative projects:** Diversification of agricultural holdings; Development of gainful activities and fishery; Agrarian operations; Promotion of investment in agricultural holdings by co-financing of facilities and equipment for primary agricultural production; Sustainable farming; Arrangement of processing facilities.

## MEASURE 3: IMPROVEMENT OF THE COMMERCIAL VALUE OF FORESTS

### Activity:

- Improvement of the commercial value of forests

**Indicative projects:** Improvement of the commercial value of forests; Improvement of fire safety.



## ENVIRONMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Environmental protection is of key importance for the quality of life of every person and the whole community and for economic prosperity. The priority task of this programme is sustainable mobility or the regulation of traffic so that it causes minimum pressure on the environment where we live. In addition to the constant subjects of environmental infrastructure (waste water management, solid waste management, drinking water supply, which is particularly important in rural areas), considerable attention is paid in this programme to the efficiency of public services which should ensure high-quality living conditions through efficient operation and by providing good services to users.

### The objectives of this Programme are:

1. Reduced impacts on the environment and nature
2. Efficient public services
3. Strengthening the sustainable development of the coastal area

## MEASURE 1: SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY IN THE REGION (INTER-REGIONAL, REGIONAL AND AT AGGLOMERATION LEVEL)

### Activity:

- Establishment of sustainable mobility

**Indicative project:** Establishment of sustainable mobility.

## MEASURE 2: EFFICIENT PUBLIC SERVICES (WASTE WATER, DRINKING WATER, SOLID WASTE)

### Activity:

- Environmental infrastructure in agglomerations and economic areas

**Indicative projects:** Regulation of drinking water supply, Modernization of water distribution systems in order to reduce losses and removal of asbestos-cement pipes from the water supply network; Promotion of pollution reduction and the volume of waste water; GOJUP - waste management in South Primorska; Collecting systems and treatment of urban waste water.

## MEASURE 3: EFFICIENT SPATIAL PLANNING WITH REGIONAL SUPPORT ACTIVITIES

### Activities:

- Strengthening of sustainable development and the quality of living in settlements, revitalization of towns and villages

- Strengthening of management and technical equipment
- Preparation and adoption of new spatial plans

**Indicative projects:** Revitalization of urban and rural settlements and strengthening of sustainable development; Information-communication support in environmental and spatial planning issues; Preparation of common municipal expert groundwork for spatial documents.

#### MEASURE 4: COOPERATION WITH THE STATE IN COMMON TASKS

**Activities:**

- Preservation of nature and biodiversity
- Protection, use and management of waters
- Environment management

**Indicative projects:** Establishment of management and integration of protected areas; Environment Management Plan for South Primorska

#### MEASURE 5: ENERGY SECTOR

**Activity:**

- Regional energy conception and measures for efficient use of energy

**Indicative project:** Elaboration of energy conceptions in the region and implementation of measures.

#### MEASURE 6: COASTAL AREA MANAGEMENT

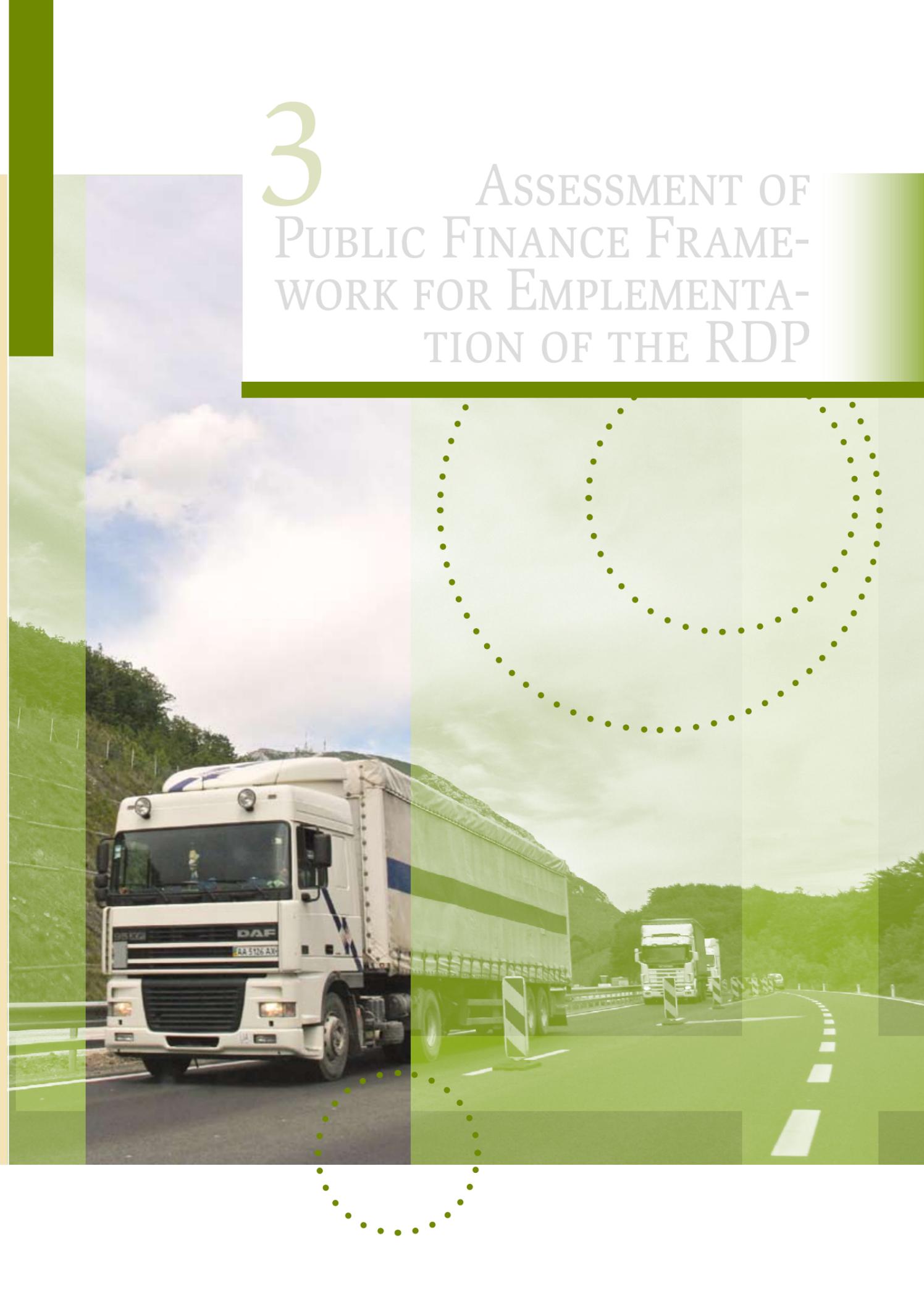
**Activities:**

- Establishment of public-private partnership
- Preparation of spatial and project documentation
- Implementation of priority investments
- Establishment of support actions

**Indicative project:** Preparation and harmonization of coastal area management support actions.

# 3

## ASSESSMENT OF PUBLIC FINANCE FRAME- WORK FOR EMPLEMENTA- TION OF THE RDP



### 3.1 EXTENT OF PROJECTS

The region indicatively assessed projects worth more than EUR 510 million. The state of their preparedness varies substantially and the majority has not yet been elaborated. The region will set up a fund for financing the preparation of projects appropriate for applying for European Structural Funds. The fund will be established by Municipalities jointly with the economy.

The indicative assessment does not include the projects to be undertaken and which are within the jurisdiction of the Government, although such projects have a significant influence on regional development. These are particularly the projects related to the construction of railway network, road and maritime transport and other similar projects.

#### Financial framework of the Regional Development Programme of South Primorska 2007 – 2003 by measures (in EUR '000)

Programmes	RDP Measures	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	Total programme costs	
		(%) Level of public co-financing	Total costs by measures	Total public funds	Total public funds										
		0=2/1	1=2+11	2=3+4+5+6+7+8+9+10	National and local funds			EU Funds				Private sources of public-private partnership			
			National budget	Regional budgets ERDF	Local budgets	ERDF	ESF	Cohesion Fund	Development of rural areas and fisheries	Other EU funds					
ECONOMY	Integration for technological development	70,83	72.000	51.000	3.075	5.000	28.925	14.000					21.000	119.000	
	External regional integration	71,58	9.500	6.800	800				6.000				2.700		
	Development of tourist services	67,73	37.500	25.400	2.250	1.000	12.150	7.000	2.000		1.000		12.100		
HUMAN RESOURCES	Knowledge for the economy	82,51	83.500	68.900	23.350	5.000	12.550	5.000	18.000		5.000		14.600	159.350	
	Efficient and high-quality social services	82,39	75.850	62.490	10.320	9.600	23.570	7.000	10.000			2.000	13.360		
RURAL AREAS, AGRICULTURE, FISHERY AND FORESTRY	Integration of supply and markets	49,44	18.000	8.900	900		1.000				7.000		9.100	50.500	
	Development of new and preservation of traditional products and services, promotion of environmental-friendly farming, preservation of rural settlement	13,79	29.000	4.000	500						3.500		25.000		
	Improvement of the commercial value of forests	14,29	3.500	500	500								3.000		
ENVIRONMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL INFRASTRUCTURE	Sustainable mobility in the region	66,67	30.000	20.000	2.000		10.000			8.000			10.000	181.350	
	Efficient social services	80,22	138.000	110.700	9.400	10.000	41.300			50.000			27.300		
	Efficient spatial planning with regional support activities	78,87	7.100	5.600	800	1.000	2.300			500	500	500	1.500		
	Cooperation with the State in common tasks	100,00	2.750	2.750	900		850			1.000					
	Energy sector	100,00	1.500	1.500	500		1.000								
	Coastal area management	80,00	2.000	1.600	1.200		400						400		
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>72,55</b>	<b>510.200</b>	<b>370.140</b>	<b>56.495</b>	<b>31.600</b>	<b>134.045</b>	<b>33.000</b>	<b>30.000</b>	<b>65.500</b>	<b>17.000</b>	<b>2.500</b>	<b>140.060</b>	<b>510.200</b>	

### 3.2 SOURCES OF PROJECT FUNDS

From the provision for Regional Development Programmes of the European Regional Development Fund, the region may expect EUR 31 million during the period 2007–2013.

In addition, local communities shall contribute EUR 134 million, and EUR 56 million shall be earmarked in the national budget for the implementation of regional development programmes.

It is expected that an additional EUR 33 million may be obtained from other structural policy provisions of the European Regional Development Fund, EUR 30 million from the European Social Fund, EUR 65 million from the Cohesion Fund and almost EUR 20 million from the European Agriculture Fund and European Fisheries Fund and other European sources. The acquisition of funds depends mainly on the quality of projects and their implementation.

The region will attract also the economic and other private financial sources to finance the projects, which will contribute an additional EUR 140 million.

# 4

## CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION



The regional institutions have already been participating actively in cross-border cooperation projects, particularly with Italy within the pre-accession programmes. Since 2004, the cooperation has extended to Croatia with the Interreg IIIA SLO/HU/CRO project and further increased with Italy with the Interreg IIIA SLO/IT project. Joint projects have been carried out in all fields, with particular emphasis on the economy, tourism, culture and the environment, and with the participation of many municipal entities, the Regional Development Agency, faculties and other educational institutions, local development centers, chambers of commerce, societies, etc.

In the future, the region intends to participate even more actively in projects supporting the achievement of regional goals, especially in projects of joint spatial planning, transport, particularly the public transport system, and higher education and research projects. These subjects are increasingly important in the light of the efficiency of public services and the provision of a high-quality living environment. However, the cooperation between people will remain the core of cross-border projects, because cultural and human exchanges ensure long-term cooperation of the region as a whole.

In the following programming period, the region will be actively involved in broader Adriatic integration since it is tied to this area by common development dilemmas as well as the understanding and the possibilities of transfer of new services and technologies.



Priority of RDP South Primorska 2007-2013	Priority of OP Slovenia-Italy 2007-2013	Priority of OP Slovenia-Croatia 2007-2013
<b>Economy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- enhancement of SME competitiveness</li> <li>- promotion of knowledge-based economy</li> <li>- expansion of cross-border cooperation</li> </ul>	Competitiveness of the economy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- development of tourism and rural areas</li> <li>- development of entrepreneurship</li> </ul>
<b>Human resources</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- development of communication systems</li> <li>- improvement of the quality of life through coordinated health development and the systems contributing to well-being</li> <li>- increased employment opportunities through coordinated enhanced education and educational system</li> </ul>	Sustainable management and development: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- protection of nature and culture, sustainable development</li> </ul> Cohabitation along the EU external border: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- cross-border cooperation and exchange of experiences</li> </ul>
<b>Rural areas, agriculture, fishery and forestry</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- preservation and integration in the field of cultural heritage and improvement of cultural exchange</li> </ul>	Competitiveness of the economy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- development of tourism and rural areas</li> </ul>
<b>Environment and environmental infrastructure</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- protection of biodiversity and sustainable management of natural resources</li> <li>- protection of the environment against natural disasters and pollution</li> <li>- increased use of renewable energy sources and efficient use of energy</li> <li>- improvement of accessibility and transport systems and better integration of urban and rural areas</li> </ul>	Sustainable management and development: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- protection of nature and culture, sustainable development</li> </ul>

The full version of the Regional Development Programme of South Primorska 2007-2013 is available on the website: [www.rrc-kp.si](http://www.rrc-kp.si).