

CONE



REPORT

RELEVANT SLOVENIAN STRATEGIC ACTS
AND FRAMEWORKS ON THREE LEVELS RECOMMENDED

AND INDICATED BY CONSORTIUM MEMBERS
AS A BASIS FOR REFERENCE TO NBS TOPIC



OBČINA POLJČANE

Municipality of Poljčane

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Introduction

The annex was prepared based on an analysis carried out by consortium members from February 2024 to July 2025 as a part of a report on local policy frameworks on NBS and development of 5 ‘model regions’ - “Replication blueprints” for NBS implementation in CE and involvement of citizens and decision makers in joint actions on NBS in CE;

AIM:

- Develop a practical tool for planning and supporting the processes of organizing living laboratories based on external circumstances & external expertise, enabling effective use of existing resources and opportunities;
- Individual analysis of known legal and strategic acts at the general and national levels (in 5 EU countries) as a part of the implementation of planned projects, pilots, and deepening of thematic knowledge on the application of NBS;
- Building understanding of the NBS general legal framework and local conditions for its implementation;

Mentioned analysis required identification by partners of policy frameworks on NBS, divided into four levels:

- Pan-European level,
- national level, state level,
- Local and regional level.

PURPOSE:

- Ensure better identification of areas of restrictions and possible legal frameworks within which NBS operations will be implemented in Central Europe partner organizations,
- Deepen the knowledge on additional conditions occurring in individual areas of the consortium that must be taken into account
- Show the most common mistakes related to recording activities carried out within the legal and strategic framework of NBS

ANALYSIS TIMELINE:

- 25.10.2024 - Prepared task framework and template of gathering material by task leader
- December 2024 – submission of guidelines by the coordinating partner to consortium members
- February 2025 – May 2025 - Completion of internal analysis and desk research by national partners (all partners)
- End of May 2025 - July 2025 Summary and final conclusions by consortia members

As a referring point, the partners indicated: **European Union Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR)**, adopted by the European Commission and endorsed by the European Council on September 29, 2014. The strategy was jointly developed by the participating countries and stakeholders in the region.

Short description: Its main goal is to promote a prosperous, inclusive, connected, and green region by improving attractiveness, competitiveness, and connectivity while preserving the environment and ensuring the sustainable use of marine and coastal areas. The strategy involves ten states and works

through cooperation on its five main thematic pillars: blue growth, green quality, cultural and historic tourism, connectivity, and governance.

NBS and project relation: EUSAIR contributes to the goal of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to halt the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystem services and restore them in so far as feasible, by addressing threats to terrestrial biodiversity. CONE has the potential to create synergies with the EUSAIR Flagships 2021-2027 “Protection and enhancement of natural terrestrial habitats and ecosystems” (Pillar 3- Environmental quality). The project, in fact, aims to protect and expand natural habitats and terrestrial ecosystems through the establishment of green corridors.

The Adriatic and Ionian Region is vulnerable to disasters and to the impact of climate change and comprehensive actions to adapt to those circumstances are needed. Enhancing cooperation in this area, through different actions such as conducting adequate comprehensive risk assessment, implementing a disaster risk management policy, as well as developing a regional strategy on adaptation to climate change, will make the Region more resilient to such changes.

Among the acts highlighted by the Slovenian partners, the following can be distinguished on three levels: National, regional, local one.

A. NATIONAL/STATE LEVEL ACTS AND STRATEGIES

1. Long-Term Climate Strategy until 2050

Introduction of the instrument: Resolution on Long-Term Climate Strategy until 2050 on 13 July 2021

Short description: The Resolution on the Long-term Climate Strategy of Slovenia until 2050 (ReDPS50) defines Slovenia’s commitment to achieving climate neutrality by 2050. The strategy focuses on reducing greenhouse gas emissions, increasing energy efficiency and promoting the use of renewable energy sources in various sectors. Slovenia aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by introducing cleaner technologies and sustainable practices in industry, transport, agriculture and waste management. The transition to renewable energy sources, such as solar, wind and hydropower, will reduce dependence on fossil fuels and increase energy security. Increasing energy efficiency in buildings, industry and transport is a priority, which includes modernising infrastructure and promoting energy-saving practices. The strategy includes adapting to climate change by increasing the resilience of infrastructure, protecting biodiversity and sustainably managing natural resources. It also promotes sustainable mobility, including public transport and electric vehicles, and implementing a circular economy to reduce waste and promote recycling. Investments in research and innovation are key to the development of technologies for climate change mitigation. The strategy emphasizes the importance of raising awareness and educating the public about climate issues. By 2050, Slovenia aims to achieve a balance between emissions and removals of greenhouse gases, thereby contributing to the global fight against climate change. NBSs are closely linked to climate change adaptation measures and the protection and enhancement of biodiversity in our environment.

2. Integrated National Energy and Climate Plan

Introduction of the instrument: On 27 February 2020, the Government of the Republic of Slovenia adopted the Integrated National Energy and Climate Plan of the Republic of Slovenia (NECP), which

was also submitted to the European Commission, in accordance with EU Regulation 2018/1999 on the Governance of the Energy Union and Climate Action. Slovenia is currently in the final stages of prepreparation of its review.

Short description: The Comprehensive National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP) is an action-strategic document that, in accordance with EU Regulation 2018/1999 on the Governance of the Energy Union and Climate Action, is required to be adopted by each EU Member State. The NECP for the period up to 2030 (with a view to 2040) sets out objectives, policies and measures in five dimensions of the Energy Union: 1. decarbonisation (GHG and RES emissions), 2. energy efficiency, 3. energy security, 4. internal market and 5. research, innovation and competitiveness.

3. Slovenian Spatial Development Strategy 2050

Introduction of the instrument: Resolution on the Spatial Development Strategy of Slovenia 2050 (ReSPR50) (June 28, 2023)

Short description: The document supports the NBS concept, stating that “For bridging surface waters, arrangements and solutions are provided that do not increase the risk of flooding. Water management arrangements generally follow sustainable arrangements with natural materials available in the vicinity. Water infrastructure is positioned in accordance with the natural morphology, with materials generally used to minimize negative visual impact. Water infrastructure is positioned in such a way that the area of impact in the event of a potential collapse does not pose a major threat to people or their material assets.”

4. GENERAL GUIDELINES IN THE FIELD OF WATER MANAGEMENT for the preparation of municipal spatial plans (OPN) and national spatial plans (DPN)

Introduction of the instrument: Adopted by Slovenian water Directorate in January 2022

Short description: The General Guidelines for Water Management state: “The drainage of rainwater in the management area must be planned in accordance with Article 92 of the ZV-1, in such a way that instantaneous runoff from urban areas is reduced to the greatest possible extent, which means that the retention of rainwater before it flows into surface drains (grassland, grass patches, possible dry retention ponds, etc.) must be planned.” The legislative framework therefore supports the planning of NBS, although this concept is not specifically mentioned and defined.

5. Law on spatial planning (ZUREP-3)

Introduction of the instrument: Adopted on: 9.12.2021; Applicable from: 1. 6. 2022

Short description: This Act determines the objectives, principles and rules of spatial planning, the participants operating in this field, the types of spatial acts, their content and mutual relations, the procedures for their preparation and adoption, their implementation and the procedures for the placement, detailed planning and permitting of spatial arrangements of national importance. It also determines spatial measures and other spatial planning acts, instruments and measures of land policy and regulates the monitoring of the state of spatial development, the operation of the spatial information system and the issuance of certificates in the field of spatial planning.

6. Water Act

Introduction of the instrument: Adopted on: 12.7.2002; Applicable from: 10. 8. 2002

Short description: The objective of water and water and coastal land management is to achieve good water status and other water-related ecosystems, to ensure protection against harmful effects of water, to preserve and regulate water quantities and to promote sustainable water use, which enables various types of water use while taking into account the long-term protection of available water resources and their quality. The impacts of climate change are taken into account when defining the objectives of water management and related programmes of measures. It states, among other things, that the use and other interventions in water, water and coastal land and land in protected and endangered areas, as well as agricultural, forest and building land must be programmed, planned and implemented in such a way as not to deteriorate the water status, to enable protection against harmful effects of water, to preserve natural processes, the natural balance of water and riparian ecosystems, and to protect natural values and areas protected under nature conservation regulations.

7. Nature Conservation Guidelines for the purposes of more detailed planning and implementation of interventions on watercourses in the Danube River Basin District (ANNEX to the Water Management Measures Programme (NUV III, October 2023))

Adopted by government of RS on 23.10.2023

The guidelines are the basis for planning sustainable arrangements and NBS. The guidelines are covering the following areas:

- Riparian overgrowth and aquatic vegetation
- Water structures and riparian protection
- Management of gravel material and debris
- Watercourse continuity
- Time of work implementation

8. The Reconstruction, Development and Provision of Financial Resources Act (ZORZFS)

Introduction of the instrument: Adopted on 13.12.2023, Applicable from: 23.12.2023

Short description: The law was adopted as a reaction to severe floods in Slovenia in 2023. Among other things, it supports NBS with the following provision regarding the rehabilitation of water infrastructure and bodies: when planning and implementing the measures referred to in this article, especially outside populated areas, the possibility of using nature-based solutions shall be examined, in particular regulating water flow taking into account natural processes that ensure reduced runoff or flow of water, reduced presence of pollutants in water, and reduced flooding of populated areas, unless the implementation of these measures does not ensure the same effectiveness in ensuring flood risk reduction.



B. REGIONAL LEVEL (Podravje region)

Corresponding to: Municipality of Poljčane

1. The Regional development programme of Podravje 2021-2027
June 2022

Short description: The Regional development programme of Podravje 2021-2027 does not explicitly mention the NBS, but within Development Objective 2 (Low-carbon and greener region) it emphasizes the importance of green spaces and biodiversity.

C. LOCAL LEVEL (Municipality of Poljčane)

1. Ordinance on the Municipal Spatial Plan of the Municipality of Poljčane

Introduction of the instrument: Applicable from 09.05.2020

Short description: Municipalities draw up spatial planning documents to determine the goals and starting points for their spatial development, plan spatial arrangements of local significance and determine the conditions for the placement of local spatial arrangements in the spatial planning. In doing so, the guidelines from national spatial planning documents, the development needs of the municipality and protection requirements are taken into account.



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