

**STRUCTURAL REFORM SUPPORT PROGRAMME 2017-2020**

**Regulation (EU) 2017/825**

**REQUEST FOR SUPPORT[[1]](#endnote-1)\***

**(Article 7 of the SRSP Regulation (EU) 2017/825)**

**DEADLINE: 31 October 2017**

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| **Member State** | | **The Slovak Republic** | |
| **Coordinating authority** | | **Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic**  **Štefanovičova 5, 817 82 Bratislava** | |
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| **Date of submission** | | **31 October 2017** | |
| **Order of priority of request** | **Recipient national authority:**  **Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic**  **Address:**  **Mlynské nivy 44/a, 827 15 Bratislava 212** | | **Structural reform of the coal region HORNA NITRA** |

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| **1. Description of problem/need to be addressed** | **2. Indicative description of the support measures requested and the estimated cost** | **3.Circumstances of the request** |
| 1. What is the problem/need to be addressed with the support requested? 2. How broad is the problem/need? Does it spread across several policy areas ("spillover")? 3. How deep or severe is the problem/need? Is it persistent? Did any previous attempt to address it fail? 4. How urgent is the need to address the problem? 5. (If available) provide relevant socio-economic indicators linked to the problem/need    1. **What is the problem/need to be addressed with the support requested?**   The Upper Nitra region is economically dependent on brown coal mining and electricity produced from this coal cannot compete with other sources under the current conditions on electricity market, and the production of electricity from coal is not from the long term sustainable. In order to meet the objectives of the Paris Agreement and the transformation of the coal region, it will be necessary to prepare a strategy for the transition to the decarbonised economy in the region and on the basis of this strategy to implement a number of suitable projects, to financially ensure them, to properly coordinate their implementation and, last but not least, to properly communicate these measures to the public.  **1.2 How broad is the problem/need? Does it spread across several policy areas ("spillover")?**  The problem includes the areas of climate change in economic policy, energy policy, raw material policy, environmental policy, research, as well as employment policy. Cooperation is desirable at the level of representatives of the regional and local authorities, social stakeholders, trade unions, representatives of the industrial area, NGOs, research centers, universities and other civil society actors.  **1.3. How deep or severe is the problem/need? Is it persistent? Did any previous attempt to address it fail?**  Decline of the production and demand for coal is a long-term issue. Domestic coal production decreased from approximately 6 million tonnes per year in 1970-1980 to about 1.8 million tonnes at the present. The coal industry of the region is currently facing a number of highly currentchallenges: alternative technologies, international competition and the difficult environmental and climate policy.  **1.4 How urgent is the need to address the problem**  Currently, the region that has to be transformed from coal mining is in a specific situation when the coal production and its use to generate electricity is a vital source of wealth, as it provides numerous jobs, forlow and medium skilled jobs. There will be a need to accelerate measures during the following 2-3 years becauselegislative and market conditions will cause that the conditions for future use of domestic coal will be much morecomplicated. As a significant number of expected measures will have a medium and long-term impact, the need to develop an overall strategy, which should identify measures and actions, is urgent.  **1.5 (If available) provide relevant socio-economic indicators linked to the problem/need**  At present, approximately 4,000 employees of Hornonitrianske bane Prievidza, a. s. ,as a major employer in the Slovak Republic in the mining and largest individual employer in the region, are directly involved in the coal mining in the region ,. Following the HBP Group, a. s. there work more than 3000 employees. Total employment in the coal mining sector with a downstream sphere of supply-and-sales relations and statistical assumptions, represents a total of approximately 11,000 jobs. Currently (September 2017), in the Prievidza district is the unemploymentat the level of 5.29%, which represents approximately 4,300 citizens. Unemployment in the Prievidza district is almost double the average of the Trenčín region (2,97%) (and 39,5% of the unemployed in the whole region (10 854 citizens) are in the Prievidza district. | 1. Briefly describe the indicative support measures requested 2. Indicate the possible duration of the support measures and the estimated cost 3. Indicate the expected results / use of the results of the support measures (what is the ultimate objective that the technical support should achieve) 4. Provide information on the administrative capacity of the recipient national authority in relation to the support measures 5. (If applicable) indicate any envisaged provider   **2.1 Briefly describe the indicative support measures requested**  A new strategic document, developed on the basis of experience from other EU Member States will provide practical tools for the Upper Nitra region, technical support with cooperation of relevant Commission services. The document should propose a combination of short and long term policies and measures to promote job creation and sustainable growth in the field energy and climate. Part of the project is alsoensuring the communication with public about aplanned measures. This Strategy could be implemented after the thorough consultation with stakeholders, accompanied by an Action Plan/Roadmap.  The strategy will be oriented on transport connections, industrial parks, tourism, employment and social assistance to the released miners. At the same time a communication with the public will take place and after its approval, implementation itself.  In the process of preparation of the strategy for the Upper Nitra region, it will be necessary to organize workshops with representatives of stakeholders (industry, NGOs, representatives of the European Commission) and representatives of the regions that have experience with similar structural reform ( "partner regions"). Part of the preparation should include working visits of experts from the Slovak Republic in partner regions and participation of EC representatives in negotiations in Slovakia.  In the second phase of the project, following the development of the strategy and also in the ActionPlan/Roadmap, it is necessary to ensure a consistent communication of measures to citizens in the form of media communication. Therefore a clear communication strategy with a definition of all the subjects involved should be prepared.  **2.2 Indicate the possible duration of the support measures and the estimated cost**  We expect the duration of the project for 3 years with planned budget around EUR 500 000.  The preparation of the strategy and the Action Plan/Roadmap should be finished by end of 2018. It should consist of 4 workshops, each focused on a different policy area (energy and raw material policy; environmental policy; social policy, research and employment policy) as well as with several visits in the partnership regions that will be identified with the help of the EC. These workshops will be used as input for the preparation of the strategy and an Action Plan/Roadmap.  The communication strategy would be prepared in the upcoming [3] months. The implementation will be in the following [21] months.  **2.3 Indicate the expected results / use of the results of the support measures (what is the ultimate objective that the technical support should achieve)**  The project should contain concrete proposals for measures and actions, including the possibility of creating an Action Plan/Roadmap. Such measures should mitigate the negative effects of the transition from coal region's economy to a low-carbon economy and create opportunities for development. These actions should be focused on creation of favourable conditions for finding measures that will create appropriate conditions for growth of jobs (infrastructure,), measures to mitigate social and environmental impacts of the transition as well as solutions for energy supply in the region.  Elements of the communication strategy should be defined, including the definition of actors and objectives of this strategy.  **2.4 Provide information on the administrative capacity of the recipient national authority in relation to the support measures**  Coordination of activities will take place in the Energy Section of the Ministry of Economy of the SR. The Ministry of Economy is responsible for economic policy in the Slovak Republic. The preparation of the strategy is however part of a wider pilot project that should help the transformation of the region under the political leadershipoof the Government Office together with other relevant ministries (Ministry of Transport an Construction, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, Deputy Prime Minister’s Office for Investments and Informatization of the Slovak Republic). Capacity can be extended with members of the expert team of the European Commission, representatives of non-governmental and private sector.  **2.5 (If applicable) indicate any envisaged provider**  Experts from relevant departments of the EC as well as experts from private contractors and NGO´s identified by the EC. | Implementation of:  MS own reform priorities  Union priorities (e.g. CMU, Energy Union, etc.)  Economic adjustment programmes  Economic governance (e.g. CSR, Country reports, etc.)  Union law (e.g. infringements)  Add relevant explanations as appropriate  [i.e. number of CSR; policy priority; relevant national strategy documents, etc.]  The transition of the coal mining region is fully aligned with the Energy Union goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and a transition towards a more secure and sustainable energy system.  The action is in line with Energy Policy of the Slovak Republic which has the strategic aim to provide a competitive low carbon effective and secure energy supply for a reasonable price. |



**STRUCTURAL REFORM SUPPORT PROGRAMME 2017-2020**

**Regulation (EU) 2017/825**

**REQUEST FOR SUPPORT[[2]](#endnote-2)\***

**(Article 7 of the SRSP Regulation (EU) 2017/825)**

**DEADLINE: 31 October 2017**

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| **Order of priority of request** | **Recipient national authority:**  *National Promotional Institution*  **Name:**  *SZRB Asset Management (a joint stock company, 100% owned by Slovenská Záručná a Rozvojová Banka, which is 100% owned by the Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic)*  **Address:** *Grösslingová 44, Bratislava 81108, Slovakia* | **Request for embedded experts tasked with development of the investment advisory capacity in Slovakia for the purposes of the Investment Plan for Europe** |

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| **1. Description of problem/need to be addressed** | **2. Indicative description of the support measures requested and the estimated cost** | **3.Circumstances of the request** |
| 1. What is the problem/need to be addressed with the support requested?   *The Slovak government’s historical reliance on grant financing of its public investments, both from the national and from the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) sources, and Slovakia’s limited experience with financial instruments in the past have resulted in a lack of financial and technical expertise of the Slovak public authorities in identification, screening, structuring, development, and promotion of bankable projects that wold be eligible for financing from EU financial instruments.*  *SZRB Asset Management, as the sole implementing body of ESIF financial instruments in Slovakia and the national promotional institution for the purposes of the Investment Plan for Europe in Slovakia has launched a project with the assistance of the Structural Reform Support Service (SRSS) and of the European Investment Advisory Hub (EIAH) for construction of a pipeline of investment projects in Slovakia. The project aims at addressing the institutional weakness with regard to identification and screening of the project proposals. While the construction and management of the portfolio of investment projects is the common feature in both lines cooperation, the support from SRSS focuses on identification and screening of projects for the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI) and EU level financial instruments as such, while the work with EIAH focuses specifically on the agenda of smart cities, including the analysis of smart cities’ strategies of public authorities in Slovakia, identification of a potential demand for financing for such projects and the assessment of a potential need for establishing an investment platform in Slovakia for smart cities investments.*  *While the preparation of cooperation with SRSS and EIAH are advanced and the launch of both projects imminent, the dedicated support is only short term (up to one year) and unable to address the issue at hand in a permanent manner. A continuation of the cooperation with SRSS is essential for the successful conclusion of this work. Moreover, the work with both EIAH and SRSS focuses primarily on the identification and screening of potentially bankable project proposals. However, a by-product of this cooperation will be identification of project proposals that are lacking in terms of project preparation, project development, economic viability, financial sustainability/bankability, etc. Given the historical dependence of Slovakia on grant financing, there is a significant probability that, in fact, most of the identified project proposals will fall into this category. Such projects will not be ready for consideration by EIB Group for EFSI financing at this stage, but may become appropriate for submission to EIB Group after further work in project structuring and project development. SZRB Asset Management is therefore requesting a support from SRSS to help develop an investment advisory capacity that would provide project promoters with project structuring and project development advisory services.*  *While the EIB Group and EIAH provide investment advisory services to project promoters, these services focus on projects that reach a sufficient (meaning EFSI threshold) financial volume. Smaller sized investment projects that could attain financing from EFSI via an investment platform are typically not targeted by EIAH. Furthermore, project proposals of a sufficient (EFSI threshold) financial volume might not be developed even to the stage, at which the EIAH services would be able to properly analyse the project and decide on the provisioning of EIAH support to them. For example, language barriers or the lack of project documentation might prevent EIAH from reviewing such projects at all. Furthermore, some project promoters in Slovakia might not be aware of the services provided by EIAH. Moreover, other project promoters may need an extensive advisory support best provided by market participants but may be unaware of the type of services available or of the benefits from attaining such project documentation. The investment advisory capacity at SZRB Asset Management should be able to address all of the issues outlined above.*   1. How broad is the problem/need? Does it spread across several policy areas ("spillover")?   *The problem is relevant for all the investment/economic sectors covered by the EIB Group/EFSI, as well as by other EU level financial instruments, e.g. energy efficiency, climate change, clean energy, waste management and circular economy, SMEs, innovative industries, digital economy, infrastructure, and others.*  *The lack of national capacities for project structuring and project development also affects the following policy areas*   * *A greater u use of market compatible forms of financial assistance in Slovakia, such as EFSI financing and other EU level financial instruments, could improve competitiveness of the Slovak economy by decreasing the use of market distorting forms of financial assistance, such as pure grant financing* * *Development of financial markets – greater use of financial instruments in Slovakia could have a positive impact on the development and sophistication of financial market services. In particular, a greater use of innovative forms of financing, such as the subordinated loans, mezzanine financing and equity or quasi equity financial products, could catalyse new forms of financing offered by market participants and in this way benefit the agenda of the Capital Markets Union*  1. How deep or severe is the problem/need? Is it persistent? Did any previous attempt to address it fail?   *Following the resolution of the Slovak government from December 2013 to establish a fund of funds - the Slovak Investment Holding (SIH) - to implement 3% of ESIF under the MFF2014-2020 through financial instruments, a company SZRB Asset Management was established in 2014 to manage the SIH. At a later stage, SZRB Asset Management was mandated to manage the funds under JEREMIE Slovakia as well. This institutional development reflected a recognition by the Slovak government of the growing needs to implements ESI Funds at the national level through financial instruments.*  *SZRB Asset Management has successfully established its presence in Slovakia, including through participation in the successful D4R7 Bratislava road-bypass project (which combined EFSI financing with ESIF financial instruments and was awarded a European PPP deal of the year 2016 by the Project Finance International), or by doubling the absorption rate of JEREMIE Slovakia funds in less than a year, after taking over the management of this instrument from the European Investment Fund in January 2016. SZRB Asset Management is currently in the process of running three public procurements for financial intermediaries to implement a loan-type financial instrument for SMEs, a guarantee-type financial instrument for SMEs and a loan-type financial instrument for energy efficiency renovation in residential housing. SZRB Asset Management is also in the midst of a process of preparing a selection of potential companies eligible for ESIF based equity financing.*  *Despite the successful signs of implementation of ESIF financial instruments at the national level by SZRB Asset Management, the company’s potential to serve as a one-stop-shop for project promoters in Slovakia under the Investment Plan for Europe has been slow to develop in the past. The main reasons for this are the small size of the institution (22 people) and the institution’s primary operational focus on the successful implementation of the national allocation of ESIF financial instruments. In this context, despite the ideal position of SZRB Asset Management to serve as the one-stop-shop for the EFSI, EIAH and European Investment Project Portal in Slovakia and to identify, screen, structure and develop project proposals that could feed into the Investment Plan for Europe, SZRB Asset Management does not have sufficient personal capacities for these activities. While a part of the institutional problem (selection and identification of investment projects) is in the process of being addressed, a continued support from SRSS in this area would ensure the permanency of the solution currently under work, as well as to take the project to the second stage and address also the other part of the institutional problem - project structuring and project development.*   1. How urgent is the need to address the problem?   *The EFSI is entering its third year of operational existence. So far, only one EFSI project was approved in Slovakia – the said R4D7 project. In order to increase the EFSI presence in Slovakia during its 2016-2018 lifetime period and to prepare grounds for its successful continuation up to 2020, Slovakia needs to urgently speed up the process of submitting potentially bankable projects to EIB Group.*  *Apart from the EIB Group/EFSI, there is a growing pressure to increase the use of financial instruments in implementation of EU Budget, both at the national and at the EU level. We expect this trend to continue in the framework of Multiannual financial framework post 2020 negotiations. In order to prepare the Slovak authorities to respond effectively to a growing emphasis on financial instruments to implement EU Budget programmes, a stronger expertise is needed in the area of project structuring and project development. In the context of the MFF post 2020, this expertise should also lead to a gradual build-up of a long term, self-financing, financially sustainable capacity in Slovakia to provide these services to public and private institutions without any external financial aid.*   1. (If available) provide relevant socio-economic indicators linked to the problem/need   *The current institutional gap in Slovakia that is causing the lack of submission of eligible projects for financing from EIB Group/EFSI and other EU level financial instruments will keep Slovakia from effectively participating in EFSI and similar instruments and pose significant risks for Slovakia’s investment policy in the coming years. Without these institutional capacities, a wide variety of economic sectors reliant on support from the EU financial resources (micro-enterprises, SMEs, mid-caps, social enterprises, energy efficiency sector, energy infrastructure, green energy production, waste management sector, transport infrastructure) could face serious risks of insufficient financial support.* | 1. Briefly describe the indicative support measures requested   *SZRB Asset Management would like to solicit assistance of two embedded experts with a previous professional experience in private or public financial institutions, who possess skills in the areas of corporate finance, project structuring, project engineering, project promotion, project development. The experts will also need to be proficient in verbal and written communication in Slovak or Czech language (for the purposes of domestic networking and outreach activities), and in English language (for the purposes of cooperating with the EIB Group/Commission/IFIs) and possess a good knowledge of the investment sector, financial sector or private corporate sector in Slovakia.*  *These experts would be allocated fully to developing an investment advisory capacity in Slovakia tailored for the needs of project promoters seeking financing from EIB Group/EFSI and from other EU level financial instruments. More specifically, the experts would:*   * *Regularly update the pipeline of the investment projects developed at SZRB Asset Management though communication with Slovak public and private institutions and the use of the project screening methodology to select potentially bankable projects, as a continuation of the previous cooperation with SRSS* * *Focus on the project proposals that have been or will have been identified as underdeveloped for the purposes of forwarding to the EIB Group for consideration of EFSI financing* * *Identify project preparation and/or project documentation gaps that will need to be addressed before the potential submission of the project proposals to EIB Group for EFSI financing* * *Identify the most prevalent needs of the project promoters in Slovakia with regard to project preparation and documentation and prepare standardized methods for addressing these needs* * *Assist SZRB AM with preparation of the conceptual design of the investment advisory services for project promoters with the long term view of becoming financially self-sustainable* * *Provide limited investment advisory services to project promoters in project structuring and project development areas* * *Feed the potential bankable projects to EIB Group/EFSI and to the European Investment Project Portal*  1. Indicate the possible duration of the support measures and the estimated cost   *We estimate the required duration of the project as two years and the cost at around EUR 350,000.*   1. Indicate the expected results / use of the results of the support measures (what is the ultimate objective that the technical support should achieve)  * *Update of the pipeline of eligible, bankable project proposals in Slovakia, which would feed into the European Investment Project Portal and to the EIB Group/EFSI* * *Increase the number of EFSI projects in Slovakia, thus contributing to a more even geographical balance of EFSI projects in the EU* * *Develop greater potential for blending of the EU level financial instruments (such as EIB Group/EFSI) with national level financial instruments (such as SIH), and/or with international financial institutions* * *Acquisition of the expertise in SZRB Asset Management to identify, screen, structure and develop project proposals and feed them to EIB Group/EFSI* * *Better institutional and technical readiness of the Slovak Republic for absorption of EU Budget funds during the Multiannual financial framework post 2020* * *Gradual build-up of a long term self-financing mechanism that would allow SZRB Asset Management to continue operations described above, after the SRSS support would end. SZRB Asset Management plans to transform these activities into semi-commercial nature, so that revenues from these operations can sustainably finance SZRB Asset Management expenses related thereto.*   *The ultimate objective is to build an investment advisory capacity in Slovakia that would aid project promoters and in this way increase the number of bankable investment projects in Slovakia that could be financed by EFSI and/or other financial instruments.*   1. Provide information on the administrative capacity of the recipient national authority in relation to the support measures   *SZRB Asset Management is the sole institution in Slovakia mandated by the Slovak government resolution of December 2013 to implement ESIF under MFF 2014-2020 through financial instruments, and to which 3% of financial resources under each Operational programme of the Slovak Republic was allocated for this purpose. Moreover, SZRB Asset Management was tasked to perform the role of the national promotional institution under the Investment Plan for Europe and to serve as the main national coordination body for the EFSI and for the EIAH. Lastly, the current SZRB Asset Management personal capacities include professionals with a wide variety of experience in Slovak private sector (former employees of Big4 consultancy firms and of major banks operating in Slovakia and Czech Republic), as well as in Slovak public sector (former analysts, middle management, state secretary in various line ministries as well as former top managers from public financial institutions in Slovakia). With this background, SZRB Asset Management is perfectly positioned to utilize the requested support measures in the most effective and efficient manner.*  *SZRB Asset Management currently employees 22 people, which is the primary obstacle to adopting a more active approach to addressing the issue.*   1. (If applicable) indicate any envisaged provider   *Potential provider of the embedded experts: Financial institutions, Consultancy companies, International financial institutions* | Implementation of:  MS own reform priorities  Union priorities (e.g. CMU, Energy Union, etc.)  Economic adjustment programmes  Economic governance (e.g. CSR, Country reports, etc.)  Union law (e.g. infringements)  Add relevant explanations as appropriate  [i.e. number of CSR; policy priority; relevant national strategy documents, etc.]  *A manifesto of the Slovak government for 2016-2020 includes an explicit political support for the implementation of investments through revolving forms of financial support, as well as for the European Fund for Strategic Investments.*  *The Investment Plan for Europe is one of the top political priorities of the European Commission, and of the Union as a whole. The Capital Market Union, which could also benefit from the greater use of financial instruments, is another top priority of the European Commission, and of the Union as a whole.*  *Lastly, inefficiency of the Slovak public administration was criticized in recital 9 of the country specific recommendations for Slovakia for 2017. We believe that a support from SRSS, as requested in this application, would help increase the flexibility and capacity of the Slovak public administration to respond to the growing need to implement EU Budget programmes through financial instruments.* |



**STRUCTURAL REFORM SUPPORT PROGRAMME 2017-2020**

**Regulation (EU) 2017/825**

**REQUEST FOR SUPPORT[[3]](#endnote-3)\***

**(Article 7 of the SRSP Regulation (EU) 2017/825)**

**DEADLINE: 31 October 2017**

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| **Order of priority of request** | **Recipient national authority: Ministry of Culture of Slovak Republic**  **Name:**  **Address: Nám. SNP 33, 813 31  Bratislava** | **Analysis of Slovak Cultural and Creative Industries focused on private and public investments.** |

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| **1. Description of problem/need to be addressed** | **2. Indicative description of the support measures requested and the estimated cost** | **3.Circumstances of the request** |
| 1. What is the problem/need to be addressed with the support requested? 2. How broad is the problem/need? Does it spread across several policy areas ("spillover")? 3. How deep or severe is the problem/need? Is it persistent? Did any previous attempt to address it fail? 4. How urgent is the need to address the problem? 5. (If available) provide relevant socio-economic indicators linked to the problem/need   1.1 The problem/need of requested support is the missing analysis of Slovak cultural and creative industries on private and public investments, which should be implemented in new Action Plan for Cultural and Creative Industries (later „CCIs“) and other key documents and politics for CCIs and also for creating new and most effective financial tools for CCIs in Slovakia.  Since 2011 Ministry of Culture of Slovak Republic adopted new agenda in the field of Cultural and Creative Industries (later „CCIs“) and has been working on several strategic documents such as the Basis of CCIs Development in Slovakia (2013), Analysis of the potential of CCIs in Slovakia (2013), Strategy of CCIs Development (2014) and the Action Plan of realization of Strategy of CCIs Development for the period 2016-2017 (accepted in 2015).  The analytical part of the existing documents is based on the analysis from 2013, that has been designed more as a generic review of status quo of the sector, not focusing on economic parameters either from micro- or macro-economic level. The existing Strategy is based on statistical data available at the time (2011) that don’t reflect the structure and dynamics of the sector. As a result of this the government of Slovakia adopted a task to create a Satellite account for CCIs to improve statistical data in this sector. Ministry of Culture is in charge of this task and is preparing to launch the Satellite account in 2020 and thus provide relevant statistics for future strategic documents for this sector. In 2018 will be first experimental data from the upcoming Satellite account available.  At the moment, Ministry of Culture of SR needs to focus more on specific CCIs sector analysis consisting of the following focal points:  - Suggestions for development of investment opportunities for Slovak CCIs,  - Evaluation and Analysis of public investments for Slovak CCIs.  The analysis is needed to update the Strategy of Creative Industry and also to renew the Action Plan for Cultural and Creative Industry with the view for the years 2020+ as key documents for regulation and implementation of new mechanisms. The Analysis will be used to improve the system of public investments through public institutions under the policy of the Ministry of Culture of Slovak Republic.  1.2 The problem concerns several economic sectors and policy areas, such as: private and public investment in CCIs, employment, internalization and export of CCIs, and as a spill-over effects it affects innovation and productivity, education and lifelong learning, social innovation and well-being, tourism and branding, local and regional development and environmental sustainability.  1.3 CCIs have a considerable potential and are responsible for over 3% of the EU's GDP and jobs. But they still remain undervalued and unrecognized (especially in terms of their ability to access start-up capital and various financial instruments). CCIs face a lack of clear evidence and information in the sector. This lack also limits the ability of financial backers to recognize their economic potential. CCIs are nowadays facing also other legislative hurdles, such as intellectual property rights and varying tax regimes, etc. The analysis of investment in Slovak CCIs is one of the important tools needed to properly set the regulations for CCIs market, represent the interests of CCIs and raise their concerns, to help structure and strengthen the sector and its potential.  As a matter of fact, Slovak Republic in the programming period 2014-2020, has been investing more than 270 mil Euros for CCIs from ESIF. Public investments in Film and Arts (in a system of financial contribution) were raised in 2017. The system of tax refunds for film and TV is still not stabilized and there are no Tax refunds for other CCIS at all. There is still lack of private investments in CCIs and lack of tools for support the private investment in CCIs too. It is important to set the public and tools for private investments and create the strategic documents according to high quality analysis in order to support its sustainability and effectiveness according to development of CCIs market and its potential.  For further development of CCIs and its connection to cross-sector innovations it is necessary to have deeper knowledge of Ecology of CCIs with its requirements for regulation and further investments from public funds and local authorities thus moving away from direct state funding.  The existing analysis of Slovak CCIs and their potential was published in 2013, based on the data from 2011. The analysis does not address any of the previous focal points written in 1.1.. The analysis is more generic and needs to be followed up with specific sectors analysis as determined previously to strengthen the position and potential of CCIs in Slovak economy. The same applies to the existing Strategy and Action Plan.  1.4 With the view of renewal of The Action plan for Creative Industries that is in place till the end of 2017, the need to have defined analysis in hand is urgent.  The urgent need of renewal of The Action plan for Creative Industries is based, apart from others, on the „Country Report Slovakia 2017” published by European Commission, which resulted in priorities for SMEs as diversification of economy due to automotive- dominated economy and support services for SMEs, which have not yet exhausted their full potential.  CCIs is mostly composed of SMEs with very specific development and growth needs. The Sector itself has potential to diversify economy in Slovakia also as a catalyst of innovations.  1.5 The relevant socio-economic indicators (last data are from 2011):   * + 4000 entrepreneurs are working in a field of cultural and creative industries (6,2% of Slovak business sector), with the biggest potential in IT   + the income of the cultural and creative industries was in 2011 around 5,5 bn. euros, what makes it 4% of all the income of the economy of Slovakia   the employment in the sector is more than 45.000 employees, what makes 1.95% of the whole employment of SR (this number does not includes self-employed persons and freelancers (in the 2011 the statistics for freelancers and self-employed persons in cultural and creative industries didn’t exist). | 1. Briefly describe the indicative support measures requested 2. Indicate the possible duration of the support measures and the estimated cost 3. Indicate the expected results / use of the results of the support measures (what is the ultimate objective that the technical support should achieve) 4. Provide information on the administrative capacity of the recipient national authority in relation to the support measures 5. (If applicable) indicate any envisaged provider   2.1 The request is for analysis of Slovak CCIs (Film & TV Industry, Multimedia & Digital Arts, Market with Design and Crafts, Repository Institutions – the most progressive areas of CCIs in Slovakia with biggest potential for growth and jobs) through focus on general long-term aim of development of access to financial instruments for CCIs in Slovakia thru focus on this particular areas:  In private investment climate:  - Possibilities and Suggestions for development of private investment climate for Slovak CCIs (potential and motivation of private investments),  - Possibilities for the development of different tools for private investment in Slovak CCIs and suggestions for its development  - Possibilities of the institute of business angel in Slovak investment environment and suggestions for its development,  - Possibilities of foreign investment into Slovak CCIs and suggestions for its development,  In public investment climate:  - evaluation and impact of the system of support for film & TV thru Slovak Audiovisual Fund and RTVS - National broadcaster on SME and the market and suggestions for its development,  - evaluation and impact of the system of the tax refund system for film & TV thru system of support of Slovak audiovisual industry and suggestions for its development,  - evaluation and impact of the system of support for Arts and Multimedia thru Council of Arts on the market of CCIs and suggestions for its development,  - evaluation and impact of public investment in internationalization and export of Slovak CCIs and suggestions for its development,  - economical potential of digitized content of Slovak Repository Institutions in Slovakia and abroad and suggestions for its development of economic potential,  2.2 The Analysis should be done in 6 months (starting in February 2018). Estimated costs of the analysis are 150.000 euros.  2.3 The Analysis will strengthen the capacity to implement the reforms and will be used for updating the documents such as Strategy on Cultural and Creative Industries and also for renewal Action plan for Cultural and Creative Industry for the years 2018 – 2020 (planned to be launched in the second half of 2018) and Action plan for Cultural and Creative Industry for the years 2020+ (planned to be launched in 2019), which will become main strategic documents for CCIs public policy. The suggestions of analysed institutions (such as Slovak Audio-visual Fund, Council of Arts) will be addressed to them.  Analysis will be also used for creating new financial tools for CCIs in Slovakia via ESIF but not exclusively in cooperation with the Ministry of finance of Slovak republic.  The Analysis is also one of the last steps needed for the process of updating the Strategy on Cultural and Creative Industries and also for renewal Action plans for Cultural and Creative Industry, which will be designed in a participative manner at various levels of stakeholders such as state level, region level, city level both from public and private realms and thus will be ensured accountancy and implementation of adopted priorities.  The capacity of the team to "absorb" the provided TA is Ministry of Culture of Slovak Republic, responsible for public policy for CCIs. Other institutions involved in policy for cultural and creative industries on national level are Ministry of finance of Slovak republic, Slovak Audiovisual Fund, Slovak Arts Council, Ministry of Economy of SR (including Slovak Business Agency, Slovak Innovation and Energy Agency); Ministry of of Transport and Construction of the Slovak Republic, Ministry of Education Science of SR, Research and Sport of SR; Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs SR, Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of SR.2.4 Administrative capacity: Department of Culture and Creativity Development, Ministry of Culture of Slovak Republic, responsible for public policy for CCIs Department of Media, Audio-visual Industry and Copyright Law, Ministry of Culture of Slovak Republic.Other institutions involved in cultural and creative industries on national level are Slovak Audiovisual Fund, Slovak Arts Council, Ministry of Economy of SR (including Slovak Business Agency, Slovak Innovation and Energy Agency); Ministry of Education Science, Research and Sport of SR; Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs SR, Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of SR. 2.6The recommended providers are KEA European Affairs – www.keanet.eu, Nesta - www.nesta.org.uk, Tom Fleming Creative Consultancy tfconsultancy.co.uk or Olsberg SPI - [www.o-spi.co.uk](http://www.o-spi.co.uk). | Implementation of:  X MS own reform priorities  X Union priorities (e.g. CMU, Energy Union, etc.)  Economic adjustment programmes  X Economic governance (e.g. CSR, Country reports, etc.)  Union law (e.g. infringements)  Add relevant explanations as appropriate  [i.e. number of CSR; policy priority; relevant national strategy documents, etc.]  According to **Country Report** Slovakia 2017 published by European Commission „SMEs are important for growing and diversifying Slovakia’s automotive- dominated economy“ and „Support services for SMEs have not yet exhausted their full potential.“  According to **Priorities of European Commission –**Investment – is one of the 10 Commission priorities for 2015 – 2019. With the requested analysis we need to analyze system and possibilities of private and public investments in CCI´s to set the financial tools and investment climate properly to work in most effective way.  The objective of **IROP PA3** is to achieve economic growth and employment in Slovakia through thematic objective no. 8 Promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility through promoting employment-friendly growth by developing endogenous potential as a component of territorial strategy for specific areas, including the conversion of declining industrial regions and strengthening the accessibility and development of specific natural and cultural resources. The endogenous potential of regions includes, inter alia, the creativity of human resources that, together with cultural resources, form a part of the creative economy.  PA3 is designed into 2 support schemes: decentralised support scheme is to provide financial support to SMEs in CCIs and centralised support scheme is to nurture creative ecosystems in the regions by providing with infrastructure (creative hubs), innovation and business services.  New financial tools requested in Analysis can be used as a co-financing mechanism in national and regional projects (to finance those costs that are not covered by the grant). Through new financial tools many more CCIS projects can reach their financial target and therefore create a positive impact on employment and entrepreneurship.  **From the Manifesto of Slovak Government:**  “In order to prepare and implement system-level and beneficial measures in the field of culture, the Government will continue an effective dialogue with experts on culture, local government representatives and other relevant stakeholders… This broad debate involving the general public and experts has actually been going on for several years, resulting in a number of strategic documents, draft laws and measures. Therefore, the Government can further pursue its activities in the cultural domain based on the principle of continuity of its policies, with one of the foundations of the state cultural policy being the implementation of approved strategies widely accepted by the public, such as: Strategy on Culture Development for 2013-2020 and Strategy on Creative Industry Development… At the same time, the Government will prepare new strategic documents, projects and action plans for main cultural domains for the next years…. The Government will follow up and continue the changes in the funding of culture, gradually moving away from a direct support by the state to its funding from public funds and by local authorities. ” |



**STRUCTURAL REFORM SUPPORT PROGRAMME 2017-2020**

**Regulation (EU) 2017/825**

**REQUEST FOR SUPPORT[[4]](#endnote-4)\***

**(Article 7 of the SRSP Regulation (EU) 2017/825)**

**DEADLINE: 31 October 2017**

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| **Order of priority of request** | **Recipient national authority: National Institute for Certified Educational Measurements (NUCEM)**  **Name: NUCEM**  **Address: Žehrianska 9, 851 07 Bratislava** | **Development of Criterion referenced tests at primary and lower secondary levels of education.** |

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| **1. Description of problem/need to be addressed** | **2. Indicative description of the support measures requested and the estimated cost** | **3.Circumstances of the request** |
| 1. What is the problem/need to be addressed with the support requested? 2. How broad is the problem/need? Does it spread across several policy areas ("spillover")? 3. How deep or severe is the problem/need? Is it persistent? Did any previous attempt to address it fail? 4. How urgent is the need to address the problem? 5. (If available) provide relevant socio-economic indicators linked to the problem/need    1. Slovakia does not collect relevant feedback on the trends about pupil achievement in relation to national learning standards. As a result, crucial stakeholders (teachers, schools, school founders, Ministry of Education, pupils, parents) miss sound information base to make informed decisions to improve educational outcomes of pupils. Therefore, the project aims to develop Criterion-Referenced Tests (CRT) for primary and secondary students. It will help determine the level at which pupils learned expected knowledge and skills defined by national educational standards and follow trends at the pupil level, school level and at the national level. Consequently, CRT will serve as a diagnostic tool which will help better identify both learning areas which need to be improved and individual pupils and schools with most significant [learning gaps](http://edglossary.org/learning-gap/).    2. The results will be utilized at all levels of education administration. National policy makers, schools and teachers will be able to adopt relevant support measures to improve education outcomes. Also, it will be possible to better evaluate the efficiency of current educational policies and strengthen accountability of all stakeholders. Ultimately, increasing educational level strengthens inclusion of vulnerable communities into society and labour market, supports citizenship and healthy life style.    3. Weak information base for quality decision making is a long-term problem in the education sector. So far, Slovakia has developed national student assessments for primary and lower secondary pupils, which are norm referenced. These are primarily used to compare pupils’ results, do not provide formative assessment, i.e. do not inform in-process teaching and targeted interventions to improve educational outcomes. The results cannot be compared in time therefore it is not possible to follow trends. The CRTs are used to determine whether educators and schools are successfully teaching students what they are expected to learn. In this case, test scores are seen as a representative indicator of student achievement. The norm-referenced tests are not able to identify gaps in student learning and academic progress. The CRTs are better suited to measuring learning progress than norm-referenced tests, and they give educators information they can use to improve teaching and school performance. The CRT are used, along with other information about pupils, to diagnose learning needs so that educators can provide appropriate services, instruction, or academic support. The CRT better identify achievement gaps among different student groups and to provide targeted specific support. Roma pupils, pupils who are not proficient in Slovak language, pupils from low-income households, and pupils with physical or learning disabilities tend to score, on average, well below pupils from more educated, higher income households on standardized tests. In this case, changes in educational policies and programs can be made and targeted support measures and interventions to improve educational outcomes of individual pupils can be provided.    4. The Council of the European Union in its 2017 country specific recommendation urges Slovakia to “Improve the quality of education and increase the participation of Roma in inclusive mainstream education”. Educational outcomes of Slovak students in are below EU average and show negative trend. The share of low achievers (vulnerable group of pupils) is increasing. Strong inequalities persist with socio-economic background impacting student outcomes. Reliable information on pupils’ performance is key to successful implementation of targeted education policies and targeted specific interventions. The need to upgrade national student assessments to improve student outcomes is articulated in the Action Plan of the Education spending review, which was approved by the Government of the Slovak Republic in October 2017.    5. Relevant indicators are presented in e.g. OECD PISA Survey or EC’s Education and Training Monitor. | 1. Briefly describe the indicative support measures requested 2. Indicate the possible duration of the support measures and the estimated cost 3. Indicate the expected results / use of the results of the support measures (what is the ultimate objective that the technical support should achieve) 4. Provide information on the administrative capacity of the recipient national authority in relation to the support measures 5. (If applicable) indicate any envisaged provider    1. Ministry of Education seeks support to develop Criterion-Referenced Tests in key subjects – Slovak language, Mathematics for students in primary (ISCED1) and lower secondary education (ISCED2). Indicative measures for 2017-20 include: 6. Three three-day workshops delivered by experts from recognized international organisations with expertise in test development for Slovak experts. 7. Study visits of Slovak experts in countries with established CRT systems: transfers of practical know–how and hands-on experience with CRT. 8. Technical support to Slovak officials from the Ministry of Education, researchers from NUCEM and academia (i.e. Slovak Academy of Science and universities) to develop the CRT in key subjects i.e. Slovak language, Mathematics for students at primary and secondary levels of education, including test framework methodology which should guide the development of the pilot tests (e.g. content domain, cognitive domain, test specification). 9. Evaluation of pilot CRT by Slovak and international experts.    1. Starting in April 2018, the project will last until December 2020. The estimated cost is approximately 550,000 Eur. 10. Three three-day workshops – transfer of theoretical know-how in CRT development, definition of cut scores, analytical evaluation of test results, creation of reports for schools. 11. Study visits of Slovak experts in countries with established CRT systems - transfer of practical know–how and hands-on experience with CRT. 12. Technical support to the Slovak officials from the Ministry of Education and researchers from NUCEM to develop the CRT framework methodology which should guide the development of the pilot tests. The framework should include those parts of the national curriculum that will be covered in the test (content domain), ensure comparability of cognitive demand as well as difficulty for tests in successive years (cognitive domain) and ensure valid, reliable and comparable tests (test specification). Development of CRT in key subjects i.e. Slovak language, Mathematics for students at primary and secondary levels of education for pilot testing on sample of students and schools (the pilot testing itself will not be not covered by the project). 13. Evaluation of pilot CRT by Slovak and international experts.     1. National student assessments are run by NUCEM (National Institute for Certified Educational Measurements). The Institute is an agency established by the Ministry of Education. The Institute employs currently 29 researchers and 8 administrative staff. NUCEM also conducts research and development in the field of measuring and assessing the quality of education, monitors learning outcomes at national level as well as in international context and evaluates educational quality at primary and secondary schools with respect to national curriculum.     2. International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement, American Educational Research Association, member states with established CRT systems, Slovak Academy of Science, universities, NUCEM. | Implementation of:  MS own reform priorities  Union priorities (e.g. CMU, Energy Union, etc.)  Economic adjustment programmes  Economic governance (e.g. CSR, Country reports, etc.)  Union law (e.g. infringements)  Add relevant explanations as appropriate  [i.e. number of CSR; policy priority; relevant national strategy documents, etc.]   * CSR 2 * Action Plan of the Education spending review, approved by the Government of the Slovak Republic in October 2017 |



**STRUCTURAL REFORM SUPPORT PROGRAMME 2017-2020**

**Regulation (EU) 2017/825**

**REQUEST FOR SUPPORT**[[5]](#endnote-5)\*

**(Article 7 of the SRSP Regulation (EU) 2017/825)**

**DEADLINE: 31 October 2017**

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| **Order of priority of request** | **Recipient national authority:**  **Name: Ministry of Health of the Slovak republic**  **Address: Limbová 2,**  **837 52 Bratislava** | **Sustainability and quality assurance in colorectal cancer screening and diagnosis program in Slovakia** |

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| **1. Description of problem/need to be addressed** | **2. Indicative description of the support measures requested and the estimated cost** | **3.Circumstances of the request** |
| 1. What is the problem/need to be addressed with the support requested? 2. How broad is the problem/need? Does it spread across several policy areas ("spillover")? 3. How deep or severe is the problem/need? Is it persistent? Did any previous attempt to address it fail? 4. How urgent is the need to address the problem? 5. (If available) provide relevant socio-economic indicators linked to the problem/need    1. The program of opportune colorectal carcinoma screening was launched under the authority of the Ministry of Health in 2013. The professional and organizational sponsor of the project has become the Slovak Gastroenterology Society. The working group was established and this group then managed gastroenterologists with practitioners and health insurance companies. Slovakia wants to shift from opportunistic screening to population based screening. There has been published an evidence already that programs with population based approach can offer cost effective interventions. [[6]](#footnote-1) The introduction of national or transnational population-wide screening programs is a priority for the healthcare policy. [[7]](#footnote-2)We need to address problems with opportune organised screening programme, there is a low response rate, there is a gap in sustainable funding and we need to address issue of quality in accordance of European guidelines. There is a need to develop national screening strategy and establish comprehensive an administrative structure responsible for screening programme implementation, quality assurance and evaluation. This comprehensive structure is not in place already. We need to strength organisational framework for effective management and continuous improvement of the screening process and start up cancer registries linked with screening registries.   Very strict law on law on personal data protection remained barrier with data providing from the health insurance companies to the program manager. The next critical issue was unreporting to the system.   * 1. The sector affected mostly is health sector including public health system. We assume collaboration with patient organizations and health insurance companies is necessary to overcome the problem. Missing administrative structure decreases ability to maximize opportunities to lower the burden of cancer in the population by discovering disease in its early latent stages and can also create problems which can lead to serious financial and quality of life consequences.   2. Problem is persistent and program failed on few legislation, financial and operation barriers.   3. The problem has a high priority, due to high mortality on CRC in Slovakia. Running and establishing of the program must fulfil quality standards as defined in European guidelines for quality assurance in colorectal cancer screening and diagnosis.   4. Socioeconomic group influence the rate of participation in the CRC programme and the rate of lesions found in the participants, particularly employment status, cultural background, or level of education. Any public health programme is morally and ethically obliged to strive for equity and effectiveness. Improving participation of men and socially disadvantaged groups should be taken in account.[[8]](#footnote-3) | 1. Briefly describe the indicative support measures requested 2. Indicate the possible duration of the support measures and the estimated cost 3. Indicate the expected results / use of the results of the support measures 4. Provide information on the administrative capacity of the recipient national authority in relation to the support measures 5. (If applicable) indicate any envisaged provider   2.1 Support measures requested will strengthen CRC screening planning, implementation, and evaluation using validated performance indicators, targeting gaps and needs identified as priority at national and regional level and by the report on the implementation of the Council Recommendation on Cancer Screening published in May 2017. Two phases, which will be implementable at regional, national and in other Member State level, are planned:   * Capacity building for the implementation of effective screening programs, including target actions to improve screening performance through facilitating participation * Retraining health professionals, to improve the follow up of intestinal lesions detected by the screening.   Capacity building will take stock of the web-based tool, already developed by the National Agency for Regional Health Services (AGENAS) that is applicable to assess the performance of National Cancer Plans[[9]](#footnote-4). The web-based tool can be used by other EU countries adding EU value to support planning and evaluation of cancer screening programs.  The results of the tool based analysis allow to tailor on the local context the best evidence available on good practices addressing modifiable barriers, to orient quality assurance interventions and to set objectives for monitoring their implementation. The results of the analysis of the indicators of program performance would allow to identify targets for new interventions, establishing a continuous quality improvement approach, according to policy priorities of the National Cancer Plan(s) and the recommendations of 2010 Council conclusions on Action against cancer and of the Report on implementation of the Council Recommendation on Cancer Screening.  A patient centered approach will be applied using interactive and hands-on learning approaches with the main objective to identify and treat early stage CRC cases and at the same time to improve professional competence of clinicians (including endoscopists) and pathologists in line with the recent statement on 'Inter-disciplinary Training of Cancer Specialists in the European Union' of the EU Expert Group on Cancer Control.  To substantially increase the European value-added of the project and the cost-efficiency of the actions, the Slovak Republic wishes to benefit from the support carried out under this project in a consortium of beneficiary countries including Romania, Italy and the Republic of Cyprus. The 4 Member States have similar challenges in improving the design and the implementation of CRC programmes and would benefit from mutually sharing experiences under this support during the implementation of its actions.  The core components of the projects are:   1. Adapting the web-based tool to other European Countries and sharing best practices 2. training/supervision in the utilization of the tool and the design and evaluation of the interventions aimed to address identified barriers 3. Based on recommendation from EU screening networks (Lynge 2012), confirmed in the CANCON project (Lönnberg 2017), the implementation of a cancer screening programme should be divided into phases, including feasibility testing, piloting and scaling up from pilot to service. Successful implementation of the program requires verification of adequate performance in each phase. Piloting permits evidence-based modification of the program before it extends to the entire country. We plan therefore to implement pilot projects aimed to assess the local impact of evidence-based approaches to address identified barriers, including, among others, the offer of the choice of multiple tests tailored to patients’ preferences. Pilot phase evaluation will provide useful information to enhance the quantitative performance of the screening programme. 4. Organisation and implementation of re-training courses, using the train-the-trainers approach (training of "champions"). For the Slovak Republic, the goal could be to train around 50 specialists (such as endoscopists, pathologists, screening managers).   In addition to these core components, which will be carried out to the adequate extent with other beneficiary countries, country-specific pilot activities for support will include the following actions for the Slovak Republic:   * nationwide information campaigns * data management as a base for cancer register   The exact scope of collaboration between the beneficiary countries under this project will be defined in the specific terms of reference to this project. In case a consortium of beneficiary countries cannot be built up, because a country withdraws or support cannot be financed by the SRSS, the Slovak Republic wishes to benefit from the support as a single beneficiary.  2.2. Timeline of the project:  *First semester*: Fine tune and adaptation of the web-based tool.  Planning of the retraining program, based also on a survey of national and/or regional educational needs.  Integration of the proposed activities in the National Plans for screening implementation and definition of the timeline for the proposed initiatives.  *Second Semester*: Implementation of the training for the use of Web-based tool (can start also during the first six months according to the regional and MS needs).  Definition of priority targets for potential interventions aimed to improve screening uptake and quality; design of the interventions  Implementation of retraining courses  Reporting to National Authorities and Commission.  *Third semester*: Implementation phase including piloting of the selected invitation strategies of the target population. Piloting will be implemented within 4 screening programs, two of them in regions with incomplete coverage, with an expected 5% absolute increase in the participation rate, This phase can start also during the first six months according to the regional and MS needs).  Training/re-training continue  *Fourth semester*: As above plus evaluation through performance indicators and drafting of recommendation tailored to modify/update/fine tune the National Cancer Plan(s) and in particular the implementation of the CRC screening programme(s).  Final report to be endorsed by the EU Steering Group on Promotion and Prevention.  Estimated costs  1) Translation of the tool to allow its utilisation over the EU countries. Scaling up of the tool from a pilot version to a fully established interactive web application.  1 half-time personnel unit: 6 months (to be shared by all beneficiary countries in the project)  Some reserve for translation costs should be added.  2) Customising the tool (for example to adapt some sections to the different health systems) and training of users.  1 half-time personnel unit: 6 months (to be shared by all beneficiary countries)  Supervision for utilisation and support for the barrier analysis : 1 half-time personnel unit: 6-12 months (for each beneficiary country in the project)  Travel: 2 missions for two days for 2-3 experts for each participating country  Coordination of the development and training activities : 1 half-time personnel unit for 12 months (it could also include coordination of retraining ) (to be shared by all beneficiary countries in the project)  3) Personnel: 1 full time-time equivalent unit (coordinator of design and evaluation of pilot projects – 2 years (to be shared by all beneficiary countries)  Screening IT system modification for implementing and evaluating pilots activities: 20,000 Euros per site  4) Personnel: 1 half-time equivalents unit (trainers) - 12 months (to be shared by all beneficiary countries in the project)  Travel and organisation costs: 6 two-day meetings; 10-15 participants / meeting    **Assuming that four beneficiary countries participate in the project, the estimated total budget for the project is € 800 000.**    2.3 Indicate the expected results / use of the results of the support measures  The Technical support will contribute to achieve the following expected results:   * Raise the number of health professionals trained or re-trained in the planning, organisation and evaluation of CRC screening programmes. The aim of this action is to train at least two trainers for each professional group in each region and to start re-training courses for pathologists and endoscopists in at all regions of the country (including those regions with incomplete coverage) in the fourth semester. * Adoption of a continuous quality improvement approach, possibly including specific recommendations in the respective National Cancer Plans * A EU web-based tool to be used by EU countries to support planning and evaluation of cancer screening programs. * Improve the impact of the CRC screening programme by targeting a 85% for coverage by invitation and a 50% for coverage by examination. * Alignment of the diagnostic and treatment processes, to validated best practices and guidelines with reduced variability across programmes and reduction of inappropriate treatments.   In addition, the technical support is expected to contribute to:  - The development of capacity of the administrative structure for CRC screening implementation according to EGQA  - The increase the number of reporting GP´s to the coordinating centre  - An improved implementation of European guidelines for quality assurance in colorectal cancer screening and diagnosis  - The sustainability of population based screening and CRC mortality decreasing  - Increase the administrative capacity of the MoH in program implementation and evaluation  2.4. Design of reform measures will be conducted within the Ministry of Health, namely by the State Secretary office and Public Health Department. Administrative structure will be separate. Public health department has 2 employees, who will cover the topic of request and will participate in the action in close cooperation with Health Care Department. Additionally, the Slovak Gastroenterology Society carries out pilot project of population based screening, research, and other supportive tasks upon request.  2.5  health insurance companies (Currently there are 3 health insurance companies providing public health insurance in Slovakia: state health insurance company: “Všeobecná zdravotná poisťovňa”, www.vszp.sk, private health insurance company: “Dôvera”, www.dovera.sk, and private health insurance company: “Union”, www.union.sk)  2.6  The project lead could be taken by the National Screening Monitoring Centre (Osservatorio Nazionale Screening).  In case of a consortium of beneficiary countries, national partners should join the project to carry out the project implementation.  [Council conclusions on 'Action Against Cancer':](https://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/EN/genaff/116489.pdf)  [Cancer Screening in the European Union (2017), Report on the implementation of the Council Recommendation on cancer screening:](https://ec.europa.eu/health/sites/health/files/major_chronic_diseases/docs/2017_cancerscreening_2ndreportimplementation_en.pdf)  PRECEDE-PROCEED model developed by Sinopoli A, Saulle R, Guarino A, Cereda D, Giorgi Rossi P, Serantoni S, Giordano L, De Belvis A, Marino M, Bellentani D, Federici A, La Torre G. Sperimentazione di uno strumento per la programmazione dei programmi di screening oncologici in Italia Ig. Sanità Pubbl. 2017; 73: 295-301;  Federici, A., Guarino, A., & Serantoni, G. (2012). Adesione ai programmi di screening di prevenzione oncologica: proposta di una modellizzazione dei risultati di revisione della letteratura secondo il Modello PRECEDE-PROCEED [Participation in oncologic screening programmes: a modelling proposal of the systematic review results according to PRECEDE-PROCEED model]. Epidemiologia & Prevenzione, 36(1), suppl. 1: 1-104, App. 3, 1-15  [Lynge E](https://www-ncbi-nlm-nih-gov.offcampus.dam.unito.it/pubmed/?term=Lynge%20E%5BAuthor%5D&cauthor=true&cauthor_uid=21788130), [Törnberg S](https://www-ncbi-nlm-nih-gov.offcampus.dam.unito.it/pubmed/?term=T%C3%B6rnberg%20S%5BAuthor%5D&cauthor=true&cauthor_uid=21788130), [von Karsa L](https://www-ncbi-nlm-nih-gov.offcampus.dam.unito.it/pubmed/?term=von%20Karsa%20L%5BAuthor%5D&cauthor=true&cauthor_uid=21788130), [Segnan N](https://www-ncbi-nlm-nih-gov.offcampus.dam.unito.it/pubmed/?term=Segnan%20N%5BAuthor%5D&cauthor=true&cauthor_uid=21788130), [van Delden JJ](https://www-ncbi-nlm-nih-gov.offcampus.dam.unito.it/pubmed/?term=van%20Delden%20JJ%5BAuthor%5D&cauthor=true&cauthor_uid=21788130). [Determinants of successful implementation of population-based cancer screening programmes.](https://www-ncbi-nlm-nih-gov.offcampus.dam.unito.it/pubmed/21788130) [Eur J Cancer.](https://www-ncbi-nlm-nih-gov.offcampus.dam.unito.it/pubmed) 2012;48(5):743-8.  Lönnberg S, Sekeria M, Malila N, Sarkeala T, Leja M, Majek O, Zappa M, Heijnsdijk, Heinavaara S, deoning H, Anttila A. Cancer screening: policy recommendations on governance, organisation and evaluation of cacer screening. In : Albreht T, Kiasuwa R Van den Blucke M Eds. European guide on quality improvement in comprehensive cancer control. 2017;39-76. National Institute of Public Health, Ljubljana and Scientific Institute of Public Health, Bruxelles | Implementation of:  MS own reform priorities  Union priorities (e.g. CMU, Energy Union, etc.)  Economic adjustment programmes  Economic governance (e.g. CSR, Country reports, etc.)  Union law (e.g. infringements)  Add relevant explanations as appropriate  [i.e. number of CSR; policy priority; relevant national strategy documents, etc.]  3. Strategic framework for health for 2014 - 2030 - the main document that should determine the medium and long-term direction of Slovak health policy.   * In Europe as well as in the Slovak Republic, incidence of chronic noncommunicable diseases significantly increased since the mid-20th century. These diseases are the cause of majority of deaths and morbidity in the above-mentioned areas. In the Slovak Republic, chronic noncommunicable diseases cause more than 80 % of mortality, morbidity and disability. The highest percentage of all mortality causes represents the diseases of circulatory system and cancer diseases. * A combination of medical and other approaches is required to successfully address the high incidence of noncommunicable diseases.   Under the Steering Group for Promotion and Prevention work plan for 2017 DG SANTE sent Member States a questionnaire asking them to prioritise the best practices for national implementation from a list of suggested best practices from previously funded projects. 21 Member States replied to the questionnaire. The "European Cancer Code" ranked highest and will become part of the new Joint Action on Cancer which is funded under the Health Programme work plan for 2017. The second highest ranked best practice is the implementation of the European guidelines for quality assurance in colorectal cancer screening. |



**STRUCTURAL REFORM SUPPORT PROGRAMME 2017-2020**

**Regulation (EU) 2017/825**

**REQUEST FOR SUPPORT**[[10]](#endnote-6)\*

**(Article 7 of the SRSP Regulation (EU) 2017/825)**

**DEADLINE: 31 October 2017**

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| **Order of priority of request** | **Recipient national authority:**  **Name: Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic**  **Address: Župné námestie 13, 813 11 Bratislava** | **Support in setting up the strategic plan and personal structure of IT functions supporting efficient justice sector systems** |

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| **1. Description of problem/need to be addressed** | **2. Indicative description of the support measures requested and the estimated cost** | **3.Circumstances of the request** |
| 1. What is the problem/need to be addressed with the support requested? 2. How broad is the problem/need? Does it spread across several policy areas ("spillover")? 3. How deep or severe is the problem/need? Is it persistent? Did any previous attempt to address it fail? 4. How urgent is the need to address the problem? 5. (If available) provide relevant socio-economic indicators linked to the problem/need 6. **What is the problem/need to be addressed with the support requested?**   Slovak Republic strives to improve efficiency of the court system. The respective indicators show that the success so far is limited and further steps are needed.  One of the areas with space for improvement is information management and effective use of information systems. The court system is supported by several information systems covering wide range of agendas. They date back to different time periods, thus reflecting different technological approaches, priorities, strategies and integration readiness of both the MoJ/courts and the cooperating government agencies.  MoJ currently plans for another wave of implementation of new systems that will partly replace outdated ones and partly cover emerging requirements of system stakeholders.  At this stage of development, MoJ would like to use the chance to revise, complete and formalize the strategic approach to high-level architecture of the information systems in the domain. The ultimate goal is to reach the improvement of court system efficiency KPIs as soon and as efficiently as possible.  The initiative should also address the sustainability of the recommended approach. The responsible departments are currently understaffed and the structure might be suboptimal. Revision of the organisation and governance, strategies for recruitment, retention and development should be therefore one of the key outcomes.   1. **How broad is the problem/need? Does it spread across several policy areas ("spillover")?**   The efficiency and trustworthiness of the court system is one of the critical factors of the improvement of business environment and overall positive perception of the government by citizens.   1. **How deep or severe is the problem/need? Is it persistent? Did any previous attempt to address it fail?**   The problem is complex. The court system involves broad range of actors, requirements, handles many different types of information in an entanglement of processes. Some effort have been put into implementation of new systems for selected areas. These activities however were not properly coordinated and put into consistent strategic picture. Moreover, the court system is not isolated in the government infrastructure and processes. There are continuous changes in the institutions and systems that act as providers or consumers of the information handled by courts. That creates both challenges and opportunities for qualitative step-up from handling of non-structured information to structured ones and from fully manual processes to (semi-)automatic ones. There are general initiatives at the country level; however, the MoJ itself does not have internal capacity to translate them into plans for development of the court information systems.   1. **How urgent is the need to address the problem?**   MoJ sees unique opportunity to address the need in the time when new ESIF funded projects are in stage of preparation.   1. **(If available) provide relevant socio-economic indicators linked to the problem/need**   MoJ administers 14 important information systems that came into existence in different time periods and which have dispersed architecture. The number of users is 5.000. These information systems have processed 277.098 electronic submissions in period January-August 2017, the predicted growth in following 3 years is annually at least 20%.  Possible indicators that could be tracked:  a) IT architecture design (No.); baseline: 0, target value: 1  b) Alternatives/solutions for IT architecture (No.): baseline: 0, target value: 3  c) Time and financial savings in decision-making linked to IT solutions of Information System in the justice sector (MoJ): expected 15%. (precise baseline data unavailable at the time of project design) | 1. Briefly describe the indicative support measures requested 2. Indicate the possible duration of the support measures and the estimated cost 3. Indicate the expected results / use of the results of the support measures (what is the ultimate objective that the technical support should achieve) 4. Provide information on the administrative capacity of the recipient national authority in relation to the support measures 5. (If applicable) indicate any envisaged provider 6. **Briefly describe the indicative support measures requested**   Ministry of Justice requests assistance of experts with relevant experience in order to carry out the following specific tasks:   * Assess the current state of the overall architecture of the information systems supporting the processes in courts * Review the strategic plans for further development, taking into account the development needs of the country, current and planned eGovernment framework, desired KPIs and eJustice best practices from other EU countries. * Recommend/propose the optimal solution of the IS architecture design in the justice sector that can consist of one or several options reflecting the current state of affairs and related legislative and strategic framework * Draw comprehensive recommendations in the area of human resources needed to ensure maintenance and development of the court and MoJ information systems – optimal organisational structure, development needs.  1. **Indicate the possible duration of the support measures and the estimated cost**   5 – 7 months to carry out the main analysis and consulting tasks, and 2 weeks each half-year for periodic reviews of implementation, during 3 years.  The costs are estimated 140.000 – 180.000 EUR.  Please note that while the contact persons of the MoJ will be proficient in English, many of the input materials are only accessible in Slovak. There is also high probability of need to consult officials in MoJ and other ministries, where English language proficiency cannot be accounted for. Therefore, in case if the experts will not have required knowledge of Slovak, the team has to include extensive translation support (estimated translation costs are calculated in the budget proposal).   1. **Indicate the expected results / use of the results of the support measures (what is the ultimate objective that the technical support should achieve)**   MoJ would expect comprehensible analysis of the current situation and comprehensible set of recommendations related to strategic plans, high-level architecture of the information systems and related human resources.   1. **Provide information on the administrative capacity of the recipient national authority in relation to the support measures**   This activity will be directly overseen by Advisory to the Minister, responsible for the information systems strategy. Respective sections of the MoJ will provide sufficient support to the expert team. | Implementation of:  MS own reform priorities  Union priorities (e.g. CMU, Energy Union, etc.)  Economic adjustment programmes  Economic governance (e.g. CSR, Country reports, etc.)  Union law (e.g. infringements)  Add relevant explanations as appropriate  [i.e. number of CSR; policy priority; relevant national strategy documents, etc.]  The topic of the court system efficiency is regarded as one of the program priorities on the country level. It is perceived as a long-term challenge. Among others, it was also included in the recommendations of the latest edition of the CSR for Slovakia.  Importance of the area is reflected also in the thematic priorities of relevant ESIF operational programs.  Envisaged development of the Union law and the ability of the court system to implement new requirements will be one of the important inputs for the work of expert team. |



**STRUCTURAL REFORM SUPPORT PROGRAMME 2017-2020**

**Regulation (EU) 2017/825**

**REQUEST FOR SUPPORT**[[11]](#endnote-7)\*

**(Article 7 of the SRSP Regulation (EU) 2017/825)**

**DEADLINE: 31 October 2017**

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| **Order of priority of request** | **Recipient national authority:**  **Ministry of Finance of SR**  **Name: Financial market section**  **Address:**  **Štefanovičova 5, 817 82 Bratislava** | **Establishment of FinTech supportive environment in Slovakia** |

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| **1. Description of problem/need to be addressed** | **2. Indicative description of the support measures requested and the estimated cost** | **3.Circumstances of the request** |
| 1. What is the problem/need to be addressed with the support requested? 2. How broad is the problem/need? Does it spread across several policy areas ("spillover")? 3. How deep or severe is the problem/need? Is it persistent? Did any previous attempt to address it fail? 4. How urgent is the need to address the problem? 5. (If available) provide relevant socio-economic indicators linked to the problem/need   1.1 Technologies gain a growing importance in the field of Financial Services and many countries in Europe as well as countries around the world react to this development and try to benefit from this opportunity. Slovak republic lacks a comprehensive strategy and environment supporting the emergence of a viable and competitive FinTech ecosystem. For small or new FinTech companies the entrance into the environment of Financial services is still complicated and burdensome from the financial, but also the regulatory and administrative point of view. The PSD2 Directive that is currently being implemented, creates very important and groundbreaking entry points for new payment services providers. While acknowledging that FinTech is also one of the priorities of the European Commission a national approach is warranted as well and should be beneficial and complementary to the future European approach.  The global FinTech environment develops dynamically. From the perspective of a small economy it is crucial to keep up the pace with the global transformation and global innovation of financial services. It is also important to recognize what benefits aimed at improving of the financial services environment and to understand any potential risks it can comprise.  In absence of a systematic support of the emergence of FinTech companies as well as lack of the common approach toward FinTech in Slovakia it could jeopardize this goal. There is also a close correlation of the problems FinTech companies face with the shortcomings of the startup environment however for the purposes of this project we would like to focus on the problems stemming from the provision of Financial services and the related legislation.  1.2 We see it as a horizontal problem, which is embedded in the area of the Financial services regulation. It touches not only new or aspiring FinTech start-ups but also commencing, small and medium size entrepreneurs. It comprises of the basic setting of the regulation and the capacity of the financial system to allow for new entrepreneurs to enter this system. The main obstacle may be the regulatory barriers requiring the new subjects to fulfil the same amount of obligations in the same extent as it is for the existing financial institutions. Identifying and possibly removing impediments in this area would have direct and indirect benefits for variety of private actors on the financial market.  1.3 Due to the specific nature of FinTech and its relatively recent emergence the problem has not been directly addressed before, although the ongoing transposition and implementation of the PSD2 certainly goes into this direction. Taking into consideration that the regulation of Financial services has been developing for many years and focusing more on traditional financial institutions and their services, it is a logical consequence that the problem of difficult access for companies providing innovative solutions and services has not been at the heart of the Financial services regulation. As a result FinTech companies often struggle with the development of a business plan compliant with the regulation instead of focusing on the research and development of innovative solutions or in the worse scenario they move their operations to a more suitable jurisdiction with a developed program of support.  1.4 The FinTech environment is dynamically growing and financial centers start to compete in attracting Fintech companies and creating a fertile ground to support their emergence. With implementation of card payments, Slovakia has become a testing ground for various payment technologies and the region is currently leading in the use of contactless payments. In order to build on this experience, benefit from this potential and keep up the pace with other EU and non-EU countries it is necessary to explore the possible avenues for the promotion of FinTech in Slovakia.  1.5 According to the study of Deloitte on FinTech in CEE, the overall CEE FinTech market size reached 2, 2 billion € in 2016, while in Slovakia it reached only 73 mil. €. According to the same study Slovakia has several strengths relevant for the Fintech industry, especially stable GDP growth, highest share of population aged under 25 (27,9%) in CEE, one of the highest smartphone penetration, high internet access or banked share of population. The growth of numerous Slovak IT companies and of the IT valley in Kosice only confirm that there is a big potential in the young people with IT education. Despite the lack of supportive environment there are several existing and FinTech companies of growing importance. Starting business activities leading to provision of financial services in Slovakia is bound by heavy regulation, which can have a discouraging effect on the new comers. We are of the view that regulation is important and necessary, nevertheless it should not create seaming insurmountable obstacles for innovations and development. For this reason, the main aim is to identify the potencial and existing impediments and if it is feasible, effectively address them.  The enhanced FinTech environment in Slovakia will provide tools to public. By allowing easier and more intuitive access to financial services and wide set of tools for managing of own finances, monitoring of cash flows and planning of expenditure the FinTech may help to minimize the still existing gaps in the financial as well as social inclusion and social coherence. | 1. Briefly describe the indicative support measures requested 2. Indicate the possible duration of the support measures and the estimated cost 3. Indicate the expected results / use of the results of the support measures (what is the ultimate objective that the technical support should achieve) 4. Provide information on the administrative capacity of the recipient national authority in relation to the support measures 5. (If applicable) indicate any envisaged provider   2.1 We would like to build a good basis for further policy and strategy planning by conducting a comprehensive study on the possible barriers for entry of FinTech companies deriving either from the specificities of national legislation or from the implementation of discretions in the EU regulation. The study should be performed by the external provider under regular guidance from the Ministry of Finance of the Slovak republic including discussion with the market participants and other relevant stakeholders. Additionally the study should also focus on other factors that affect the environment for FinTech, such as incentives to develop FinTech initiatives, access to funding, promotion of FinTech innovations also from the credibility point of view. Based on the experience of other countries developing a supportive FinTech environment it is clear that potential legislative steps should be complemented by targeted advisory and compliance support regimes. In this regard we see great merit in the possibility of transfer of relevant experience and best practices from external experts to public authorities in Slovakia, mainly Ministry of Finance. These experts should have practical experience in the implementation of innovative measures in the area of FinTech Workshops and ongoing discussion with private actors, such as innovative companies and FinTech start-ups, would also be essential for collecting first-hand experiences and issues that they have to over-come in order to enter the market in financial services.  The analysis should give the in-depth overview of the current situation as well as propose areas of possible legislative improvements. Additionally it could serve as a guidance for FinTech companies to deal with and comply with relevant regulation. This expertise could contribute to the establishment of a “sandbox” or an environment where interested FinTech companies could get the abovementioned support in order to comply with the relevant regulation under certain conditions and for a limited period and thus focus more on the development and implementation of their innovation.  2.2 It is envisaged that these measures could be conducted in a time period from 18 to 24 months.  Estimated costs are 250 000 € and should cover the related activities:  - analysis done by external provider;  - 4 workshops: consultations with private actors other national and/or international stakeholders, including speakers, venue, catering, prospects and technical, visual and acoustic equipment:  - initial workshop should enable the collection of first-hand experiences from FinTech companies and issues/problems that they face; this workshop should take place in the process of preparation of the analysis to allow the external provider to collect inputs from the Slovak financial market participants,  - second workshop should follow the finalisation of the analysis and serve for the presentation of the outcome and findings of the analysis communicated by the Ministry of Finance of the Slovak republic in cooperation with the external provider and discussion with the stakeholders on the outcome of the analysis,  - third workshop should provide room for presentation of way forward/measures in the potential improvement of the FinTech environment, based on the outcome of the analysis and the second workshop comments,  - final workshop should aim at presentation final strategy and measures improving the FinTech environment in the Slovak republic and communication of further initiatives that could also reflect on the new EU developments;  - exchange of experience and best practices with external experts that would provide professional support in the course of the preparation of the study and actively contribute to the strategy improving the FinTech environment in the Slovak republic (travel & accommodation expenses, salary).  2.3 After conducting these measures we would have sufficient basis to evaluate the appropriate and warranted measures to be taken from the legislative point view and that would aim at providing a fertile and proportionate regulation to support the emergence of a strong FinTech ecosystem in Slovakia, but of European importance. Furthermore parallel the non-legislative exercise should help to transfer the best practices to Slovakia, which should lead to an establishment of a viable and sustainable sandbox. Finally the ultimate result of the whole exercise should be a viable and sustainable environment that would help new FinTech companies meeting the requirements to enter the Financial services market in Slovakia with the potential of expansion abroad.  2.4 The Financial market Section at the Ministry of Finance has established a team of policy advisors and experts dedicated to the promotion of FinTech. Initial discussions are being conducted with the National Bank of Slovakia and other authorities. Nonetheless a regular cooperation and communication is being established with the market participants. | Implementation of:  MS own reform priorities  Union priorities (e.g. CMU, Energy Union, etc.)  Economic adjustment programmes  Economic governance (e.g. CSR, Country reports, etc.)  Union law (e.g. infringements)  Add relevant explanations as appropriate  [i.e. number of CSR; policy priority; relevant national strategy documents, etc.] |



**STRUCTURAL REFORM SUPPORT PROGRAMME 2017-2020**

**Regulation (EU) 2017/825**

**REQUEST FOR SUPPORT**[[12]](#endnote-8)\*

**(Article 7 of the SRSP Regulation (EU) 2017/825)**

**DEADLINE: 31 October 2017**

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| **Order of priority of request** | **Recipient national authority: Office of Deputy Prime Minister for investment and informatization**  **Name: CIO Office**  **Address: Štefániková 15, Bratislava 81105, Slovakia** | **Capacity building for the CIO Office of Slovakia** |

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| **1. Description of problem/need to be addressed** | **2. Indicative description of the support measures requested and the estimated cost** | **3.Circumstances of the request** |
| 1. What is the problem/need to be addressed with the support requested?   Office of Deputy Prime Minister for investment and informatization is the governmental agency covering the whole digital agenda with main focus on electronic public services and IT systems. The agency professionally covers all phases of a reform cycle: from policy-making, through planning and delivery to operations. These phases will be overseen by centralized capabilities in the area of data, information systems and technologies as well as digital economy. The agency will be dedicated not only to the inter-institutional coordination and to the monitoring of key performance indicators but it will also form an agile delivery unit for implementation support and problem-solving. All of these activities are executing through the CIO Office.   1. Capacity building in data management   National Concept Of The Public Sector Informatization sets out main goals and priorities of informatization - significant simplification of public services (once only principle, definition of life events, incl. automation, orchestration, and proactivity), providing service status, ability to manage one’s portfolio, multichannel access, providing open data, and improvement of decision-making in public sector by applying data analytics. It includes also the aim to build and use common central blocks (applications and services).  The National Concept and its goals create a basis for reform activities. The CIO office prepared a Detailed Action Plan Of Public Sector Informatization, which specifies activities in following main streams:   * Better data * Better services * Government cloud shared services   Within the Structural Reform Support Programme, we are requesting specific support in the Better Data and Government Cloud streams.  Within the Better Data stream, a Data Office is being created to realize and/or facilitate the related reform activities:   * Analyze as-is situation and create central data model of the public sector * Implement data quality standards and data quality management * Enforce and manage announcement of reference data and their re-use (to achieve once only principle) * Implement data governance * Implement data analytics approach in decision-making   The aim is two-fold: to achieve application of the once only principle, and to transform the state into digital age by applying the “data-driven state” principles. Management of data as a scarce resource will enable significant improvement in decision-making on all levels in public sector (decisions about policies, priorities, regulations, investments, performance measurement). Improved decision-making means that there will be available models, data, and tools which enable to do analyses, which will be bases for decisions.  The specific area where we are seeking the know-how support is the data quality. Data quality is the key aspect in reaching the aforementioned goals – expressed by data preciseness, completeness, uniqueness, timeliness, integrity, machine processability, consistency, and accuracy. Data quality directly impacts its usability in analyses and influences:   * Quality of decision-making * Reliability of policies and regulations * Simplicity and comfort of public services * Validity of potential scientific research done on public data   Current data quality in public sector is low. The reason is isolated data management in every public institution and non-existence of central mechanisms that would enforce and oversee data quality through the whole public sector. The problem of data quality becomes most visible when it comes to data sharing (e.g. as referential data, as a prerequisite for once only).   1. Capacity building within the IT supply management   As for the Government Cloud stream, we have started a process of migrating public information systems to the cloud infrastructure. There are three levels of use of the cloud infrastructure – IaaS (Infrastructure as a Service), PaaS (Platform as a Service), and SaaS (Software as a Service).  IaaS is the first level, in order to achieve the the basic efficiency benefits. We started to build common central modules (e.g. authentification, electronic forms, electronic delivery, electronic payments, etc.) which are to be provided as SaaS.  PaaS holds specific position in our strategy. In frame of optimization of IT solutions in public sector and minimization of vendor-locks, as well as increasing the transparency, we need to build such infrastructuralenvironment which will enable involvement of smaller companies in delivering unique software solutions for public sector. **T**he baseline is that new solutions should be created in native cloud architecture. Under native cloud architecture we understand a set of rules and principles which bring higher ability to absorb (by clear division of the unique application business logic from IT environment / resources / infrastructure / shared modules) and better use (e.g. business logic is written in such a way that it can use the possibility of parallelization and so it can be flexibly scaled) of the dynamically changing environment in which the given information system is run. Adapting the IT environment (cloud) to the application of principles of native cloud architecture significantly increases the chance of involvement of smaller companies in creation of unique SW solutions. In the IT environment (cloud) which has the native cloud architecture philosophy in its “DNA”, it is not necessary to solve such a wide spectrum of issues related to building and administration of operating environments (because they are built and configured automatically), it is not necessary to have such deep knowledge about e.g. security or scaling (while the systems are secured and scaled on top level). Only big companies are able to solve this full scope of issues, which creates a natural barrier for the smaller ones. Removal of this barrier will increase the competitive environment and will have positive economic effect on using of financial resources on informatization.  In order to realize the above mentioned, we plan to build specialized PaaS (Platform as a Service) layer, which simplifies development of such applications.   1. Digital transformation   According to the Competence Law, CIO Office is also the coordinating body for the implementation of the European DSM initiatives on national level. As the digital transformation is at the core of DSM initiatives we need to reach a necessary level of preparation of local policies towards actual trends as Industry 4.0 as well as insufficient amount of digital skills. The digital transformation is challenging almost every aspect of the economy and society, which implies that many different actors (individuals, firms, and governments) need to be involved and a wide range of policy areas need to be considered. It requires individuals to be engaged and firms to continue to act as a catalyst of transformative change. At the same time, governments need to reach across traditional policy silos and across different levels of government to develop a whole-of-government approach to policy making using the multi-stakeholder model that has underpinned the development of the Internet so well. We need to find the right success model for growth, innovation and employment in the digital era based on the relevant data.   * 1. How broad is the problem/need? Does it spread across several policy areas ("spillover")?  1. Capacity building in data management:   The data quality issue, as described in 1.1, spills over the whole public sector and needs to be addressed on a government-wide level. A hierarchical approach will be used for data management in public sector: methodology, parameters, processes, tools, and monitoring will be designed and implemented on central level. Responsibility for execution of these methodologies, process, etc, and for data quality will stay decentralized.   1. Capacity building within the IT supply management   All state infrastructure should be gradually migrated to the cloud infrastructure and all new developments should be done in cloud. Implementation of the specialized PaaS layer is the precondition and enabler for reaching the aforementioned goal.   1. Digital transformation   The digital transformation does not occur in isolation; it is shaped by the broader economy and society as a whole and affects all corners of the economy, society, and government activities. We considers some of the most significant opportunities and challenges economies and societies face in the digital age – jobs and skills; productivity, competition and well-being and inclusive growth. Being and industrial country, such lack of data and proactive polices may lead to a significant loss of competitiveness of the whole economy (technology vs economy vs work).   * 1. How deep or severe is the problem/need? Is it persistent? Did any previous attempt to address it fail?  1. Capacity building in data management   The data quality problem cannot be resolved without systemic and centrally managed activity. Missing data quality standards and tools are the reason for very slow announcements of reference data, failing to apply “once only” principle, and very limited scope of analytical use of data in decision making.   1. Capacity building within the IT supply management:   The extent of vendor-lock and costs is high due to high complexity of architectural and infrastructural issues which must be dealt with in every project. Majority of public IT expenses are for unique software solutions.   1. Digital transformation   The problem is across the whole economy as well as across the labour market and education system. According to OECD study Slovakia will one of countries most affected by automation. Important questions about what jobs might disappear, where new jobs will come from, what they will they look like and which skills will be required, and what can be done to foster new, quality job creation. As these changes take place, it is important to ensure that effective adjustment mechanisms are in place to help individuals navigate the transition from one job to the next. It is also essential to ensure that complementary policies – in the form of a social safety net, social dialogue, employment regulation and skills policies – are in place to support those people for whom the transition is lengthy, or who are ultimately unable to transition effectively to new skills and jobs.   * 1. How urgent is the need to address the problem?  1. Capacity building in data management   According to the National Concept Of The Public Sector Informatization, “once only” principle and service automation for the most important life events must be fully implemented till end of 2019. This makes the data quality issue very urgent as it is one of the preconditions for realization of the mentioned goals.   1. Capacity building within the IT supply management:   We would like to use the specialized PaaS layer as soon as possible, in order make use of it in the current programming period.   1. Digital transformation   The digitization processes are requested to start asap and the need for a data and best practices collection resulting towards a set of comprehensive recommendations is actual and urgent.   * 1. (If available) provide relevant socio-economic indicators linked to the problem/need   c) Digital transformation  Slovakian share of the industry on total GDP is over 30% and Slovakian industry is closely linked to global European supply chains. There is more information included in the DESI index of EC where part 4. Integration of Digital economy level is too low. Following the results of similar studies by the EU and the world's leading economies, to develop a study of the impact of Industry 4.0/digital transformation processes on the Slovak Republic and recommendations for the use of Industry 4.0 as an opportunity to manage the impact on employment in the Slovak Republic and to increase the global competitiveness of the Slovak economy. | 1. Briefly describe the indicative support measures requested 2. Capacity building in data management   As mentioned in point 1.1, we are seeking for specific know-how support in the area of data quality. We feel that we are lacking know-how in this specific area, while data quality is a precondition for realization of planned reforms in how data is used. Support measures requested:   * Creation of Methodology for data quality management in public sector, including list of recommendations and best practices. Among others, it should include data quality KPIs * Specifications of standard data quality service. Primarily requirements for common (central) tools and services for data quality improvement. These will be tools for data cleansing and quality improvement. * Translation of documents into Slovak (if the original is created in another language)  1. Capacity building within the IT supply management   The specialized PaaS layer will enable that the person responsible for development / operation (developer, DevOps engineer) is able to define the environment very easily, without needing to solve in detail, and be responsible for setting various technological layers / components. The definition is done on higher level of abstraction, e.g. by defining how many “web” processes handle incoming requests, in what scale and availability is the persistency service under them set (database – PaaS), how many backend processes are run, or when and how are one-time services initiated. The developer does not have to deal with details like e.g. that http requests are routed only to the web processes, that these web processes are automatically protected against various types of attacks, etc. These settings must be immediately active in the environments. In this way, the developer can focus on the important (business logic of his/her application), while the rest is ensured by the cloud.  Support measure requested:  We need support in preparation of the specifications for the specialized PaaS layer and requirements for application development on this layer**.**   1. Digital transformation   The support is expected via financing of a study. It is going to be a working group between various government bodies and members of Digital Coalition for jobs and skills to perform the work and the actual support needed is potentially from a consulting firm/international organisation to analyse the condition in Slovakia.   1. Indicate the possible duration of the support measures and the estimated cost   The duration is expected to be 12 months with estimated cost of 300 000 EUR.   1. Indicate the expected results / use of the results of the support measures (what is the ultimate objective that the technical support should achieve) 2. Data management methodology:   Important output is detailed specification of data quality parameters and preparation of methodology which will guide the process of data quality management and administration.   * Proposed specifications of service (tools) catalogue for data quality. * Best practices for evaluation of data quality in public sector information systems, including publicly traceable list of recommendations for data quality improvements for individual public organizations  1. Cloud Capacity building within the IT supply management:   Specifications for the specialized PaaS layer which would address topics like: characteristics, principles, technology, pricing, etc.  Guidelines and principles for the development on the layer.  In principle, we need a guide like the one used by UK - <https://docs.cloud.service.gov.uk/#technology> .   1. Digital Transformation   The estimated result is an impact study of digital transformation processes on the Slovak Republic and recommendations for the use of Industry 4.0 as an opportunity to manage the impact on employment in the Slovak Republic and to increase the global competitiveness of the Slovak economy.  Provide information on the administrative capacity of the recipient national authority in relation to the support measures  Capacity at the Deputy Prime Minister’s Office for Investments and Informatization is currently very limited, approximately 20% of FTE can be dedicated to each of these activities.   1. (If applicable) indicate any envisaged provider   For the development of unique SW solutions using government Cloud, a UK government PaaS expert could be helpful.  [Insert text] | Implementation of:  MS own reform priorities  Union priorities (e.g. CMU, Energy Union, etc.)  Economic adjustment programmes  Economic governance (e.g. CSR, Country reports, etc.)  Union law (e.g. infringements)  Add relevant explanations as appropriate  [i.e. number of CSR; policy priority; relevant national strategy documents, etc.]    [insert text] |

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| **DISCLAIMER**  Please note that the request for support is fully subject to the principles governing the SRSP Regulation and Regulation No 966/2012 on the Financial Rules applicable to the General Budget of the Union. In compliance with the principle of prohibition of double funding, the recipient national authority shall inform immediately the European Commission of other related on-going actions financed by the EU budget. In no circumstances, shall the same costs be financed twice by the European Commission. |
| By submitting this request, the Member State accepts that, should the request for support be selected for funding under the SRSP, the Member State will confirm to the Commission that there is no overlap between the request selected under the SRSP and concrete actions funded under other EU instruments and that double funding is not present for this selected request. |

1. **Should a Member State want to submit a *Request for special measures under urgency* (interim support - Article 12(6) of the SRSP Regulation), you should contact the SRSS at** [**SRSS-SRSP@ec.europa.eu**](mailto:SRSS-SRSP@ec.europa.eu) **for the relevant template. Please note that t**he *Request for special measures under urgency* should be filled **only if** there are **serious grounds of urgency requiring an immediate response**. The special measures that may be provided under urgency will only be interim support (for a maximum of six months), to be replaced by support measures that are to be provided under normal circumstances, and according to the procedure thereof, under the SRSP Regulation. If the Member State concerned wishes to continue receiving support under the SRSP, after the special measures expire, the standard *Request for support* will need to be submitted according to the Article 7 of the SRSP Regulation. [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. [↑](#endnote-ref-2)
3. [↑](#endnote-ref-3)
4. [↑](#endnote-ref-4)
5. [↑](#endnote-ref-5)
6. Verma, M., Sarfaty, M., Brooks, D. and Wender, R. C. (2015), Population-based programs for increasing colorectal cancer screening in the United States. CA: A Cancer Journal for Clinicians, 65: 496–510. doi:10.3322/caac.21295 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
7. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
8. Hurtado JL, Bacigalupe A, Calvo M, et al. Social inequalities in a population based colorectal cancer screening programme in the Basque Country. *BMC Public Health*. 2015;15:1021. doi:10.1186/s12889-015-2370-5. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
9. Zavoral M, Suchanek S, Zavada F, et al. Colorectal cancer screening in Europe. World Journal of Gastroenterology : WJG. 2009;15(47):5907-5915. doi:10.3748/wjg.15.5907. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
10. [↑](#endnote-ref-6)
11. [↑](#endnote-ref-7)
12. [↑](#endnote-ref-8)