

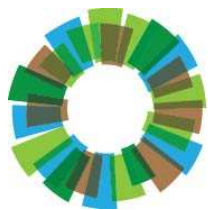
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# Experience with accessing funding for the implementation of Natura 2000 measures

Ministry for Environment and Spatial Planning  
Directorate for the Environment  
Sector for Nature Conservation  
Andrej Bibič



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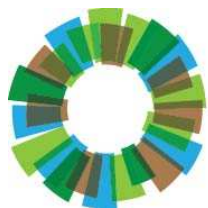


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## Contribution of LIFE+ SI Natura 2000 management project to securing funding

Preconditions for securing sufficient Natura 2000 funding not the best:

- Art. 8 (3) and 8 (4) were not implemented in Cion proposal and negotiations for MS' allocations for using EU funds
- The process to assure funding for Natura 2000 so started without any additional funds in comparison to FP 2007-13.
- With economic crisis even less funds available in general, more pressure of powerful sectors and stakeholders on EU funds.



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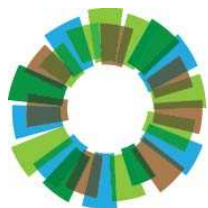


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## Access to EU funds

Outcome of the „battle“ for funds is defined by the political power of a sector and persistency of a sector in long and exhausting process of allocation funds.

- LIFE + project enabled more staff to work on assuring EU funding at different levels, and increased persistency;
- Cion was in general helpful in programming process (preparation of Operational programmes for using EU funds):
  - requiring to focus funds to address crucial problems
  - insisting on this during the whole process.



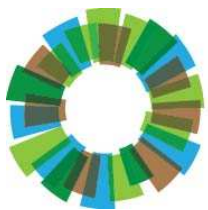
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## Access to EU funds - general

- Nature conservation included in national programming process already in very early stages
- LIFE + project enabled preparation of analyses on use of funds and delivery of expected results in the FP 2007-13
- These were useful instrument to convince national coordinators of each programming process.
- Coordinated action of several project partners gave same signals at programming debates on national (top down) and local/regional (bottom up) level.



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Governmental Natura  
2000 Management  
Programme



Conservation objectives per site & species

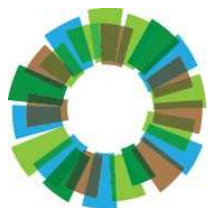


Measures to achieve conservation objectives  
using existing legislation



Measures enter PA & sectoral management plans (forestry, fishing,...),  
development plans (RDP & OPs for structural funds)





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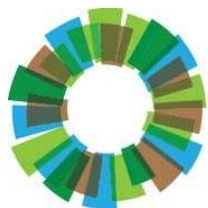


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## Agricultural (RDP) funds

Main focus on agri-environment payments:

- LIFE + project enabled permanent cooperation of Directorate for Agriculture and public Farm Advisory Service (under Chamber of Agriculture and Forestry)
- This resulted in well prepared a-e measures, and reaching understanding of those measure by FAS in advance
- Cion insisted on clear intervention logic – agri-env. measures must address problems of species' habitats and HTs



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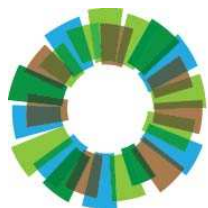


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## Agricultural (RDP) funds

End result (in adopted RDP 2015-20):

- targeted Natura 2000 a-e measures, in line with draft Natura 2000 management programme (which sets target values);
- FAS understands measures and is able to promote them;
- RDP measure Transfer of knowledge implemented also by public nature conservation institute (project partner);
- Other RDP horizontal measures (information and cooperation) enable future Natura projects.



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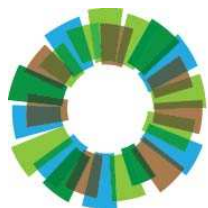
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## Regional and cohesion funds

National OP for regional development and cohesion:

- Biggest fund, very long programming period (2011-15), with many programming activities at national and regional/local levels;
- National programming body more focused on important results and on synergies;
- Cion also insisted on clear intervention logics.





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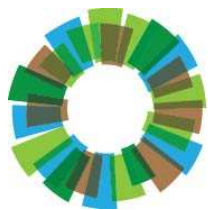
## Regional and cohesion funds

LIFE+ project helped in:

- supporting clear intervention logics by analyses;
- enough staff to follow all important programming events, meetings, tasks, etc on national level (Ministry and ZRSVN) and regional/local levels (project partners).

Result:

In adopted OP for implementation of European cohesion policy 2014-20 Natura 2000 has its own priority axis (45 MEUR), and one joint project with floods protection (adaptation to climate change).



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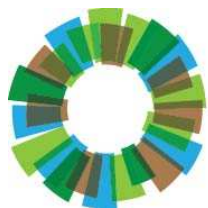
## Regional and cohesion funds

### **CBC programmes with neighbouring countries (Hungary, Croatia, Austria, Italy)**

Current situation – all 4 drafts prepared and 3 drafts (SI-HR, SI-HU, SI-AT) in submission process to Cion

Important to know:

- different procedure of adoption from national OPs,
- very important role played by coordination units;
- more or less same messages from nature conservation bodies on both sides of the border are very helpful.



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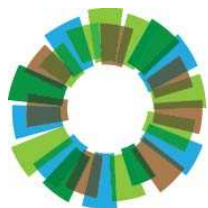
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## Regional and cohesion funds

### CBC programmes

LIFE + project helped in:

- achieving high understanding of the Natura 2000 issues and their importance at nat. coordinators:
  - analytical documents from the LIFE+ project;
  - enough staff to give same important messages from the national (ministry) and bottom up level (project partners);
- giving more or less same messages from nature conservation bodies on both sides of the border by LIFE+ crossborder workshops (1-2 with each country).



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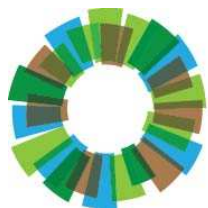
## Regional and cohesion funds

### **CBC programmes - result**

- possibilities for Natura 2000 projects exist in all four drafts (investment priorities 6c, d and/or f);
- investment priority 6d („pure“ Natura 2000) in SI – HR and SI – IT;
- Natura as a result indicator in 2 programmes, output indicator in SI-HR (Natura conservation conditions);

### **Transnational programmes**

- Priority 6d in 4 out of 6 transnational programmes covering Slovenia
- In remaining 2 programmes 6c (tourism)



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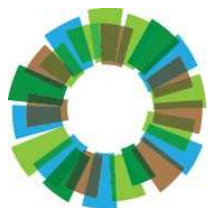
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## Tapping in non-biodiversity programmes

In FP 2007-13 in national OP a lot in tourism.

In FP 2014-20 tourism does not have its priority investment, biodiversity (Natura 2000) has it.

Climate change – one synergic project with areas identified under Floods Directive



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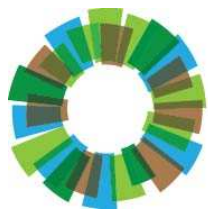
## Centralised EU financial instruments

### Horizon 2020

- Slovenian Natura 2000 management programme determined needs for research (esp. applicative), there are possibilities for funding, but criteria for selection are not specific for Natura issues

### LIFE integrated projects

- Natura 2000 management programme gives a frame for those projects and identifies priorities (scaled)



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O Naturi 2000   Aktualno   Območja, vrste, habitatni tipi   Zabavno   Knjižnica   **Life+ Upravljanje**

• Life+ Upravljanje

Life+ Upravljanje

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Operativni program upravljanja z območji Natura 2000 v Sloveniji 2014-2020  
**SI Natura 2000 Upravljanje**  
(LIFE11 NAT/SI/880)

Cilj projekta je priprava Operativnega programa upravljanja z območji Natura 2000 v Sloveniji

**Več na:**

<http://www.natura2000.gov.si/index.php?id=21>