URBAN DEVELOPMENT NETWORK WEBINAR SERIES

Six building Blocks to Sustainable Urban Development

03, 09, 13, 17, 19 and 25 November 2020

The Urban Development Network

European Commission

SESSION 3 : GOVERNANCE
Friday, 13th November 2020

Local authority collaboration and multi-level governance

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The Urban Development Network

Združenje Mestnih Občin Slovenije

City of Ljubljana

European Commission

Slovenia and ECP

Population: 2 million (2018)

2 Cohesion Regions (NUTS 2):

West SLO: (pop.: 0,9 million)

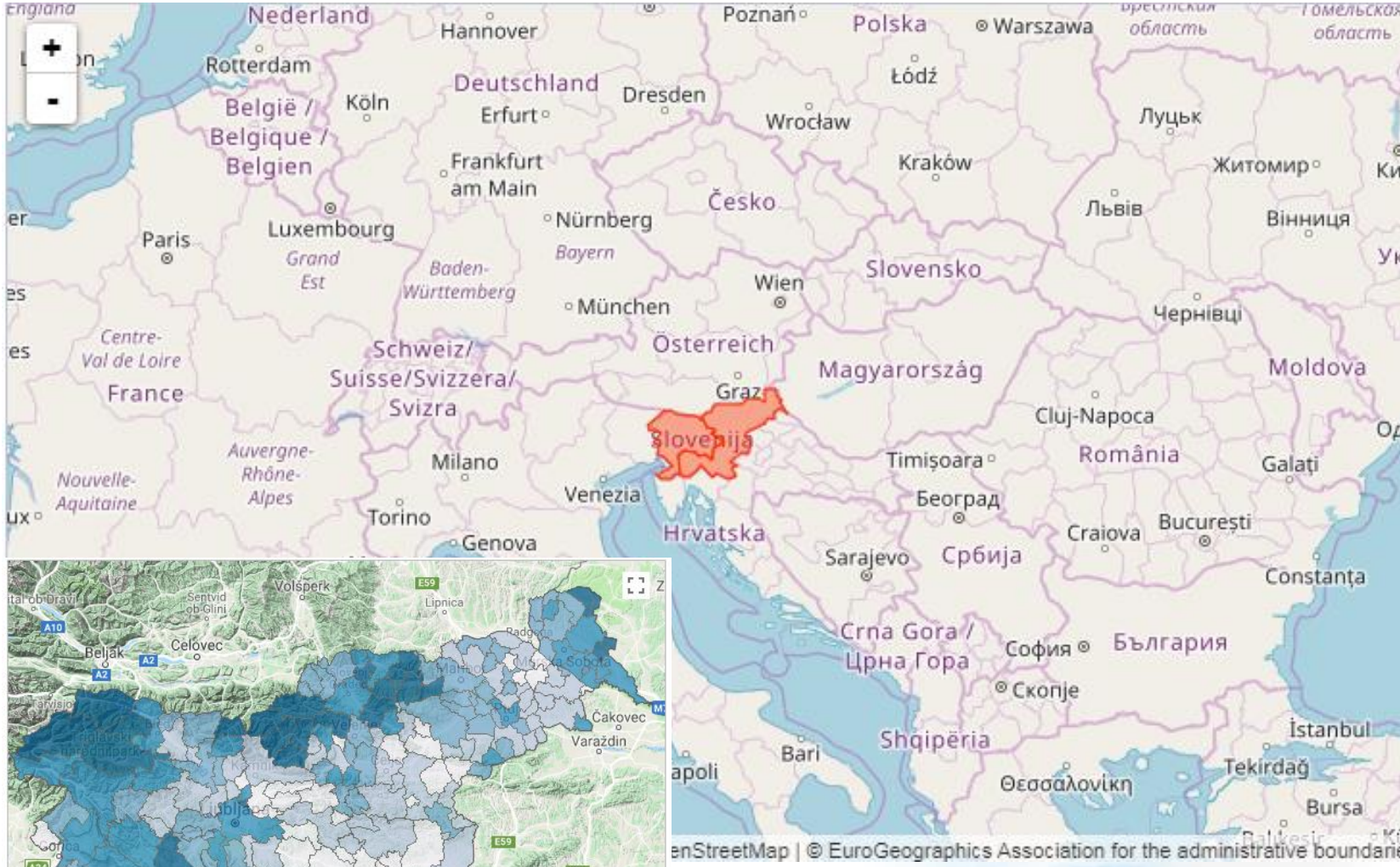
East SLO: (pop.: 1,1 million)

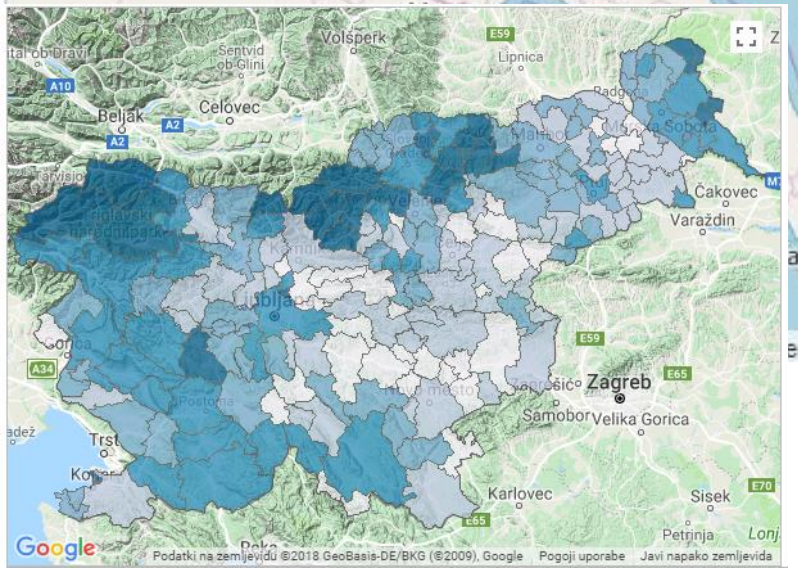
No actual intermediate level of governance; just

national (state) and

local (municipalities)

Historically **decentralised development**





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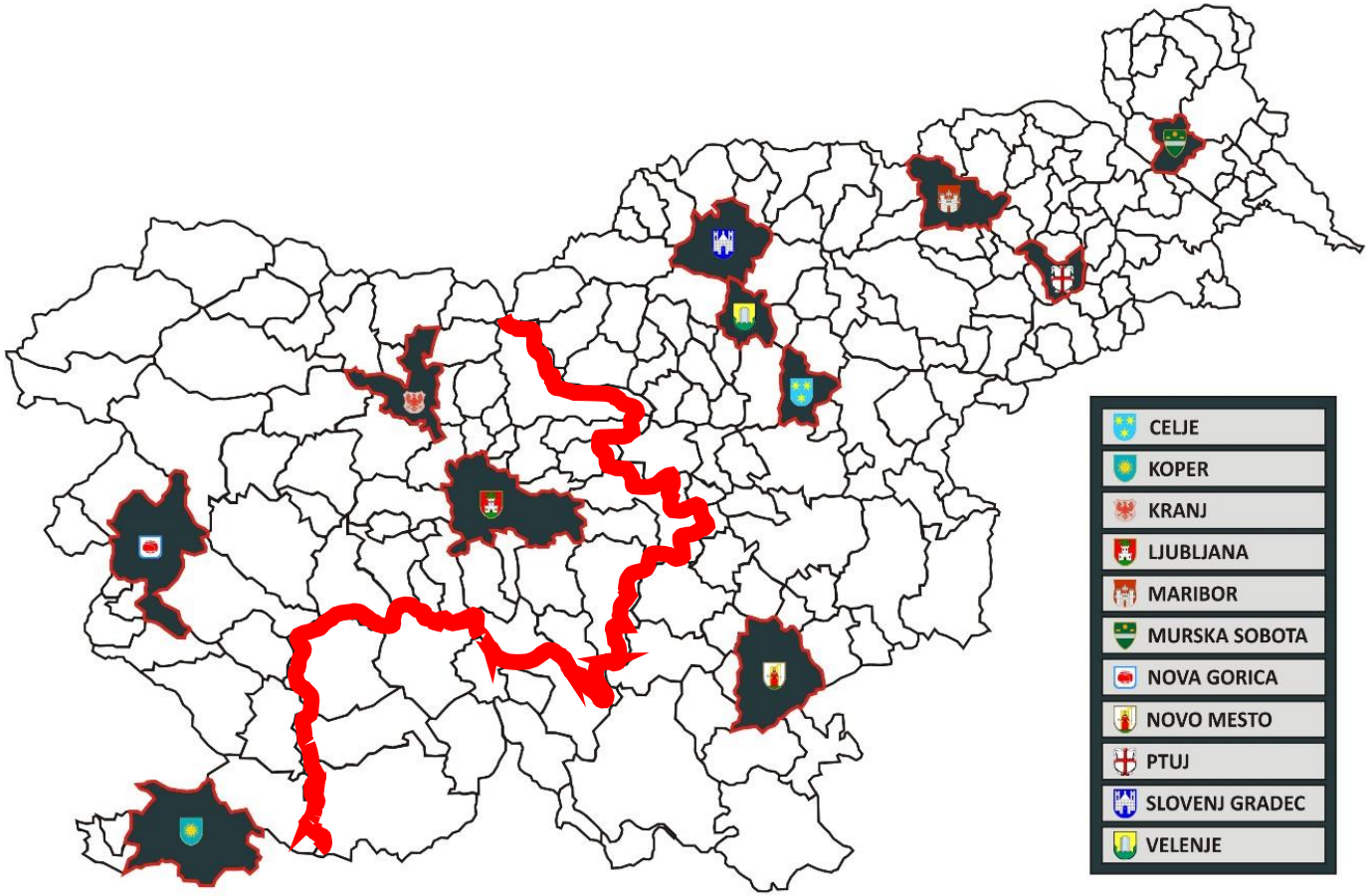
Urban municipalities of Slovenia



aprox. 735.000 inhabitants or 1/3 of SLO population

4 in West SLO region
7 in East SLO region

11 URBAN MUNICIPALITIES – identified by Partnership Agreement as ITI beneficiaries based on their role, defined by the Constitution

„… An urban municipality performs, as being within its original competence, particular duties within the state competence relating to urban development as provided by law.“; art. 141

Slovenia and ITI implementation: situation in 2016

- ITI defined in Partnership Agreement and Operational programme
- 11 Urban Sustainable Development Strategies (SUDS) adopted
- Managing authority established
- Ministerial Intermediate bodies established
- Projects in urban municipalities ready
- Funding available (139 million euro grants and 5 mio euro financial instruments)
- ITI implementation mechanism in Slovenia not yet complete –

urban authorities as intermediate bodies for selection of projects still missing

Main challenge and solution

Time pressure (for ITI projects implementation in cities and for N+3 rule)

Challenge: Very diversified urban municipalities in terms of size (biggest Ljubljana – population 288.250, smallest Slovenj Gradec – population 16.593; 2017)→ **limited administrative capacity** to act as IB for selection of ITI projects under art. 7 of Directive nr. 1301/2013. - **tackling the issue as individual city→ impossible**

Solution: networking among 11 UM in search of solution led to the **conclusion** → the only way is **to do it together** → **how:** through the **Association of Urban Municipalities of Slovenia (AUMS)** as possible Common IB of 11 urban municipalities

Why AUMS: - it was already there

- it was right away operative

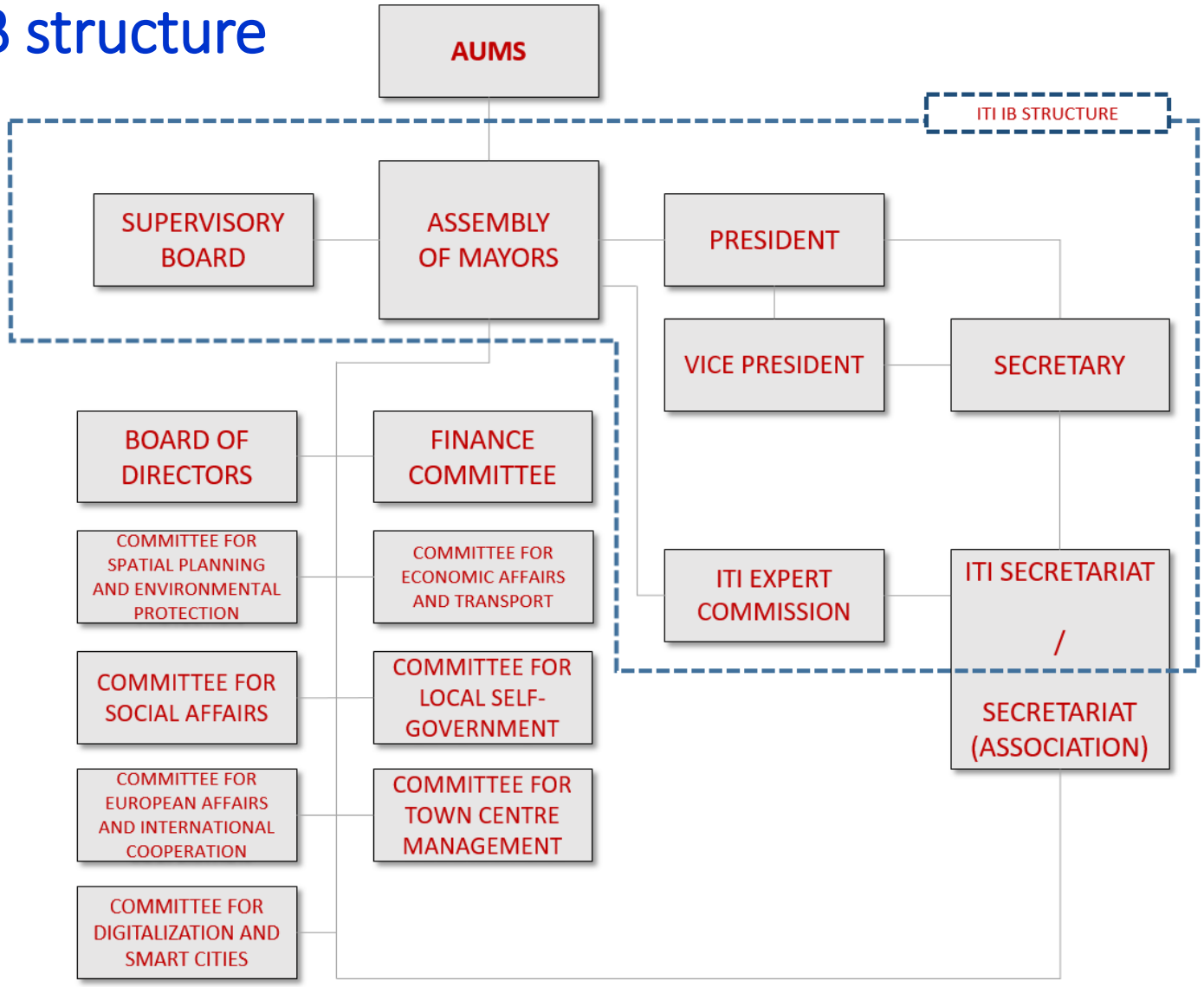
Challenges in setting up AUMS as IB for selection of projects

Internal challenge: limited human resources within UM and within the Association
Solution: Set-up of the ITI Expert Implementation Commission within the Association (1 representative from each UM; persons already experienced in EU policies and implementation of EU co-funded projects)
additional employment in the Association (0,6 FTE), co-financed from TA

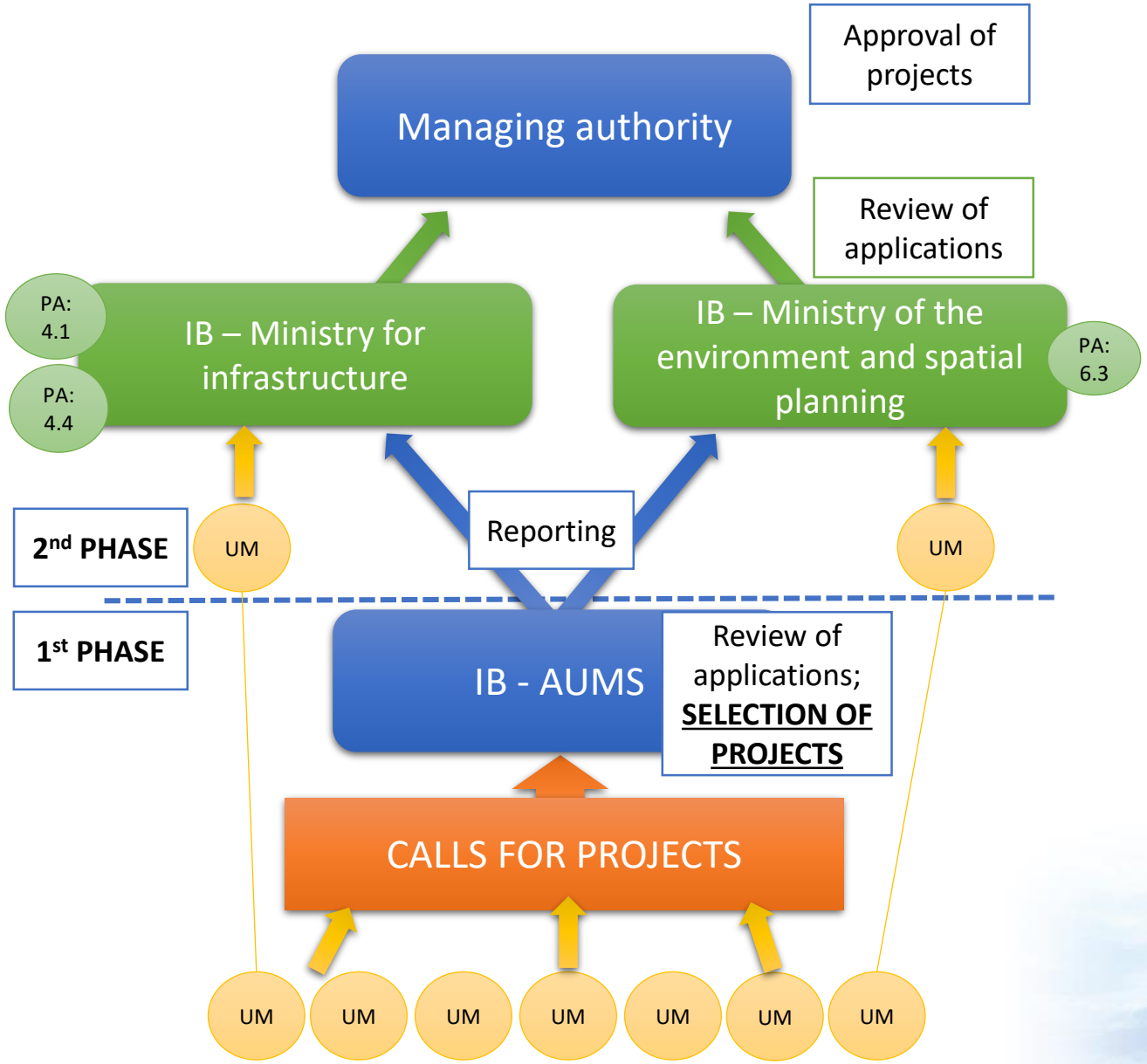
External challenge: MA and ministerial IB had to accept the Association as IB for final selection and ranking of ITI projects
Solution: Intensive dialogue with MA and ministerial IB, led by MA

External challenge: Accreditation process for AUMS to act as IB (multitude of documents to be produced: Description of the **management** and control system of AUMS as IB, AUMS Guidebook for the implementation of its role of IB, Evaluation of fraud risks (OLAF requirements, Agreement with MA on implementation of the IB role, Change of national legislation to identify AUMS as IB…
Solution: Association‘s documents produced by members of the ITI Experts Commission, other documents produced in cooperation with MA and ministerial IB

AUMS and ITI – IB structure

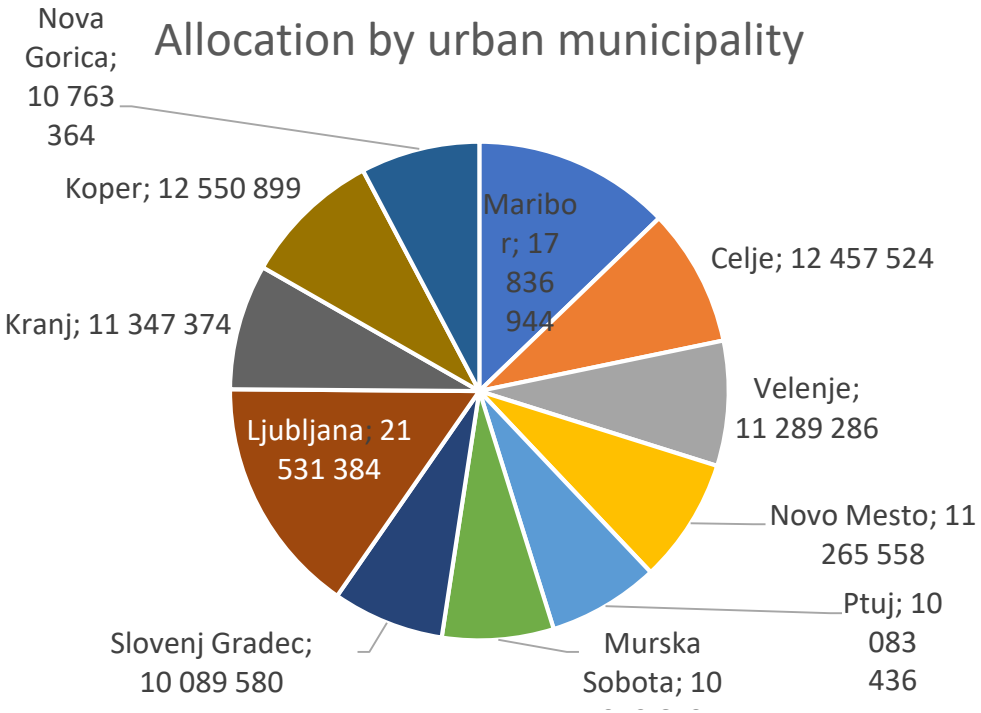


AUMS and ITI


Approval of projects
Managing authority
Review of applications
PA: 4.1
PA: 4.4
IB – Ministry for infrastructure
IB – Ministry of the environment and spatial planning
PA: 6.3
2nd PHASE
UM
Reporting
UM
1st PHASE
IB - AUMS
Review of applications; SELECTION OF PROJECTS
CALLS FOR PROJECTS
UM
UM
UM
UM
UM
UM
UM

ITI funding in SLO

139 MIO EUR

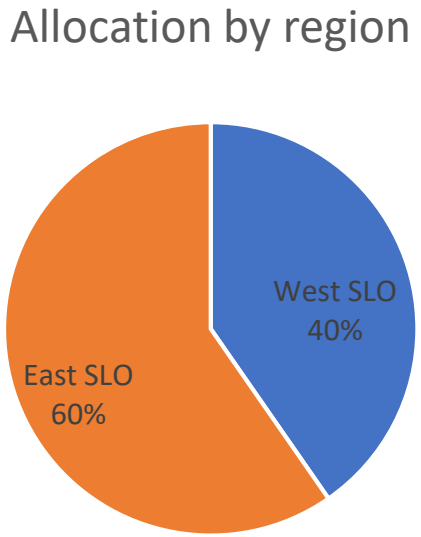


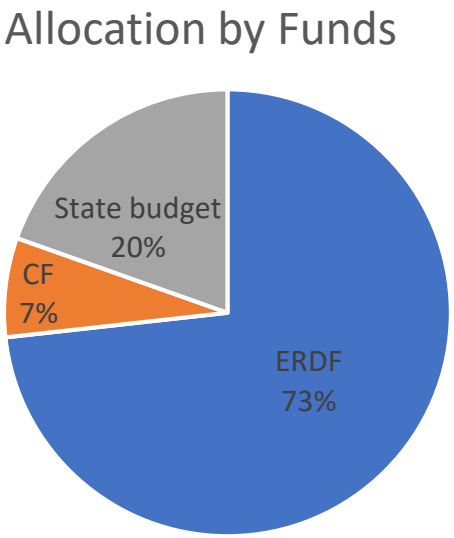
AUMS criteria for allocation by benificiary:

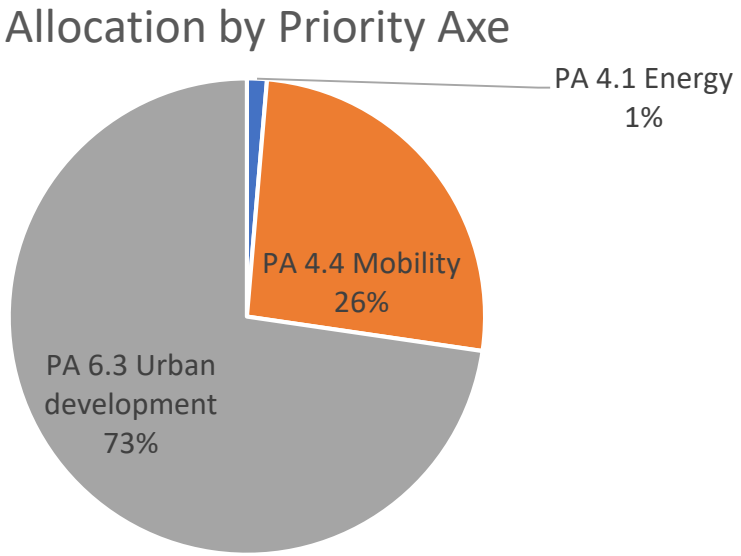
- SUDS quality at level of cohesion region
- Number of inhabitants
- Role in development challenges within cohesion region

Contribution to fullfilment of objectives set up in OP!

Fullfillment of those objevtives reached at the common level of 11 urban minicipalities







Results 2017 - 2020

- **54 projects approved by MA (28 projects already completed, 26 projects under implementation)**
  Total investment: 174 million euro, of which
  98,4million euro ITI co-funding (ERD, CF, national funding)
  76,2 million euro own resources

- **Other projects in pipe-line of approval by ministerial IB and MA; only 1% of ITI funding not yet „engaged“**

Results 2017 - 2020

2017-2020

54
Approved projects

26
Projects in implementation

28
Completed projects

98,4 mio €
ITI co-funding (ERDF, CF, state)

70,5 % funds

76,2 mio €
Own resources

174,6 mio €
Total investment

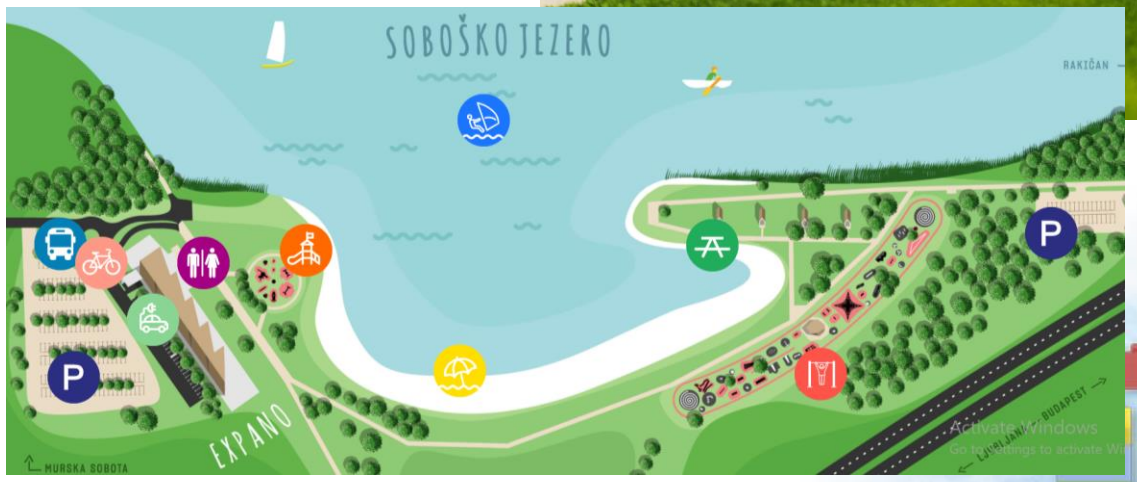
35 additional/selected projects in pipeline for approval

28,5 % funds

Only 1 % of funds not yet „engaged“

Results 2017 – 2020

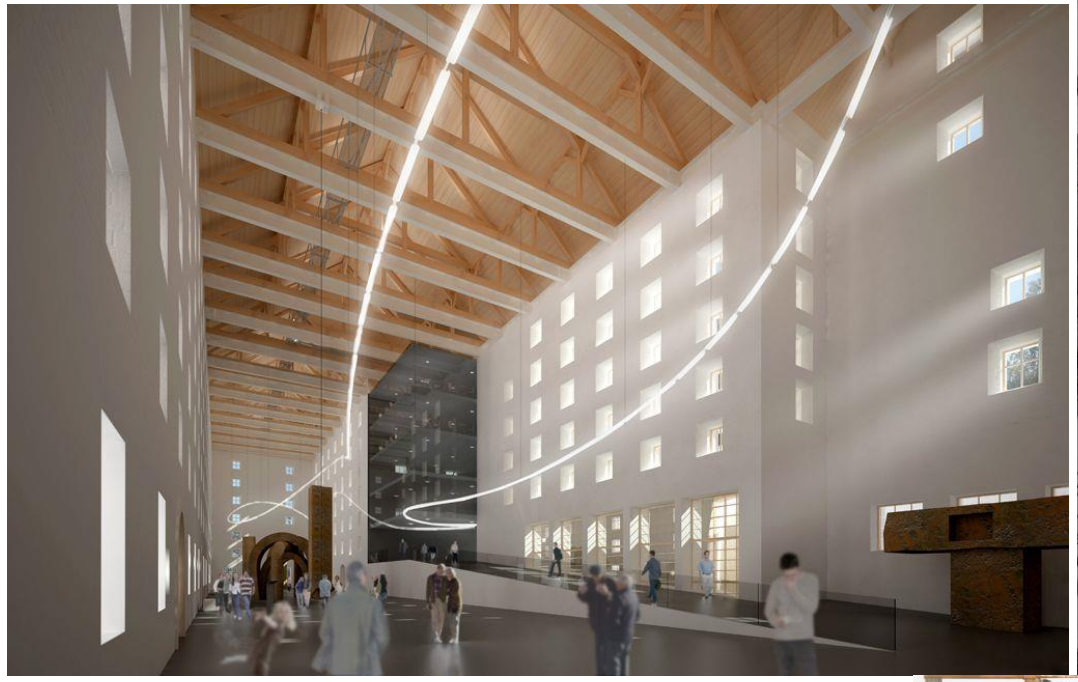
Gateway to Pomurje and lake Soboško jezero:
Inaugurated in april 2019
100.000 visitors in 8 months

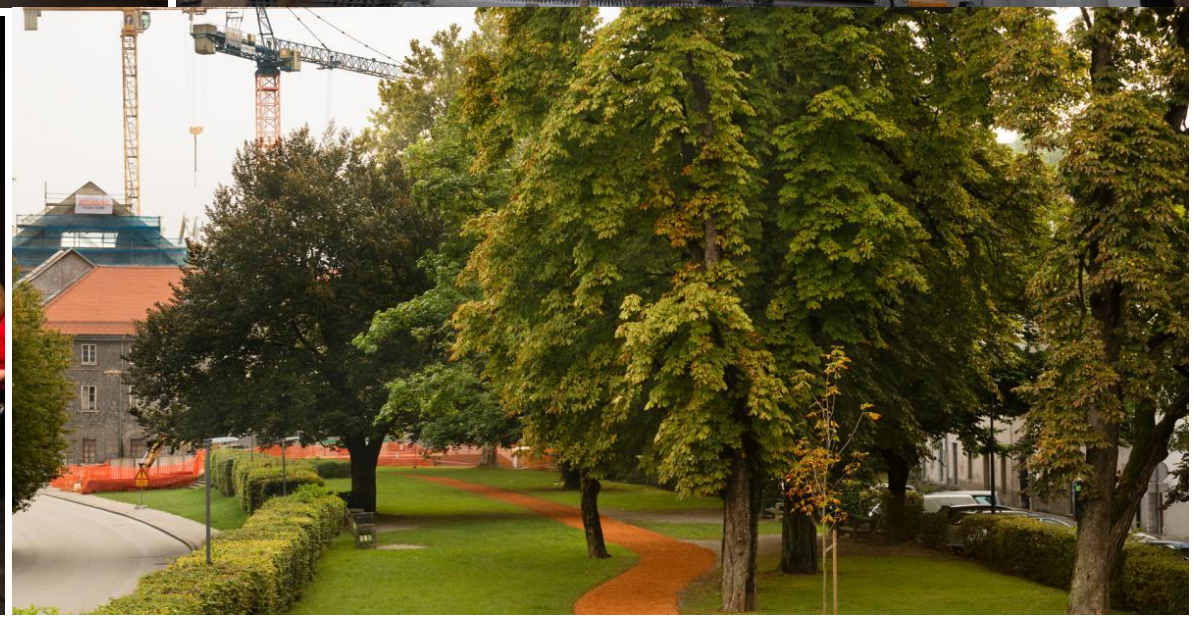


Results 2017 – 2020

Results 2017 – 2020

Cukrarna gallerey – revitalisation already during construction





Lessons learned

Partnership among UM and national level is essential already at early stage of programming development so that MA and ministerial IB have good understanding about the needs and situation on-field in UM on one side and that UM have an understanding of national priorities on the other. Only in such cooperation it is possible to reach synergies and maximise effects and reach urban development objectives.

According to AUMS's experience:

Good horizontal cooperation among UM remains of basic importance also in the future.

Partnership cooperation among different level of governance is never a won battle; it is a never ending story.

To reach solutions, propose them, don't expect that they will be proposed to you.

In searching for solutions: don't start from scratch – use at best what is already there.

Thank you!

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