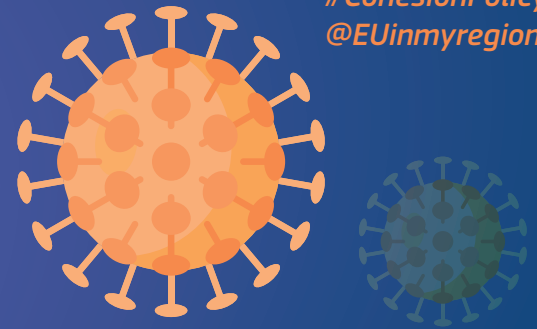




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THE CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE INVESTMENT INITIATIVE IN SLOVENIA



EU COHESION POLICY FUNDING THE HEALTH SECTOR AND THE EDUCATION SYSTEM, PROTECTING JOBS AND VULNERABLE PEOPLE, HELPING THE ECONOMY

In 2014-2020, the EU invests in Slovenia €3.07 billion through cohesion policy.

Thanks to the Coronavirus Response Investment Initiative, in total €275 million are now being mobilised to tackle the current crisis and its effects.

Some examples:



HEALTH SECTOR

- Support to scientific and product related research projects and other services necessary to promote and establish additional emergency response capacities in health services.
- Improved access to affordable, sustainable and quality services, including medical care necessary medical equipment and personal protective equipment.
- Purchase of equipment, protective equipment and security assets to respond to the COVID-19 epidemic, to contain the epidemic and to enable future preventive action.



EDUCATION

- Improving remote learning possibilities for schools through improving the capacities of the academic, research and educational network of Slovenia (ARNES), as well as through the purchase of 4220 devices for pupils, students and teachers who do not own an appropriate ICT device.



EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL CARE

- Support to temporary part-time employment schemes.
- Temporary cash compensation to support people who have lost their jobs.
- Helping vulnerable populations during the period of the epidemic.



SMALL BUSINESS

- Providing vital liquidity to ailing SMEs in the form of grants or financial instruments.

OTHER PROJECTS CO-FUNDED BY THE EU, HELPING WITH THE CORONAVIRUS EMERGENCY



The project '**Further deployment of ICT infrastructure in education**' aims to increase access to the wireless network in all Slovenian educational institutions (primary and secondary schools) from three to one hundred percent, to enhance the level of use of ICT in schools and to indirectly provide higher quality education and better job opportunities for pupils and students in the long term. The operation is already in full swing and will be completed by 2023. It is implemented through three interconnected activities: the construction of wireless networks, the purchase of new equipment, and the development of e-services and e-content, all of this is particularly useful during the coronavirus crisis. The total value of the operation is €40 million, with the European Regional Development Fund contributing slightly more than a half.



Digital Innovation Hub Slovenia is co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund with almost €1.9 million. The objective is to provide free of charge services in the field of digitisation and Industry 4.0 to SMEs. Through building a support ecosystem and networking, as well as providing support for developing digital competencies and capacities of businesses the project aims to facilitate the digital transformation of SMEs in Slovenia. Supported activities have helped make SMEs more digital and thus less reliant on physical contact when delivering services, thus making them more resilient to the impact of the coronavirus epidemic.



UVC Solutions d.o.o. is a Slovenia-based enterprise benefited from cohesion policy support to develop **SteriPro, a smart UV-C disinfection technology solution**, which is clinically proven to dramatically help reduce hospital-acquired infections leaving hospital room surfaces adequately cleaned as it renders the vast majority of microbes harmless and sterile.