IMPLEMENTATION OF E-COHESION
General characteristics

SLOVAKIA

No. of **targeted national/regional operational programmes** covering ERDF/CF: **4**

No. of **e-Cohesion systems**: **1**

At a glance:

e-Cohesion system: ITMS 2014+
Introduction of the system: Operational since 2014.
Type of the system: National system that covers 4 national/regional OPs and several Interreg programmes.
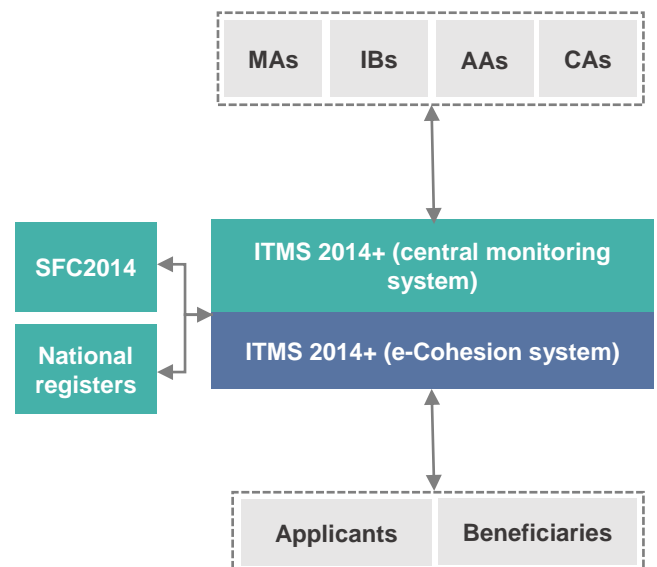**Implementation mode:** Highly centralised.
Use during 2021-2027: New system will be developed/purchased.
Fund coverage of the system: ☑ ERDF ☑ CF

Context and structure of e-Cohesion

- e-Cohesion in Slovakia is **highly centralised** - ITMS 2014+ is the only system used in the country and coversall four national/regional OPs;

- ITMS 2014+ showcase **high levels of interoperability** – it is integrated with a **central monitoring system** and is also linked to some **national registers/databases**, such as natural persons registry, legal entities registry, commercial registry, registry of state aid and de minimis aid, registry of accounts, criminal records, and others;

- ITMS 2014+ is also connected to **the European Commission's System for Fund Management (SFC2014);**

- ITMS2014+ supports the key processes related to implementation as well as the application process;

- ITMS 2014+ supports the use of a **qualified e-signature.**

| MAs | IBs | AAs | CAs |

SFC2014

National registers

ITMS 2014+ (central monitoring system)

ITMS 2014+ (e-Cohesion system)

| Applicants | Beneficiaries |

Key principles of e-Cohesion: interoperability and once-only encoding

Principles: Extensive reuse of information; interoperability with EU tools.

ITMS 2014+ **supports once-only encoding.** Data and documents provided by beneficiaries are shared with all relevant authorities.

The system **extensively supports the pre-filling of information**:

- Information is pre-filled based on data entered during the project application and during previous steps of the operation and from some national registers;

- **The pre-filling of information is highly valued** – nearly all beneficiary respondents using ITMS 2014+ aware of this functionality perceived it as useful to their operations (resulting in efficiency gains and reducing the number of errors).

Parallel data exchanges: Extensive exchange of information outside of the system.

While being the officially provided solution, the use of ITMS 2014+ is not mandatory. Beneficiaries indicate that **data exchanges outside the system are extensive for all key processes.**

	Limited parallel exchange	Moderate parallel exchange	Extensive parallel exchange
Contracts			ITMS 2014+
Progress reports			ITMS 2014+
Payment claims			ITMS 2014+
Verifications/on-the-spot checks			ITMS 2014+

Key processes: Support of project cycle from start to finish.

- **ITMS 2014+ supports all operations related to project application and implementation** (progress reports, modification requests, payment claims and management verifications/on-the-spot checks).

Functionalities: Support for all required functionalities, including interactive forms.

- **ITMS 2014+ supports all functionalities associated with user-friendliness** (interactive forms, automatic calculations, checks for incorrect/missing data, system-generated alerts, online status tracking, validity of e-signature and availability of previous data);
- **Nearly all beneficiary respondents aware of the functionalities provided by ITMS 2014+ consider them as very useful**, meaning that they result in notable time gains and reduce the number of errors for their users.

Results of the introduction of e-Cohesion

Effectiveness – results and simplification

- The introduction of ITSM 2014+ has resulted in **extensive improvements and simplification**;
- Most respondents agree that the introduction of the system has led to significant improvements in various areas and has simplified the way they handle information compared with paper-based processes or email exchanges;
- **ITMS 2014+ has moderately improved information exchanges between authorities and beneficiaries** – more than half of respondents report that its use has reduced repeated transmission of the same information, indicating that once-only encoding is highly valued by users of the system.

Efficiency – benefits vs costs

- The **benefits of using ITMS 2014+ compared to its costs are extensive** across beneficiaries' key processes;
- Most respondents indicate that the benefits (reduced administrative burden, simplified procedures) of using the system outweigh any associated costs (the time and effort required to use it).

User–friendliness

- **ITMS 2014+ shows moderate user-friendliness** – most beneficiaries perceive the system as easy to navigate and operate, and more than half consider it as clear and self-explanatory;
- Indication for high satisfaction among users of e-Cohesion systems is whether authorities continue to develop and improve the existing system. In the case of ITMS 2014+, **most beneficiary respondents feel that the system's functionalities and its overall functioning are being continuously improved, indicating extensive improvements**.