

# IMPLEMENTATION OF E-COHESION

## General characteristics



SLOVENIA



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

1



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

1

### At a glance:

**e-Cohesion system:** IS e-MA

**Introduction of the system:** Operational since 2015.

**Type of the system:** National system - it covers the only national OP and does not support any Interreg programmes.

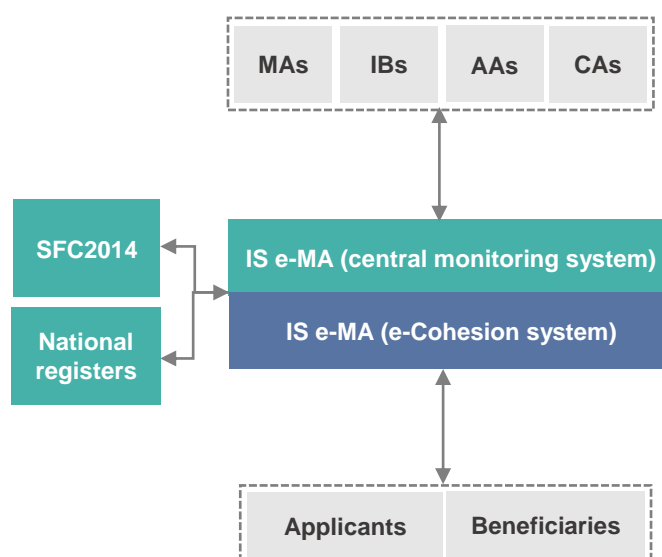
**Implementation mode:** Highly centralised.

**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 Slovenia is **highly centralised** – IS e-MA is the only system used in the country and covers the only OP - "Operational Programme for the Implementation of the EU Cohesion Policy in the period 2014 – 2020";
- IS e-MA showcase **high levels of interoperability** – it is closely integrated with a **central monitoring system** and is also linked to some **national registers/databases**, as well as the **European Commission's System for Fund Management (SFC2014)**;
- IS e-MA system supports not only the key processes related to implementation, but also handles the application process. Thus, ESIF **applicants and beneficiaries** exchange information directly using IS e-MA.



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



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

IS e-MA **supports once-only encoding**. Data and documents provided by beneficiaries are shared with all relevant authorities.

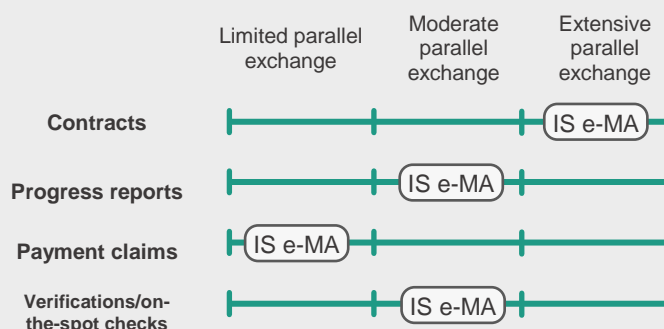
The system **extensively supports the pre-filling of information**:

- 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** – all beneficiary respondents using IS e-MA aware of this functionality perceived it as useful to their operations (resulting in efficiency gains and reducing the number of errors).



**Parallel data exchanges:** Moderate exchange of information outside of the system.

While being the officially provided solution, the use of IS e-MA is not mandatory. **Data exchanges outside the system are extensive for the preparation and signing of grants** and are moderate during progress reports and verifications/on-the-spot checks.



## Implementation of e-Cohesion features



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

- **IS e-MA 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.

- **IS e-MA 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 IS e-MA 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 IS e-MA 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;
- **IS e-MA has extensively improved information exchanges between authorities and beneficiaries** – most 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 IS e-MA 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

- **IS e-MA shows moderate user-friendliness** – more than half of beneficiaries perceive the system as easy to navigate and operate, and 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 IS e-MA, **most beneficiary respondents feel that the system's functionalities and its overall functioning are being continuously improved, indicating extensive improvements.**

