

## **Mutual coordination system between the OP Integrated Infrastructure (2014 – 2020) and Rural Development Programme SR 2014 – 2020**

### **1. Introduction**

Under Government Resolution of the SR No. 139/2013 from the 20<sup>th</sup> of March 2013, a proposal of a structure of the operational programme funded from the European Structural Investment Funds for the programming period 2014 – 2020 has been approved, including the structure of managing authorities and intermediate bodies under managing authorities.

Investment in the development of the information society, including **building broadband infrastructure and deployment of next generation networks** will be realized through Operational Programme Integrated Infrastructure 2014 – 2020 (OPII) within the Priority axis 7 Information society (PA7). Managing Authority for the OPII is the Ministry of Transport and Construction of the SR (MTC SR) and Intermediary Body for the PA 7 Information Society is the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic for Investments and Informatization (DPMO) in accordance with the Government Resolution of the SR No. 171/2014 from the 16<sup>th</sup> of April 2014.

Complementary to the activities of the OPII PA7, in connection with the deployment of the broadband internet, the activities of the Rural Development Programme SR 2014 – 2020 (RDP 2014 - 2020), related to the construction of access networks in municipalities with less than 500 inhabitants concerning the white areas will be realized. RDP 2014 - 2020 was approved by the Government Resolution of the SR No. 231/2014 from the 14<sup>th</sup> of May 2014. In accordance with this Resolution is the Managing Authority for the RDP 2014 - 2020 the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the SR (MARD SR).

The aim of this document is to define the basic principles of complementary and institutional coordination between the PA7 OPII and RDP 2014 - 2020 in the field of deployment of the broadband internet, while these principles will be further developed in the managing documentation of both operational programs.

### **2. Institutional level of coordination (inter-ministerial)**

**In the implementation of building of access networks under RDP 2014 - 2020 DPMO and MARD SR will proceed as follows:**

- 1) MARD SR will send to DPMO SR a notice of planned publication of call under the sub-measure 7.3 *Support of broadband infrastructure, including its creation, improvement and expansion, support of passive broadband infrastructure and provision of access to broadband and public e-government solutions*, **three months** before the publication of call for proposal.
- 2) DPMO will send to MARD SR a current list of municipalities meeting the definition of white area with less than 500 inhabitants. This list of municipalities will constitute the list of eligible beneficiaries for call under the sub-measure 7.3. MARD SR will also define a condition of building broadband internet with speeds of at least 30 mbps as an eligibility criterion.
- 3) After call finalization by the MARD SR a coordination meeting between DPMO and MARD SR, where any open issues will be discussed, will be held.
- 4) After call publication and completion of evaluation and selection process, MARD SR will send a list of white places where a broadband connection will be built with a speed of at least 30 Mbit / s..

- 5) In case, that backhaul network which would enable successful applicant under RDP 2014 - 2020 to connect local access network, is not available, MARD SR will inform DPMO about this fact.
- 6) MARD SR in cooperation with DPMO will subsequently ensure the coordination of building of local access networks with the building of national backhaul networks in order to ensure a broadband connection with a minimum speed of 30 Mbit/s in white areas of municipalities with less than 500 inhabitants.

### 3. Content level of the coordination

DPMO from its position of a central government body responsible for coordination of activities under the Digital Agenda for Europe, will inter alia provide to MARD SR a comprehensive methodological support for building access networks, in relation to the technological aspects of these operations as well as because of their coordinated implementation.

Methodological support for broadband deployment by the MF SR will be primarily focused on the management of individual activities of broadband deployment (especially so-called last mile connections), state aid coordination, monitoring, quality assurance, etc.

Effective harmonization of the activities relating to broadband deployment would not be possible without the active communication with all stakeholders whose are mainly representatives of the telecommunications sector, MTC SR, JASPERS as well as the Regulatory Authority for Electronic Communications and Postal Services. Coordinator of this mutual discussion during the whole period of implementation of the operational programme will be the DPMO.

Basic tools that will enable coordination at the technical level are:

- Sharing current information on broadband coverage, including a list of white and grey areas,
- Sharing current information on the state of building of regional backhaul networks, backbone networks, the last mile connections; including information on technology and free capacity (in the future through the access to the Atlas of passive infrastructure),
- Coordination of projects and activities in order to optimize the use of funds, use of synergies and logical continuity of interventions,
- Harmonization of used methodologies and standards,
- Sharing information on the cost of building broadband networks and outputs of projects,
- Sharing best practices in project implementation of building broadband networks.

#### 3.1 Activities implemented under Priority Axis 7 OPII

PA7 OPII strategy follows on the measures implemented during the programming period 2007 - 2013 through the Operational Programme Information Society (OPIS). One of the objectives of OPIS, specifically of Priority Axis 3 was the increase of broadband internet access. However this objective could not be successfully implemented and it was redefined to create project documentation for broadband optical networks, which will contribute to increasing of broadband Internet penetration. The task thus remains to achieve this objective in the programming period 2014 - 2020 in line with the objective of the Digital Agenda for Europe of **100% broadband coverage above 30 mbps**.

The area of broadband deployment is tackled in OPII within the investment priority 2a): **Extending broadband deployment and the roll-out of high-speed networks and supporting the adoption of emerging technologies and networks for the digital economy**.

Under this investment priority 2a) investments from public funds will be directed to implementation of the following activities:

- Construction of regional backhaul networks based on the optic fibers to the catchment areas within the white and grey areas that will ensure interconnection of advanced backbone network with local access networks;
- Construction of regional backhaul networks based on radio relay links;
- Providing analytical work;
- Coordination of the construction of networks;
- **Construction of access networks with technological neutrality in the areas of market failure through demand-oriented projects and reimbursable financial instruments.**

The beneficiary of financial aid for the deployment of regional and high-speed broadband access networks in municipalities with more than 500 inhabitants will be telecommunication enterprises or municipalities. The basic conditions to support the building of access networks through demand-oriented projects will be mainly:

- Technologies FTTH and FTTC,
- Compliance with the principle of technological neutrality,
- The minimum transfer speed of 30 mbps,
- Supported networks will be open access networks (OAN),
- Intervention will focus on white and grey areas.

In case that none of the above-mentioned entities is interested in covering the white space, NGA networks in the given municipality will be built through a national project.

### **3.2 Activities implemented under the measure 7 RDP 2014 - 2020**

Within the RDP 2014 - 2020 were identified weaknesses of rural areas, in which context it is necessary to focus on improving the quality of life and support of economic development, including the formation of rural communities with an emphasis on the use of local cultural-historical potential as well as ICT development in rural communities. To meet these objectives, it is necessary, inter alia, to support the activities aimed at the creation of broadband internet access and the use of ICT. Increasing the availability of information through the use of modern information and communication technologies is an important factor for the further economic development of rural areas. Regarding the implementation of these objectives will RDP 2014 - 2020 follow the programming period 2007 - 2013, during which projects of deployment of last mile are implemented.

Activities of building last mile in the RDP 2014 - 2020 will be implemented under:

**The Measure 7 RDP 2014 - 2020** *Basic services and village renewal in rural areas*

**Sub-measure 7.3.** *Support of broadband infrastructure, including its creation, improvement and expansion, support of passive broadband infrastructure and provision of access to broadband and public e-government solutions.*

Activities under this measure of RDP 2014 - 2020 will complementary complement operations under PA7 OPII and will contribute to the goal of 100% coverage of broadband. **RDP 2014 - 2020 will implement demand-oriented projects for building access networks in the white areas of municipalities with less than 500 inhabitants**

Eligible beneficiaries will be municipalities in rural areas up to 500 inhabitants (including), as well as associations/groups of municipalities.