

Positive preliminary assessment of the satisfactory fulfilment of milestones and targets related to the eighth payment request submitted by Croatia on 15 December 2025, transmitted to the Economic and Financial Committee by the European Commission

Executive summary

In accordance with Article 24(2) of Regulation (EU) 2021/241, on 15 December 2025, Croatia submitted a request for payment for the eighth instalment of the non-repayable support and the fourth instalment of the loan support. The payment request was accompanied by the required management declaration and summary of audits.

To support its payment request, Croatia provided due justification of the satisfactory fulfilment of the 13 milestones and targets of the eighth instalment of the non-repayable support and the 4 milestones and targets of fourth instalment of the loan support, as set out in Section 2(1)(7) and Section 2(2)(3) of the Council Implementing Decision of 28 July 2021 on the approval of the assessment of the recovery and resilience plan for Croatia¹.

For one target covering a large number of beneficiaries, in addition to the summary documents and official listings provided by Croatia, Commission services have assessed a statistically significant sample of individual files. The sample size has been uniformly set at 60 which corresponds to a confidence level of 95% or above in all cases.

In its payment request, Croatia has confirmed that measures related to previously satisfactorily fulfilled milestones and targets have not been reversed. The Commission does not have evidence of the contrary. Upon receipt of the payment request, the Commission has assessed on a preliminary basis the satisfactory fulfilment of the relevant milestones and targets. Based on the information provided by Croatia, the Commission has made a positive preliminary assessment of the satisfactory fulfilment of all 17 milestones and targets.

The milestones and targets positively assessed as part of this payment request demonstrate significant steps in the implementation of Croatia's Recovery and Resilience Plan. They notably highlight the continuation of the reform momentum in key policy areas. This includes, among others, strengthening the inclusion of vulnerable groups into the labour market, increasing pension adequacy, support to sustainable finance, development of adult learning programmes aimed at developing green skills and competences in the construction sector and the integration of seismic data. The milestones and targets also confirm progress towards the completion of investment projects related to development of new mobility vehicles, improving water management, improvement of the agricultural land monitoring system, upgrading the information system for functional and actual mergers of local government units, supporting the combat of corruption and organised crime, supporting the development of an enabling model for researchers' career progression, improving access to pharmacy care and medicines, improving monitoring and prevention system for medicines shortages and strengthening the gas infrastructure.

By the transmission of this positive preliminary assessment and in accordance with Article 24(4) of Regulation (EU) 2021/241, the Commission asks for the opinion of the Economic and Financial Committee on the satisfactory fulfilment of the relevant milestones and targets.

Contents

Non-repayable support	3
Number and name of the Milestone: 78 Revitalised watercourses	3
Number and name of the Milestone: 119 Verification prototypes of fully autonomous and electric vehicles and relevant testing	6
Number and name of the Milestone: 133 Upgrade of operational information system for monitoring agricultural land and establishment of 90 permanent stations to monitor the condition of agricultural land	9
Number and name of the Milestone: 175 Support mechanism for voluntary functional and real connections and the establishment of a complete support system for functional and effective coupling of units	14
Number and name of the Milestone: 239 Evaluation of the effects of the national information campaign against corruption.....	19
Number and name of the Target: 242 Upgrade of 4 regional centres of the Police National Office for Combating Corruption and Organised Crime (PN USKOK)	22
Number and name of the Target: 282 Grants awarded under the programming framework for increasing availability and employability of graduates in STEM/ICT fields and improving their mobility for national and international cooperation.....	26
Number and name of the Target: 290 Improved quality of support for at least 5 000 people from vulnerable groups	31
Number and name of the Milestone: 298 Adoption of the Act amending the Compulsory Pension Funds Act	36
Number and name of the Target: 339 Central management of parenteral preparations in 8 hospitals	41
Number and name of the Target: 342 System to monitor shortages of medicinal products based on “blockchain” technology	43
Number and name of the Milestone: 406 Entry into force of legislation setting up the new system of self-consumption.....	50
Loan support	53
Number and name of the Target: 375 Adoption of the First Action Plan to support the objectives of sustainable finance	53
Number and name of the Target: 320 Access to pharmacy care and medicines	58
Number and name of the Target: 424 Construction of the expanded Zlobin – Bosiljevo gas pipeline	60
Number and name of the Target: 433 Education program for workers from third countries ...	62

Non-repayable support

Number and name of the Target: 78 Revitalised watercourses

Related Measure: C1.3 R.1 I3 Disaster risk reduction programme

Quantitative Indicator: km

Baseline: 0

Target: 16

Time: Q2 2025

1. Context:

The objective of this investment is to improve flood protection and biodiversity. This measure consists of construction of flood defensive embankments and revitalisation of freshwater systems.

Target #78 requires that at least 16 kilometres of watercourses are restored, including revitalisation of abandoned sleeves, permanent river and sleeve contact and investment in related infrastructure.

Target #78 is the second step of the implementation of the sub-measure of the investment and it follows the completion of target #76 which resulted in the restoration of 2 km of watercourses. This target will be followed by target #440 on build flood protective infrastructures and target #441 on revitalised watercourses, with completion date of Q2 2026.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence	Short description
1	Cover note	Summary document duly justifying how the target (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled
2	Detailed overview table	Summary Excel table with excerpts of relevant documentation at project level, as evidence for achievement of the target
3	Grant agreement for project C1.3.R1-I3-00026 (Stara Drava-Bilje) of 19 December 2022	Grant Agreement for individual project, with supporting annexes, including technical specifications
4	Grant agreement for project C1.3.R1-I3-00036 (Bilje wetlands) of 17 November 2023	Grant Agreement for individual project, with supporting annexes, including technical specifications
5	Grant agreement for project C1.3.R1-I3-00046 (Revitalisation of Lake	Grant Agreement for individual project, with supporting annexes, including technical

	Trakošćan) 29 August 2024	specifications
6	Report of Supervising Engineer for project C1.3.R1-I3-00026 (Stara Drava-Bilje) of 19 May 2025	Report of supervising engineer as evidence of completed works (km of revitalised watercourse), in line with technical specifications
7	Report of Supervising Engineer for project C1.3.R1-I3-00036 (Bilje wetlands) of 12 May 2025	Report of supervising engineer as evidence of completed works (km of revitalised watercourse), in line with technical specifications
8	Report of Supervising Engineer for project C1.3.R1-I3-00046 (Revitalisation of Lake Trakošćan) of 20 December 2024	Report of supervising engineer as evidence of completed works (km of revitalised watercourse), in line with technical specifications
9	Environmental impact assessment documentation for projects C1.3.R1-I3-00026 (Stara Drava-Bilje) and C1.3.R1-I3- 00036 (Bilje wetlands)	The documentation for both projects includes: Environmental Protection Impact Study, Analysis of compliance of the considered impacts and identified mitigation measures in relation to the re-considered site specific conservation objectives of the Natura 2000 ecological network area, Opinion of the competent national authority in relation to the re-considered site specific conservation objectives of the Natura 2000 ecological network, Environmental Impact Assessment screening decision of the competent county authority
10	Environmental impact assessment procedure documentation for project C1.3.R1-I3-00046 (Revitalisation of Lake Trakošćan)	Environmental Protection Impact Study, Environmental Impact Assessment screening decision of competent county authority

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Croatian authorities cover all constitutive elements of the target.

At least 16 km of restored watercourses including revitalisation of abandoned sleeves, permanent river and sleeve contact and investment in related infrastructure.

Based on the evidence provided, the target was achieved, with 21.799 kilometres of watercourses restored. The supporting documentary evidence relates to three projects, including Stara Drava-Bilje retention area (project C1.3.R1-I3-00026; 5.28 km), Bilje wetlands area (project C1.3.R1-I3-00036; 13.944 km), and Lake Trakošćan area (project C1.3.R1-I3-00046; 2.575 km).

The project C1.3.R1-I3-00026 focused on the revitalisation of an abandoned sleeve of the River Drava, Stara Drava. The sleeve contact with the permanent river was enabled by cleaning deposited sediment and increasing water retention to receive water from the Drava river hydro-melioration. The technical specifications of the project (Evidence No. 3, sections B1.1 and B1.2, as well as Evidence No. 9) clarify that Stara Drava is a remnant of the former riverbed of the Drava River which serves as a main recipient of the reclamation drainage of southwest part of

Baranja. Water flow in Stara Drava has been slowed down by large amounts of accumulated sediment due to the process of eutrophication. To revitalize the sleeve, earlier works have already taken place (target #76). Under this target, mechanical clearing, excavation and reshaping works on the north-west part of Stara Drava were completed. A study (As-built elaborate) for Phase 4 contains the technical specifications and planned technical solutions (Evidence No. 3, pages 13-19). Evidence that 5.28 km were revitalised, as well as abovementioned works, under project Stara Drava–Bilje is confirmed in the Final Report of the Supervising Engineer, as 4th phase of the revitalisation (Evidence No. 6, pages 6-7).

For project C1.3.R1-I3-00036, Bilje wetlands area restoration, accomplished works focused on reconnecting abandoned sleeves and creating secondary wetland habitats to ensure greater water intake from the permanent river. They included the reconstruction and improved management of water surfaces, increasing quality of the habitats of protected species and retaining water in the restored area (Evidence no. 4, pages 24-26, as well as Evidence No. 9), such as raising and deepening the bottoms of existing water bodies, rehabilitating the banks of ponds and channels after dredging material from the bottom, and rehabilitating the connecting channels of Bilje wetlands with Stara Drava. The project also included the construction of related infrastructure including the service road along the Drava–Danube embankment (Evidence No. 4, pages 17-18). Evidence that 13.994 km of channels and ponds were revitalised in the Bilje wetlands area, as well as abovementioned works, is confirmed in the Report of the Supervising Engineer (Evidence No. 7, pages 1-2).

For project C1.3.R1-I3-00046, works included removal of sediments from Lake Trakošćan and the restoration of the open watercourse of the Čemernica stream that runs along the bottom of the lake, including related infrastructure interventions, such as rehabilitation of service and forest roads, excavation of channels for stormwater and runoff drainage and repair and maintenance of embankment slopes (Evidence No. 5, technical specifications, pages 16-19 an, as well as Evidence No. 10). Evidence that 2.575 km of watercourses were revitalized, as well as abovementioned works, is confirmed in the Final Report of the Supervising Engineer in accordance with the technical specifications (Evidence No. 8, pages 5-8).

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled.

Number and name of the Target: 119 Verification prototypes of fully autonomous and electric vehicles and relevant testing

Related Measure: C1.4.R5-I2 Research, development and production of new mobility vehicles and supporting infrastructure

Quantitative Indicator: Number

Baseline: 0

Target: 60

Time: Q1 2025

1. Context:

The objective of the investment is to increase transport safety while increasing the efficiency and reduce congestion and reduce overall pollutant emissions from motor vehicle transport in the city of Zagreb. The investment consists of developing and implementing a new urban transport service of fully autonomous electric vehicles.

Target #119 requires 60 verification prototypes to be produced and tested, and autonomous driving systems to be tested.

Target #119 is the second step in implementing the investment, and it follows milestone #120, related to entry into force of the new legislation on autonomous driving. It is followed by milestone #122, related to new urban transport service of fully autonomous and electric vehicles, and milestone #123, related to 50 000 vouchers for trips with fully autonomous vehicle granted free of charge to disabled people. The investment has a final expected date for implementation in Q1 2026.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence.	Short description
1	60 certificates of inspection of the verification prototype by the competent authority (Centre for Vehicles of Croatia)	
2	60 control sheets by the manufacturer demonstrating the design and technical	

	requirements specified by the manufacturer for the specific verification prototype	
3	60 test reports by the manufacturer with the results of the tests executed by the manufacturer on the specific verification prototype	
4	The Certificate of inspection of the testing of autonomous driving systems by the Centre for Vehicles of Croatia	
5	The Report from the on-spot check of the testing of autonomous driving systems, reference 300-01/22-01 11, 530-09-2-25-35 from 12 December 2025	Report from the on-spot check by the representatives of the Ministry of the Sea, Transport and Infrastructure, the Ministry of the Interior, the State Office for Metrology and the CVH, of the testing of autonomous driving systems
6	The Report on the testing of autonomous driving systems by the manufacturer	
7	Cover note	Summary document duly justifying how the target (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Croatian authorities cover all constitutive elements of the target.

Verification prototypes shall be produced and tested.

The Croatian authorities have demonstrated that 60 verification prototypes have been produced, by providing for each of the 60 prototypes: i) the Certificate of inspection of the verification prototype by the competent authority (Centre for Vehicles of Croatia (hereinafter referred to as: "CVH")) (Evidence No. 1), which certifies that the verification prototype has been produced in accordance with the Project 3 Mobility company's (hereinafter referred to as: "the manufacturer") design and technical requirements specified in the Control Sheet; and ii) the Control Sheet by the manufacturer, demonstrating the design and technical requirements specified by the manufacturer for the specific verification prototype (Evidence No. 2).

The Croatian authorities have also demonstrated that 60 verification prototypes have been tested, by providing for each of the 60 prototypes: i) the Certificate of inspection of the verification prototype by the competent authority (CVH) (Evidence No. 1), which certifies that

the verification prototype has been tested by the manufacturer in accordance with the Test report; and ii) the Test report by the manufacturer, demonstrating the results of the tests executed by the manufacturer on the specific verification prototype (Evidence No. 3).

And autonomous driving systems shall be tested.

The Croatian authorities have demonstrated that the autonomous driving systems have been tested by the manufacturer, by providing the Certificate of inspection of the testing of autonomous driving systems by the CVH (Evidence No. 4). The Certificate of inspection of the testing of autonomous driving systems is based on the Report from the on-spot check by the representatives of the Ministry of the Sea, Transport and Infrastructure, the Ministry of the Interior, the State Office for Metrology and the CVH, of the testing of autonomous driving systems (Evidence No. 5), and the Report on the testing of autonomous driving systems by the manufacturer (Evidence No. 6).

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled.

Number and name of the Target: 133 Upgrade of operational information system for monitoring agricultural land and establishment of 90 permanent stations to monitor the condition of agricultural land

Related Measure: C1.5. R2-I2 Agricultural Land Monitoring Programme

Quantitative Indicator: Number

Baseline: 0

Target: 90

Time: Q2 2025

1. Context:

The objective of this measure is to ensure conditions for effective protection of the agricultural land through continuous monitoring and assessment of the state of the soil.

Target 133 calls for the establishment of the Programme for permanent monitoring of the condition of the agricultural land. Following the Programme, 90 monitoring stations were to be set up and connected to the upgraded information system for monitoring of the agricultural land.

Target 133 is the only target of this investment, related to the upgrade of operational information system for monitoring agricultural land and establishment of 90 permanent stations. The investment has a final expected date for implementation in Q2/2025.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence.	Short description
1	Cover note	Summary document duly justifying how the requirements of the target (including all its constitutive elements, as set out in the description of the target and of the corresponding measure in the CID annex) have been satisfactorily fulfilled.
2	“Program trajnog praćenja stanja poljoprivrednog zemljišta Republike Hrvatske 2021. - 2030.”	The Programme for permanent monitoring of the condition of agricultural land.
3	Regulation on the methodology for	Bylaw on methodology for monitoring of the condition of agricultural land. This bylaw

	<p>monitoring the condition of the agricultural land</p> <p>Published in Official Gazette, No. 47/2019 on 10 May 2019</p> <p>Entered into force 8 days after publishing in Official Journal, in accordance with Article 59</p>	prescribes the form which is filled out upon the establishment of a monitoring station which contains the relevant data about the station and on the samples that are collected every three years from that station (Articles 12 and 16).
4	„Obrazac za opis postaja trajnog praćenja stanja poljoprivrednog zemljišta“ 90 documents	A copy of the certificates of completion issued in accordance with national legislation, including description of the technical specifications of each station and the information on the samples collected from it (this part is updated after every collection of sample, meaning every 3 years).
5	User manual <i>2-1-upute-za-rad-u-informacijskom-sustavu-s-ukljecenim-novim-funkcionalnostima-6926fb6c0c566.pdf</i>	The user manual for work in the information system for agricultural land monitoring (hereinafter referred to as: ISAPZ). It is developed for employees who keep records, as well as for anyone who uses this data in any way.
6	Technical instructions for the exchange of data on soil analyses <i>2-2-tehnische-upute-za-razmjenu-podataka-o-analizama-tla-s-informacijskim-sustavom-6926fb6b9fdc4.pdf</i>	This document contains instructions for implementing the service for entering soil analysis data into the ISAPZ system
7	Technical instructions for the exchange of data from soil monitoring <i>2-3-tehnische-upute-za-razmjenu-podataka-o-monitoringu-tla-s-informacijskim-sustavom-isapz-6926fb6c333d7.pdf</i>	This document contains instructions for implementing a service for entering soil monitoring data into the ISAPZ system
8	Technical instructions on calling in the connected services into the central data bus managed by Croatian Agency for Agriculture and Food (3 documents) <i>2-4-1-upute-dgu-apz-dkp-</i>	These documents contain basic information needed to call the DGU APZ SRPJ, DGU APZ DKP and DGU APZ WMTS services through the HAPIH bus.

	<i>6926fb6beb636.pdf</i> <i>2-4-2-upute-dgu-apz-srpj-6926fb6bd4aa9.pdf</i> <i>2-4-3-upute-dgu-apz-wmts-6926fb6c20c0e.pdf</i>	
9	<i>2-5-upute-za-dodavanje-novog-servisa-na-hapih-sabirnicu-v1-0-6926fb6c4d668.pdf</i>	Instructions for connecting new services to the central IT system.
10	Takeover records for modules I, II, III and IV (3 documents) <i>2-6-1-modul-i-isapz-zapisnik-6926fb6cb1ac5.pdf</i> ; <i>2-6-2-moduli-ii-i-iii-isapz-zapisnik-6926fb6c9ef61.pdf</i> ; <i>2-6-3-modul-iv-isapz-zapisnik-6926fb6cd46be.pdf</i>	Takeover records signed by the Ministry of Agriculture and the company MCS Ltd. as the contractor. The takeover records confirm that the implementation of the following modules was finalised: <ul style="list-style-type: none">i) Module 1: Transfer of the system from the Ministry of Agriculture's infrastructure to the infrastructure of HAPIH and the update of the existing web servicesii) Module 2: Development of service bus and necessary web services (DGU, APPRR, Croatian forests and Croatian Waters), data transmission and reporting systemiii) Module 3: Development of web service and transmission of data between ISAPZ and SIMPLELABiv) Module 4: Preparation of the system for the reception of data on soil monitoring
11	Completion report "Izjava o zatvaranju projekta"	Completion report certifying the fulfilment of all contracted activities under the project: Upgrade of the information system ISAPZ under the national recovery and resilience plan. The report was signed by the Ministry of Agriculture, HAPIH as the entity that is in charge of land monitoring and information system administration and the company MCS Ltd. who delivered the service.
12	Results of the analysis	Document containing the results of the soil samples analyses done in 2024 and 2023.
13	Monitoring stations table	Excel table listing all the monitoring stations and the information on their location including agricultural region, name and number of the cadastral unit and the exact coordinates.
14	Form for describing permanent agricultural soil monitoring stations ("Obrazac za opis postaja trajnog praćenja	Completed forms where all the general information on the station is registered upon the establishment of the monitoring station.

	<p><i>poljoprivrednog zemljišta”</i></p> <p>(90 documents)</p>	
--	--	--

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Croatian authorities cover all constitutive elements of the target.

The Programme for permanent monitoring of the condition of agricultural land shall be established.

Authorities provided a copy of the Programme for permanent monitoring of the condition of the agricultural land (“*Program trajnog praćenja stanja poljoprivrednog zemljišta Republike Hrvatske 2021. - 2030.*”) which was established by the Croatian Agency for Agriculture and Food (Hrvatska agencija za poljoprivredu i hranu, hereinafter referred to as: HAPIH) in March 2021 (Evidence No. 2). The Regulation on the methodology for monitoring the condition of agricultural land (Evidence No. 3) stipulates in Article 3 that the monitoring of the agricultural land is performed by HAPIH and within the scope of the Programme for permanent monitoring of the condition of the agricultural land (hereinafter referred to as “the Programme”).

The results of the programme shall indicate the crisis areas where soils are exposed to threats.

The identification of critical areas where soils are exposed to threats is one of the specific objectives of the Programme (Evidence No. 2, page 12). Results of the programme consist in obtaining the data on soil condition within Agricultural Land Data Information System (Evidence No. 2, page 11). The authorities have provided the results of the analysis of the samples taken in 2023 and 2024 (Evidence No. 12). The results present the parameters tested across the soil samples. The results provide information on the chemical and mechanical composition of the soil, density, moisture retention and the presence of organic pollutants in soil, enabling the identification of any threats and deviation from acceptable values. The Programme defines a period of nine years for monitoring of the soil and periodical sampling of soil from the monitoring stations (Evidence No. 2, page 12).

The upgrade of the information system for monitoring agricultural land shall enable obtaining comparable parameters.

As evidenced by the completion report signed by the Ministry of Agriculture on 27 September 2024 (Evidence No. 11), the information system for monitoring agricultural land was upgraded, including the set up of parameters for data recording. Authorities have provided the technical instructions on the exchange of data on soil analysis which define all the parameters that are encoded in the information system to enable the comparability across monitoring stations and samples (Evidence No. 6, pages 4-6). There are three groups of parameters: i) parameters related to the user “KORISNIK”; ii) parameters related to samples “UZORCI”; and iii) parameters for the “RESULTS”. This ensures that the same type of data is always inserted in the same format (integer, decimal, text, date or array), hence making it comparable.

The Commission services conducted an on-the-spot check on 2 December 2025 to verify the design of the upgraded information system that encompasses the data from 90 monitoring

stations, including the information on the stations, data for each of the soil samples collected and the results of the analyses of soil samples based on comparable parameters. The Commission verified that the information system is upgraded in line with the CID requirements and includes data on all stations, including the results of the analyses of comparable parameters, which can be searched also through the interactive map of Croatia, containing also the cadastral map. This check was completed successfully, confirming the upgrade and integration of data from monitoring stations is in place.

Furthermore, this is also in line with the description of the investment, which states that the measure consists of upgrading the operational information system for monitoring agricultural land.

At least 90 stations shall be set up as part of the upgraded system to monitor the condition of agricultural land and shall cover all agricultural sub-regions.

The Regulation on the methodology for monitoring the condition of agricultural land stipulates that, upon the establishment of a monitoring station in line with the Programme, all general information concerning the station is recorded in the “Form for describing permanent agricultural soil monitoring stations” (Evidence No. 3, Articles 12 and 16). The authorities provided the table with 90 monitoring stations including their unique identifiers, year of the establishment and the exact geographical location. In addition, they also provided the forms for describing permanent agricultural soil monitoring stations, as prescribed by the Regulation, for all 90 stations confirming they have been set up (Evidence No. 14). The Programme describes the division of Croatia in agricultural regions following the filed-relevant scientific literature (Evidence No. 2, page 14). It stipulates on page 14 that Croatia is divided into 3 main geographical regions, which are further divided into nine agricultural sub-regions. All stations are set up at the locations defined in the Programme and are dispersed across all nine agricultural sub-regions (Evidence No. 2, pages 14-17 and 21-26).

This is in line with the description of the investment, which states that the measure consists of the establishment of 90 permanent land monitoring stations.

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled.

Number and name of the Milestone: 175 Support mechanism for voluntary functional and real connections and the establishment of a complete support system for functional and effective coupling of units

Related Measure: C2.2 R4-I1 Further optimisation and decentralisation of local and regional government units through support for functional and actual mergers

Qualitative Indicator: A comprehensive support mechanism is in place for functional/actual mergers of local government units

Time: Q2 2025

1. Context:

The objective of this milestone is to develop a support system for local government units when undertaking decisions on functional and actual mergers.

Milestone 175 requires upgrading of an existing IT system to provide insight and when undergoing mergers as well as training of officials to use the system.

Milestone 175 is the only milestone target of this investment. The investment has a final expected date for implementation in Q2/2025.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence. For legal acts please provide the full legal reference and date of entry into force	Short description
1	Cover note	Summary document duly justifying how the requirements of the target (including all its constitutive elements, as set out in the description of the target and of the corresponding measure in the CID annex) have been satisfactorily fulfilled.
2	5-4-taking-over-protocol-for-signed-by-the-contractor-esf-project-68f8e9a2adac5	Taking over certificate pertaining to the ESF project which is the basis on which the upgrades under the RRF are done
3	5-1-contract-signed-with-ericsson-nikola-tesla-for-it-system-68f8e9b2a678e	Contract with external contractor relating to RRP funded investments and upgrades
4	5-2-taking-over-protocol-	Taking over certificate showing the actions

	for-signed-by-the-contractor-68f8e9a4cdb9e	taken and deliverables provided under the RRF
5	1-1-self-assessment-questionnaire-2021-68f8e97ea9d62	
6	1-3-evidence-of-questionnaire-delivery-to-the-units-2021-68f8e97fd8a33	
7	1-2-self-assessment-questionnaire-2024-68f8e97eeb558	
8	1-4-evidence-of-questionnaire-delivery-to-the-units-2024-68f8e97f8b1ae	
9	4-guidelines-prepared-on-the-basis-of-aforementioned-data-68f8e982ad972	
10	3-report-detailing-which-operations-were-identified-as-suitable-for-joint-performance-68f8e986c5ef6	
11	6-5-invitations-to-education-users-from-state-administration-bodies-68f8e9b4294c9	
12	A set of 66 certificates 6-2-jlprs-potvrda.....	66 certificates of participation in training for state officials
13	7-5-invitations-to-education-users-from-local-self-government-units-68f8e9b98d893	
14	A set of 126 certificates 7-2-jlprs-potvrda...	126 certificates of participation in training for local government officials

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Croatia authorities cover all constitutive elements of the target.

An IT system developed under the European social fund project “Optimisation of the Local and Regional Self-Government System” shall be upgraded [...]

Authorities provided the contract (*hereinafter referred to as*: the contract) signed with an external contractor on 10 April 2024 (Page 25, Evidence No. 3) to upgrade the IT system which was developed under the European social fund project and handed into operation on 15 December 2022 (Page 1, Evidence No.2). The upgrade focuses on the development of three modules, a module for supporting functional mergers, a module for supporting actual mergers, and the interface module, the takeover record, confirming that all activities in the contract, including the upgrading of the IT system, had been carried out as required, was signed on 5 June 2025, specifically, this includes activity 5 covering the upgrade of the system (Page 3, Evidence No.4).

[...]to support and encourage local government units to either execute tasks jointly (functional merger) or to actually merge with other local self-governing units.

Activity 4 of the contract provided for development of the methodology to support and encourage local government units to undergo both types of mergers,, which was subsequently used in the upgrade of the IT system to provide specific functions such as searching for appropriate local units to merge tasks with and analysis of financial data. Activity 5 required the development of functional specifications for upgrading the IT system, while activity 6 encompassed the development and testing of the IT system (Page 7, Evidence No.3). Additionally, the Commission conducted an on-the-spot check to confirm this upgrade was carried out, please see section d) below for more information.

Furthermore, this is in line with the measure description which states that **the investment consists of upgrading the IT system to support the accompanying reform (C2.2 R4) and establish a high-quality system for fostering functional and actual mergers of local government units** as the upgraded system provides insight and analytical data to local government units in a high-quality manner and thus facilitates functional and actual mergers.

Support for the further process of functional job optimisation within the remit of local units shall include:

a) (self-)assessment questionnaire drawn and completed by local government units to assess the capacity of units to carry out the tasks within their scope and demonstrate the need for and interest in the joint performance of the tasks, i.e. the actual merger, in all local government units.

Two self-assessment questionnaires were drawn up and sent to local government units to be completed. The first was sent on 24 November 2021 (Evidence No. 5 and 6). The second on 23 December 2024 (Evidence No. 7 and 8). The questionnaire helped assess the capacities by asking the local government units to indicate in which areas capacities need to be increased (columns E, F), steps which could be taken to increase capacities (column G) and to demonstrate the interest and need for joint performance of tasks or actual mergers (columns G-J). Authorities have provided the replies to the questionnaire collected from all 555 local self-government units (LGUs) (Evidence No. 7).

b) Guidelines which shall be prepared on the basis of aforementioned data.

Under the scope of activity 1 (Page 35, Evidence No. 3) an analysis of similar systems in peer member states was carried out. In line with sub-activity 1.3, Guidelines and Recommendations for Encouraging Functional and Actual Mergers of Units were developed by the contractor considering the data gathered

from the local government units and the analysis of peer member states (Evidence No. 9).

c) Identification of operations suitable for joint performance between individual units to improve efficiency, identification of potential partners for functional and actual mergers, proposed models for mergers.

As indicated in the contract, activity 2 (Page 36-37, Evidence No. 3) comprised an analysis of the previous mergers that were carried out to identify operations suitable for joint performance and to increase efficiency. Data was analysed for years 2022-2024 (Pages 7-51, Evidence No. 10). Two models for mergers were identified, model A covering functional mergers and B actual mergers. Operations suitable for joint performance were identified and cover communal services, education, culture, sports, fire and civil protection, economic sector, waste management and water services for functional mergers, including identification of potential partners for functional and actual mergers (Pages 53-75, Evidence No. 10).

d) Implementation of an IT support system for functionally linking the tasks of local government units.

As required by activity 5, the functional specifications for upgrading the IT system were developed and, in line with activity 6, the upgrades were put in place and tested (Page 7, Evidence No. 3). The takeover record, confirming that all activities in the contract, including the upgrading of the IT system, had been carried out as required, was signed on 5 June 2025 (Page 3, Evidence No.4).

The Commission services conducted an on-the-spot check on 24 November 2025 to verify the design of the upgraded IT system, including the module for functionally linking the tasks of local government units, the module for actual mergers and the user portal. The Commission verified that the IT system is upgraded in line with the technical specifications and the CID requirements, includes information on potential candidate units for mergers, functions to be merged as well as guidance and examples based on already carried out mergers. This check was completed successfully, confirming the upgrades and providing a support system for both functionally linking tasks as well as actual mergers.

e) Education of 50 officials of the state administration to support local government units in terms of functional connections and actual mergers are completed.

Several training sessions were held between 20 and 28 May 2025 to provide education to officials of state administration to support local government units when undergoing mergers (Evidence No.11). Authorities provided signed nominative certificates confirming that a total of 66 civil servants were trained to work in the Support IT System for the Voluntary Functional and Actual Merger of Local Self-Government Units (Evidence No.12).

f) Education of 100 local government unit officials to carry out joint tasks as part of a functional link completed.

Several training sessions were held between 20 and 28 May 2025 to provide education to officials of local government units to work with the upgraded IT system and carry out joint tasks in functional

mergers (Evidence No.13). Authorities have provided signed nominative certificates confirming that a total of 126 civil servants were trained to work in the Support IT System for the Voluntary Functional and Actual Merger of Local Self-Government Units (Evidence No.14).

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled.

Number and name of the Milestone: 239 Evaluation of the effects of the national information campaign against corruption

Related Measure: C2.6.R1-I1 Engaging the general public in the fight against corruption by raising public awareness about the harmfulness of corruption

Qualitative Indicator: Publication of Impact Assessment Report

Time: Q2 2025

1. Context:

The objective of this investment is to engage the general public in Croatia in combating corruption by raising awareness about its harmfulness, the importance of prevention, and the legal protections available for reporting corruption.

The investment consists in carrying out a national information campaign, which aims at encouraging active citizen participation and promoting transparency in governance, thus ultimately strengthening anti-corruption efforts across Croatia, and assessing its impact with the publication of an impact assessment report.

Milestone 239 is the only milestone of this investment related to the publication of a report assessing the impact of the campaign. The investment has a final expected date for implementation in Q2/2025.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence For legal acts please provide the full legal reference and date of entry into force	Short description
1	Impact assessment report on	Report titled “Final Report on the Impact Assessment of the National Media Campaign” produced by a market and public opinion research agency, Hendal d.o.o, assessing the impact of the national media campaign ordered by the Ministry of Justice, Administration and Digital Transformation to raise awareness on the

	the national campaigns	harmfulness of corruption and the existing solutions for reporting. The impact of the campaign is assessed based on survey responses and contains recommendations for future campaigns surrounding the topic of corruption.
2	Final report on contract for national campaigns	Final report on the completion of the contract, co-signed with contractors, for the provision of promotion services, and visibility in the implementation of national campaign on encouraging citizens to participate in the fight against corruption. The report details the contracted activities, services, and deliverables in relation to the information campaigns.
3	Link to published impact assessment report	Link to the website of the Ministry of Justice, Public Administration and Digital Transformation of the Republic of Croatia where the impact assessment report is published: https://mpudt.gov.hr/?id=30230&pregled=1&datum=Fri%20Aug%2008%202025%2014%22:48%20GMT+0200%20
4	Cover note	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled.
5	Preliminary Research for the Impact Assessment Report	Report on preliminary research from 2023, which included an online survey for the general population and a face-to-face survey with high school students.

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Croatian authorities cover all constitutive elements of the milestone.

Impact Assessment Report shall be published.

The impact assessment report has been produced (Evidence No. 1) by Hendar d.o.o, contracted by the Ministry of Justice, Administration and Digital Transformation of the Republic of Croatia to provide the report (Evidence No. 1, page 2).

The impact assessment report “Final Report on the Impact Assessment of the National Media Campaign” has been published on the website of the Ministry of Justice, Public Administration and Digital Transformation (link in Evidence No. 3). The website explains that a survey was conducted, the results of which were published in the report. On this website, the report is available for download, along with an Excel sheet containing statistics. The link to the website where the report has been published (Evidence No. 3) was accessed and verified by Commission Services on 4 December 2025, along with the option to download the report.

It shall contain recommendations regarding the evaluation of the effects of the national media campaign against corruption.

The report assesses the impact of a national campaign that was procured by the Ministry of Justice, Administration and Digital Transformation (Evidence No. 2) to raise awareness on the harmfulness of corruption and the existing solutions for reporting, in order to raise engagement of the public in the fight against corruption. The deliverables of the campaign span from posts on social media, conferences, and to educational material, and are described in further detail in Evidence No. 2.

Following the campaign, its impact was evaluated by conducting surveys (Evidence No. 1, chapter 1, pages 4-8). Survey participants were asked various questions, including on their perceptions of corruption, on the media information campaign specifically, and on how the campaign had affected them. Parts of the survey results were compared to the results of a preliminary study from 2023 (Evidence No. 5) to show how perceptions had developed.

The report contains recommendations regarding future implementation of campaigns on the topic of corruption (Evidence No. 1, chapter 5, pages 84-86), which are based on the evaluation of the effects of the national media campaign against corruption using survey responses that were presented in preceding chapters of the report (Evidence No. 1, chapters 2.1.6-2.1.8, pages 47-78). Chapter 2.1.6 (Evidence No. 1, pages 47-67) presents insights on how respondents noticed and recognized the anti-corruption campaign across various media platforms. Then, chapter 2.1.7 (Evidence No. 1, pages 68-75) evaluates the impact of the campaign, considering respondents' opinions on its presentation, engagement, and what influence the campaign had on their views about reporting corruption. Finally, chapter 2.1.8 (Evidence No. 1, pages 76-78) highlights how TV and short videos on social networks are viewed by the survey respondents as the most effective platforms for raising awareness.

Based on these insights, the report presents a total of 16 recommendations in chapter 5 (Evidence No. 1, pages 84-86), grouped across 6 areas: visibility strategy, format and content, fostering engagement, audience targeting, interaction and follow-up, and frequency and duration. These recommendations suggest that future anti-corruption campaigns should be strategically targeted, diverse in format, emotionally impactful, and continuous, and that future campaigns should use both digital and traditional channels to enhance engagement and encourage citizens to actively discuss and report corruption. Chapter 7 (Evidence No. 1, page 117) further concludes that the campaign had positive effects on raising public awareness about the harmfulness of corruption and knowledge about corruptive behaviour, legislation and trust in corruption reporting mechanisms.

Furthermore, this is in line with the description of the measure, which states that **this investment consists in the publication of an impact assessment report of the effects of the national information campaign against corruption.**

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled.

Number and name of the Target: 242 Upgrade of 4 regional centres of the Police National Office for Combating Corruption and Organised Crime (PN USKOK)

Related Measure: C2.6.R1-I4 Supporting efficiency in the fight against corruption and organised crime

Quantitative Indicator: Number

Baseline: 0

Target: 4

Time: Q2 2025

1. Context:

The objective of this investment is to enhance efficiency in the fight against corruption and organised crime by renovating the Police National Office for Combating Corruption and Organised Crime (PNUSKOK) centers in Zagreb and Split and procuring new equipment for 4 regional PNUSKOK centres.

The target requires the delivery of supervising engineer reports and reports on energy efficiency for regional PNUSKOK centers in Zagreb and Split, as well as certificates of delivery for new IT equipment for all four regional centers.

Target 242 is the only target of this investment. The investment has a final expected date for implementation in Q2/2025.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence. For legal acts please provide the full legal reference and date of entry into force	Short description
1	Cover note	Summary document duly justifying how the target (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled.
2	Detailed overview tables of purchased equipment with locations where it is delivered	Detailed Excel overview documents listing purchased and delivered IT equipment, technical equipment for laboratories, as well as general equipment, furnishing and software tools for the four regional centres. The tables contain specifications of where the individual equipment is located, or where the software tool is installed or distributed.

3	Report of the supervising engineer on the renovation and energy renovation of the buildings concerned for works at the regional PNUSKOK centre in Zagreb	
4	Report of the main supervising engineer on the renovation and energy renovation of the buildings concerned for works at the regional PNUSKOK centre in Split	Includes also reports of supervising engineers for electric works, construction and installations and mechanical engineering works
5	Energy Performance Certificates and Report on energy inspection of the building for PNUSKOK Zagreb	Energy Performance Certificates showing energy efficiency of the renovated regional PNUSKOK office Zagreb, as well as Report on energy inspection of the building following the completed works.
6	Energy Performance Certificates and Report on energy inspection of the building for PNUSKOK Split	Energy Performance Certificates showing energy efficiency of the renovated regional PNUSKOK office Split, as well as Report on energy inspection of the building following the completed works.
7	Package of documentation concerning renovation of PNUSKOK centre Zagreb	Includes: Works contract, contract for the main design service and the contract for professional supervision service, with annexes and extracts from technical documentation regarding main design, supply contract for equipment and furnishing.
8	Package of documentation concerning renovation of PNUSKOK centre Split	Includes: Works contract, contract for the main design service and the contract for professional supervision service, with annexes and extracts from technical documentation regarding main design, supply contract for equipment and furnishing.
9	Photographs of renovated PNUSKOK offices in Zagreb and Split, with photographs of the initial premises	Photographs of renovated PNUSKOK offices in Zagreb and Split demonstrating that the works have been completed (including photographs of the new equipment and furnishing). The package contains also photos of the initial premises, as they were before the completed renovation works.
10	Package of documentation containing certificates of delivery of general	Certificates of delivery demonstrating the delivery of new IT equipment, for example software tools and digital evidence storage

	equipment, IT equipment (including digital evidence storage servers) and software tools for all four PNUSKOK regional offices	servers. Includes: IT equipment, communication equipment, audiovisual IT equipment, analytical IT software, forensic IT software, and forensic equipment.
11	Package of documentation concerning supply contracts for general equipment and IT equipment for all four PNUSKOK regional offices	Includes: supply contracts for IT equipment, communication equipment, audiovisual IT equipment, analytical IT software, forensic IT software, and forensic equipment.

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Croatian authorities cover all constitutive elements of the target.

Supervising engineer reports and reports on energy renovation efficiency shall be delivered for regional PN USKOK centers in Zagreb and Split.

The regional Police National Office for Combating Corruption and Organised Crime (hereinafter referred to as: PNUSKOK) centres in Zagreb and Split have been upgraded and renovated through construction and renovation works, as evidenced by the delivered supervising engineer reports (Evidence No. 3, 4 and 9, in line with Evidence No. 7 and 8). The works at both locations comprised internal refurbishment, repairs to and improved thermal insulation of the external building envelope, together with installation works. The upgrade and renovation also included furnishing and modernising the work and training spaces, including forensic laboratories, examination rooms, storage rooms (Evidence No. 7, 8 and 10).

In line with the above, the renovation of the facilities also included the energy renovation of the buildings of the regional PNUSKOK centres in Zagreb and Split, with the aim of improving energy efficiency, as evidenced by the delivered energy certificates and reports on energy renovation efficiency (Evidence No. 5 and 6).

Furthermore, this is in line with the description of the measure, which states that **the investment consists in the renovation of PNUSKOK offices Zagreb and Split.**

Certificates of delivery for new IT equipment, for example for the use of software tools and digital evidence storage servers, shall be delivered for all four regional centers.

All four regional centres of PNUSKOK, which are located in Zagreb, Split, Rijeka and Osijek, were successfully modernised with general equipment (communication equipment, forensic equipment, personal computers and laptops, monitors, USBs, power banks) and new IT equipment. IT and technical equipment were procured based on signed contracts (Evidence No. 11) and delivered to all four regional PNUSKOK centres, including IT equipment, communication

equipment, audiovisual IT equipment, analytical IT software, forensic IT software, and forensic equipment (Evidence No. 10). This IT equipment also includes software tools for digital forensics and digital evidence storage servers (Evidence No. 10). Further to the certificates of delivery, the detailed overview table further specifies the delivered equipment for the four PNUSKOK regional centers (Evidence No. 2).

Furthermore, all abovementioned is in line with the description of the measure, which states that **the investment consists in new equipment for 4 regional centres of the Police National Office for Combating Corruption and Organised Crime (PNUSKOK)** and with the target name, which concerns the **upgrade of 4 regional centres of the Police National Office for Combating Corruption and Organised Crime (PN USKOK)**. In line with this, the abovementioned demonstrates that two regional centers (Zagreb and Split) have completed energy efficiency renovations, while 4 regional centers (Zagreb, Split, Rijeka and Osijek) have been delivered new IT equipment.

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled.

Number and name of the Target: 282 Grants awarded under the programming framework for increasing availability and employability of graduates in STEM/ICT fields and improving their mobility for national and international cooperation

Related Measure: C3.2 R2-I1 Development of an enabling model for researchers' career progression and conducting cutting-edge scientific research in STEM and ICT fields

Quantitative Indicator: Number

Baseline: 0

Target: 3 354

Time: Q1 2025

1. Context:

The objective of this measure is to develop a framework of support programmes to incentivise research and improve excellence.

Target 282 requires that at least 3 354 grants are awarded to research projects fostering mobility of researchers, international cooperation, and collaboration with businesses.

Target 282 is the only target of this investment. The investment has a final expected date for implementation in Q1/2025.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence. For legal acts please provide the full legal reference and date of entry into force	Short description
1	Cover note	Summary document duly justifying how the requirements of the target (including all its constitutive elements, as set out in the description of the target and of the corresponding measure in the CID annex) have been satisfactorily fulfilled.
2	annex-1-awarded-grants-table-68e6343b91410	Summary table with aggregated data on awarded grants
3	annex-2-award-decisions-for-entrepreneurship-traineeships-programme-	

	68e6343ca4057	
4	annex-3-award-decisions-for-tenure-track-programme-68e6343cf0767	
5	annex-4a-award-decisions-for-mobility-program-68e6343f99e41	
6	annex-4-award-decision-direct-award-for-mobility-program-68e6343bc8711	
7	annex-5a-award-decision-for-young-researchers-program-68e6343ee97b3	
8	annex-5-award-desision-direct-award-for-young-researchers-program-68e6343bd9199	
9	annex-6-award-decisions-for-start-up-spin-off-companies-of-young-researchers-68e63445ed06a	
10	annex-7a-award-decision-for-stem-i-ict-scholarships-awarded-2022-2023-68e63452b6fee	
11	annex-7-award-decision-direct-award-stem-and-ict-scholarship-first-call-68e634533e138	
12	annex-7b-first-decision-on-amendment-of-award-decision-for-stem-i-ict-scholarships-awarded-2022-2023-68e63452a1847	
13	annex-7c-second-decision-on-amendment-of-award-decision-for-stem-i-ict-scholarships-awarded-2022-2023-68e634526cdb2	

14	annex-8a-award-decision-for-stem-i-ict-scholarships-awarded-2023-2024-68e63452e5a1b	
15	annex-8-award-decision-direct-award-stem-and-ict-scholarship-second-call-68e634538d2cc	
16	annex-8b-first-decision-on-amendment-of-award-decision-for-stem-i-ict-scholarships-awarded-2023-2024-68e6345309b97	
17	annex-8c-second-decision-on-amendment-of-award-decision-for-stem-i-ict-scholarships-awarded-2023-2024-68e63452cb837	
18	annex-9a-award-decision-for-stem-i-ict-scholarships-awarded-2024-2025-with-corresponding-payment-order-68e634536cd63	
19	annex-9-award-decision-direct-award-stem-and-ict-scholarship-third-call-68e634532f0cd	
20	STEM and ICT Scholarship 1 st call, published on 22 September 2022	https://fondovieu.gov.hr/pozivi/34
21	STEM and ICT Scholarship 2 nd call, published on 19 September 2023,	https://fondovieu.gov.hr/pozivi/96
22	STEM and ICT Scholarship 3 rd call, published on 8 October 2024	https://fondovieu.gov.hr/pozivi/119
23	Mobility Program, published on 30 November 2022	https://fondovieu.gov.hr/pozivi/23

24	Young Researchers Program, published on 30 November 2022	https://fondovieu.gov.hr/pozivi/47
25	Tenure Track Programme, published on 11 January 2023	https://fondovieu.gov.hr/pozivi/57
26	Start-up/spin off Companies of Young Researchers, published on 11 January 2023	https://fondovieu.gov.hr/pozivi/55
27	Entrepreneurship Traineeships Programme, published on 11 January 2023	https://fondovieu.gov.hr/pozivi/56

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Croatia authorities cover all constitutive elements of the target.

At least 3 354 grants shall be awarded by decisions on the financing of projects by the Ministry of Science, Education and Youth,

Through grant decisions on financing of projects by the Ministry of Science, Education and Youth, a total of 4 149 grants had been awarded (Evidence No. 2-19), thus exceeding the goal of 3 354 grants by 795 grants.

(...) under the new framework of funding research programmes which shall focus on rewarding research excellence, cooperation with industry and international cooperation.

The new funding framework is publicly available online (Evidence No. 20-27) and has been implemented through a series of calls published between 2022 and 2024. These include the STEM and ICT Scholarship calls, issued on 22 September 2022 (Evidence No. 20), 19 September 2023 (Evidence No. 21), and 8 October 2024 (Evidence No. 22); the Mobility Program and the Young Researchers Program, both published on 30 November 2022 (Evidence No. 23-24); and three programmes released on 11 January 2023—the Tenure Track Programme (Evidence No. 25), the Start-up/Spin-off Companies of Young Researchers Programme (Evidence No. 26), and the Entrepreneurship Traineeships Programme (Evidence No. 27).

The new framework of funding research programmes focuses on improving research excellence by incentivising developing young researchers' careers and capacities (Article 1, Evidence No. 7-8). It further encourages cooperation with industry by incentivising entrepreneurship traineeships and PhD development while working (Article 1, Evidence No. 3) and start-up/spin-off company creation by young researchers (Article 1, Evidence No. 9). International cooperation is fostered by improving the attractiveness and international visibility of the Croatian research system (Article 1, Evidence No. 4) and fostering mobility and international knowledge transfer (Article 1, Evidence No. 5).

The framework shall include grants for: (i) STEM and ICT scholarships; (ii) a Young Researchers Programme; (iii) a Tenure track programme; (iv) a Mobility scheme; (v) Starts up/spin off of young researchers' companies; and (vi) an Entrepreneurship Traineeships Programme.

The developed framework includes grants for STEM and ICT scholarships (Evidence No. 10-19); a Young Researchers Programme (Evidence No. 7-8; a Tenure track programme (Evidence No. 4); a Mobility scheme (Evidence No. 5-6); Starts up/spin-off of young researchers' companies (Evidence No. 9); and an Entrepreneurship Traineeships Programme (Evidence No. 3).

Grants awarded under the programming framework for increasing availability and employability of graduates in STEM/ICT fields and improving their mobility for national and international cooperation.

By providing scholarships for STEM and ICT students (Evidence No.20-22) the programme supports education of a higher number of future graduates and post-graduates, increasing their availability while the mobility scheme (Evidence No.5 and 6) and entrepreneurship programmes (Evidence No.3) provide students and researchers in the STEM and ICT fields with skills needed for increased employability, national and international mobility and capacities for better collaboration. Furthermore, this is in line with the measure description which states that **the investment consists of calls for research grants to stimulate young researchers, traineeship programmes and mobility with the business sector.**

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled.

Number and name of the Target: 290 Improved quality of support for at least 5 000 people from vulnerable groups

Related Measure: C41.R2 Strengthening of the system of inclusion and monitoring of vulnerable groups in the labour market through improvements of the employment service processes

Quantitative Indicator: Number

Baseline: 0

Target: 5000

Time: Q2 2025

1. Context:

The objective of this measure is to strengthen support to unemployed people and vulnerable groups. This measure consists in amending the Labour Market Act, improving CES processes for profiling and activation, and providing support to vulnerable people.

Target 290 relates to outreach activities towards vulnerable groups allowing for the inclusion of 5 000 new users. Target 290 is the third and last target of the reform, and it follows the completion of milestone 288 and milestone 289, related to the entry into force of the act amending the Labour Market Act and Improved quality of support for vulnerable groups, respectively.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence. For legal acts please provide the full legal reference and date of entry into force	Short description
1	Cover note	Summary document duly justifying how the requirements of the target (including all its constitutive elements, as set out in the description of the target and of the corresponding measure in the CID annex) have been satisfactorily fulfilled.
2	Excel spreadsheet	This document shows a spreadsheet containing information on applicant type, personal identification number, gender, age group, level of education, application date, participation in motivational counselling, application status, and any special status. It contains 6442 beneficiaries.
3	Outreach activities	These documents show examples of outreach

		activities carried out including for instance, the minutes of a media conference attended by seven journalists from four media outlets, during which CES presented information on the voucher programme and CISOK activities, followed by media coverage and an interview.
4	Partnership agreements	These documents show 8 partnership agreements, signed between the Croatian Employment Service (HZZ) and external partners between May 2022 and November 2024.
5	Sample of 60 units	The Commission services realised a random sample of 60 units. For long-term unemployed persons registered with HZZ, the evidence included registry data on unemployment duration and completed activation activities, together with formal agreements with employment counsellors. For inactive persons not registered with HZZ, the evidence consisted of CISOK records of activation activities and signed status statements confirming belonging to an eligible vulnerable group.
6	On-the-spot check	The Commission services conducted an on-the-spot check on 19 January 2026.

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Croatia authorities cover all constitutive elements of the target.

Outreach activities towards vulnerable groups (...)

For the purpose of Target 290, evidence of vulnerable groups was presented in two distinct ways depending on whether the beneficiaries were already registered with the Croatian Employment Service (hereafter referred to as 'HZZ') or not. Accordingly, the first category comprises long-term unemployed persons who are registered with HZZ. The second category includes inactive persons who were not registered with HZZ and who belong to at least one predefined vulnerable subgroup, namely long-term unemployed persons, young people not in education, employment or training (hereafter referred to as 'NEETs'), Roma people, migrants, persons with disabilities, and women over 50 years of age. These individuals were then registered in the Career Information and Counselling Centre database (hereafter referred to as the 'CISOK' database).

A distinction was made between these two groups as their starting positions in the labour market system, and therefore the type of evidence and intervention required, are different. Individuals already registered with HZZ, such as long-term unemployed persons, are formally visible within the public employment system, meaning their status, duration of unemployment, and participation in

employment measures can be verified through existing administrative records. In contrast, inactive persons who are not registered with HZZ are outside the institutional framework of labour market support and therefore require a different approach to identification, outreach, and documentation.

Outreach activities (Evidence No. 3) aimed at informing and engaging target groups were conducted. They comprised of, for instance, a formal recommendation to parishes and Caritas offices to actively disseminate HZZ information to people not in education, employment or training (hereafter referred to as 'NEETs') through display and direct distribution of materials, a promotional leaflet used as supporting material for this dissemination, and the minutes of a media conference attended by journalists from several outlets, during which HZZ presented information on the voucher programme and CISOK activities. Together, these examples show that information was actively communicated to the public and target groups through institutional networks, physical materials, and media channels, thereby constituting concrete outreach activities. Furthermore, partnership agreements (Evidence No. 4) were also concluded between HZZ and partner organisations, such as a youth NGO. To exemplify, , the purpose of one of the partnership agreements was to jointly implement activities aimed at NEET youth and inactive persons, with a focus on employability, career guidance, activation, and integration into the labour market (Evidence No. 4). On this basis, the outreach initiatives were carried out with the objective of reaching and engaging a larger number of vulnerable groups.

The sample check demonstrates the outcome of these outreach efforts towards vulnerable groups. Following the selection of a random sample of 60 units (Evidence No. 5), Croatia submitted:

- For beneficiaries related to long-term unemployed persons who are already registered in the HZZ unemployment registry, administrative records have confirmed that individuals were contacted, assessed, and actively engaged through personalised counselling and motivational services, as shown by the documented dates of registration or re-registration and the completion of activation activities. The existence of a formal agreement between each beneficiary and an HZZ employment counsellor further confirms that outreach efforts led to concrete participation in employment-related services. The vulnerability status was verified by assessing the duration of unemployment based on documented dates of registration and re-registration in the HZZ unemployment registry. These records allowed the Commission services to confirm that beneficiaries met the statutory definition of long-term unemployment and therefore qualified as a vulnerable group.
- For inactive persons not registered with HZZ, the evidence provided showed that outreach activities effectively reached individuals who were previously outside the labour market support system and allowed for their initial inclusion as service users. Records from CISOK demonstrated that these individuals, belonging to predefined vulnerable subgroups (including NEETs, Roma, migrants, persons with disabilities, and women over 50), participated in activation activities and completed counselling or guidance services. The confirmation of personal identifiers, completion status, and beneficiary declarations of vulnerability collectively substantiate that outreach actions allowed for the first-time engagement of inactive persons, thus expanding the coverage of employment and career services beyond the existing HZZ registry. The vulnerability status was verified as individuals were required to confirm, through a formal statement of status, that they

belonged to at least one predefined vulnerable subgroup (long-term unemployed, NEETs, Roma, migrants, persons with disabilities, or women over 50 years of age). This statement was further corroborated by administrative data from CISOK, which confirmed the individual's participation in activation activities and completion status.

Taken together, CISOK and HZZ records demonstrate that partner-led outreach activities (Evidence No. 3-4) have translated into a well-functioning system, enabling vulnerable groups to benefit from continuous monitoring and support. For long-term unemployed persons registered with HZZ, services are evidenced through a sequence of recorded individual consultations and activation measures, including motivational counselling, individual consultations (in-person and by telephone), and participation in activation programmes. The HZZ screenshots show dated activity logs with clearly marked completion status ("Izvršena"), counsellor involvement, and follow-up appointments, confirming sustained and structured engagement over time. For inactive persons supported through CISOK, services took the form of individual information and counselling sessions, as shown in the CISOK application under "Individual activities", where beneficiaries received personalised guidance ("Individualno informiranje") delivered as an individualised service, with a recorded date, time, and completion status (Evidence No. 5)

Furthermore, the Commission services conducted an on-the-spot check on 19 January 2026 (Evidence No. 6). The Commission examined a random sample of beneficiaries and checked the link between each user and their unique personal identifier (OIB), the registration status, the vulnerability category, the type and timing of the services in particular, motivational counselling sessions and individualised CISOK services), and the completion status of these services. The checks confirmed that continuous activities were implemented in practice, that the beneficiaries belonged to the eligible vulnerable groups, and that the recorded data corresponded to the evidence submitted.

(...) shall allow for the inclusion of 5 000 new users.

The Council Implementing Decision requires that outreach activities towards vulnerable groups shall allow for the inclusion of 5 000 new users. The Recovery and Resilience Plan, however, frames the reform objective in terms of improved support to vulnerable groups. In addition, under milestone 289, preceding target 290, Croatia adopted a protocol in 2024 which established the framework for improved outreach and support services, including institutional cooperation, referral mechanisms, monitoring and follow-up arrangements. This focus on service improvement is further reflected in the title of Target 290, which refers to the "Improved quality of support for at least 5 000 people from vulnerable groups." In light of a contextual interpretation of the requirement set out in the Council Implementing Decision, it is interpreted that the reference to "new users" should be understood as individuals who, following the adoption of the 2024 protocol, have been included in and have benefited from the improved service model introduced under the Recovery and Resilience Plan, rather than exclusively persons with no prior contact with the system. This interpretation is justified by the design of the measure, whereby milestone 289 establishes the protocol defining improved services, while target 290 serves to demonstrate the effective implementation and delivery of those improvements in practice. Croatia has demonstrated that, since the entry into force of the 2024 protocol, outreach activities occurred (Evidence No. 3-4), and their occurrence has also allowed for the inclusion of at least 5 000

individuals from vulnerable groups to access enhanced support services (Evidence No. 5-6), in line with the improved service delivery model envisaged under the Recovery and Resilience Plan. This approach ensures coherence between the Council Implementing Decision, the original Recovery and Resilience Plan, and the objective of the measure, which is to enhance the quality and effectiveness of support provided to vulnerable groups. On this basis, it is considered that this constitutive element of the target is satisfactorily fulfilled.

Furthermore, in line with the name of the target 'Improved quality of support for vulnerable groups' milestone 289 - positively assessed under the previous payment request - focused on improving the internal processes of the HZZ in order to enable the delivery of higher - quality services. These improvements included the introduction of new profiling and segmentation tools to identify individuals at risk of long-term unemployment, the tailoring of counselling, activation, and integration plans to individual needs, the use of trained counsellors applying standardised professional methods, strengthened skills-based matching through enhanced profiling and modern matching algorithms aligned with European and national skills classifications, the expansion of CISOK centres and digital platforms to support outreach and service delivery, and the operationalisation of a monitoring and evaluation system to track outcomes and inform continuous improvement. Target 290, on the other hand, concerns the delivery of these improved services to end-users as reflected in the target title 'Improved quality of support for at least 5 000 people from vulnerable groups'. The sample check (Evidence No. 5) has confirmed that at least 5 000 users from vulnerable groups have benefited from the delivery of the enhanced support enabled by the internal improvements under milestone 289. Hence, target 290 is the second step of the reform ensuring the actual provision of improved support to at least 5 000 people from the vulnerable groups, whereby the improvement of the quality of the support was enabled by upgrading the internal processes of the HZZ under milestone 289.

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactory fulfilment

Number and name of the Milestone: 298 Adoption of the Act amending the Compulsory Pension Funds Act

Related Measure: C4.2.R1 Increasing pension adequacy through continued pension reform

Qualitative Indicator: Adoption of the Act amending the Compulsory Pension Funds Act to increase the investment opportunities of compulsory pension funds.

Time: Q1 2025

1. Context:

The objective of this reform is threefold: i) improving pension adequacy, particularly for beneficiaries with the lowest income, ii) improving sustainability of the pension system through strengthening the second pension pillar and iii) reinvigorating reform efforts in the longer term in a socially inclusive way by forming a Working Group that would involve all key stakeholders and social partners.

Milestone 298 relates to adoption of the Act amending the Compulsory Pension Funds Act to broaden the scope of eligible investment of compulsory pension funds, improving the system of individual capitalised retirement savings for the benefit of all pension fund members, and adopting a government ordinance specifying criteria for classifying an issuer as a designated issuer for financing or securitisation of infrastructure projects as well as the procedures related to the classification.

Milestone 298 is the fourth milestone of the reform, and it follows the completion of milestone 297 on the entry into force of the new or amended Pension Insurance Act, target 299 related to a redefinition of the survivor's pension model and requiring an increase of the survivor's pension, and target 301, which relates to an increase in the minimum pension. It will be followed by milestone 300 related to the entry into force of the new or amended Pension Insurance Act, which will contain measures, in line with the conclusions of the Working Group on the analysis of the situation of the pension system, to improve pension adequacy and sustainability of the pension system. The reform has a final expected date for implementation in Q4 2025.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence.	Short description
1	Cover note	Summary document duly justifying how the requirements of the milestone were satisfactorily

		fulfilled, with the references to the relevant provisions indicating the entry into force and to the provisions which fulfil the relevant elements of the milestone, as listed in the description of milestone and of the corresponding measure in the CID annex.
2	Act on Amendments to the Compulsory Pension Funds Act	Copy of the Act on Amendments to the Compulsory Pension Funds Act adopted by the Croatian Parliament on 15 December 2023, published in the Official Gazette on 27 December 2023 (No. 156/23), and entered into force on 1 January 2024, except for Article 93(2) and 93(3) amended by Article 34 of this Act, Article 95(1) and 95(3) amended by Article 35 of this Act, Article 96(2) to 96(13) amended by Article 36 of this Act and Articles 75 and 76 of this Act, which enter into force on 1 April 2024, and Article 126(1) point 14 amended by Article 45 of this Act and Article 126a(1) point 14 added by Article 46 of this Act, which enter into force on 1 January 2029 according to Article 80. https://narodne-novine.nn.hr/clanci/sluzbeni/2023_12_156_2392.html
3	Government Ordinance on the criteria for classifying an issuer as a dedicated issuer for financing or securitizing infrastructure projects in the territory of the Republic of Croatia	Copy of the Government Ordinance on the criteria for classifying an issuer as a dedicated issuer for financing or securitizing infrastructure projects in the territory of the Republic of Croatia adopted by the Croatian Government on 18 June 2025, published in the Official Gazette on 20 June 2025 (No. 93/25), and entered into force on 28 June 2025 according to Article 15. https://narodne-novine.nn.hr/clanci/sluzbeni/2025_06_93_1267.html

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Croatia authorities cover all constitutive elements of the milestone.

The scope of eligible investments for second pillar pension funds shall be broadened. An Act amending the Compulsory Pension Funds Act shall be adopted (...),

The Act on Amendments to the Compulsory Pension Funds Act (Official Gazette, No. 19/14, 93/15, 64/18, 115/18 and 58/20) (hereinafter referred to as the 'Act on Amendments'), was adopted by the Croatian Parliament on 15 December 2023, and published in the Official Gazette No. 119/22 of Croatia on 27 December 2023. According to its Article 80 (Evidence No.2), the Act on Amendments entered into force on 1 January 2024.

Article 43 of the Act on Amendments (Evidence No. 2) introduces the new Article 125 of the Compulsory Pension Funds Act, which broadens the scope of eligible investments for second pillar pension funds, i.e. Compulsory Pension Funds (*Obvezni mirovinski fondovi*, hereinafter referred to as 'OMFs') by allowing them to invest into new asset classes, which were not eligible before the reform. Specifically, the new Article 125 of the Compulsory Pension Funds Act stipulates that the OMFs may invest their assets directly into real estate (as stipulated by Article 125(1) point 19), non-listed mortgage bonds (Article 125(1) point 5) and transferable equity securities traded on multilateral platforms (Article 125(1) point 7).

(...) which will further improve the system of individual capitalised retirement savings in the accumulation phase

The Act on Amendments (Evidence No. 2) improves the system of individual capitalised retirement savings in the accumulation phase by introducing changes to the eligible investment framework and portfolio allocation rules applicable to compulsory pension funds, as set out below.

The Act on Amendments (Evidence No. 2) provides the OMFs with greater flexibility in formulating their investment strategies by relaxing the investment limits for different categories of the OMFs, regarding the percentage of the net asset value of an OMF that is allowed to be allocated into a single asset class. Article 45 of the Act on Amendments (Evidence No. 2) introduces the new Article 126, while Article 46 of the Act on Amendments introduces new Articles 126a and 126b of the Compulsory Pension Funds Act, which specify the new limitations for different categories of the OMFs. Specifically, the new Article 126(1) point 1, Article 126a(1) point 1, and Article 126b(1) point 1, reduce the minimum shares of net assets that must be invested, as compared to the pre-amendment framework, into transferable debt securities and money market instruments of the explicitly listed issuers for all three categories of the OMFs, respectively. At the same time, the maximum exposure to equity portfolios, including Undertakings for Collective Investment in Transferable Securities (UCITS) and Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs), has been increased, as stipulated by the new Article 126(1) points 7, 10, and 11, for the OMFs in category A, the new Article 126a(1) points 10 and 11, for the OMFs in category B, and the new Article 126b(1) points 7 and 9, for the OMFs in category C. The Act on Amendments (Evidence No. 2) ensures that a specified share of assets is invested in instruments with potential for greater returns, while maintaining an appropriate risk constraint through the return guarantee. Specifically, regarding the return guarantee, for the OMFs in categories A and B, the Act on Amendments introduces an obligation to invest a specified part of the portfolio in AIFs with a guarantee of at least full return of the invested amount, if such guaranteed AIFs are available, as stipulated in the new Article 126(1) point 2, and Article 126a(1) point 2, amended by Article 45 and Article 46 of the Act on Amendments, respectively.

Taken together, these amendments improve the system of individual capitalised retirement savings in the accumulation phase by updating the regulatory framework applicable to compulsory pension fund investments to expand eligible investment options, adjust portfolio allocation limits and introduce defined safeguards. This constitutes an improvement of the system of individual capital retirement savings because it allows pension funds to diversify their portfolios more effectively, which can help mitigate risks by reducing the impact of poor performance in any single asset class or investment, leading to more stable returns over time. It enables pension funds to better respond to changing market conditions and to access opportunities that may offer higher

returns than asset classes they were allowed to invest in before the reform, potentially enhancing pension funds' overall performance and, thus, benefiting pension fund members.

(...) with a view to improving the business operation of entities in the capitalised system for the benefit of all pension fund members.

Furthermore, the Act on Amendments (Evidence No. 2) improves the business operation of entities in the capitalised system for the benefit of all pension fund members by introducing changes to the fee structure and to the rules governing fund category choice and switching.

The Act on Amendments (Evidence No. 2) reduces the management fees for the OMFs, directly lowering the costs and increasing the benefits for the OMFs members. Article 29 of the Act on amendments introduces a new Article 63 of the Compulsory Pension Funds Act, reducing the management fees from 0.27% annually to 0.25% of the total OMFs assets annually in 2024 and defining future reductions in fees by 0.01 percentage point in each year from 2025 to 2029, after which the management fees will remain at their 2029 level equal to 0.20%. Furthermore, with the new Article 63, the 0.5% entry fee charged by pension companies for each contribution paid by members is abolished. The amendments also created more flexibility for the OMFs members to choose the OMFs category. Article 34 of the Act on Amendments (Evidence No. 2) amends Article 93 of the Compulsory Pension Funds Act and relaxes the requirement according to which OMFs members can stay in the OMF category A only if 10 or more years remain until the day on which they fulfil the age conditions for the old age pension (hereafter referred to as 'reference day'), by introducing a possibility of submitting a request and remaining in the OMF category A until 5 years before the reference day, as stipulated in the new Article 93(2). The members choosing to remain in the OMF category A until 5 years before the reference day, will be automatically transferred to category B OMF thereafter, in line with the new Article 96(2), amended by Article 36 of the Act on Amendments. In addition, Article 35 of the Act on Amendments ensures more flexibility for the members to change the OMF category by amending Article 95(1) of the Compulsory Pension Funds Act, enabling them to change the OMF category once a year.

These amendments therefore improve the business operation of entities in the capitalised system by lowering management and entry fees and introducing clearer and more flexible rules on fund category choice and switching, which directly affect both the operational framework of pension companies and the conditions applicable to pension fund members. More concretely, lower costs increase pension funds' returns, which increases the benefits of the pension fund members for any rate of return on investment, while more flexibility in choosing and switching fund category enables the pension fund members to more easily adjust the type of their pension fund to changing market conditions and their own needs and preferences regarding the ratio of potential returns and risks.

The Decree to be adopted by the Government will further specify: (...):

The Government Ordinance (i.e. Decree) on the criteria for classifying an issuer as a designated issuer for financing or securitising infrastructure projects in the territory of the Republic of Croatia (hereinafter referred to as the 'Ordinance'), was adopted by the Croatian Government on 18 June 2025, and was published in the Official Gazette No. 93/25 of Croatia on 20 June 2025. According to its Article 15 (Evidence No. 3) it entered into force on 28 June 2025.

(i) criteria for classifying an issuer as a designated issuer for financing or securitisation of infrastructure projects in the territory of the Republic of Croatia; (...)

Article 5 of the Ordinance (Evidence No. 3) defines the criteria for classifying an issuer as a designated issuer for financing or securitization of infrastructure projects in the territory of the Republic of Croatia, including criteria such as capital value of the project exceeding 50 million euro and issuance value exceeding 25 million euro, as well as the project's nature as a brownfield infrastructure project, as stipulated by Article 5(1). According to Article 5(2), an exception is made for public entities financing greenfield infrastructure projects focused on public services, under conditions. Additionally, Article 5(3) requires that the project generates predictable cash flows, has necessary legal approvals, and that it is financially viable, while the issuer needs to assess and manage various risks associated with the project's implementation.

(ii) the procedure and content of the application, i.e. the request for classification (...)

The procedure and the content of the application, i.e. of the request for a classification of the issuer is specified in Article 6 of the Ordinance (Evidence No. 3). Article 6(1) requires that the applications are submitted to the ministry responsible for the pension system. The application can be made by the founder of the planned issuer or the board of directors of the issuer, as stipulated in Article 6(2). It must adhere to the form and content outlined in Annex 1 of the Ordinance, in line with Article 6(3). Article 6(4) specifies that a proof of compliance must be provided if the infrastructure project is subject to other legal conditions.

(iii) the procedure for assessing and issuing the classification.

Finally, the procedure for assessing and issuing the classification of an issuer as designated issuer is defined in Articles 8, 9 and 10 of the Ordinance (Evidence No. 3). Specifically, Article 8(1) specifies the role of the Panel for the implementation of the classification procedure (hereinafter referred to as the 'Panel') in verifying that applications comply with the provisions of Article 5 and Annex I. Article 8(2) stipulates that incomplete applications must be supplemented at the Panel's written request. Article 8(3) authorises the Panel to request additional information and documents. Article 9(1) requires that, for applications concerning infrastructure projects subject to Public-Private Partnership regulations or strategic investment project regulations, the Panel forwards applications to the ministry responsible for the economy. This ministry provides a preliminary opinion on compliance with legal provisions, considering state aid regulations, as stipulated in Article 9(2). According to Article 9(4), the ministry responsible for the economy may request amendments to the application before issuing its opinion. For projects not covered by Article 9(1), the Panel forwards the applications to the ministry responsible of physical planning and construction for a preliminary opinion, as specified by Article 9(6). Article 10(1) specifies that the panel must issue a preliminary opinion on the application's compliance with Article 5 requirements within 60 days of receiving a complete application. According to Article 10(2), this opinion must contain a detailed explanation of whether the application meets the compliance conditions specified in Article 5 or reasons for non-compliance.

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled.

Number and name of the Target: 339 Central management of parenteral preparations in 8 hospitals

Related Measure: C5.1 R4-I1 Central preparation of parenteral preparations in 8 Croatian hospitals

Quantitative Indicator: % (Percentage)

Baseline: 0

Target: 75

Time: Q2 2025

1. Context:

The objective of this measure is to lower costs and providing the highest level of safety in the use of parenteral medicines, preventing medication errors, additional days of hospitalisation and reducing the burden on doctors and nurses in the hospital department.

Target 339 requires that at least 75% of parenteral preparations in eight Croatian hospitals is carried out through central preparation of medicines.

Target 339 is the only target of this investment. The investment has a final expected date for implementation in Q2/2025.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence. For legal acts please provide the full legal reference and date of entry into force	Short description
1	Cover note	Summary document duly justifying how the requirements of the target (including all its constitutive elements, as set out in the description of the target and of the corresponding measure in the CID annex) have been satisfactorily fulfilled.
2	Package of documents – Contracts	Contracts and annexes for acquiring robotic systems and isolators for eight hospitals
3	Package of documents – Takeover records	Takeover records for robotic systems and isolators
4	Package of documents – Extracts of database	Official reports on the parenteral preparation treatments carried out and the total number of treated patients per hospital in period from 1-26 November 2025

5	Overview table	Excel spreadsheet – aggregate data from official reports
6	Takeover record - software	Software integration with hospitals' systems.

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Croatia authorities cover all constitutive elements of the target.

At least 75% of parenteral preparations in eight Croatian hospitals shall be carried out through central preparation of medicines.

To reach the specified requirements, Croatian authorities acquired necessary equipment for central parenteral preparations in eight hospitals. Following the completion of the procurement procedures in 2024, procurement contracts have been duly concluded for all three designated procurement groups for eight hospitals: 1. a robotic system for the fully automatic production of parenteral preparations, 2. isolators with one workstation, and 3. isolators with two workstations (Evidence No. 2).

The mentioned contracts have been fulfilled with the delivery and commissioning of the devices in all eight hospitals, and their integration with the software solution (Evidence No 3). Robotic systems were installed in clinical hospital centres: KBC Zagreb, KBC Split, KBC Osijek and KBC Rijeka, while automated isolators were installed in both clinical hospital centres and general hospitals: OB Varaždin, OB Zadar, OB Slavonski Brod and OB Dubrovnik. Furthermore, the robotic systems were delivered together with the Apoteka Manager software, which provides the basis for integration with the hospitals' existing software.

The requirement that at least 75% of parenteral preparations in eight Croatian hospitals be carried out through the central preparation of medicines has been fully achieved and significantly exceeded. As shown in database extracts, currently between 85% and 99% of parenteral preparations in each of the eight hospitals are performed through centralised preparation (Evidence No. 4).

On average, this represents 95.05% across eight hospitals (Evidence No. 5), demonstrating not only full compliance with the provision but also a strong and uniform implementation of centralised preparation practices. This outcome reflects the hospitals' robust operational capacity, effective integration of new systems, and a high level of alignment with the strategic objective to improve safety, quality, and efficiency in parenteral medication preparation.

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled.

Number and name of the Target: 342 System to monitor shortages of medicinal products based on “blockchain” technology

Related Measure: C5.1 R4-I4 Development of a medicines shortages monitoring and prevention system in Croatia

Quantitative Indicator: Number

Baseline: 0

Target: 1

Time: Q2 2025

1. Context:

The objective of this measure is to introduce a targeted management of medicine stockpile data that allows for more efficiency in acquiring medicines. The measure establishes an operational precise system for monitoring and analysing the turnover of certain medicines.

A software solution is developed to monitor shortages of medicines in Croatia and develop an integrated model for anticipating and preventing shortages of medicines. Medicines are monitored through the blockchain software solution.

Target 342 is the only target of this investment, and the investment has a final expected date for implementation by 30 June 2025.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence. For legal acts please provide the full legal reference and date of entry into force	Short description
1	Cover note	Summary document duly justifying how the target (including all the constitutive elements) has been satisfactorily fulfilled.
2	Package of documents – Public Procurement Contract and three annexes	Public Procurement Contract on the development of a system for monitoring and preventing shortages of medicinal products in Croatia, signed on 19 March 2024, between the Croatian Ministry of Health and the company Teched Advisory Services d.o.o. Zagreb; and three annexes (Addendum I to Contract UG-74/24 signed on 31 July 2024; Addendum II to Contract UG-79/25 signed on 19 May 2025 and Addendum III to Contract

		UG-136/25 signed on 16 September 2025).
3	Package of documents – PPNL Strategy for the development of a programming solution and letter of acceptance of the strategy	1. Strategy for the development of the IT system for monitoring and preventing shortages of medicines in Croatia (PPNL) detailing its functionalities; 2. Letter of acceptance of the strategy by the Croatian Ministry of Health, signed on 10 July 2024.
4	Package of documents – Certificates of completion	1. Programme delivery A (phase 2) – development of a central system for monitoring shortages of medicinal products, handover record signed on 25 September 2024; 2. Programme delivery B (phase 3) – integration of the system with all third parties, handover record signed on 19 December 2024; 3. Programme delivery C (final phases 4 and 5) – final delivery and handover of the project, handover record signed on 19 May 2025.
5	PPNL Services for the reporting of medicine stock and trade	Guide for reporting entities (key actors in the distribution chain of medicines) on the integration of the web service of the PPNL software with external systems.
6	PPNL Software solution architecture	Technical specifications on the design of the system architecture, the characteristics of the software modules and the prerequisites for the implementation of the individual parts of the system.
7	Package of documents – User manual and video instructions	1. User manual on the functionalities of the PPNL software; 2. Seven video clips with instructions for the software users on how to use the PPNL system (login, sending stocks via forms, package list of the medicinal products, analytics, traffic light, critical drugs, administration of the beneficiary).
8	Links to the developed platform and the e-drugs national information system	Links to a testing version of the developed platform (https://ppnltest.miz.hr/) and access details; the actual platform (https://ppnl.miz.hr/) and the e-drugs national information system (https://elijekovi-hzzo.gov.hr/ ; https://elijekovi-hzzo.gov.hr/RegisteredDrug).
9	On-the-spot check	The Commission services conducted an on-the-spot check on 26 November 2025 to verify the alignment of the certificates of completion, provided link to the PPNL system, video instructions, user manual and guide for reporting entities describing the

		functionalities of data collection and analytical insights on the availability of medicines in Croatia.
--	--	---

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Croatian authorities cover all constitutive elements of the target.

A software solution shall be developed to monitor shortages of medicines in Croatia and develop an integrated model for anticipating and preventing shortages of medicines.

On 19 March 2024, the Croatian Ministry of Health signed a public procurement contract with Teched Advisory Services d.o.o. Zagreb to develop a system for monitoring and preventing shortages of medicinal products in Croatia (*hereinafter referred to as “PPNL system”*) (Evidence No. 2). On 8 July 2024, the contractor provided a strategy for the development of the PPNL system which defines the functionalities of the IT system (Evidence No. 3). The application and database modules for the PPNL system were developed, tested and implemented in the computer network of the Ministry of Health, as demonstrated by the handover records, with the final delivery on 19 May 2025 (Evidence No. 4). A guide for reporting entities, user manual and video instructions for the users’ training, technical specifications were also delivered to the Ministry of Health (Evidence No. 5-7).

The developed PPNL system includes a web application through which key actors in the distribution chain of medicines in Croatia (marketing authorisation holders, wholesales and pharmacies) report the current stock, delivery and consumption dynamics for individual medicine packaging on a weekly basis (chapters 1-2 of Evidence No. 5 and Evidence No. 8). Based on this data, authorised users of the system (Croatian Ministry of Health, Agency for Medicinal Products and Medical Devices, Croatian Chamber of Pharmacists, Croatian Health Insurance Fund) can use the PPNL application to monitor the availability of medicinal products on the Croatian market and can access overviews, including current consumption or the spatial distribution of medicines (chapter 1.1 of Evidence No. 5, chapters 1-3, 5.6 of Evidence No. 7 and Evidence No. 8). The evidence confirms that the PPNL system provides forecasts on the consumption and sufficiency of existing medicine stock, and warns users about the likelihood of shortages, in which case the system provides additional data on medicines that are put on the critical medicines list (chapter 1.1 of Evidence No. 5 and chapter 5.8 of Evidence No. 7).

The Commission services conducted an on-the-spot check (Evidence No. 9) on 26 November 2025 to verify the alignment of the certificates of completion, provided link to the PPNL system, video instructions, user manual and guide for reporting entities describing the functionalities of data collection and analytical insights on the availability of medicines in Croatia with the requirements of the Council Implementing Decision. During the check, the Croatian authorities showed the interface of the PPNL platform from which the users can access forms and overviews to report and monitor the required data on medicinal products. The check was completed successfully, confirming that the software solution is fully operational and enables monitoring, anticipating and preventing shortages of medicines in Croatia, as required by the Council Implementing Decision.

Medicines shall be monitored through the blockchain software solution.

Evidence No. 6 (chapter 5) describes the architecture of the blockchain part of the PPNL system, confirming that a blockchain software solution is used to monitor the availability of medicinal products. The blockchain application of the PPNL system registers the state of the stock of medicines based on registered blockchain transactions and offers the possibility to exchange information between the competent national authorities and the wholesaler for additional enquiries (chapters 2 and 5.8 of Evidence No. 7). Reporting entities can communicate with the PPNL blockchain to send confidential data to the PPNL system, which is only made available to users once the medicine is included in the critical medicines list (chapter 4.1 of Evidence No. 3, chapter 2.2 of Evidence No. 5 and chapter 7 of Evidence No. 6).

Furthermore, in line with the description of the measure, **the measure shall establish operational precise system for monitoring and analysing the turnover of certain medicines.**

An operational precise system for monitoring and analysing the turnover of certain medicines has been established. The system has been developed and is operational as demonstrated by the handover records (Evidence No. 4). The precise nature of the system for monitoring and analysing the turnover of certain medicines is ensured as the national list of drugs has been transferred to the system and user interfaces have been created for all relevant actors dealing with the distribution of medicinal products in Croatia (chapter 1.5 of Evidence No. 3 and Evidence No. 5). The system is designed to consistently aggregate reported data to calculate the availability of medicines and performs regular checks on collected data (chapters 1.4 and 7 of Evidence No. 3).

The Commission services conducted an on-the-spot check (Evidence No. 9) on 26 November 2025 to verify the operational state of the system. The check was completed successfully, confirming that the software solution is fully operational and enables monitoring, anticipating and preventing shortages of medicines in Croatia.

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled.

Number and name of the Milestone: 365 Integration of seismic data

Related Measure: C6.1 R4 Modernisation and integration of seismic data for the renovation process and planning of future construction and monitoring of public infrastructure

Qualitative indicator: Seismic data integrated in expert bases for spatial plans of local government units

Time: Q2 2025

1. Context:

The objective of the measure is to improve risk resilience in spatial planning and the construction sector by enhancing the collection and processing of seismic data. Milestone 365 refers to the integration of seismic data into the spatial planning system and it is the only milestone under this measure.

The reform has a final expected date for implementation in Q2 2025.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence.	Short description
1	Cover Note	Summary document duly justifying how the requirements of the milestone (including all its constitutive elements, as set out in the description of the milestone and of the corresponding measure in the CID annex) have been satisfactorily fulfilled.
2	Contract 531-08-C-U-135-24	Contract for the development of Methodology for the systematic integration of data related to seismic risk and other earthquake-induced phenomena into the spatial planning system with ten datasets for local government spatial plans that integrate seismological data for the purpose of improving the reconstruction process and planning future development
3	Project assignment	/
4	Methodology for the Systematic Integration	/
5	Delivery report	Handover record for the development of Methodology, confirming the completion of contracted activities and the delivery

		and receipt of the deliverables
6	Multihazard_100000_PPU_RH_EN Multihazard_50000_PPZ_KN1	Multiple hazard maps for the area of the City of Petrinja: 1:100 000, integrated with the Spatial Planning Program (PPU) of the Republic of Croatia and 1:50 000, integrated with the Spatial Plan (PPZ) of Sisak-Moslavina County
7	Earthquake_risk_100000_PPU_RH_EN Earthquake_risk_50000_PPZ_KN1	Earthquake risk maps: 1:100 000, integrated with the Spatial Planning Program (PPU) of the Republic of Croatia and 1:50 000, integrated with the Spatial Plan (PPZ) of Sisak-Moslavina County
8	Earthquake_risk_5000_GUP_KN1 Earthquake_risk_5000_PPUG_GP Earthquake_risk_5000_PPUG_KN1	Earthquake risk map for construction area zones 1:5000, integrated with the Spatial Development Plan (PPUG) of the City of Petrinja and with the General Urban Plan (GUP) of the City of Petrinja
9	Earthquake_risk_2000_GUP_KN1	Earthquake risk map for construction area zones at a scale of 1:2000, integrated with the General Urban Plan (GUP) of the City of Petrinja
10	Landslide_inventory_2000_PPUG_KN1	Landslide inventory map with information on existing landslides at a scale of 1:2 000, integrated with the Spatial Development Plan (PPUG) of the City of Petrinja
11	Landslide_susceptibility_5000_PPUG_GP Landslide_susceptibility_5000_PPUG_KN1	Landslide susceptibility map at a scale of 1:5000 integrated with the Spatial Plan (PPUG) of the City of Petrinja
12	Liquefaction_inventory_2000_PPUG_KN1	Liquefaction inventory map with information on existing liquefaction sites at a scale of 1:2000, integrated with the Spatial Development Plan (PPUG) of the City of Petrinja
13	Liquefaction_susceptibility_5000_PPUG_GP Liquefaction_susceptibility_5000_PPUG_KN1	Liquefaction susceptibility map at (1:5000) integrated with the Spatial Development Plan (PPUG) of the City of Petrinja
14	Sinkhole_inventory_2000_PPUG_KN1	Sinkhole inventory map with information on existing sinkholes at a scale of 1:2000 integrated with the Spatial Development Plan (PPUG) of the City of Petrinja
15	Sinkhole_susceptibility_5000_PPUG_GP Sinkhole_susceptibility_5000_PPUG_KN1	Map of susceptibility to sinkholes at a scale of 1: 5000 integrated with the Spatial Plan (PPUG) of the City of Petrinja
16	A link to Spatial Planning Information System (ISPU) eCatalog	https://katalog.mgipu.hr/details/a02c347f-723f-4b8c-902d-01803f664e0b

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Croatian authorities cover all constitutive elements of the milestone.

Seismic data shall be applied to 10 pilot databases for local government spatial plans:

Based on the contract (Evidence No. 2 and 3) signed on 7 January 2025 between the Ministry of Physical Planning, Construction and State Assets and the Faculty of Civil Engineering and Geodesy of the University of Split, a Methodology for the systematic integration of data related to seismic risk and other earthquake-induced phenomena into the spatial planning system was developed. Under the same contract 10 pilot databases applying seismic data for the administrative area of Sisak-Moslavina County were created (Evidence No. 2 - 4). These databases form map layers classifying and delineating seismic hazards, inventory and susceptibility layers for other geohazards (liquefaction, landslides, sinkholes), and multi-hazard layers delineating zones of potential temporal and spatial overlap of geohazards (Evidence No. 6 – 15).

Pursuant to the handover record signed on 13 June 2025 (Evidence No. 5), in addition to the Methodology, a Geographical Information System (hereinafter referred to as: GIS) compatible dataset repository and a database of characteristic geotechnical data for the study area were delivered (Evidence No. 5).

Seismic data shall be integrated into the spatial planning system:

The databases were published and integrated into the Spatial Planning Information System e-Catalog (Evidence No. 16), which serves as the official national platform containing data and layers used in the preparation of spatial plans.

The Commission services conducted an online on-the-spot check on 2 December 2025 to verify the integration and availability of seismic data within the spatial planning system. Additionally, the authorities demonstrated the use of 10 pilot databases in practice, by applying them to the various base layers for spatial plan preparation in the GIS software tool (Evidence No. 6 - 15). On this basis, the Commission services confirmed that the presented elements matched the evidence submitted by Croatia for demonstrating that the requirements set out in the Council Implementing Decision were satisfactorily fulfilled.

This is in line with the measure description stating that **the measure consists of strengthening the capacities needed to gather and apply seismic data for spatial planning and safer construction practices.**

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled.

Number and name of the Milestone: 406 Entry into force of legislation setting up the new system of self-consumption

Related Measure: C.7.1 R1 Scaled-up measure: Decarbonisation of the energy sector

Qualitative Indicator: Provision in a legal act setting up the new system of self-consumption, indicating its entry into force.

Time: Q1 2025

1. Context:

The objective of this measure is to scale up the Reform C1.2 R1: Decarbonisation of the energy sector under Component 1.2 (Energy transition for a sustainable economy).

Milestone #406 requires setting up a new system of self-consumption for energy production facilities in self-supply.

Milestone #406 is the only milestone of this reform. The reform has a final expected date for implementation in Q1/2025.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence. For legal acts please provide the full legal reference and date of entry into force	Short description
1	The Act on Amendments and Supplements to the Renewable Sources and High-Efficiency Cogeneration Act, reference Official Gazette No. 78/2025 of 9 May 2025, entry into force on 17 May 2025, in accordance with Article 21	
2	Cover note	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Croatian authorities cover all constitutive elements of the milestone.

The new system of self-consumption for energy production facilities in self-supply shall be established and shall be applicable as of 1 January 2026.

The Croatian authorities provided a copy of the Act on Amendments to the Renewable Sources and High-Efficiency Cogeneration Act (Evidence No. 1) (hereinafter referred to as: “the Act”). The establishment of a new system of self-consumption for energy production facilities in self-supply is stipulated in Article 13 of the Act, which amends and replaces the previous system of self-consumption for energy production facilities in self-supply. The new system was therefore established with entry into force of the Act on 17 May 2025, in line with Article 21 (Official Gazette No. 78/2025 of 9 May 2025). In line with Article 13, paragraph 21 of the Act, the previous system of self-consumption was still applicable to customers who submitted and get their request for the connection approved by 31 December 2025. For connection requests submitted as of 1 January 2026, Article 13 paragraph 21 of the Act does not apply anymore, therefore, the new system of self-consumption for energy production facilities in self-supply is applicable as of 1 January 2026.

The new system of self-consumption shall ensure equal treatment among all customers in terms of access to the distribution network and network fees.

Articles 13 and 14 of the Act established the new system of self-consumption that ensures equal treatment among all customers in terms of access to the distribution network and network fees. In particular, the new system of self-consumption eliminates the use of net metering in calculating the network usage (grid) fee. Following the abolition of net metering, electricity fed into the grid and electricity consumed from the grid are treated and accounted for separately for both users of the self-supply facility (e.g., category households, institutions) and other end customers (e.g., category entrepreneurs).

The new system shall redesign the way of calculating the remuneration for the self-produced electricity injected into the grid; all charges and fees, including network tariffs, must be cost-reflective, proportionate and non-discriminatory.

Articles 13 and 14 of the Act have redesigned the way of calculating the remuneration for the self-produced electricity injected into the grid. In particular, Article 13, paragraphs 5 and 7 of the Act, outline the new system for calculating remuneration for self-produced electricity fed into the grid, according to which consumers receive 90% (for end customers with their own production) and 100% (for users of self-supply facilities) of the electricity supply price for excess electricity, provided that the excess is not higher than their electricity demand. In addition, in line with Article 13 paragraph 19 of the Act, charges and fees, including network tariffs for the transmission and distribution must be cost-reflective, proportionate and non-discriminatory.

At the same time, the new system shall create incentives for consumers to become self-consumers, as well as for self-consumption.

Article 13, paragraphs 5 and 7 of the Act, stipulates that consumers receive 90% (for end customers with their own production) and 100% (for users of self-supply facilities) of the electricity supply price for excess electricity, provided that the excess is not higher than their electricity demand. Therefore, consumers effectively receive the full electricity supply price for their excess generation, thereby using the grid as a virtual, cost-free storage system.

Charges and fees shall not be imposed on self-produced electricity that remains on the premises of the self-consumer.

Article 13, paragraph 20 of the Act, stipulates that charges and fees shall not be imposed on self-produced electricity that remains on the premises of the self-consumer.

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled.

Loan support

Number and name of the Target: 375 Adoption of the First Action Plan to support the objectives of sustainable finance

Related Measure: C111.R7 Establishing the Sustainable Finance Support Forum

Qualitative Indicator: The First Action Plan with measures to support the objectives of sustainable finance adopted, setting out deadlines for implementation

Time: Q1 2025

1. Context:

The reform is focused on the role of the financial sector in supporting the objectives of sustainable finance. It aims to enhance the financial sector's contribution to the green transition through support for the implementation of regulatory requirements in the area of sustainable finance.

Milestone 375 entails adoption of an action plan with measures that supports the financial sector in serving the interests of the green transition. The Action plan facilitates the financial sector's preparation for new regulatory requirements and other initiatives in the area of sustainable finance. Furthermore, the Sustainable Finance Support Forum (SFSF) is established to ensure exchange of information and interconnection between the financial sector and line ministries, supervisors, experts and other stakeholders.

Milestone 375 is the only milestone of this reform, related to the adoption the first Action Plan to support the objectives of sustainable finance and the establishment of the Sustainable Finance Support Forum (SFSF). It has an expected date for implementation in Q1/2025.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence.	Short description
1	Cover note	Summary document Summary document duly justifying how the requirements of the milestone (including all its constitutive elements, as set out in the description of the milestone in the CID annex) have been satisfactorily fulfilled.
2	A copy of the Action Plan of the Forum for the Support of Sustainable Finance for 2025 and 2026	A first action plan with measures to support the objectives of sustainable finance https://mfin.gov.hr/istaknute-teme/odrzivo-financiranje/3557

	(Akcijski plan Foruma za podršku održivom financiranju za 2025. i 2026. godinu) and a link to its publication on the ministry website	
3	A copy of the Government Decision on adoption of the Action Plan of the Sustainable Finance Support Forum for 2025 and 2026, adopted on 19 March 2025 and published on 21 March 2025 in the Official Gazette (No. 52/2025)	https://narodne-novine.nn.hr/clanci/sluzbeni/2025_03_52_682.html
4	A copy of the Government Decision on the establishment of the Sustainable Finance Support Forum (<i>Forum za podršku održivom financiranju</i>), adopted on 21 December 2023 and published on 22 December 2023 in the Official Gazette (No. 155/2023)	The Decision establishes the Sustainable Finance Support Forum (SFSF), its mandate, as well as roles and responsibilities of the leading ministry and participating stakeholders. https://narodne-novine.nn.hr/clanci/sluzbeni/2023_12_155_2374.html
5	A copy of the Decision of the Minister of Finance on the appointment of the members of the Sustainable Finance Support Forum, adopted on 17 September 2024, revised on 20 February 2025	The Decision appoints members representing stakeholders participating in the Sustainable Finance Support Forum (SFSF), as well as setting out their responsibilities.
6	Agendas and minutes from the meetings of	These agendas and minutes cover 1 st – 6 th meetings which took place in 2024 and 2025. A list of

	the Forum for the Support of Sustainable Finance (SFSF)	participating organizations and institutions is also included for each meeting.
--	---	---

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Croatian authorities cover all constitutive elements of the milestone.

The Ministry of Finance shall develop a first Action Plan (...)

A first Action Plan to support the objectives of sustainable finance in Croatia, entitled “The Action Plan of the Sustainable Finance Support Forum for 2025 and 2026” (hereinafter referred to as: the “Action Plan”, Evidence No. 2) was developed by the Ministry of Finance (hereinafter referred to as: “the Ministry”), as tasked by the government (Evidence No. 4, point 3, fourth indent). The Ministry submitted the draft Action Plan to the government for adoption (Evidence No. 3, point 1). The Action Plan was adopted on 19 March 2025 and published in the Official Gazette on 21 March 2025 with immediate entry into force (Evidence No. 3).

The Ministry developed the Action Plan in cooperation with the stakeholders participating in the Sustainable Finance Support Forum (hereinafter referred to as: the “SFSF”) as its coordinator and chairing body (Evidence No. 3, points 4 and 5). The stakeholders participating in the SFSF are tasked with implementation and reporting to the Ministry on individual activities in the Action Plan under their remit (Evidence No. 3, points 2 and 3). The SFSF discussed the draft Action Plan presented by the Ministry (Evidence No. 6, 5th meeting).

The Action plan aims to ensure the implementation of measures and activities to support the financial sector and the economy overall in the area of sustainable finance (Evidence No. 2, page 3), in line with the name of the milestone. It is the first Action Plan in Croatia dedicated to sustainable finance, to be followed by a second action plan (Evidence No. 4, point 3, fourth and fifth indents).

(....) with measures and timelines for the implementation of individual activities (....)

Chapter 4 of the Action Plan (Evidence No. 2) contains a table listing the measures (second column), and the corresponding individual activities for their implementation (third column), as follows:

- i) Measure 1. Supporting entrepreneurs in fulfilling sustainability reporting obligations (activities 1.1 – 1.2)
- ii) Measure 2. Communication and educational activities to raise awareness and build understanding (activities 2.1 – 2.5)
- iii) Measure 3. Strengthening the financial sector’s capacity in sustainable finance (activities 3.1 – 3.6),
- iv) Measure 4. Promoting green public procurement and sustainable products and services (one activity),

- v) Measure 5. Raising awareness of environmental management standards and the verification of environmental parameters (one activity),
- vi) Measure 6. Climate tagging as a tool to ensure investments align with climate objectives (one activity) and
- vii) Measure 7. Development of ESG strategies for national supervisory bodies (activities 7.1 – 7.2).

Each of the individual activities has a corresponding timeline of implementation during the period covered by the Action Plan, including deadlines for implementation in line with the qualitative indicator (Evidence No. 2, Chapter 4, seventh column).

(...) which shall support the financial sector in serving the interests of the green transition (...)

In Chapter 4 of the Action Plan (Evidence No. 2), activities under Measure 3 - *Strengthening the financial sector's capacity in sustainable finance* benefit the financial sector in contributing to Croatia's transition to a sustainable economy, focusing on sustainable finance as the framework which helps channel funding to the green transition. This includes training and advisory services to the financial sector on the sustainable finance framework (activity 3.1). It also includes support to the banking sector in the implementation of rules applicable to such green financing, in particular, integration of environmental risks embedded in supervisory methodologies into business processes and management systems in banks (activity 3.2). Also, regular publications of supervisory expectations, results, analyses and conclusions, as well as responses to questions by financial sector entities, support the non-banking sector in applying rules and practices related to sustainable finance (activity 3.3).

(...) and facilitate its timely preparation for new regulatory requirements and other initiatives in the area of sustainable finance.

Measure 3 includes conferences and workshops for the financial sector on topics related to the implementation of the sustainable finance legislative framework (Evidence No. 2, Chapter 4, Activity 3.5). It also includes plans for enhanced supervision of application of EU rules on sustainable finance in the financial sector, to raise the level of preparation of the financial sector for new regulatory requirements in this area (Evidence No. 2, activity 3.6). Other sustainable finance initiatives are addressed by the Action plan, in particular, developing and exchanging best practices on ESG risk management for the financial sector (credit institutions) (Evidence No. 2, activity 3.4).

A joint platform called the Sustainable Finance Support Forum (SFSF) shall be established (...)

The government adopted a decision on the establishment of the Sustainable Finance Support Forum (SFSF) on 21 December 2023, published in the Official Gazette on 22 December 2023 with immediate entry into force (Evidence No. 4). The SFSF is a stakeholder body coordinated and chaired by the Ministry (Evidence No. 4, point 3). The mandate of this stakeholder platform is to provide support to the financial sector in Croatia in financing the transition to a sustainable economy and complying with regulatory requirements in the area of sustainable finance (Evidence No. 4, point 2). Members and their responsibilities in delivering the mandate of the SFSF are set out in a ministerial decision (Evidence No. 5).

(...) with the aim of exchanging information and interconnecting the financial sector (bank and non-banking) with line ministries, supervisors, experts and other stakeholders.

Point 2 of the founding act (Evidence No. 4) sets out the aim of the SFSF, stating that it is a common platform which serves as a single point for the exchange of information and coordination of stakeholders in the field of sustainable finance. The Ministry is tasked with undertaking activities to deliver this mandate, in cooperation with the financial sector supervisors, the Croatian National Bank and the Croatian Financial Services Supervisory Agency, and the economy ministry (Evidence No. 4, point 3, second indent). The mandate of the SFSF is also elaborated in the Action Plan, which underlines that the SFSF supports the financial and real sectors in the transition to a sustainable economy, and that it is a central platform for information exchange and coordination among key stakeholders (Evidence No. 2, page 2).

As a single point, the participation in the SFSF interconnects the financial sector (bank and non-bank) with line ministries, supervisors, experts and other stakeholders (Evidence No. 5, section II). The participating stakeholders, whose representatives are appointed by decision of the Minister of Finance (Evidence No. 5), are as follows (Evidence No. 5, section III):

- line ministries, including the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Regional Development and EU funds and the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Green Transition (points 1 - 9),
- supervisors in the financial sector, including the Croatian National Bank and the Croatian Financial Services Supervisory Authority (points 13 - 15),
- financial sector associations, including bank (points 23 - 24) and non-bank (point 25),
- financial reporting standard-setting body (points 10 – 12),
- financial institutions, including the Croatian Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the Financial Agency (points 16 - 17) and
- and experts from the academia, research and private sector (business associations, professional chambers), as well as other stakeholders (18 – 31).

Participation in meetings of the SFSF includes information exchange between the financial sector and other stakeholders (Evidence No. 6), in topics such as opportunities for technical assistance for the financial industry (Evidence No. 6, 5th meeting), availability of economic, social and governance data required by the financial sector in the area of sustainable finance (Evidence No. 6, 2nd meeting), and the EU-wide simplification package on sustainability requirements (Evidence No. 6, 6th meeting). Furthermore, the financial sector stakeholders are collaborating with line ministries, supervisors and other experts and stakeholders through joint activities in the Action plan, such as education and awareness-raising in the area of sustainable finance (Evidence No. 2, Chapter 4, activities 2.2 – 2.4).

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled.

Number and name of the Target: 320 Access to pharmacy care and medicines

Related Measure: C5.1 R1-I1 Introduction of mobile pharmacies into primary care

Quantitative Indicator: Number

Baseline: 0

Target: 8

Time: Q2 2025

1. Context:

The objective of this investment is to supply medication in areas which have no pharmacies. Target 320 requires procurement of six mobile caravan pharmacies and two boat pharmacies. Target 320 is the only target of this investment. The investment has a final expected date for implementation in Q2/2025.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence. For legal acts please provide the full legal reference and date of entry into force	Short description
1	Cover note	Summary document duly justifying how the requirements of the target (including all its constitutive elements, as set out in the description of the target and of the corresponding measure in the CID annex) have been satisfactorily fulfilled.
2	Handover reports and certificates of delivery and acceptance for six mobile caravan pharmacies	<ol style="list-style-type: none">Ličko-senjska County (Health Center Gospic) - Handover certificates dated 30 April 2025Sisačko-moslavačka County (Health Center Popovača) - Handover certificates dated 30 April 2025Vukovarsko-srijemska County (Health Center Županja) - Handover certificates dated 6 May 2025Karlovačka County (Karlovac Pharmacy) - Handover certificates dated 2 May 2025Zagreb County (Zagreb County Pharmacy) - Handover certificates dated 30 April 2025

		6. Brodsko posavska County (Slavonski Brod Pharmacy) - Handover certificates dated 2 May 2025
3	Handover reports and certificates of delivery and acceptance for two boat pharmacies	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Zadarska County (Health Institution Pharmacy Zadar) - Handover certificates dated 16 September 2025 2. Zadarska County (Health Institution Pharmacy Zadar) - Handover certificates dated 30 September 2025
4	Contracts for mobile caravan pharmacies and boat pharmacies	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Contract for procurement of six mobile pharmacies and two Annexes 2. Contract for procurement of boat pharmacies
5	Agreements with counties on mobile pharmacies	Agreements between Ministry of Health and all counties and institutions where mobile pharmacies are distributed, defining mutual rights and obligations.

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Croatian authorities cover all constitutive elements of the target.

At at least six mobile caravan pharmacies and at least two boat pharmacies shall be procured.

Following a public procurement procedure the Ministry of Health concluded contracts for acquiring six mobile caravan pharmacies on 27 May 2024 and two boat pharmacies on 15 July 2024 (Evidence No. 4).

Contracts were fulfilled by delivery of six mobile caravan pharmacies in six counties: 1. Ličko-senjska County (Health Center Gospić), 2. Sisačko-moslavačka County (Health Center Popovača), 3. Vukovarsko-srijemska County (Health Center Županja), 4. Karlovačka County (Karlovac Pharmacy), 5. Zagreb County (Zagreb County Pharmacy), 6. Brodsko posavska County (Slavonski Brod Pharmacy) (Evidence No. 2). Furthermore, two boat pharmacies were delivered in Zadarska County (Health Institution Pharmacy Zadar) (Evidence No. 3).

Finally, Ministry of Health has also concluded agreements with all counties and institutions where mobile pharmacies are distributed, defining mutual rights and obligations on ensuring necessary conditions to provide intended service. (Evidence No. 5)

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number and name of the Target: 424 Construction of the expanded Zlobin – Bosiljevo gas pipeline

Related Measure: C.7.1.I3 Increasing the capacity of the LNG terminal on the island of Krk and strengthening the gas infrastructure

Quantitative Indicator: km

Baseline: 0

Target: 58

Time: Q2 2025

1. Context:

The objective of the investment is to improve diversification of Union's supply of gas and to increase the security of supply of gas to Croatia's neighbouring Member States. The investment includes expanding the capacity of the LNG terminal on the island of Krk, the expansion of the pipeline Zlobin – Bosiljevo, expansion of the pipeline Bosiljevo - Sisak – Kozarac, as well as expansion of the section Lučko – Zabok of the Croatia – Slovenia interconnector.

Target 424 requires construction of the expanded Zlobin – Bosiljevo gas pipeline, with length of 58 km.

Target 424 is the fourth step of the implementation of the investment, and it follows milestone 421 and target 422, related to the expansion of the Krk LNG terminal, and milestone 423, related to the contract for works for the expansion of the Zlobin – Bosiljevo gas pipeline. It will be followed by milestone 425 and target 426, related to the expansion of the pipeline Bosiljevo - Sisak – Kozarac, and milestone 427 and target 428, related to the expansion of the section Lučko – Zabok of the Croatia – Slovenia interconnector. The investment has a final expected date for implementation in Q2 2026.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence. For legal acts please provide the full legal reference and date of entry into force	Short description
1	Final Report of the Main Supervising Engineer confirming that the Zlobin – Bosiljevo gas pipeline has been constructed, reference AD-91-25-1356 from 11 August 2025	

2	Project documentation for the Zlobin – Bosiljevo gas pipeline, reference 2893-G-000-S01 from April 2025	
3	Report of the Main Supervising Engineer confirming that the pipeline is ready to receive gas, reference AD-91-25-0253 from 18 February 2025	
4	Cover note	Summary document duly justifying how the target (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Croatian authorities cover all constitutive elements of the target.

Expanded Zlobin – Bosiljevo gas pipeline, with length of 58 km, shall be built.

The Croatian authorities have provided a copy of the Final Report of the Main Supervising Engineer, confirming that the Zlobin – Bosiljevo gas pipeline DN800/100 bar (812,8 mm diameter of the pipes with maximum pressure of 100 bar) has been constructed, in accordance with the Project documentation (Evidence No. 1 on pages 1 and pages 12 and 13). The Croatian authorities have also provided the Project documentation (Evidence No. 2 page 7) confirming that the length of the Zlobin – Bosiljevo gas pipeline is 58.247 km, and that the starting point of the pipeline is the gas node Zlobin, while the end point of the pipeline is the gas node Bosiljevo, running mainly in parallel with the Pula – Karlovac gas pipeline.

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled.

Number and name of the Target: 433 Education program for workers from third countries

Related Measure: C7.2 R4 Introduction of a new model of adult learning programmes aimed at developing green skills and competences in the construction sector, including modules to support the integration of third country workers

Time: Q1 2025

1. Context:

The objective of the measure is to contribute to developing green skills in the construction sector and supporting the integration of third country workers.

Milestone 433 refers to the design of an adult education programme covering renovation topics and it is the final milestone under this measure. The reform has a final expected date for implementation in Q1 2025.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence	Short description
1	Cover Note	Summary document duly justifying how the requirements of the milestone (including all its constitutive elements, as set out in the description of the milestone and of the corresponding measure in the CID annex) have been satisfactorily fulfilled.
2	Cooperation Agreement	Service procurement contract
3	Evidence of programme delivery from Učilište OKVIRI ZNANJA	/
4	Copy of the Programme	Programme 'Green Skills in the Construction Sector for Third-Country Nationals, Construction Companies, and Adult Education Providers'

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Croatian authorities cover all constitutive elements of the milestone.

An adult education programme covering renovation topics shall be designed:

The milestone was achieved by designing an adult education programme ‘*Green Skills in the Construction Sector for Third-Country Nationals, Construction Companies, and Adult Education Providers*’, covering energy efficiency building technologies (Evidence No. 4).

As demonstrated by the procurement contract signed between the Ministry of Physical Planning, Construction and State Assets and Učilište Okviri znanja (evidence no. 2, pages 1 to 3) and the programme content, the programme consists of:

- i) six modules on green construction/renovation for the occupation of: (1) Painter and Decorator (Evidence No. 4, pages 6-11), (2) Plasterer/Façade Installer (pages 11-16), (3) Roofer (pages 16-22), (4) Drywall Installer (pages 22-28), (5) Carpenter (pages 28-34) and (6) Mason (pages 34-40),
- ii) a Croatian language module for construction-related occupations (pages 40-44), and
- iii) an intercultural module (pages 44-48).

This is in line with the measure description stating that **the measure consists of developing an adult education programme for the workers from third countries on energy efficiency building technologies, developing Croatian language module in the construction profession and an intercultural module.**

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled.