The current national situation on NRRP, PA, and Operational Programmes Q3 2021

1. Partnership agreements on the European structural and investment funds

Positive

- **public involvement:** very positive compared to the previous programming period; the public (civic society) and experts have been part of formal and informal negotiations from the beginning, throughout the process to the end.

Neutral - Negative

- **In terms of content,** the PA and ESIF themselves can be assessed relatively positively overall. However, the legislative and strategic context is problematic. Programming documents for ESI Funds must be supported by national strategies and their objectives. E.g: our current Integrated National Energy and Climate Plan for 2021-2030, expects the share of RES to reach only 19.2%. This share is expected to increase significantly in the near future, but we are still officially working with only 19.2% share, because there is no other strategic document yet.

2. National recovery and resilience plan

Positive - Negative

- **In terms of content,** the document adheres to the formal framework of requirements for achieving climate neutrality and the not harm principle. From this point of view, we perceive it as progress.
Also the document has a wide thematic scope, from biodiversity and landscape protection, through sustainable transport to the renovation of buildings. From this point of view, it can be considered a relatively comprehensive approach. However, we see the problem as with the PA and ESIF legislative and strategic context. We fear that if reform efforts in this areas are not continued, NPOO funds may be used inefficiently.

**Negative**

- **Only formal public involvement**: Our reservations from spring and summer continue. The involvement of the public and process experts is still absent. At present, the government and ministries are no longer in a time crunch, which has forced them to speed up processes and, in this interest, to reduce the level of public involvement. Today, despite the fact that there is no longer a time constraint, the public is involved in zero in the creation of the implementation architecture. There is chaos in the system, there is a lack of transparent communication with a clear definition of the actors and their competencies, as well as time frames.

- Ministries have not added key milestones in terms of climate protection to the Recovery and Resilience Plan, despite the fact that models and documents such as the National Energy and Climate Plan are significantly outdated and very unambitious.

- In the building renovation component, although the Ministry of the Environment made support for boilers conditional on the renovation of family houses, it did not exclude support for fossil natural gas. Efforts to reduce air pollution by subsidizing fossil gas boilers run into the fact that the annual cost of heating with natural gas is higher than with renewables, such as heat pumps. However, a broader expert debate on energy poverty solutions is needed. Meanwhile, ministries risk not supporting low-income households from the Recovery and Resilience Plan.
3. Our activities (Reporting on the project for September and October)

Cooperation and creating alliances
We coordinate our work with members of other professional organizations at home and abroad (Greenpeace, Friends of Earth, Bankwatch, ...), municipalities and other actors. We are developing cooperation based on the sharing of professional input and coordination of activities towards officials.

- Establishment of a platform of Slovak environmental and climate organizations

Advocacy and representation in official bodies
Part of our work is to advocate for solutions for just transition. Another part is to search for opportunities for better public involvement in decision-making. For that we are addressing relevant representatives of national as well as EU institutions.

- We have representatives in the National Council for European Green Deal as well as monitoring committees for the European Structural Funds

Strategic media communication
Together with our colleagues, we actively communicate topics in the media to shape discourse and public opinion

- Publishing press releases, comments and interviews in national dailies