



Celje



Association of Urban Municipalities of Slovenia

ITI for urban development in Celje and Slovenia

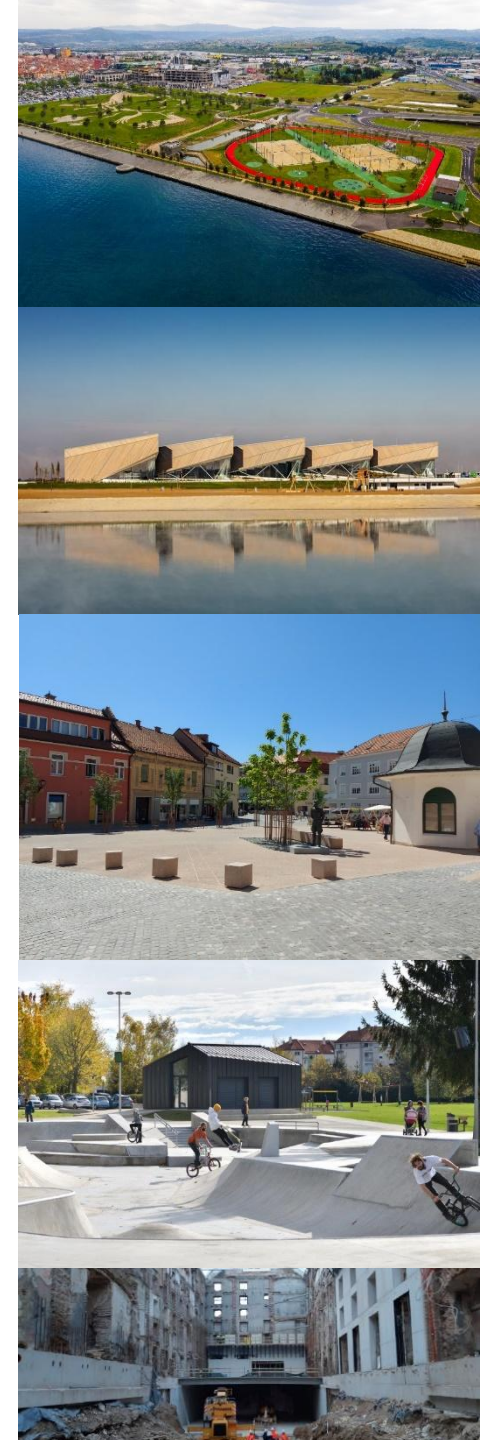
Matija Kovač

Mayor of Celje

Association of Urban Municipalities of Slovenia



Co-funded by
the European Union



Celje – a green city designed for people

-  Green transition – urban green spaces, renewable energy and climate resilience
-  Sustainable mobility – electric buses, bike sharing system and sustainable mobility infrastructure
-  Urban development – regeneration of public spaces, infrastructure and cultural heritage
-  Economic growth – new business zones, investments and innovation
-  Quality of life – citizen participation, sports, culture, housing and inclusive communities
-  EU funding – turning European investments into tangible local improvements



Association of Urban Municipalities of Slovenia



3 associations of
municipalities

**ZMOS – exclusive for
urban municipalities**

Established in 2010

Obligation of consultation
in legislative procedures

First Representation of SLO
municipalities in Brussels

Public law body

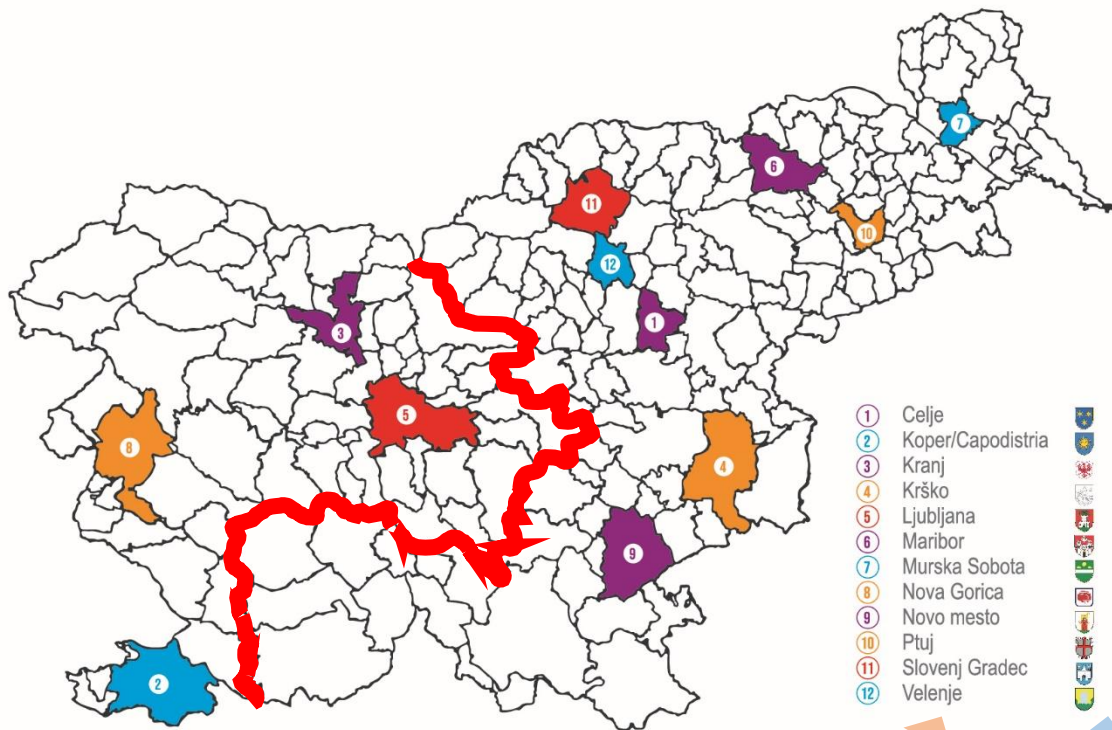
5 employees

Pooling resources of
urban municipalities.

International cooperation
and EU funds

ITI intermediate body
for project selection

Urban municipalities in ITI (2014)2021-2027

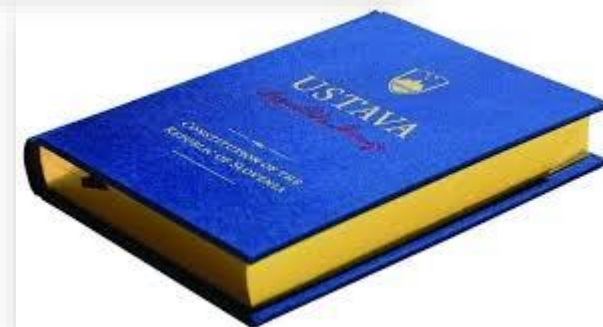


212 municipalities

12 URBAN
MUNICIPALITIES

Cca. 760.000
inhabitants (36 % SLO)

4 in NUTS2 West SLO
8 in NUTS2 East SLO



CONSTITUTION

Article 141 (Urban Municipalities)

A town may attain the status of an urban municipality in accordance with such procedure and under such conditions as provided by law.

An urban municipality performs, as being within **its original competence**, particular duties within the state competence relating to **urban development** as provided by law.

ITI in 2021-2027

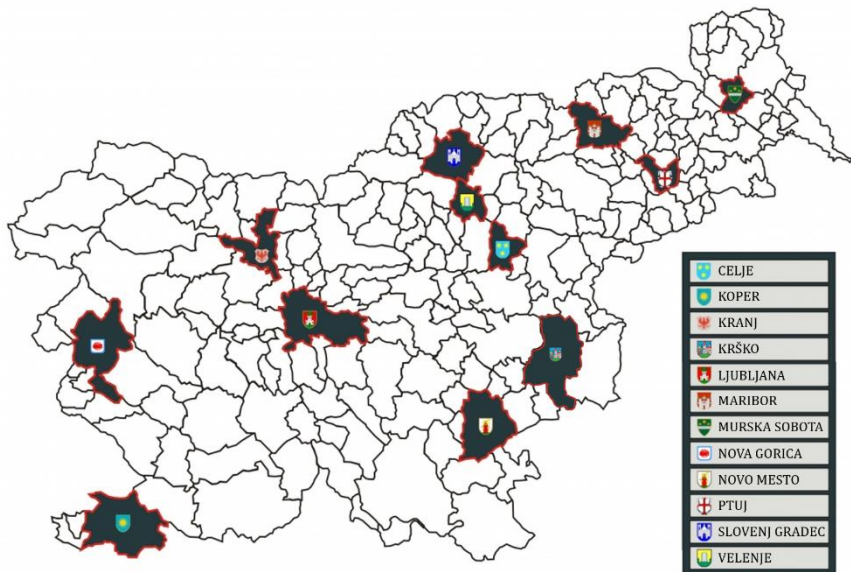
- ITI 2014-2020 recognized as a good practice, efficient mechanism – continues in 2021-2027
- ZMOS' role of project selection
- Increased funds in 2021-2027

211 mio EUR

Grants – ERDF + state budget

11 mio EUR

Financial instruments

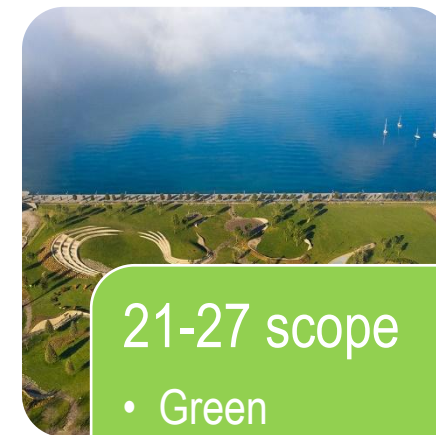


Celje



14-20 scope

- Energy efficiency
- Urban mobility
- Urban regeneration



21-27 scope

- Green infrastructure
- Urban mobility
- Urban regeneration

Co-financing
West – 80 %
East – 80-100 %

Združenje mestnih občin Slovenije
Association of Urban Municipalities of Slovenia

Why IB ZMOS?

CHALLENGES



01

Small urban municipalities had limited capacity to act separately as intermediate bodies.



SOLUTIONS



02

EU rules required urban authorities to take part in selecting urban projects.



Urban municipalities authorised ZMOS to select ITI projects and established an expert commission.

03

The state had to „accept“ the transfer of project selection responsibilities and align several institutions.



Cities/ZMOS, ministries and the managing authority agreed on roles, procedures through sustained dialogue.

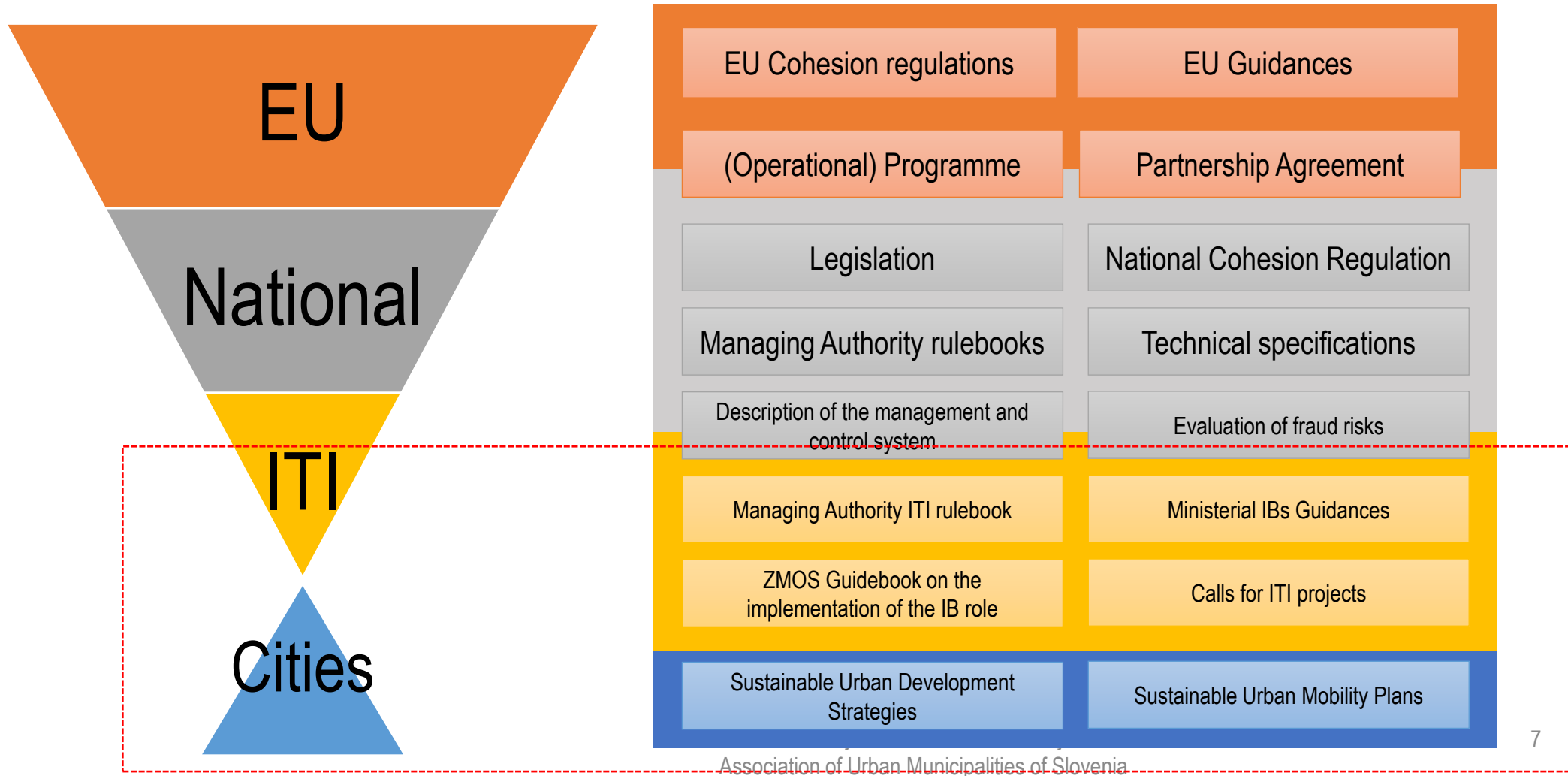
04

ZMOS needed the systems and safeguards required of an intermediate body.



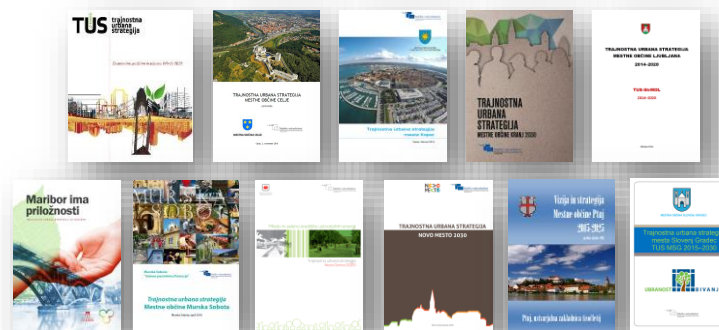
ZMOS completed accreditation, prepared its procedures and fraud risk assessment, and adapted the legal framework.

ITI regulatory framework



ITI regulatory framework

SUD strategies
preparation with a
highly participatory
approach in 2015 –
strategic basis for ITI.

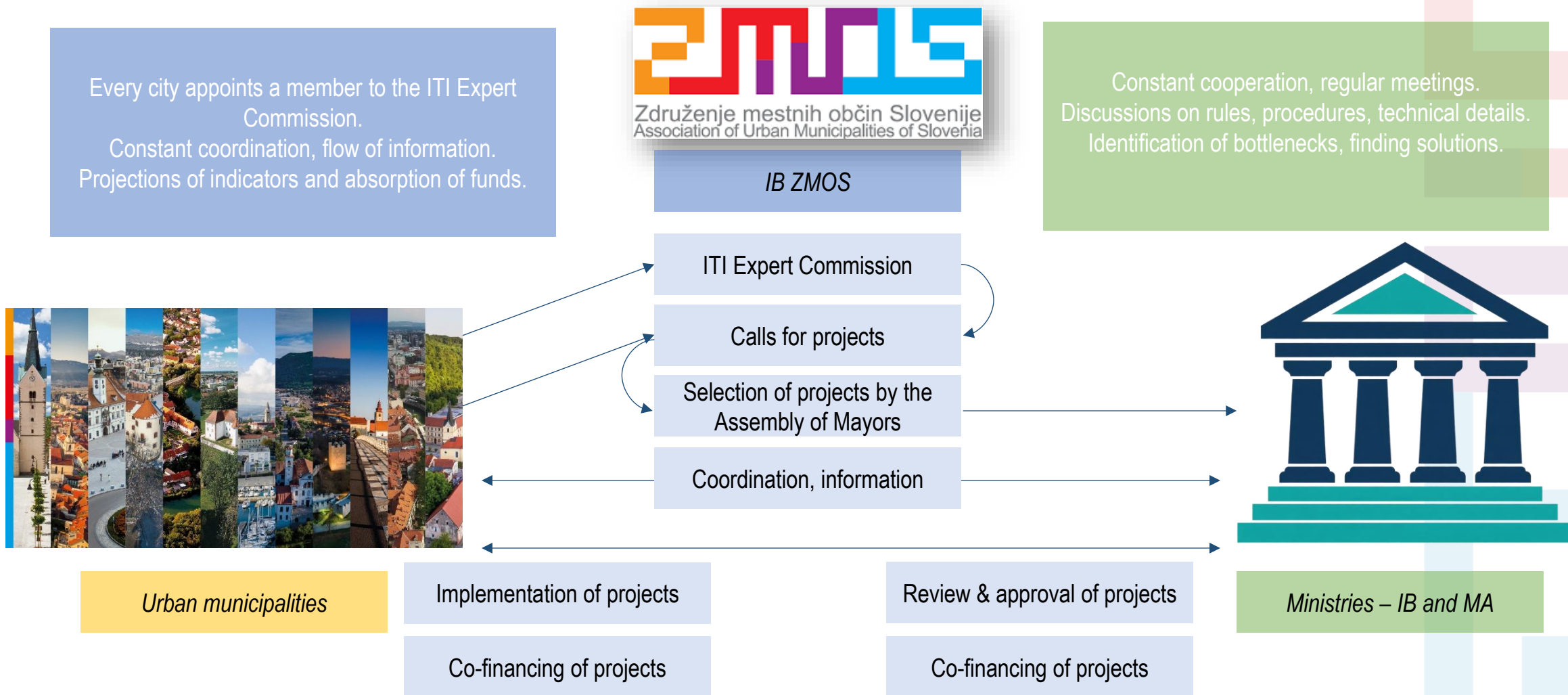


Cities

Sustainable Urban Development
Strategies

Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans

ITI governance framework



ITI results – 2014-2020

2017-2023



91

APPROVED PROJECTS

€277m

Total investment value

€139m

ITI co-financing

€138m

Municipal budgets

- **49,5 ha** of revitalised degraded urban areas
- **377.000 m²** renovated or constructed open public spaces
- **80.000 m²** constructed or renovated public buildings
- **326** new public housing units
- **43** projects of sustainable mobility
- **552** households with an improved energy efficiency class

ITI results – 2021-2027

2023-2026



64

APPROVED PROJECTS

€336m

Total investment value

€186m

ITI co-financing

€150m

Municipal budgets

25

PROJECTS IN PIPELINE

€41m

Total investment value

€25m

ITI co-financing

€16m

Municipal budgets

- **41+ ha** of new or upgraded green infrastructure area
- **144.000 inhabitants** with access to new or improved green infrastructure
- **25+ km** of bicycle infrastructure
- **771.000 users** of bicycle infrastructure
- **2m +** users of improved public transport
- **177.000 m2** renovated urban spaces
- **4 digitalisation** interventions for public transport

ITI results in Celje 2014-2020: Generator - Tehnopark



5,042 m² science and entertainment park

Managed by the newly established public institution Tehnopark Celje

ITI results in Celje 2014-2020: DN10 Neighbourhood



Six multi-apartment buildings comprising 142 non-profit residential units
A parking garage
Landscaping of the surrounding area

ITI results in Celje 2020-2027: Hub of Urban Activities



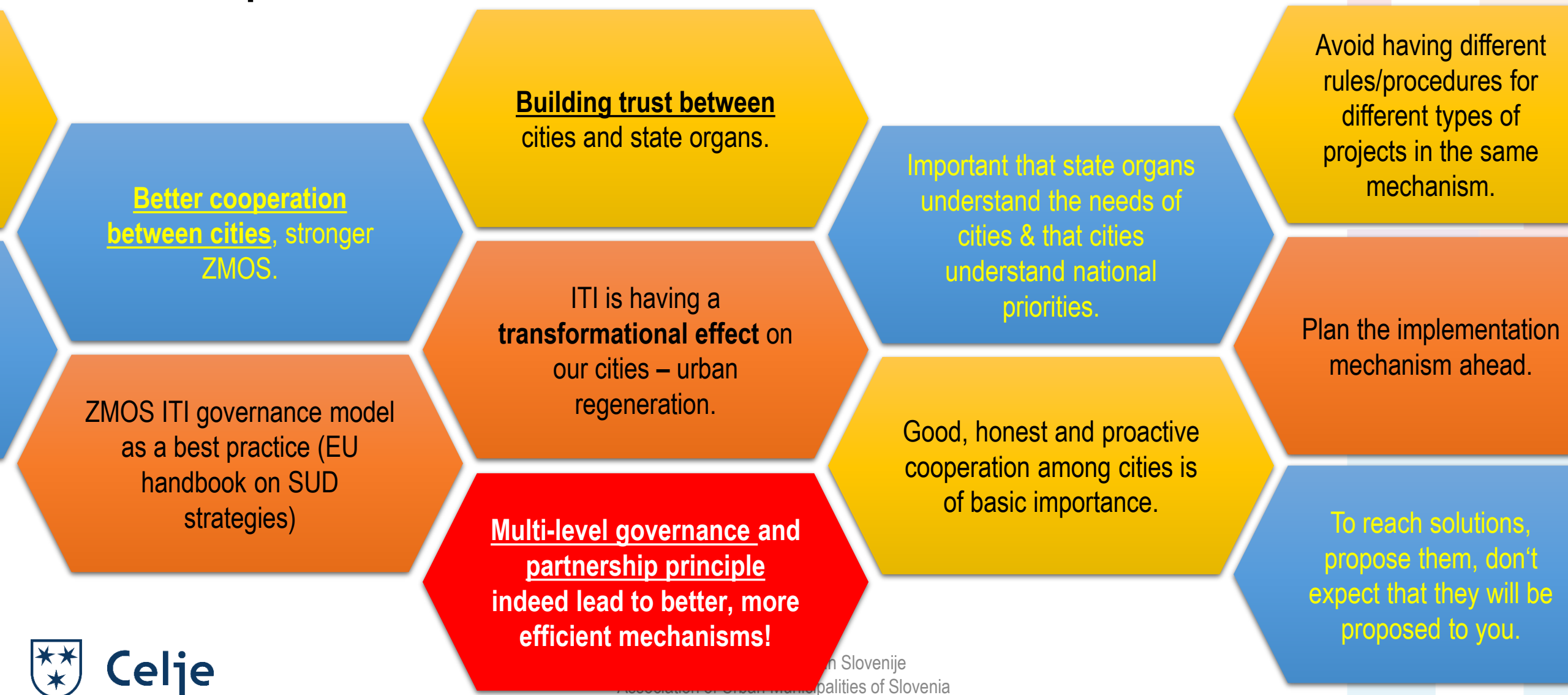
3,222 m² of urban regeneration of vacant and underutilised spaces

ITI results in Celje 2020-2027: Green Zone



Regeneration of 2.35 hectares of green space
Heron-themed playground structure.

Multiplication effects of ITI, lessons learned



ITI in the future?



Success of ITI leads to **pressure to include ever more towns**

How to address the needs of other urban and peri-urban areas, without compromising the successful model?
How to keep the role of the association?

ERDF urban earmark, competition with CAP

No safeguard, dependency on national government.
Keep and increase the urban earmark in Cohesion policy.

Simplifications needed for beneficiaries

Processes still too long, liquidity pressures on local budgets, challenges of public procurement.
Proposal for advanced payments, simplification of project review.



Passenger Transport Hub 2028+





Co-funded by
the European Union

Thank you!

Contacts and further information:

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List of all approved ITI projects: www.zmos.si/ctn/projekti-ctn-v-sloveniji/

Handbook of Sustainable Urban Development Strategies: <https://urban.jrc.ec.europa.eu/urbanstrategies/>



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