



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA

GOVERNMENT OFFICE FOR
DEVELOPMENT AND EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

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Ljubljana, 27 March, 2009

LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLANICA PROJECT

Dear Madam or Sir,

We would like to confirm our interest in the **PLANICA** project, which was submitted to the REGPOT 1 call for proposals within the 7th Framework Programme (hereinafter FP7) on February 13th 2009.

The Government Office for Development and European Affairs sees the **PLANICA** project as an ideal example of good practice in terms of harnessing funds from the EU FP7 programme. We understand that the first phase of the project will strive to achieve excellence and cutting edge capacity of the Slovenian research team centred around the Olympic Sports Centre in Planica. The second phase of the proposal will endeavour to augment the impact of the project by further utilising the investment of Structural Funds 2007-2013 allocated to the **PLANICA** ROP project (85 MEUR) for growth of Slovenia in general, and development of the Gorenjska region in particular.

The **PLANICA** REGPOT 1 project will enrich and enhance Slovenia's plan for the Planica Valley by establishing a permanent presence of outstanding EU and Slovenian research focussing on maintenance of quality of life. We also strongly supports the intention of Jožef Stefan Institute to develop the project to a level, which would enable the **PLANICA** research centre to qualify for "European Infrastructural Translational Research Facility Planica", as the first such research facility in Slovenia.

The topic of the research proposal Prevention and treatment of deconditioning as a consequence of inactivity will utilise the unique hypoxic and hyperoxic facility located at the Olympic Sport Centre Planica, built with EU Structural funds (6 MEUR). The results of the proposed project will certainly benefit not only to athletes, but potentially also to a much greater degree of population, suffering from obesity, problems of the elders and others with specific health problems. These issues have also been identified as priority areas by EU. Finally, the **PLANICA** project has also attracted the attention of ESA (European Space Agency) and NASA, due to the possibility of conducting simulations of the conditions to which astronauts will be exposed to lunar habitats. Both agencies have verified their interest in collaborating in such studies in **PLANICA**.

Sincerely yours,



Andreja JERINA
STATE SECRETARY