

Cooperation programmes under the European territorial cooperation goal

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1. STRATEGY FOR THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE UNION STRATEGY FOR SMART, SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH AND THE ACHIEVEMENT OF ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND TERRITORIAL COHESION

1.1 Strategy for the cooperation programme's contribution to the Union strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth and to the achievement of economic, social and territorial cohesion

1.1.1 Description of the cooperation programme's strategy for contributing to the delivery of the Union strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth and for achieving economic, social and territorial cohesion.

1.1.1.1 Designation of the area

When designing the Programme the Member States (MS) declared the same eligible area as the HU-RO CBC 2007-2013 Programme (Annex V). The eligible area under analysis consists of eight counties (NUTS III regions) in Hungary and Romania: Szabolcs-Szatmar-Bereg, Hajdu-Bihar, Bekes and Csongrad in former; Satu Mare, Bihor, Arad and Timis in latter. These counties are included in the following NUTS II regions in Romania: North-West (RO11): Bihor County, Satu Mare County, West (RO42): Arad County, Timis County. In Hungary: NUTS II Northern Great Plain (HU32): Hajdu-Bihar County, Szabolcs-Szatmar-Bereg County, Southern Great Plain (HU33): Bekes County, Csongrad County. These counties combine an area of over 50 thousand sq.km , representing 15.2% of the two countries' territory (23.7% of Hungary and 11.9% of Romania, resp.). The counties' surface varies within the range of 4,263 sq.km (Csongrad) and 8,697 sq.km (Timis – which is also the largest county of Romania).

According to the latest census, in 2011 in Hungary there were 9,773,777[1], in Romania 20,121,641[2] inhabitants (in the European Union [EU] – 28 Member States: 505.7 million). According to the data of the year 2013[3] the counties of the eligible area unite 3,911,505 people, representing 13.1% of the two countries' inhabitants. The county with the biggest population in the eligible area is Timis, with 690 thousand inhabitants (17,6% of the eligible area population), while Satu Mare, with 342 thousand people is the smallest (8.7% of population of the eligible area). On the other side of the border, the population of the Hungarian counties falls between 9 and 15% of the eligible area population. In terms of population, the biggest Hungarian county in the region, Szabolcs-Szatmar-Bereg is still far behind Timis, while Bekes, the smallest one is on the same level as Satu Mare. Consequently, Timis and Szabolcs-Szatmar-Bereg are the biggest counties in the eligible area, having the majority of the region's population.

1.1.1.2 Key conclusions from the analysis of the current socio-economic situation

Demography

The eligible area has a major contribution to the whole population of Hungary and Romania, representing 13.1% of the two countries' total number of inhabitants. This fact is accompanied by the decreasing population of the region in the past years that is a result

of – among others – negative net migration. Slight differences can be observed between the Hungarian and Romanian part regarding the net migration: with the exception of Csongrad, all Hungarian border county suffered from negative net migration compared to the Romanian ones.

The figures are also remarkable mainly for the benefit of the Romanian side. The eligible area can be characterized as rural with a few important large cities accompanied by a number of smaller cities. The majority of the population centres in the vicinity of the county capitals and bigger cities.

The population density is well below the national and EU28 average in the case of each county although the Hungarian ones are more densely populated than their Romanian counterparts.

The proportion of Hungarian minority in the Romanian counties ranges between 5% and 33%[4], with major differences between counties; on the other hand, in the Hungarian counties the proportion of Romanian minority varies among 0% and 1%[5]. Despite the imbalance between the two countries, this provides good opportunities for cooperation initiatives.

The proportion of Roma population is significant in the entire eligible area, with some internal differences. Given that the majority of Roma families live under the poverty threshold, this is a major social challenge and long-term social risk.

Economy and labour market

The analysis of the economy and labour market of the counties and the region clearly demonstrates that the region produces a smaller portion of the two countries' gross domestic product (GDP, 11.3%) than its population share, so – based on this indicator - the economic performance of the eligible area is relatively modest compared to the other parts of the countries. Six of the eight counties have a smaller share of national GDP than their population: only Arad and Timis are more productive than their national average in this respect. In the Hungarian part, Szabolcs-Szatmar-Bereg is regarded to be the only county the GDP share of which is much lower than its population share (by 2.5%).

The position of Timis is well established as the county produces the biggest part (25.9%) of the total GDP of the eligible area.

The development of the counties in the eligible area is far behind the EU level and according to the widely accepted threshold of 75%, the region is amongst the “less developed” ones within the EU.

Between 2001 and 2010 all counties' GDP per capita rose: especially the Romanian counties experienced significant increase; however, increase in GDP per capita in Bekes county still remained below the EU28 development.

On a ten-year comparison, the overall GDP-share between the three main sectors did not change fundamentally. The Romanian counties' GDP depends more on industrial output, while the Hungarian counties owe a larger share of GDP in services, especially to public administration and community services/activities of households.

There is a trend of the decreasing proportion of agriculture in the economy, accompanied by corresponding rise of the industrial sector while services still uphold their leading position in this figure.

With regard to business infrastructure, the number of industrial parks is much higher on the Hungarian side of the border, while the number of business incubators is quite similar to the one on the Romanian side of the border. In addition to the sheer number, the rate of occupancy is also a crucial issue: it is obvious that there are a number of facilities that are unused, while the ones around the larger cities are better performing, with high occupancy rate. The currently operating incubators mainly attract start-up enterprises; on the other hand, there is a lack of business incubators that could actually support technology transfer processes and help the technology development of small and medium-sized enterprises (SME).

The eligible area is lagging behind in the level of development of **information and communication technology (ICT)** infrastructure in comparison to the EU28+4, with some internal differences, though the proliferation of mobile Internet devices is likely to gradually close this gap.

The labour market data show a negative picture: the total number of economically active population in the eligible area decreased since 2001 and the share of total active population within total population show a lower figure for all participating counties than the EU average. Regarding the change of the employment rate between 2001 and 2009, Timis experienced the biggest growth (8%) and Szabolcs-Szatmar-Bereg the most significant decline (9%) in the given period. According to the changing importance of the different sectors, most of the border population is employed in the industry and services. This shows similarity with the distribution of the national GDP among the sectors as well.

The long-term unemployment rate of the Hungary-Romania eligible area is somewhat higher than the EU28+4 value, the other CBC areas and the Romanian national average, but it is lower than the Hungarian national average ratio.

Labour market forecasts aimed at predicting the change in number of persons in labour force between 2005 and 2050 presume significant labour force reductions by 2050 for the complete eligible area[6]. In the Hungarian counties most of the unemployed population belongs to the age group between 25 and 29[7], and in the Romanian counties to the age group 40-49[8]. The share of unemployed is the highest among those who have completed the 8th grade, vocational education or obtained a high school degree.

Education, research and development (R&D)

The share of the total population having completed at least upper secondary education is above the EU28 average both in Hungary and Romania. However, school life expectancy in Romania is below the EU28 value (EU28: 17.3 year, Hungary: 17.7 year, Romania: 16.6 year), and the relatively high number of people leaving school early also presents a problem.

There is a vivid academic life in the eligible area with several universities and colleges, giving more than 200,000 students the opportunity to attend higher educational institutions. The counties with the largest universities – especially Hajdu-Bihar,

Csongrad and Timis - have a large number of R&D personnel employed, offering an excellent R&DI resource to capitalize on in the eligible area's economy.

Concerning the level of R&D expenditure, most of the counties are lagging behind the EU28 average. However, Hajdu-Bihar and Csongrad in Hungary exceed the EU27 average, and the Romanian counties – especially Timis and Arad – have constantly increased their R&D expenditures in recent years. These figures demonstrate that the primary R&D centres are the universities of these four counties in the eligible area, offering an outstanding innovation potential. Most Romanian counties have experienced significant increase and the national goal within the EU 2020 strategy aims to hold up this tendency.

Environment, energy, climate change; risk prevention and management

The natural environment and its protection is a key issue for both Hungary and Romania, also due to the fact that extensive NATURA 2000 areas are present.

Regarding the carbon dioxide emissions, the Romanian figures are showing an increasing trend after reaching their lowest level in 2010. The Hungarian emission indicators, on the other hand, have stagnated in the last years, and this trend seems to remain flat for the coming years as well.

Between 2005 and 2011 significant development of sewerage pipe networks took place in both countries. Regarding the improvement of the drinking water network, Romania outperformed Hungary. This is mainly due to the fact that the Hungarian drinking water network has already undergone significant improvements as compared to the Romanian network.

The arsenic content of well-waters in some part of Hungary is high. This issue is being addressed through a complex programme, aimed at improving drinking water quality in the concerned settlements.

In terms of energy mix, Romania consumes mainly natural gas, but the share of energy from renewable sources is also remarkably high comparing to Hungary and even to the EU28 average. In the researched Hungarian counties, though the share of natural gas is relatively high (38%), this is expected to decline – with the share of petroleum products and nuclear energy as well – in the period of 2014-2020.

Regarding the distribution of renewable energy production the proportion of biomass and renewable wastes exceeds the EU28 average in both countries. The share of hydropower is also higher in Romania than the EU28 value; however, regarding other forms of renewable energy, both countries lag behind the EU28 average.

While the eligible area is rich in thermal water, it is far from being used to its full potential for energy-generating purposes. The conditions for harvesting solar power are also above average in the eligible area – significant progress was made in this field on the Romanian side, while the Hungarian part is lagging behind. Altogether, better use of solar energy also offers an important potential.

The eligible area can expect – with some internal differences – low to medium level of negative impacts of climate change[9]. This – combined with a modest capacity to adapt to the effects of climate change results in a fairly high level of vulnerability to the effects

of climate change. More specifically, the increase of weather extremities may result in increased risks of floods, while the significant increase of mean temperature can lead to more frequent droughts; climate change may also increase phytosanitary risk factors and thus negatively affect food security.

In addition to the various environmental and climate change-related risks highlighted above, the area is also affected by various risks related to human activities (anthropogenic risks), threatening also protected areas. In some cases manufacturing processes involving hazardous materials are not combined with appropriate preventive measures and protective infrastructure also risking serious environmental disasters. Therefore, coordinated preventive actions and also disaster management protocols and infrastructure need to be in place to preferably prevent, or efficiently respond to such disaster situations.

The eligible area is rich in water resources – both surface water and groundwater. With the increasing global importance of water – if properly managed - this could be an important common asset of the area.

Infrastructure and mobility

The busiest border crossing points - considering the number of vehicles per day travelling to Hungary or Romania - are Artand-Bors, Nagylak-Nadlac and Csengersima-Petea. Vehicles passing the border crossing points are mostly small/family cars (59% towards Hungary, 60% towards Romania), trucks (40% towards Hungary, 38% towards Romania), while the share of buses or bicycles is not significant (0-1%).[10]

Improvements of transport infrastructure are in progress within the region in Romania and in Hungary alike. Both countries are planning to construct connecting motorways, although the completion date is still many years ahead. There is no north-south motorway constructions planned which would directly connect the whole region.

Poor road safety is also a problem in the border area needing attention.

There are currently five railroads that cross the Hungarian-Romanian border. The analysis suggests that further development of the railway system would be beneficial. The main problem with the railroads is the lack of electrification (solely the railway between Bekescsaba and Salonta is electrified). Because of the long travel time railway traffic is insignificant compared to the road traffic.

There are five international airports (Debrecen, Arad, Oradea, Satu Mare, Timisoara) in the eligible area - partly with scheduled flights to foreign countries. The most significant one is in Timisoara with 1,035,929 passengers in 2012. [11]

The use of transboundary rivers as transport routes is very limited – both between Romania and Hungary, and within each country – because of the conditions of the river beds.

The proportion of people crossing the border by bicycles is the least significant (cc. 1%).[12]

Tourism and leisure

Although the Hungarian counties have a larger accommodation capacity, the counties on the two sides of the border have a similar number of visitor nights spent each year.

The tourists in the eligible area are primarily of domestic origin: the share of foreign visitors is fairly low in the eligible area, much lower than the EU28, or even the Hungarian average, and barely 1% higher than the Romanian national average. [13]

This is regrettable, as the eligible area is rich in (potential) touristic attractions – mainly natural and cultural heritage sites. In order to become exciting attractions, however, many of these rundown facilities require investments aimed at their improvement, as well as the improvement of related touristic facilities, services and proper communication.

The main types of tourism in the eligible area include spa and health tourism, cultural tourism, active and sports tourism as well as rural tourism.

There is a rich offer of attractive events in the eligible area, but these are mostly neither properly coordinated (not even on national level, let alone across the border) nor professionally marketed. In the eligible area one can see many standalone propositions, but only a small number of well designed, internationally competitive cross-border (CB) programme packages and tourism destinations.

Society and health care

Similarly to the general situation of Europe, the population of the eligible area is aging; however, a minor decreasing trend is observable in Arad and Timis counties. There is no major difference in the share of people above the age of 65 as the proportion of the total population between the counties. However, having a look at the historical data, in most of the counties – with the exception of Bihor, Arad and Timis – there was a significant increase. The largest change can be seen in Csongrad (8.5%).[14]

Both in Hungary and in Romania the share of the population at risk of poverty, severely materially deprived or living in households with very low work intensity is far above the EU average. However, trends are more favourable in Romania as this ratio has been declining since 2007, while the opposite is observable in case of Hungary.

In terms of health care, there is a major difference between the conditions (facilities and staff) of the two countries that partly derives from the differences in per capita total spending, but also the low level of investments in infrastructure development in the Romanian side of the eligible area. Currently, the quality of health care services is higher in Hungary, which results in health care migration between the two countries – mainly from Romania to Hungary. This is a challenge in itself further exacerbated by the fact that mutual financing of health care services by the National Health Insurance systems is solved, even though there is a relevant EC directive in place.

1.1.1.3 Identification of the main challenges and untapped potentials

In the course of the strategic programming the main challenges and the untapped potentials (hereinafter: challenges - CH, potentials - P) are identified based on the statements of the SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats) analysis in STA – in compliance with the requirements formulated in the Aide Memoire (2014)

126651 – 21/01/2014. Main challenges and untapped potentials were identified for all 11 TOs and numbered for need on further identification as follows. In addition to that the SWOT analyses can be found in the CTS, in Annex II.

TO1 Strengthening research, technological development and innovation (RTDI)

CH1. As a result of the low level of RTDI expenditure and the lack of sectorial focus of the research activities the innovation potential of the eligible area is not used to its full potential.

P1. The universities of the eligible area have a strong academic background and RTDI capacity providing a good foundation for better utilizing research results.

TO2 Enhancing access to, and use and quality of, ICT

CH2. The ICT indicators reflect modest level of ICT development; this limits the competitiveness of the eligible area.

CH3. Social and territorial disparities of ICT development level within the eligible area reduce the competitiveness of the business sector, as well as of the population as labour force in the less developed territories.

P2. Rapid proliferation of mobile internet devices (and mobile internet) gradually eliminates major territorial differences in the access to the internet and in the benefits of using ICT.

TO3 Enhancing the competitiveness of SMEs

CH4. Sustaining administrative burdens hinder more widespread cooperation of businesses, which has a long-term negative influence on economic performance and attractiveness of the eligible area.

CH5. The technology transfer processes and the innovation potential of SMEs are weak.

CH6. Although a number of industries are present in the eligible area, the lack of sectorial focus makes the comprehensive and concentrated economic development of the whole cross-border region difficult.

P3. The 4 million population of the eligible area, including 8 large cities represent not only a potential joint market, but also a competitive labour force pool for SMEs.

P4. Local SMEs – based on their traditional (partly agricultural) quality products – could sell more of their products within the wider (cross-border) region, which is essential for the better economic performance of the eligible area.

P5. Better utilisation of the existing business infrastructure and – if necessary – building new facilities in appropriate locations in order to contribute to the stability and the interconnection of the joint economy of the eligible area.

TO4 Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors

CH7. Existing power plants are mainly outdated and rarely use renewable sources of energy, which increases the energy dependence of the eligible area.

CH8. The inadequate energy efficiency of the public infrastructure increases the dependence on energy resources and energy import of the eligible area.

P6. The eligible area has remarkable geothermal, solar, wind, hydropower, and biomass capacity offering a strong potential for increasing the currently modest share of renewable sources of energy in total energy consumption (which is much lower in the Hungarian side of the area).

TO5 Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and management

CH9. Natural disasters and civilization-origin hazards threaten localities (e.g. risk of floods threatens 376 localities including their population, businesses and agriculture which cause permanent uncertainty and material damages).

CH10. The eligible area can expect a strong increase in mean temperature in summer days, and a strong decrease in frost days; and sudden changes in precipitation during summer months, which requires higher adaptation of agriculture and other sectors.

P7. Population has growing sensibility to environmental issues, which is an important stimulating factor for climate change adaptation and risk prevention.

P8. Emergency response, disaster prevention and management rely on well-functioning organizations in both countries, with traditions in cooperation; this can be a good basis for effective future cross-border cooperation as well, extending to even more areas.

TO6 Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency

CH11. Increasing human activity in agriculture, forestry, transport, certain industrial sectors, and tourism and the increasing amount of the municipal solid waste may threaten the nature (air pollution, water pollution, biodiversity loss, etc.), which causes a reduction in quality of life.

CH12. The insufficient public transport links to the sights, the lack of the tourism infrastructure, services, and programme packages reduce the attractiveness of the eligible area and make the joint development of complementary attractions difficult.

CH13. The eligible area is rich in surface water – preserving its quantity and quality requires coordination and major resources.

P9. Joint natural assets, primarily water – if properly protected and managed – could be important common assets of the eligible area because of the increasing global importance of surface and ground-water (irrigation, energy production, drinking water, spa and health tourism).

P10. With common waste collection and management the rate of the municipal solid waste stored in landfills can be reduced and the rate of the recycled and composted waste can further increase, which results in better resource efficiency.

P11. Natural, historical and cultural heritages of the eligible area (thermal water and spas, natural protected areas, theatres, cultural institutions, castles, churches, watermills and other historical and archaeological sites) provide stable base for the higher level of cross-border/international tourism and institutions, which help to preserve the cultural heritage (cultural cradle).

TO7 Promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures

CH14. Deficiencies of the cross-border public transportation system (railway and bus) hinder the economic and labour market integration and indirectly make difficult the achievement of the CO2 reduction targets.

CH15. Problems with the density and the quality of roads with cross-border impact cause mobility inconveniences (long access time, risk of accidents, etc.) directly and economic disadvantages indirectly.

CH16. Shortcomings of the bicycle road infrastructure weaken the mobility of people living in the border area.

P12. The new border crossing points and other reconstructed or improved roads (regional or local) can multiply the mutually beneficial interactions between people and businesses living and functioning in the border region.

P13. Existing and potential new logistic centres contribute to enhancement of cross-border transport and business connections.

P14. Development of bicycle road network can contribute to increase the mobility of people and to better exploit the touristic potential of the border area.

TO8 Promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility

CH17. Due to the weak economic potential of the eligible area and to the partial lack of adequate job opportunities the selective outmigration is growing. Because of it and of the natural decrease of the population the labour force potential of the eligible area in decline, In the long run, this self-reinforcing process weakens the economic performance of the cross-border region.

CH18. Administrative obstacles, language issues, improper flow of information make cross-border labour market mobility marginal, and the development of a joint labour market more difficult.

P15. Development of joint labour market – through elimination of institutional and administrative obstacles – can reduce the intraregional and cross-border differences in employment levels and can raise the activity and employment rate and mitigate structural problems in the labour market in the whole eligible area.

P16. Improving the infrastructure conditions for enterprises in the eligible area can increase their competitiveness, which can result in higher employment rate.

TO9 Promoting social inclusion, combating poverty and any discrimination

CH19. Inequalities in health- and social care infrastructure (together with various other factors) and services contribute to, worse health status on the Romanian side of the border and also to patient migration from Romania to Hungarian hospitals.

CH20. Failure to create proper administrative conditions for cross-border health care financing may lead to the increase of semi-legal or illegal practices and hinders the evolution of a consistent cross-border health care system

CH21. High proportion of people at risk of poverty (15-25%) and of population living in poor areas (17.4%) in the eligible area leads to increasing risk of irreversible socio-economic marginalization of the concerned social groups and areas (struggling economy, underdeveloped infrastructure and services, compromised accessibility, low income of people, social problems, often high proportion of extremely poor Roma communities, strong outmigration).

P17. Based on the existing cross-border cooperation between the hospitals of the eligible area, which are particularly effective when using soft measures, the health care infrastructure and services can be better harmonized to address the needs of potential patients, ensure efficient use of capacities and to improve health care indicators as life quality factors directly and as employment factors indirectly.

P18. The improvement of the general living condition of people living in deprived rural areas and in segregated urban communities contributes to the social stability of the eligible area.

TO10 Investing in education, training and vocational training for skills and lifelong learning by developing education and training infrastructure

CH22. The high number of early school leavers and the inadequate cooperation between the education system and the business sectors potentially increase the gap between demand and supply in the labour market of the eligible region.

P19. The strong pool of higher education institutions with (partly) complementary training offer ensures a constant supply of highly educated workforce in the eligible area which increases attractiveness of the eligible region for investors.

TO11 Enhancing institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders and efficient public administration

CH23. Administrative and institutional burden and language barriers reduce the possibility to create regular connection and sustainable cooperation between institutions (e.g. labour market and emergency response institutions) and communities of the eligible area.

CH24. Many of the existing institutional co-operations are one-off, project-based initiatives with limited sustainability partly because of the restricted financial capacity of the partners.

P20. Long-standing traditions and positive examples of small-scale collaborations between institutions, municipalities, business entities and civil organisations provide a basis for more intensive, more frequent and closer cross-border relations due to the joint outputs of the cooperation (e.g. joint protocols and teams in various fields) directly and to the strengthening confidence indirectly.

P21. Cross-border cooperation, joint use of capacities by neighbouring communities can improve their resilience and contribute to the quality of life of their residents.

1.1.1.4 Establishment of the ranking of the identified challenges and potentials

After defining the most important challenges and potentials, they have been examined and evaluated to identify those ones, which potentially can be addressed in the framework of the Interreg V-A Romania-Hungary.

In categorising the challenges and potentials and for reasonable narrowing of the list the following criteria have been taken into consideration:

- coherence with goals of the EU 2020 strategy objectives and targets and also with the relevant regulations,
- cross-border character of the issue (e.g. cross-border impact, level of current cooperation),
- relevance and justification of the challenges and potentials,
- issues of implementation (e.g. time horizon, funding needs),
- complementary character and synergy with mainstream programmes and macro-regional strategies (MRS).

Based on the criteria mentioned above, the challenges and potentials have been classified into three main categories.

The first category contains the challenges and potentials, i) which have strong cross-border character; ii) addressing them can bring about major benefits for the eligible area and contribute to the strengthening and extending future cooperation; iii) show strong coherence with the EU-targets:

- protection, development and sustainable use of natural and cultural heritages (CH12, P10),
- improving conditions of sustainable mobility (CH14, CH15, CH16, P12, P13, P14),
- creating a joint labour market and economic area (CH4, CH5, CH6, CH18, P3, P4, P5, P15, P16, P18).

The second category incorporates challenges and potentials that are important for the eligible area, but have less pronounced cross-border character, addressing them offers slightly weaker socio-economic advantages or have weaker coherence with EU-targets:

- climate change adaptation (CH9, CH10, P7, P8) – though the problem of climate change is extremely complex, addressing it is very resource-intensive, some of its elements can best be addressed in a cross-border context;
- cross-border water protection and management (P9, CH13),
- nature protection (CH11),
- harmonization of health care infrastructure and services (CH19, CH20, P17),
- reducing the number of people at risk of structural poverty and of population living in poor areas (CH21),
- enhancing institutional and civil cooperation (CH22, CH23, CH24, P19, P20, P21).

The elements of the third category are significant, but for several reasons indicated below, they are not proposed to be addressed in framework of the current strategy:

- strengthening cross-border RTDI activities (CH1, P1)
- improvement of ICT infrastructure and services (CH2, CH3, P2) – while important, these challenges are properly addressed by commercial operators; besides, for regulatory reasons this area can be better addressed on national level;
- increasing the share of renewable sources of energy, in total energy consumption and improving energy efficiency (CH7, CH8, P6) – on the one hand, this objective is supported from mainstream programmes in both countries, and on the other hand it would have limited cross-border effects.
- common waste collection and management (P10) – in addition to the significant funding needs of this issue, i) it can generate disapproval among the population, who can interpret this as “waste import” ii) the joint treatment of solid waste has significant regulatory obstacles.

1.1.1.5 Main findings from the programme 2007-2013

In the frame of the HURO CBC Programme 2007-2013 several different types of interventions have been supported. The experiences gained from these interventions can provide important inputs to the design of the 2014-2020 programming period.

Between 2007-2013 the following 8 key areas of intervention were covered correlating with the respective actions of the operational programme:

1.1 Improvement of cross-border transport facilities

1.2 Improvement of cross-border communication

1.3 Protection of the environment

2.1 Support for cross-border business cooperation (including 2.1.3 Development of tourism: tourism attractions and infrastructure[15])

2.2 Promotion of co-operation in the field of R&D and innovation

2.3 Cooperation in the labour market and education – joint development of skills and knowledge

2.4 Health care and prevention of common threats

2.5 Cooperation between communities

The on-going evaluation of the HURO CBC Programme revealed several different factors of programme implementation by providing useful experiences for the Programme 2014-2020. The 8 key areas of intervention and the large number of project categories unfortunately have resulted in the Programme becoming less focused, and as such the interventions could not reach in certain areas the initially envisioned critical mass. The Programme has concentrated on infrastructure developments, 78% of the total budget being allocated to this type of projects. However, the programming period 2007-2013 had limited focus on interventions that promote and enable the actual utilisation of

the facilities created. Key lessons of HURO Programme 2007-2013 are presented as follows:

1.1 Improvement of cross-border transport facilities

- Almost one-third of the funds supported CB Transport infrastructure development. However, no resources remained to enhance the traditional mobility (e.g. public transport, multimodal logistic solution);
- The project selection was carried out on entirely competitive basis, led by applicant's activity. Thus, in most cases there is modest strategic focus and integrated approach present in the projects;
- The Programme has financed 14 cross-border transport infrastructure projects (roads and bicycle roads), of which 2 bicycle roads are fully operational as they cross the border at already existing border crossing points and 12 (10 roads and 2 bicycle roads) are included in the bilateral agreement signed on 24 July, 2014, ensuring the framework for the border crossing points to be functional occasionally, with the prior agreement of the competent authorities, until Romania enters the Schengen zone. To this day, the bilateral agreement has only been triggered very occasionally. It has not been foreseen to permit regular passage until Romania enters the Schengen zone. Nonetheless, the signed bilateral agreement does not restrict the number or duration of occasional openings for the BCPs; they can be opened upon request submitted to the relevant authorities by also specifying the duration.

During the period 2007-2013, the MA and NA, in the chapter 2.4. of the Annual Implementation Report, approved by the JMC, continuously informed the Commission about the bottlenecks and steps taken from 2009 on.

- Not only the road infrastructure development but also the cycle path infrastructure developments aim to improve the tourism potential, health- and living conditions and the labour market of the area, besides improvement of accessibility.

1.2 Improvement of cross-border communication

- Limited interest of potential beneficiaries;
- Several projects are driven by existing local needs rather than real cross-border needs;
- As this intervention was based on an open, bottom-up approach, without strong strategic coordination, the projects have had a very limited impact on the eligible area.

1.3 Protection of the environment

- High relevance due to the cross-border nature of the key issues;
- Water and waste management projects implemented in the immediate proximity of the border have a clear cross-border nature, while the ones more remote from the border have served rather local needs;
- Projects supporting studies and plans foster a common approach for problems affecting both side of the border. Several projects expect resources from the next programming period and without further support will not be implemented due to the lack of resources;

- Different legal environment in RO and HU made joint waste management projects difficult to be elaborated, and even more difficult to be implemented.

2.1 Support for cross-border business cooperation

- In some cases the business facilities established rather serve local needs, with limited cross-border impact;
- The soft activities (trainings, conferences, exhibitions) have a comprehensive nature besides the infrastructural element with stronger cross-border character;
- The long-term utilisation of some business infrastructure facilities may be difficult;
- Most of the cooperation projects were unable to mobilise SMEs as they could not offer sufficient direct benefits to them;
- Lack of sectorial focus on key sectors of the region led to limited impact.

Development of tourism: tourism attractions and infrastructure

- Many projects had solely focused on infrastructure development, without relying on a joint thematic concept common strategy resulting in limited impact and cross-border character.
- Typically, the thematic routes possess a high CB character, as these projects create well established connections among the attractions from both sides of the border;
- In case of promotion activities, projects introducing a joint brand, theme and / or focusing on common target groups could reach a higher impact;
- Several of the promotion activities could not reach a critical mass; therefore, had a lower visibility and could achieve a limited impact.

2.2 Promotion of co-operation in the field of R&D and innovation

- Majority of the beneficiaries are universities;
- Support to research centre development projects have had overlaps with mainstream programmes;
- Lack of sectorial/thematic focus in the support of R&D projects has resulted in limited impacts while making the evaluation process more demanding from professional point of view;
- Several of the R&D projects are rather opportunity-driven and have had a limited real cross-border character; in addition, they have also failed to create new workplaces.

2.3 Cooperation in the labour market and education

- The open character of the call invited several small non-governmental organizations (NGOs) with limited outreach to apply;
- In most cases the key employers of the area have not been involved or at least consulted;
- The relatively high number of fragmented small projects has not been able to elicit a significant labour market impact;
- Many higher education projects involving joint training, joint doctoral programmes and introduction of joint curriculum have adequate cross-border character;

- The cooperation of primary and secondary schools – aimed at joint activities of students – are important as they bring people together at an early age, and thus have a strong cross-border character;
- Considering the small size of projects of primary and secondary education, in most cases the application and implementation procedures created an disproportionate administrative burden;
- Overall, this intervention can actually strengthen the real cooperation of educational institutions.

2.4 Health care and prevention of common threat

- There is a need for health care infrastructure developments in the region; however, this could be supported from mainstream Programmes as well;
- The soft activities (e.g. knowledge transfer, surgery with a joint team) possess a high CB character;
- There is a high need for cross-border health care services in the region. However, there are still questions regarding the regulatory environment, consistency with the national health care strategies and the transparency of the joint treatments.

2.5 Cooperation between communities

- The cooperation between communities in the border area has a strong CB dimension. Contrary, the sustainability of these projects is low compared to the other interventions. On the other hand, they create and could maintain long-lasting relationship between communities in the border region.
- From an administrative point of view the application and implementation procedures are rather complicated for the beneficiaries, especially when considering the small grant amounts.
- Overall, this type of intervention requires small amount from the Programme's budget, and significantly increases the visibility of the Programme.

1.1.1.6 Vision – the results towards which the programme is expected to contribute

The long-term vision of the eligible area is the result of statistical analysis, the review of strategic documents, as well as various consultations delivered during the planning process (including personal interviews and county level workshops, as well as a series of joint cross-border thematic workshops).

Major changes in regional development require longer period to take place than the 7-year financial programming cycle approach used in planning EU funds. It means that the longer-term impacts of interventions implemented in the 2014-2020 period definitely cannot be experienced by 2022, date until which all operations financed need to be concluded. Thus 2030 was selected as the target date for the vision.

This long-term vision provides the basis for the strategy behind the Cooperation Programme.

Overall vision

In 2030, the eligible area is a functional European cross-border region, where there is a strong integration in many of the most important areas. Romania is member of the Schengen zone, thus there are no real physical barriers remained in the way of cooperation, borders can be crossed without being stopped for control purposes. Cooperation across the borders is not only possible, but it is also simple: there is no additional administrative burden for people businesses and institutions are working together across the border. In fact, cooperation is an integral and natural part of the daily life of the people living here. Below the overall vision is broken down into its key elements.

a) Conditions of mobility in place, with an increasing role of sustainable forms of transport

Mobility is a key condition of cross-border cooperation. We foresee an integrated and harmonized multimodal transport network – both passenger and freight (e.g. Ro-La, airport-based multimodal hubs) in place in the eligible border area. The county seats are connected with high-speed roads and also with properly functioning, rapid railway connections that enable people and also goods to move quickly within the area.

There is also network of interconnected international and national airports, with quick access from across the region, with harmonized operation – destinations and timetables. The immediate proximity of the border is characterized by increased density of cross-border road connections between small neighbouring settlements. Together with a well-functioning, quality public transport system (bus and railway) operating across the border, and also a good network of bicycle connections, this facilitates daily relations between communities living in the proximity of the border.

b) The environment is of good quality, the negative effects of climate change are minimized

Although there are many cross-border rivers and streams, risks of floods alongside the rivers is limited, jointly run early warning system operates and the protection is organized and coordinated; cross border water management is adapted to the effects of climate change and the resulting weather extremities. The joint surface and underground water base is clean and well protected against pollution, in case of emergencies joint, coordinated interventions take place.

The natural values – including protected areas, NATURA 2000 sites – are in good conditions, attracting visitors from both the eligible area and also from outside of it. In the border area the quantity of landfills is reduced, increasing part of waste is reused in energy generation. Biomass and geothermal potentials are also utilized jointly, in a coordinated manner, the latter for both energy generation and touristic purposes.

c) Cooperating businesses use the potentials offered by a larger market

Business cooperation offers an important potential for the area. Joint business infrastructure facilities host businesses from both countries (business incubators, industrial parks, business centres, etc.). With the increased mobility and reduced administrative barriers there is an increasing number of well-functioning Romanian-Hungarian joint ventures, capitalizing on common opportunities. In addition to joint ventures, cross-border supply networks and clusters also operate in a number of key areas.

Joint business-to-business (B2B) markets operate to better serve the border area with local products (mainly agriculture, food), providing both physical and electronic marketplace for producers – thus extending markets and outcompeting products from outside the eligible area.

Businesses in the area work closely with the universities and research centres also across the border on joint development products, driven by the real needs of the enterprises. The cooperation of businesses and innovation solutions are supported by cross-border business support network efficiently operating.

d) More jobs and increased cross-border labour mobility in an integrated cross-border labour market

A genuinely integrated labour market can more efficiently cope with structural issues and fluctuations in the labour market. Therefore it is foreseen that there is a free flow of labour force across the border to flexibly respond to the needs of businesses.

To facilitate this, labour services operate in a coordinated manner to harmonize supply and demand in the CB labour market. Employment from across the border is easy, simple and quick, without any additional administrative requirement, hands-on assistance is available in the labour offices across the entire eligible area. To better serve the integrated labour market the higher education facilities and vocational schools have complementary training offer and run joint degree programmes responding to the needs of local businesses.

e) The health care and emergency capacities – facilities and services – are used and developed in a coordinated manner

One of the key potentials of cross-border cooperation is the coordinated use and development of various facilities and services. Health care and emergency response are typically such services – proper coordination can result in increased efficiency and higher quality of services. To facilitate proper cooperation, there are working standards of cross-border health service financing in place between the two countries.

Good quality basic health care services is in place and accessible across the entire eligible area, while the development and use of specialized infrastructure (large capacity, expensive medical machines) of hospitals are coordinated, also taking into account the needs of patients across the border.

The basic health care protocols are standardized and comparable also across the border, and there are cross-border telemedical systems in place to address special cases to facilitate quick exchange of information and experience.

In addition, there is a harmonized emergency response and ambulance system in the eligible area – especially in the close proximity of the border to quickly and effectively tackle emergency situations, accidents.

f) The eligible area is a joint, integrated tourism destination

The eligible area is rich in cultural and touristic values, historic building and traditions. These values / attractions are properly maintained and combined into a joint destination instead of being stand-alone attractions. There is a strong cross-border tourism based on

these values, and the mutual visits to each other's attractions contributes to further strengthening trust and establishing stronger relations.

The tourism offer of the eligible area is integrated into a joint portfolio, which – also as a result of the coordinated promotion – is competitive also on international level. Thus the eligible area is an important joint destination of international tourism – visitors arriving to Hungary extend their visit to the Romanian side of the border and vice versa.

g) Cooperation is integral part of daily life, especially in communities in the immediate neighbourhood of the border

Communities in the eligible area share and develop in a coordinated way their facilities, infrastructure and capacities in order to ensure maximum efficiency and to avoid wasteful parallel capacities.

Cooperation, joint cultural, educational and sports programmes are natural part of everyday life already from an early age – this approach strengthens trust among people and communities become more open to each other.

1.1.1.7 Strategy of the cooperation programme

Based on the detailed analysis of the eligible border area, the identification and categorisation of the most important joint challenges and potentials, on the long-term vision of the area, as well as on the results of extensive consultations with the stakeholders carried out, a coherent strategy has been devised.

Further strengthening relations and improving cross-border mobility are in the heart of this strategy as key conditions of cooperation-based integrated development of the eligible border area. Without easy and quick access across the border, joint actions to address key challenges and making use of the common potentials are almost impossible.

Building on cooperation and gradually improving mobility, there are four (interdependent) main challenges (some of which – if addressed properly – may turn into valuable potentials in the long run) the eligible area intends to address with joint solutions:

1. Increasing employment, enabling joint economic growth through better and more coordinated use of the labour force in the area based on the potentials of the eligible area;
2. Enhancing disaster resilience, facilitating rapid and coordinated response to emergency situations based on the harmonized development and coordinated use of existing capacities
3. The protection of joint values and resources, using them as attractions, building common thematic routes around, and developing mutually advantageous common tourism;
4. Addressing jointly the challenges of deprived areas – rural and urban - and health care challenges to provide better services across the entire area, using the existing resources more efficiently and eliminating major inequalities in service provision.

The strategy enables stakeholders in the selected priority areas to address common challenges and exploit common potentials through various types of joint initiatives, joint projects and joint actions. In addition, it will also contribute to establishing joint groupings, platforms, networks, strengthening existing ones and facilitating the cross-border exchange of good practices of all kinds.

The proposed strategy can be implemented through a pool of 6 thematic objectives (TO) with 8 investment priorities (Ip). These have been selected and agreed upon and reflect the consensus of the JWG, and will be implemented through 6 priority axes (PA) with 8 corresponding Ip-s. Out of the 6 TOs selected, 4 represent the focus areas of the programme, concentrating the majority (over 80%) of the funds available. This is a combination of interventions that can serve as a solid basis for a joint programme enabling the concentrated use of limited resources.

1.1.1.8 Linkage and synergy effects

One of the key characteristics of a good strategy is coherence, which is ensured, on the one hand, through consistent adherence to TOs and Ips during the whole strategy development process from the SWOT analysis through the identification of strategic objectives to the definition of proposed activities.

On the other hand, the Programme is also expected to facilitate synergies between the proposed new interventions and already completed projects (e.g. funded from previous HURO CBC Programme or other instruments).

In addition to the coherence with the TOs and Ip-s, priority axes are also expected to reflect the ETC-specific country recommendations of the Commission. The internal and external coherence of the programme have been thoroughly analysed and presented in Chapter 4.3. of the CTS (Annex II.)

During the elaboration of the Partnership Agreement of Hungary for the period 2014-2020, also the ETC was taken into consideration when a comprehensive synergy and coherence study was carried out. Overall, it can be stated that the ETC Programmes always have a complementary character compared to the sectorial and regional Programmes, with a strong focus on cross-border needs and potentials.

As to the Partnership Agreement of Romania for 2014-2020, ETC Programmes are considered particularly important both from political and economic point of view, focusing on common priorities within specific territories, thus bringing added value to reaching a balanced regional development at the EU level. The cooperation programmes (CP) have a significant contribution towards targeting the territorial integration in cross-border and transnational areas, which represents one of the territorial challenges of Romania. The agreement on the areas to be financed under these programmes follows the decision-making procedure specific to the ETC objective, aiming for a better coordination between the **European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF)**, especially in case of the regional programmes and other EU financing instruments, in order to create and exploit synergies, at all levels of cooperation.

1.1.1.9 Contribution to the union strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth

The Programme is one of the instruments for the implementation of the EU cohesion policy. With this policy the EU pursues harmonious development across the Union by strengthening its economic, social and territorial cohesion to stimulate growth in the EU regions and participating countries.

The policy aims to reduce existing disparities between EU regions in terms of their economic and social development and environmental sustainability, taking into account their specific territorial features and opportunities. In terms of socioeconomic development, programmes must take into account the consequences of the economic crisis that changed the situation for many economic operators, for the population and for local and regional public bodies confronted to tighter budget constraints.

From a strategic point of view, the general orientations for the coming years have been set up in the EU 2020 strategy aiming to turn the EU into a smart, sustainable and inclusive economy delivering high levels of employment, productivity and social cohesion.

The EU 2020 strategy, together with the Territorial Agenda 2020, which connects smart, sustainable and inclusive growth to territorial cohesion, provides the overall strategic framework for EU cohesion policy 2014-2020 and as such for the MED programme.

The regulatory framework for the Programme is provided by the regulations for cohesion policy 2014-2020. These are accompanied by a Common Strategic Framework (CSF) setting out key actions to address EU priorities and giving guidance to ensure coordination between funds.

The Interreg V-A Romania-Hungary programme is intended to make a meaningful contribution to **all the three key priorities of the EU 2020 strategy** through its integrated set of priorities selected by the stakeholders addressing common territorial challenges.

Priority axis (PA) 2 (Improve sustainable cross-border mobility and remove bottlenecks) and *PA 3* (Improve employment and promote cross-border labour market) make a contribution towards **smart growth**. Interventions envisaged under PA 2 are aimed at eliminating the physical barriers through improving accessibility – thus removing – or at least mitigating – an important obstacle of also cross-border business-to-business cooperation. In addition, PA 3 is aimed at the integrated and employment-friendly growth in the eligible area through interventions relying on the endogenous potential of the area.

PA 1 (Joint protection and efficient use of common values and resources) and *PA 5* (Improve risk-prevention and disaster management) – and to a certain extent *PA 2* (Improve sustainable cross-border mobility and remove bottlenecks) contribute to **sustainable growth**. Interventions under PA 1 are aimed at the protection, rehabilitation and sustainable use of key natural and cultural resources of the eligible area, thus ensuring resource efficiency and the better use of existing assets. PA 5 improves the climate change resilience of the area through ensuring better and more efficient prevention of risks, and also better disaster management. PA 2 promotes reduced CO₂ emissions through fostering less polluting forms of cross-border transport.

PA 4 (Improving health-care services) contributes toward **inclusive growth**. Interventions aimed at the development of health-care facilities and services mainly in hospitals improve accessibility of better health-care services for all.

PA 6 (Promoting cross-border cooperation between institutions and citizens) is a horizontal priority aimed at strengthening relations and improving the efficiency of institutional cooperation, thus making a contribution to all three priorities of the EU 2020 strategy.

Regarding EUSDR, Romania and Hungary are particularly active in the coordination of the following PAs related to the Programme, which will be capitalized on during the implementation:

- The Priority Area 1B of the EUSDR "To improve mobility and intermodality - rail, road and air"
- The Priority Area 3 "To promote culture and tourism, people to people contacts";
- The Priority Area 4 "To restore and maintain the quality of waters"
- The Priority Area 5 "To manage environmental risks"

A regulated cooperation between EUSDR actors and the MC could facilitate the generation of those projects that would contribute to the implementation of the EUSDR in a tangible way.

The Programme area is part of the Danube region; therefore, in the EUSDR context, projects in line with the Partnership Agreements of both countries can be supported.

[1] Source: Central Statistical Office, Hungary

[2] Source: National Statistical Institute, Romania

[3] Source: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database>

[4] Idem No.2.

[5] Idem No.1.

[6] Source: ESPON Factsheet Hungary-Romania, ESPON Project TERREVI, 28 November 2012

[7] Idem No.1.

[8] Source: Ministry of Employment and Social Protection, the National Agency of Employment, Romania

[9] Source: ESPON Factsheet Hungary-Romania, ESPON Project TERREVI, 28 November 2012

[10] Source: Feasibility study and impact analysis of cross-border road and railway sections along the Hungarian-Romanian border. Hungarian Transport Administration, Project number: KOZOP-3.5.0-09-11-2011-0009

[11] Source: <http://newsair.ro/declinul-carpatair-a-lovit-direct-in-traficul-aeroportului-timisoara.html>

[12] Idem No.10.

[13] Source: Eurostat, EU28; National Statistical Institute, Romania; Central Statistical Office, Hungary

[14] Source: Eurostat

[15] Although tourism is a project category of the KAI 2.1 Support for cross-border business cooperation, it is handled as a thematic area because of its importance.

1.1.2 Justification for the choice of thematic objectives and corresponding investment priorities, having regard to the Common Strategic Framework, based on an analysis of the needs within the programme area as a whole and the strategy chosen in response to such needs, addressing, where appropriate, missing links in cross-border infrastructure, taking into account the results of the ex-ante evaluation

Table 1: Justification for the selection of thematic objectives and investment priorities

Selected thematic objective	Selected investment priority	Justification for selection
05 - Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and management	5b - Promoting investment to address specific risks, ensuring disaster resilience and developing disaster management systems	In the eligible area, various natural hazards carry a significant risk of disasters, sudden emergency situations, potentially having a great impact on the human population, property and environment. The most significant risk factors are floods, excess inland water, landslides and earthquakes. The flood vulnerability of the counties of the eligible area is very high both in national and in international comparison. Man-made disaster risks (industrial, environmental, water pollution, transport accidents) are also present, requiring effective joint actions. The need for cooperation and joint interventions in the field has also been expressed by the local level repeatedly. As risks and emergency situations do not stop at the state border, they can be best dealt with in a coordinated manner, relying on the joint emergency response capacities of the two countries. Consequently, there is a need to increase the joint capacity to safeguard and support

Selected thematic objective	Selected investment priority	Justification for selection
		the population on both sides of the border.
06 - Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency	6b - Investing in the water sector to meet the requirements of the Union's environmental acquis and to address needs, identified by the Member States, for investment that goes beyond those requirements	<p>The eligible area is rich in rivers, many of which cross the state border. While 65% of rivers, streams or lakes in the past 10 years showed improved quality, 35% still have shown a negative trend. The most vulnerable areas are the Ier Valley / Cris river area. Effective protection and efficient management of the joint water base can only be ensured through joint and properly coordinated interventions.</p> <p>Public funding is necessary to implement such measures, but the mainstream operational programmes do not finance joint interventions.</p>
06 - Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency	6c - Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage	<p>The eligible border area has many unique, joint heritages, natural and cultural values. These include nature protection areas, historic monuments, buildings with special architectural values, thermal water, and intangible cultural values. Many of these values are in poor condition – need rehabilitation, improvement, or are deteriorated beyond repair.</p> <p>Some of them have already been rehabilitated –long-term, sustainable use of individual attractions is still problematic. As these values represent the joint heritage of the CB area, their rehabilitation and also sustainable use need to be ensured based on joint strategies of coordinated development and promotion. While individually they may not attract high number of visitors, if they are developed, and arranged in thematic routes, managed in a coordinated manner, they can become attractive for visitors from inside and also from outside the eligible area.</p> <p>Safeguarding natural values in the area also contribute to climate change mitigation.</p>

Selected thematic objective	Selected investment priority	Justification for selection
<p>07 - Promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures</p>	<p>7b - Enhancing regional mobility by connecting secondary and tertiary nodes to TEN-T infrastructure, including multimodal nodes</p>	<p>RO and HU share a 450 km long borderline, currently with 10 road and 5 railroad border-crossing points and 10 additional border crossing roads completed/being built[1]. Access times – mainly across the border – are still too long, limiting CB mobility: access of TEN-T from peripheral settlements is complicated, time-consuming.</p> <p>Connections between large cities (county&micro regional centres), the availability of TEN-T networks show major deficiencies; as consequence, the current level of CB traffic is fairly limited.</p> <p>These constraints limit the use of joint potential offered by the location of the area. With a small number of crucial links, accessibility and road safety may be improved.</p> <p>[1] See “Agreement between the Romanian and Hungarian Governments on road links crossing the Romanian-Hungarian state border”, signed in Bucharest on 24.07.2014.</p> <p>The map of existing and future BCPs is available in Annex XI.</p>
<p>07 - Promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures</p>	<p>7c - Developing and improving environmentally-friendly (including low noise) and low-carbon transport systems, including inland waterways and maritime transport, ports, multimodal links and airport infrastructure, in order to promote sustainable regional and local mobility</p>	<p>Proper mobility is an important condition of CB cooperation, while the shift towards more sustainable forms of transport is necessary to meet the EU2020 climate change objective, contributing to climate change mitigation by reducing the GHG emissions. The majority of cross-border transport uses the most polluting forms of transport – passenger cars and trucks. CB road public transport is provided on a limited scale mainly by private enterprises.</p> <p>While CB cycle paths connect nearby communities (and contribute to improving the tourism potential) in 2011 bicycles represented only a negligible part of the</p>

Selected thematic objective	Selected investment priority	Justification for selection
		<p>total traffic.</p> <p>CB passenger and freight railway transport play a minor role in the area: the number of passengers of the 5 railway lines and the 18 pairs of trains is low, access times between major cities are high.</p> <p>While several airports exist, including major ones with international traffic (Timisoara, Debrecen), cross-border use is rare as they are not part of a CB multimodal system.</p>
08 - Promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility	8b - Supporting employment-friendly growth through the development of endogenous potential as part of a territorial strategy for specific areas, including the conversion of declining industrial regions and enhancement of accessibility to, and development of, specific natural and cultural resources	<p>The eligible area is mainly rural with a few important large cities and a number of smaller cities. The majority of the population, the economic performance and the services concentrate in the bigger cities.</p> <p>Despite this duality, the low employment rate is an overall problem in almost all parts of the eligible area: (even if the data show major intraregional differences). The economically active population decreased since 2001. The share of active population within total population shows a lower number for all counties than the EU average. The unemployment is also high in the significant part of the region.</p> <p>Challenges include low level of job creation, underuse of economic potential, inadequate cross-border mobility. These challenges may be best addressed through integrated actions aimed at inclusive growth and employment, relying on the endogenous potential of specific territories.</p>
09 - Promoting social inclusion, combating poverty and any discrimination	9a - Investing in health and social infrastructure which contributes to national, regional and local development, reducing inequalities in terms of health status, promoting social inclusion through	Acceptable level of services in health care is a key precondition of balanced development. There are more than 70 hospitals in the eligible area, many struggling with deficiencies in infrastructure and also with obsolete equipment. The condition and the level of equipment of health care facilities in

Selected thematic objective	Selected investment priority	Justification for selection
	improved access to social, cultural and recreational services and the transition from institutional to community-based services	<p>Hungary is better than in Romania. The differences in service quality lead to “health care migration”: Romanian residents travel to Hungary to use health care services. Patient migration is the sign of free movement of services, however it causes financial and service provision tensions. It is crucial in the long run to provide acceptable level of service across the entire area and to coordinate health-care investments. Exchange of knowledge and building on each other’s experience is also important.</p> <p>Access to specialised health and social services is limited for disadvantaged groups in rural settlements; prevention, health status screening rate are not satisfactory.</p>
11 - Enhancing institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders and an efficient public administration	11b - Promoting legal and administrative cooperation and cooperation between citizens and institutions (ETC-CB)	<p>There are “soft” bottlenecks (differences in the regulatory framework, excessive administrative burden, lack of services related to cross-border activities, differing protocols of institutions, in certain cases slow information flow between regional and local public administration) that reduce the effectiveness of cooperation.</p> <p>Social and cultural links also give a strong basis for building joint social capital in the involved communities.</p> <p>Cooperation initiatives for institutions and citizens, bringing institutions and communities closer to each other play a crucial role in this process. The value of these initiatives is present in making them communicate and carry out actions together, intensifying cooperation and making it a natural part of everyday life and increasing the visibility of the Programme.</p>

1.2 Justification for the financial allocation

Justification for the financial allocation (i.e. Union support) to each thematic objective and, where appropriate, investment priority, in accordance with the thematic concentration requirements, taking into account the ex-ante evaluation.

The objective of the financial allocation is to enable the effective delivery of the Programme's results through devoting the necessary financial resources to each Priority Axis. The Programme is co-financed by the ERDF. The overall ERDF allocation of the Programme is EUR 189,138,672.00. When calculating the financial allocation, the starting points were the expected results and the outputs to be produced in order to deliver those results. During its preparation, the estimated number and size of flagship projects and the ones of projects to be launched in an open Call for Proposals [CfP] under each PA were envisaged.

The financial allocation to the chosen TOs reflects:

- The estimated financial size of the actions foreseen in each PA;
- The coherence with the funding priorities as in the EC Country Position Papers;
- The inputs provided by relevant partners during consultations;
- The inputs provided by the JWG as responsible for the preparation of the programme;
- The experiences of the implementation of the 2007-2013 programme;
- The estimation based on flagship project ideas, (in line with the "*Aide Memoire on the strategy, management, financial & control arrangements*" of ETC programmes);
- Inputs from the ex-ante evaluation.

Taking into account the various factors presented above a financial allocation has been developed that reflects the most important challenges and potentials of the area and enables the efficient delivery of the foreseen results.

PA 1 (Cooperating on natural and cultural resources) is aimed at the protection and sustainable use of common values and resources – the importance of this area is clearly reflected in the fact that as much as 21.80% of all financial resources have been allocated to this priority. The eligible area is rich in surface and ground waters, including many rivers crossing the border. Water is truly a joint resource – its effective protection and sustainable use can only be ensured through harmonized actions implemented in close cooperation of the relevant stakeholders from both sides of the border. 5.68% of the total allocation has been dedicated to interventions aimed at water quality protection (and related preventive measures), contributing to **Ip 6/b**.

The natural, built and cultural values of the eligible area also provide an important potential – but equally, their protection and sustainable use is also a major challenge. As they represent the joint heritage of the area, they can be more efficiently developed and used in a coordinated manner. The necessary interventions have major infrastructure development elements to rehabilitate and protect these values, and also soft elements to ensure their sustainable use – 16.12% of the total allocation has been dedicated to these interventions contributing to **Ip 6/c**.

Mobility is a basic pre-condition of any cross-border cooperation initiative, therefore cooperating on accessibility is also an important element of the programme, aimed at

improving sustainable cross-border mobility and removing the most important bottlenecks – altogether 15.73% is dedicated for this priority (**PA 2**). A slightly smaller part of this amount (7.36% of the total allocation) is dedicated to a small number of key road development interventions eliminating bottlenecks and contributing to **Ip 7/b**, while the bigger share (8.37% of the total allocation) is dedicated to interventions facilitating a gradual shift towards more sustainable (low carbon, low noise) forms of transport, contributing to the **Ip 7/c**.

PA 3 (Cooperating on employment) is aimed at improving employment and promoting cross-border labour market. Increasing employment is of high priority in the eligible area – as much as 24.75% of the total budget is allocated for creating better conditions for employment-oriented growth. A small number of territory-based programmes are foreseen, based on the endogenous potentials of the selected specific territories. The interventions will contribute to the creation of the infrastructural conditions of economic development based on the unique cross-border location of the region, and they will also include soft elements to facilitate the use of these infrastructures. The interventions will be implemented in the frame of **Ip 8/b**.

PA 4 has a strong focus health-care and prevention in the eligible area, in order to improve the health status living in the area through ensuring a proper level of service across the entire area, also for the disadvantaged groups. Funds will be concentrated to institutions, departments and units where the biggest problems are present, and the developments of health-care institutions will be harmonized through the eligible area to facilitate the efficient use of capacities. Development of infrastructure, improving obsolete equipment and soft elements ensuring the exchange of experience, knowledge and information will be part of the interventions. 25.63% of the total allocation is dedicated to this PA within **Ip 9/a**.

Priority axes 1, 2, 3 and 4 represent the prime focus of the programme, altogether using 87.91% of the total ERDF budget available. The remainder of funding is used for two more complementary priority axes and technical assistance.

Even without the negative effects of climate change, disaster management and risk management activities is of key importance – they cannot be effectively delivered in the border area without harmonizing capacities, protocols, actions. The likely negative effects of weather extremities as a result of climate change further increases the importance the coordinated actions on disaster and risk management bodies. That requires up-to-date equipment, rapid communication and rapid (joint) reaction in case of disaster situations. Strong foundations are in place, but further important steps are foreseen – as part of **PA 5**, 4.29% of the total allocation is dedicated to risk and disaster management interventions, contributing to **Ip 5/b**.

PA 6 incorporates other important complementary interventions: institutional cooperation establish the foundations of cooperation initiatives in other areas, while communities' cooperation contribute to mutual deepening and enriching cross-border relations. Even with a modest allocation of 1.80%, these interventions are expected to contribute to the creation of a more enabling cooperation environment.

Finally, 6% of the total allocation is dedicated to cover **TA** expenses to facilitate smooth programme implementation.

Table 2: Overview of the investment strategy of the cooperation programme

Priority axis	ERDF support (€)	Proportion (%) of the total Union support for the cooperation programme (by Fund)			Thematic objective / Investment priority / Specific objective	Result indicators corresponding to the specific indicator
		ERDF	ENI (where applicable)	IPA (where applicable)		
PA1	41,227,417.00	21.80%	0.00%	0.00%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▼ 06 - Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▼ 6b - Investing in the water sector to meet the requirements of the Union's environmental acquis and to address needs, identified by the Member States, for investment that goes beyond those requirements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▼ SO6/b - Improved quality management of cross-border rivers and ground water bodies ▼ 6c - Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▼ SO6/c - Sustainable use of natural, historic, and cultural heritage within the eligible area 	[R 6/b, R 6/c]
PA2	29,746,250.00	15.73%	0.00%	0.00%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▼ 07 - Promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▼ 7b - Enhancing regional mobility by connecting secondary and tertiary nodes to TEN-T infrastructure, including multimodal nodes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▼ SO7/b - Improved cross-border accessibility through connecting secondary and tertiary nodes to TEN-T infrastructure ▼ 7c - Developing and improving environmentally-friendly (including low noise) and low-carbon transport systems, including inland waterways and maritime transport, ports, multimodal links and airport infrastructure, in order to promote sustainable regional and local mobility <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▼ SO7/c - Increased proportion of passengers using sustainable – low carbon, low noise – forms of cross-border transport 	[R 7/b, R 7/c]
PA3	46,810,155.00	24.75%	0.00%	0.00%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▼ 08 - Promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▼ 8b - Supporting employment-friendly growth through the development of endogenous potential as part of a territorial strategy for specific areas, including the conversion of declining industrial regions and enhancement of accessibility to, and development of, specific natural and cultural resources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▼ SO8/b - Increased employment within the eligible area 	[R 8/b]
PA4	48,479,323.00	25.63%	0.00%	0.00%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▼ 09 - Promoting social inclusion, combating poverty and any discrimination <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▼ 9a - Investing in health and social infrastructure which contributes to national, regional and local development, reducing inequalities in terms of health status, promoting social inclusion 	[R 9/a]

Priority axis	ERDF support (€)	Proportion (%) of the total Union support for the cooperation programme (by Fund)			Thematic objective / Investment priority / Specific objective	Result indicators corresponding to the specific indicator
		ERDF	ENI (where applicable)	IPA (where applicable)		
					through improved access to social, cultural and recreational services and the transition from institutional to community-based services ▼ SO9/a - Improved preventive and curative health-care services across the eligible area	
PA5	8,115,835.00	4.29%	0.00%	0.00%	▼ 05 - Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and management ▼ 5b - Promoting investment to address specific risks, ensuring disaster resilience and developing disaster management systems ▼ SO5/b - Improved cross-border disasters and risk management	[R 5/b]
PA6	3,411,372.00	1.80%	0.00%	0.00%	▼ 11 - Enhancing institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders and an efficient public administration ▼ 11b - Promoting legal and administrative cooperation and cooperation between citizens and institutions (ETC-CB) ▼ SO11 - Intensify sustainable cross-border cooperation of institutions and communities	[R11/b]
TA	11,348,320.00	6.00%	0.00%	0.00%	SO/TA - Effective and efficient programme and project implementation	[]

2. PRIORITY AXES

2.A DESCRIPTION OF THE PRIORITY AXES OTHER THAN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

2.A.1 Priority axis

ID of the priority axis	PA1
Title of the priority axis	Joint protection and efficient use of common values and resources (Cooperating on common values and resources)

- The entire priority axis will be implemented solely through financial instruments
- The entire priority axis will be implemented solely through financial instruments set up at Union level
- The entire priority axis will be implemented through community-led local development

2.A.2 Justification for the establishment of a priority axis covering more than one thematic objective (where applicable)

Not applicable.

2.A.3 Fund and calculation basis for Union support

Fund	Calculation basis (total eligible expenditure or eligible public expenditure)
ERDF	Total

2.A.4 Investment priority

ID of the investment priority	6b
Title of the investment priority	Investing in the water sector to meet the requirements of the Union's environmental acquis and to address needs, identified by the Member States, for investment that goes beyond those requirements

2.A.5 Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priority and expected results

ID of the specific objective	SO6/b
Title of the specific objective	Improved quality management of cross-border rivers and ground water bodies
Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support	<p>Water is one of the most important joint asset of the eligible area; managing its quality and safeguarding its quantity to compensate the negative effects of rapid changes of quantity or the quality level of the surface and ground water assets, as well as its efficient use in the long run are joint challenges. As a result of the interventions proposed we foresee improvement in the quality of cross-border rivers and streams (surface waters) and ground water bodies, more sustainable use and management of existing water resources, improved prevention - protection against pollutions, especially flood-related pollutions, efficient communication and joint actions to reduce the negative effects of pollutions. [1]</p> <p>Having a positive impact on one of the most important natural resources of the area, the interventions foreseen also contribute directly to the horizontal principle of sustainable development and the protection of natural habitats.</p> <p>[1] See also related maps in the SEA Report:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Map 11 - Surface waters in the Romanian eligible counties b. Map 12 - Surface waters in the eligible Hungarian counties c. Map 13 - Areas with potentially high risk of flood in the eligible area d. Map 14 - Transboundary Groundwater Bodies of Basin-Wide Importance and their Transnational Monitoring Network (Danube River Basin District)

Table 3: Programme-specific result indicators (by specific objective)

Specific objective		SO6/b - Improved quality management of cross-border rivers and ground water bodies					
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
R 6/b	Water quality (ecological condition) of crossborder rivers at the measurement points in the eligible area	Weighted average ecological quality at measurement points	2.40	2013	2.20	National Environmental Authorities / National Environmental Protection Agencies / Romanian Waters National	2019, 2021, 2023

2.A.6 Actions to be supported under the investment priority (by investment priority)

2.A.6.1 A description of the type and examples of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives, including, where appropriate, identification of the main target groups, specific territories targeted and types of beneficiaries

Investment priority	6b - Investing in the water sector to meet the requirements of the Union's environmental acquis and to address needs, identified by the Member States, for investment that goes beyond those requirements
<p><i>Focus of interventions</i></p> <p>Integrated water management actions related to cross-border surface water – rivers, streams, flows, including water quality monitoring, information and data exchange, as well as the rehabilitation of natural waters using eco-system based approach, even their original flow direction, flood-protection, retention of surface water resources, agricultural and energy generation use of water, protection of the common water basin.</p> <p><i>Indicative actions</i></p> <p><i>Investment or integrated investments and actions (monitoring, management, planning pollution control, etc.) to protect and improve water quality and safeguard its quantity, as well as ensure sustainable use of water resources, in line with the provisions of the Water Framework Directive[1].</i></p> <p>Water management is a traditionally important field of cross-border cooperation on the Romania-Hungary eligible border area. Water management organizations have jointly implemented various projects already under the current programme, and future actions are foreseen (and even planned) to</p>	

Investment priority	6b - Investing in the water sector to meet the requirements of the Union's environmental acquis and to address needs, identified by the Member States, for investment that goes beyond those requirements
<p>further improve the quality and safeguard the quantity of joint water resources, as well as to improve the capacity to integrate the water protection, as well as the natural and cultural heritage protection in CB strategies and policies. Types of investments foreseen include the development of water supply system in the border area, aiming at quality improvement of the water resources, as well as the collection and use of excess water to compensate for the effect of dry and wet periods on water quality and posing the risk of floods as well as droughts.</p> <p>All co-financed water-supply related actions need to be based on the relevant River Basin Management Plans ensuring compliance with Directive 2000/60/EC. Any intervention that affect NATURA 2000 sites need to be in line with Article 6, paragraphs 2-4 of the Habitats Directive, stipulating how NATURA 2000 sites are managed and protected.</p> <p><i>Types of actions include, among others:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection and utilization of the cross border water basins • Development of water quality and quantity monitoring, information, forecasting and management systems • Identification of polluting sources, the necessary measures to reduce water pollution • Development and modernization of water supply systems focusing only on small scale interventions that can demonstrate clear CB impact, • Mitigation of the negative impacts of significant water pollutions caused by flood, collection and use of excess water, measurements for the mitigation of flood risks, • Preparatory measures (including studies), organization of field-related dissemination actions, exchange of best practices, development of networks, delivery of joint trainings, workshops and seminars and also awareness raising of local population[2] <p><i>Types of potential beneficiaries:</i></p> <p>Eligible applicants must have their seats or a regional/local branch or institutions located in the eligible programme area, i.e. Szabolcs-Szatmar-Bereg, Hajdu-Bihar, Bekes and Csongrad counties in Hungary, and Satu Mare, Bihor, Arad and Timis counties in Romania.</p> <p>Exceptions are also possible – in the case of public entities not having their legal seat in the eligible area, but having legal competencies for implementing operations in the programme area.</p>	

Investment priority	6b - Investing in the water sector to meet the requirements of the Union's environmental acquis and to address needs, identified by the Member States, for investment that goes beyond those requirements
<p>The indicative list of potential beneficiaries may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local and county governments / administrations and their institutions • Water Management Authorities • National / Natural Parks administrations • Environmental protection institutions • Non-governmental organisations • Microregional associations • Regional and county development agencies • Management organisations of Euroregions • European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC) <p>Target groups: people living in the eligible area</p> <p>Possible forms of support: non-repayable grant through open calls</p> <p>The actions do not address any specific territories.</p> <p>[1] Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2000 establishing a framework for the Community action in the field of water policy</p> <p>[2] Such actions may not be supported as standalone operations, but only as part of complex projects contributing to the specific objective.</p>	

2.A.6.2 Guiding principles for the selection of operations

Investment priority	6b - Investing in the water sector to meet the requirements of the Union's environmental acquis and to address needs, identified by the Member States, for investment that goes beyond those requirements
<p><i>Call for Proposal</i></p> <p>The Programme aims for project generation and selection procedures that are both pro-active and transparent. The MA, with the support of the JS, launches official Call for Proposals (CfPs) via relevant information channels.</p> <p>CfPs might have different characteristic i.e. might be open to all Programme priorities or thematically targeted in response to changed framework conditions or to progress of the Programme implementation. The methodology and criteria used for selection of operations fall under the responsibility of the Monitoring Committee (MC). During the design of the details of project selection process, the principles of transparency, equal treatment, non-discrimination, national integrity and sustainable development will be met. The Programme has the right to launch restricted CfPs taking into account the single CfP's specific arrangements. Application procedures and templates will be developed and part of the application package including the necessary guidance to assist project partnerships. Applications submitted will be assessed against a pre-defined set of criteria stipulated in the CfP. Final decision on selection of operations is the responsibility of the MC.</p> <p>Any newly built cross-border infrastructure will become operational right after the completion of the project and will remain operational at least for 5 years.</p> <p>Therefore, selection of projects that include cross-border road infrastructure should be conditional to a prior bilateral agreement with the commitment of the Member States, to set up Schengen-compatible border-crossing checkpoints (or other existing solutions according to the legislation in force at the time of submission of the project applications) at the completion of any such projects and to operate it for at least 5 years or until the enlargement of the Schengen zone.</p> <p>When the national legislation requires signature of bilateral agreement in case of CB infrastructure, for projects financing CB infrastructure other than roads, those bilateral agreements have to be in force at the time of submission of project applications.</p> <p>In case of projects that involve the production of studies or analyses it is important that beneficiaries take stock of the knowledge already available and results from other projects co-financed by European funds across Europe and take all measures necessary to avoid double-financing. In addition, beneficiaries will be required to present their plans on capitalizing on the results of the project.</p> <p>The specific and detailed criteria for the selection of operations will be presented in the CfP-s; nevertheless, there are a number of important general</p>	

Investment priority	6b - Investing in the water sector to meet the requirements of the Union's environmental acquis and to address needs, identified by the Member States, for investment that goes beyond those requirements
<p>principles that need to be reflected in the selection criteria under all Ip-s. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • respecting the principle of sustainability, justified demand for the new capacities created; • cost-efficiency of the supported actions; • clearly justified contribution to the SO of the relevant Ip; • preventing programme level double-financing of operations (examples may include institutional development, road development, water management); • creating added value; • clear cross-border impact, synergies of the interventions. <p>In order to ensure sustainable development, (wherever relevant) the criteria presented in Chapter 8.1 will be taken into account when selecting operations for support; to ensure non-discriminations and equal opportunities, the criteria described in Chapter 8.2 will be applied when selecting operations.</p> <p>For the selection of projects under Ip 6b, the following principles will also be taken into account:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased use of sustainable procurement (green public procurement), • Consideration of life cycle costs of investment options for long term perspective, • Usage of green infrastructure. 	

2.A.6.3 Planned use of financial instruments (where appropriate)

Investment priority	6b - Investing in the water sector to meet the requirements of the Union's environmental acquis and to address needs, identified by the Member States, for investment that goes beyond those requirements
Not applicable.	

2.A.6.4 Planned use of major projects (where appropriate)

Investment priority	6b - Investing in the water sector to meet the requirements of the Union's environmental acquis and to address needs, identified by the Member States, for investment that goes beyond those requirements
Not applicable.	

2.A.6.5 Output indicators (by investment priority)

Table 4: Common and programme-specific output indicators

Investment priority	6b - Investing in the water sector to meet the requirements of the Union's environmental acquis and to address needs, identified by the Member States, for investment that goes beyond those requirements				
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
6/b 1	Number of measurement points positively affected by the interventions (after the completion of the project)	Number	19.00	Project Monitoring	annually

2.A.4 Investment priority

ID of the investment priority	6c
Title of the investment priority	Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage

2.A.5 Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priority and expected results

ID of the specific objective	SO6/c
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Title of the specific objective	Sustainable use of natural, historic, and cultural heritage within the eligible area
Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support	<p>The area is rich in natural, built, historic and cultural values that represent the joint heritage of the eligible area. The interventions envisaged will result in improved conditions of the most important values – including physical facilities but also the intangible elements of the joint heritage. These improvements – including better accessibility where necessary - will make these facilities more attractive to visitors. The combination of these values and their joint promotion – together with the physical improvements made, can contribute to the formulation of a joint and integrated tourism destination, attracting visitors both internally, and also from outside the eligible area. The increased number of visitors will result in an increase of visitor nights and thus contribute indirectly to the strengthening of the area’s tourist industry.</p> <p>The protection and rehabilitation of the natural and cultural heritage is also important from the perspective of sustainable development.</p>

Table 3: Programme-specific result indicators (by specific objective)

Specific objective		SO6/c - Sustainable use of natural, historic, and cultural heritage within the eligible area					
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
R 6/c	Tourist overnight stays in the eligible programme area	visitor nights	4,885,294.00	2013	5,485,294.00	National Statistical Offices: KSH, INS	2019, 2021, 2023

2.A.6 Actions to be supported under the investment priority (by investment priority)

2.A.6.1 A description of the type and examples of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives, including, where appropriate, identification of the main target groups, specific territories targeted and types of beneficiaries

Investment priority	6c - Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage
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Investment priority	6c - Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage
<p data-bbox="136 256 2148 304"><i>Focus of interventions</i></p> <p data-bbox="136 320 2148 440">Taking into account the differentiating elements of the eligible area’s touristic offer – natural historic and cultural heritage and values, as well as the focus of the corresponding Ip, the focus of tourism development should be the development of thematic routes built around natural, historic and cultural values, including gastronomy and folk traditions, with complementary health and active tourism elements.</p> <p data-bbox="136 464 2148 655">In order to use the joint touristic potential offered by the area better and in a more sustainable manner, concerted actions are necessary to protect and rehabilitate the key natural, historic and cultural heritages values on both sides of the border, their accessibility needs to be improved, attractive and internationally competitive thematic routes need to be developed, joint tourism destinations have to be established, managed and promoted. There are some similar initiatives funded from the current programme, aimed at the creation attractive cross-border thematic routes; interventions can build on these initiatives.</p> <p data-bbox="136 679 2148 839">This, however, requires a truly integrated approach: instead of standalone investments, complex developments that are parts of a wider concept need to be implemented: buildings, natural, historic and cultural values to be rehabilitated that together are able to attract a critical mass of visitors and operate sustainably (major increase in visitors number is an expectation), and there needs to be closely cooperating institutional structures in place that ensure destination management and promotions.</p> <p data-bbox="136 863 2148 943">It is necessary to note that any intervention affecting NATURA 2000 sites needs to be in line with Article 6, paragraphs 2-4 of the Habitats Directive, stipulating how NATURA 2000 sites[1] are managed and protected.</p> <p data-bbox="136 967 2148 1015"><i>Indicative actions</i></p> <p data-bbox="136 1038 2148 1086"><i>Rehabilitation, conservation and promotion of natural, as well as cultural and built heritage that can be promoted and sustainably exploited.</i></p> <p data-bbox="136 1110 2148 1230">Support can be provided to complex interventions, including the rehabilitation of various natural, cultural and historic values, as well as of facilities contributing to the protection of the joint natural, cultural and historical heritage on both sides of the border. Support can also be provided to creating competitive thematic routes for the rehabilitated values and facilities, as well as to the promotion of these routes and to improving their accessibility.</p> <p data-bbox="136 1254 2148 1326">In line with Article 3 of the ERDF regulation (Regulation No 1301/2013) support for investments in cultural and tourism infrastructure is limited to small-scale projects only. The Commission considers an infrastructure investment small scale if its total cost is below or equal to EUR 5 000 000; this ceiling is</p>	

Investment priority	6c - Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage
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raised to EUR 10 000 000 in the case of infrastructure considered as world cultural heritage in the sense of Article 1 of the 1972 Convention concerning the protection of the world cultural and natural heritage listed by UNESCO.

Types of actions include, among others:

- Preparation of studies, strategies, plans etc. in the field of preservation, development and utilisation of cultural/natural heritage
- Training, exchange of good practices and awareness-raising campaigns regarding the protection, promotion and development of natural and cultural heritage
- Setting up new cross-border platforms, groupings and networks focusing on safeguarding and developing the joint natural and cultural heritage
- Improving the state of conservation of monuments, buildings and territories that are part of the area's natural, historical or cultural heritage (e.g. churches, castles, museums, theatres, natural parks, nature protection areas[2])
- Preservation, promotion and development of intangible cultural heritage
- Digitisation and bringing online cultural heritage, reusing the digitised cultural heritage for educational content, documentaries, tourism applications, games, etc. to foster creative industries
- Preservation of natural values
- Development, reconstruction and promotion of cultural facilities protecting the cultural heritage of the eligible area
- Conservation and safeguarding of natural and national parks, nature reserves and other protected areas,
- Creation of thematic routes,
- Improving the accessibility of natural and cultural heritages (construction, upgrading / modernization of roads and ensuring accessibility by bicycle)[3]
- The promotion and utilisation of cultural/natural heritage potential by investments in sustainable touristic infrastructure

Types of potential beneficiaries:

Eligible applicants must have their seats or a regional/local branch or institutions located in the eligible programme area, i.e. Szabolcs-Szatmar-Bereg, Hajdu-Bihar, Bekes and Csongrad counties in Hungary and, Satu Mare, Bihor, Arad and Timis counties in Romania.

Exceptions are also possible – in the case of public entities not having their legal seat in the eligible area, but having legal competencies for implementing

Investment priority	6c - Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage
<p>operations in the programme area.</p> <p>The indicative list of potential beneficiaries may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local and county governments / administrations and their institutions • National ministries and their specialized institutions, regional offices • National/Natural Parks administrations • Environmental protection institutions • Higher education institutions, research institutions • Non-governmental organisation • Microregional associations • Regional and county development agencies • Management organisations of Euroregions • Museums, libraries, theatres • Churches • Offices of Cultural Heritage • Chambers of commerce • EGTC • National organizations responsible for transport infrastructure development <p>Target groups: people living in the eligible area and tourists visiting the area from outside</p> <p>Possible forms of support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-repayable grant through open calls • Non-repayable grant to flagship project(s) to be selected through targeted restricted calls <p>The actions do not address any specific territories.</p>	

Investment priority	6c - Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage
<p>[1] For details see Figure 46 – Natura 2000 areas – in the Strategic Territorial Analysis.</p> <p>[2] See Map 4 of the SEA Report - Protected areas of the eligible counties.</p> <p>[3] Investment in roads cannot be supported as standalone operations; such investments need to be ancillary to investment in natural and cultural heritage and shall contribute directly to reaching the selected thematic objective and investment priority under this specific objective.</p>	

2.A.6.2 Guiding principles for the selection of operations

Investment priority	6c - Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage
<p><i>Call for Proposal</i></p> <p>(For the guiding principles for the selection of operations in the frame of call for proposals, see Chapter 2.A.6.2 Ip6/b)</p> <p><i>Restricted calls to implement flagship projects</i></p> <p>In line with the suggestion presented in point VIII of the “<i>Aide Memoire on the strategy, management, financial & control arrangements</i>” of ETC programmes, flagship projects will also be implemented under this PA, in addition to carrying out open calls. Flagship projects are projects of key importance that address the most important needs of the eligible area. They are intended to help to achieve the expected results and have a tangible impact on a significant part of the programme area. Application procedures and templates for restricted calls will be developed and included in call-specific application packages. The methodology and criteria used for selection of operations fall under the responsibility of the Monitoring Committee (MC). Details of application procedures will be described in the Cfp. With regard to the selection and implementation of flagship projects, the following basic general rules apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The fields of interventions under thematic areas (TOs and Ip-s) for flagship projects are identified already in the planning phase. • The total ERDF budget of all flagship projects supported may not exceed 50 % of the total ERDF programme budget. 	

Investment priority	6c - Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage
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- Targeted restricted call will be launched to select flagship projects, with the following main procedural steps:
 - Preparing Long Templates and Pre-agreements signed among participating counties/entities
 - Launching of a targeted Call for Proposals which envisages signed pre-agreements
 - Submission of Concept Notes[1]
 - Simple, quick check of Concept Notes
 - To be in line with PA.s and Ip.s of the CP
 - Eligibility of partners
 - Detailed activities and budget estimation
 - There is a commitment to develop and submit the complete project documentation
 - Submission of the results of evaluation to MC for decision
 - Notification from MA on the selection for project development phase
 - Project development procedure
 - Continuous submission of final applications (including relevant supporting documents), depending on projects' timeline and maturity
 - Evaluation of final application
 - Decision of MC on approving the flagship projects for implementation
 - Contracting full flagship project
- Any newly built cross-border infrastructure will become operational right after the completion of the project and will remain operational at least for 5 years. Therefore, selection of projects that include cross-border road infrastructure should be conditional to a prior bilateral agreement with the commitment of the Member States to set up Schengen-compatible border-crossing checkpoints (or other existing solutions according to the legislation in force at the time of submission of the project applications) at the completion of any such projects and to operate it for at least 5 years or until the enlargement of the Schengen zone. When the national legislation requires signature of bilateral agreement in case of CB infrastructure, for projects financing CB infrastructure other than roads, those bilateral agreements have to be in force at the time of submission of project applications.
- The procedure shall ensure the balanced allocation of funds available for flagship projects among the 8 eligible counties.
- In order to ensure sustainable development, (wherever relevant) the criteria presented in Chapter 8.1 will be taken into account when selecting operations for support; to ensure non-discriminations and equal opportunities, the criteria described in Chapter 8.2 will be applied when selecting operations.

[1] The *Concept Note* comprises the Long Template, the signed Pre-agreement, and any other relevant document indicated in the CfP (i.e. declarations of

Investment priority	6c - Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage
the applicant and partners, documentary evidence etc.)	

2.A.6.3 Planned use of financial instruments (where appropriate)

Investment priority	6c - Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage
Not applicable.	

2.A.6.4 Planned use of major projects (where appropriate)

Investment priority	6c - Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage
Not applicable.	

2.A.6.5 Output indicators (by investment priority)

Table 4: Common and programme-specific output indicators

Investment priority	6c - Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage				
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
CO09	Sustainable Tourism: Increase in expected number of visits to supported sites of cultural and natural heritage	Visits/year	53,000.00	Project Monitoring	annually

Investment priority		6c - Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage			
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
	and attractions				
CO23	Nature and biodiversity: Surface area of habitats supported to attain a better conservation status	Hectares	4,000.00	Project Monitoring	annually

2.A.7 Performance framework

Table 5: Performance framework of the priority axis

Priority axis		PA1 - Joint protection and efficient use of common values and resources (Cooperating on common values and resources)					
ID	Indicator type	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestone for 2018	Final target (2023)	Source of data	Explanation of relevance of indicator, where appropriate
CO09	O	Sustainable Tourism: Increase in expected number of visits to supported sites of cultural and natural heritage and attractions	Visits/year	-	53,000.00	Project Monitoring	SO of Ip6/c is “Sustainable use of natural, historic, and cultural heritage within the eligible area” One form of sustainable use is sustainable tourism & this COI measures the increase in the number of visitors to supported sites (in the year following project completion). As project implementation is expected to start only in late 2016 (even 2017), there will be no completed project by the milestone year, thus only final target may be established. This COI covers more than 60% of Ip.
6/b 1	O	Number of measurement points positively affected by the interventions (after the completion of the project)	Number	-	19.00	Project Monitoring	Main focus of interventions under this SO is improving water quality of cross-border surface waters. Water' ecological quality is measured at measurement points. This indicator measures the no. of measurement points positively affected after the completion of the project,

Priority axis			PA1 - Joint protection and efficient use of common values and resources (Cooperating on common values and resources)				
ID	Indicator type	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestone for 2018	Final target (2023)	Source of data	Explanation of relevance of indicator, where appropriate
							and covers 75% of allocation to the Ip. As project implementation is expected to start only in late 2016 (even 2017), there will be no completed project by the milestone year, thus only final target may be established.
K6/b	I	Number of measurement points benefiting from the projects selected for support	Number	4	0.00	Project Monitoring	This key implementation step measures the number of measurement points benefiting from the projects selected for support under Ip6/b by the milestone year. The number measurement points to be positively affected under the output indicator set for this SO is approximately 19 by the end of the programme. It is expected that at least 20% of the measurement points would benefit from the projects selected for support by the milestone year.
K6/c	I	Number of projects aimed at increasing visits to sites of cultural and natural heritage selected for support	Number	4	0.00	Project Monitoring	This key implementation step measures the number of projects selected and approved by the milestone year. The number of projects aimed at increasing visits to sites of cultural and natural heritage is approximately 15. It is expected that at least 25% of the projects – 4 – will be approved by the milestone year.
F.PA1	F	Total amount of certified expenditure	EUR	5,920,000.00	48,502,844.00	MA with certification function	For the milestone date we have calculated that 12,2% of the total ERDF allocation and of the related national co-financing will be certified (the calculated figure for the milestone value has been rounded up to the nearest 10.000). For the final date, it is foreseen that 100 % of the total allocation is certified.

Additional qualitative information on the establishment of the performance framework

2.A.8 Categories of intervention

Categories of intervention corresponding to the content of the priority axis, based on a nomenclature adopted by the Commission, and indicative breakdown of Union support

Tables 6-9: Categories of intervention

Table 6: Dimension 1 Intervention field

Priority axis	PA1 - Joint protection and efficient use of common values and resources (Cooperating on common values and resources)	
	Code	Amount (€)
021. Water management and drinking water conservation (including river basin management, water supply, specific climate change adaptation measures, district and consumer metering, charging systems and leak reduction)		10,750,000.00
085. Protection and enhancement of biodiversity, nature protection and green infrastructure		6,095,483.00
086. Protection, restoration and sustainable use of Natura 2000 sites		6,095,483.00
091. Development and promotion of the tourism potential of natural areas		4,571,613.00
094. Protection, development and promotion of public cultural and heritage assets		10,971,870.00
095. Development and promotion of public cultural and heritage services		2,742,968.00

Table 7: Dimension 2 Form of finance

Priority axis	PA1 - Joint protection and efficient use of common values and resources (Cooperating on common values and resources)	
	Code	Amount (€)
01. Non-repayable grant		41,227,417.00

Table 8: Dimension 3 Territory type

Priority axis	PA1 - Joint protection and efficient use of common values and resources (Cooperating on common values and resources)	
	Code	Amount (€)
07. Not applicable		41,227,417.00

Table 9: Dimension 6 Territorial delivery mechanisms

Priority axis	PA1 - Joint protection and efficient use of common values and resources (Cooperating on common values and resources)	
	Code	Amount (€)
07. Not applicable		41,227,417.00

2.A.9 A summary of the planned use of technical assistance including, where necessary, actions to reinforce the administrative capacity of authorities involved in the management and control of the programmes and beneficiaries and, where necessary, actions to enhance the administrative capacity of relevant partners to participate in the implementation of programmes (where appropriate)

Priority axis:	PA1 - Joint protection and efficient use of common values and resources (Cooperating on common values and resources)
Not relevant.	

2.A.1 Priority axis

ID of the priority axis	PA2
Title of the priority axis	Improve sustainable cross-border mobility and remove bottlenecks (Cooperating on accessibility)

- The entire priority axis will be implemented solely through financial instruments
- The entire priority axis will be implemented solely through financial instruments set up at Union level
- The entire priority axis will be implemented through community-led local development

2.A.2 Justification for the establishment of a priority axis covering more than one thematic objective (where applicable)

Not applicable.

2.A.3 Fund and calculation basis for Union support

Fund	Calculation basis (total eligible expenditure or eligible public expenditure)
ERDF	Total

2.A.4 Investment priority

ID of the investment priority	7b
Title of the investment priority	Enhancing regional mobility by connecting secondary and tertiary nodes to TEN-T infrastructure, including multimodal nodes

2.A.5 Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priority and expected results

ID of the specific objective	SO7/b
Title of the specific objective	Improved cross-border accessibility through connecting secondary and tertiary nodes to TEN-T infrastructure
Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support	<p>Mobility is a key condition of cross-border cooperation, affecting almost all aspects of cooperation. The establishment of the integrated and harmonized multimodal transport network (both passenger and freight) foreseen in the vision, however, requires major investment and also considerable time to create.</p> <p>The programme can act as a catalyst: through the supporting the preparation of major transport investments of key importance and the development of selected small sections of transport routes, it can contribute to improved access to TEN-T networks[1] from peripheral settlements in the neighbourhood of the state border, better connection of small villages and the one to larger cities, as well as improvements in road safety.</p> <p>[1] Map indicating the core and comprehensive TEN-T networks is attached as Annex X.</p> <p><i>Secondary nodes</i> are the branching or crossing points of the core and comprehensive networks, they represent cities (at least of regional importance) and/or multimodal connections. Source: EC letter “Clarification on building infrastructure in programming logic for 2014-2020 CBC programmes” (COM to Slovakia, March 2014)</p> <p><i>Tertiary nodes</i> are urban areas (regional towns, towns, cities) providing jobs and public and private services (schools, health or social care, employment services, banks) beyond their administrative boundaries and/or places of multimodal nodes. Source: EC letter “Clarification on building infrastructure in programming logic for 2014-2020 CBC programmes” (COM to Slovakia, March 2014)</p>

Table 3: Programme-specific result indicators (by specific objective)

Specific objective		SO7/b - Improved cross-border accessibility through connecting secondary and tertiary nodes to TEN-T infrastructure					
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
R 7/b	Cross-border population served by modernized infrastructure leading to TEN-T	Number of inhabitants	356,076.00	2014	446,424.00	Project monitoring, National Statistical Offices: KSH, INS	2019, 2021, 2023

2.A.6 Actions to be supported under the investment priority (by investment priority)

2.A.6.1 A description of the type and examples of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives, including, where appropriate, identification of the main target groups, specific territories targeted and types of beneficiaries

Investment priority	7b - Enhancing regional mobility by connecting secondary and tertiary nodes to TEN-T infrastructure, including multimodal nodes
<p><i>Focus of interventions</i></p> <p>In order to improve cross-border mobility, further development of the road infrastructure cannot be neglected. Road development, however, needs to rely on a strategic approach assumed by the competent authorities in the field.</p> <p>Given the relatively modest funding available, the programme can only support developing a small number of road links that truly enhance cross-border mobility through improving the connections between secondary or tertiary nodes and the TEN-T core and comprehensive network.</p> <p><i>Indicative actions</i></p> <p><i>Improving the access of inhabitants of the cross-border region to core and comprehensive TEN-T network [1]</i></p> <p>Support to building, modernization and upgrading of roads with cross-border impact to improve the opportunities for trans-boundary mobility. In line with the relevant Ip, the development of roads only with direct link from secondary and tertiary nodes to TEN-T networks may be supported under this action.</p>	

Investment priority	7b - Enhancing regional mobility by connecting secondary and tertiary nodes to TEN-T infrastructure, including multimodal nodes
<p>In implementing the proposed interventions road safety aspects will be fully taken into account in all road infrastructure projects, in line with the relevant national legislations.</p>	
<p><i>Types of actions include, among others:</i></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation of particular investment: elaboration of studies, analyses, feasibility studies, technical plans, obtaining necessary authorisations / certificates / permits / licences. 	
<p><i>Investments related to such studies should have a reasonable likelihood of being implemented by identifying possible sources of funding. They shall also be part of the strategic planning for transport in the eligible area.</i></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction, upgrading / modernization of roads with cross-border impact, providing or improving direct access of secondary and tertiary nodes to TEN-T core or comprehensive network and related infrastructure (also taking into account improving the conditions and safety of cycling, where possible). 	
<p><i>Types of potential beneficiaries:</i></p>	
<p>Eligible applicants must have their seats or a regional/local branch or institutions located in the eligible programme area, i.e. Szabolcs-Szatmar-Bereg, Hajdu-Bihar, Bekes and Csongrad counties in Hungary and, Satu Mare, Bihor, Arad and Timis counties in Romania.</p>	
<p>Exceptions are also possible – in the case of public entities not having their legal seat in the eligible area, but having legal competencies for implementing operations in the programme area.</p>	
<p>The indicative list of potential beneficiaries may include:</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local and county governments / administrations and their institutions • Road and Railway Management Authorities • National organizations responsible for transport infrastructure development • Regional and county development agencies • Management organisations of Euroregions 	

Investment priority	7b - Enhancing regional mobility by connecting secondary and tertiary nodes to TEN-T infrastructure, including multimodal nodes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EGTC <p>Target groups: people living in the eligible area</p> <p>Possible forms of support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-repayable grant through open calls • Non-repayable grant to flagship project(s) to be selected through targeted restricted calls <p>The actions do not address any specific territories.</p> <p>[1] The new TEN-T Guidelines define a dual layer approach to the trans-European transport network. The basic layer, or “Comprehensive Network”, should ensure accessibility of all regions of the Union. It includes road, rail, inland waterways, maritime and air infrastructure network components, as well as the connecting points between the modes. The Comprehensive Network features minimum infrastructure standards, set out in the TEN-T Guidelines that aim at interoperability wherever necessary for seamless traffic flows across the network. All European citizens and economic operators would then be able to access the Core Network, via this Comprehensive Network, at comparable terms. The second layer, the “Core Network” is constituted of the strategically most important parts of the Comprehensive Network, identified according to a specific methodology, transparently and coherently applied and on which project development and implementation will be supported with priority.</p>	

2.A.6.2 Guiding principles for the selection of operations

Investment priority	7b - Enhancing regional mobility by connecting secondary and tertiary nodes to TEN-T infrastructure, including multimodal nodes
<p><i>Call for Proposal</i></p> <p>(For the guiding principles for the selection of operations in the frame of call for proposals, see Chapter 2.A.6.2 Ip6/b)</p>	

Investment priority	7b - Enhancing regional mobility by connecting secondary and tertiary nodes to TEN-T infrastructure, including multimodal nodes
<i>Restricted calls to implement flagship projects</i>	
Under this PA, in addition to carrying out open calls, flagship projects will also be implemented.	
(For the guiding principles for the selection of flagship projects, see Chapter 2.A.6.2 Ip6/c)	

2.A.6.3 Planned use of financial instruments (where appropriate)

Investment priority	7b - Enhancing regional mobility by connecting secondary and tertiary nodes to TEN-T infrastructure, including multimodal nodes
Not applicable.	

2.A.6.4 Planned use of major projects (where appropriate)

Investment priority	7b - Enhancing regional mobility by connecting secondary and tertiary nodes to TEN-T infrastructure, including multimodal nodes
Not applicable.	

2.A.6.5 Output indicators (by investment priority)

Table 4: Common and programme-specific output indicators

Investment priority		7b - Enhancing regional mobility by connecting secondary and tertiary nodes to TEN-T infrastructure, including multimodal nodes			
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
CO13	Roads: Total length of newly built roads	km	16.00	Project Monitoring	annually
CO14	Roads: Total length of reconstructed or upgraded roads	km	18.00	Project Monitoring	annually

2.A.4 Investment priority

ID of the investment priority	7c
Title of the investment priority	Developing and improving environmentally-friendly (including low noise) and low-carbon transport systems, including inland waterways and maritime transport, ports, multimodal links and airport infrastructure, in order to promote sustainable regional and local mobility

2.A.5 Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priority and expected results

ID of the specific objective	SO7/c
Title of the specific objective	Increased proportion of passengers using sustainable – low carbon, low noise – forms of cross-border transport
Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support	<p>The interventions foreseen are expected to improve the conditions and thus increase the role of cross-border public transport. In addition, through the extension and improvement of bicycle routes and lanes, and the development of other important conditions of bicycle transport it also contributes to an increase in cross-border bicycle traffic – at the expense of passenger car transport. Altogether, the actions are expected to result in an increase in the proportion of passengers using public transport, bicycle transport, and facilitate a gradual shift towards more sustainable (low emission and low noise) forms of cross-border transport.</p> <p>The actions will also make an important contribution towards the horizontal principle of sustainable development through contributing to the reduction of transport-related GHG emissions and other negative environmental impacts.</p>

ID of the specific objective	SO7/c
Title of the specific objective	Increased proportion of passengers using sustainable – low carbon, low noise – forms of cross-border transport

Table 3: Programme-specific result indicators (by specific objective)

Specific objective		SO7/c - Increased proportion of passengers using sustainable – low carbon, low noise – forms of cross-border transport					
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
R 7/c	Ratio of people to motorized road vehicles crossing the border	Ratio of persons to motorized road vehicles	2.50	2014	2.65	National Statistical Offices: KSH	2019, 2021, 2023

2.A.6 Actions to be supported under the investment priority (by investment priority)

2.A.6.1 A description of the type and examples of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives, including, where appropriate, identification of the main target groups, specific territories targeted and types of beneficiaries

Investment priority	7c - Developing and improving environmentally-friendly (including low noise) and low-carbon transport systems, including inland waterways and maritime transport, ports, multimodal links and airport infrastructure, in order to promote sustainable regional and local mobility
<i>Focus of interventions</i>	
Public transport development (including timetable harmonization, establishment of cross-border public transport links between major settlements of the eligible area), enhancing multimodal transport by creating links between various transport modes. Also, as cross-border travel often covers shorter distances (between two settlements in the proximity of the border), development of bicycle roads is also proposed. (Such projects, however, need to demonstrate that they either serve daily work commute or become part of a touristic thematic route.)	

Investment priority	7c - Developing and improving environmentally-friendly (including low noise) and low-carbon transport systems, including inland waterways and maritime transport, ports, multimodal links and airport infrastructure, in order to promote sustainable regional and local mobility
<p>The programme only supports preparation measures related to cross-border infrastructure.</p> <p><i>Indicative actions</i></p> <p><i>Development of cross-border public transport services</i></p> <p>Support to improving the key conditions of environment-friendly forms of public transport. The focus of activities is the improvement of road-based (bus) public transport, including the purchase of environment-friendly vehicles, development of complementary facilities (like charging stations), provision of non-fossil fuel for the vehicles, as well as the development or improvement of cross-border roads to eliminate bottlenecks. Support can only be provided to projects that directly serve cross-border public transport.</p> <p><i>Compliance shall be ensured with the provisions of Regulation (EC) No. 1370/2007 of the European Parliament and of the Council on public passenger transport services by rail and by road and repealing Council Regulations (EEC) No 1191/69 and 1107/70.</i></p> <p><i>Development of key conditions of cross-border bicycle transport</i></p> <p>Investments into the development of new cross-border bicycle roads extension of existing cross-border bicycle roads development of complementary infrastructure (for instance bicycle parking and storage), directly linked to cross-border bicycle transport.</p> <p>Providing support to building, modernization and upgrading of bicycle roads and the complementary infrastructure particularly to improve the labour force mobility and the access of tourism destinations.</p> <p><i>Facilitating the coordinated development of key railway lines connecting major cities in the eligible area.</i></p> <p>Support can only be provided to the preparation phase (feasibility studies, engineering designs) of the investments into railway infrastructure projects between the two countries.</p> <p><i>Types of actions include, among others:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation of particular investments: elaboration of studies, analyses, concepts, technical / design documentation, elaboration of recommendations 	

Investment priority	7c - Developing and improving environmentally-friendly (including low noise) and low-carbon transport systems, including inland waterways and maritime transport, ports, multimodal links and airport infrastructure, in order to promote sustainable regional and local mobility
<p>concerning legal administrative bottlenecks hampering cross-border mobility</p> <p><i>Investments related to such studies should have a reasonable likelihood of being implemented by identifying possible sources of funding. They shall also be part of the strategic planning for transport in the eligible area.</i></p> <p><i>With regard to improving railway transport, the programme with its fairly limited budget can only undertake to induce and catalyse investments from other sources (like mainstream OPs of the two countries) by supporting the preparation phase (feasibility studies, engineering designs) of the development of railway infrastructure developments between the two countries.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of cross-border intelligent transport system, passenger information system, on-line schedule, e-ticketing, mobile apps, common tariff systems[1] • Development and integration of cross-border public transport services[2] • Investment into public transport related infrastructure (e.g. low emission vehicles, bus) • Innovative solutions to improve cross-border public transport and reducing transport-related emission • Exchange of good practices as part of complex projects contributing to the specific objective • Construction, upgrading / modernization of roads, bicycle roads, path or lane, also by using existing infrastructure elements, where appropriate (e.g. dams, agricultural roads, etc.) <p><i>Types of potential beneficiaries:</i></p> <p>Eligible applicants must have their seats or a regional/local branch or institutions located in the eligible programme area, i.e. Szabolcs-Szatmar-Bereg, Hajdu-Bihar, Bekes and Csongrad counties in Hungary and, Satu Mare, Bihor, Arad and Timis counties in Romania.</p> <p>Exceptions are also possible – in the case of public entities not having their legal seat in the eligible area, but having legal competencies for implementing</p>	

Investment priority	7c - Developing and improving environmentally-friendly (including low noise) and low-carbon transport systems, including inland waterways and maritime transport, ports, multimodal links and airport infrastructure, in order to promote sustainable regional and local mobility
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operations in the programme area.

The indicative list of potential beneficiaries may include:

- Local and county governments / administrations and their institutions
- National organization responsible for transport infrastructure development
- Road and Railway Management Authorities
- State owned transport companies
- Water Management Authorities
- National / Natural Parks administrations
- Non-governmental organisations
- Microregional associations
- Regional and county development agencies
- Management organisations of Euroregions
- EGTC

Target groups: people living in the eligible area

Possible forms of support:

- Non-repayable grant through open calls
- Non-repayable grant to flagship project(s) to be selected through targeted restricted calls

The actions **do not address any specific territories.**

[1] Compliance shall be ensured with the provisions of Regulation (EC) No. 1370/2007 of the European Parliament and of the Council on public

Investment priority	7c - Developing and improving environmentally-friendly (including low noise) and low-carbon transport systems, including inland waterways and maritime transport, ports, multimodal links and airport infrastructure, in order to promote sustainable regional and local mobility
passenger transport services by rail and by road and repealing Council Regulations (EEC) No.s 1191/69 and 1107/70	
[2] Idem No.1.	

2.A.6.2 Guiding principles for the selection of operations

Investment priority	7c - Developing and improving environmentally-friendly (including low noise) and low-carbon transport systems, including inland waterways and maritime transport, ports, multimodal links and airport infrastructure, in order to promote sustainable regional and local mobility
<i>Call for Proposal</i>	
(For the guiding principles for the selection of operations in the frame of call for proposals, see Chapter 2.A.6.2 Ip6/b)	
<i>Restricted calls to implement flagship projects</i>	
Under this PA, in addition to carrying out open calls, flagship projects will also be implemented.	
(For the guiding principles for the selection of flagship projects, see Chapter 2.A.6.2 Ip6/c)	

2.A.6.3 Planned use of financial instruments (where appropriate)

Investment priority	7c - Developing and improving environmentally-friendly (including low noise) and low-carbon transport systems, including inland waterways and maritime transport, ports, multimodal links and airport infrastructure, in order to promote sustainable regional and local mobility
Not applicable.	

2.A.6.4 Planned use of major projects (where appropriate)

Investment priority	7c - Developing and improving environmentally-friendly (including low noise) and low-carbon transport systems, including inland waterways and maritime transport, ports, multimodal links and airport infrastructure, in order to promote sustainable regional and local mobility
Not applicable.	

2.A.6.5 Output indicators (by investment priority)

Table 4: Common and programme-specific output indicators

Investment priority	7c - Developing and improving environmentally-friendly (including low noise) and low-carbon transport systems, including inland waterways and maritime transport, ports, multimodal links and airport infrastructure, in order to promote sustainable regional and local mobility				
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
7/c 1	Number of cross-border public transport services developed / improved	Number	20.00	Project Monitoring	annually
7/c 2	Total length of newly built bicycle road	km	19.00	Project Monitoring	annually

2.A.7 Performance framework

Table 5: Performance framework of the priority axis

Priority axis	PA2 - Improve sustainable cross-border mobility and remove bottlenecks (Cooperating on accessibility)
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ID	Indicator type	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestone for 2018	Final target (2023)	Source of data	Explanation of relevance of indicator, where appropriate
CO13a	O	Roads: Total length of newly built roads, of which: TEN-T	km	-	16.00	Project Monitoring	<p>SO of Ip7/b is Improved cross-border accessibility through connecting secondary and tertiary nodes to TEN-T infrastructure, which will be achieved by building new roads and upgrading/reconstructing existing ones.</p> <p>As project implementation is expected to start only in late 2016 (even 2017), there will be no completed project by the milestone year; thus only final target may be established.</p> <p>This output indicator covers 60% of the allocation to the Ip.</p>
7/c 1	O	Number of cross-border public transport services developed / improved	Number	-	20.00	Project monitoring	<p>The 2nd SO under PA2 is to increase the proportion of passengers using sustainable forms of transport. This COI measures the number of cross-border public transport services developed / improved.</p> <p>As project implementation is expected to start only in late 2016 (even 2017), and the value of this COI is measured in the year following project completion, only final target may be established.</p> <p>This output in</p>
K7/b	I	Number of km of newly built roads for which technical documentation is elaborated	km	3.5	0.00	Project Monitoring	<p>This key implementation step measures the length of newly built roads for which technical documentation is elaborated by the milestone year.</p> <p>The total length of newly built roads to be delivered is 16 km.</p> <p>It is expected that for slightly more than 20% of the total 16 km – 3.5 km – the technical documents will be elaborated by the milestone year.</p>
K7/c	I	Number of public transport services benefiting from	Number	5	0.00	Project Monitoring	<p>Main focus of the interventions is to increase the proportion of passengers using sustainable forms of</p>

		projects selected for support					transport. Main COI is “Number of cross-border public transport services developed/improved”. This KIS measures the number of public transport services that benefit from the projects already selected for support. It is expected that the projects selected for support by the milestone date will affect at least 25% of all services to be improved by the end of the programme.
F.PA2	F	Total amount of certified expenditure	EUR	4,270,000.00	34,995,589.00	MA with certification function	For the milestone date we have calculated that 12,2% of the total ERDF allocation and of the related national co-financing will be certified (the calculated figure for the milestone value has been rounded up to the nearest 10.000). For the final date it is foreseen that 100% of the total allocation is certified.

Additional qualitative information on the establishment of the performance framework

2.A.8 Categories of intervention

Categories of intervention corresponding to the content of the priority axis, based on a nomenclature adopted by the Commission, and indicative breakdown of Union support

Tables 6-9: Categories of intervention

Table 6: Dimension 1 Intervention field

Priority axis	PA2 - Improve sustainable cross-border mobility and remove bottlenecks (Cooperating on accessibility)
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Priority axis	PA2 - Improve sustainable cross-border mobility and remove bottlenecks (Cooperating on accessibility)	
	Code	Amount (€)
	030. Secondary road links to TEN-T road network and nodes (new build)	8,355,050.00
	034. Other reconstructed or improved road (motorway, national, regional or local)	5,570,033.00
	043. Clean urban transport infrastructure and promotion (including equipment and rolling stock)	9,492,700.00
	044. Intelligent transport systems (including the introduction of demand management, tolling systems, IT monitoring control and information systems)	3,955,292.00
	090. Cycle tracks and footpaths	2,373,175.00

Table 7: Dimension 2 Form of finance

Priority axis	PA2 - Improve sustainable cross-border mobility and remove bottlenecks (Cooperating on accessibility)	
	Code	Amount (€)
	01. Non-repayable grant	29,746,250.00

Table 8: Dimension 3 Territory type

Priority axis	PA2 - Improve sustainable cross-border mobility and remove bottlenecks (Cooperating on accessibility)	
	Code	Amount (€)
	07. Not applicable	29,746,250.00

Table 9: Dimension 6 Territorial delivery mechanisms

Priority axis	PA2 - Improve sustainable cross-border mobility and remove bottlenecks (Cooperating on accessibility)	
	Code	Amount (€)
07. Not applicable		29,746,250.00

2.A.9 A summary of the planned use of technical assistance including, where necessary, actions to reinforce the administrative capacity of authorities involved in the management and control of the programmes and beneficiaries and, where necessary, actions to enhance the administrative capacity of relevant partners to participate in the implementation of programmes (where appropriate)

Priority axis:	PA2 - Improve sustainable cross-border mobility and remove bottlenecks (Cooperating on accessibility)	
Not relevant		

2.A.1 Priority axis

ID of the priority axis	PA3
Title of the priority axis	Improve employment and promote cross-border labour mobility (Cooperating on employment)

- The entire priority axis will be implemented solely through financial instruments
- The entire priority axis will be implemented solely through financial instruments set up at Union level
- The entire priority axis will be implemented through community-led local development

2.A.2 Justification for the establishment of a priority axis covering more than one thematic objective (where applicable)

Not applicable.

2.A.3 Fund and calculation basis for Union support

Fund	Calculation basis (total eligible expenditure or eligible public expenditure)
ERDF	Total

2.A.4 Investment priority

ID of the investment priority	8b
Title of the investment priority	Supporting employment-friendly growth through the development of endogenous potential as part of a territorial strategy for specific areas, including the conversion of declining industrial regions and enhancement of accessibility to, and development of, specific natural and cultural resources

2.A.5 Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priority and expected results

ID of the specific objective	SO8/b
Title of the specific objective	Increased employment within the eligible area
Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support	Increased employment and growth in the eligible area also require concerted actions from the various stakeholders. As a result of the interventions foreseen, integrated strategies of specific territories based on their endogenous potentials (mainly in the fields of agricultural production and food production) will be in place and implemented, and, as a result, the environment of businesses will be improved, cooperation will be enhanced based on mutual advantages, and infrastructure – including roads where necessary – will be developed enabling increasing cross-border sales of local products. As a result of the various interventions foreseen, new jobs can be created, more people can be involved in the labour market, which can lead to the decrease of the unemployment rate of the territories being in the worst employment position. The interventions foreseen will be implemented in such a way that they strengthen equal opportunities, and contribute to non-discrimination and equality between men and women.

Table 3: Programme-specific result indicators (by specific objective)

Specific objective		SO8/b - Increased employment within the eligible area					
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
R 8/b	Employment rate in the eligible area as a percentage of the working age population	%	56.31	2012	56.51	National Statistical Offices: KSH, INS	2019, 2021, 2023

2.A.6 Actions to be supported under the investment priority (by investment priority)

2.A.6.1 A description of the type and examples of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives, including, where appropriate, identification of the main target groups, specific territories targeted and types of beneficiaries

Investment priority	8b - Supporting employment-friendly growth through the development of endogenous potential as part of a territorial strategy for specific areas, including the conversion of declining industrial regions and enhancement of accessibility to, and development of, specific natural and cultural resources
<p><i>Focus of interventions</i></p> <p>With the aim to strengthen the employment-related approach of the priority with a specific focus on balancing supply and demand in the labour market of the programme area and enhancing the mobility of workforce. For the employment-friendly growth of the eligible counties, complex interventions building on the endogenous potential and specificities of the given areas need to be implemented with the aim to increase the employment having focus on balancing supply and demand in the labour market and to enhance the mobility of workforce.</p> <p>The actions to be supported may differ from territory to territory, examples could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving the environment of businesses, enhancing employment and cooperation based on mutual advantages, development of facilities enabling cross-border sales of local products • Improving the cross-border accessibility of important facilities to strengthen the local economy and employment through the development and reconstruction of roads. • Enhancing the co-operation of local labour market actors in order to improve labour matching and the employment situation of the eligible territory. <p><i>Indicative actions</i></p> <p><i>Support to harmonized interventions enabling employment-friendly growth</i></p> <p>Instead of supporting individual projects, this priority is aimed at supporting harmonized interventions of cross-border partnerships of municipalities and other relevant stakeholders including employment centres, training institutions, social partners and NGOs aimed at jointly improving the local conditions of employment friendly growth. Moreover, it also includes measures aiming to promote matching of labour market needs and supply, the development of training and employment programmes focusing on the disadvantaged people so as to promote employment in a more inclusive way.</p> <p><i>Types of actions include, among others:</i></p>	

Investment priority	8b - Supporting employment-friendly growth through the development of endogenous potential as part of a territorial strategy for specific areas, including the conversion of declining industrial regions and enhancement of accessibility to, and development of, specific natural and cultural resources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation of integrated development strategy and action plans[1] of specific territories (identification of endogenous potential and infrastructure development needs to increase employment) to introduce the coherence among the planned actions. <p>The following actions can be implemented based on strategies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of cross-border employment initiatives, cross-border cooperation between relevant stakeholders of labour market (e.g. employment centres, training institutions, social partners, enterprises and NGOs) • Targeted actions facilitating the creation of local products/services and related infrastructures based on the local potential • Increase employment by improving business environment through integrated development measures • Support for climate change and mitigation through the development of green skills and green employment opportunities in sectors based on the local potential • Establishment of joint networks, exchange of good practices, having a demonstrable effect on reaching the set objective under this Ip • Improving cross-border accessibility to employment related facilities in the eligible counties through the construction, upgrading / modernization of roads with cross-border impact[2] <p><i>Types of potential beneficiaries:</i></p> <p>Eligible applicants must have their seats or a regional/local branch or institutions located in the eligible programme area, i.e. Szabolcs-Szatmar-Bereg, Hajdu-Bihar, Bekes and Csongrad counties in Hungary and, Satu Mare, Bihor, Arad and Timis counties in Romania.</p> <p>Exceptions are also possible – in the case of public entities not having their legal seat in the eligible area, but having legal competencies for implementing operations in the programme area.</p> <p>The indicative list of potential beneficiaries may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local and county governments / administrations and their institutions • Management organisations of business and logistic centres • Higher education institutions • Chambers of commerce 	

Investment priority	8b - Supporting employment-friendly growth through the development of endogenous potential as part of a territorial strategy for specific areas, including the conversion of declining industrial regions and enhancement of accessibility to, and development of, specific natural and cultural resources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-governmental organisation • Microregional associations • Regional and county development agencies • Labour offices / agencies • National organizations responsible for transport infrastructure development • Management organisations of Euroregions • EGTC • Environmental protection institutions <p>Target groups: people living in micro-regions (HU) and ATUs[3] or groups of ATUs (RO) in the proximity of the state border</p> <p>Possible forms of support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-repayable grant through open calls • Non-repayable grant to flagship project(s) to be selected through targeted restricted calls <p>The actions do not address any specific territories.</p> <p>[1] Preparation of a strategy or an action plan cannot be supported as a separate standalone project.</p> <p>[2] Investment in roads cannot be supported as standalone operations; such investments need to be ancillary to investments facilitating employment-friendly growth and shall contribute exclusively to reaching the selected thematic objective and investment priority under this specific objective.</p> <p>[3] Towns and communes as defined by the Law 351/2001</p>	

2.A.6.2 Guiding principles for the selection of operations

Investment priority	8b - Supporting employment-friendly growth through the development of endogenous potential as part of a territorial strategy for specific areas, including the conversion of declining industrial regions and enhancement of accessibility to, and development of, specific natural and cultural resources
<i>Call for Proposal</i>	
(For the guiding principles for the selection of operations in the frame of call for proposals, see Chapter 2.A.6.2 Ip6/b)	
<i>Restricted calls to implement flagship projects</i>	
Under this PA, in addition to carrying out open calls, flagship projects will also be implemented.	
(For the guiding principles for the selection of flagship projects, see Chapter 2.A.6.2 Ip6/c)	

2.A.6.3 Planned use of financial instruments (where appropriate)

Investment priority	8b - Supporting employment-friendly growth through the development of endogenous potential as part of a territorial strategy for specific areas, including the conversion of declining industrial regions and enhancement of accessibility to, and development of, specific natural and cultural resources
Not applicable.	

2.A.6.4 Planned use of major projects (where appropriate)

Investment priority	8b - Supporting employment-friendly growth through the development of endogenous potential as part of a territorial strategy for specific areas, including the conversion of declining industrial regions and enhancement of accessibility to, and development of, specific natural and cultural resources
Not applicable.	

2.A.6.5 Output indicators (by investment priority)

Table 4: Common and programme-specific output indicators

Investment priority		8b - Supporting employment-friendly growth through the development of endogenous potential as part of a territorial strategy for specific areas, including the conversion of declining industrial regions and enhancement of accessibility to, and development of, specific natural and cultural resources			
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
CO44	Labour Market and Training: Number of participants in joint local employment initiatives and joint training	Persons	15,000.00	Project Monitoring	annually

2.A.7 Performance framework

Table 5: Performance framework of the priority axis

Priority axis		PA3 - Improve employment and promote cross-border labour mobility (Cooperating on employment)					
ID	Indicator type	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestone for 2018	Final target (2023)	Source of data	Explanation of relevance of indicator, where appropriate
CO44	O	Labour Market and Training: Number of participants in joint local employment initiatives and joint training	Persons	-	15,000.00	Project Monitoring	This output indicator covers the majority of outputs (in excess of 50% of total allocation) under this PA. However, as project implementation is expected to start only in late 2016 or even 2017, there will be no completed project by the milestone year, thus only final target may be established.
K8/b	I	Number of projects related to joint local employment initiatives and joint training	Number	6	0.00	Project Monitoring	This key implementation step measures the number of projects selected and approved by the milestone year. The number of projects for joint local employment

Priority axis		PA3 - Improve employment and promote cross-border labour mobility (Cooperating on employment)					
ID	Indicator type	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestone for 2018	Final target (2023)	Source of data	Explanation of relevance of indicator, where appropriate
		approved					initiatives and joint training expected to be financed is approximately 20-25. It is expected that at least 25% of the projects – 6 – will be approved by the milestone year.
F.PA3	F	Total amount of certified expenditure	EUR	6,720,000.00	55,070,771.00	MA with certification function	For the milestone date we have calculated that 12,2% of the total ERDF allocation and of the related national co-financing will be certified (the calculated figure for the milestone value has been rounded up to the nearest 10.000). For the final date it is foreseen that 100% of the total allocation is certified.

Additional qualitative information on the establishment of the performance framework

2.A.8 Categories of intervention

Categories of intervention corresponding to the content of the priority axis, based on a nomenclature adopted by the Commission, and indicative breakdown of Union support

Tables 6-9: Categories of intervention

Table 6: Dimension 1 Intervention field

Priority axis	PA3 - Improve employment and promote cross-border labour mobility (Cooperating on employment)
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Priority axis	PA3 - Improve employment and promote cross-border labour mobility (Cooperating on employment)	
	Code	Amount (€)
	102. Access to employment for job-seekers and inactive people, including the long-term unemployed and people far from the labour market, also through local employment initiatives and support for labour mobility	16,383,554.00
	104. Self-employment, entrepreneurship and business creation including innovative micro, small and medium sized enterprises	25,745,585.00
	108. Modernisation of labour market institutions, such as public and private employment services, and improving the matching of labour market needs, including through actions that enhance transnational labour mobility as well as through mobility schemes and better cooperation between institutions and relevant stakeholders	4,681,016.00

Table 7: Dimension 2 Form of finance

Priority axis	PA3 - Improve employment and promote cross-border labour mobility (Cooperating on employment)	
	Code	Amount (€)
	01. Non-repayable grant	46,810,155.00

Table 8: Dimension 3 Territory type

Priority axis	PA3 - Improve employment and promote cross-border labour mobility (Cooperating on employment)	
	Code	Amount (€)

Priority axis	PA3 - Improve employment and promote cross-border labour mobility (Cooperating on employment)	
	Code	Amount (€)
07. Not applicable		46,810,155.00

Table 9: Dimension 6 Territorial delivery mechanisms

Priority axis	PA3 - Improve employment and promote cross-border labour mobility (Cooperating on employment)	
	Code	Amount (€)
07. Not applicable		46,810,155.00

2.A.9 A summary of the planned use of technical assistance including, where necessary, actions to reinforce the administrative capacity of authorities involved in the management and control of the programmes and beneficiaries and, where necessary, actions to enhance the administrative capacity of relevant partners to participate in the implementation of programmes (where appropriate)

Priority axis:	PA3 - Improve employment and promote cross-border labour mobility (Cooperating on employment)	
Not relevant.		

2.A.1 Priority axis

ID of the priority axis	PA4
Title of the priority axis	Improving health-care services (Cooperating on health-care and prevention)

- The entire priority axis will be implemented solely through financial instruments
- The entire priority axis will be implemented solely through financial instruments set up at Union level
- The entire priority axis will be implemented through community-led local development

2.A.2 Justification for the establishment of a priority axis covering more than one thematic objective (where applicable)

Not applicable.

2.A.3 Fund and calculation basis for Union support

Fund	Calculation basis (total eligible expenditure or eligible public expenditure)
ERDF	Total

2.A.4 Investment priority

ID of the investment priority	9a
Title of the investment priority	Investing in health and social infrastructure which contributes to national, regional and local development, reducing inequalities in terms of health status, promoting social inclusion through improved access to social, cultural and recreational services and the transition from institutional to community-based services

2.A.5 Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priority and expected results

ID of the specific objective	SO9/a
Title of the specific objective	Improved preventive and curative health-care services across the eligible area
Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support	<p>As a result of the interventions coordinated and mutually agreed service specialisation will be in place among all hospitals in the entire area. The conditions of health care infrastructure will improve. In this framework and according to the coordinated service provision strategy new diagnostic, screening and curing equipment will be installed in order to ensure prevention, early identification and effective treatment of diseases across the eligible area. The interventions contribute to equalizing major service level imbalances, and appropriate level of services will be available for all across the eligible area, especially for disadvantaged groups.</p> <p>Comprehensive and coordinated information channels will be in place to inform residents about the importance of health status screening and prevention measures through the entire eligible area.</p> <p>Joint protocols will be in place for the exchange of patient information and medical history making the treatment of cross-border patients more effective, while the harmonization of specialized service provision, knowledge transfer and the availability of telemedical infrastructure enables more efficient use of specialized knowledge across the entire area. The key conditions of cross-border financing are in place obstacles are eliminated. As a result of the various interventions foreseen, increase in number of people benefiting from improved health services across the border can be expected contributing to a balanced system of treatment, which altogether has a positive impact also on anti-discrimination and social inclusion.</p>

Table 3: Programme-specific result indicators (by specific objective)

Specific objective		SO9/a - Improved preventive and curative health-care services across the eligible area					
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
R 9/a	Average service level in health	Rate of service level	3.19	2015	3.40	Survey among hospitals	2019, 2021, 2023

Specific objective		SO9/a - Improved preventive and curative health-care services across the eligible area					
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
	care institutions in the eligible area	of the health care institutions				and outpatient institutions	

2.A.6 Actions to be supported under the investment priority (by investment priority)

2.A.6.1 A description of the type and examples of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives, including, where appropriate, identification of the main target groups, specific territories targeted and types of beneficiaries

Investment priority	9a - Investing in health and social infrastructure which contributes to national, regional and local development, reducing inequalities in terms of health status, promoting social inclusion through improved access to social, cultural and recreational services and the transition from institutional to community-based services
<p><i>Focus of interventions</i></p> <p>Types of actions to be supported include coordinated development of health care infrastructure, equipment and services, design and introduction of mechanisms implementing the EU Directive on cross-border health care, setting up joint specialist teams, development of joint health care protocols, establishment of telemedical systems, joint prevention activities. In addition, complementary interventions may also be supported, facilitating easier and quicker accessibility of medical services in the eligible area.</p> <p>Interventions should focus on improving facilities and services in order to ensure early identification, prevention and quality treatment of illnesses.</p> <p><i>Indicative actions</i></p> <p>The health services should be developed in a coordinated manner.</p> <p><i>Investments to improve health care infrastructure and equipment</i></p> <p>Investment support to infrastructure development, purchase and installation of equipment in order to ensure access to quality services across the entire area</p>	

Investment priority	9a - Investing in health and social infrastructure which contributes to national, regional and local development, reducing inequalities in terms of health status, promoting social inclusion through improved access to social, cultural and recreational services and the transition from institutional to community-based services
<p>and to harmonize development of specialized services.</p> <p><i>Know-how exchange and joint capacity development</i></p> <p>Support for joint trainings, workshops, conferences, internships and other forms of know-how exchange related to the service development supported. Only interventions complementary to health care investments can be supported.</p> <p><i>Development of cross-platform central telemedical, e-health infrastructure</i></p> <p>Providing support to the development of joint telemedical and e-health infrastructure ensuring that cross-border patient information and medical history can be made mutually available and transparent, thus increasing the efficiency of diagnosis and treatment. The development of e-health infrastructure also contributes to improved accessibility for people in remote areas to use specialised health care services.</p> <p><i>Types of actions include, among others:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investments in health-care and prevention-related infrastructure • Purchase and installation of health-care equipment, delivery of training to staff on the use of new equipment • Promotional actions for health screening and providing information to prevent and diagnose diseases with high frequency in the eligible area • Actions to improve access to health infrastructure by disadvantaged groups • Exchange of know-how and capacity building activities (training courses, workshops, conferences, internships) • Harmonized development of specialized services • Development of telemedical and e-health infrastructure for diagnosis and treatment in order to achieve better patient information system and to reduce health inequalities in access to health services • Improving cross-border accessibility of health-care services through construction, upgrading / modernization of roads with cross-border impact[1] <p><i>Types of potential beneficiaries:</i></p> <p>Eligible applicants must have their seats or a regional/local branch or institutions located in the eligible programme area, i.e. Szabolcs-Szatmar-Bereg,</p>	

Investment priority	9a - Investing in health and social infrastructure which contributes to national, regional and local development, reducing inequalities in terms of health status, promoting social inclusion through improved access to social, cultural and recreational services and the transition from institutional to community-based services
<p>Hajdu-Bihar, Bekes and Csongrad counties in Hungary and, Satu Mare, Bihor, Arad and Timis counties in Romania.</p> <p>Exceptions are also possible – in the case of public entities not having their legal seat in the eligible area, but having legal competencies for implementing operations in the programme area.</p> <p>The indicative list of potential beneficiaries may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local and county governments / administrations and their institutions • Public health care institutions – hospitals and clinics, social institutions • Medical higher education institutions, research institutes • Non-governmental, non-profit organisation • Churches • National organizations responsible for transport infrastructure development <p>Target groups: population of the eligible area,</p> <p>Possible forms of support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-repayable grant through open calls • Non-repayable grant to flagship project(s) to be selected through targeted restricted calls <p>The actions do not address any specific territories.</p> <p>[1] Investment in roads cannot be supported as standalone operations; such investments need to be ancillary to investments facilitating access to health-care services and shall contribute exclusively to reaching the selected thematic objective and investment priority under this specific objective.</p>	

Investment priority	9a - Investing in health and social infrastructure which contributes to national, regional and local development, reducing inequalities in terms of health status, promoting social inclusion through improved access to social, cultural and recreational services and the transition from institutional to community-based services

2.A.6.2 *Guiding principles for the selection of operations*

Investment priority	9a - Investing in health and social infrastructure which contributes to national, regional and local development, reducing inequalities in terms of health status, promoting social inclusion through improved access to social, cultural and recreational services and the transition from institutional to community-based services
<i>Call for Proposal</i>	
(For the guiding principles for the selection of operations in the frame of call for proposals, see Chapter 2.A.6.2 Ip6/b)	
<i>Restricted calls to implement flagship projects</i>	
Under this PA, in addition to carrying out open calls, flagship projects will also be implemented.	
(For the guiding principles for the selection of flagship projects, see Chapter 2.A.6.2 Ip6/c)	

2.A.6.3 *Planned use of financial instruments (where appropriate)*

Investment priority	9a - Investing in health and social infrastructure which contributes to national, regional and local development, reducing inequalities in terms of health status, promoting social inclusion through improved access to social, cultural and recreational services and the transition from institutional to community-based services
Not applicable	

2.A.6.4 *Planned use of major projects (where appropriate)*

Investment priority	9a - Investing in health and social infrastructure which contributes to national, regional and local development, reducing inequalities in terms of health status, promoting social inclusion through improved access to social, cultural and recreational services and the transition from institutional to community-based services
Not applicable.	

2.A.6.5 Output indicators (by investment priority)

Table 4: Common and programme-specific output indicators

Investment priority	9a - Investing in health and social infrastructure which contributes to national, regional and local development, reducing inequalities in terms of health status, promoting social inclusion through improved access to social, cultural and recreational services and the transition from institutional to community-based services				
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
9/a 1	Population having access to improved health services	Number of people	3,911,505.00	Project Monitoring	annually
9/a 2	Number of health-care departments affected by modernized equipment	Number	38.00	Project Monitoring	annually

2.A.7 Performance framework

Table 5: Performance framework of the priority axis

Priority axis		PA4 - Improving health-care services (Cooperating on health-care and prevention)					
ID	Indicator type	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestone for 2018	Final target (2023)	Source of data	Explanation of relevance of indicator, where appropriate
K9/a2	I	Number of health-care departments benefiting from	Number	10	0.00	Project	Main focus of intervention is to improve preventive and curative health-care services through developing various

Priority axis		PA4 - Improving health-care services (Cooperating on health-care and prevention)					
ID	Indicator type	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestone for 2018	Final target (2023)	Source of data	Explanation of relevance of indicator, where appropriate
		projects selected for support				Monitoring	<p>such departments.</p> <p>The OI measuring the tangible outputs of the Ip is “number of health-care departments affected by modernized equipment”.</p> <p>KIS measures the number of such departments that benefit from projects already selected for support by the milestone date, which are expected to affect at least 25% of departments (38) to be improved by end of programme.</p>
9/a 2	O	Number of health-care departments affected by modernized equipment	Number	-	38.00	Project Monitoring	<p>The main focus of the interventions under this PA/Ip/SO is to improve preventive and curative health-care services. This output indicator measures the number health-care departments affected by modernized equipment, after the completion of the project.</p> <p>However, as project implementation is expected to start only in late 2016 or even 2017, there will be no completed project by the milestone year, thus only final target may be established.</p> <p>This indicator covers 75% of the allocation to this PA.</p>
F.PA4	F	Total amount of certified expenditure	EUR	6,960,000.00	57,034,498.00	MA with certification function	<p>For the milestone date we have calculated that 12,2% of the total ERDF allocation and of the related national co-financing will be certified (the calculated figure for the milestone value has been rounded up to the nearest 10.000).</p> <p>For the final date it is foreseen that 100 % of the total allocation is certified.</p>

Additional qualitative information on the establishment of the performance framework

2.A.8 Categories of intervention

Categories of intervention corresponding to the content of the priority axis, based on a nomenclature adopted by the Commission, and indicative breakdown of Union support

Tables 6-9: Categories of intervention

Table 6: Dimension 1 Intervention field

Priority axis	PA4 - Improving health-care services (Cooperating on health-care and prevention)	
	Code	Amount (€)
053. Health infrastructure		41,207,425.00
112. Enhancing access to affordable, sustainable and high-quality services, including health care and social services of general interest		7,271,898.00

Table 7: Dimension 2 Form of finance

Priority axis	PA4 - Improving health-care services (Cooperating on health-care and prevention)	
	Code	Amount (€)
01. Non-repayable grant		48,479,323.00

Table 8: Dimension 3 Territory type

Priority axis	PA4 - Improving health-care services (Cooperating on health-care and prevention)	
	Code	Amount (€)
07. Not applicable		48,479,323.00

Table 9: Dimension 6 Territorial delivery mechanisms

Priority axis	PA4 - Improving health-care services (Cooperating on health-care and prevention)	
	Code	Amount (€)
07. Not applicable		48,479,323.00

2.A.9 A summary of the planned use of technical assistance including, where necessary, actions to reinforce the administrative capacity of authorities involved in the management and control of the programmes and beneficiaries and, where necessary, actions to enhance the administrative capacity of relevant partners to participate in the implementation of programmes (where appropriate)

Priority axis:	PA4 - Improving health-care services (Cooperating on health-care and prevention)	
Not relevant.		

2.A.1 Priority axis

ID of the priority axis	PA5
Title of the priority axis	Improve risk-prevention and disaster management (Cooperating on risk prevention and disaster management)

- The entire priority axis will be implemented solely through financial instruments
- The entire priority axis will be implemented solely through financial instruments set up at Union level
- The entire priority axis will be implemented through community-led local development

2.A.2 Justification for the establishment of a priority axis covering more than one thematic objective (where applicable)

Not applicable.

2.A.3 Fund and calculation basis for Union support

Fund	Calculation basis (total eligible expenditure or eligible public expenditure)
ERDF	Total

2.A.4 Investment priority

ID of the investment priority	5b
Title of the investment priority	Promoting investment to address specific risks, ensuring disaster resilience and developing disaster management systems

2.A.5 Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priority and expected results

ID of the specific objective	SO5/b
Title of the specific objective	Improved cross-border disasters and risk management
Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support	By means of implementing measures in this field, emergency response actions will be jointly handled with common (and thus larger) capacity, immediate help can be provided from the other side of the border. Key obstacles of joint actions will be eliminated, joint protocols will be in place. Emergency response time will be reduced contributing to the elimination of high risk factors, rapid reaction is ensured in case of emergency situations. As a result of the various interventions foreseen, increase in number of people benefiting from joint emergency response system can be expected that contributes to more effective addressing of emergency situations in the border area. Altogether the interventions also contribute to sustainable development through enhancing the adaptation of the eligible area to the negative impacts of climate change.

Table 3: Programme-specific result indicators (by specific objective)

Specific objective		SO5/b - Improved cross-border disasters and risk management					
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
R 5/b	Quality of the joint risk management	Rate of preparedness	3.02	2015	3.19	Quantitative survey (scale of 5) among the relevant organisations responsible for disasters and risk management in the eligible area	2019, 2021, 2023

2.A.6 Actions to be supported under the investment priority (by investment priority)

2.A.6.1 A description of the type and examples of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives, including, where appropriate, identification of the main target groups, specific territories targeted and types of beneficiaries

Investment priority	5b - Promoting investment to address specific risks, ensuring disaster resilience and developing disaster management systems
<i>Focus of interventions</i>	
<p>Joint development of the emergency response and disaster management capacity in the eligible border area in order to facilitate rapid joint actions in case of emergency situations, reducing response time, especially in the immediate neighbourhood of the state borders.</p> <p><i>Coordinated development of common risk prevention and emergency response system</i> - investments into emergency response and risk prevention facilities and equipment, improvement of emergency response communication, harmonization of protocols and procedures, joint training and practices of organizations involved in emergency response and disaster management in the eligible area.</p> <p>Any intervention shall take into account projects and studies related to Priority Area 5 of the EUSDR that deals with environmental and man-made risks and with the operational cooperation among the emergency response authorities in the area.</p> <p>The Programme area is part of the Danube region; therefore, in the EUSDR context projects in line with the Partnership Agreements of both countries can be supported.</p>	
<i>Indicative actions</i>	
<p>In order to enable effective and rapid emergency response, prevention and management of disasters and risks in the eligible border area, harmonized interventions, continuous communication and proper infrastructure and equipment need to be in place.</p>	
<i>Preventive interventions to avoid emergency situations</i>	
<p>Interventions aimed at reducing the risk of anthropic and also climate-change related emergency situations.</p>	

Investment priority	5b - Promoting investment to address specific risks, ensuring disaster resilience and developing disaster management systems
<p data-bbox="136 255 2132 295"><i>Investments into the development of emergency response and risk management infrastructure and equipment</i></p> <p data-bbox="136 295 2132 406">Interventions aimed at the coordinated development and upgrading of emergency response and risk management facilities, equipment on both sides on the border, enabling rapid and effective harmonized actions to address various emergency situations in the border area.</p> <p data-bbox="136 406 2132 446"><i>Interventions improving joint preparedness in emergency situations</i></p> <p data-bbox="136 446 2132 582">Soft measures – like exchange of information, data, knowledge sharing, the delivery of joint exercises of personnel, and the awareness raising of the population are foreseen both the official and the voluntary organizations.</p> <p data-bbox="136 582 2132 622"><i>Types of actions include, among others:</i></p> <ul data-bbox="201 678 2132 1149" style="list-style-type: none"> • Development and implementation of harmonized standards and systems for better forecasting and natural / anthropogenic risk management in the cross-border area • Land improvement for regions with high and average hazard natural risk level • Setting up the harmonized and integrated tools for risk prevention and mitigation in order to provide a joint response to emergency situations • Development of regional level cross-border infrastructure in the field of emergency preparedness • Exchange of experience on efficient risk prevention and management in the cross-border area • Awareness-raising activities targeted at specific groups • Elaboration of detailed maps and data bases indicating natural and technological risks • Purchasing special vehicles, equipment and materials for public emergency response services • Purchasing equipment for measuring/monitoring environmental parameters • Development of common strategies, action plans on risk prevention and risk management • Establishing common rules/legislation and protocols related to risk prevention and disaster management <p data-bbox="136 1173 2132 1212"><i>Types of potential beneficiaries:</i></p> <p data-bbox="136 1212 2132 1318">Eligible applicants must have their seats or a regional/local branch or institutions located in the eligible programme area, i.e. Szabolcs-Szatmar-Bereg, Hajdu-Bihar, Bekes and Csongrad counties in Hungary and, Satu Mare, Bihor, Arad and Timis counties in Romania. Exceptions are also possible – in the</p>	

Investment priority	5b - Promoting investment to address specific risks, ensuring disaster resilience and developing disaster management systems
<p>case of public entities not having their legal seat in the eligible area, but having legal competencies for implementing operations in the programme area.</p> <p>The indicative list of potential beneficiaries may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local and county governments / administrations and their institutions • Disaster management and emergency response organizations • Fire services • Ambulance services • Police • Non-governmental, non-profit organisation • Management organisations of Euroregions • EGTC • Environmental protection agencies (under subordination, coordination or authority of the Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests, in Romania) • Governmental offices located in the counties, in Hungary • Water management authorities <p>Target groups: people living in the eligible area</p> <p>Possible forms of support: non-repayable grant through open calls</p> <p>The actions do not address any specific territories.</p>	

2.A.6.2 Guiding principles for the selection of operations

Investment priority	5b - Promoting investment to address specific risks, ensuring disaster resilience and developing disaster management systems
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Investment priority	5b - Promoting investment to address specific risks, ensuring disaster resilience and developing disaster management systems
<i>Call for Proposal</i>	
(For the guiding principles for the selection of operations in the frame of call for proposals, see Chapter 2.A.6.2 Ip6/b)	

2.A.6.3 Planned use of financial instruments (where appropriate)

Investment priority	5b - Promoting investment to address specific risks, ensuring disaster resilience and developing disaster management systems
Not applicable.	

2.A.6.4 Planned use of major projects (where appropriate)

Investment priority	5b - Promoting investment to address specific risks, ensuring disaster resilience and developing disaster management systems
Not applicable.	

2.A.6.5 Output indicators (by investment priority)

Table 4: Common and programme-specific output indicators

Investment priority	5b - Promoting investment to address specific risks, ensuring disaster resilience and developing disaster management systems				
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting

Investment priority	5b - Promoting investment to address specific risks, ensuring disaster resilience and developing disaster management systems				
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
5/b 1	Population safeguarded by improved emergency response services	Number of people	700,000.00	Project Monitoring	annually

2.A.7 Performance framework

Table 5: Performance framework of the priority axis

Priority axis		PA5 - Improve risk-prevention and disaster management (Cooperating on risk prevention and disaster management)					
ID	Indicator type	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestone for 2018	Final target (2023)	Source of data	Explanation of relevance of indicator, where appropriate
5/b 1	O	Population safeguarded by improved emergency response services	Number of people	-	700,000.00	Project Monitoring	<p>Main focus of interventions under this PA/Ip/SO is to improve CB disasters and risk management.</p> <p>This OI measures the number of population that is safeguarded by improved emergency response services as a result of the projects implemented, after the completion of the projects, and covers the total PA allocation.</p> <p>However, as project implementation is expected to start only in late 2016 (even 2017), there will be no completed project by the milestone year; thus only final target may be established.</p>
K5/b	I	Population benefiting from selected projects	Number of people	70,000.00		Project Monitoring	<p>This key implementation step measures the number of population that will benefit from selected projects.</p> <p>The indicator measuring the outputs of the interventions under this SO is “Population safeguarded by improved emergency response services”. It is expected that the projects selected for support by the milestone year will</p>

Priority axis		PA5 - Improve risk-prevention and disaster management (Cooperating on risk prevention and disaster management)					
ID	Indicator type	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestone for 2018	Final target (2023)	Source of data	Explanation of relevance of indicator, where appropriate
							benefit at least 10% of the population representing the final target of the output indicator.
F.PA5	F	Total amount of certified expenditure	EUR	1,170,000.00	9,548,042.00	MA with certification function	For the milestone date we have calculated that 12,2% of the total ERDF allocation and of the related national co-financing will be certified (the calculated figure for the milestone value has been rounded up to the nearest 10.000). For the final date it is foreseen that 100 % of the total allocation is certified.

Additional qualitative information on the establishment of the performance framework

2.A.8 Categories of intervention

Categories of intervention corresponding to the content of the priority axis, based on a nomenclature adopted by the Commission, and indicative breakdown of Union support

Tables 6-9: Categories of intervention

Table 6: Dimension 1 Intervention field

Priority axis	PA5 - Improve risk-prevention and disaster management (Cooperating on risk prevention and disaster management)	
	Code	Amount (€)

Priority axis	PA5 - Improve risk-prevention and disaster management (Cooperating on risk prevention and disaster management)	
087. Adaptation to climate change measures and prevention and management of climate related risks e.g. erosion, fires, flooding, storms and drought, including awareness raising, civil protection and disaster management systems and infrastructures		5,275,293.00
088. Risk prevention and management of non-climate related natural risks (i.e. earthquakes) and risks linked to human activities (e.g. technological accidents), including awareness raising, civil protection and disaster management systems and infrastructures		2,840,542.00

Table 7: Dimension 2 Form of finance

Priority axis	PA5 - Improve risk-prevention and disaster management (Cooperating on risk prevention and disaster management)	
	Code	Amount (€)
01. Non-repayable grant		8,115,835.00

Table 8: Dimension 3 Territory type

Priority axis	PA5 - Improve risk-prevention and disaster management (Cooperating on risk prevention and disaster management)	
	Code	Amount (€)
07. Not applicable		8,115,835.00

Table 9: Dimension 6 Territorial delivery mechanisms

Priority axis	PA5 - Improve risk-prevention and disaster management (Cooperating on risk prevention and disaster management)	
	Code	Amount (€)
07. Not applicable		8,115,835.00

2.A.9 A summary of the planned use of technical assistance including, where necessary, actions to reinforce the administrative capacity of authorities involved in the management and control of the programmes and beneficiaries and, where necessary, actions to enhance the administrative capacity of relevant partners to participate in the implementation of programmes (where appropriate)

Priority axis:	PA5 - Improve risk-prevention and disaster management (Cooperating on risk prevention and disaster management)	
Not relevant		

2.A.1 Priority axis

ID of the priority axis	PA6
Title of the priority axis	Promoting cross-border cooperation between institutions and citizens (Cooperation of institutions and communities)

- The entire priority axis will be implemented solely through financial instruments
- The entire priority axis will be implemented solely through financial instruments set up at Union level
- The entire priority axis will be implemented through community-led local development

2.A.2 Justification for the establishment of a priority axis covering more than one thematic objective (where applicable)

Not applicable.

2.A.3 Fund and calculation basis for Union support

Fund	Calculation basis (total eligible expenditure or eligible public expenditure)
ERDF	Total

2.A.4 Investment priority

ID of the investment priority	11b
Title of the investment priority	Promoting legal and administrative cooperation and cooperation between citizens and institutions (ETC-CB)

2.A.5 Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priority and expected results

ID of the specific objective	SO11
Title of the specific objective	Intensify sustainable cross-border cooperation of institutions and communities
Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support	<p>Good working relationship is a basic precondition of cross-border cooperation, just like appropriate administrative conditions and a proper institutional environment, preferably facilitating – by no means impeding – cooperation activities. The interventions foreseen will contribute to more active cross-border cooperation of various institutions contributing to harmonized protocols, regulations, sharing of information and good practices. These changes are expected to result in more efficient service delivery, reduced administrative burden, easier and simpler cross-border cooperation of communities, thus gradually making cooperation a natural part of everyday life. More frequent and intensive cooperation in the long run deepens relationships across the eligible area.</p> <p>Cooperation initiatives can also contribute to equal opportunities and also non-discrimination among the population of the eligible area.</p>

Table 3: Programme-specific result indicators (by specific objective)

Specific objective		SO11 - Intensify sustainable cross-border cooperation of institutions and communities					
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
R11/b	Intensity level of cross-border cooperation	Rate of intensity of cross-border cooperation	3.46	2015	3.57	Survey among the public institutions operating in the eligible area	2019, 2021, 2023

2.A.6 Actions to be supported under the investment priority (by investment priority)

2.A.6.1 A description of the type and examples of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives, including, where appropriate, identification of the main target groups, specific territories targeted and types of beneficiaries

Investment priority	11b - Promoting legal and administrative cooperation and cooperation between citizens and institutions (ETC-CB)
<i>a) Cooperation for institutions</i>	
<i>Focus of interventions</i>	
<p>In compliance with the related TO, this intervention is aimed at enhancing the joint institutional capacity to provide better services.</p> <p>This entails providing support to joint projects of institutions, aimed at the development of joint solutions, methodologies, protocols, delivering joint training courses, helping the harmonization of relevant legislations, supporting institutional development, exchanging know-how, information, developing language skills to facilitate better communication, developing services provided, etc.</p>	
<i>Indicative actions</i>	
<i>Complex interventions to enable better service delivery</i>	
<p>Predominantly soft measures carried out jointly to identify needs, bottlenecks hindering better, more efficient service delivery and to implement actions (capacity development, exchange of information, knowledge transfer, etc.) to remedy the problems identified.</p>	
<i>Types of actions include, among others:</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Analysis of the regulatory background in different fields, proposing solutions and actions to harmonize relevant regulations• Initiatives aimed at the reducing of administrative burdens of cross-border activities of people, enterprises and other organizations• Needs assessment, identification of legal, social and economic conditions and obstacles of service provision	

Investment priority	11b - Promoting legal and administrative cooperation and cooperation between citizens and institutions (ETC-CB)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elaboration and introduction of institutional cooperation models • Capacity development of regional and local public administration bodies to facilitate more active participation in cross-border cooperation • Institutional capacity building and promotion of the EU legislation through training courses, dissemination actions • Activities focusing on the improvement of cross-border services, development of necessary small-scale works and equipment <p>Instead of one-off cooperation initiatives, projects that can sustain cooperation in the long-run are favoured.</p> <p><i>Types of potential beneficiaries:</i></p> <p>Eligible applicants must have their seats or a regional/local branch or institutions located in the eligible programme area, i.e. Szabolcs-Szatmar-Bereg, Hajdu-Bihar, Bekes and Csongrad counties in Hungary and, Satu Mare, Bihor, Arad and Timis counties in Romania.</p> <p>Exceptions are also possible – in the case of public entities not having their legal seat in the eligible area, but having legal competencies for implementing operations in the programme area.</p> <p>The indicative list of potential beneficiaries may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local and county governments / administrations, authorities and their institutions • National ministries and their specialized institutions, regional offices • Management organisations of Euroregions • EGTC • Regional and county development agencies • Chambers of commerce • Educational and higher education institutions • Governmental Offices located in the counties 	

Investment priority	11b - Promoting legal and administrative cooperation and cooperation between citizens and institutions (ETC-CB)
<p>Target groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public institutions and authorities • Students of higher education institutions, pupils of educational institutions • People living in the eligible border area <p>Possible forms of support: Non-repayable grant through open calls</p> <p>The actions do not address any specific territories.</p> <p><i>b) Cooperation for citizens</i></p> <p><i>Focus of interventions</i></p> <p>The focus of intervention is to help cooperation initiatives that bring institutions closer to communities and people, build cooperation and strengthen relationships.</p> <p><i>Indicative actions</i></p> <p>Providing support to initiatives and events promoting and preserving cultural diversity and common traditions – involving the local civil society. Examples may include support to small-scale cooperation initiatives of communities, civil organizations and institutions in the fields of culture, sports, youth and other leisure activities (e.g. organising village-days, joint sport events, preserving common cultural traditions) is essential from social and cultural point of view. In order to improve sustainability, it is proposed that multiannual programmes are supported instead of one-off projects.</p> <p><i>Types of actions include, among others:</i></p> <p>Small-scale joint initiatives in the fields of sport, culture and leisure - <i>cultural events, performances, festivals, sports competitions, extracurricular cooperation of schoolchildren</i> – exchange programmes, <i>trainings</i> promoting cultural diversity and joint traditions, with the aim of creating sustainable</p>	

Investment priority	11b - Promoting legal and administrative cooperation and cooperation between citizens and institutions (ETC-CB)
<p>networks and cooperation.</p> <p><i>Types of potential beneficiaries:</i></p> <p>Eligible applicants must have their seats or a regional/local branch or institutions located in the eligible programme area, i.e. Szabolcs-Szatmar-Bereg, Hajdu-Bihar, Bekes and Csongrad counties in Hungary and, Satu Mare, Bihor, Arad and Timis counties in Romania.</p> <p>Exceptions are also possible – in the case of public entities not having their legal seat in the eligible area, but having legal competencies for implementing operations in the programme area.</p> <p>The indicative list of potential beneficiaries may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local and county governments / administrations and their institutions • Non-governmental, non-profit organisation • Management organisations of Euroregions • EGTC • Microregional associations • Churches • Educational and higher education institutions <p>Target groups: population of the eligible area</p> <p>Possible forms of support: Non-repayable grant through open calls.</p> <p>The actions do not address any specific territories.</p>	

2.A.6.2 Guiding principles for the selection of operations

Investment priority	11b - Promoting legal and administrative cooperation and cooperation between citizens and institutions (ETC-CB)
<i>Call for Proposal</i>	
(For the general guiding principles for the selection of operations in the frame of call for proposals, see Chapter 2.A.6.2 Ip6/b)	

2.A.6.3 Planned use of financial instruments (where appropriate)

Investment priority	11b - Promoting legal and administrative cooperation and cooperation between citizens and institutions (ETC-CB)
Not applicable.	

2.A.6.4 Planned use of major projects (where appropriate)

Investment priority	11b - Promoting legal and administrative cooperation and cooperation between citizens and institutions (ETC-CB)
Not applicable.	

2.A.6.5 Output indicators (by investment priority)

Table 4: Common and programme-specific output indicators

Investment priority	11b - Promoting legal and administrative cooperation and cooperation between citizens and institutions (ETC-CB)				
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting

Investment priority		11b - Promoting legal and administrative cooperation and cooperation between citizens and institutions (ETC-CB)			
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
11/b1	Number of institutions directly involved in cross-border cooperation initiatives	number	36.00	Project Monitoring	annually
11/b2	Number of people participating in cross-border cooperation initiatives	Number of people	2,000.00	Project Monitoring	annually

2.A.7 Performance framework

Table 5: Performance framework of the priority axis

Priority axis		PA6 - Promoting cross-border cooperation between institutions and citizens (Cooperation of institutions and communities)					
ID	Indicator type	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestone for 2018	Final target (2023)	Source of data	Explanation of relevance of indicator, where appropriate
11/b1	O	Number of institutions directly involved in cross-border cooperation initiatives	number	4	36.00	Project Monitoring	We have assumed that by the milestone date at least 10% of the projects foreseen will be completed, thus at least 4 institutions would have been directly involved in cooperation.
F.PA6	F	Total amount of certified expenditure	EUR	490,000.00	4,013,379.00	MA with certification function	For the milestone date we have calculated that 12,2% of the total ERDF allocation and of the related national co-financing will be certified (the calculated figure for the milestone value has been rounded up to the nearest 10.000). For the final date it is foreseen that 100 % of the total allocation is certified.

Additional qualitative information on the establishment of the performance framework

2.A.8 Categories of intervention

Categories of intervention corresponding to the content of the priority axis, based on a nomenclature adopted by the Commission, and indicative breakdown of Union support

Tables 6-9: Categories of intervention

Table 6: Dimension 1 Intervention field

Priority axis	PA6 - Promoting cross-border cooperation between institutions and citizens (Cooperation of institutions and communities)	
	Code	Amount (€)
	119. Investment in institutional capacity and in the efficiency of public administrations and public services at the national, regional and local levels with a view to reforms, better regulation and good governance	3,411,372.00

Table 7: Dimension 2 Form of finance

Priority axis	PA6 - Promoting cross-border cooperation between institutions and citizens (Cooperation of institutions and communities)	
	Code	Amount (€)
	01. Non-repayable grant	3,411,372.00

Table 8: Dimension 3 Territory type

Priority axis	PA6 - Promoting cross-border cooperation between institutions and citizens (Cooperation of institutions and communities)	
	Code	Amount (€)
07. Not applicable		3,411,372.00

Table 9: Dimension 6 Territorial delivery mechanisms

Priority axis	PA6 - Promoting cross-border cooperation between institutions and citizens (Cooperation of institutions and communities)	
	Code	Amount (€)
07. Not applicable		3,411,372.00

2.A.9 A summary of the planned use of technical assistance including, where necessary, actions to reinforce the administrative capacity of authorities involved in the management and control of the programmes and beneficiaries and, where necessary, actions to enhance the administrative capacity of relevant partners to participate in the implementation of programmes (where appropriate)

Priority axis:	PA6 - Promoting cross-border cooperation between institutions and citizens (Cooperation of institutions and communities)	
Not relevant.		

2.B DESCRIPTION OF THE PRIORITY AXES FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

2.B.1 Priority axis

ID	TA
Title	Technical Assistance

2.B.2 Fund and calculation basis for Union support

Fund	Calculation basis (total eligible expenditure or eligible public expenditure)
ERDF	Total

2.B.3 Specific objectives and expected results

ID	Specific objective	Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support
SO/TA	Effective and efficient programme and project implementation	Not applicable (required where the Union support to technical assistance in the cooperation programme exceeds EUR 15 million)

2.B.4 Result indicators

Table 10: Programme-specific result indicators (by specific objective)

Priority axis	SO/TA - Effective and efficient programme and project implementation						
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting

2.B.5 Actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives (by priority axis)

2.B.5.1 Description of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives

Priority axis	TA - Technical Assistance
	<p>According to Article 17 of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013, the limit for TA is determined in a maximum of 6% of the total ERDF amount allocated to the Programme.</p> <p>The TA aims at supporting the implementation of the Programme, the involvement of relevant partners, as well as to increase capacity of institutions and beneficiaries in the Programme area for the cross-border actions.</p> <p>The PA 7 TA seeks in particular to achieve two SOs, namely a) to secure the core management for the implementation of the Programme (preparation, contracting, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and control) and b) to implement accompanying activities to support the generation and implementation of high-quality, result-oriented cross-border projects and partnerships in a way that the TA contributes to the effective and smooth management and implementation of the Programme.</p> <p>The TA will support actions that enhance the capacity of applicants and beneficiaries to apply for and to use the programme funds and that improve the administrative procedures while ensuring a proper verification of project outputs and results under the quantitative and qualitative point of view.</p> <p>Moreover, TA funds will be used to prepare programme processes and templates, for programme administration, monitoring, evaluation, communication, auditing and to improve the administrative capacity and the common working procedures of the programme bodies and stakeholders. Therefore, TA funds will cover the costs of the managing authority (MA)[1] having certification functions as well, the joint secretariat (JS), the info-points (IPs) and the audit authority (AA). In addition, tasks related to national activities (National Authority [NA], First level control system [FLC]) will be also covered from TA.</p> <p>Indicative actions supported under this PA are listed below and refer to principles and tasks described in Sections 5:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Management of the programme by the MA, with support of the JS and support to the MC, for the implementation and day-to-day management of

Priority axis	TA - Technical Assistance
	<p>the programme, as well as effective and proportionate anti-fraud measures put in place as necessary.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The drafting and implementation of calls of proposals, including the development of the guidance documents. • The drafting of information documents for applicants and beneficiaries to guide them in the preparation of applications and in the implementation, evaluation, control and communication of approved operations. • Implementation of proper procedures for the quality assessment, monitoring and control of operations implemented under the CP, also making use of external experts where necessary, and contributing to the reduction of administrative burden for beneficiaries. • Evaluation of the programme implementation by gathering data concerning the progress of the programme in achieving its objectives, as well as financial data and data relating to indicators and milestones, and reporting to the MC and the EC. For this purpose, an evaluation plan shall be drafted. • Organisation and implementation of audit activities with regard to the programme management and control system and on operations. • Establishment of cooperation and coordination networks and contacts among representatives of other relevant EU co-funded programmes by MA and JS (the EU Strategy for the Danube Region [EUSDR], neighbouring ETC programmes, national programmes, etc.). • Implementing widespread information activities about the programme and the projects through the elaboration and implementation of a programme communication strategy. • Support to (potential) project holders in developing and implementing relevant projects. Diverse seminars, trainings and information events will be organised on national and cross-border level (details will be set out in the communication plan). • Elaboration of studies, reports and surveys on strategic matters concerning the programme that can contribute to the sustainability and the take up of results and achievements into policies, strategies, investments or that are of public interest, making use of experts when necessary. • Development and maintenance of a structured integrated database/system of the programme data management that is accessible to all relevant implementing bodies of the programme. The database will enable data management on various level of implementation, it will work as an

Priority axis	TA - Technical Assistance
	<p>integrated statistical tool and as a method of the day-to-day management on programme and project level. Innovative front office tools will be developed such as electronic submission of applications.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Costs related to tasks to be performed by the National Authority. • Costs related to tasks to be performed by the controllers. <p>TA actions will be implemented by all authorities involved in the management of the Programme, listed in Section 5.</p> <p>Beneficiaries for the TA axis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Managing Authority with certification function (MA) • Hungarian National Authority (HUNA) • Audit Authority (AA) • Audit Body in Hungary (AB) • first level control from Romania and Hungary (FLC) • Joint Secretariat (JS) • InfoPoints (IP) <p>[1] Managing authority with certification function hereinafter referred to as MA.</p>

2.B.5.2 Output indicators expected to contribute to results (by priority axis)

Table 11: Output indicators

Priority axis		TA - Technical Assistance		
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Source of data
TA1	Number of events for information and promotion of the programme	Number		Invitations submitted to stakeholders/ potential applicants, Lists of participants
TA2	Number of call for proposals launched	Number		Monitoring system, MC decision, Published application package
TA3	Number of MC meetings	Number		Minutes of MC meetings
TA4	Number of projects implemented and closed	Number		Monitoring system
TA5	Number of employees FTEs (full time equivalents) whose salaries are co-financed by TA	Number		Employment records of the implementing bodies

2.B.6 Categories of intervention

Corresponding categories of intervention based on a nomenclature adopted by the Commission, and an indicative breakdown of Union support.

Tables 12-14: Categories of intervention

Table 12: Dimension 1 Intervention field

Priority axis	TA - Technical Assistance	
	Code	Amount (€)
	121. Preparation, implementation, monitoring and inspection	8,348,320.00
	122. Evaluation and studies	1,000,000.00
	123. Information and communication	2,000,000.00

Table 13: Dimension 2 Form of finance

Priority axis	TA - Technical Assistance	
	Code	Amount (€)
	01.Non-repayable grant	11,348,320.00

Table 14: Dimension 3 Territory type

Priority axis	TA - Technical Assistance	
	Code	Amount (€)
07.Not applicable		11,348,320.00

3. FINANCING PLAN

3.1 Financial appropriation from the ERDF (in €)

Table 15

Fund	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total
ERDF	0.00	23,079,572.00	19,561,825.00	35,543,720.00	36,254,593.00	36,979,685.00	37,719,277.00	189,138,672.00
Total	0.00	23,079,572.00	19,561,825.00	35,543,720.00	36,254,593.00	36,979,685.00	37,719,277.00	189,138,672.00

3.2.A Total financial appropriation from the ERDF and national co-financing (in €)

Table 16: Financing plan

Priority axis	Fund	Basis for calculation of Union support (Total eligible cost or public eligible cost)	Union support (a)	National counterpart (b) = (c) + (d)	Indicative breakdown of the national counterpart		Total funding (e) = (a) + (b)	Co-financing rate (f) = (a) / (e) (2)	For information	
					National public funding (c)	National private funding (d)			Contributions from third countries	EIB contributions
PA1	ERDF	Total	41,227,417.00	7,275,427.00	5,820,344.00	1,455,083.00	48,502,844.00	84.9999991753%		
PA2	ERDF	Total	29,746,250.00	5,249,339.00	4,986,871.00	262,468.00	34,995,589.00	84.9999981426%		
PA3	ERDF	Total	46,810,155.00	8,260,616.00	4,130,308.00	4,130,308.00	55,070,771.00	84.9999993645%		
PA4	ERDF	Total	48,479,323.00	8,555,175.00	7,699,657.00	855,518.00	57,034,498.00	84.9999994740%		
PA5	ERDF	Total	8,115,835.00	1,432,207.00	1,288,986.00	143,221.00	9,548,042.00	84.9999926687%		
PA6	ERDF	Total	3,411,372.00	602,007.00	301,003.00	301,004.00	4,013,379.00	84.9999962625%		
TA	ERDF	Total	11,348,320.00	11,348,320.00	11,348,320.00	0.00	22,696,640.00	50.0000000000%		
Total	ERDF		189,138,672.00	42,723,091.00	35,575,489.00	7,147,602.00	231,861,763.00	81.5738953904%		
Grand total			189,138,672.00	42,723,091.00	35,575,489.00	7,147,602.00	231,861,763.00	81.5738953904%		

(1) To be completed only when priority axes are expressed in total costs.

(2) This rate may be rounded to the nearest whole number in the table. The precise rate used to reimburse payments is the ratio (f).

3.2.B Breakdown by priority axis and thematic objective

Table 17

Priority axis	Thematic objective	Union support	National counterpart	Total funding
PA1	Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency	41,227,417.00	7,275,427.00	48,502,844.00
PA2	Promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures	29,746,250.00	5,249,339.00	34,995,589.00
PA3	Promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility	46,810,155.00	8,260,616.00	55,070,771.00
PA4	Promoting social inclusion, combating poverty and any discrimination	48,479,323.00	8,555,175.00	57,034,498.00
PA5	Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and management	8,115,835.00	1,432,207.00	9,548,042.00
PA6	Enhancing institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders and an efficient public administration	3,411,372.00	602,007.00	4,013,379.00
Total		177,790,352.00	31,374,771.00	209,165,123.00

Table 18: Indicative amount of support to be used for climate change objectives

Priority axis	Indicative amount of support to be used for climate change objectives (€)	Proportion of the total allocation to the programme (%)
PA1	9,176,386.40	4.85%
PA2	7,752,371.80	4.10%
PA5	6,411,509.80	3.39%
Total	23,340,268.00	12.34%

4. INTEGRATED APPROACH TO TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT

Description of the integrated approach to territorial development, taking into account the content and objectives of the cooperation programme, including in relation to regions and areas referred to in Article 174(3) TFEU, having regard to the Partnership Agreements of the participating Member States, and showing how it contributes to the accomplishment of the programme objectives and expected results

CLLD and ITI as potential tools of integrated territorial development will not be applied in the programme.

However, the integrated approach to territorial development is clearly present in the programme – in two priorities:

- PA 1: Joint protection and efficient use of common values and resources – IP 6/c (Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage). The SO is the sustainable use of natural, historic and cultural heritage within the eligible area. Instead of one-off individual projects, it is envisaged that a number of cultural and natural heritages are rehabilitated in a specific cross-border area, and thematic routes may be built around the rehabilitated (including also already existing facilities) heritage sites. This can only be done using an integrated approach, bringing together different actors and implementing various different interventions (rehabilitation of a number of interconnected heritage sites, improving their accessibility, developing related touristic infrastructure, organizing thematic routes, promoting the new touristic project, etc.) that mutually build on each other a together can make a significant contribution to the specific objective.
- PA 3: Improve employment and promote cross-border labour mobility – IP 8/b (Supporting employment friendly growth through the development of endogenous potential as part of a territorial strategy for specific areas, including the conversion of declining industrial regions and enhancement of accessibility to, and development of, specific natural and cultural resources). The SO is to increase employment in specific territories within the eligible area. The integrated approach is even more prominently present here. It is foreseen that – in line with the spirit of the Ip – specific cross-border territories (partnerships of various settlements) develop a joint integrated territorial strategy (or they have one already in place), and built on that integrated strategy they implement together (involving also other stakeholders) a group of projects exploiting endogenous potential of the given territory. The projects complement each other, and together can make a contribution to the employment-friendly growth of the given territory.

4.1 Community-led local development (where appropriate)

Approach to the use of community-led local development instruments and principles for identifying the areas where they will be implemented

Not applicable.

4.2 Integrated actions for sustainable urban development (where appropriate)

Principles for identifying the urban areas where integrated actions for sustainable urban development are to be implemented and the indicative allocation of the ERDF support for these actions

Not applicable.

Table 19: Integrated actions for sustainable urban development – indicative amounts of ERDF support

Indicative amount of ERDF support (€)
0.00

4.3 Integrated Territorial Investment (ITI) (where appropriate)

Approach to the use of Integrated Territorial Investments (ITI) (as defined in Article 36 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013) other than in cases covered by 4.2, and their indicative financial allocation from each priority axis

Not applicable.

Table 20: Indicative financial allocation to ITI other than those mentioned under point 4.2 (aggregate amount)

Priority axis	Indicative financial allocation (Union support) (€)
Total	0.00

4.4 Contribution of planned interventions towards macro-regional and sea basin strategies, subject to the needs of the programme area as identified by the relevant

Member States and taking into account, where applicable, strategically important projects identified in those strategies (where appropriate)

(Where Member States and regions participate in macro-regional and sea basin strategies)

The EUSDR is a macro-regional strategy adopted by the EC on 08 December 2010 and endorsed by the European Council on 24 June 2011. The Strategy was developed by the Commission together with the Danube Region countries and stakeholders in order to address common challenges.

The Strategy aims at creating synergies and coordination between existing policies and initiatives taking place across the Danube Region. The region is facing several challenges: environmental threats (water pollution, floods, and climate change), untapped shipping potential and lack of road and rail transport connections, insufficient energy connections, uneven socio-economic development, uncoordinated education, research and innovation systems and shortcomings in safety and security. In order to address the above-mentioned challenges a strong coordination and cooperation is needed meaning the Strategy does not have own financing mechanism but seeks to foster funding opportunities.

In order to provide financing for the Strategy, the Danube Transnational Cooperation Programme 2014-2020 was set up as the successor of the South-East Europe Transnational Cooperation Programme 2007-2013 since 18 December 2012 the EC proposed to create a new transnational CP for the period 2014-2020. The Danube Programme area includes Austria; Bosnia and Herzegovina; Bulgaria; Croatia; Czech Republic; Germany (Baden-Württemberg and Bavaria) not whole territory); Hungary; the Republic of Moldova; Montenegro; Romania; Serbia; Slovakia; Slovenia; Ukraine (not whole territory). The geography of the new Danube Programme matches exactly the territory of the EUSDR adopted on 24 June 2011. The macro-regional strategy and the transnational Programme are two different instruments developed for similar aims but acting on different levels and principles. Their matching territory and goals provide great opportunities for cooperation between the two: besides contributing to the Strategy's thematic goals by realizing relevant cooperation projects, the Programme might also support the institutional cooperation of stakeholders and institutions of the Danube Strategy.

The territory of the Interreg V-A Romania-Hungary is part of the area covered by the EUSDR. Taking the area of relevance into account and the TOs to be selected for the 2014-2020 Programme, it can be stated that the above-mentioned challenges could be also identified as the ones related to the eligible border area of Romania and Hungary, thus strong coherence is determined.

The Interreg V-A Romania-Hungary has taken into account the comments of the EC and it is in compliance with the recommendations of the Position Papers issued by the EC and with the Partnership Agreements.

In the implementation of the activities under the PA of the Programme elaborated according to the selected TOs and IPs, the EUSDR strategy will be taken into account as appropriate. Strong connection has been determined between the Interreg V-A Romania-

Hungary priorities and the ones of the EUSDR. The Programme seeks to support the implementation of the EUSDR in a way that it contributes to its 4 pillars and the majority of its Priority Areas. It can be foreseen that Programme as well as the projects to be selected for financing and implemented is related to the following PA:

The PA 1 and 6 of the Interreg V-A Romania-Hungary contributes to the 1. Pillar “Connecting the Regions” of EUSDR as follows:

- Priority Area 3 of the EUSDR "To promote culture and tourism, people to people contacts"

The PA 1 and 5 of the Interreg V-A Romania-Hungary contributes to the 2. Pillar “Protecting the environment” of EUSDR as follows:

- Priority Area 4 of the EUSDR "To restore and maintain the quality of waters"
- Priority Area 5 of the EUSDR "To manage environmental risks"

The PA 2 of the Interreg V-A Romania-Hungary contributes to the 1. Pillar “Connecting the Regions” of EUSDR as follows:

- Priority Area 1B of the EUSDR "To improve mobility and intermodality - rail, road and air"

The PA 3 and 6 of the Interreg V-A Romania-Hungary contributes to the 3. Pillar “Building prosperity” of EUSDR as follows:

- Priority Area 9 of the EUSDR "To invest in people and skills"

The PA 6 of the Interreg V-A Romania-Hungary contributes to the 4. Pillar “Strengthening the region” of EUSDR as follows:

- Priority Area 10 "To step up institutional capacity and cooperation"

Point 7.3 of Annex I to Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 gives the possibility the Programme to support to Macro-Regional Strategies. The MC has the right to decide during the selection procedure on priorities. During the implementation of the HURO CBC Programme 2007-2013, priority was offered to projects related to MRS (Danube) by giving additional scores during the evaluation according to the application form containing separate section for MRS (Danube). This best practice could be continued in this Programme as well.

The strategy is coordinated in both countries at national level.

5. IMPLEMENTING PROVISIONS FOR THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME

5.1 Relevant authorities and bodies

Table 21: Programme authorities

Authority/body	Name of authority/body and department or unit	Head of authority/body (position or post)
Managing authority	Romanian Ministry of Regional Development and Public Administration	Minister
Certifying authority	-	-
Audit authority	Audit Authority within the Romanian Court of Accounts	President

The body to which payments will be made by the Commission is:

- the Managing authority
 the Certifying authority

Table 22: Body or bodies carrying out control and audit tasks

Authority/body	Name of authority/body and department or unit	Head of authority/body (position or post)
Body or bodies designated to carry out control tasks	First Level Control Unit within the Regional Office for Cross-Border Cooperation Oradea (BRECO) for PA 1-6 - Romania	Executive Director
Body or bodies designated to carry out control tasks	Ministry of Regional Development and Public Administration for TA - Romania	Minister
Body or bodies designated to carry out control tasks	Prime Minister's Office for TA - Hungary	Minister
Body or bodies designated to carry out control tasks	Szechenyi Programme Office for PA 1-6 - Hungary	Managing Director
Body or bodies designated to be responsible for carrying out audit tasks	Audit Authority within the Romanian Court of Accounts	President

5.2 Procedure for setting up the joint secretariat

According to Article 23(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013 the MA after consultation with the MSs participating in the Programmes shall set up a JS.

The JS is professionally independent from the hosting institution and supervised in work by the MA. The MA will strive to ensure that the staff of the JS is sufficient and has the necessary capacity to carry out the delegated tasks.

The JS will be hosted by BRECO, Romania. The location will be in Oradea.

The main functions of the JS:

- shall carry out its tasks under the responsibility of the MA (clearly detailed in the Programme' relevant documents and the agreement for delegated tasks).
- shall assist the MC in carrying its functions and provide relevant information on the Programme to the (potential) beneficiaries.

The JS will support the MA and MC in all processes. The JS shall be funded from the TA. The JS will have a staff fluent in Programme's official language and at least one of the Member States' official languages.

An agreement will be signed delegating tasks from the MA to the JS, and a financing contract after the Programme' adoption by the EC,. The MA disposes on the delegated tasks and monitors their proper fulfilment. The tasks cannot be further delegated to another body.

New staff shall be selected through a public and transparent procedure, ensuring equal opportunities.

The staff selection procedure will be organized by the MA through a public and transparent procedure, ensuring equal opportunities and gender equality, in 4 phases:

1. Administrative compliance of submitted application and eligibility of the applicant,
2. Assessment of submitted documentation,
3. Written exam,
4. Structured interview.

The MA shall seek consensus of the NA in decision-making during staff selection.

The staff' selection committee shall have equal representation of the two MSs.

Detailed selection procedure shall be jointly agreed.

5.3 Summary description of the management and control arrangements

5.3.1 Tasks and responsibilities of Programme's management and control bodies

The MA (with certification function)

MA shall carry out the functions laid down in Article 125 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 23 of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013 and is also responsible for certifying the expenditures to EU as per article 23 and 24 of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013, and in line with article 126 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013.

The MA has competencies and responsibilities regarding the management of the CP, the selection of operations, the financial management and control of the Programme and the certification of expenditure.

As regards to the programme management of the CP, the MA shall:

1. support the work of the MC referred to in Article 47 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and provide it with the information it requires to carry out its tasks, in particular data relating to the progress of the CP in achieving its objectives, financial data, and data relating to indicators and milestones;
2. draw up and, after approval by the MC, submit to the Commission annual and final implementation reports referred to in Article 50 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 ;
3. make available to JS and beneficiaries information that are relevant to the execution of their tasks and the implementation of operations respectively;
4. establish a system to record and store in computerised form data on each operation necessary for monitoring, evaluation, financial management, verification, and audit, including data on individual participants in operations, where applicable;
5. ensure that the data referred to in point 4 is collected, entered and stored in the system referred to in point 4.

As regards the selection of operations, the MA supported by the JS and the NA, where the case, shall:

1. draw up and, once approved, apply appropriate selection procedures and criteria that:
 - (i) ensure the contribution of operations to the achievement of the SOs and results of the relevant priority;
 - (ii) are non-discriminatory and transparent;
 - (iii) take into account the general principles set out in Articles 7 and 8 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 (promotion of equality between men and women and non-discrimination and sustainable development);
 - (iv) ensure the contribution of operations to the sustainable development principle.
2. ensure that proper communication and information transmission to the applicants/beneficiaries are in place, in order to enhance their capacity to apply

for and to use the programme funds. To that end, a communication strategy is elaborated and approved.

3. ensure that a selected operation falls within the scope of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and can be attributed to a category of intervention;
4. ensure that the beneficiary is provided with a document setting out the conditions for support for each operation including the specific requirements concerning the products or services to be delivered under the operation, the financing plan, and the time-limit for execution;
5. satisfy itself that the beneficiary has the administrative, financial and operational capacity and competence to fulfil the conditions referred to in point 4 before approval of the operation;
6. satisfy itself that, where the operation has started before the submission of an application for funding to the MA, applicable law relevant for the operation has been complied with;
7. ensure that operations selected for support from the Funds do not include activities which were part of an operation which has been or should have been subject to a procedure of recovery in accordance with Article 71 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 following the relocation of a productive activity outside the programme area;
8. determine the categories of intervention to which the expenditure of an operation shall be attributed.

As regards the financial management and control of the CP, the MA shall:

1. ensure that beneficiaries involved in the implementation of operations reimbursed on the basis of eligible costs actually incurred maintain either a separate accounting system or an adequate accounting code for all transactions relating to an operation;
2. put in place effective and proportionate anti-fraud measures taking into account the risks identified, in accordance with Article 125(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013;
3. ensure that measures for preventing, detecting and correcting the irregularities, according to relevant regulations, are in place;
4. set up procedures to ensure that all documents regarding expenditure and audits required to ensure an adequate audit trail are held in accordance with the requirements of point (g) Article 72 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013;
5. draw up the management declaration and annual summary referred to in points (a) and (b) of Article 59(5) of the Financial Regulation;
6. will, by its own audit structure, ensure a permanent assessment of the Management Control and evaluation of the risk management to improve the implementation conditions and the assumption of the associated responsibilities

as established by the financial management rules mentioned by the Financial Regulation and the ERDF specific rules;

7. the MA' internal audit structure shall participate in the preparation of MA (including MA' system) for external audits and shall ensure liaison with external audit bodies responsible for auditing the programme (eg. audit authority of Romania);
8. follows, by its own audit structure, the stage of implementation of recommendations submitted by the external audit and control bodies, by elaborating/up-dating, completing, coordinating the requested reports;
9. may audit, by its own audit structure, the accounting system established for all expenses, in accordance with the provisions of the Financial Regulation (EU) No 966/2012.

As regards the certification of expenditure, the MA shall be responsible for:

1. ensuring the transfer of the ERDF sources to the lead beneficiaries;
2. ensuring the transfer to the beneficiaries of the Technical Assistance PA;
3. drawing up and submitting payment applications to the Commission, and certifying that they result from reliable accounting systems, are based on verifiable supporting documents, and have been subject to verifications by the MA;
4. drawing up the annual accounts referred to in point (a) of Article 59(5) of the Financial Regulation;
5. certifying the completeness, accuracy, and veracity of the annual accounts and that the expenditure entered in the accounts complies with applicable law and has been incurred in respect of operations selected for funding in accordance with the criteria applicable to the CP and complying with applicable law;
6. ensuring that there is a system which records and stores, in computerised form, accounting records for each operation, and which supports all the data required for drawing up payment applications and accounts, including records of amounts recoverable, amounts recovered, and amounts withdrawn following cancellation of all or part of the contribution for an operation or operational programme;
7. ensuring for the purposes of drawing up and submission of payment applications, that it has received adequate information from the controllers on the procedures and verifications carried out in relation to expenditure;
8. taking account - when drawing up and submitting payment applications of the results - of all audits carried out by, or under the responsibility of, the AA;
9. maintaining, in a computerised form, accounting records of expenditure declared to the Commission and of the corresponding public contribution paid to beneficiaries;

10. keeping an account of amounts recoverable and of amounts withdrawn following cancellation of all or part of the contribution for an operation. Amounts recovered shall be repaid to the budget of the Union prior to the closure of the cooperation programme, in compliance with the regulatory framework in place.

Separation of functions will be ensured within the same ministry in Romania, between the managing authority' operational unit and the unit undertaking certification function of the managing authority. Further details will be provided in the DMCS (Description of the management and control system).

The MA shall also be responsible for:

1. Signing the project contracts financed by ERDF with the lead beneficiaries;
2. Receiving the ERDF funds from the European Commission, as well the national contribution for Technical Assistance (TA) from the programme structure from Hungary;
3. Ensuring conclusion of the contracts regarding the national co-financing from the state budget with the Romanian beneficiaries;
4. Ensuring the availability of the amounts from Romanian national co-financing contribution to the TA budget for the programme' core structures;
5. Ensuring that the transfer of the national co-financing from the state budget is made to the Romanian project beneficiaries, as well as to the TA beneficiaries benefiting from contribution of the Romanian state budget;
6. Ensuring access to information for the NA and AA in order to fulfil their respective tasks;
7. Ensuring the compliance of the expenditures with the Programme rules, Community rules, and with the Programme's procedures through an adequate control system;
8. Ensuring an adequate audit trail for the whole system concerning the implementation of the Programme;
9. Co-ordinating the activities regarding the implementation of the Programme delegated to the JS and IP;
10. Performing the financial corrections in accordance with the provisions of Article 143 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013;
11. Ensuring the fast record and update of the information into the electronic system, being responsible for the accuracy, integrity, and completeness of the data concerning the Programme managed;
12. Ensuring designation of the controllers responsible for carrying out the first level control for the beneficiaries located in Romania.

The Managing Authority shall ensure that effective arrangements for the examination of complaints concerning the funds allocated through the Programme are in place.

The MA shall make sure the principle of equal treatment is followed when the Romanian and Hungarian partners are verified.

The MA and the staff fulfilling certification tasks shall be funded from the TA budget.

The National Authority

The NA will be the representative of the partner state in the Programme.

The NA will perform the following tasks:

1. Ensuring access to information for the MA and AA in order to fulfil their respective tasks;
2. Ensuring the transposition into the national regulatory framework of the additional rules on eligibility of expenditure for the CP as a whole, established in the MC framework in accordance with the provisions of paragraph (2) of Article 18 of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013;
3. Ensuring the compliance of the expenditures with Programme rules, Community and national rules and with the Programme's procedures, through an adequate control system;
4. Signing the contracts or delegating the signature of contracts regarding the national co-financing from the state budget with the beneficiaries from the respective country;
5. Ensuring the availability and transfer of the amounts from the national co-financing contribution to the TA budget for the programme's core structures;
6. Ensuring the transfer of the national co-financing from the state budget to the respective country's project beneficiaries, as well as to the national TA beneficiaries;
7. Designating the controller/s responsible for carrying out the first level control for the beneficiaries located in respective country;
8. Nominating the representatives of NA in the MC;
9. Ensuring an adequate audit trail for the system concerning the implementation of the Programme in the respective country;
10. Preventing, detecting and correcting the irregularities committed in the respective country;
11. Informing the MA, in 15 working days, about any validated cost, subject to irregularity discovered or presumed to have happened on the territory of the respective country, concerning the Programme;

12. Informing the MA on a monthly basis in relation to the amounts recovered related to the national co-financing that were subject to irregularities committed by the beneficiaries on the respective country' territory;
13. Accessing and using the electronic system of the Programme which manages all functions necessary for the programme implementation, in line with the direct attributions according to user rights;
14. Ensuring the necessary funds in case of funds decommitment at Programme level, proportionally with the approved projects budget and performed activities by the national beneficiaries;
15. Ensuring that beneficiaries involved in the implementation of operations reimbursed on the basis of eligible costs actually incurred maintain either a separate accounting system or an adequate accounting code for all transactions relating to an operation;
16. Putting in place effective and proportionate anti-fraud measures taking into account the risks identified;
17. Ensuring that effective arrangements for the examination of complaints to be regulated at national level and of national scope concerning the funds allocated through the Programme are in place .

*The tasks and responsibilities of the management bodies at national level consisting of **National Authority and Controllers performing the verification of expenditures** will be detailed also in the description of management and control system.*

The Monitoring Committee

In accordance with Article 47 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, the MSs will set up a MC within 3 months of the notification of the approval by the Commission of the CP. MC shall carry out the function laid down in Article 110 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013.

The MC shall be composed of representatives of the MA, NA and of representatives of the institutions nominated by the MSs forming national delegations by respecting the principles of partnership and multi-level governance. Each member of the Monitoring Committee shall have a voting right. Each observer of the monitoring committee shall have an exclusively consultative role, without decision-making power.

The rules of procedure of the MC (including the Code of Conduct), the methodology and criteria for selection of the operations as well as the eligibility rules of the Programme will be adopted as soon as possible after the Programme adoption by the EC, but no later than within the deadlines provided for in the relevant regulation(s).

The MC:

- will represent the participating MSs on policy and administrative levels and thus ensure a transparent approach respecting the principles of partnership and multi-level governance,
- will represent the 8 counties from the CB area,
- will represent similar national and regional level in both MSs,
- will consult with the representatives of the civil society,
- will benefit from the expertise on climate change among the MC members.

The functions of the MC are:

1. The MC shall meet at least once a year and shall review implementation of the Programme and progress made towards achieving its objectives. In doing so, it shall have regard to the financial data, common and programme-specific indicators, including changes in the value of result indicators and progress towards quantified target values, and the milestones defined in the performance framework referred to in Article 21(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and, where relevant, the results of qualitative analyses.
2. The MC shall examine all issues that affect the performance of the Programme, including the conclusions of the performance reviews.
3. The MC shall be consulted and shall, if it considers it to be appropriate, give an opinion and endorsement on any amendment of the Programme proposed by the MA.
4. The MC may make observations to the MA regarding implementation and evaluation of the Programme including actions related to the reduction of the administrative burden on beneficiaries. The MC shall monitor actions taken as a result of its observations.
5. The MC shall select the operations. The MC may set up a Steering Committee that acts under its responsibility for the selection of operations.
6. To examine in particular:
 - any issues that affect the performance of the CP;
 - progress in implementation of the evaluation plan and the follow-up given to findings of evaluations;
 - implementation of the communication strategy;
 - actions to promote equality between men and women, equal opportunities, and non-discrimination, including accessibility for disabled persons;
 - actions to promote sustainable development.
1. To examine and approve:
 - the methodology and criteria for selection of operations;
 - the annual and final implementation reports;
 - the evaluation plan for the Programme and any amendment of the plan;
 - the communication strategy for the Programme and any amendment of the strategy;
 - any proposal by the MA for any amendment to the Programme;

- the MSs in the MC may establish additional rules on eligibility of expenditure for the CP as a whole. Those additional rules must be subject to limitations under Articles 65 to 71 of the CPR Regulation, Article 19 of the ETC Regulation and of the Commission Regulation (EU) No 481/2014. Stricter programme and national rules may apply only in areas that are not precisely regulated at the EU level, or where EU Regulations provide the Member States with a discretionary power to set such rules. Only for matters not covered by the rules set up in the EU Regulations and the programme rules, national rules of individual Member States may apply. Moreover, rules set at a lower level in the hierarchy (e.g. national rules) cannot abolish rules established at a higher level (EU and programme rules). Also, eligibility rules set at different levels cannot be in contradiction;
- major changes incurred in the Programme's implementation structure, with impact on Programme's implementation.

The audit authority

According to the Article 21(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013, a single audit authority shall be appointed by the MSs for the purposes of Article 123(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013. The audit authority functions will be fulfilled by the **Court of Accounts from Romania – audit authority**.

The AA disposes of the necessary functional independence from the MA, MC members, controllers and beneficiaries. The AA shall carry out the functions laid down in Article 127 of the Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 25(2) of the Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013. The AA is in particular responsible for ensuring that audits are carried out on the management and control systems, on an appropriate sample of operations and on the annual accounts.

The AA will carry out its functions in accordance with Article 123(4) and Article 127 of the Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 as well as with Article 21(1) and 25(2) of the Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013.

The AA will prepare an audit strategy, within eight months of adoption of the CP, which shall set out the audit methodology, the sampling method for audits on operations and the planning of audits in relation to the current accounting year and the two subsequent accounting years. The audit strategy shall be updated annually from 2016 until and including 2024.

In line with Article 25(2) of the Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013, the AA will be assisted by a GoA comprising of representatives from responsible bodies of each Partner State participating in the CP carrying out the duties detailed in Article 127 of the Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013. The representatives have to be independent from the members of the MC, the controllers designated according to Article 23(4) of the Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013 and also from all activities and financial aspects of operations.

The GoA will be set up within three months of the EC decision approving the Programme at the latest. It will draw up its own Rules of Procedure and will be chaired by the AA.

The AA as an independent audit body will also be in charge of the designation audit foreseen by the Article 124(2) of the Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013.

The work of the AA and of the GoA will be supported by the MA and the JS.

InfoPoints

The IPs will be the main contact and information point in the programme area for information and support. The IP will be professionally independent from the hosting institution, professionally coordinated by the JS and monitored in work by the MA. The MA disposes on the delegated tasks and monitors their proper fulfilment.

The IPs will be hosted in Hungary, in each eligible county, by the Széchenyi Programme Office, in separate structures.

The general purpose and objective of the IP is to contribute in accomplishment of the JS delegated tasks for implementing the Interreg V-A Romania-Hungary, in a qualitative manner, as identified to be needed from the 2007-2013 period experience.

The IP will perform the following tasks:

1. support the project generation and development (the organisation of information seminars etc.), including supporting in dealing with the national legislation related aspects;
2. ensure the exchange of information on different project proposals;
3. information and communication activities for project partners and potential beneficiaries, including supporting in dealing with the national legislation related aspects;
4. support monitoring of the projects focusing on the activities and expected outputs and results, respectively on reaching target indicators and achievement of objectives by the beneficiaries, whenever necessary;
5. support the implementation of the relevant projects in order to ensure the spending obligations, including supporting in dealing with the national legislation related aspects;
6. to provide information for the JS about the spending and achievements of relevant projects in order to fulfil N+3 rule.

The staff selection procedure will be organized by the MA through a public and transparent procedure, ensuring equal opportunities and gender equality, in 4 phases:

1. Administrative compliance of submitted application and eligibility of the applicant,
2. Assessment of submitted documentation,
3. Written exam,

4. Structured interview.

The MA shall seek consensus of the NA in decision-making during staff selection. Detailed selection procedure shall be jointly agreed.

The staff⁷ selection committee shall have equal representation of the two MSs.

Detailed definition of tasks and responsibilities of the IP, the rules on supervisions will be laid down in the Programme' relevant documents and the agreement for delegated tasks. Financing contract(s) shall be signed after the Programme' adoption by the EC.

5.3.2 Arrangements and Procedures for Programme's management, implementation and control

The Description of Management and Control System (DMCS) will be confirmed by the MC after the CP will be endorsed by the EC (after the MC will be set up).

The procedures for projects' selection, approval, control and management are briefly described here.

a. Assessment and selection of operations

All operations shall be implemented in the Programme' eligible area.

The eligibility of Partners will be detailed in the CfP.

The MC shall examine and approve the methodology and criteria used for selection of operations. These will be made available to applicants through the CfP, prepared by the MA with the support of the JS and the NA, where the case.

The assessment and selection of operations and the procedure for the signature of the document setting out the conditions of support will be organized as follows:

The responsibility of the assessment belongs to the MA; tasks related to assessment should be delegated to the JS, in line with the provisions stipulated in the contract for delegated tasks.

The assessment process will have two phases: the administrative and eligibility criteria, performed by the JS, and the technical assessment that shall be performed with the help of external experts. The contracting of external experts shall be the attribute of the MA.

The MA ensures during the entire process that effective and proportionate anti-fraud measures are in place.

In case of complaints, another pool of experts shall be contracted, and the MA shall arbitrate them, if necessary by means of another external expert.

MA and NA has the right to observe the assessment process by designating persons to contribute to the process, which may be organized at JS premises. The MA may perform checks, by sample, in order to make sure that the system is working correctly.

After the projects are evaluated, JS receives the evaluation grids and elaborates the evaluation reports and the ranking of the projects, submits them to the MA for approval, and then submits the list to the MC for decision on selection.

The quality of the project proposals, as reflected in their compliance with the selection criteria, is very important in order to ensure that the Programme delivers concrete and visible outputs and results that tackle, in a cross-border and integrated manner, the challenges and needs affecting the programme area. Projects focusing solely on research (with no applicable output), or exclusively on exchange of experience, or projects not indicating the concrete and sustainable follow-up of “soft” activities (studies, surveys, action plans etc.) will not be supported by the Programme. All projects will have to comply with the set of horizontal quality requirements detailed in the CfP.

Selection of operations shall be detailed in the CfP, and within specific common document of procedures for assessment and selection of operations.

b. Arrangements for the examination of complaints

In accordance with Art 74(3) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 “Member States shall ensure that effective arrangements for the examination of complaints concerning the ESIF are in place”.

The procedure established will cover complaints against decisions taken by the Programme Authorities during the project assessment and selection process, with the purpose of effectively examining complaints. Detailed description of this procedure will be presented in the Programme’ relevant documents and in the CfP.

The project’s lead beneficiary as the body representing the project partnership affected by the funding decision is entitled to file a complaint. The complaint can be lodged only against the following criteria:

- The outcomes of the technical and / or quality assessment of the project application do not correspond to the information provided by the lead beneficiary;
- The project assessment and selection process failed to comply with specific procedures laid down.

The complaint shall be submitted to the MA. A complaint is rejected without further examination if submitted after the deadline set or if the formal requirements are not observed.

The lead beneficiary is informed within 10 days of receipt of the complaint. The MA, assisted by the JS, examines the complaint and prepares its technical examination regarding the merit of the complaint then the complaint is forwarded to the Complaint Panel.

The members of the Complaint Panel are nominated by the MA, ensuring impartiality of members of the Complaint Panel towards the case under review. Meetings of the Complaint Panel are assembled by the Head of the MA, and the panel examines the complaint based on:

- the complaint with the technical examination by the MA;

- the original application form and all supporting documents;
- all documents relating to the assessment of the application;
- any other document requested by the Members of the Complaint Panel relevant to the complaint.

The MA and the JS are invited to the meeting to present the position of the technical examination and the lead beneficiary may also be invited for a hearing. The Complaint Panel may decide that the complaint is justified or the complaint may be rejected. In case it is justified, the case will be sent back to the MC to review its decision. The MA communicates the decision of the Complaint Panel to the lead beneficiary within 10 days. The complaint procedure – from the receipt of the complaint to the communication of the Complaint Panel’s decision to the lead beneficiary should be resolved within maximum 90 calendar days.

The complaint procedure set out above is without prejudice to any mechanism or process for legal redress at national level, in particular with regard to unsuccessful applicants.

c. Contracting

After the approval of a project proposal by the MC, the JS will draft the financing contract for ERDF using a template that is provided by the MA and will send it to MA, for signature. The financing contract will contain all the necessary information: legal framework; the object of the financing: activities, work plan/implementation calendar, maximum ERDF amount of financing; conditions for eligibility of costs; limits for changes within the budget flexibility; reporting requirements and deadlines for the submission of progress reports; procedure for payment requests; rights and obligations of the Lead Beneficiary; accounting documentation necessary and the time-period for archiving the project-related supporting documents; procedure for recoveries; publicity, ownership (including dissemination rights) and generation of revenues; assignment, legal succession and litigation; liability clauses, etc.

The final approved application documentation and the official approval of the project by the MC will be part of the financing contract in an electronic format.

d. Monitoring

The monitoring of the Programme will be done through a new electronic management system that will provide project-specific technical and financial information. The reporting will be provided by the Lead Beneficiary on behalf of the entire partnership, through periodical and final reporting and presented to the JS, which shall submit them to the MA. The JS will check the compliance of the reports with the project Application. The data of the reports will be stored in the management system that in turn will generate, based on it, the reports to be submitted to the EC.

The monitoring is supported by the IP, which shall also provide information to the beneficiaries.

Nonetheless, the JS shall conduct site-visits to project location to monitor projects’ development and actual achievements to date, with the support of the IP, when needed.

e. Management verifications

Ensuring the compliance with the national legislation and the EU public procurement rules and in particular (i) Directives 2004/18/EC and 2004/17/EC, (ii) Directives 2014/23/EU, 2014/24/EU and 2014/25/EU once transposed into national legislation, (iii) Directives 89/665/EEC and 92/13/EEC and (iv) the general public procurement principles derived from the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU.

The Interreg V-A Romania-Hungary Programme has decided to establish first level control system in Romania and Hungary. In Romania, the first level control shall be situated at the level of the Regional Office for Cross Border Cooperation in Oradea, Romania (in a separate structure from the JS), for PA 1-6, and in Hungary at the Szechenyi Programme Office, for the same PAs.

For the Technical Assistance PA, the FLC shall be located in a separate structure within the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Administration from Romania, respectively within the Prime Minister' Office from Hungary.

FLC shall be financed from TA in separate structures from the MA/JS/NA.

The MA shall draft Common First Level Control Guidelines. The document shall be mandatory for all controllers. Moreover, the MA may perform checks by sample, on the operations already verified by the first level control, in order to make sure that the system is working correctly. The first level controllers (via NA) shall submit to MA, every 3 months, progress reports regarding their activity, related costs and problems encountered.

The cost for FLC activities shall be covered by the Programme budget under PA "Technical Assistance".

f. Reimbursement to the Lead Beneficiaries

According to article 27(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013, the European Commission shall pay the ERDF support to CPs into a single bank account with no national sub-accounts. According to Article 21(2) of the same Regulation, the Payment Unit shall make payments to the Lead Beneficiary in accordance with Article 132 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 (*the Lead Beneficiary is then responsible for transferring the ERDF financing, with no delay, to its project partners*). To this end, the MA shall make the necessary arrangements to set up a Programme bank account, within a deadline of 12 months from the adoption of the CP by the EC. The account shall be used for receiving payments from the EC.

Being that the ERDF pre-financings to be received cannot cover the need and cannot sustain the liquidity for the programme, the two MSs intend to make arrangements to provide national co-financing in advance to beneficiaries from the state budgets.

g. Programme Evaluation

The Programme shall be subject to an ex-ante, ongoing and impact evaluation of independent evaluators with the aim to improve Programme quality and to optimise the allocation of the financial resources. The suggestions of the ex-ante evaluations will be taken into account during the elaboration process of the Programme.

The MC will agree on the Programme's evaluation plan within 1 year from the adoption of the Programme by the EC.

The Evaluation is the responsibility of the MA and the cost for Evaluation shall be covered by the Programme budget under PA "Technical Assistance" of the MA.

5.4 Apportionment of liabilities among participating Member States in case of financial corrections imposed by the managing authority or the Commission

Without prejudice to the Member States' responsibility for detecting and correcting irregularities and for recovering amounts unduly paid, according to Article 122(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, the MA shall ensure that any amount paid as a result of an irregularity is recovered from the lead beneficiary. In accordance with Article 27 of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013, the beneficiaries shall repay the lead beneficiary any amounts unduly paid.

If the lead beneficiary does not succeed in securing repayment from a project partner or if the MA does not succeed in securing repayment from the lead beneficiary, the MS on whose territory the beneficiary concerned is located (or, in the case of an EGTC, is registered) shall reimburse the MA based on Article 27(3) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013) in accordance with the apportionment of liabilities among the participating MSs as laid down below. The MA will reimburse the funds to the Union once the amounts are recovered from the lead beneficiary/beneficiaries/MS.

Should the MA bear any legal expenses for recovery recourse proceedings – initiated after consultation and in mutual agreement with the respective MS – even if the proceedings are unsuccessful - it will be reimbursed by the MS hosting the lead beneficiary or beneficiary responsible for the said procedure.

In parallel with or immediately after reimbursement of the irrecoverable amount by the MSs to the MA, the MSs hold the right to secure repayment from the lead beneficiary or sole beneficiary located on its territory, if necessary through legal action. For this purpose the MA and the lead beneficiary shall assign their rights arising from the subsidy contract and the partnership agreement signed between the relevant beneficiaries. Since MSs have the overall liability for the ERDF support granted to lead beneficiaries or beneficiaries located on their territories, they shall ensure that – prior to certifying expenditure – any financial corrections required will be secured and they shall seek to recover any amounts lost as a result of an irregularity or negligence caused by a beneficiary located in their territory. Where appropriate, a MS may also charge interest on late payments.

In the case of irregularities discovered, for example, by the Court of Auditors or by the EC, which result in certain expenditures being considered ineligible and in a financial correction being the subject of a EC decision on the basis of Articles 136 to 139 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, the financial consequences for the MSs are laid down below.

Any related exchange of correspondence between the EC and the MSs will be copied to the MA/JS. The latter will inform the MA and the AA where relevant.

If the MA/JS, or any MS becomes aware of irregularities, it shall, without any delay, inform the liable MS or the MA/JS. The latter will ensure the transmission of information to the MA and AA, where relevant.

In compliance with Article 122 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, each MS is responsible for reporting irregularities committed by beneficiaries located on its territory to the EC and at the same time to the MA. Each MS shall keep the EC as well as the MA informed of any progress of related administrative and legal proceedings. The MA will ensure the transmission of information to AA.

The MSs will bear liability in connection with the use of the programme ERDF funding as follows:

- Each MS bears liability for possible financial consequences of irregularities caused by the lead beneficiary / beneficiary located on its territory in the proportion of ERDF claim to the EC for the period, which forms the basis for the financial correction.
- For a systemic irregularity or financial correction on programme level that cannot be linked to a specific MS the liability shall be jointly and equally borne by the MSs.
- For TA expenditure incurred by the MA/JS/IP, the liability related to administrative irregularities shall be borne by the MA/JS/IP, respectively.
- For TA expenditure incurred in undertaking certification function, the liability shall be borne by the MA, as the body responsible for certification function.
- For TA expenditure incurred by the AA, the liability shall be borne by the AA.
- For TA expenditure incurred by the MSs (including FLC) the liability shall be borne by the MS (including FLC) concerned.

5.5 Use of the Euro (where appropriate)

Method chosen for the conversion of expenditure incurred in another currency than the Euro

Usually, expenditure in Hungary will incur in Hungarian forint (HUF) and in Romania in Romanian leu (RON). Expenditure incurred in a currency other than the euro shall be converted into euro by the beneficiaries using the monthly accounting exchange rate of the Commission

(http://ec.europa.eu/budget/contracts_grants/info_contracts/inforeuro/inforeuro_en.cfm) in the month during which that expenditure was submitted for verification to the FLC, in accordance with Article 28(b) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013.

5.6 Involvement of partners

Actions taken to involve the partners referred to in Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 in the preparation of the cooperation programme, and the role of those partners in the preparation and implementation of the cooperation programme, including their involvement in the monitoring committee

In accordance with the multi-level governance principle the involvement of partners has been a central component throughout the development of the entire Programme. As detailed in Chapter 9.3 (“Relevant partners involved in the preparation of the cooperation programme”) during the planning and programming procedure the involvement of all relevant national, regional and local stakeholders was ensured.

Even a document titled “Consultation and involvement of stakeholders in programming process” has been elaborated as part of the programming process that presents a methodology for ensuring active involvement of the relevant stakeholders. The stakeholders have been regularly consulted and have had the opportunity to express their opinion on several occasions during the process.

In identifying the partners (all partners, including NGO-s) to be involved, the following procedure has been used: JWG members representing the 8 counties of the border area have sent proposals for the organizations to be involved in public consultation based on their working relationship, the list of organizations received was further extended with economic and social partners relevant for the TO’s selected and being actively involved in the implementation of the current programme. This way altogether a list of 232 organizations has been compiled, out of which 51 – more than 20 % of all organizations – have been NGO’s covering a wide range of areas: 10 for business/economy, 5 for culture, 2 for education, 1 for employment, 16 for environmental protection, 1 for health-care, 1 for infrastructure development, 2 for public administration, 1 for risk prevention, 2 social NGOs, 1 for social/business/economy, and 9 for tourism.

As an integral part of elaborating the STA and the draft CTS the following consultation steps have been taken:

- **21 individual, semi-structured interviews** have been delivered with the representatives of relevant national ministries, county councils and representatives of the county seat towns in the eligible counties.
- **8 interactive county-level workshops** have been carried out, one in each eligible county, with the objective to inform the stakeholders in the given county about the planning process, discuss the analysis, jointly identify needs, challenges and potentials and also project ideas for the future cooperation programme. The lists of participants of these workshops have been proposed by the relevant county councils, and in all cases ensured a proper representation of municipalities, the business sector and the non-governmental sector Details of interactive workshops can be found in STA Annex 6.5.
- **4 parallel interactive thematic workshops** have been held in Bekescsaba with over 100 participants in total. The participants have been selected and delegated

by the eligible counties and the JWG member national ministries from Romania and Hungary[1]. At these workshops the major development needs have been identified and the most important ingredients of the joint vision of the eligible area have been proposed.

Further consultations have been carried out in the CP preparation phase of the programming in order - ensuring that the stakeholders are regularly informed and can contribute to the preparation of the programme. The following steps have been taken:

- **Further individual interviews** have been carried out on national and county level, with the representatives of organizations of relevant thematic areas, to discuss the proposed strategy and interventions;
- **8 interactive county workshops** have been delivered – one in each eligible county - (i) to inform the stakeholders on the progress and content of programme preparation, and, (ii) to give them the opportunity to voice their opinions and shape the content of the cooperation programme. In accordance with the *Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 240 of 7.1.2014 on the European code of conduct on partnership in the framework of the European Structural and Investment Funds*, the following stakeholders have been invited to these county workshops:
 - representatives of the relevant the county council (also represented in the JWG);
 - representatives of cities and urban areas;
 - representatives of higher education institutions from the given county;
 - representatives of chambers of commerce and other business associations;
 - representatives of the civil society, NGOs and also EGTCs.

At all the county workshops, the following main topics have been covered in due details:

- the process and status of the programming process,
- the selection of priorities and related SOs,
- the proposed interventions,
- the definition of indicators,
- the implementation of horizontal principles,
- the allocation of funding.

Following a brief information-provision phase, all workshops have been delivered in an interactive manner. All participants have been provided the opportunity to make comments, voice proposals and clarify issues. All comments have been registered and then the considered for incorporation in the subsequent draft CP version.

- **Public consultation** of the draft cooperation programme – before submission to the EC, the draft CP was made available for the public for consultation. In that process, all opinions of any organization or even individual were collected, registered and dealt with.

Besides the above mentioned consultations and workshops, during the preparation and elaboration of flagships project ideas, strong collaboration and coordination between the eligible counties are ensured alongside with the agreement between Romania and

Hungary. This unbiased process can guarantee a proper balance and contributes to the appropriate preparation of the flagship projects of strategic importance.

Furthermore, in order to guarantee the smooth transition between the Programme 2007-2013, as well as the planning of the period 2014-2020, mainly the members of the Joint MC of the Programme 2007-2013 and the majority of members of the JWG might be nominated to the future MC either as members or as observers.

Member States agreed to elaborate a transparent procedure to select NGOs (e.g. environmental, economic) as members of the MC in an observer capacity.

The MA will contact all relevant stakeholders officially in writing for nomination in both MSs based on the input nationally given by Romania and Hungary. After the acceptance of the official nomination the MC shall be set up and its Rules of Procedure shall be approved.

[1] JWG members, *Romania*: Ministry of Regional Development and Public Administration, General Directorate for European Programmes, Ministry of Regional Development and Public Administration, General Directorate for Regional Development and Infrastructure, Ministry of Transports, Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests/ National Agency for Environmental Protection;

JWG members, *Hungary*: Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of National Development, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Ministry for National Economy

6. COORDINATION

The mechanisms that ensure effective coordination between the ERDF, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and other Union and national funding instruments, including the coordination and possible combination with the Connecting Europe Facility, the ENI, the European Development Fund (EDF) and the IPA and with the EIB, taking into account the provisions laid down in the Common Strategic Framework as set out in Annex I to Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013. Where Member States and third countries participate in cooperation programmes that include the use of ERDF appropriations for outermost regions and resources from the EDF, coordination mechanisms at the appropriate level to facilitate effective coordination in the use of these resources

As the eligible area of the ETC programme covers more than one MS, it needs to be considered as a whole to ensure that projects selected for financing have a complementary character and do not show any overlapping with other support and financing instruments in the MSs. Ensuring coordination and avoiding overlaps are national responsibilities meaning that the MSs will establish the required mechanism and the composition of the MC will also guarantee the compliance respecting the multi-governance approach at national and regional level.

The Partnership Agreement of Romania approved by the Commission on 6th of August 2014 focuses on the following challenges and corresponding priorities:

- Promoting competitiveness and local development, with a view to reinforcing the sustainability of economic operators and improving regional attractiveness;
- Developing human capital, by increasing the employment rate and tertiary education attainment, but also tackling the severe social challenges and poverty levels, in particular for deprived or marginalised communities and in rural areas;
- Developing physical infrastructure, both in ICT and the transport sector, in order to increase the accessibility of Romanian regions and their attractiveness for investments;
- Encouraging sustainable and efficient use of natural resources through promotion of energy efficiency and a low carbon economy, protection of the environment and adaptation to climate change;
- Building a modern and professional public administration by means of a systemic reform aimed at overcoming the structural governance shortcomings.

All of the priority axes of the Cooperation Programme Romania – Hungary are connected to those priorities.

Correlated with the Partnership Agreement of Hungary approved by the Commission on 29th August 2014, the CP Romania – Hungary contributes to each main national development priorities, as follows:

1. Improving the competitiveness and global performance of the business sector

2. Promoting employment through economic development, employment, education and social inclusion policies, taking account territorial disparities
3. Enhancing energy and resource efficiency
4. Tackling social inclusion and demographic challenges
5. Implementation of local and territorial development aimed at promoting economic growth

The tables in Annex XII show the coherence and the coordination needs between the Interreg V-A Romania-Hungary programme and the national mainstream OPs at the level of SOs as well as the priority axes.

The aim of the coordination is also to foster synergies in order to contribute to EU 2020 strategy and Danube strategy. Special attention will be paid to the elaboration of the Programme's documents such as Rules of Procedure of the MC, Programme' Evaluation Plan to be approved by the MC, as well as other Programme' relevant documents.

Applications will be submitted by describing any links to projects selected for financing, being implemented or already closed, as well as to other programmes. Related activities shall be introduced and added value shall be presented. It shall be also declared that any other funds have not been received.

At technical level, cooperation is planned between ETC programmes as well as mainstream operational programmes on a regular basis.

It is envisaged that in Hungary the IT system for mainstream operational programme will be used to check double-financing as also stated in the Partnership Agreement of Hungary.

In Romania, the Ministry of European Funds (MEF) shall ensure overall coordination, in compliance with the provisions of the Partnership Agreement of Romania approved by the Commission on 6th of August 2014. The MEF, that took part in the planning and programming phase, is intended to be nominated as member of the MC.

The mechanisms that ensure effective coordination between the ERDF, the ESF, the Cohesion Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF), the Internal Security Fund's (ISF) Borders and Visa instrument's and other Union and national funding instruments, including the coordination and possible combination with the Connecting Europe Facility, the ENI, the European Development Fund (EDF) and the IPA and with the European Investment Bank (EIB) take into account the provisions laid down in the CSF as set out in Annex I to Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013.

The MA, together with the relevant Romanian and Hungarian national authorities, will be in charge of ensuring coordination and communication with its counterparts in charge of other funding instruments, while the assessment of overlaps/synergies will mainly be made during the project assessment phase by the JS.

In the framework of the Interreg V-A Romania-Hungary, the following mechanisms to avoid overlapping and to promote synergies will be set up:

- The application form will include a special section where the applicant will:
 - include information on the past, the current and the envisaged EU assistance
 - detail how the project is complementary with national and regional programmes supported by ESIF, with other Union funding or with national policies and funding instruments
 - describe what is the specific cross-border added value given by the project
- The applicants who propose projects focused on investment preparation will explain how they expect to finance the implementation/realization of their projects through other funds.
- Collaboration mechanisms between the relevant national or regional agencies involved in the implementation of ESI funded programmes in the cross-border area and the MA and the JS will be established.
- The dissemination of the outputs and the results of the Interreg V-A Romania-Hungary at European, national and cross-border level will be implemented through the programme communication strategy.

Wherever possible, collaboration with other ETC programmes such as transnational programmes or other cross-border cooperation programmes strongly linked to the eligible area will be ensured (for instance the Danube programme 2014-2020). A coordination mechanism can be set up in order to detect and avoid possible overlapping and duplication as well as to foster synergies between complementary projects being implemented in neighbouring cooperation areas. This coordination mechanism will mainly consist of:

- Exchange of information during the assessment of project proposals
- Exchange of information during the monitoring of the implementation of approved projects
- Fostering the use of the geographical flexibility, as mentioned in Article 20(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013 in order to support projects that will have stronger results if a part of their activities are implemented beyond the programme area, especially along the Danube area.

The INTERACT Programme will remain an important coordination tool between ETC Programmes. It will support the exchange between the programmes bodies and will gather information about funded projects in all Europe, which will allow applicants and decision makers to investigate previous and on-going cooperation on similar themes.

7. REDUCTION OF ADMINISTRATIVE BURDEN FOR BENEFICIARIES

Summary of the assessment of the administrative burden for beneficiaries and, where necessary, the actions planned accompanied by an indicative timeframe to reduce the administrative burden.

The on-going evaluation of the HURO Programme 2007-2013 was carried out and resulted in a set of recommendations provided by the selected external experts.

In the first evaluation report, long and short-term recommendations regarding relevance, performance, implementation and communication have been defined. As part of the Final Evaluation Report, the evaluators aimed to monitor if the short-term recommendations have been implemented by the institutional system, thus main findings and conclusions have been further provided. According to the monitoring activity carried out in the final report actions to the short-term recommendations have been already made during the implementation of the HURO Programme 2007-2013, thus they can give a basis for further use as best practise in the Programme 2014-2020.

The long-term recommendations will be respected and incorporated in the Programme and the project management when drafting the Programme' relevant documents, if required.

The summary assessment of the administrative burden of beneficiaries presented below relies on the conclusions of the on-going evaluation and feedback from the participants of county workshops.

The main conclusions are as follows:

- The two-step project selection has been introduced in the 2007-2013 programme (Step 1: submission and evaluation of a project concept; step 2: for those projects that have been selected in step 1, submission and evaluation of detailed project documentation), for all type of projects, aiming to reduce the administrative burden of the applicants. However, instead of requiring only a detailed project concept to be submitted in step 1, the applicants have been required to submit almost all the documents necessary in a 1 step procedure to support decision-making. As a result:
 - The documentation requirement actually increased – many documents had to be submitted twice instead of one;
 - Some of the official documents (for instance licenses) lost their validity between the two steps, so the applicants actually had to obtain the given document repeatedly;
 - The procedure of selection actually became longer, taking away valuable time from implementation.

Overall it actually resulted in a situation opposite to the original intention: instead of reducing, it actually increased the documentation requirements. Altogether, the

two-step approach has not achieved the reduction of the administrative burden originally foreseen, and it even increased the lead time. While it is not impossible to use this method efficiently, it requires a different approach.

- The complicated indicator system used – overly high number of indicators – proved to be an administrative burden both for the JTS and to the beneficiaries.
- Major differences in national administrative requirements (technical standards, public procurement) have also increased the administrative burden of applicants.
- Overly complicated administrative / reporting requirements for payments caused excessive administrative burden for beneficiaries and also lead to lengthy payment periods.
- Administrative requirements and processes not proportionate to the size of projects has put major administrative load on the beneficiaries of smaller projects, leading also to disproportionate administrative costs;
- Excessive paperwork requirements on project level, paper-based reporting in addition to the very useful e-documentation has also created additional administrative tasks for beneficiaries.

The following measures are foreseen in order to reduce the administrative burden:

- By the end of 2015 - electronic data exchange system for all the communication among the MA, NA, JS, AA, and the beneficiaries that will also be used for the management, monitoring and evaluation of the Programme will be put in place. The system will enable (based on the principle of “information inserted only once”): interactive or pre-filled-in forms on the basis of previously inserted data, automatic calculations and the possibility of beneficiaries to track on-line the status of their project proposal or of their reimbursement requests during project implementation.
- Moreover, electronic submission will be introduced in order to ensure the smoother and shorter submission, assessment and contracting procedure.
- By the launch of first CfP - the decisions to use simplified cost options, taking into account the provisions of the Article 67 and Article 68 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, as well as the Commission Regulation (EU) No 481/2014, will be submitted for approval to the MC.
- Creating the framework of a more flexible project implementation and budget amendment/reduction in order to reduce the number of project changes of mostly technical character – throughout the implementation of the Programme.
- Shortening the lead-time for contracting procedure compared to the practice used in HURO Programme 2007-2013 – by the end of first semester of 2016.
- Shortening the lead-time for validation of expenditures by the first level control of both MSs compared to the practice used in HURO Programme 2007-2013 – by the end of first semester of 2016.

- Shortening the lead-time for checking and approving progress report carried out by the JS compared to the practice used in HURO Programme 2007-2013– by the end of first semester of 2016.
- Shortening the lead-time for reimbursement procedure by means of simplified financial procedure compared to the practice used in HURO Programme 2007-2013 – by the end of first semester of 2016.
- By the end of 2015 - putting in place a new payment mechanism, by using direct transfer from Payment Unit to Lead Beneficiaries.
- Throughout the lifetime of the Programme, the JS and the IP will provide trainings for beneficiaries or potential beneficiaries on project application, implementation, reporting, control, and audit of CBC-financed projects.
- Throughout the implementation phase, real-time monitoring of all projects and project support mechanism for projects with bottlenecks is to be introduced.

All detailed descriptions of the above mentioned actions will be presented in the Programme' relevant documents.

8. HORIZONTAL PRINCIPLES

8.1 Sustainable development

Description of specific actions to take into account environmental protection requirements, resource efficiency, climate change mitigation and adaptation, disaster resilience and risk prevention and management, in the selection of operations.

Sustainable development will be taken into account as a horizontal principle during the programme and project implementation. Guidance on the requirements and methods of evaluation and assessment will be presented in the CfP. Projects with a direct negative impact on the environment and sustainable development will not be selected for financing.

The Programme sustains such Priority Axes where main focus will be put on environmental protection or at least they have positive direct or indirect effects on the environment:

- PA 1: Joint protection and efficient use of common values and resources – Ip 6/b and Ip 6/c,
- PA 2: Improve sustainable cross-border mobility and remove bottlenecks – Ip 7/c,
- PA 5: Improve risk-prevention and disaster management – Ip 5/b.

The programme contributes with different measures to the environmental sustainability, protection of the environment and the awareness raising activities. It will be of key importance from the point of view of the programme, to support the environmental

assessment, impact studies and other related activities for the sustainable protection of the environment.

The projects funded in the frame of the cross-border programme will have to contribute to the environmental sustainability of the programme area and have to integrate environmental considerations with the aim to promote sustainable development. Projects having proven negative effect on the environment will not receive financial support. In the frame of the selection and evaluation process, it will be checked whether the national and EC environmental legislations are correctly applied.

The programme also makes specific contributions to climate change mitigation through numerous interventions:

- PA1: various interventions under Ip 6/c make a contribution through safeguarding natural values;
- PA2: the development of more sustainable forms of mobility (Ip 7/c) clearly contribute to climate change mitigation by reducing the GHG emissions;
- PA5: many of the interventions proposed as part of PA5 (Ip 5/b) to improve disaster resilience and disaster management also make a direct contribution to climate change mitigation.

In addition, the ability to contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation will be taken into account as general guiding principle in the project selection process (see the proposed guiding principles below).

It will also be ensured that projects affecting NATURA 2000 sites are in line with Article 6, paragraphs 2-4 of the Habitats Directive, stipulating how NATURA 2000 sites are managed and protected.

The information access for the applicants concerning the relevant guiding rules is offered in the CfP, and will be available on the programmes' website, as well. In the selection and evaluation process a separate evaluation line will evaluate the horizontal principles. FLC bodies will also have to check the compliance with the horizontal principles of equal opportunities and non-discrimination, as well as the equality between men and women when validating project expenditure.

In order to ensure sustainable development, the following criteria will be used as general guiding principles for the selection of operations:

- At the level of project assessment and selection, due attention will be paid to the environmental protection requirements, climate change mitigation and adaptation, but also to the policy's economical aspect: efficiency and rational approach of the projects to funds and resources;
- In case of transport development, the aspect of smart regional mobility should be promoted.
- In case of road constructions silent road surface for road constructions in populated areas can be requested.
- In case of purchasing vehicles for the improvement of the transport conditions, silent modes shall be taken into account when selecting.

- In case investments negatively affecting nature, fauna and flora, and biodiversity, only projects should be selected, where investments are accompanied by compensatory measures and damage mitigation.

In addition, wherever relevant, in the case of investment projects the following requirements will also be considered:

- for projects involving purchasing products, those products should comply with the energy efficiency requirements set out in Annex III of the Energy Efficiency Directive (2012/27/EU) for products subject to public procurement;
- if a project involves building, construction and renovation, requirement to prove cost-optimal levels of energy performance according to Directive 2010/31/EU.

Further rules to be observed and respected by the applicants, as well as instructions and guidance on the application of these rules are described in details in the CfP. The compliance with the above mentioned requirements shall be verified by the designated control bodies.

8.2 Equal opportunities and non-discrimination

Description of the specific actions to promote equal opportunities and prevent any discrimination based on sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation during the preparation, design and implementation of the cooperation programme and, in particular, in relation to access to funding, taking account of the needs of the various target groups at risk of such discrimination, and in particular, the requirements of ensuring accessibility for persons with disabilities.

Ensuring equal opportunities contributing to guaranteeing to avoid discrimination are principles of major importance. These principles shall be respected during the implementation of the Programme and even the selection and implementation of each project to be selected for financing. Such projects can be envisaged in:

- PA 3: Improve employment and promote cross-border labour mobility – Ip 8/b,
- PA 4: Improving health-care services – Ip 9/a
- PA 6: Promoting cross-border cooperation between institutions and citizens – Ip 11/b

where equal opportunities and anti-discrimination directly are mainly foreseen. Guidance on the requirements and methods of evaluation and assessment will be provided in the CfP. Projects with a direct negative impact on not ensuring equal opportunities and non-discrimination will not be selected for financing.

The Programme is committed in combating discrimination, promoting gender equality and promoting the integration of disabled people in the society. The programme will emphasise the awareness raising and information flow on discrimination, gender equality between woman and man. Special attention will be paid on reinforcing social inclusion

disadvantaged people, as well as the inclusion of minorities in the programme area, i.e. Roma population.

The projects will have to apply the gender mainstreaming and promote the fundamental rights, non-discrimination and equal opportunities in their activities. The projects shall promote equal opportunities for all in order to tackle the barriers faced by minorities, the disabled, and other vulnerable groups. There's a need in the programme area to combat discrimination and to integrate the disadvantaged people in the labour market. This need is generated by the programme area's demographic challenge and the declining number of working age population.

In order to ensure equal opportunities and non-discrimination, at least the following criteria will be taken into account when selecting operations:

- Only projects could be selected, which are non-discriminatory and transparent and take into account gender equality and non-discrimination principles.
- In projects, where it is feasible, preference may be given on the social inclusion of people living in deep poverty

8.3 Equality between men and women

Description of the contribution of the cooperation programme to the promotion of equality between men and women and, where appropriate, the arrangements to ensure the integration of the gender perspective at cooperation programme and operation level.

Besides the overall principle to be ensured stipulated in Chapter 8.2. the Programme will also pay attention to the equality between men and women. Especially under the PA 3: Improve employment and promote cross-border labour mobility and PA 6: Promoting cross-border cooperation between institutions and citizens such projects to be submitted and selected for financing will be foreseen. Guidance on the requirements and methods of evaluation and assessment will be provided in the CfP. Projects with a direct negative impact on equality between men and women will not be selected for financing.

9. SEPERATE ELEMENTS

9.1 Major projects to be implemented during the programming period

Table 23: List of major projects

Project	Planned notification / submission date (year, quarter)	Planned start of implementation (year, quarter)	Planned completion date (year, quarter)	Priority axes / Investment priorities
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9.2 Performance framework of the cooperation programme

Table 24: Performance framework (summary table)

Priority axis	ID	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestone for 2018	Final target (2023)
PA1 - Joint protection and efficient use of common values and resources (Cooperating on common values and resources)	CO09	Sustainable Tourism: Increase in expected number of visits to supported sites of cultural and natural heritage and attractions	Visits/year	-	53,000.00
PA1 - Joint protection and efficient use of common values and resources (Cooperating on common values and resources)	6/b 1	Number of measurement points positively affected by the interventions (after the completion of the project)	Number	-	19.00
PA1 - Joint protection and efficient use of common values and resources (Cooperating on common values and resources)	K6/b	Number of measurement points benefiting from the projects selected for support	Number	4	0.00
PA1 - Joint protection and efficient use of common values and resources (Cooperating on common values and resources)	K6/c	Number of projects aimed at increasing visits to sites of cultural and natural heritage selected for support	Number	4	0.00
PA1 - Joint protection and efficient use of common values and resources (Cooperating on common values and resources)	F.PA1	Total amount of certified expenditure	EUR	5,920,000.00	48,502,844.00
PA2 - Improve sustainable cross-border mobility and remove bottlenecks (Cooperating on accessibility)	CO13a	Roads: Total length of newly built roads, of which: TEN-T	km	-	16.00
PA2 - Improve sustainable cross-border mobility and remove bottlenecks (Cooperating on accessibility)	7/c 1	Number of cross-border public transport services developed / improved	Number	-	20.00
PA2 - Improve sustainable cross-border mobility and remove bottlenecks (Cooperating on accessibility)	K7/b	Number of km of newly built roads for which technical documentation is elaborated	km	3.5	0.00
PA2 - Improve sustainable cross-border	K7/c	Number of public transport services benefiting from	Number	5	0.00

Priority axis	ID	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestone for 2018	Final target (2023)
mobility and remove bottlenecks (Cooperating on accessibility)		projects selected for support			
PA2 - Improve sustainable cross-border mobility and remove bottlenecks (Cooperating on accessibility)	F.PA2	Total amount of certified expenditure	EUR	4,270,000.00	34,995,589.00
PA3 - Improve employment and promote cross-border labour mobility (Cooperating on employment)	CO44	Labour Market and Training: Number of participants in joint local employment initiatives and joint training	Persons	-	15,000.00
PA3 - Improve employment and promote cross-border labour mobility (Cooperating on employment)	K8/b	Number of projects related to joint local employment initiatives and joint training approved	Number	6	0.00
PA3 - Improve employment and promote cross-border labour mobility (Cooperating on employment)	F.PA3	Total amount of certified expenditure	EUR	6,720,000.00	55,070,771.00
PA4 - Improving health-care services (Cooperating on health-care and prevention)	K9/a2	Number of health-care departments benefiting from projects selected for support	Number	10	0.00
PA4 - Improving health-care services (Cooperating on health-care and prevention)	9/a 2	Number of health-care departments affected by modernized equipment	Number	-	38.00
PA4 - Improving health-care services (Cooperating on health-care and prevention)	F.PA4	Total amount of certified expenditure	EUR	6,960,000.00	57,034,498.00
PA5 - Improve risk-prevention and disaster management (Cooperating on risk prevention and disaster management)	5/b 1	Population safeguarded by improved emergency response services	Number of people	-	700,000.00
PA5 - Improve risk-prevention and disaster management (Cooperating on risk prevention and disaster management)	K5/b	Population benefiting from selected projects	Number of people	70,000.00	
PA5 - Improve risk-prevention and disaster management (Cooperating on risk prevention and disaster management)	F.PA5	Total amount of certified expenditure	EUR	1,170,000.00	9,548,042.00
PA6 - Promoting cross-border cooperation between institutions and citizens (Cooperation of institutions and communities)	11/b1	Number of institutions directly involved in cross-border cooperation initiatives	number	4	36.00
PA6 - Promoting cross-border cooperation between institutions and citizens (Cooperation of institutions and communities)	F.PA6	Total amount of certified expenditure	EUR	490,000.00	4,013,379.00

9.3 Relevant partners involved in the preparation of the cooperation programme

Hungary and Romania clearly articulated at the kick-off meeting held on 4 October 2011 their intention to design the Programme for the period 2014-2020. The participating MSs officially nominated the members of the JWG and adopted the Rules of Procedures. Therefore members from line ministries responsible for different relevant portfolios as well as from the counties in the eligible areas participated at the JWG meetings. Besides the permanent delegations the Rules of Procedure gave the opportunity to invite further experts from specific areas if required.

The members of the JWG appointed by the MSs, as follows:

Romania

- Ministry of Regional Development and Public Administration, General Directorate for European Programmes
- Ministry of Regional Development and Public Administration, General Directorate for Regional Development and Infrastructure
- Ministry of Transports
- Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests/ National Agency for Environmental Protection
- Satu Mare County
- Bihor County
- Timis County
- Arad County

Hungary

- Prime Minister's Office
- Ministry of National Development
- Ministry of Public Administration and Justice / Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- Ministry for National Economy
- Szabolcs-Szatmar-Bereg County
- Hajdu-Bihar County
- Bekes County
- Csongrad County

Members with no voting rights:

Romania

- Regional Development Agencies relevant for the border region,
- Ministry of European Funds
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Romanian National Railway Company
- Romanian National Company for Highways and Roads
- BRECO

Hungary

- Budapest Danube Contact Point, EUSDR

Altogether 11 JWG meetings were organized by the JTS and financed from Technical Assistance of HURO Programme 2007-2013 according to the TA fiche as approved by the Joint MC.

Moreover during the workshops, consultations, online questionnaires either at the stage of planning and drafting the Programme, or at the phase of ex-ante and SEA, the participants were selected such a way that the widest range of relevant stakeholders could be involved. In addition to that during interviews the interviewees were determined respecting the fully comprehensive approach as also detailed in Chapter 5.6. Involvement of partners. Citizens' voice and opinion was also respected during the design of the Programme, public consultations were held and recommendations were incorporated accordingly.

Although during the programming phase widespread involvement was ensured, during the implementation of the Programme the members and observes of the MC will be nominated keeping this principle in mind in order to further strengthen this comprehensive approach, thus all relevant stakeholders will be invited to participate. For further details, please consult Chapter 5.6. Involvement of partners.

9.4 Applicable programme implementation conditions governing the financial management, programming, monitoring, evaluation and control of the participation of third countries in transnational and interregional programmes through a contribution of ENI and IPA resources

Not applicable.

Documents

Document title	Document type	Document date	Local reference	Commission reference	Files	Sent date	Sent By
Methodology for defining the indicators	Supplementary information	21-Apr-2015			Methodology for defining result indicators Methodology for defining output indicators		
Official resubmission	Supplementary information	26-Oct-2015	MRDPA/MA/ 94.089		Official resubmission - cover letter MA' replies to Commission' observations and modifications operated on the CP - Table Annex 1 to MA replies to Commission observations table		
Report of Ex-ante Evaluation	Report of the ex-ante evaluation	15-Oct-2015			Ex-ante Evaluation Report		
Strategic Territorial Analysis	Supplementary information	05-Jun-2014			Strategic Territorial Analysis		
Common Territorial Strategy	Supplementary information	18-Jun-2014			Common Territorial Strategy		
Maps of the area covered by Interreg V-A RO-HU	A map of the area covered by the cooperation programme	21-Apr-2015			Map of the area covered by the CP Map of TEN-T networks Map of border-crossing points		
Agreement to the contents of the cooperation programme "Interreg V-A Romania-Hungary" and confirmation for providing the co-financing	Confirmation of agreement in writing to the contents of the cooperation programme	23-Oct-2015			Agreement to the contents of the cooperation programme "Interreg V-A Romania-Hungary" and confirmation for providing the co-financing Agreement to the contents of the cooperation programme "Interreg V-A Romania-Hungary" and confirmation for providing the co-financing		
Strategic Environmental Assessment	Report of the ex-ante evaluation	15-Oct-2015			SEA Report SEA Official Statement (draft)		
Citizens' summary	Citizens' summary	21-Apr-2015			Citizens' summary		

Document title	Document type	Document date	Local reference	Commission reference	Files	Sent date	Sent By
References	Supplementary information	21-Apr-2015			References		
Priority axes of EUSDR	Supplementary information	21-Apr-2015			Priority axes of EUSDR		
Coherence & coordination needs between Interreg V-A Romania-Hungary and the national mainstream OPs	Supplementary information	21-Apr-2015			Coherence & coordination needs between Interreg V-A Romania-Hungary and the national mainstream OPs		
List of abbreviations	Supplementary information	21-Apr-2015			List of abbreviations		

Submitted annexes by the Commission implementing regulation laying down the model of the programme

Document title	Document type	Programme version	Document date	Local reference	Commission reference	Files	Sent date	Sent By
Annex VI - Citizens' summary	Citizens' summary	1.0	21-Apr-2015		Ares(2015)2158070	Annex VI - Citizens' summary	22-May-2015	npanarox
Annex III - Report of Ex-ante Evaluation	Report of the ex-ante evaluation	1.0	21-Apr-2015		Ares(2015)2158070	Annex III - Report of Ex-ante Evaluation	22-May-2015	npanarox
Programme Snapshot 2014TC16RFCB049 1.0	Snapshot of data before send	1.0	22-May-2015		Ares(2015)2158070	Programme Snapshot 2014TC16RFCB049 1.0 ro	22-May-2015	npanarox
Annex IV.2 - Agreement in writing on the content of the CP - HUNGARY	Confirmation of agreement in writing to the contents of the cooperation programme	1.0	21-May-2015		Ares(2015)2158070	Agreement to the contents of the CP & confirmation for providing the co-financing - HUNGARY	22-May-2015	npanarox
Annex V - Map of the area covered by the CP	A map of the area covered by the cooperation	1.0	21-Apr-2015		Ares(2015)2158070	Annex V - Map of the area covered by the CP	22-May-2015	npanarox

Document title	Document type	Programme version	Document date	Local reference	Commission reference	Files	Sent date	Sent By
	programme							