



Annual Implementation Report 2018

of the

INTERREG V-A SLOVAKIA-HUNGARY
COOPERATION PROGRAMME

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PART A

1. IDENTIFICATION OF THE ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

| | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| CCI | 2014TC16RFCB015 |
| Title | Interreg V-A Slovakia-Hungary |
| Version | 1-00 |
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2. OVERVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION

The Annual Implementation Report 2018 of the Interreg V-A Slovakia-Hungary Cross-border Cooperation Programme (the Programme) has been prepared pursuant to Annex X of Commission implementation regulation (EU) 2015/207. The report is intended to give a brief overview of the activities that were undertaken in the frame of the programming and implementation process, focusing on the year 2018.

The year 2018 continued with the formal, eligibility and quality assessment of the TAPE-s submitted within the first round of the call for proposals (SKHU/1703) launched in **Priority Axis 3 (Promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility)**. The admissibility check took place still in December 2017. As all 16 applications that were submitted within the Call fulfilled the admissibility, formal as well as the eligibility criteria, all of them were forwarded to the next assessment step - quality assessment. Quality assessment was divided into three parts according to the competency of different stakeholders (Joint Secretariat, sectoral and territorial assessment). In order to ensure the proper evaluation the Joint Secretariat (JS) held assessors 2-2 trainings for the sectoral and territorial experts. Out of the 16 submitted TAPE-s 9 applications passed the quality assessment, and were presented to the members of the Monitoring Committee on their meeting on 26 April 2018 in Bratislava. All of them were selected for support. Meanwhile the call for territorial experts of TAPE was reopened between 19-29 January 2018 to be able to receive the best candidates from the regions.

In **Priority Axis 2 (Enhancing cross-border mobility)** the 1st Call for Proposals SKHU/1601 (CfP) of the Programme was launched on 29 July 2016, with an allocated ERDF amount of 34 608 080 EUR. The continuously open Call for proposals in Priority Axis 2 was finally closed by the Monitoring Committee on 19 February 2018, after passing four deadlines for submission (03/11/2016, 15/02/2017, 03/11/2017 and 19/02/2018). Altogether 20 applications were received by the Joint Secretariat requesting altogether 37 553 684,58 EUR ERDF. 11 of these applications already were handled by the JS parallel with the other applications of Priority Axis 1 within 1st CfP in 2016/2017. By the 3 November 2017 submission deadline another 2 applications arrived, and 7 were submitted by 19 February 2018 as the date when the decision

of the MC on closing the Call came into force, requesting altogether 27 698 743,54 EUR ERDF. All 9 applications fulfilled the admissibility criteria. After the formal assessment 1 was recommended for rejection due to non-compliance with the formal criteria. Altogether 8 applications were going through quality evaluation. The 2 applications submitted in November 2017 were forwarded for quality assessment in January 2018 and the lastly submitted 6 applications were forwarded for quality assessment in March 2018. Results were discussed during the MC meeting held in Bratislava on 26 April 2018.

During the 2. quarter of 2018 the JS launched a continuous **Call for proposals for Small and Medium Enterprises – SKHU/1801** within **Priority axis 1 (Increasing the attractiveness of the border area)**. The call for proposals aimed to involve the members of the non-profit sector and local micro, small and medium sized enterprises coming from both member states. The call was continuously open from 6 April 2018 until 125% of the Call's financial allocation was reached by the submitted applications, which happened on 2 July 2018. The call was suspended with this cut-off date in order to process the results. The 29 submitted Applications were continuously assessed (on "first-submitted-first-assessed" basis) after every four weeks-period. The amount of the ERDF financial allocation for the call was 10 000 000 EUR. Two info days were held by the JS related to the CfP. Finally the call was closed on 20 September 2018 based on the decision of the Monitoring Committee. The reason for closing is that taking into consideration the experiences gained since the opening the call needs to be updated and modified to be as effective as possible to reach the goals of the programme. Meanwhile the colleagues of the JS were processing the submitted applications (admissibility, formal, eligibility and quality assessment).

On 6 April 2018 the **Call for Assessors - SKHU/1801** was launched as well to have the pool of experts ready by the time the first SME project proposals arrive. Duration of the call for assessors was between 6 April 2018 and 23 April 2018. After evaluating the received applications the MA, NA and JS decided to launch another call for experts in order to broaden up the pool of candidates. It took place on 16 May 2018 when the new call was opened with the submission deadline 25 May 2018.

In 2018 the JS organized three **Lead beneficiary seminars** for those beneficiaries who has/will have signed subsidy contract for the project.

A **Monitoring Committee meeting** was held in **Bratislava on 24 April 2018**. The members of the JS had been preparing assessments, documents and background materials for the event since the beginning of the year. During the meeting decision was made about the submitted TAPE-s. Based on the results of the assessment process out of the 16 **Territorial action plans** that were submitted 9 were granted the possibility to enter the second round of application phase with the maximum ERDF amount of 34 608 080.00 EUR. In case of **Priority Axis 2** six projects were approved for implementation with the maximum ERDF amount of 21 398 637,76 EUR. The contracting of the PA2 projects have started after the minutes of the meeting was finalized and approved. The project approved under the Specific objective SO222 stepped back from the contracting process due to significantly decreased intensity of support to be applied in case of the state aid in logistic area (Regional Aid).

During the second half of 2018 the second round of the call for proposals in PA3 was launched by the Programme: **Call for proposals for Territorial action plan projects – SKHU/1802** on 10 August 2018 with the submission deadline 19 November 2018. Three info days were held by the JS in cooperation with the regions and Info points taking into account the territorial location of the approved action plans. After the submission deadline the admissibility check of the 56 received project proposals took place within 15 days, and the JS continued the process with the formal evaluation, which task was ongoing in January 2019.

In 2018 the Call for **Small Project Fund Umbrella Projects** was finalized and altogether four umbrella projects for management of the SPF tool within the Programme were approved by the Monitoring Committee. Via Carpatia EGTC will manage the SPF in the Eastern programming area under Priority Axis 1 and 4 (two separate umbrella projects), while in the Western programming area the Rába-Duna-Vág EGTC will be responsible for the management of the other two umbrella projects within PA 1 and 4.

Within the frames of the *Eastern* SPF managed by Via Carpatia EGTC there were two meetings of the SPF Monitoring Committee held in 2018. On the 1st meeting held on 15 May 2018 in Košice the first Call for the small project proposals was approved and on the 2nd meeting held on 10 December 2018 in Miskolc the results of the first Call were presented, including the decision of the MC on approval of the first small projects.

Within the frames of the *Western* SPF managed by Rába-Duna-Vág EGTC the 1st meeting of the Monitoring Committee took place on 27 July 2018 in Budapest and the first Call for small projects was launched on 03 December 2018.

Another **Monitoring Committee meeting** of the Programme was held in **Győr on 20 September 2018**. The meeting started with the selection decision about the SME projects received during the call SKHU/1801. Out of the 29 submitted projects, 15 passed the first phase of evaluation (admissibility, formal and eligibility check), which were forwarded to quality check. According to the Assessment manual projects receiving less than 65 points on the quality assessment shall be rejected. 6 projects reached this threshold, and the members of the MC approved these 6 SME projects for implementation with maximum 2 320 866,88 € ERDF support. The contracting of these projects started after the minutes of the meeting was finalized and approved. Based on the previous requirement of the MC members, part of the meeting was also dedicated for the Lead Beneficiaries of projects approved within the PA2 to present the projects objectives and activities. Furthermore, the MC members were informed about the first drafts of the Commission proposal for the Cohesion policy post-2020.

Regarding the information and publicity activities four newsletters were sent out to the subscribed readers. The JS continuously informed the target groups about the stages of the programme implementation, useful information, downloadable documents and project news via the programme website and through social media channels (Facebook and LinkedIn). In August 2018 the website developer company finalized the new menu point of the website ([Infographics](#)). Now the information available about the funded projects can be seen on different infographics filtered by several criteria (territorial division, division by PAs/SOs, etc).

On the occasion of the [European Cooperation Day](#) and the [European Year of Cultural Heritage](#) the Programme organized a **photo contest** to encourage the citizens of the two partnering countries to take an active part in the celebration of the European Cooperation Day and show a piece of the many natural and cultural heritages of the Hungarian and Slovak border area. 12 best photos out of the submitted 56 were selected based on the evaluation of the jury and a Facebook vote. These photos were featured in outdoor exhibitions in Győr, Hungary (20-28 September 2018) and Košice, Slovakia (1-6 October 2018), as well as in the Wall Calendar for 2019.

Modification of the Cooperation Programme

Within Priority Axis 2 (Enhancing cross-border mobility) there had been a continuously open call since 2016. However, due to several external factors the number of received applications was lower than expected at the time of the planning of the Programme. Thus the Monitoring Committee decided to close this call for good. The MC members authorized the Managing Authority to initiate the **modification of the Cooperation Programme** at the European Commission so the remaining ERDF funds (12,1 M EUR) in Priority axis 2 can be reallocated to Priority axis 1 (PA1 – Nature and culture). PA1 is the most popular theme within the Programme. On 29 October 2018 the European Commission approved the request for modification of the Programme. So the next call for proposals within PA1 due in 2019 will include also the reallocated amount from PA2.

Reimbursement of funds

During the reporting period 2 979 550,90 EUR ERDF expenditures were reported by the CA for certification. The last quarter of 2018 required a very close cooperation among the programme management bodies including the MA, NA, CA, JS and FLCs from both countries and the Beneficiaries. Weekly status reports, daily personal consultations and email communication took place to ensure that the target numbers could be reached by the end of the year.

The CA did not notify any irregularities in the reported period.

Progress in designation process

The Audit Authority carried out the designation audit of Interreg V-A Slovakia-Hungary Cooperation Programme 2014-2020 in 2017. The Audit Report was issued with an unqualified opinion regarding the programme except for the Small Project Fund scheme. The designation of the SPF has not been finalized in 2018. The first system audit started in 2018 and in December the draft Audit Report has been prepared, however not yet finalized in 2018. In line with the requirements of the AA and questionnaires distributed to the umbrella project beneficiaries, part of the SPF implementing documents have already been forwarded to the Audit Authority. The remaining SPF implementing documents were continued to be developed and are to be forwarded to the Audit Authority as soon as they are finalized in early 2019.

3. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PRIORITY AXIS

3.1. Overview of the implementation

| ID | Priority axis | Key information on the implementation of the priority axis with reference to key developments, significant problems and steps taken to address these problems |
|-----|---------------------------------|--|
| PA1 | Nature and culture | <p>40,2M EUR of ERDF was already allocated to selected projects in 2017 in 1st Call for proposals SKHU/1601 .</p> <p>As the initial idea of the B-Light scheme concept was finally dropped in the previous year, the dedicated amount for the involvement of SME-s was opened within an ordinary call for proposals (SKHU/1801) between 6 April 2018 and 20 September 2018. The CfP was continuously open until 125% of the Call`s financial allocation was reached by the submitted applications, which happened in July when the Call was suspended until the results of the submitted projects are finalized. The call was finally closed on 20 September 2018. 6 SME projects were approved with maximum 2 320 866,88 € ERDF support. The remaining funds out of the overall SME Call`s allocation will be made available for the SME applicants in a new Call in 2019 after summarizing the experiences of the SKHU/1801 and drawing the conclusions.</p> <p>The Small Project Fund on the Eastern and Western side opened their first calls for proposals in 2018 including Priority axis 1 as an eligible area to support. The Monitoring Committee of the SPF for the Eastern side, managed by Via-Carpatia EGTC, made a decision about the first projects to support on 10 December 2018 – 6 projects in PA 1 with 261 463.32 EUR ERDF were selected. Contracting is starting with them in January 2019. The SPF for the Western side yet did not make any decisions in 2018 about small projects to support.</p> |
| PA2 | Enhancing cross-border mobility | <p>In this Priority Axis the 1st Call for Proposals (SKHU/1601) was launched on 29 July 2016, with an allocated ERDF amount of 34 608 080 EUR. The continuously open Call for proposals in Priority Axis 2 was finally closed by the Monitoring Committee on 19th February 2018, after four deadlines for submission (03/11/2016, 15/02/2017, 03/11/2017 and 19/02/2018). Altogether 20 applications were received by the Joint Secretariat. 11 of these applications already were handled by the JS in 2016/2017, 2 receiving support decision. By the 3 November 2017 submission deadline another 2 applications arrived, and 7 more were submitted by 19 February 2018. After all evaluation steps 6 projects out of 9 were approved with the maximum ERDF amount of 21 398 637,76 EUR. Due to significantly decreased intensity of support in case of state aid in logistic are (Regional Aid) the single project approved within</p> |

| ID | Priority axis | Key information on the implementation of the priority axis with reference to key developments, significant problems and steps taken to address these problems |
|-----|---|---|
| | | <p>SO222 withdrew from the contracting process. So altogether 7 projects within this PA will be implemented with 22 477 768.98 EUR ERDF.</p> <p>The remaining funds of PA2 (12,1M EUR ERDF) was reallocated to PA1 when the European Commission approved the modification request of the Cooperation Programme on 29 October 2018.</p> |
| PA3 | Promoting sustainable and quality employment | <p>The complexity of the Specific objective 3.1 requires comprehensive development plans which induce integrated projects including infrastructural elements and soft activities. Since expected results require complex interventions the selection process is divided into two selection rounds. The first round call for proposals SKHU/1703 in PA3 was opened in 2017, when applicants were expected to submit description of action plans (so called Territorial Actions Plans for Employment = TAPes) that suit the purpose of the PA. 16 TAPe-s were submitted by the deadline, whose evaluation took place in the first quarter of 2018. The MC of the programme approved 9 action plans. These plans had the right to further develop their project ideas (each TAPe could have maximum 8 individual but comprehensive projects), and submit them within the second round of the Call for proposals SKHU/1802 between 10 August 2018 - 12 November 2018. Altogether 56 individual projects were submitted, each being an integrated part of one approved TAPe. The evaluation of the project proposals has been initiated in December 2018 and will be ongoing in first quarter of 2019.</p> |
| PA4 | Enhancing cross-border cooperation of public authorities and people | <p>The 29 projects submitted within the first call for proposal SKHU/1601 and selected for support are in the phase of implementation (22 pc) or closing (7pc).</p> <p>The Small Project Fund on the Eastern and Western side opened their first calls for proposals in 2018 including Priority axis 4 as an eligible area to support. The Monitoring Committee of the SPF for the Eastern side, managed by Via-Carpatia EGTC, made a decision about the first projects to support on 10 December 2018 – 6 projects in PA 4 with 274 054.81 EUR ERDF were selected. Contracting is starting with them in January 2019. The SPF for the Western side yet did not make any decisions in 2018 about small projects to support.</p> |

| ID | Priority axis | Key information on the implementation of the priority axis with reference to key developments, significant problems and steps taken to address these problems |
|-----|----------------------|--|
| PA5 | Technical assistance | <p>TA Beneficiaries proceeded with their tasks related to the overall management, implementation, control and audit as well as the visibility and publicity of the programme. One of the highlighted tasks this year was the completion of the n+3 target, which required the close cooperation of the MA, NA, FLCs and JS in the last quarter of 2018. Due to the joint coordination certification, reporting and monitoring of costs was speeding up and resulted in reaching, even slightly overcoming the target number by the end of the year.</p> <p>The three info points of the Programme complemented the tasks carried out by the JS with individual consultations in their regions. They co-organized info days related to the running call for proposals, and shared the information and publicity tasks to enhance the visibility of the Programme and its results. They contributed to the daily work of the JS by providing translations when it was necessary.</p> |

3.2. Common and programme specific indicators

Result indicators (by priority axis and specific objective)

1. Table

| Priority Axis | ID | Indicators | Measurement unit | Baseline value | Baseline year | Target value (2023) | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | Observations |
|---------------|------|---|------------------|----------------|---------------|---------------------|------|------|------|------|------|---|
| PA1 | R110 | Total number of visitors in the region | Number/year | 7 074 754 | 2012 | 7 800 000 | | | | | | |
| PA2 | R210 | Average distance between border crossing points | km | 21,9 | 2014 | 18,35 | | | | | | Modification of the CP approved by COM on 29 October 2018 |
| | R221 | Change in the volume of cross-border public transport | persons | 382 849 | 2013 | 450 000 | | | | | | |
| | R222 | Change in the volume of cross-border good transport | EUR | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | | | | | | Modification of the CP approved by COM on 29 October 2018 |
| PA3 | R310 | Increase in the employment rate | % | 63,2 | 2013 | 65,2 | | | | | | |
| PA4 | R410 | Level of cross-border cooperation | score | 3,4 | 2015 | 4,1 | | | | | | |

Common and programme specific output indicators (by priority axis, investment priority)

2. Table

| Priority Axis | ID | Indicator (name of indicator) | Measurement unit | Target value (2023) | CUMULATIVE VALUE | | | | | | | | | | Observations (if necessary) | |
|---------------|---|---|--|---------------------|------------------|------|------|---------|---------|---------|------|------|------|--|--|--|
| | | | | | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | | |
| PA1 | CO01 | Outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries] | Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support | enterprises | 40 | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 16 | | | | | | |
| | | Outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement] | | | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | | | Selected operations are under contracting procedure and due to start the implementation in 2019. | |
| | CO02 | Outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries] | Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving grants | enterprises | 40 | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 16 | | | | | | |
| | | Outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement] | | | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | | Selected operations are under contracting procedure and due to start the implementation in 2019. | | |
| | CO09 | Outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries] | Sustainable tourism: Increase in expected number of visits to supported sites of cultural and natural heritage and attractions | visits/year | 30 000 | | 0 | 0 | 434 694 | 438 694 | | | | | | |
| | | Outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement] | | | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 85 779 | | | | | | |
| | CO13 | Outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries] | Roads: Total length of newly built roads | km | 2,80 | | 0 | 0 | 2.8 | 3,03 | | | | | | |
| | | Outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement] | | | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1,90 | | | | | | |
| CO23 | Outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries] | Nature and biodiversity: Surface area of habitats supported in order to attain a | hectares | 115 100 | | 0 | 0 | 123 042 | 128 671 | | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-----|--|----|-----|--|---|---|-------|--------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement] | | better conservation status | | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 45 314 | | | | | | |
| Outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries] | O11 | Length of reconstructed and newly built 'green ways' | km | 120 | | 0 | 0 | 1 971 | 772,18 | | | | | | |
| Outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement] | | | | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 10,40 | | | | | | |

| Priority Axis | ID | Indicator (name of indicator) | Measurement unit | Target value (2023) | CUMULATIVE VALUE | | | | | | | | | | Observations (if necessary) | |
|---------------|------|---|---|---------------------|------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|---|--|
| | | | | | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | | |
| PA2 | CO13 | Outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries] | Roads: Total length of newly built roads | km | 3,15 | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3,15 | | | | | | |
| | | Outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement] | | | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | Operations were selected in 2 nd quarter of 2018. The outputs will be delivered at later stage of their implementation. |
| | O221 | Outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries] | Number of new public transport services started within the framework of the programme | piece | 10 | | 0 | 0 | 5 | 10 | | | | | | |
| | | Outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement] | | | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | | | | | | |
| | O222 | Outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries] | Number of new logistic services started within the framework of the programme | piece | n.r | | 0 | 0 | 0 | n.r | | | | | | Modification of the CP approved by COM on 29 October 2018 |
| | | Outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement] | | | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | n.r | | | | | Modification of the CP approved by COM on 29 October 2018 | |

| Priority Axis | ID | Indicator (name of indicator) | Measurement unit | Target value (2023) | CUMULATIVE VALUE | | | | | | | | | | Observations (if necessary) | |
|---------------|--|---|---|---------------------|------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-----------------------------|---|
| | | | | | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | | |
| PA3 | CO01 | Outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries] | Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support | enterprises | 10 | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | Two rounds selection procedure, 9 TAPES selected by the MC and the assessment of 56 applications submitted in the 2 nd round has started in 2018. Further implementation progress of this Priority Axis is described in Chapter 5 and Chapter 14 of this document, |
| | | Outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement] | | | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | |
| | CO02 | Outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries] | Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving grants | enterprises | 10 | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | |
| | | Outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement] | | | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | |
| | CO08 | Outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries] | Productive investment: Employment increase in supported enterprises | FTE | 20 | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | |
| | | Outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement] | | | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | |
| | CO13 | Outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries] | Roads: Total length of newly built roads | km | 11 | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | |
| | | Outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement] | | | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | |
| | CO39 | Outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries] | Urban development specific indicators: Public or commercial buildings built or renovated in urban areas | square meters | 3000 | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | |
| | | Outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement] | | | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | |
| CO44 | Outputs to be delivered by selected operations | Labour market and training: Number of | persons | 100 | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|------|---|---------|----|--|---|---|---|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | [forecast provided by beneficiaries] | | participants in joint local employment initiatives and joint training | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement] | | | | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | | |
| PA3 cont. | Outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries] | O311 | Number of (integrated territorial) action plans | number | 10 | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | | |
| | Outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement] | | | | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | | |
| | Outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries] | O312 | Number of women in joint local employment initiatives and joint trainings (participants of employment initiatives from above CO44) | persons | 50 | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | | |
| | Outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement] | | | | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | | |
| | Outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries] | O313 | Number of participants from groups at risk of discrimination, including Roma in joint local employment initiatives and joint trainings (participants of employment initiatives from above CO44) | persons | 25 | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | | |
| | Outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement] | | | | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | | |
| | Outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries] | O314 | Number of new business services promoting employment and consultancy services | number | 15 | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | | |
| | Outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement] | | | | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | | |
| Two rounds selection procedure, 9 TAPES selected by the MC and the assessment of 56 applications submitted in the 2 nd round has started in 2018. Further implementation progress of this Priority Axis is described in Chapter 5 and Chapter 14 of this document, | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| Priority Axis | ID | Indicator (name of indicator) | Measurement unit | Target value (2023) | CUMULATIVE VALUE | | | | | | | | | | Observations (if necessary) |
|---------------|---|---|------------------|---------------------|------------------|------|--------|--------|--------|------|------|------|------|------|-----------------------------|
| | | | | | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | |
| PA4 | O411 | Number of cross-border products and services developed | Number | 20 | | 0 | 0 | 115 | 126 | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 30 | | | | | | |
| | O412 | Number of documents published or elaborated outside of the framework of SPF | Number | 40 | | 0 | 0 | 108 | 110 | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 25 | | | | | | |
| | O413 | Number of cross-border events | Number | 400 | | 0 | 0 | 590 | 769 | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 229 | | | | | | |
| | O414 | Number of documents published or elaborated in the framework of SPF | Number | 200 | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 200 | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 85 | | | | | | |
| | O415 | Number of people participated in cooperation | Number | 10 000 | | 0 | 0 | 32 803 | 38 462 | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 14 810 | | | | | | |
| O416 | Number of women participated in cooperation | Number | 4 000 | | 0 | 0 | 16 416 | 18 870 | | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|------|--|--------|-----|--|---|---|-------|-------|--|--|--|--|--|
| [forecast provided by beneficiaries] | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement] | | | | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7 731 | | | | | |
| Outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries] | O417 | Number of participants from socially marginalized groups, including Roma | Number | 300 | | 0 | 0 | 3 059 | 3 178 | | | | | |
| Outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement] | | | | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 491 | | | | | |

| Priority Axis | ID | Indicator (name of indicator) | Measurement unit | Target value (2023) | CUMULATIVE VALUE | | | | | | | | | | Observations (if necessary) | |
|---------------|---|---|---|---|------------------|------|------|------|-----------------|-----------------|------|------|------|------|-----------------------------|--|
| | | | | | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | | |
| PA5 | O511 | Outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries] | Number of employees (FTEs) whose salaries are co-financed by technical assistance | FTE | 30 | | 0 | 30 | 30 | 30 | | | | | | |
| | | Outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement] | | | | | 0 | 11 | 11 | 30 | | | | | | |
| | O512 | Outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries] | Number of publicity events | Number of events | 15 | | 0 | 15 | 15 | 15 | | | | | | |
| | | Outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement] | | | | | 0 | 21 | 22 | 30 ¹ | | | | | | |
| | O513 | Outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries] | Number of studies and evaluation documents | Finished studies and evaluation documents | 2 | | 0 | 2 | 2 | 2 | | | | | | |
| | | Outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement] | | | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 ² | | | | | | |
| O514 | Outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries] | Number of training initiatives for the management bodies | Training initiatives | 15 | | 0 | 15 | 15 | 15 | | | | | | | |
| | Outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement] | | | | | 0 | 1 | 3 | 24 ³ | | | | | | | |

¹ 2 information days organized in relation to the SME 1801 CfP, 4 information days organized in relation to the SKHU/1802 CfP, 1 EC day event in Győr and 1 EC day event in Košice,

² Evaluation plan (updated Evaluation plan developed in 2016)

³ trainings organized by JS for territorial and sectoral assessors in the SKHU/1703 Call in PA3, trainings organized by JS for territorial and sectoral assessors in the SKHU/1801 Call in PA1, 4 interact trainings for JS staff, 12 training initiatives in SK-HU-TA/06

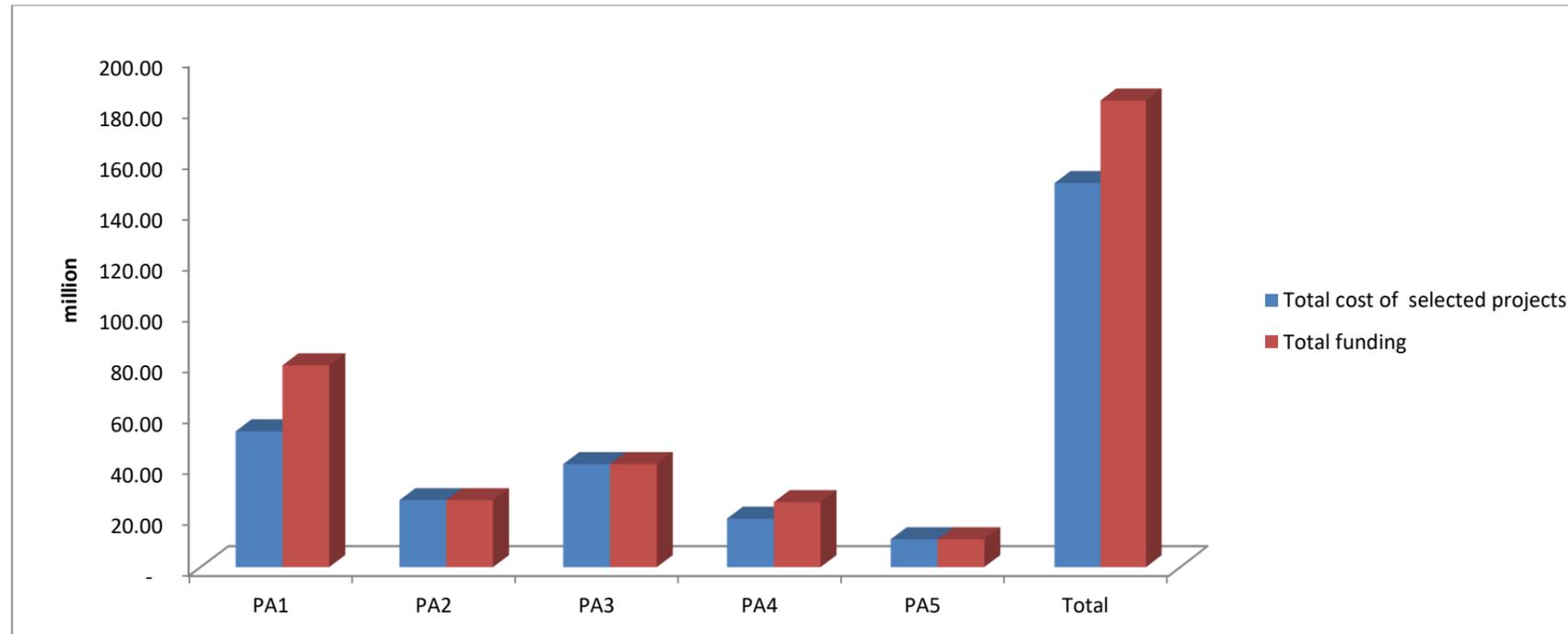


Figure 1: Total costs of selected projects per priority axis

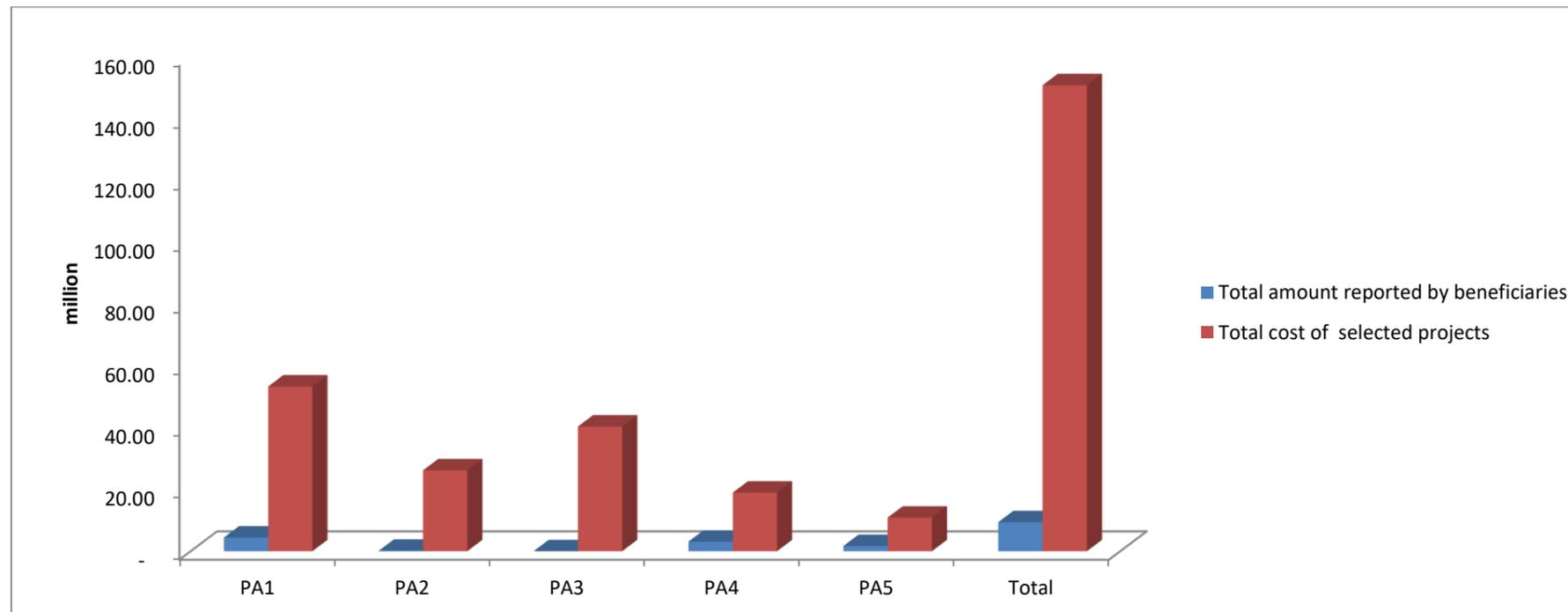


Figure 2: Total costs reported by beneficiaries per priority axis

3.3. Milestones and targets defined in the performance framework

Information on the milestones and targets defined in the performance framework⁴

3. Table

| PA | Indicator Type | ID | Indicator or key implementation step | Measurement unit | Milestone for 2018 | Final target 2023 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 20 | 23 | Observations |
|-----|----------------|-------|---|------------------|--------------------|-------------------|----|----|----|----|-----------|----|----|----|----|----|--------------|
| PA1 | Output | CO02 | Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving grants | enterprises | 0 | 40 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | |
| | Key imp.step | K0001 | Number of calls for SMEs | number | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | | | | | | |
| | Output | CO13 | Roads: Total length of newly built roads | km | 0 | 2,8 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1,9 | | | | | | |
| | Key imp.step | K0002 | Elaborated technical documentation for road construction | number | 1 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | | | | | | |
| | Output | O11 | Length of reconstructed and newly built 'green ways' | km | 9 | 120 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 10,4 | | | | | | |
| | Output | CO23 | Nature and biodiversity: Surface area of habitats supported in order to attain a better conservation status | hectares | 28 000 | 115,100 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 45 314 | | | | | | |
| | Financial | F0001 | Total amount of submitted expenditure for validation | EUR | 4 207 597 | 79,480,140.50 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 121 015 | | | | | | |

⁴ However the target values of the financial indicator's milestones for 2018 were set according to definition of the financial indicator in the performance framework approved in the Programme „Total amount of submitted expenditure for validation”, based on the European Commission's initiative, the Programme has chosen to report on financial indicator as the amount of payment claims submitted in 2019 to the COM which correspond to the expenditure incurred and paid by the beneficiaries in 2018.

| PA | Indicator Type | ID | Indicator or key implementation step | Measurement unit | Milestone for 2018 | Final target 2023 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | Observations |
|------|----------------|--------|---|------------------|--------------------|-------------------|----|----|----|----|---------|----|----|----|----|----|---|
| PA 2 | output | CO13 | Roads: Total length of newly built roads | km | 0 | 3,15 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | Explanation for under performance is provided in Chapter 5 and 14 |
| | Key imp.step | K000 2 | Elaborated technical documentation for road construction | NA | 1 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | | | | | | |
| | output | O221 | Number of new public transport services started within the framework of the programme | piece | 2 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | | | | | | |
| | Financial | F0001 | Total amount of submitted expenditure for validation | EUR | 1,706,316 | 26,444,434.50 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 141 044 | | | | | | |
| PA 3 | output | O311 | Number of (integrated territorial) action plans | number | 0 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | Explanation for under performance is provided in Chapter 5 and 14 |
| | Key imp.step | K000 3 | Selected action plans | number | 5 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 9 | | | | | | |
| | output | CO44 | Labour market and training: Number of participants in joint local employment initiatives and joint training | persons | 30 | 100 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | |
| | output | O314 | Number of new business services promoting employment and consultancy services | number | 5 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | |
| | Financial | F0001 | Total amount of submitted expenditure for validation | EUR | 2 627 144 | 40 715 389 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | |

| PA | Indicator Type | ID | Indicator or key implementation step | Measurement unit | Milestone for 2018 | Final target 2023 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | Observations |
|------|----------------|-------|---|------------------|--------------------|-------------------|----|----|----|----|-----------|----|----|----|----|----|--------------|
| PA 4 | Output | O411 | Number of cross-border products and services developed | Number | 4 | 20 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 30 | | | | | | |
| | Output | O412 | Number of documents published or elaborated outside of the framework of SPF | Number | 5 | 40 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 25 | | | | | | |
| | Output | O413 | Number of cross border events | Number | 100 | 400 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 229 | | | | | | |
| | Output | O414 | Number of documents published or elaborated in the framework of SPF | Number | 50 | 200 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 85 | | | | | | |
| | Financial | F0001 | Total amount of submitted expenditure for validation | EUR | 1 656 117 | 25 666 448 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 788 499 | | | | | | |

3.4. Financial data

Financial information at priority axis and programme level

4. Table⁵

| 1. | 2. | 3. | 4. | 5. | 6. | 7. | 8. | 9. | 10. | 11. | 12. |
|--|------|--------------------|---|---------------------|-----------------------|--|--|---|---|--|-------------------------------|
| The financial allocation of the priority axis based on the Cooperation programme | | | | | | Cumulative data on the financial progress of the Cooperation programme | | | | | |
| Priority axis | Fund | Category of region | Basis for the calculation of Union support* (Total eligible cost or public eligible cost) | Total funding (EUR) | Co-financing rate (%) | Total eligible cost of operations selected for support (EUR) | Proportion of the total allocation covered with selected operations (%) [column 7/ column 5 × 100] | Public eligible cost of operations selected for support (EUR) | Total eligible expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the managing authority ⁶ | Proportion of the total allocation covered by eligible expenditure declared by beneficiaries (%) [column 10/ column 5 × 100] | Number of operations selected |
| PA1 | ERDF | | Total eligible cost | 79 480 141 | 85% | 53 638 804 | 67,49 | 52 898 218 | 3 121 015 | 3,93 | 37 |
| PA2 | ERDF | | Total eligible cost | 26 444 435 | 85% | 26 444 435 | 100,00 | 26 420 005 | 141 044 | 0,53 | 7 |
| PA3 | ERDF | | Total eligible cost | 40 715 389 | 85% | 40 715 389 | 100,00 | 38 121 896 | 0 | 0,00 | 9 |
| PA4 | ERDF | | Total eligible cost | 25 666 448 | 85% | 19 152 531 | 74,62 | 18 939 642 | 1 788 499 | 6,97 | 30 |
| PA5 | ERDF | | Total eligible cost | 10 998 282 | 85% | 10 998 282 | 100,00 | 10 998 282 | 0 | 0,00 | 10 |
| Total | | | | 183 304 694 | | 150 949 441 | 82,35 | 147 378 043 | 5 050 558 | 2,76 | 93 |

⁵ Data provided is in line with the data requested in table "Annex II Transmission of financial data" by the Certifying Authority

⁶ Corresponding to the amount of payment claims submitted in 2019 to the COM

Breakdown of the cumulative financial data by category of intervention for the transmission made by 31 January⁷

5. Table

| Priority axis | Characteristics of expenditure | Categorisation dimensions | | | | | | | | Financial data | | | |
|---------------|--------------------------------|--|--------------------------|--|-----------------------|--|-----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--|---|--|
| | | Fund | Intervention field | Form of finance | Territorial dimension | Territorial delivery mechanism | Thematic priority dimension | ESF secondary theme | Economic dimension | Location dimension | Total eligible cost of operations selected for support (€) | Public eligible cost of operations selected for support (€) | The total eligible expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the managing authority |
| PA1 | ERDF | 032 – Local access roads (new build) | 01 – Non-repayable grant | 01 – Large Urban areas (densely populated > 50 000 population) | 07 – Not applicable | 1.- Strengthening research, technological development and innovation | 08 – Not applicable | 12 – Transport and storage | SKHU | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | 02 – Small Urban areas (intermediate density > 5 000 population) | | | | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | 03 – Rural areas (thinly populated) | | | | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | 075 – Development and promotion of tourism services in or for SMEs | | 01 – Large Urban areas (densely populated > 50 000 population) | | | | 0 | | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| | | | | 02 – Small Urban areas (intermediate density > 5 000 population) | | | | 0 | | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| | | | | 03 – Rural areas (thinly populated) | | | | 1 550 169,17 | | 1 338 782,47 | 0 | 3 | |
| | | 077 – Development and promotion of cultural and creative services in or for SMEs | | 01 – Large Urban areas (densely populated > 50 000 population) | | | | 0 | | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| | | | | 02 – Small Urban areas (intermediate density > 5 000 population) | | | | 1 102 027,59 | | 951 751,10 | 0 | 3 | |
| | | | | 03 – Rural areas (thinly populated) | | | | 0 | | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| | | 085 – Protection and enhancement of biodiversity, nature protection and green infrastructure | | 01 – Large Urban areas (densely populated > 50 000 population) | | | | 0 | | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| | | | | 02 – Small Urban areas (intermediate density > 5 000 population) | | | | 0 | | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| | | | | 03 – Rural areas (thinly populated) | | | | 5 530 814,83 | | 5 519 436,59 | 592 425 | 4 | |
| | | | | 01 – Large Urban areas (densely populated > 50 000 population) | | | | 0 | | 0 | 0 | 0 | |

⁷ Data provided is in line with the data requested in table "Annex II Transmission of financial data" by the Certifying Authority

| Priority axis | Characteristics of expenditure | Categorisation dimensions | | | | | | | | Financial data | | | | |
|---------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|--|-----------------|--|--|-----------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--|---|--|-------------------------------|
| | | Fund | Intervention field | Form of finance | Territorial dimension | Territorial delivery mechanism | Thematic priority dimension | ESF secondary theme | Economic dimension | Location dimension | Total eligible cost of operations selected for support (€) | Public eligible cost of operations selected for support (€) | The total eligible expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the managing authority | Number of operations selected |
| | | | 086 – Protection, restoration and sustainable use of Natura 2000 sites | | populated > 50 000 population) | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | 02 – Small Urban areas (intermediate density > 5 000 population) | | | | | 778 106,52 | 778 106,52 | 16 183 | 1 |
| | | | | | | 03 – Rural areas (thinly populated) | | | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | 090 – Cycle tracks and footpaths | | 01 – Large Urban areas (densely populated > 50 000 population) | | | | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | | | 02 – Small Urban areas (intermediate density > 5 000 population) | | | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | | | 03 – Rural areas (thinly populated) | | | | | 8 331 276,76 | 8 319 026,73 | 124 534 | 3 |
| | | | 091 – Development and promotion of the tourism potential of natural areas | | 01 – Large Urban areas (densely populated > 50 000 population) | | | | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | | | 02 – Small Urban areas (intermediate density > 5 000 population) | | | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | | | 03 – Rural areas (thinly populated) | | | | | 9 794 891,86 | 9 692 673,04 | 1 240 616 | 8 |
| | | | 092 - Protection, development and promotion of public tourism assets | | 01 – Large Urban areas (densely populated > 50 000 population) | | | | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | | | 02 – Small Urban areas (intermediate density > 5 000 population) | | | | | 13 355 424,99 | 13 330 799,36 | 429 957 | 8 |
| | | | | | | 03 – Rural areas (thinly populated) | | | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | 094 – Protection, development and promotion of public cultural and heritage assets | | 01 – Large Urban areas (densely populated > 50 000 population) | | | | | | 13 196 092,28 | 12 967 642,19 | 717 300 | 7 |
| | | | | | | 02 – Small Urban areas (intermediate density > 5 000 population) | | | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

| Priority axis | Characteristics of expenditure | Categorisation dimensions | | | | | | | | Financial data | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|---|--------------------------|---------------------|--|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|--|--------------------|--|---|--|
| | | Fund | Intervention field | Form of finance | Territorial dimension | Territorial delivery mechanism | Thematic priority dimension | ESF secondary theme | Economic dimension | Location dimension | Total eligible cost of operations selected for support (€) | Public eligible cost of operations selected for support (€) | The total eligible expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the managing authority |
| | | | | | 03 – Rural areas (thinly populated) | | | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| PA2 | ERDF | 030 – Secondary road links to TEN-T road network and nodes (new build) | 01 – Non-repayable grant | 07 – Not applicable | 7. - Promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures | 08 – Not applicable | 12 – Transport and storage | SKHU | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| | | | | | | | | | 01 – Large Urban areas (densely populated > 50 000 population) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | | | | | | 02 – Small Urban areas (intermediate density > 5 000 population) | 17 188 841,21 | 17 188 841,21 | 0 | 2 |
| | | 03 – Rural areas (thinly populated) | | | | | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| | | 032 – Local access roads (new build) | | | | | | | 01 – Large Urban areas (densely populated > 50 000 population) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | | | | | | 02 – Small Urban areas (intermediate density > 5 000 population) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | | | | | | 03 – Rural areas (thinly populated) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | 042 – Inland waterways and ports (regional and local) | | | | | | | 01 – Large Urban areas (densely populated > 50 000 population) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | | | | | | 02 – Small Urban areas (intermediate density > 5 000 population) | 5 366 124,89 | 5 366 124,89 | 0 | 1 |
| | | | | | | | | | 03 – Rural areas (thinly populated) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | 043 – Clean urban transport infrastructure and promotion (including equipment and rolling stock) | | | | | | | 01 – Large Urban areas (densely populated > 50 000 population) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | | | | | | 02 – Small Urban areas (intermediate density > 5 000 population) | 2 889 702,19 | 2 889 701,49 | 141 044 | 3 |
| | | | | | | | | | 03 – Rural areas (thinly populated) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | 044 – Intelligent transport systems (including the introduction of demand management, tolling systems, IT monitoring, | | | | | | | 01 – Large Urban areas (densely populated > 50 000 population) | 999 766,71 | 975 337,41 | 0 | 1 |
| 02 – Small Urban areas (intermediate density > 5 000 population) | 0 | | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | | |

| Priority axis | Characteristics of expenditure | Categorisation dimensions | | | | | | | | Financial data | | | | | |
|---------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|--|--|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|--------------------|-----------------------------|--|---|--|-------------------------------|---|
| | | Fund | Intervention field | Form of finance | Territorial dimension | Territorial delivery mechanism | Thematic priority dimension | ESF secondary theme | Economic dimension | Location dimension | Total eligible cost of operations selected for support (€) | Public eligible cost of operations selected for support (€) | The total eligible expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the managing authority | Number of operations selected | |
| | | | control and information systems) | | 03 – Rural areas (thinly populated) | | | | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| | | | 072 – Business infrastructure for SMEs (including industrial parks and sites) | | 01 – Large Urban areas (densely populated > 50 000 population) | | | 08 - Construction | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| | | | | 02 – Small Urban areas (intermediate density > 5 000 population) | | | | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | |
| | | | | 03 – Rural areas (thinly populated) | | | | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | |
| PA3 | ERDF | 032 - Local access roads (new build) | 01 – Non-repayable grant | 07 – Not applicable | 8. - Promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility | 08 – Not applicable | | 12 – Transport and storage | SKHU | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| | | | | | | | | 055 - Other social infrastructure contributing to regional and local development | | 08 - Construction | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| | | | | | | | | 072 - Business infrastructure for SMEs (including industrial parks and sites) | | 08 - Construction | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| | | | | | | | | 073 - Support to social enterprises (SMEs) | | 21 - Social work activities | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |

| Priority axis | Characteristics of expenditure | Categorisation dimensions | | | | | | | | Financial data | | | |
|---------------|--------------------------------|--|--------------------|--|-----------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|--|--------------------|--|---|--|
| | | Fund | Intervention field | Form of finance | Territorial dimension | Territorial delivery mechanism | Thematic priority dimension | ESF secondary theme | Economic dimension | Location dimension | Total eligible cost of operations selected for support (€) | Public eligible cost of operations selected for support (€) | The total eligible expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the managing authority |
| | | | | | | | | | SKHU | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | | | | | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | 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 | | 01 – Large Urban areas (densely populated > 50 000 population) | | | | | 21 - Social work activities, community, social and personal services | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | 02 – Small Urban areas (intermediate density > 5 000 population) | | | | | | 40 715 389,00 | 38 121 896,00 | 0 | 9 |
| | | 103 - Sustainable integration into the labour market of young people, in particular those not in employment, education or training, including young people at risk of social exclusion and young people from marginalised communities, including through the implementation of the Youth Guarantee | | 03 – Rural areas (thinly populated) | | | | | 19 - Education | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | 01 – Large Urban areas (densely populated > 50 000 population) | | | | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | 104 - Self-employment, entrepreneurship and business creation including innovative micro, small and medium sized enterprises | | 02 – Small Urban areas (intermediate density > 5 000 population) | | | | | 21 - Social work activities, community, social and personal | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | 03 – Rural areas (thinly populated) | | | | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | 01 – Large Urban areas (densely populated > 50 000 population) | | | | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | 109 - Active inclusion, including with a view to promoting equal | | 02 – Small Urban areas (intermediate density > 5 000 population) | | | | | 21 - Social work activities, community, social and personal | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | 03 – Rural areas (thinly populated) | | | | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | 01 – Large Urban areas (densely populated > 50 000 population) | | | | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

| Priority axis | Characteristics of expenditure | Categorisation dimensions | | | | | | | | Financial data | | | | | | | |
|---------------|--------------------------------|---|---|--|--|---|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|--|--|---|--|-------------------------------|---------------|-----------|----|
| | | Fund | Intervention field | Form of finance | Territorial dimension | Territorial delivery mechanism | Thematic priority dimension | ESF secondary theme | Economic dimension | Location dimension | Total eligible cost of operations selected for support (€) | Public eligible cost of operations selected for support (€) | The total eligible expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the managing authority | Number of operations selected | | | |
| | | | opportunities and active participation, and improving employability | | 02 – Small Urban areas (intermediate density > 5 000 population) | | | | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | |
| | | | | | 03 – Rural areas (thinly populated) | | | | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | |
| PA4 | ERDF | 096 - Institutional capacity of public administrations and public services related to implementation of the ERDF or actions supporting ESF institutional capacity initiatives | 01 – Non-repayable grant | 01 – Large Urban areas (densely populated > 50 000 population) | 07 – Not applicable | 11. Enhancing institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders and efficient public administration | 08 – Not applicable | 18 – Public administration | SKHU | 509 715,30 | 492 112,91 | 48 969 | 2 | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | | |
| | | 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 | | | | | | | | 01 – Large Urban areas (densely populated > 50 000 population) | 07 – Not applicable | 18 – Public administration | SKHU | 2 415 498,98 | 2 366 543,09 | 510 207 | 9 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | 120 - Capacity building for all stakeholders delivering education, lifelong learning, training and employment and social policies, including through sectoral and territorial pacts to mobilise for reform at the national, regional and local levels | | | | | | | | 01 – Large Urban areas (densely populated > 50 000 population) | 07 – Not applicable | 19 - Education | SKHU | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 16 227 316,72 | 16 080 986,00 | 1 229 323 | 19 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| PA5 | ERDF | 121 - Preparation, implementation, monitoring and inspection | 01 – Non-repayable grant | 07 – Not applicable | 07 – Not applicable | 12 – Not applicable | 08 – Not applicable | 24 – Other unspecified services | SKHU | 8 645 340,83 | 8 645 340,83 | 0 | 6 | | | | |
| | | 122 - Evaluation and studies | | | | | | | | 588,235.29 | 588,235.29 | 0 | 1 | | | | |

| Priority axis | Characteristics of expenditure | Categorisation dimensions | | | | | | | | Financial data | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--|---|--|-------------------------------|
| | | Intervention field | Form of finance | Territorial dimension | Territorial delivery mechanism | Thematic priority dimension | ESF secondary theme | Economic dimension | Location dimension | Total eligible cost of operations selected for support (€) | Public eligible cost of operations selected for support (€) | The total eligible expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the managing authority | Number of operations selected |
| | Fund | 123 - Information and communication | | | | | | | | 1,764,705.88 | 1,764,705.88 | 0 | 3 |
| Total | ERDF | | | | | | | | | 150 949 441,00 | 147 378 043,00 | 5 050 558 | 93 |
| Grand total | | | | | | | | | | 150 949 441,00 | 147 378 043,00 | 5 050 558 | 93 |

Cumulative cost of all or part of an operation implemented outside the Union part of the programme area

5. Table

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|--|--|--|---|--|
| | The amount of ERDF support ⁸ envisaged to be used for all or part of an operation implemented outside the Union part of the programme area based on selected operations (EUR) | Share of the total financial allocation to all or part of an operation located outside the Union part of the programme area (%) (column 2/total amount allocated to the support from the ERDF at programme level *100) | Eligible expenditure of ERDF support incurred in all or part of an operation implemented outside the Union part of the programme area declared by the beneficiary to the managing authority (EUR) | Share of the total financial allocation to all or part of an operation located outside the Union part of the programme area (%) (column 4/total amount allocated to the support from the ERDF at programme level *100) |
| All or part of an operation outside the Union part of the programme area | 0 | 0% | 0 | 0% |

⁸ERDF support is fixed in the Commission decision on the respective cooperation programme.

4. SYNTHESIS OF THE EVALUATIONS

In line with the Evaluation plan of the Programme the First Phase Evaluation (evaluation of efficiency and effectiveness of the programme) was initiated in February 2018. Within the framework of the evaluation assignment, the effectiveness, the efficiency and the impact of the cross-border programme were assessed from 1 January 2014 with the cut-off date of 30 September 2018 while the institutional and administrative developments were examined until the end of November 2018. The Inception report was finalized on 27 April 2018 and the first draft of the evaluation report was distributed to the Managing Authority and Joint Secretariat on 02 October 2018. Finalization of the evaluation report and circulation of the evaluation results among the MC members is due in 2019.

In line with the Evaluation plan of the programme, the First Phase Evaluation focused on programme management and implementation; Calls for Proposals, project application and selection procedures; Communication Strategy; specific types of calls and projects: Small Project Fund, SME call, Territorial Action Plans for Employment, infrastructural projects; performance framework indicators as well as feeding the extended parts of the AIR 2018.

While effectiveness and efficiency are rather formal criteria of evaluation, impact is much more a matter of content. In line with the preliminary conclusions of the evaluation report, the impacts can be identified and assessed only in a long term perspective. Taking into account the short period of time spent since the first calls were published and the small progress the project partners could make until the time of the first phase evaluation, the relevant information on real impacts are not available yet. These impacts will be measurable in a later phase of programme implementation with a much higher effectiveness. According to the preliminary results of the first phase evaluation the key findings of the first phase evaluation are as follows:

The time factor

When summarizing the key findings of the evaluation, the time factor must be highlighted as one of the most relevant factor influencing the programme's highest challenges. The implementation of the programme started with remarkable delay. The delay stemmed from the late approval of the relevant EU legislations and the removal of the Managing Authority from the Slovakia to the Hungary at the end of 2015. The old-new MA, NA together with the JS carried-out the preparatory works in exemplary speed and the first call was published in the summer of 2016. Still, it was 2,5 years later compared to the starting date of the CP. Until the evaluation ended 8 calls have been successfully published: 1st Call for Proposals (SKHU/1601), Call for Small Project Fund – Umbrella Projects (two rounds: SKHU/1701 and SKHU/1704), Call for Proposals for Territorial Action Plan for Employment (two rounds: SKHU/1703 and SKHU/1802, Call for Proposals for Small and Medium Enterprises (SKHU/1801), Call for small projects (East) (SKHU/ETA/1801) and Call for small projects (West) (SKHU/WETA/1801). Due to the late start of the programme implementation, at the cut-off date of the evaluation, limited number of reports from the beneficiaries caused remarkable difficulties when assessing the effectiveness, efficiency and impact of the programme.

The achievements

The programme has 4 priority axes from which PA1 (Nature and culture) is the most popular one: the financial claims of the applications were 10 times larger than the preliminary budget frames published in the first call. Finally, the MC allocated almost the total amount dedicated to PA1 already within the first call, awarding 29 projects in total.

The original setup of PA2 (Enhancing cross-border mobility) was not successful, the number of applications was very limited, and a modification of the Programme was necessary. Taking into account the lack of interest in the priority axis, the Monitoring Committee (8. meeting held on 26 April 2018 in Bratislava) decided on the modification of the programme by transferring the remaining amount from PA2 to PA1. The decision guarantees the timely implementation of the programme. At the same time, the road and bridge construction projects can generate further problems (due to technical, administrative obstacles and the changes of construction prices).

Due to the complexity of the PA3 (Promoting sustainable and quality employment, and supporting labour mobility) and the TAPE model, the preparation (e.g. of target values) of the calls for proposal required more time and resources. The first round of the call for the TAPES was successful, the MC allocated the total amount for the implementation of 9 TAPES. Regardless of the fundamental changes on the labour markets of the two countries since 2013, the carefully planned targets shall be reached without difficulties.

The majority of the 28 projects selected within the PA4 (Enhancing cross-border cooperation of public authorities and people living in the border area) will be completed until the middle of 2019. The second call targeting PA4 is expected to be published in the spring of 2019.

In both cases of PA1 and PA4, the Small Project Fund will contribute to a significant increase of involved beneficiaries and implemented projects.

Exemplary communication at programme level

The communication of the programme is among the best ones in Europe. The establishment of the position of a communication manager at the JS proved to be very beneficial and the communication activities addressing third parties, as well as, the appearances and the communication with the beneficiaries are managed at a high standard. The communication could be further developed at the level of the projects addressing the wider audience and by sharing the good examples and innovative methods. Furthermore, the communication activities should have a territorial aspect taken into account the imbalanced share of the projects and the beneficiaries so far. The most active programme area is situated in the West, between Tatabánya and the Austrian border. However, weak project activity can be detected at few border sections, mainly in the middle part of the border area.

High quality performance at programme level

The programme implementation meets high standards. Based on the conclusions of the evaluation the vast majority of the procedures are delivered at a high quality due to the extended experiences of the participating entities. However, there are still a couple of points which leave room for improvement.

Good results in simplification

The simplification test carried out within the evaluation showed that the vast majority of the recommendations drafted at the end of the previous programming period have been taken into consideration and there are many fields where the simplification is advanced.

Enhanced ownership

According to the conclusion of the evaluation the programme has achieved significant results in the field of the enhancement of ownership by involving the regional actors in quality assessment, by enabling the MC members to get a deeper picture on the project proposals (TAPE), by involving two EGTCs in the management of the programme (SPF) or by involving the TAPE beneficiaries in the preparation of the second-round call by means of public consultations.

New priorities are emerging

The regional analysis of the evaluation justified the selection of the four priorities of the programme. However, at least two new challenges have been emerging since the approval of the programme. On the one hand, the massive depopulation of extensive (mostly) rural areas of the programme region (the outmigration of mostly young, skilled, working-age population and the massive ageing) has never been more crucial to tackle. On the other hand, during the most recent years the importance of R&D in generating Gross Domestic Product has been increasing notably in the border region. These new dimensions should be taken into account when starting the programming of the new CP.

The innovation factor

The evaluation concluded that the present programme is one of the most innovative CPs in Europe. Furthermore, the innovative tools applied by the programme are brand new developments within the framework of the programme itself. Obviously, this innovative character creates great challenges to be responded. The innovative factors are: direct involvement of the SMEs, involvement of EGTCs in the implementation of the programme (small project fund) considered as a model in Europe, involvement of the EGTCs in the work of the MC with observer status, the TAPE tool considered as a model in Europe as well as the three-level quality assessment model applied in the case of the TAPE with strong territorial dimension.

Modest improvements in cross-border factor

According to the analysis, only a few SKHU projects selected by the cut-off date of the evaluation meet the highest requirements against cross-border integration and cooperation. There are a few partnerships which are able to develop real cross-border products and infrastructure while the majority of the beneficiaries are still focusing on ad-hoc, simple partnerships in order to realise their local developments. These results must be improved once the realisation of the TAPes is completed since the activities and investments have real synergic and complementary cross-border character.

Improved strategic approach

The size of the projects in financial terms is increased by the current period in comparison with the previous one. The average project size in € is almost 1,5 times higher than it was in the 2007-2013 period. Regarding the average number of beneficiaries involved in CBC projects, an increase from 2,65 to 3,19 can be detected. It means that the complexity of the partnerships has increased. Both indices imply a stronger strategic approach compared to the previous programme. Furthermore, quite remarkable rate of the projects (more than 40%) contributes to the achievement of 4 or more indicators what clearly indicates a more comprehensive, more strategic approach.

5. ISSUES AFFECTING THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PROGRAMME AND MEASURES TAKEN

5.1. Priority Axis 2 - Enhancing cross-border mobility

The Programme has already reported in the AIR 2017 about the difficulties arose related to low interest in the call for proposals in PA2 and the actions taken to overcome the obstacles. The Call in PA2 was launched with continuously open submission deadlines twice a year and was open for almost two years (29 July 2016 – 19 February 2018). The aim of continuously open Call under PA2 was to provide the potential applicants sufficient time for preparation of project proposals with technical documentations, requesting building permissions, finding pre-financing possibilities, etc.

At the duration of the Call, low interest in PA2 was identified and strong bottom-up approach (directly addressed questionnaires to potential applicants, communication events for potential applicants) as well as top-down approach (strong coordination mechanism between the Managing Authority, National Authority, ministries being responsible for either for financing, for coordination or for transport sector in order to come up with solution to encourage and support beneficiaries on both sides) was applied in order to increase the interest of potential applicants.

Partial results were achieved (higher number of submitted projects) but the interest still remained low as well as the feasibility of the proposals. It became obvious that due to the a) size of such developments, b) legal changes, c) different environmental aspects, d) liquidity reasons in pre-financing (not only in implementation but in the preparation of such big projects) e) different scope of responsibility in transport development sector (centralized/decentralized) in both Member States f) low intensity rate in case of state aid in logistic area (Regional Aid), the objectives set under the PA2 might be jeopardized. Thus, considering all remedy actions undertaken by the Programme, the Monitoring Committee decided to initiate the modification of the Cooperation Programme, and reallocate the unused funds (12,1 M EUR) to PA1, which keeps being the most popular intervention within the Programme. On 29 October 2018 the European Commission approved the request for modification of the Programme. So the next call for proposals within PA1 due in 2019 will include also the reallocated amount from PA2.

5.2. Priority Axis 3 - Territorial Action Plans for Employment (TAPE)

The complexity of Priority axis 3 (Promoting sustainable and quality employment) and the territorial differences in more than 600km long Slovak-Hungarian border determine comprehensive interventions that are difficult to deal within a traditional call. For this reason the Programme decided to apply two rounded selection procedure for the implementation of the operations to be realised within this Priority.

In the first round Applicants were obliged to elaborate complex development plans on predefined application form called Territorial action plan for employment [TAPE] and submit them in the Call for proposals SKHU-1703. The preparation of the Call consumed numerous resources of the program bodies. The Joint Secretariat developed the basic conditions of the two rounded selection procedure, the terms of the first Call, the content parts of the

development plan that makes them comparable and assessable and worked out new application forms and assessment grids for this purpose.

Further difficulties were that the PA3 by its nature supports economic activities as well, so the Call had to be aligned with the De minimis regulation and State aid rules according the General Block Exemptions Regulation which were also applied for the first time in the Programme. It was also a novelty in the Programme, that in PA3 the quality assessment was split into three parts according to the relevant knowledge of different stakeholders (JS assessment, territorial assessment and sectoral assessment).

The first round of the selection procedure was finally launched on 8 September 2017, and closed on 15 December 2018 with 16 submitted action plans. After the approval of TAPes submitted in the first round (8. MC meeting 26 April 2018 Budapest) the JS immediately started to prepare the second round of the selection procedure. The second round was about elaborating and submitting the individual projects being part of an approved TAPE.

Difficulties of the second round were to set up the conditions that can keep the TAPE still consistent after the projects included are elaborated and implemented separately. The duration of the second round of the Call for TAPE projects was between 10 August 2018 – 19 November 2018. The evaluation of 56 individual projects submitted within the second round of the Call was initiated in December 2018 right after the submission deadline and will still be ongoing in first quarter of 2019. Decision on projects is foreseen in April 2019. The implementation of the projects and hence the TAPE-s will follow.

5.3. Infrastructural projects

Having regard to the results of the first phase evaluation, continuous professional assistance will have to be provided to the selected larger infrastructural projects due to high risk in implementation of constructions caused by the increasing prices. Since the submission time of the applications' construction prices have almost doubled what endangers the fulfilment of the indicators or even the implementation of the projects. As a result of the evaluation, it can be stated that the larger infrastructural projects (roads, bridges, larger industrial investments) are in danger because of the changes of the price level in construction industry. If the realization of these projects becomes impossible, it will have an impact on the indicators and the priority areas as well, resulting in new CP modification.

5.4. Small project fund

Interreg V-A SKHU Programme has incorporated several novelties which were not applied in the antecedent programmes. One of these is a Small Project Fund Scheme designed on the basis of subsidiarity principle by inviting the EGTCs into the management role of the SPF Umbrella Projects. The planning of the whole SPF Scheme has proceeded since the beginning of Programme planning. After numerous discussions with the relevant stakeholders the selection criteria for SPF umbrella projects was approved by the MC and the drafting of ruling documents has been initiated. However, setting up of the management system took more time than initially planned. The first round of the call for proposals to select the management organization for the Small Project Fund was launched in February 2017 with the submission deadline in March 2017, and the second round of the Call was launched and closed in August

2017. After both rounds of the call the administrative as well as the eligibility assessment was carried out by the JS and the quality assessment by the external assessors. The quality assessment of the second round of the call was finalized in October 2017 and afterwards several technical meetings of the programme management bodies took place in order to set up the implementation as well as reporting system of the SPF. The Umbrella Projects for management of the SPF Schemes were finally approved in 2018, and first pilot calls for small project proposals were launched in the second half of the year. In case of the Eastern SPF management area, the first small projects were approved for support by the SPF MC in December last year. In case of the Eastern SPF management area the decision on approval of first small projects is expected in February 2019. Both management structures plan to launch the second calls in 1st half of 2019.

Necessary time taken for preparation of the whole SPF system resulted in the fact that the Audit Report from the designation audit was issued in 2017 with an unqualified opinion upon the Programme and disclaimer related to the SPF. In the meantime, in 2018 the SPF management organization have been working on preparation of the whole set of implementation documentations and their finalization is expected in early 2019. The designation of the Small Project Fund scheme has not taken place until 31 December 2018.

5.5. E-cohesion

Regarding the status of e-cohesion the development of IT system is continuous: the system went live with the application module on 06 April 2018, and the reporting module was also opened for beneficiaries along March 2018 so the reimbursement of project costs have started. This last step ensured that the n+3 obligation of the programme could have been respected in 2018.

The IMIS Office established within the Széchenyi Programme Office Nonprofit LLC, hosting institution of the Joint Secretariat, is responsible for the proper operation of the web-based IMIS 2014-2020 HelpDesk system that was made available for all registered Back Office users. This is designated as the channel to submit error reports and new development requirements. The HelpDesk system substitutes perfectly the former e-mail based communication as it ensures a fast, effective and informative surface for consulting about the issues, for informing the users of release deliveries and release contents and for exchanging information among the IMIS Office and the users.

6. CITIZEN'S SUMMARY

The Annual Implementation Report 2018 of the Interreg V-A Slovakia-Hungary Cooperation Programme has been prepared pursuant to Annex X of Commission implementing regulation (EU) 2015/207. The report is intended to give a brief overview of the activities that were undertaken in the frame of the programming process, focusing on the year 2018.

In December 2017 the [first round of call for proposals](#) within Priority Axis 3 (Promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility) was closed. Within the call the applicants were expected to submit a complex development plans tailored for certain regions (territories), so called Territorial Action Plans for Employment (TAPE). As a result of these plans employment inequalities among the regions shall decrease with a view to improve the level of employment in the programming area. After finishing the admissibility check still in 2017 the year 2018 continued with the formal, eligibility and quality **assessment of the TAPE-s**. Out of the 16 submitted TAPE-s 9 applications passed all levels of the assessment process, and were approved by the members of the [Monitoring Committee \(MC\) on their meeting on 26 April 2018 in Bratislava](#). The second round of TAPE call ([Call for TAPE projects](#)) was opened in August 2018 with the submission deadline in November 2018. This was the call, where the individual projects belonging to the previously approved TAPES had to be further developed and submitted in more detailed structure. The assessment of the submitted applications is ongoing at the moment.

Within Priority Axis 2 (Enhancing cross-border mobility) there had been a continuously open call since 2016. However, due to several external factors the number of received applications was lower than expected at the time of the planning of the Programme. Thus the Monitoring Committee decided to close this call for good. Altogether 20 applications were submitted to this priority axis, out of which 8 met all conditions for receiving financial support from the Programme. After the decisions were made about the winning projects the MC members authorized the Managing Authority to initiate the [modification of the Cooperation Programme](#) at the European Commission so the remaining ERDF funds (12,1 M EUR) in Priority axis 2 can be reallocated to Priority axis 1 (PA1 – Nature and culture). PA1 is the most popular theme within the Programme. During the 1st Call for proposals the interest towards the grants was 5 times higher than the available ERDF amount within this PA. On 29 October 2018 the European Commission approved the request for modification of the Programme. So the next call for proposals within PA1 due in 2019 will include also the reallocated amount from PA2. So the available funds for the call to be launched in 2019 is 21,9 million EUR ERDF in Priority axis 1 and 5,48M EUR ERDF is Priority axis 4.

Parallel with the opening of the reporting module of IMIS 2014-2020 the JS organized **Lead Beneficiary seminars** for the Lead Beneficiaries of those projects that are in implementation phase.

In spring 2018 a new call was launched, [Call for Small and Medium sized Enterprises \(SME\)](#) within Priority axis 1 (PA1 – Nature and culture). The aim of the call was involve SME-s from the eligible area to achieve the goal of this priority axis: to increase the attractiveness of the border area. In cooperation with the county municipalities and the Info Points the JS held two info days for the potential applicants. After 3 months of duration of the call the requested ERDF

amount of submitted applications reached 125% of financial allocation of the call so the call was suspended, and finally closed in September. After the evaluation of the 29 project proposals 6 was approved by the Monitoring Committee for implementation on their meeting on 20 September 2018 in Győr. After the supporting decision was made the Call was not reopened but terminated permanently. The concept of the call will be revised based on the experiences of the SKHU/1801 call, and the remaining funds will be available for the SME-s during the next call in 2019.

Besides the TAPE concept the decision makers opened another new tool within the Programme. This is the Small Project Fund to facilitate the implementation of small budgeted project proposals. This tool is divided into two: the Eastern and Western part of the programming area with two separate management institutions. During the second half of 2018 the **Small Project Fund for the [Eastern](#) and [Western](#) Programming Area** opened their 1st pilot call for proposals.

In case of the Eastern side of the Small Project Fund managed by the Via Carpatia EGTC, the decision on the first approved small projects was made by the Monitoring Committee in December 2018. While Rába-Duna Vág EGTC responsible for management of the Small Project Fund on the Western side shall announce the winners in early 2019.

There was a **[MC meeting organized in Győr on 20 September 2018](#)** with three main goals: making decision about the submitted SME project proposals (SKHU/1801), to get familiar with the draft legislation for the next programming period (2021-2027) and to jointly celebrate the European Cooperation Day. On the occasion of the [European Cooperation Day](#) and the [European Year of Cultural Heritage](#) the Interreg V-A Slovakia-Hungary Cooperation Programme organized a **photo contest** to encourage the citizens of the two partnering countries – Hungary and Slovakia to take an active part in the celebration of the European Cooperation Day and show a piece of the many natural and cultural heritages of the Hungarian and Slovak border area. 12 best photos out of the submitted 56 were selected based on the evaluation of the jury and a Facebook vote. These photos were featured in outdoor exhibitions in Győr, Hungary (20-28 September 2018) and Košice, Slovakia (1-6 October 2018), as well as in the Wall Calendar of 2019.

7. REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

Not relevant for Interreg V-A SKHU.

8. PROGRESS IN PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF MAJOR PROJECTS AND JOINT ACTION PLANS

8.1. Major projects

Not relevant for Interreg V-A SKHU.

8.2. Joint action plans

Not relevant for Interreg V-A SKHU.

PART B

REPORTING SUBMITTED IN YEARS 2017, 2019 AND FINAL IMPLEMENTATION
REPORT

9. ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME

9.1. Information in Part A and achieving the objectives of the programme

As a result of the projects implemented within **Priority Axis 1 Nature and Culture**, new, integrated tourist areas with own products and brand will be developed. The interventions are carried out in an environmentally sound way with a view to guaranteeing the higher attention toward the natural and cultural values of the common region. It is expected that the number of visitors coming from the neighbouring country will significantly grow on each side of the border and long-term, strategic cooperation starts in many small regions for protecting natural and cultural heritage.

As a result of the implementation of activities in **Priority Axis 2 Enhancing cross-border mobility** the density of border crossing road infrastructure will be increased, travelling time from regional and sub-regional centres to the TEN-T corridors will be shortened, and consequently the specific greenhouses gas emission shall decrease. Investments have to result in a better connectivity between the urban zones (secondary and tertiary nodes) and the comprehensive and core components of TEN-T network crossing the programming region. The projects were expected to promote also the implementation of measures of the 2nd River Basin Management plan both national level and the Danube River Basin District level coordinated by the ICPDR (Specific Objective 2.1 - Increasing the density between border crossing points along the Hungarian-Slovak border).

Thanks to the planned interventions the interconnectivity of regional centres and sub-centres and the internal permeability of the border region will be improved. Increase in number of users of public transport facilities has to decrease pollution. The number of cross-border public transport services and the passengers using these services will increase which indirectly improves also the level of social interconnectivity (Specific Objective 2.2.1 - Improving cross-border public transport services).

The planned interventions are to contribute to the improvement of the interconnectivity of regional centres and sub-centres as well as economic areas along the border. As a result, logistic service providers could have started to cooperate in order to create synergies across the border. The users of integrated logistics services were planned to be increased and in this way economic cohesion of the border area could have been strengthened (Specific objective 2.2.2 - Improving cross-border logistic services). However due to several external factors (see Chapter 5.1.) this intervention was hardly addressed by the applicants, and the only project receiving support decision from the Monitoring Committee finally stepped back from contracting due to significantly decreased intensity of support in case of state aid in logistic are (Regional Aid). In 2018 it became obvious that the goals of this intervention, thus the relevant indicators will not be completed within the programme. So the MC initiated the modification of the cooperation programme at the European Commission, so the remaining funds in PA2 could be reallocated to PA1.

Projects under Priority Axis 1 Nature and Culture and Priority Axis 2 Enhancing cross border mobility have been also evaluated against special rejection criteria. In Priority Axis 2 project

partners are responsible for the preparation and implementation of the project, which means that they are not allowed to play an intermediary role. The respect of Article 4 of the Directive 2000/60/EC is also checked. In PA 1 and PA 2 (SO 2.2.1) road connection within the project can only be complementary investment and can be supported only if it is absolutely necessary for spreading the benefits of the project over the border. Additionally in PA 2 (SO 2.1) projects have to have TEN-T relevance.

The **Priority axis 3** of the Programme – **Promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility** – focuses on the development of key conditions for improving labour mobility and puts emphasis on the integration of the cross-border labour market. PA3 fosters creation of employment opportunities based on endogenous potentials and improves the accessibility to job opportunities. Similar to economic activity, unemployment rate and long term unemployment rate shows significant regional differences along the Programme area. The specific objective of the priority axis is to decrease employment inequalities among the regions with a view to improving the level of employment within the programming region. According to this, applications creating working places or supporting labour mobility on less developed areas are preferred during the selection procedure. As a result of the implemented projects employment level of the less developed regions of the programming area is expected to grow, and the conditions of the cross-border commuting and accessibility to employment will be improved. The complexity of the Specific objective requires comprehensive development plans – so called Territorial Action Plans for Employment – which include integrated projects including infrastructural elements and soft activities.

As a result of the activities of the **Priority Axis 4 - Enhancing cross-border cooperation of public authorities and people** internal social cohesion of the programming area will be strengthened and the level of inter-institutional cooperation, bilingualism as well as the capacities of the institutions participated in and strengthened interest towards cross-border activities and the mutual understanding and mutual rapprochement among the ethnic groups living in the region will be improved.

Priority Axis 5 – Technical Assistance

All institutions participating in the implementation of the Programme and being contracted to using the Technical Assistance (TA) are carrying out their tasks. These are the following:

- Managing Authority
- National Authority
- Joint Secretariat
- Certifying Authority
- Hungarian First Level Control
- Slovak First Level Control
- Audit Authority
- Info Point Bratislava, Nitra and Košice

The description of their tasks are detailed in the relevant TA contract.

1st Call for Proposals - SKHU/1601

The first Call for Proposals was launched with the indicative ERDF amount was 67 475 822 EUR and projects proposals were to be selected through open call in Priority Axis 1 and 4. In Priority Axis 2 projects proposals were to be selected through continuously open call as infrastructural projects must have had completed documentation and technical plans with all permissions was needed. The PA2 part of the call was finally closed off on 19 February 2018 after four submission deadlines and 20 submitted project proposals.

Altogether 348 applications were submitted by the deadline of 3rd November with an amount of 298,4 MEUR of ERDF. Submitted proposals were evaluated based on evaluation criteria approved by the Monitoring Committee. The Managing Authority and Joint Secretariat were responsible for coordination of the assessment process. The admissibility, administrative and eligibility assessment were provided by the Joint Secretariat. Quality assessment was provided by external assessors using the assessment grids.

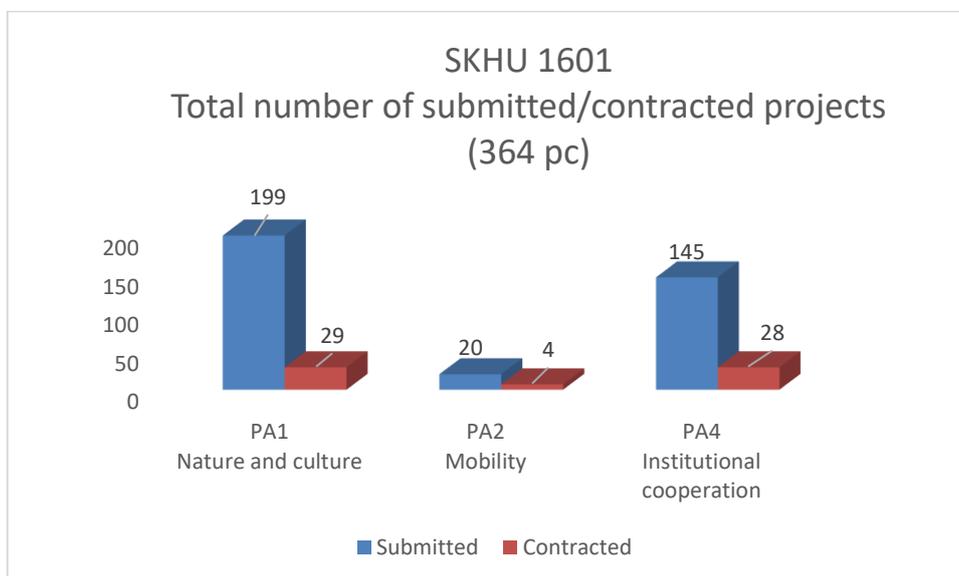


Figure 3: Total number of submitted projects

Project proposals could be submitted concerning the full thematic scope. Small Project Fund was not included in this CfP.

Call for Small Project Fund – Umbrella Projects (SKHU/1701 and SKHU/1704)

Based on the agreement among the management bodies the Small Project Fund (SPF) will be implemented through umbrella projects. In the first round of the Call for the umbrella project proposals the management organizations were selected, while in the second round (restricted call for the selected applicants) the elaboration of the basic implementing documents took place. After the contracting, the umbrella projects were launched: Small Project Fund in the Western border area managed by Rába-Duna-Vág EGTC and Small Project Fund in the Eastern border area managed by Via-Carpatia EGTC.

| Rába-Duna-Vág EGTC on the Western programming area | Via Carpatia EGTC on the Eastern programming area |
|--|---|
| Bratislava Self-Governing Region | Banská Bystrica Self-Governing Region |
| Trnava Self-Governing Region | Košice Self-Governing Region |
| Nitra Self-Governing Region | Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County |
| Budapest capital | Heves County |
| Pest County | Nógrád County |
| Komárom-Esztergom County | Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County |
| Győr-Moson-Sopron County | |

The Small Project Fund is implemented under two priority axes of the Interreg V-A Slovakia-Hungary Cooperation Programme and must contribute to their priority objectives:

Priority Axis 1: Nature and Culture

Specific objective 1.1: To increase the attractiveness of the border area

Priority Axis 4: Enhancing cross-border cooperation of public authorities and people living in the border area

Specific objective 4.1: Improving the level of cross border inter-institutional cooperation and broadening cross border cooperation between citizens

Both organizations launched their first, pilot call for small project proposals. Via Carpatia between 1 June 2018 - 31 July 2018. Out of the 39 submitted proposals (PA1: 25 pc, PA4: 14) 6 from each priority axis were approved for implementation during the MC meeting on 10 December 2018 in Miskolc. The contracting procedure is starting with the lead beneficiaries in January 2019.

RDV EGTC ran the call for small project proposals between 3 September 2018 - 5 November 2018. The received altogether 33 proposals (PA1: 23, PA4: 10). At the end of 2018 the assessment process was ongoing. Results are expected in early 2019.

After drawing the conclusions of the pilot calls, revision of the documents will take place if necessary. Both management institutions plan to launch the next call for proposals as early as possible – keeping in mind the n+3 rule.

Call for Proposals for Territorial Action Plan for Employment (SKHU/1703 and SKHU/1802)

Since the territorial differences and the complexity of Priority axis 3 determines comprehensive interventions that are difficult to deal within a traditional call the Task force of the Programme decided to apply two rounded selection procedure. In the first round (SKHU/1703 – 8 September 2017 - 15 December 2017) Applicants were obliged to elaborate complex development plans on predefined application form called Territorial action plan for employment [TAPE]. The Joint Secretariat developed the basic conditions of the two rounded selection

procedure, the terms of the first Call, the content parts of the development plan that makes them comparable and assessable and worked out new application forms and assessment grids for this purpose. Further difficulties were that the PA3 by its nature supports economic activities as well, so the Call had to be aligned with the De minimis regulation and State aid rules according the General Block Exemptions Regulation which were also applied for the first time in the Programme. The quality assessment was split into three parts according to the relevant knowledge of different stakeholders. The alignment of the project and programme objectives and the general project feasibility questions were assessed by the members of the Joint Secretariat. In order to ensure the fulfilment of the territorial criteria, the Programme introduced territorial assessment undertaken by local experts, delegated by the counties representing the Programme area. The third part of the assessment was undertaken by sectorial assessors selected via open call for assessors. Besides the above mentioned factors the timeframe of the first round was increased due to the modified assessment procedure as well. Altogether 16 TAPE-s were submitted for this open call for proposals, and 9 were approved by the MC on 26 April 2018 in Bratislava for further development and the right to submit the project proposals within the second round of application.

After the approval of the first round the JS immediately started to prepare the second round (SKHU/1802 – 10 August 2018 – 19 November 2018) of the selection procedure, where the projects included in each approved TAPE had to be further elaborated and submitted separately. The assessment of the submitted 56 projects are still ongoing in 2018 (admissibility) and 2019 (formal, eligibility and quality assessment).

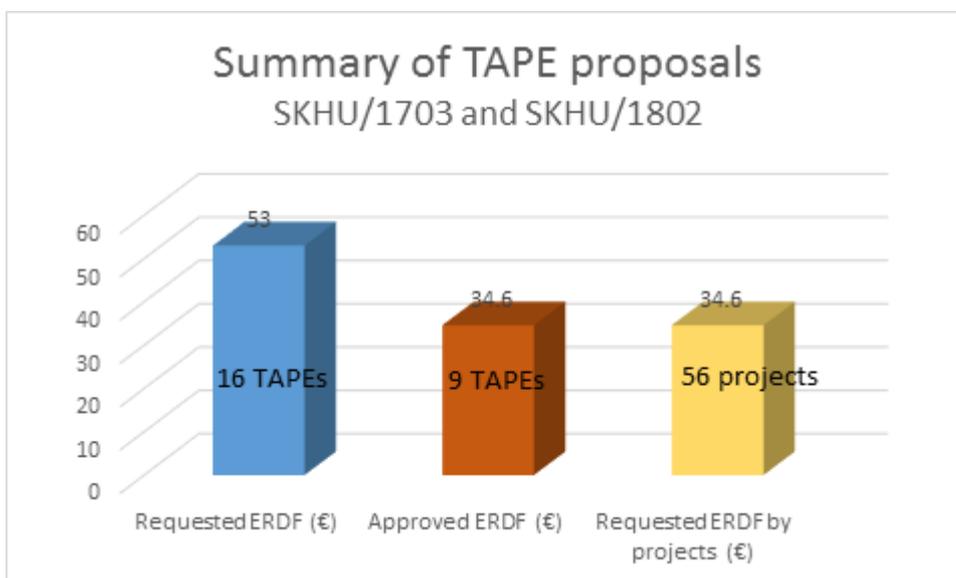


Figure 4: TAPE proposals

Call for Proposals for Small and Medium Enterprises (SKHU/1801)

The Programme launched a continuous **Call for proposals for Small and Medium Enterprises – SKHU/1801** within **Priority axis 1 (Increasing the attractiveness of the border area)**. The call aimed to involve the members of the non-profit sector and local micro, small and medium sized enterprises as well coming from both member states. The call was continuously open from 6 April 2018 until 125% of the Call’s financial allocation was reached by the submitted applications, which happened on 2 July 2018. The call was suspended with this cut-off date. The submitted Applications were continuously assessed (on “first-submitted-first-assessed” basis) after every four weeks-period. The amount of the financial allocation for the call was 10 000 000 EUR. Two info days were held by the JS related to the CfP. Finally the call was closed on 20 September 2018 based on the decision of the Monitoring Committee. The reason for closing is that taking into consideration the experiences gained since opening the call, which needs to be updated and modified to be as effective as possible to reach the goals of the programme.

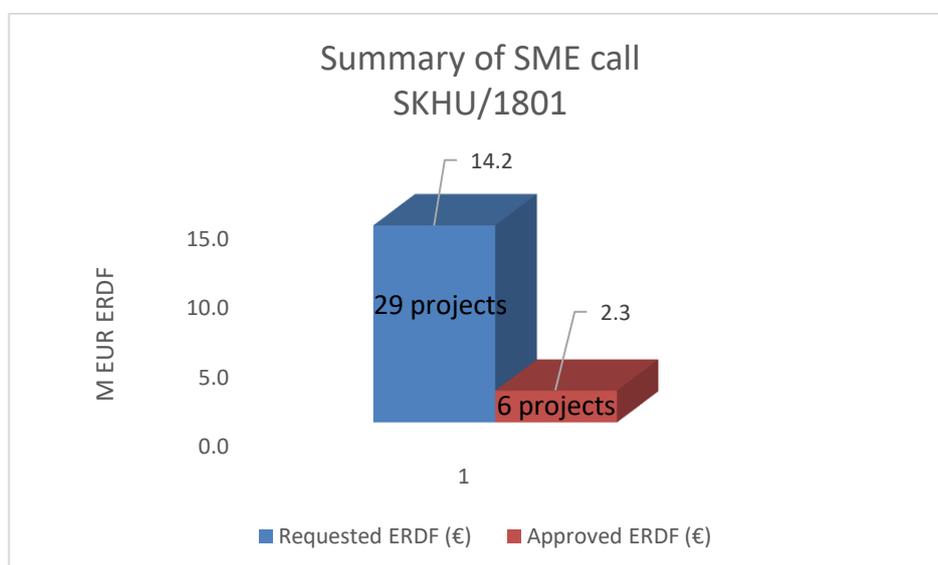


Figure 5: SME Call for proposals

Financial balance of the programme at the end of 2018

7. Table

| | Available ERDF funds (mil EUR) | Number of submitted projects | Number of approved projects/TAPE | Approved ERDF funds (mil EUR) | Remaining ERDF funds for next Call (mil EUR) |
|--------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| PA 1 | 67.56 | 230 | 37 | 45.66 | 21.90 |
| PA 2 | 22.48 | 20 | 7 | 22.48 | 0.00 |
| PA 3 | 34.60 | 16 | 9 | 34.60 | 0.00 |
| PA 4 | 21.82 | 147 | 30 | 16.34 | 5.48 |
| Total | 146.46 | 422 | 93 | 119.08 | 27.38 |

After receiving 422 project proposals for all the above mentioned calls we can conclude that the themes and objectives of the proposals are rather diverse even within the same specific objective. It might be worth considering on the side of the applicants to have a closer cooperation and/or consultation with the relevant regional authorities to initiate such projects that harmonize with the long-term goals of the region and serve the needs of the local communities at the same time.

9.2. Specific actions taken to promote equality between men and women and to promote non-discrimination, in particular accessibility for persons with disabilities, and the arrangements implemented to ensure the integration of the gender perspective in the cooperation programme and operations

The Programme and each project have to act in respect of Horizontal principles [HP] regardless of the Specific objective addressed. The three principles are the Equal opportunities and non-discrimination, Equality between men and women and Sustainable development. In the present programming period the management bodies introduced specific measures which shall be selected during the application phase and afterwards fulfilled by potential Applicants. Each principle is supported by these measures, some of which shall be applied by Beneficiaries. The fulfilment of these actions is checked in the project reports.

Based on the findings of the ongoing evaluation the most mentioned measure in the projects regarding equal opportunities and non-discrimination is taken to mitigate the potential discrimination on the basis of nationality and ethnic origin. According to some of the projects the key to providing equal opportunities for everybody regardless of their nationality lies within language-accessibility. Disability is the second most widely touched aspect of the first horizontal principle. Several projects committed themselves to organize the different project activities in a venue that is easily accessible. Age is another attribute that can give space for discrimination, thus additional attention has to be paid in order to avoid this and provide equal opportunities for everyone regardless of their age. Some of the projects approached the issue from the point of view of reduced physical abilities caused by old age and tried to compensate this through different technical solutions.

As the principles of equality between men and women is concerned projects tend to link the gender aspect of equal opportunities with the composition of the project staff. A considerable number of projects cited that their project management offers opportunities for women as well.

Most of the interviewees within the frames of the ongoing evaluation emphasized that it was a positive idea to include the horizontal principles in the application materials and in some cases – where they organically fit with the nature of the project – it was definitely a good exercise for the project partners on how to apply principles going beyond merely project implementation.

Programme specific measures

The Programme and Project specific measures shall ensure that Applicants not only respect the Horizontal principles during the implementation of their projects; but they shall find concrete actions in order to increase awareness of these principles and foster a behavioural change.

During the preparation of the project and filling in the Application Form the Applicants must choose at least one measure concerning each Horizontal principle and describe the project's contribution to its fulfilment from qualitative and quantitative point of view. Applicants shall describe their contribution to the chosen Programme specific measures in the Application form. Selection and the description of the contribution to the Programme specific measures were eligibility requirements of the submitted applications; therefore projects without clear connection to horizontal principles were rejected at the administrative assessment phase of project selection procedure.

Equal opportunities and non-discrimination

Projects shall contribute to prevention from any discrimination based on sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation during the preparation and implementation. In particular, projects shall take into account the accessibility of the results for persons with disabilities.

Programme specific measures regarding Equal opportunities and non-discrimination are the following:

- Project must be transparent and must take into account non-discrimination principles.
- Project ensures accessibility of people with disabilities to newly developed services.
- The project gives preference to the social inclusion and gives advantage to Roma people and to people living in deep poverty.

Equality between men and women

The projects selected for being granted shall ensure that equality between men and women and the integration of gender perspective should be taken into account and promoted throughout the preparation and implementation as well. The main objective of the principle is to decrease the horizontal and vertical gender segregation in every sector of the economy.

Programme specific measures regarding Equality between men and women are the following:

- Project increases access to employment opportunities for women and supports flexible working hours;
- Project promotes female entrepreneurship and self-employment of women;
- Project ensures minimum 50% in number of women or disadvantaged persons participating in joint education and training activities, events;
- Project supports equal pay initiatives at the workplace.

PA specific measures

However Horizontal principles are applicable regardless of the Priority axes, the Programme introduced specific measures which are applicable only in the frame of the selected Priority

axis. Applicants are obliged to choose **at least two PA specific measures** regarding the relevant PA and describe the project's contribution to its fulfilment in the Application Form. Applicants may add other Project specific measures if they are relevant in terms of the project. Predefined project specific measures help the programme bodies to summarize the programme's contribution towards the demolition of barriers in respecting the HPs. Project specific measures are listed as follows.

PA1 – Nature and Culture

- Project shall build environmental and cultural awareness and respect and provide positive experiences for both visitors and hosts.
- Project provides direct benefits for conservation and generates benefits for both local people and local economy.
- Project shall design, construct and operate low energy demand or nearly zero-energy buildings.

PA2 - Enhancing cross-border mobility

- Project shall improve the attractiveness of the border region in order to ensure better accessibility to possible work places thus enhance job creation.
- Project makes available public services in a higher standard for the people living in underdeveloped territories.

PA3 - Promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility

- Project shall involve people living in deep poverty and Roma on labour market,
- Project shall involve long-term unemployed people on labour market .
- Project shall involve tertiary educated, unemployed people on labour market.

PA4 - Enhancing cross-border cooperation of public authorities and people

- Project shall contribute to the accessibility of cross-border education, social and other public services.
- Project improves service provision in the borderland, enhances mutual understanding and bilingualism.
- Project ensures the accessibility of people with disabilities to existing services.

9.3. Sustainable development

Concerning the preservation of environment the requirements set in the Call for Proposals were elaborated in close cooperation with the relevant authorities (Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic). As a consequence applicants had to ensure that the planned activities are in line with the national rules concerning the Environmental Impact Assessment and do not harm Natura 2000 sites.

Obligatory requirements for projects:

According to the Cooperation Programme document three measures concerning the HP are mandatory for all projects. These requirements have to be respected in each project that contains activities concerned. Applicants shall declare in the Application form that these HPs were respected during the preparation and implementation of the project. In case these requirements are not respected, the project will be rejected without any possibility for further completion.

Obligatory requirements defined in the Calls for Proposals – relating to HPs – are the following:

1. Investments negatively affecting nature, fauna and flora, and biodiversity, have to be accompanied by compensatory measures and damage mitigation.
2. Projects including construction and/or renovation works have to choose climate-friendly architectural solutions and cost-optimal levels of energy performance according to the Directive 2010/31/EU.
3. In case of investments to inland waterways and/or infrastructure, projects have to be implemented in accordance with Art. 4 of the Directive 2000/60/EC and the river basin management have to be respected.

Programme specific measures:

The Programme and Project specific measures shall ensure that Applicants not only respect the Horizontal principles during the implementation; but they shall find concrete actions in order to increase awareness of these principles and foster a behavioural change.

Applicants must choose at least one measure concerning each Horizontal principle and describe the project's contribution to its fulfilment from qualitative and quantitative point of view. Applicants shall describe their contribution to the chosen Programme specific measures in the Application form.

Basic pillars of the Sustainable development are the environmental, economic and social sustainability. The main purpose of the sustainable development is to ensure the environmental, social, and economic sustainability with special emphasis on protection and improvement of the environment. During the Programme implementation the Polluter pays principle⁹ have to be applied and the selected projects must contribute to the requirements of environmental protection, resource efficiency, reduction climate change mitigation and adaptation to this change, resistant towards disasters, at the same time enables shift towards the quality prevention of environmental resources.

Programme specific measures regarding Sustainable development are the following:

- Project contributes to the reduction of greenhouse gas emission by reduced usage of hazardous material for the environment;
- Project reduces the consumption of energy, water and limited resources and increase the usage of renewable energy;
- Project increases the energy efficiency and usage of recycled materials;

⁹ The party responsible for producing pollution is responsible for paying for the damage done to the natural environment.

- The project pays attention to efficiency and rational approach to funds and resources and goes beyond cost-optimal levels according to Directive 2010/31/EU;
- In case project involves purchasing products the requirements set out in Annex III of the Energy Efficiency Directive (2012/27/EU) is respected.

PA specific measures

However Horizontal principles are applicable regardless of the Priority axes, the Programme introduced specific measures which are applicable only in the frame of the selected Priority axis. Applicants are obliged to choose at least two PA specific measures regarding the relevant PA and describe the project's contribution to its fulfilment. Applicants may add other Project specific measures if they are relevant in terms of the project. Project specific measures are listed as follows.

PA1 – Nature and Culture

- Project shall build environmental and cultural awareness and respect and provide positive experiences for both visitors and hosts.
- Project provides direct benefits for conservation and generates benefits for both local people and local economy.
- Project shall design, construct and operate low energy demand or nearly zero-energy buildings.

PA2 - Enhancing cross-border mobility

- Project shall improve the attractiveness of the border region in order to ensure better accessibility to possible work places thus enhance job creation.
- Project makes available public services in a higher standard for the people living in underdeveloped territories.

PA3 - Employment

- Project shall involve people living in deep poverty and Roma on labour market,
- Project shall involve long-term unemployed people on labour market or
- Project shall involve tertiary educated, unemployed people on labour market.

PA4 - Enhancing cross-border cooperation of public authorities and people

- Project shall contribute to the accessibility of cross-border education, social and other public services.
- Project improves service provision in the borderland, enhances mutual understanding and bilingualism.
- Project ensures the accessibility of people with disabilities to existing services.

9.4. Reporting on support used for climate change objectives

Figures calculated automatically by the SFC2014 based on categorisation data. Optional: clarification on the given values (Input 3 500)

The selected operations of the programme contribute to the requirements of reduction climate change mitigation as explained in chapter 9.3.

9.5. Role of partners in the implementation of the cooperation programme

Building partnership is not only a slogan in the programme. We are putting an effort to establish a stable, long-lasting partnership among the actors of implementation.

The partnership principle has been properly applied in the process of preparation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the programme. The operative partnership is enabled through the membership in the MC. The Monitoring Committee of the programme consists of members delegated by the member states, respecting the requirements of the respective regulation ((EU) No 1303/2013): The Monitoring Committee consists of competent regional, local, urban and other public authorities, economic and social partners as well as independent bodies representing civil society, such as environmental partners, non-governmental organisations, and bodies responsible for promoting social inclusion, gender equality and non-discrimination.

Moreover, to ensure the smooth management of the processes the member states agreed that some of the members (observers) are representing themselves either in a rotating system (e.g. EGTCs) or memberships of some of the institutions are divided between the two countries (e.g. chamber of commerce and industry is nominated only from Slovak Republic). Furthermore, the programme introduced “intermediary” management approach by involving EGTC-s in the implementation of the Programme in the role of management authorities for the Small Project Fund tool (SPF). Via Carpatia EGTC on the Eastern side and Rába-Duna-Vág EGTC on the Western side of the eligible area are responsible for the management of the SPF within the frames of 2-2 umbrella projects.

MC members are being involved in the *communication* of the objectives of the programme. They also contributed to the promotion of the Calls for Proposals as they were asked to put banners to their official websites about the launch and the deadline of the CfPs. Regions and Info Points were also involved in the organisation and the management of the *Info Days*.

In case of the Territorial Action Plans in Priority Axis 3 a new, innovative way of quality assessment was introduced into the Programme. The quality assessment was split into three parts according to the relevant knowledge of different stakeholders. The alignment of the project and programme objectives and the general project feasibility questions were assessed by the members of the Joint Secretariat. In order to ensure the fulfilment of the territorial criteria, the Programme introduced territorial assessment undertaken by local experts, delegated by counties and higher territorial units representing the Programme area. These assessors are examining territorial relevance, coherence with the local development plans and integration of the TAPE with local sectorial initiatives. Applications are assessed by those territorial experts who are relevant according to the TAPE’s target area. Third part of the assessment is performed by sectorial expert selected via open Call for Assessors. Each application is evaluated by two sectorial experts.

After the Territorial Action Plans were selected and approved by the Monitoring Committee the Joint Secretariat started the development of the second phase of call for proposals, when the

individual projects had to be elaborated within each TAPE. During the preparation phase of the second round call the JS organized public consultations with the beneficiaries of the approved TAPes. The goal of these meetings was harmonize the needs of the applicants with the regulations and programme level goals in a way that facilitates the successful project implementation.

The MC members are also more deeply involved into the programme implementation. In case of Priority axis 2 projects the Lead Beneficiaries were invited to the MC meeting. They presented their projects, and the members could raise any questions that helped getting more deeply acquainted with the concrete activities of the implemented projects. In case of the TAPes it is also planned that before the selection decision each TAPE (and all involved projects) will be presented to the MC members. This way it can be ensured that the decision is based on a deep understanding of the proposals.

10. OBLIGATORY INFORMATION AND ASSESSMENT

10.1. Progress in implementation of the evaluation plan and the follow-up given to the findings of evaluations

The Evaluation plan of the Interreg V-A Slovakia-Hungary Cooperation Programme has been developed according to the provisions of Regulation (EU) No. 1303/2013 (CPR, Articles 50, 54, 56 and 114), Regulation (EU) No. 1299/2013 (ERDF Reg., Article 14) and the Commission guidance documents on monitoring and evaluation and on Evaluation plans. The Evaluation plan sets out the evaluation strategy for the entire implementation period of the programme, taking into account the lessons learned from evaluations made in previous programming periods. The plan is meant to facilitate informed programme management and policy decisions and to support programme implementation and its result orientation. It sets out the framework to properly plan and implement quality programme evaluations with the aim to secure the effective and efficient programme implementation and fulfilment of required impacts.

In line with the Evaluation the evaluation of efficiency and effectiveness of the programme was initiated in February 2018 by assigning the evaluation task to the Central European Service for Cross-Border Initiatives (CESCI). Within the framework of the evaluation assignment, the effectiveness, the efficiency and the impact of the cross-border programme were assessed from 1 January 2014 with the cut-off date of 30 September 2018 while the institutional and administrative developments were examined until the end of November 2018. The Inception report was finalized on 27 April 2018 and the first draft of the evaluation report was distributed to the Managing Authority and Joint Secretariat on 02 October 2018. Finalization of the evaluation report and circulation of the evaluation results among the MC members is due in early 2019.

In line with the Evaluation plan of the programme, the First Phase evaluation focused on programme management and implementation; Calls for Proposals, project application and selection procedures; Communication Strategy; specific types of calls and projects: Small Project Fund, SME call, Territorial Action Plans for Employment, infrastructural projects; performance framework indicators as well as feeding the extended parts of the AIR 2018.

While effectiveness and efficiency are rather formal criteria of evaluation, impact is much more a matter of content. In line with the preliminary conclusions of the evaluation report, the impacts can be identified and assessed in a long term perspective. Taking into account the short period of time spent since the first calls were published and the small progress the project partners could make until the time of the first phase evaluation, the relevant information on real impacts were not available. These impacts will be measurable in a later phase of programme implementation with a much higher effectiveness.

When summarizing the key findings of the evaluation, the time factor must be highlighted as one of the most relevant factor contributing to programme's highest challenges. The implementation of the programme started with remarkable delay. The delay stemmed from the late approval of the relevant EU legislations and the removal of the Managing Authority from the Slovakia to the Hungary at the end of 2015. The old-new MA, together with the JS carried-out the preparatory works in exemplary speed and the first call was published in the summer

of 2016. Still, it was 2,5 years later compared to the starting date of the CP. Until the evaluation ended 8 calls have been successfully published: 1st Call for Proposals (SKHU/1601), Call for Small Project Fund – Umbrella Projects (two rounds: SKHU/1701 and SKHU/1704), Call for Proposals for Territorial Action Plan for Employment (two rounds: SKHU/1703 and SKHU/1802, Call for Proposals for Small and Medium Enterprises (SKHU/1801), Call for small projects (East) (SKHU/ETA/1801) and Call for small projects (West) (SKHU/WETA/1801). Due to the late start of the programme implementation, at the cut-off date of the evaluation, limited number of reports from the beneficiaries caused remarkable difficulties when assessing the effectiveness, efficiency and impact of the programme.

The evaluation concluded that the present programme is one of the most innovative CPs in Europe. Furthermore, the innovative tools applied by the programme are brand new developments within the framework of the programme itself. Obviously, this innovative character creates great challenges to respond. The innovative factors are: direct involvement of the SMEs, involvement of EGTCs in the implementation of the programme (small project fund) considered as a model in Europe, involvement of the EGTCs in the work of the MC with observer status, the TAPE tool considered as a model in Europe as well as the three-level quality assessment model applied in the case of the TAPE with strong territorial dimension.

The above innovative solutions make the administration of the programme much more challenging and therefore the application of these new tools should be permanently surveyed in order to avoid potential damages. However, through these tools, the SKHU programme fulfils better the mission of the INTERREG programme regarding the enhanced territorial, economic and social cohesion.

Regardless of the delay in start of the programme implementation, there is a consensus at programme management level that the completion of the programme in due time is not in danger. It is promising that the MA paid attention to the time needs of larger projects (i.e. infrastructure, TAPE, SPF umbrella projects), so the decision on these was a priority, the frameworks of them have been created at an early stage in order to ensure the timely implementation. Thanks to this approach, remarkable developments are expected in 2019 ensuring the timely realisation of the programme. However, based on the key findings of the evaluation continuous technical and professional support should be provided to the beneficiaries of the innovative implementation tools such as the TAPes, SMEs and SPF Umbrella projects.

10.2. The results of the information and publicity measures of the Funds carried out under the communication strategy

Branding

The corporate identity has been established and promoted by the programme management bodies since 2015 via many platforms and tools used by the programme (promo materials, online and offline presence). In 2018 the implementation of the project activities had started, and they joined the promotion with their individual communication activities. Events, articles, promotional materials were spread to the wide public carrying the branding elements. The total reach of these elements has been multiplied taking into consideration that over 60 projects have continued using these compulsory elements in 2018.

Website

The website (www.skhu.eu) has been fully operational since its launch in 2015. This is the starting and the most authentic point for everyone interested in the Programme. The content is always fully updated and available in three languages (ENG, SK and HU). It is always emphasized that the source is always the official programme home page for getting the latest, valid information. The services of the page are created in a user-friendly way that the visitor (shall it be an applicant, a beneficiary or a journalist) can find the relevant information quickly and easily. After analysing the frequent visitors the content of the main, landing page of the website was optimized. Almost 37.000 visits took place on the website since the start in 2015. 23,2% of these site visit come from returning users. Visitors open on average 3 subpages on the site (find the needed information quickly and easily), spending approx. 3,5 minutes on the page.

Beneficiaries are also facilitated to contribute to the content of the website by announcing their public events prior to the happening, which appears in the Calendar section. Also project news and press releases are encouraged to be submitted for the News section. Three language content is expected.

The efforts put in the online appearance and presence of the programme was appreciated by the European Commission, as well. 3rd place was awarded to our programme on the Interreg Annual Meeting 2016 by the European Commission on 6th June 2016 in the Best Interreg V website competition. The three language versions, the special section for the visually impaired, the user-friendly platform and the transparent and updated information content were mentioned as the best qualities of our website.

Several minor changes and large-scale developments have taken place for the last 3 years. The Funded project menu point was brought online when the first approved projects became contracted. Using the content of this section the Infographics menu point was created. Territorial, thematic and financial information are available about the funded projects, which can be seen on different infographics filtered by several criteria (territorial division, division by PAs/SOs, etc).

Social media

The [Facebook](#) page of the programme is a well performing information source for our target group. Altogether 646 pages and 665 followers are linked to this page until the end of 2018

(starting from zero in 2015). Until 2018 the target audience was limited to those people, who are somewhat involved in the programme implementation (beneficiaries, management organizations). In 2018 however, the Programme finally managed to widen the audience of the page with people who may not be involved into the programme professionally but may be related to the results – as they live in the eligible area. The Programme organized a photo competition (the theme was: natural and cultural heritages of the Hungarian and Slovak border area), and the main platform for interaction was Facebook (promotion of the action, showcase photos, voting and announcing winners). The programme reached its highest visibility in 2018 when the winner photos of the photo competition were published. The first prize winner's picture reached more than 22.000 people (108 likes and loves as well as 103 shares), and the engagement rate rocketed without paying for any additional advertisement. The second best post is also connected to the photo competition. More than 9000 people reached with even more photo views than the first prize winner.

Other popular posts are the ones promoting project results. These posts are further shared by the project partners and their friends and fans, which brings the project and the programme more and more visibility. Another high reach posts are the opening of the calls for proposals.

At the end of 2018 the JS invited the people on Facebook to participate in a Christmas quiz game on Facebook. The aim of the quiz was to share information about the Interreg, our programme or about Europe, as well as to involve the new likers and followers into the programme in a playful way. The quiz did not bring any new likes or followers to the page but it facilitated interaction with the audience. We believe that it is important to encourage dialogue with the target groups, and create more personal relations with the people in order to get and keep them involved in the programme. These relations are the keys to build a bottom-up network system that can promote the results of the Programme in the most effective way.

The LinkedIn site of the programme is also improving from year to year. The community of it (224 followers) is more international and less targeted – experts and project managers, other Interreg programmes from all around Europe follow the page. The original idea of using LinkedIn was to use it as a tool to enhance partner search when planning an application. Even though the JS made a few attempts to attract people to this surface the outcome was rather poor. The reasons behind can be a) language issues b) not many of the potential applicants use this platform c) low facilitation from the Programme d) most projects do not need any assistance in finding partners. Based on the above the LinkedIn profile is directed to showcase the results of the programme to the more international audience.

Newsletter

The programme sends four newsletters every year. The number of newsletter subscriptions, which is an indicator for the communication activities, is lagging behind the target numbers. The adjustment of this number might be needed in the communication strategy if the year 2019

does not bring any significant improvement. The following activities are planned to raise the number of subscribers a) promotion of the newsletter option on online and offline forums b) revision of content (different topics, more visual materials and less textual, etc) to make it more attractive to the target audience.

Events

The Programme is organizing several types of professional events for internal and external audience depending on the topic. Information days for call for proposals, Lead beneficiary seminars for implementing projects, assessor trainings for external assessors, meetings with the First Level Control colleagues to discuss running issues. The experience has not changed: the personal presence in the eligible area, which might not be the most cost effective way to sharing information, is still one of the most important tool to build trust towards the Programme. That is why in cooperation with the regions and Info points info days and other workshops will be kept organized on both sides of the border.

Every year the Programme joins the initiative of the European Cooperation Day. On this occasion the Programme is reaching out to a wider audience by either organizing an event or joining other events, whose purpose fits the Programme's. The main goal is to raise awareness towards Interreg and more specifically Interreg SKHU and its tangible results. In 2018 the ECDay was celebrated by organizing a photo contest and an open air photo exhibition in Győr (HU) and Košice (SK). 12 beautiful photos around the theme of natural and cultural heritages of the Slovak-Hungarian border area were exhibited for one week each. The aim was to draw the attention of the ordinary people towards the Programme and the beauties of the eligible area, we are working to preserve.

Promotion materials

Promotion materials are being used by the Programme. Specifically for the ECDay separate items are procured that fit the theme of the given year (e.g.: 2018 – photo competition – Wall Calendar for 2019 featuring the photos, trophies for the authors of the 3 best photos).

Publications

As the analysis of the mid-tem evaluation highlighted that the long and heavy communication materials are not cost-efficient. Also taking into consideration the trend of technological developments online available – preferably visual-based – materials are becoming more and more popular. The Programme has not prepared any publications for offline use. All guidelines and other professional materials are to be downloaded from our website. As far as the programme closure is concerned, the online, and environmentally friendly way of result showcase will be preferred.

Media

Referring to the findings of the mid-tem evaluation it is necessary to improve the connections with the media. Currently there are limited number of articles about the activities of the programme in the national media. It is not very surprising, though, as the news related to the

Programme are not relevant for a whole country (either Slovakia or Hungary). The programme cannot compete with the visibility of the main stream programmes. Maintaining already existing contacts with the regional media and creating new ones – even with the help of PR agencies might achieve a higher visibility in the eligible area.

It is worth mentioning that the lion's share of getting media attention rely on the project beneficiaries. Local actors have the best knowledge and connections to reach out to the local, regional media with relevant news. This is the reason why the Programme made compulsory the publishing of press releases and organizing press conferences for each and every project. Based on the mid-term evaluation the Programme was also advised that the capacities of beneficiaries should be reinforced to carry out better communication with the media, the press by offering the special communication trainings (either using external or internal resources).

Consultations

The possibility to have consultations with any member of the JS or the IPs has always been available. The colleagues of the JS and the IPs ensure that everyone has access to information on national languages. All in all it can be stated that both the JS and IPs are available via several channels (personally on info days or in the office, also via email and phone) for those who needed guidance or are interested in the Programme.

Communication objectives and indicators

The indicators are defined in the Communication strategy of the Interreg Slovakia-Hungary Cooperation Programme. Column ‘Present number’ is showing the actual values by the end of the reporting period.

8. Table

CO1 Raise awareness about the INTERREG SKHU programme

| Objectives | Target group | Activity type | Name of indicator | Unit of measurement | Base number | Present number | Target number |
|--|--|--|---|---------------------|-------------|----------------|---------------|
| SO 1.1 Promote the funding opportunities offered by the programme and by disseminating its results | General public Potential and final beneficiaries Media/press organizations | Digital platforms: - website - social media - newsletter - online publications - media - branding Offline platforms: - events (info days, promotion events) - publications (books, leaflets) - promotional materials - personal consultations - branding | No. of newsletter subscriptions | pc | 0 | 167 | 2000 |
| | | | No. of public events organized by the programme | pc | 0 | 3 | 10 |
| SO 1.2 Facilitate project communication | Final beneficiaries | Digital platforms: - website,- social media - newsletter - online publications - media - branding Offline platforms: - events (trainings) - publications (books) | No. of media appearances of projects | pc | 0 | 373 | 500 |

| | | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | - branding - personal consultations | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|

Description of the actual value of indicators (Column 'Present number')

SO 1.1 Promote the funding opportunities offered by the programme and by disseminating its results

- No. of newsletter subscriptions (167): the number of subscribed people is taken from the database in CMS of the website.
- No. of public events organized by the programme (3): Opening conference, ECday actions in 2018 (photo exhibitions in Győr and Košice.)

SO 1.2 Facilitate project communication

- No. of media appearances of projects (373): No. of project websites (30), calendar events (138), article about the projects on the Beneficiaries' page (205).

CO2 Ensure the adequacy of project level information

| Objectives | Target group | Activity type | Name of indicator | Unit of measurement | Base number | Present number | Target number |
|---|--|---|---|---------------------|-------------|----------------|---------------|
| SO 2.1 Ensure the adequacy among the publicity measures, the target groups and the objectives | Final beneficiaries General public Potential and final beneficiaries Programme bodies Government departments and agencies EU related organizations Media/press organizations | Digital platforms: - website - social media - newsletter - online publications - media Offline platforms: - events (info days, application seminars) - publications (leaflets) - promotional materials - personal consultations | No. of events (info days, seminars, public events) | pc | 0 | 31 | 30 |
| | | | No. of downloads of key documents (application package, ruling documents) | pc | 0 | 7935 | 3000 |
| SO 2.2 Ensure the proper quality of information | Potential and final beneficiaries | Digital platforms: - website Offline platforms: - events (trainings, Lead Beneficiary seminars) - personal consultations | Satisfactory level based on event feedback form relevant questions | score | n/r | 4,45 | 4 |

Description of the actual value of indicators (Column 'Present number')

SO 2.1 Ensure the adequacy among the publicity measures, the target groups and the objectives

- No. of events (info days, seminars, public events) (31) –info days, opening conference, lead beneficiary seminars
- No. of downloads of key documents (application package, ruling documents) (7935) – unique downloads

SO 2.2 Ensure the proper quality of information

- Satisfactory level based on event feedback form relevant questions (4,45) – after every external event (info days) a feedback form was sent out to the participants of the event, which asked for their opinion about the quality of the event. The feedback form helps the JS to develop the events if needed, and its anonymity ensures that JS receives honest responses.

11. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WHICH MAY BE ADDED DEPENDING ON THE CONTENT AND OBJECTIVES OF THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME

11.1. Progress in implementation of the integrated approach to territorial development, including sustainable urban development, and community-led local development under the cooperation programme

According to the analysis of the programme area the mobility of cross-border labour force is mostly determined by the level of the unemployment rate, the language shortages of the labour force and the lack of infrastructural conditions. In order to improve the employment and to enhance the labour force mobility in the border area, utilization of endogenous potentials, implementation of local initiatives and local employment strategies are needed; also the level of cooperation between small and medium sized enterprises and qualification level of the labour force shall be increased. The Priority axis 3 [PA3] – Promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility – focuses on the development of key conditions for improving labour mobility and puts emphasis on the integration of the cross-border labour market. PA3 fosters creation of employment opportunities based on endogenous potentials and development strategies and improves the accessibility to job opportunities and to cultural and natural resources as well.

Since single projects can hardly guarantee the fulfilment of the expected results in PA3 each project shall be implemented as part of a complex territorial development plan called Territorial action plan for employment [TAPE]. In TAPE applicants shall clearly identify territorial needs of employment on the appointed border area and answer these needs by proposing interrelated group of projects with an overall view to create new jobs and enhancing cross-border labour mobility. Each TAPE shall contain maximum 8 project proposals that are in synergic relation and are absolutely necessary for the overall success of the TAPE. In TAPE applicants shall describe the key parameters of each project proposal including the necessary financial, human and time resources and introduce all stakeholders responsible for the implementation.

Since the territorial differences and the complexity of the priority axis determines comprehensive interventions that are difficult to deal within a traditional call the Programme decided to apply two rounded selection procedure. In the first round Applicants were obliged to elaborate the complex development plans in predefined application form, and submit them in the Call for proposals SKHU-1703. 16 TAPE-s were submitted by the deadline, whose evaluation took place in the first quarter of 2018. The MC of the programme approved 9 action plans. These plans were invited to further develop their project ideas (each TAPE could have maximum 8 individual but comprehensive projects), and submit single project proposals within the second round of the selection process (SKHU/1802 call for proposals between 10 August 2018 - 19 November 2018). Altogether 56 individual projects were submitted, each being an integrated part of one approved TAPE. The evaluation of the project proposals has been initiated in December 2018 and is foreseen to be finalized in first quarter 2019. Once the

individual projects are also approved the TAPE-s may start the implementation of their complex development plans. Long-term results will only be available for assessment after the finalization of the last projects. The relevant indicators will appear in the reporting documents earliest in 2020 (contracting with the first approved projects will take place in 2019).

The TAPE concept is the first relevant step towards the integrated approach to territorial development, including sustainable urban development, and community-led local development.

11.2. Progress in implementation of actions to reinforce the capacity of authorities and beneficiaries to administer and to use the ERDF

Not relevant for Interreg V-A SKHU.

11.3. Contribution to macro-regional and sea basin strategies (where appropriate)

The programming area of the Interreg V-A SK-HU programme is fully included in the European Union Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR). The strategy was launched in 2011 it is built on 4 pillars and divided into 11 priority areas (Priority Area, PA). The pillars are the following:

- Connecting the Danube Region with other regions
- Protecting the Environment in the Danube Region
- Building prosperity in the Danube Region
- Strengthening the Danube Region.

As stated in the CP the Interreg V-A SK-HU programme can contribute to the interventions of the EUSDR in three different ways:

1. through planning and organisation of events facilitating the preparation of larger projects to be implemented at transnational / macro-regional level;
2. through the implementation of projects complementing those to be realised within the framework of transnational Danube Programme (e.g. common management of water bases or common catchment areas; joint interventions in the field of transport, environment protection, etc.);
3. through the implementation of projects tackling one territorially understood element of a problem appearing at transnational level.

The macro-regional matching is awarded with additional 2 points during quality assessment of the projects (in case of the quality assessment when scoring is applicable).

The following table shows the thematic connections between the EUSDR's priority areas and actions and the CP's priority areas. The "+" signs show explicit contributions.

Table 10: Table of thematic connections between the EUSDR and the SK-HU INTERREG V-A Programme

| EUSDR Priority Areas and actions | Programme priorities | | | |
|---|------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | PA1 Nature and Culture | PA2 Cross-border mobility | PA3 Employment, labour mobility | PA4 Cross-border cooperation |
| 1) Connecting the Danube Region | | | | |
| To improve mobility and multimodality | + | + | + | |
| To encourage more sustainable energy | | | | |
| To promote culture and tourism, people to people contacts | + | | | + |
| (2) Protecting the Environment in the Danube Region | | | | |
| To restore and maintain the quality of waters | + | | | |
| To manage environmental risks | + | | | + |
| To preserve biodiversity, landscapes and the quality of air and soils | + | | | |
| (3) Building Prosperity in the Danube Region | | | | |
| To develop the knowledge society through research, education and information technologies | | | | |
| To support the competitiveness of enterprises, including cluster development | + | | + | |
| To invest in people and skills | | | + | + |
| (4) Strengthening the Danube Region | | | | |
| To step up institutional capacity and cooperation | | | | + |
| To work together to promote security and tackle organised and serious crime | | | | |

In general terms, it can be stated that by content, the CP is well aligned with the main objectives of the EUSDR. There are only 4 priority areas where direct connection cannot be detected. Nevertheless, some indirect coherence would be identified even in these cases (e.g. PA3 or PA4 can have an influence on knowledge society; and within PA4 institutions involved in state security and law enforcement have the opportunity to start knowledge sharing activities across the border). However, the above table represents direct contributions to the macro-regional targets. Based on the table, one can assume that PA1 has the most complex intervention logic that refers several EUSDR priority areas while PA2 has the lowest influence on the achievement of macro-regional objectives.

At the same time, thematic concentration narrows down the potential thematic scope of each programme which means that the Interreg V-A SK-HU programme cannot contribute to every 12 priority areas of EUSDR.

The concrete contribution can be quantified after the completion of the programme implementation through an indicator analysis focussing on the main objectives of the macro-regional strategy. At the same time it has to be noted that the EUSDR Action Plan will be renewed in 2019 setting new objectives what are to be taken into consideration when assessing the coherence between the CP and the macro-regional strategy.

11.4. Progress in the implementation of actions in the field of social innovation

Not relevant for Interreg V-A SKHU.

12. FINANCIAL INFORMATION AT PRIORITY AXIS AND PROGRAMME LEVEL

For the purpose of assessing progress towards the achievement of milestones and targets set for financial indicators in the years 2018 and 2023.

11. Table

| | 13 | 14 |
|-----------------|--|---|
| | Data for the purpose of the performance review and performance framework | |
| | Only for report submitted in 2019: Total eligible expenditure incurred and paid by beneficiaries and certified to the Commission by 31/12/2018 Article 21(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 | Only for final implementation report: Total eligible expenditure incurred and paid by beneficiaries by 31/12/2023 and certified to the Commission Article 22(7) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 |
| Priority axis 1 | 2 061 127,75 EUR | |
| Priority axis 2 | 29 630,72 EUR | |
| Priority axis 3 | 0,00 EUR | |
| Priority axis 4 | 1 312 552,54 EUR | |
| Priority axis 5 | 0,00 EUR | |
| Total | 3 403 311,01 EUR | |

PART C

REPORTING SUBMITTED IN YEAR 2019 AND FINAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

13. SMART, SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH

The *EUROPE 2020: A strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth* (hereinafter referred to as EU2020) is the EU's agenda for growth and jobs for the period of 2010-2020. The EU2020 strategy is used as a reference framework for activities at EU and at national and regional levels when designing interventions. The main aim of the strategy is to turn the EU into a smart, sustainable and inclusive economy delivering high levels of employment, productivity and social cohesion.

In general, the INTERREG V-A Slovakia-Hungary Cooperation Programme document identifies the following contributions to the EU2020 main goals:

- *smart growth* which is supported by facilitating cooperation and joint developments of SMEs partly through a strong cooperation between SMEs and local high education institutions;
- *sustainable growth* is supported by the preservation and sustainable exploitation of the regions' rich natural heritage while further stabilizing the existing ecosystems;
- *inclusive growth* is promoted through a strengthened institutional environment which is geared towards future collaborations and cooperation through joint educational and training programmes and by the TAPE projects targeting challenges in the field of employment.

According to the main aims of the EU2020 the following headline indicators at EU and at national level were established¹⁰:

Table 12: EU2020 headline indicators (EU-28, HU, SK)

| EU/Member State | EU-28 | Hungary | Slovakia |
|--|---|---------|----------|
| Employment rate | Increasing the employment rate of the population aged 20-64 to at least 75% | 75% | 72% |
| Gross domestic expenditure on research and development | Increasing combined public and private investment in R&D to 3% of GDP | 1.8% | 1.2% |
| Greenhouse gas emissions | Reducing greenhouse gas emissions by at least 20% compared to 1990 levels | 10% | 13% |
| Share of renewable energy | Increasing the share of renewable energy in final energy consumption to 20%, | 13% | 14% |
| Energy efficiency | Moving towards a 20% increase in energy efficiency (equaling a reduction to 1 483 Mtoe of primary energy consumption) | 24.1 | 16.4 |

¹⁰ https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/4411192/4411431/Europe_2020_Targets.pdf

| EU/Member State | EU-28 | Hungary | Slovakia |
|---|--|-------------------|---|
| Early leavers from education and training | Reducing school drop-out rates to less than 10% (of the population aged 18 to 24) | 10% | 6% |
| Tertiary educational attainment | Increasing the share of the population aged 30-34 having completed tertiary education to at least 40% | 34% | 40% |
| Poverty and social exclusion | Lifting at least 20 million people out of the risk of poverty and social exclusion (compared to 2008)* | - 450 000 persons | Reduce to a rate of 17.2% the number of persons living in poverty or social exclusion (compared to 20.6% in 2008) |

As we can see, the targets of the two concerned member states (Hungary and Slovakia) are more moderate than the targets at EU level. In some cases the Hungarian, while in other cases the Slovakian targets undertaken are closer to the common EU values.

Considering the CP’s common and programme specific indicators, the level of contribution was analysed by main target topics (we combined the categories of energy and education). In each case if the programme indicator has an (even weak) influence on the achievement of the EU2020 indicators, it was assessed as a positive impact (marking with a sign “+”) without specifying and classifying the strength of this impact.

Based on the analysis, the strongest contribution can be detected in the field of **employment** while contribution is weaker in the case of **education, energy and R&D** targets.

Table 13: Contribution of the programme’s indicators to EU2020 targets

| Common and programme-specific output indicators | | | | EU 2020 Topics | | | | | |
|---|---|------------------|--|----------------|-----|---------------|--------------------|-----------|------------------------------|
| ID (Priority axis) | Name of the indicator | Measurement unit | Final target for 2023 (Milestone for 2018) | Employment | R&D | GHG emissions | Energy consumption | Education | Poverty and social exclusion |
| R110 (PA1) | Total number of visitors in the region | Number / year | 7,074,754.00 | + | | | | | |
| CO01 (PA1) | Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support | Enterprises | 40 | + | | | | | |
| CO02 (PA1) | Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving grants | Enterprises | 40 | + | | | | | |
| CO09 (PA1) | Increase in expected number of visits to supported sites of cultural and natural heritage and attractions | Visits/year | 30 000 | + | | | | | |
| CO13 (PA1) | Total length of newly built roads | km | 7 | + | | + | | | |
| CO23 (PA1) | Surface area of habitats | Hectares | 100 549 | | | + | | | |

| Common and programme-specific output indicators | | | | EU 2020 Topics | | | | | |
|---|---|----------------|----------------|----------------|--|---|---|---|---|
| | supported to attain a better conservation status | | | | | | | | |
| O11 (PA1) | Length of reconstructed and newly built 'green ways' | km | 89 | | | + | | | |
| SO21 (PA2) | Average distance between border crossing points | km | 15 | + | | + | | | |
| CO13 (PA2) | Total length of newly built roads | km | 9 | + | | + | | | |
| R221 (PA2) | Change in the volume of cross-border public transport | Persons | 450 000 | + | | + | | | + |
| R222 (PA2) | Change in the volume of cross-border good transport | EUR | 10 000 000 000 | + | | | | | |
| O221 (PA2) | Number of new public transport services started within the framework of the programme | piece | 10 | + | | + | | | |
| O222 (PA2) | Number of new logistic services started within the framework of the programme | Piece | 10 | + | | | | | |
| CO44 (PA3) | Number of participants in joint local employment initiatives and joint training | Persons | 100 (30) | + | | | | | + |
| R310 (PA3) | Increase in the employment rate | % | 65,2 | + | | | | | + |
| CO01 (PA3) | Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support | Enterprises | 10 | + | | | | | |
| CO02 (PA3) | Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving grants | Enterprises | 10 | + | | | | | |
| CO08 (PA3) | Productive investment: Employment increase in supported enterprises | FTE | 20 | + | | | | | + |
| CO13 (PA3) | Total length of newly built roads | km | 11 | + | | + | | | |
| CO39 (PA3) | Urban Development: Public or commercial buildings built or renovated in urban areas | m ² | 3 000 | | | | + | + | + |
| CO44 (PA3) | Number of participants in joint local employment initiatives and joint training | Persons | 100 | + | | | | | + |
| O311 (PA3) | Number of (integrated territorial) action plans | Number | 10 | + | | | | | |
| O312 (PA3) | Number of women in joint local employment initiatives and joint trainings (participants of employment initiatives from above CO44) | Persons | 50 | + | | | | | + |
| O313 (PA3) | Number of participants from groups at risk of discrimination, including Roma in joint local employment initiatives and joint trainings (participants of employment initiatives from above CO44) | Persons | 25 | + | | | | | + |

| Common and programme-specific output indicators | | | | EU 2020 Topics | | | | | | |
|---|---|---------|--------|----------------|---|--|--|--|--|---|
| O314 (PA3) | Number of new business services promoting employment and consultancy services | Persons | 15 | + | | | | | | + |
| R410 (PA4) | Level of cross-border cooperation | Score | 4,1 | | | | | | | |
| O411 (PA4) | Number of cross-border products and services developed | Number | 20 | + | + | | | | | |
| O412 (PA4) | Number of documents published or elaborated outside of the framework of SPF | Number | 40 | | + | | | | | |
| O413 (PA4) | Number of cross border events | Number | 400 | | | | | | | + |
| O414 (PA4) | Number of documents published or elaborated in the framework of SPF | Number | 200 | | | | | | | |
| O415 (PA4) | Number of people participated in cooperation | Number | 10 000 | | | | | | | |
| O416 (PA4) | Number of women participated in cooperation | Number | 4 000 | | | | | | | |
| O417 (PA4) | Number of participants from socially marginalized groups, including Roma | Number | 300 | | | | | | | + |

PA1 and PA2 has the biggest influence on employment and GHG emission. PA3 has the strongest cross-cutting character, contributing to the most EU2020 targets through the improvement of employment conditions – at the same time, this is also the most powerful priority axis in terms of EU2020 matching with 20 “plus” signs.

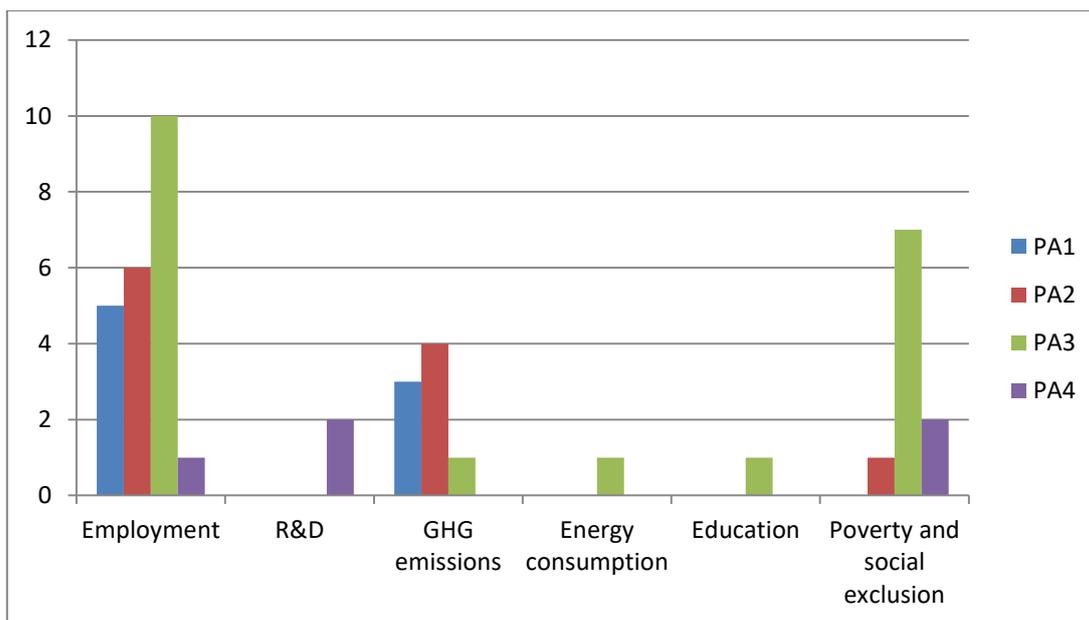


Figure 6: Contribution of the PAs to the EU2020 targets - indicators

Considering the actions to be supported within the framework of the programme, the same method was followed. Again, **employment** is the most supported EU 2020 topic; almost every single supported action of the programme is in line with it. **GHG emission** and **poverty and social exclusion** are also among those targets which the actions explicitly contribute to. Another interesting conclusion is that when identifying concrete actions, there are more and stronger connections with the EU2020 topics than in the case of the indicators. It highlights the fact that indicators never can detect impacts so promptly than actions can.

In the case of the Interreg V-A SK-HU programme, **energy** is the least preferred topic, while there is more support for **R&D, education and poverty and social exclusion**. PA3 obviously supports employment activities and topics. PA2 is in line with employment and it aimed at improving GHG emission targets.

Table 14: Contribution of the CP's selected actions to EU2020 targets

| Specific objectives and actions to be supported | EU 2020 Topics | | | | | |
|--|----------------|-----|---------------|--------------------|-----------|------------------------------|
| | Employment | R&D | GHG emissions | Energy consumption | Education | Poverty and social exclusion |
| PA1 Nature and Culture | | | | | | |
| SO11 To increase the attractiveness of the border area | | | | | | |
| Supporting the cooperation and development of cultural heritage sites (e.g. heritage renewal strategies, studies and plans, reconstruction, building of small complementary infrastructure to site signage, visitor centres, etc.) | + | | | | | |
| Maintaining and promoting natural heritage in the programme area (e.g. such as floodplain restoration, wetlands, renaturalising rivers and river banks, projects aimed at non-productive functions of forests - ecological, environmental and public functions, integrated cross-border strategic plans for the restoration and conservation of green infrastructure, environmental awareness raising activities, landscape and species protection activities, etc.) | + | + | + | | | |
| Design cross border action plans, set up models and test pilot actions to better capitalize the regions cultural and natural heritage and to combine tourism with the promotion and protection of the regions natural and cultural heritage by performing creative and artistic actions (e.g. destination management, joint marketing strategies, exchange of experiences, mutual learning, pilot activities) | + | + | + | | + | |
| Developing small scale quality tourism linked to local environmental or cultural features for SMEs (product and service innovation, applying innovative solutions and ICT uptake, developing high value added tourism in niche markets - cultural and environmentally friendly tourism, gastronomy tourism, sports tourism, etc. clustering activities involving tourism industries) | + | + | | | | |
| Design and construction of local access roads linked to sites of cultural and natural heritage, preparation and construction of cross-border road infrastructure which on the one hand decrease the travelling time between the towns of the regions, thus decrease the GHG emission (environment); on the other hand these new connections increase the number of visitors (culture and tourism). As the planned roads and bridges will be constructed with weight limit, heavy traffic will not be allowed, the pollution will decrease | + | | + | | | |
| Joint development of environmentally friendly tourism products and offers and development of cross border infrastructure for eco-tourism (e.g. support for planning and building safe and sustainable small vessel cross-border water trails and infrastructure like watercourse access and egress facilities, parking, and craft loading and unloading spaces, route and hazard signage on the watercourse, etc. and support for planning and building safe and sustainable cross border shared 'green ways' and infrastructure like pre-development of green-ways including feasibility and planning studies, trail service facilities like car parking, toilets, showers, bike wash, shelters, information centres, etc | + | | + | | | |

| Specific objectives and actions to be supported | EU 2020 Topics | | | | | |
|---|----------------|-----|---------------|--------------------|-----------|------------------------------|
| | Employment | R&D | GHG emissions | Energy consumption | Education | Poverty and social exclusion |
| PA2 Enhancing cross-border mobility | | | | | | |
| SO21 Increasing the density between border crossing points along the Hungarian-Slovak border | | | | | | |
| preparation of investments: elaboration of studies, analyses, feasibility studies, technical plans, purchase of permissions (these activities can be supported exceptionally as preparatory activities of realised construction projects) | + | | | | | |
| Construction of cross-border roads, bridges and ferries and infrastructure, including passive noise reduction (noise barriers, protecting trees) solutions with clear and direct link to the TEN-T network | + | | + | | | |
| SO221 Improving cross-border public transport services | | | | | | |
| preparation of investments: elaboration of studies, analyses, concepts; elaboration of recommendations concerning legal-administrative bottlenecks hampering cross-border mobility (e.g. allowance of cabotage, ease of international transport rules between the two states etc.); | + | | + | | | |
| development of cross-border intelligent transport systems (ITS), passenger information systems, on-line schedules, e-ticketing, mobile apps, common tariff systems | + | + | + | | | |
| development and integration of cross-border public transport services, establishing transport associations | + | | + | | | |
| investments on infrastructure (e.g. vehicles – buses, ferries, boats -, bus and railway stations, ferry ports) | + | | + | | | |
| investments contributing to a better accessibility of urban functions complementing the actions implemented under PA3 but not overlapping activities targeted by that PA | + | | | | | + |
| development of demand-driven cross-border transport services | | | + | | | |
| in case of activities related to road constructions passive noise reduction (noise barriers, protecting trees) solutions | | | | | | |
| SO221 Improving cross-border public transport services | | | | | | |
| preparation of investments: elaboration of studies, analyses, concepts | + | | | | | |
| realization of cross-border cooperation initiatives in the field of logistics, development of integrated service systems, infrastructure and ICT applications | + | + | | | | |
| investments on infrastructure (e.g. railway stations, ferry ports and roads linking new ports to the existing transport network) | + | | | | | |
| PA3 Promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility | | | | | | |
| SO31 Decreasing employment inequalities among the regions with a view to improving the level of employment within the programming region | | | | | | |
| targeted actions strengthening employment by the development of products and services based on local potential (e.g. development of local product markets; revitalising rust belts and declining industrial zones by ensuring new ways of utilisation; improving the conditions of | + | | + | | + | + |

| Specific objectives and actions to be supported | EU 2020 Topics | | | | | |
|---|----------------|-----|---------------|--------------------|-----------|------------------------------|
| | Employment | R&D | GHG emissions | Energy consumption | Education | Poverty and social exclusion |
| tourism; improving the access to urban functions; development of social economy mainly in the regions with high level of poverty and habited by Roma people etc.); | | | | | | |
| initiatives and services aimed at improving cross-border labour mobility | + | | | | + | + |
| infrastructural investments contributing to modernization, structural transformation and sustainable development of specific areas and resulting in measurable improvement in terms of labour mobility (in case of activities related to road constructions passive noise reduction (noise barriers, protecting trees) solutions included) | + | | | | | + |
| launching and implementation of joint integrated cross-border employment initiatives | + | | | | | + |
| establishment of business services promoting employment and the creation of infrastructural conditions thereof | + | | | | | + |
| joint education and training programmes | + | | | | + | + |
| setting up and operation of a supportive management function for the term of the implementation of the action plan, for fulfilling the tasks of the common management, coordination of the projects, outreach the disadvantaged groups, preparation and update of the action plans, elaboration of reports and perform communication activities | | | | | | |
| PA4 Enhancing cross-border cooperation of public authorities and people living in the border area | | | | | | |
| SO41 Improving the level of cross border inter-institutional cooperation and broadening cross border cooperation between citizens | | | | | | |
| Strengthening and improving the cooperation capacity and the cooperation efficiency between different organisations (public authorities) of particular sectors (e.g. education, health care, social care, risk prevention, water management, culture etc.) through common professional programmes, trainings, exchange of experiences, capitalisation and know-how transfer, etc. | | + | | | + | + |
| Support of activities focusing on the improvement of cross-border services provided jointly, development of small infrastructure necessary for joint service provision included... | + | | | | | |
| Launching and strengthening sustainable cross-border cooperation between citizens from both sides of the border and to strengthen social cohesion of the programming area resulting in improved cross-border services. | + | | | | | |

The overall picture is more balanced than in the case of the indicators: e.g. PA1 and PA2 contribute more effectively and to more targets. The weakest contribution is produced (here again) by PA4 what is a typical ETC priority axis. Here we can underline the weakness of the thematic concentration principle regarding its relevance of territorial objectives. The new draft ETC Regulation already reflects this aspect better.

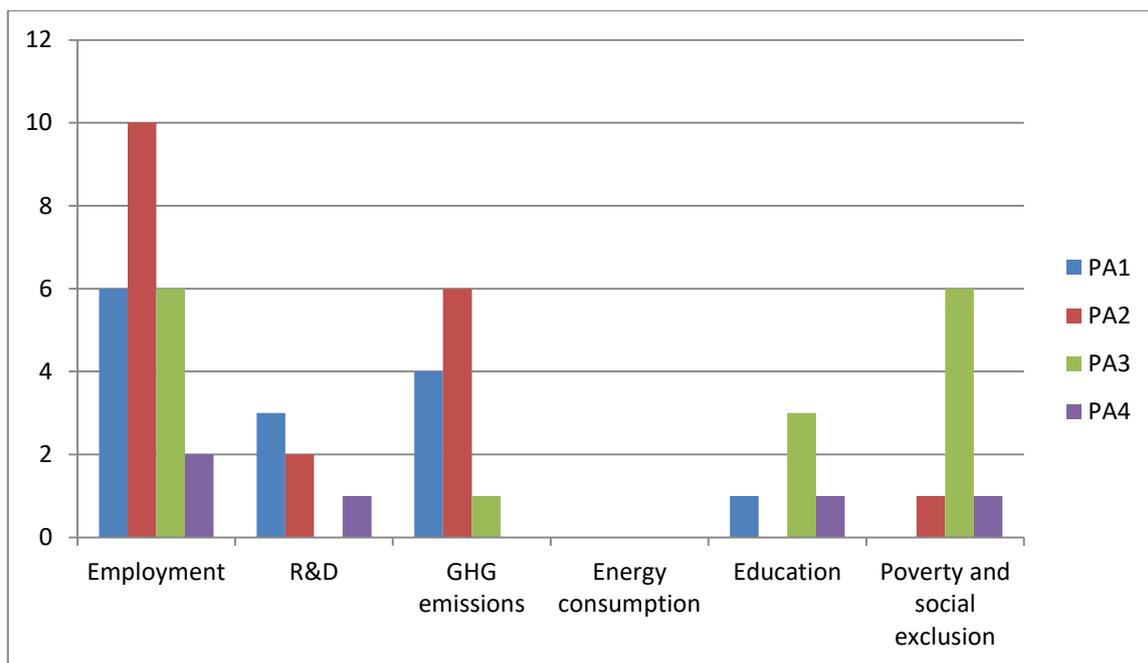


Figure 7: Contribution of the PAs to the EU2020 targets - actions

At the same time, in order to compensate the differences between the numbers of indicators and actions per PAs, we also calculated the specific contribution rate. In these terms, PA4 got a much better evaluation since this PA contains much less actions than the others and the specific contribution rate is higher since the number of indicators is at the same level than at other PAs.

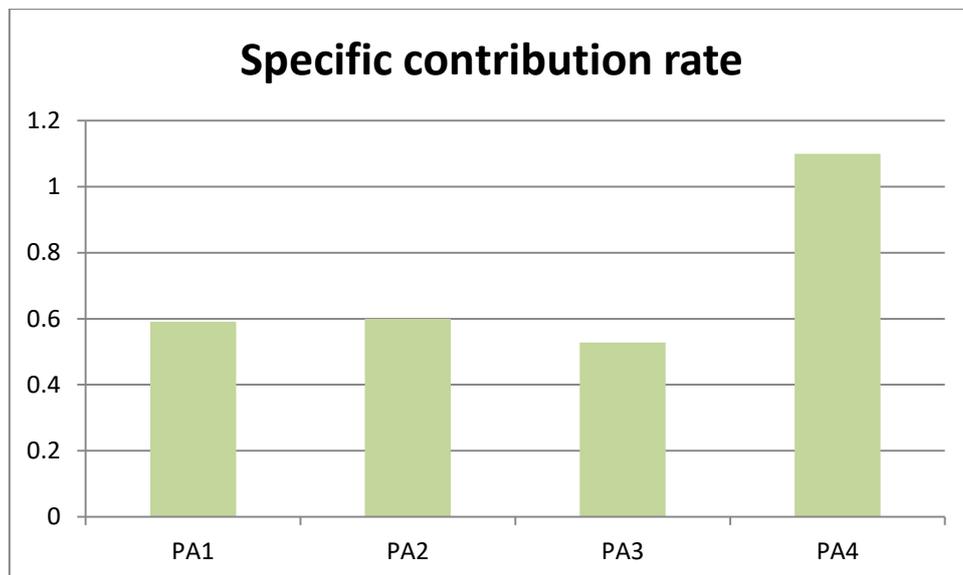


Figure 8: Specific contribution rate of the programme's PAs to the EU2020 targets

The model of the counting of specific contribution rate:

$$\frac{Np}{Ni + Na}$$

where Np = total number of contributions

Ni = number of indicators per PA

Na = number of actions per PA.

This way, the distortion resulted from different numbers of actions and indicators could be eliminated.

To sum up, the CP has a strong impact on the achievement of employment and poverty related targets of the EU2020 strategy within the programming region. It has a weaker impact on GHG emission, education and R&D and it has no real impact on energy policy of the Union. At the same time, we have to highlight that due to thematic concentration principle, no INTERREG V-A programmes can equally contribute to every EU2020 target.

The above tables can also be applied for quantifying the contributions through the relevant indicators at the ending phase of the programme implementation.

14. ISSUES AFFECTING THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PROGRAMME AND MEASURES TAKEN — PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK

PA2 - Enhancing cross-border mobility

Difficulties arising within the frames of priority axis have been detailed in the present document in Chapter 5.1. Despite the effort made to raise interest and intention to submit project proposals in this PA, specifically in the field of improving cross-border logistic services (SO 2.2.2) the results were significantly lower than expected, and no improvement in it was foreseen based on the information received from the potential applicants. The Monitoring Committee of the Programme had to face the fact that without taking action some of the related indicators of the performance framework will not be met. Thus the members authorized the Managing Authority to initiate the modification of the Cooperation Programme, and reallocate the unused funds of PA2 (14,27M EUR) to PA1 (Nature and culture), which keeps being the most popular intervention within the Programme. The modification request involved not only the reallocation of funds but adjusting the performance framework accordingly. On 29 October 2018 the European Commission approved the request for modification of the Programme. So the next call for proposals within PA1 due in 2019 will include also the reallocated amount from PA2. In the next table you may observe how the performance framework was affected by the approved modification. The lines affected by the modification are highlighted.

Table 15: Original and modified performance framework after CP modification in PA1 and PA2

| PA | Indicator Type | ID | Indicator or key implementation step | Measurement unit | Original milestone for 2018 | Modified milestone for 2018 | Actual status in 2018 | Original final target for 2023 | Modified final target 2023 |
|-----|----------------|--------|--|------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| PA1 | Output | CO02 | Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving grants | enterprises | 0 | 0 | 0 | 40 | 40 |
| | Key imp.step | K000 1 | Number of calls for SMEs | number | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| | Output | CO13 | Roads: Total length of newly built roads | km | 0 | 0 | 1,9 | 7 | 2,8 |
| | Key imp.step | K000 2 | Elaborated technical documentation for road construction | number | 1 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 4 |
| | Output | O11 | Length of reconstructed and newly built 'green ways' | km | 9 | 9 | 10,4 | 89 | 120 |
| | Output | CO23 | Nature and biodiversity: Surface area of habitats supported in order to attain a better conservation status | hectares | 28 000 | 28 000 | 45 314 | 100,549 | 115,100 |
| | Financial | F0001 | Total amount of submitted expenditure for validation | EUR | 4 207 597 | 4 207 597 | 4 489 395 | 65 209 186 | 79 480 140,50 |

| PA | Indicator Type | ID | Indicator or key implementation step | Measurement unit | Original milestone for 2018 | Modified milestone for 2018 | Actual status in 2018 | Original final target for 2023 | Modified final target 2023 |
|-----|----------------|-------|---|------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| PA2 | output | CO13 | Roads: Total length of newly built roads | km | 0 | 0 | 0 | 9 | 3,15 |
| | Key imp.step | K0002 | Elaborated technical documentation for road construction | NA | 1 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 3 |
| | output | O221 | Number of new public transport services started within the framework of the programme | piece | 2 | 2 | 1 | 10 | 10 |
| | output | O222 | Number of new logistic services started within the framework of the programme | piece | 1 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| | Financial | F0001 | Total amount of submitted expenditure for validation | EUR | 2 627 144 | 1,706,316 | 148 754 | 40 715 389 | 26,444,434.50 |

PA3 - Promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility

The elaboration of the two round call for proposals for the territorial action plans for employment (TAPE) and its difficulties has been described in Chapter 5.2. The complexity of the concept and its implementation requires significantly more time than it was foreseen at the planning of the programme. The preparation of the first round Call consumed numerous resources of the program bodies. The Programme developed the basic conditions of the two rounded selection procedure, the terms of the first Call, the content parts of the development plan that makes them comparable and assessable and worked out new application forms and assessment grids for this purpose. Further difficulties were that the PA3 by its nature supports economic activities as well, so the Call had to be aligned with the De minimis regulation and State aid rules according the General Block Exemptions Regulation which were also applied for the first time in the Programme. When planning the second round call the difficulty was to set up the conditions that can keep the TAPE still consistent after the projects included are elaborated and implemented separately. The Programme has worked out the final conditions of the second Call elaborating the most technical details of the conditions for the ensuring the structure of the TAPE, rules of the De minimis and GBER measures, the type and content of the mandatory annexes, etc. However, the results expected may compensate the delay of reaching the related milestones set in the performance framework. 9 TAPE-s are already selected for support. 56 projects – each belonging to one TAPE were submitted until November 2018 and are under evaluation at the end of 2018. The launch of the TAPE implementation is planned in the second half of 2019. All commitments taken in Priority axis 3 will be achieved by the end of the programme.

Table 16: Performance framework for Priority axis 3

| PA | Indicator Type | ID | Indicator or key implementation step | Measurement unit | Milestone for 2018 | Actual status in 2018 | Final target 2023 |
|-----|----------------|-------|---|------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| PA3 | output | O311 | Number of (integrated territorial) action plans | number | 0 | 0 | 10 |
| | Key imp.step | K0003 | Selected action plans | number | 5 | 9 | 10 |
| | output | CO44 | Labour market and training: Number of participants in joint local employment initiatives and joint training | persons | 30 | 0 | 100 |
| | output | O314 | Number of new business services promoting employment and consultancy services | number | 5 | 0 | 15 |
| | Financial | F0001 | Total amount of submitted expenditure for validation | EUR | 2 627 144 | 0 | 40 715 389 |