

Protocol
of the 2nd Monitoring Committee
for the Interreg V-A Slovakia-Hungary Cooperation Programme
9th of March 2016, Budapest

I.

Approval of the Agenda, presentation of the purpose of the meeting

Introduction by: Viktor VESELOVSKÝ, MA

1. The Monitoring Committee
approves the Agenda
of the 2nd Monitoring Committee for the Interreg V-A Slovakia-Hungary Cooperation Programme held on 9th of March 2016 in Budapest.

II.

Discussion and approval of modification of the Rules of procedure of the MC

Related document(s): Rules of Procedure of the Monitoring Committee

Name of files uploaded to BackOffice: Rules of Procedure of the MC (v1.2)

Presentation by: Peter BALUN, MA

1. The Monitoring Committee
approves Rules of procedure of the Monitoring Committee
as it is proposed in the document *Rules of Procedure of the MC (v1.2)* with modifications presented by MA as it is texted in the document *Rules of Procedure of the MC (v1.3)* and with the following conditions:
 - Certifying Authority shall be added to the members of the Monitoring Committee with voting right except the project selection process.

2. The Monitoring Committee
acknowledges the proposal of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade on the rotation principle of EGTC's as follows:
 - County-level EGTCs (PONTIBUS EGTC, Via Carpatia EGTC, Rába-Dunaj-Váh /Rába-Duna-Vág/ EGTC) are excluded from rotation;
 - Torysa EGTC and SVINKA EGTC are representing one EGTC in this respect;
 - Bodrogekőzi EGTC and Abaúj-Abaújban EGTC are also representing one EGTC in this term;
 - as Karszt-Bódva EGTC and Ung-Tisza-Túr-Sajó EGTC has no real contribution for the programming area therefore they are excluded from rotation.

With the above mentioned preconditions first the westernmost, secondly the easternmost based EGTC's will be appointed to participate on the forthcoming MC meetings, then the second westernmost and second easternmost based EGTC's and so on. The county

level based EGTC's are represented by the counties on the MC meetings, therefore they are not required to attend.

III.

Indicative timeframe of the Calls for Proposals in 2016

Presentation by: Csilla VERES, JS

1. The Monitoring Committee **acknowledges** the Indicative timeframe of the Calls for Proposals in 2016.

IV.

Ruling documents of the Interreg V-A SK-HU

Presentation by: Csilla VERES, JS and Peter BALUN, MA

1. The Monitoring Committee **acknowledges the Call for Proposals SKHU/01/2016** as it is texted in the document *Call announcement-Call for Prop. (v3.6)* with modifications presented by MA and with the following condition:
 - MA, NA and JS will examine the proposal based on which the *proof of the ownership* could be submitted by applicants within six months after issuing of the positive decision on granting in order to avoid unnecessary land expropriation.
2. The Monitoring Committee **acknowledges the Applicants' Manual and its Annexes** as they are texted in the documents
 - *Applicants Manual (v4.3)*
 - *Annex I SK Declaration LB (v1.4)*
 - *Annex I HU Declaration LB (v1.3)*
 - *Annex II Declaration on Partnership (v1.3)*with modifications presented by MA and with the following conditions:
 - rules of identification of the sources of funding based on the types of applicants will be elaborated and incorporated into the Applicant Manual;
 - attachments requested to be submitted with the Application form in relation to NATURA 2000 a EIA must be consulted by the MA with the relevant department within Ministry of Environment of the SR.
 - Managing Authority in agreement with National Authority has right for modifying the documents in case of administrative reasons without prior approval from Monitoring Committee.

3. The Monitoring Committee
confirms the Eligibility Rules
with proposed modifications at the 1st MC meeting texted in document *Annex to the Minutes for the 1st MC meeting - Eligibility rules (v3.0)* - with condition that
 - Managing Authority in agreement with National Authority has right for modifying the document in case of administrative reasons without prior approval from Monitoring Committee.

4. The Monitoring Committee
approves the Methodology and criteria for selecting operations for Call for proposals as it is texted in the document *Methodology criteria (v2.1)* with modifications presented by JS and with the following condition:
 - Rejection criteria have to be introduced based on the conditions approved within the agenda point IV/5.

5. The Monitoring Committee
approves the Evaluation Grids
as they are texted in documents
 - *Annex I Administrative grid (v1.6)*
 - *Annex II Eligibility grid (v1.6)*
 - *Annex III Quality grid PA1 SO11 (v1.4)*
 - *Annex IV Quality grid PA2 SO21 (v1.4)*
 - *Annex V Quality grid PA2 SO221 (v1.3)*
 - *Annex VI Quality grid PA4 SO41 (v1.3)*with the following conditions:
 - the Administrative evaluation criteria concerning Natura 2000 shall be reformulated as follows in order to avoid assessment of the projects with foreseen negative effects:
In case the construction work takes place on the NATURA 2000 site declaration issued by the respective natural protection authority in Hungary and Slovakia (Štátna ochrana prírody), in line with Article 6 (3) of Directive 92/43/EEC - stating that no negative effects are foreseen - must be provided by each project partner.
 - the following quality evaluation criteria shall be reformulated in all PAs:
“For project involving building construction and/or renovation climate-friendly architectural solutions are chosen, and cost-optimal levels of energy performance according to Directive 2010/31/EU are required, and projects going beyond cost-optimal levels are favoured.” should be divided. First part *“Climate-friendly architectural solutions and cost-optimal levels of energy performance according to Directive 2010/31/EU are chosen within the project involving building construction and/or renovation.”* should be an excluding criterion in which Yes/No decision is needed. The second part *“The project goes beyond cost-optimal levels according to Directive 2010/31/EU.”* remains as an assessment criterion in which scoring must be provided by external assessor.

- the following quality evaluation criteria shall be reformulated in PA1 and PA2 (SO21 and SO221):
“In case of road constructions silent road surface for road constructions in populated areas are respected” and “In case investments negatively affect nature, fauna and flora, and biodiversity, projects are accompanied by compensatory measures and damage mitigation” should be excluding in which Yes/No decision is needed.
- the following quality evaluation criteria shall be reformulated in PA1:
“Road connections can only be financed if they are complementary investments to projects related to natural and cultural heritage, and are absolutely necessary for spreading the benefits of the projects over the borders. Road construction operations are complementary to investments financed by the programme or national mainstream programmes contributing to the thematic objective and the specific objective of the priority axis and contribute to the decrease of GHG emission.” should be excluding in which Yes/No decision is needed.
- The Methodology and criteria for selecting operations for Call for proposals must be completed with reference that if an Application form receives negative decision from external assessors for any of the excluding criteria, this Application form is excluded from any further quality assessment and must be rejected.
- Instructions for scoring in Horizontal criteria will be inserted into the Assessment Manual. Presently projects without construction and purchase elements should be assessed between 0 and 8 points at the criterion “The project ensures the enforcement of the horizontal aspect of sustainable development, equal opportunities and non-discrimination and equality between men and women”, but further sub-evaluation criteria can be introduced.
- In all PA the text of the criterion „The project is in line with priorities of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region“ is replaced by „The project contributes to the priorities of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region.“ and instead of 0 and 2 points 0, 1 and 2 points can be given by external assessor.
- Managing Authority in agreement with National Authority has right for modifying the sub evaluation criteria without prior approval from Monitoring Committee.

V.**Call for Proposals of the Technical Assistance projects**

Related document(s):

TA Call for Proposals and its Annexes, Proposed timeframe of the CfP (presented on spot)
Presentation by: Iveta NÁMEROVÁ, MA

1. The Monitoring Committee
acknowledges the First Call for Proposals and TA Data sheet
as it is texted in the document *TA Call announcement (v2.1) Annex I. - TA Data sheet (v3.0)* with modifications presented by MA.
2. The Monitoring Committee
approves the TA Assessment grid
as it is texted in the document *TA Assessment grids (v2.1)*.
3. The Monitoring Committee
confirms the Manual for technical assistance activities
with proposed modifications at the 1st MC meeting texted in document *Annex to the Minutes for the 1st MC meeting – TA manual* – with condition:
 - Managing Authority in agreement with National Authority has right for modifying the document in case of administrative reasons without prior approval from Monitoring Committee.

VI.**Discussion and approval on the Communication Strategy of Interreg V-A SK-HU**

Related document(s): Communication Strategy

Presentation by: Arianna BIRIKI, JS

1. The Monitoring Committee
approves the Communication Strategy
as it is texted in the document *Communication strategy (v2.2)*.

VII.**Discussion and approval on Annual Implementation Report, 2015**

Related document(s): Annual Implementation Report, 2015

Presentation by: Csilla VERES, JS

1. The Monitoring Committee
approves the Annual Implementation Report, 2015
as it is texted in the document *AIR 2015 (v1.4)* with modifications presented by JS with the following condition:

- Section “Citizens summary” must contain easily phrased summary about the process of creation of the Cooperation Programme including short justification of the PAs, summary on involved stakeholders.

VIII.

Presentation on EU Strategy for the Danube Region – objectives and achievements

Comments:

At 1st MC meeting the MC approved the offer from observer of the MC (National Coordinator of Danube Strategy) to present the objectives and achievements of EUSDR.

Presentation by: Gábor JENEI,

Head of Section / deputy National Coordinator of the EUSDR Secretariat of the Danube Region
Strategy Ministerial Commissioner, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary

1. The Monitoring Committee

acknowledges the Presentation on EU Strategy for the Danube Region – objectives and achievements.

IX.

Any other business

1. Information by Mr. Zsolt Szokolai about the management structure of Small Project Fund.

The Monitoring Committee

acknowledges that the selection criteria for the Small Project Fund umbrella projects will be approved by the MC via written procedure with the following conditions:

- selection criteria for the Small Project Fund umbrella projects will be elaborated by the MA and NA and distributed to the MC in maximum 3 weeks after the date of delivery of the official standpoint of the EC upon the management system of the SPF;
- selection criteria will be distributed to MC members for approval via WP based on the condition that the official standpoint of the EC will allow the SPF to be implemented by umbrella projects.

2. Questions raised by Mr. Zsolt Szokolai regarding the further development of the Cooperation Programme.

The Monitoring Committee

agrees/acknowledges that

- Improvements of e-cohesion will be presented by the MA at next MC meeting;
- Organization of opening event for Interreg V-A SKHU programme should be initiated;

- Evaluation Strategy of the Cooperation Programme has to be approved by the MC in September 2016.

3. Next MC meeting

The Monitoring Committee

agrees that the upcoming MC meeting should be organized between 13th and 17th June 2016 in Slovakia (preliminary 15th June 2016).

4. Monitoring Committee's request for language of Ruling documents

The Monitoring Committee

acknowledges that exact list of documents to be published in 3 languages (HU, EN, SK) will be defined by MA, NA and JS.

X.

Conclusions and closure of the meeting

Upcoming MC meeting will be organized in the week between 13th and 17th June 2016 in Slovakia.

Chairman of the Monitoring Committee:

Name and surname: Viktor Veselovský

Date: 9th March 2016