

Protocol

of the 8th Monitoring Committee Meeting

for the Interreg V-A Slovakia-Hungary Cooperation Programme
26th of April 2018, Bratislava

Chair of the Meeting:

Nikoletta Horváth

I.

Approval of the Agenda

Presentation of the purpose of the meeting

Presented by: Nikoletta Horváth

I/1) The Monitoring Committee

approves the Agenda of the 8th Monitoring Committee for the Interreg V-A Slovakia-Hungary Cooperation Programme 26th of April 2018 in Bratislava as texted in the document *8_MC_agenda_v1-05* with no conditions.

II.

Current status of SKHU/1601 Call for Proposals assessment, discussion and decision on projects submitted under Priority Axis 2

Presented by: Nikoletta Horváth/Lenka Strizencova

II/1) The Monitoring Committee

acknowledges the summary of the evaluation of Priority Axis 2 as it is texted in the document *Summary-of-PA2_assessment_v1-02*.

II/2) The Monitoring Committee

acknowledges the Ranking list of the project proposals as the basis for the selection procedure submitted in the 1st Call for proposals for the Priority Axis 2 as it is texted in the document *Project-overview_ranking-list_SKHU-1601_PA2_v1-02*.

II/3) The Monitoring Committee

approves en bloc the list of projects in the frame of the 1st Call for proposals for the Priority Axis 2 as follows:

- SKHU/1601/2.1/357
- SKHU/1601/2.1/361

- SKHU/1601/2.2.1/359
- SKHU/1601/2.2.1/362
- SKHU/1601/2.2.1/360

II/4) The Monitoring Committee

approves with condition the following list of projects in the frame of the 1st Call for proposals for the Priority Axis 2:

- SKHU/1601/2.2.2/358

Condition:

Project is approved with the condition that the state aid scheme - Regional Aid – will be applied having its effect on the intensity of co-financing: maximum 537,662.01 EUR from the ERDF. The Lead Beneficiary will be informed about the conditional approval of the project in the notifying letter.

III.

CP modification concept from PA2 to PA1

Presented by: Nikoletta Horváth/Lenka Strizencova

III/1) The Monitoring Committee

acknowledges the presented figures as texted in the document
ERDF-allocation-overview_v1-06.

III/2) The Monitoring Committee

gives mandate to the Managing Authority to initiate the modification of the Cooperation Programme in terms of reallocation of the remaining financial resources from Priority Axis 2 to Priority Axis 1 and modification of the relevant performance framework indicators and prepare the position paper to be submitted to the EC with the following conditions:

- In relation to this, Anna de Luca asked: which measures/efforts have been undertaken in order to raise interest for PA2; on which basis the funds should be reallocated to PA1 and why to this PA; how the programme aims to achieve the set values for milestones and targets in PA2; which impact the transfer of financial resources might have.
 - Emphasizes that any request for CP modification needs to be duly justified and it is recommended to submit the request by the end June 2018 if possible, so that the EC has time to analyse the request and deal with it. The EC will analyse the fulfilment of the milestone values of the performance framework during the Performance review exercise in 2019, while taking into account the values reported in AIR 2018.

- Emphasizes that the request for CP modification shall be submitted and well-founded with reasoning and justification (as also mentioned in the first bullet point) and description of all steps taken by the Programme for increasing the interest in PA2.
- Emphasizes that the impact on the performance framework shall be carefully analysed.
- To the question of Martin Hakel if also the eventual remaining funds from projects implemented under PA2 can be included in the reallocation, Anna De Luca answers that in case CP modification request is submitted, the exact amount for transfer between PAs should be given.
- To the question of Nikoletta Horváth whether flexibility rule is applicable in 2014-2020 (reallocation up to 10% between PAs as it used to be in period 2007-2013), Anna De Luca will provide the answer in writing.
- To the question of Nikoletta Horváth whether a new Call for Proposals in the Priority Axis affected by CP modification can be launched before the approval of the CP modification by the EC, Anna De Luca points out that in a first place, the request for modification should be submitted, after that the Commission will analyse the request. However, the submission of modification request does not automatically ensure Commission's approval. Therefore, it is recommended to launch calls only for what is actually in place. If the authorities wish to double check on this, the EC shall be contacted in writing in this regard and EC will answer in writing.
- Nikoletta Horváth.
 - Explains that both countries have taken all the efforts to motivate the potential applicants to submit project proposals;
 - Adds that in PA3 there is no need for extra resources as it is a two-step procedure, PA4 indicators can be fulfilled without reallocation; highest interest is in PA1 however CP modification shall have effects on the performance framework of PA2.
- Katarína Mihaľová:
 - Adds that Slovakia has also taken all efforts to find sources for pre-financing the road infrastructure projects (SO21) on behalf of the Slovak potential beneficiaries to fulfil the memorandum of prime ministers of both countries. Besides the submitted project proposals no more projects are possible to be implemented in this programming period due to the lack of pre-prepared documentations.
 - Adds that projects aiming on establishment of public transport (SO221) are extremely financially demanding and in current legislative framework of both countries unsustainable.
 - Informs that the NA will start organizing meetings with the SK regions on regular basis with the aim to identify strategic projects which might have

synergies among each other and possibly even with other Programmes. Highlights that the biggest interest from the applicants is in PA1.

- Németh Zoltán suggests to launch the call with the available amount in PA1 which can be increased after the approval of the CP modification by the EC.
- Ana De Luca reacts that the request for modification does not automatically ensure Commission's agreement and for the calls it should be considered what is actually in place and available. Ida Antipovová suggests that a reserve list should be set up.

Task:

To prepare the position paper and all relevant documentation and initiate the modification of the Cooperation Programme and submit it to the EC until the end of June 2018.

IV.

Current status of SKHU/1703 Call for Proposals assessment, discussion and decision on TAPES submitted

Presented by: Nikoletta Horváth/Lenka Strizencova

IV/1) The Monitoring Committee

acknowledges the summary of the evaluation of Priority Axis 3 as it is texted in the document *Summary-of- TAPE_assessment_v1-02*.

IV/2) The Monitoring Committee

acknowledges the Ranking list of the project proposals as the basis for the selection procedure submitted in the SKHU/1703 Call for proposals for the Priority Axis 3 as it is texted in the document *Project-overview_ranking-list_SKHU-1703_TAPE_v1-01*.

IV/3) The Monitoring Committee

approves en bloc and with condition the list of TAPE projects in the frame of the SKHU/1703 Call for proposals for the Priority Axis 3 as follows:

- SKHU/1703/3.1/080
- SKHU/1703/3.1/010
- SKHU/1703/3.1/160
- SKHU/1703/3.1/070
- SKHU/1703/3.1/040
- SKHU/1703/3.1/150
- SKHU/1703/3.1/050
- SKHU/1703/3.1/090
- SKHU/1703/3.1/110

Condition:

The maximum ERDF support for each approved TAPE is equally decreased by the same quotient of percentage up to the overall available financial allocation for the Priority Axis set in the Cooperation Programme.

In the second round of the Call for proposals the single project proposals from each approved TAPE will be submitted with detailed budgets. Budgets will be assessed against the programme eligibility rules, state aid rules as well as against the principles of efficiency. Care must be given to the fact that the overall allocation for the Priority Axis set in the Cooperation Programme will not be exceeded by the contracted ERDF support.

Task:

The LB-CCPs of the approved TAPes and the LBs of the approved PA2 projects shall be invited for the next MC meeting in order to present and provide overview about the projects to be implemented.

V.**Information on fulfilment of performance framework
according to the current status**

Presented by: Nikoletta Horváth/Lenka Strizencova

VI/1) The Monitoring Committee

acknowledges the information on fulfilment of performance framework as it is texted in the document *Performance-framework_2018_v1-17 distributed to the MC members on the spot.*

Anna De Luca points out that according to the information shown, there seems to be a risk of fulfilment of milestones 2018 and asks MA how these values will be achieved by end of 2018. She also pointed out that for the purpose of this exercise, achieved values and not the forecast should be taken into account. She asks the MA to assess the situation regarding the fulfilment of Performance framework once again in order to have a clear picture of the state of play.

VI.**Discussion on and approval of the
Annual Implementation Report 2017**

Presented by: Nikoletta Horváth/Lenka Strizencova

VI/1) The Monitoring Committee

approves the Annual Implementation Report 2017 with the following conditions as texted in the document *AIR_2017_v1-00:*

- Chapter 4. the text “not relevant” shall be replaced by “Foreseen in year 2018”.
- Chapter 5. shall be completed by the steps taken to fulfil the performance framework and the PAs shall be described separately.

VII.

**Discussion on and approval of the modification of the
Evaluation plan**

Presented by: Nikoletta Horváth

VII/1) The Monitoring Committee

approves the modification of the Evaluation plan as texted in the document *SKHU_Evaluation-plan_v1-20* with no condition.

VIII.

**Information on Annual communication plan 2018 and
Report on annual communication plan 2017**

Presented by: Nikoletta Horváth/Lenka Strizencova

VIII/1) The Monitoring Committee

acknowledges the Annual communication plan 2018 as texted in the document *Annual_communication_plan_2018_v1-00* and the **Report on annual communication plan 2017** as texted in the document *Communication_report_2017_v1-00* with the following comments:

- Joint Secretariat informed the MC members that the Interreg V-A SKHU Programme would like to join the European Cooperation Day 2018 by organizing a photo completion under the motto of The European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018.
- MC members are encouraged to share their ideas with the Joint Secretariat for selecting the most appropriate location for the photo exhibition planned to be organized as result of the photo competition.

IX.

**Discussion on and approval of the modification of the
Visibility Guide**

Presented by: Nikoletta Horváth/Lenka Strizencova

IX/1) The Monitoring Committee

approves the modification of the Visibility Guide as texted in the document *Visibility_guide-for-projects_v3-01* with no conditions.

X.

**Discussion on and approval of the modification of the
Guide on eligible expenditures**

Presented by: Nikoletta Horváth/Lenka Strizencova

X/1) The Monitoring Committee

approves the modification of the Guide on eligible expenditures as texted in the document *Guide-on-expenditures_SKHU-1601_b2-04* (public version number *Guide-on-expenditures_SKHU-1601_v3-00*).

XI.

Any other business

XI/1) Information on current status of the SPF:

- Julianna Orbán-Máté informed about the current status of SPF: The launching date of the call for proposals for SPF and conference is due on 01/06/2018, the first call will be open until 31/07/2018; the scope of the projects is between 20.000-50.000 EUR, maximum duration is 12 months, 1/3 of the allocation is devoted for PA1, 2/3 of the allocation is devoted for PA4.
- Furthermore the MC members were informed that the contracting process of the umbrella projects (also the EGTC Raba-Duna-Vág) is ongoing. The implementation of the western umbrella projects will start after contracting. In line with the decision of the MC from the written procedure 07/2018 the same ruling documentation for implementation and management of the SPF will be used in all Umbrella projects.

XI/2) Provisional timeframe for the next CfP in PA1 and PA4

Timeframe for next calls for proposals in PA1 and PA4 is planned for autumn 2018 (4Q) with a possible disclaimer in PA1 discussed in agenda point III.

- The NA recommends to launch the calls one by one (not at the same time) due to the capacity of the FLC.

XI/3) Proposals for future CfP in PA4 – limitation for maximum threshold:

- 300.000 EUR in investment projects and 200.000 EUR in soft projects will be taken into consideration when preparing the application package.

XI/4) Involvement of Territorial experts in project assessment:

- Territorial experts are involved in the assessment processes according to the Assessment Manual of the Programme.
- To the question of Martin Hakel whether the territorial experts can be financed from the JS's Technical Assistance, the MA and NA highlights the original intention of involvement of the territorial experts for the TAPE call, legislative background as well as the fact that each TA project has already been planned and approved.
- Németh Zoltán suggested if the task of territorial assessment could be assigned to the local municipality (county/self-governing region) as such and not to a single nominated persons.

- To the question of representative of Győr-Moson-Sopron county Nikoletta Horváth emphasized that the assessment process has to be managed and performed in the matter of securing the control of confidentiality and impartiality.

XI/5) 2nd round of the Call in PA3:

- The MC considered the option of opening the second round of the PA3 Call for Proposals on continuous submission bases; in that case the MC gives mandate to make decision on submitted project proposals via written procedures. However, the most suitable submission procedure to be applied in the second round will be carefully thought over when elaborating the Applicant package for the Call.
- The MC members with voting right are encouraged to inform the LB-CCPs of the approved TAPes that they shall start to elaborate the project proposals for the second round of the Call.

XI/6) post 2020

- Nikoletta Horváth informed the MC members that under HU presidency the V4 +4 + Serbia prepared a common position paper which was submitted to the EC, the members of the Monitoring Committee will be informed about the content as attachment to the current MC protocol.
- Martin Hakel:
 - MA, NA and JS shall give possibilities to the MC members for expressing their ideas about the management and implementation of the future programme.
 - MA, NA and JS shall provide to the MC members on the next MC plenary session a first draft of schedule and time map of the programming process including the deadlines such as: dates of relevant EU legislation, dates of negotiations, meetings – those available at the time.
 - Proposes obligatory consultations at the programme eligible self-governing regions and counties by the applicants before submitting project proposal to be implemented on their territory with the aim to coordinate and streamline the applicants.
- To the last question of Martin Hakel, the MA and NA reacts that the regions in the SKHU programme are participating at selection of applications by assessing the territorial relevance of projects with 14 points, by established Information points and recommended consultations. The introduction of obligatory consultations will have to be examined against the legislative framework and avoiding conflict of interest. Furthermore, having regarded on the experience from nomination of territorial experts it is necessary to have a common standpoint of all regions upon this topic.
- To the last question of Martin Hakel Anna de Luca reacts that the Joint Secretariat is established with the aim to serve the applicants in terms of providing all relevant information about the Calls and give consultations as well as organize information days. Avoiding the conflict of interest shall be on the first place.

- Julianna Orbán Máté adds that in the future programme the most problematic topic shall be solved which is the pre-financing of project activities.

Attachments:

Annex 1: V4 the V4 +4 + Serbia position paper: Key message and findings for Interreg 2020+

Annex 2: V4 the V4 +4 + Serbia position paper: Accompanying letter