

Protocol

of the 4th Monitoring Committee Meeting

for the Interreg V-A Slovakia-Hungary Cooperation Programme
29th of November 2016, Senec

Chair of the Meeting:

Nikoletta Horváth

I.

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

Presented by: Nikoletta Horváth

Additional materials distributed at the plenary session:

- Supporting information to minimum requirements for the Small Project Fund (SPF) Umbrella project Lead Beneficiary; (distributed version: minimum_requirements-SPF_v1-12.doc which was modified based on the discussion at the meeting and uploaded with the protocol as minimum_requirements-SPF_v1-14.doc)
 - Introduction and basic information to SPF; (distributed version: SKHU_SPF-introduction_v1-04.doc)
 - Updated overview of the N+3 obligations (distributed version: N+3_estimation_v4-40.xls)
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- The Monitoring Committee **approves the Agenda** of the 4th Monitoring Committee for the Interreg V-A Slovakia-Hungary Cooperation Programme 29th of November 2016 in Senec with the following conditions:
 - Presentation on result-orientation during programme implementation of Mr. Zsolt Szokolai is added to Agenda as point II.
 - Information on „Assessment of Interreg cross-border cooperation programmes' governance systems and their appropriateness to address border obstacles" is provided as agenda point VII.
 - Presentation of the ex-post evaluation of Cohesion Policy programmes 2007-2013 is introduced as agenda point VIII.

II.

Presentation on result-orientation during programme implementation

Presented by: Zsolt Szokolai

- The Monitoring Committee **acknowledges the Presentation on result-orientation during programme implementation** and questioned the feasibility of a discussion of projects 'en bloc', which would be checked by taking into account the necessity of quorum.

III.

Discussion on and approval of the Evaluation plan of the Interreg V-A SK-HU programme

Related document(s): Evaluation plan of the Interreg V-A SK-HU programme

Version number of the uploaded file before the MC: v1-18

- The Monitoring Committee **approves the Evaluation plan of the Interreg V-A SK-HU programme** as it is texted in the document *SKHU_Evaluation plan_v1-18.doc* with the following conditions:
 - Comments of the Bratislava region agreed on SK coordination meeting will be incorporated into the document and revised document will be sent to the MC with the protocol as follows:
 - Planned focus of the evaluation I. will be extended also to evaluation of the efficiency and effectiveness of implementation of the B-Light Scheme and Small Projects Fund scheme as well as development and status of preparedness of infrastructural projects aimed on construction of cross-border roads and bridges.
 - PA3: Synergies with mainstream programmes will be added into the Quality Assessment Grid and Evaluation Plan will be modified accordingly.
 - Comments of the Nógrád region agreed on HU coordination meeting will be incorporated into the document and revised document will be sent to the MC with the protocol as follows:
 - Planned general guiding questions of the Impact evaluation in case of PA3 will be revised; "To what extent has the programme contributed to decrease the unemployment in the regions" (the original question was: To what extent has the programme contributed to *decrease* the employment *inequalities* among the regions).
 - Citizen`s summary about the evaluation reports will be published on the programme website according to the request of the EC.

Version number of the modified and approved document is: v1-19

IV.

Discussion and approval of the Assessment Manual of the Interreg V-A SK-HU programme

Related document(s):

Assessment Manual of the Interreg V-A SK-HU programme - (Version number of the uploaded file before MC: v1-08)

Declaration of impartiality and confidentiality of Assessors – (Version number of the uploaded file before MC:v1-01)

Admissibility, administrative, eligibility assessment grid of the SPF Management Organization(s) – (Version number of the uploaded file before MC: v1-01)

Quality assessment grid of the SPF Management Organization(s) – (Version number of the uploaded file before MC: v1-01)

Admissibility, administrative, eligibility assessment grid of the B-Light Management Organization(s) – (Version number of the uploaded file before MC: v1-00)

Quality assessment grid of the B-Light Management Organization(s) – (Version number of the uploaded file before MC: v1-00)

- The Monitoring Committee

approves the Assessment Manual of the Interreg V-A SK-HU programme

as it is texted in the document *Assessment_Manual_Interreg_V-A_SKHU_v1-08.doc* with the following conditions:

- Comments of the Bratislava region agreed on SK coordination meeting will be incorporated into the document and revised document will be sent to the MC with the protocol as follows:
 - Reference to the basis for the debate and decision of the MC on the funding of the project proposals stated in Chapter 3.6 and 3.7 will be revised in line with Part IV. Chapter 5 of the Applicant's Manual (The MC members will be provided with the results of the evaluation process and filled in assessment grids without name of the assessors in due time prior to the MC meeting).
- Guide for assessors (methods of scoring for relevant evaluation questions) will be incorporated in the Quality assessment grids in the future Calls for proposals if the result of the 1st Call for Proposals justifies it. MA, NA and JS will examine this possibility in case of B-Light and SPF.
- Comments from the EC representative will be incorporated as follows: In Chapter 2.3.2 paragraph 6 will be moved after paragraph 4 for improving the logical structure of the text.

Version number of the modified and approved document is: v1-11

- The Monitoring Committee

approves the

Admissibility, administrative, eligibility assessment grid of the SPF Management Organization(s) as it is texted in the document *SPF_AEG_SKHU-1602_v1-01.xls*

Quality assessment grid of the SPF Management Organization(s) as it is texted in the document *SPF_QG_SKHU-1602_v1-01.xls*

Admissibility, administrative, eligibility assessment grid of the B-Light

Management Organization(s) as it is texted in the document *BLight_AEG_SKHU-1603_v1-00.xls*

Quality assessment grid of the B-Light Management Organization(s) as it is texted in the document *BLight_QG_SKHU-1603_v1-00.xls*

with the following conditions:

- Regarding the implementation of the Small Project Fund, proposal for the organization(s) which will be responsible for the verification of the costs incurred at the small projects and their involvement in the designation procedure still need to be discussed with the Audit Authority. The assessment grids may be modified as a result of the above-mentioned on-going discussion.
- Comments of the Bratislava region agreed on SK coordination meeting will be incorporated into the document and revised document will be sent to the MC with the protocol as follows:
 - Terminology and formal requirements for the Applicant organization will be harmonized in both schemes.
- Comments from the EC representative will be incorporated as follows:
 - In the framework of the eligibility assessment of the B-light scheme the geographical coverage of the whole programme area shall be evaluated.
 - Economic and financial criteria of the eligibility assessment are unjustifiably strict therefore restrict the competition among potential applicants. The MA shall consider similar CBC B-light schemes and adjust the economic and financial criteria applied in their framework, therefore based on the request of the EC the average turnover of the applicant organization shall be unified to 200.000 EUR (in the last two closed financial year).
- Based on the follow up discussion between MA, NA and JS the assessment grids for the B-light and SPF will be revised and possibility for introducing two round selection process will be scrutinized.

Version numbers of the modified and approved documents are:

SPF_AEG_SKHU-1602_v1-02.xls

SPF_QG_SKHU-1602_v1-02.xls

BLight_AEG_SKHU-1603_v1-01.xls

BLight_QG_SKHU-1603_v1-01.xls

V.

Minimum requirements of the Small Project Fund Umbrella Project Lead Beneficiary

Related document(s): Minimum requirements SPF

Version number of the uploaded file before MC: v1-08

The Monitoring Committee

approves the Minimum selection criteria of Small Project Fund umbrella project Lead Beneficiary as it is texted in the document *Minimum_requirements-SPF-v1-08.doc* with the following conditions:

- Comments of the Slovak National Authority will be incorporated into the document and revised document will be sent to the MC with the protocol as follows:
 - First level control activities: Applicants shall ensure 100% formal, eligibility and financial control of the small projects` costs. By providing this activity the Applicants shall take overall responsibility for compliance with all EU and national legislation. *In case of small project beneficiaries with headquarter in the Slovak Republic the High Territorial Unit shall be responsible for first level control activities.*
- Valid indemnity insurance additional explanation: The indemnity insurance is requested to be proved by a declaration of the Lead Beneficiary of the umbrella project that all cost incurred during the implementation of the SPF is checked against and fulfil the programme eligibility rules.
- The minimum grant for the small project implemented within the SPF (counted on project level) will be 20.000 EUR ERDF.
- Based on the comments from the EC the following criteria will be taken into account during selection process of the SPF umbrella project Lead beneficiary:
 - Within the SPF there is no possibility for implementation of the mirror events or one event projects.
 - Unified procedures and processes in both umbrella projects within the SPF shall be secured at the stage of the Application phase.
 - It is obligatory to apply the simplified cost options within the SPF.
- Simplified cost options and types of activities shall be included in the Strategy submitted by Applicant organization in the Call for the SPF umbrella project. Strategy should also include the methodology of the definition of small-scale investments as simplified cost options.

Version number of the modified and approved document is: v1-14

VI.

Final Implementation Report of the Hungary-Slovakia Cross-Border Cooperation Programme 2007-2013

Related document(s): Final implementation report
Version number of the uploaded file before MC: v1-04

- The Monitoring Committee **approves the Final Implementation Report of the Hungary-Slovakia Cross-Border Cooperation Programme 2007-2013** as it is texted in the document *Final_implementation_report_v1-04.doc* with the following conditions:
 - MA/NA/JS has the right to make technical changes in the document(s) – not related to the conceptual segment – without prior approval of the Monitoring Committee.
 - Comments of the Bratislava region agreed on SK coordination meeting will be provided into the document and revised document will be sent to the MC with the protocol as follows:
 - Chapter 2.1.5 Assistance repaid will be completed with reference that the process of Community contribution to be repaid by the relevant project partners is on-going.
 - Based on the request of the Bratislava region the following information will be provided to the MC members in separate document:
 - Chapter 2.1.5 Assistance reused will be completed with reference summarizing general reasons from causing withdrawal from the projects and lessons learnt.

Version number of the modified and approved document is: v1-05

VII.

Information on „Assessment of Interreg cross-border cooperation programmes' governance systems and their appropriateness to address border obstacles"

Presented by: Perti Hermanek

- The Monitoring Committee **acknowledges the Information on „Assessment of Interreg cross-border cooperation programmes' governance systems and their appropriateness to address border obstacles"**

VIII.

Presentation of the ex-post evaluation of Cohesion Policy programmes 2007-2013

Presented by: Zsolt Szokolai

- The Monitoring Committee **acknowledges the Presentation of the ex-post evaluation of Cohesion Policy programmes 2007-2013.**

IX.

Any other business

Call for Assessors

- Based on the proposal of the Komárom-Esztergom region after the closure of the currently opened Call for assessors (deadline 2nd December 2016), the MA, NA and JS based on the number and quality of applicants will examine the necessity to modify the conditions for applicants in order to receive enough experts, possibly experts for B-Light, SPF and state aid: criteria for experience with evaluation and threshold of already evaluated project (100.000 EUR) will be reconsidered.

Presentation on the first experience of the 1st CfP

Presented by: Csilla Veres