

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

FOR THE STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT INTERREG VI-A HUNGARY-SLOVAKIA COOPERATION PROGRAMME

CONTRACTING AUTHORITY:

Széchenyi Programme Office Nonprofit LLC.
(2 Szép Street, 4th floor, H-1053 Budapest)

PREPARED BY:

HBH Strategy & Development Llc.
(37 Bajcsy-Zsilinszky Street, 3rd floor, H-1065 Budapest)



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1. MAIN CHARACTERISTICS OF THE STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

1.1. Objective of the strategic environmental assessment

In accordance with *Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment*, main objectives of the strategic environmental assessment (hereinafter: SEA) are as follows:

- to identify the existing environmental problems relevant to Interreg VI-A Hungary-Slovakia Cooperation Programme (hereinafter: Programme),
- to examine the coherence of Programme with environmental and sustainable development policies on EU, national and regional level.
- assessing the potential environmental effects of the Programme, by giving an overview of the possible favourable and unfavourable environmental impacts,
- formulate recommendations to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the Programme,
- to enhance the contribution of the Programme to sustainable development.

The strategic environmental assessment is an integral part of the programming process, but for reasons of transparency, the outcomes of the SEA are published in a consolidated Environmental Report. However, although the Environmental Report is the main outcome of the environmental assessment, its most important goal is the continuous support of the process of Programme development.

The most important legislations setting the framework for implementing the SEA are the followings:

- Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 June 2001 on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment (hereinafter: SEA Directive).
- Regulation (EU) 2020/852 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 18 June 2020 on the establishment of a framework to facilitate sustainable investment, and amending Regulation (EU) 2019/2088
- Aarhus Convention – in force since 18.11. 1999
- Espoo Convention – in force since 20.7.1999
- UN Protocol on strategic environmental assessment to the Convention on environmental impact assessment in a transboundary context (adopted on May 21 2003, Kiev)

- National Act No. 24/2006 Coll. on Environmental Impact Assessment/Strategic Environmental Assessment (Slovakia)
- Gov. Regulation No 2/2005 on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programs on the environment (Hungary)

1.2. SEA process and its relationship with the Interreg VI-A Hungary-Slovakia Cooperation Programme

As mentioned above, most important goal of SEA is the effective support for programme development process. To achieve it, the SEA schedule has been aligned with the programming schedule to allow for effective communication between expert teams responsible for development of the Programme and SEA and to support the integration of environmental considerations into Programme. The SEA experts formulated recommendations throughout the drafting of Chapter 2 of Programme in an interactive way, maintaining close contact with the expert team responsible for planning during the whole SEA process.

The environmental report as outcome of the SEA process (this document) has been launched for public consultation parallel with the Programme. This enables the interpretation of proposals set in the environmental report, as well as the incorporation of proposed amendments made to environmental report into the text of the Programme.

Finally, the environmental report will be approved as an integrated part of the Programme by the Programming Committee and by the Governments of both Member States.

The figure below shows the relationship between the SEA and programme development processes.

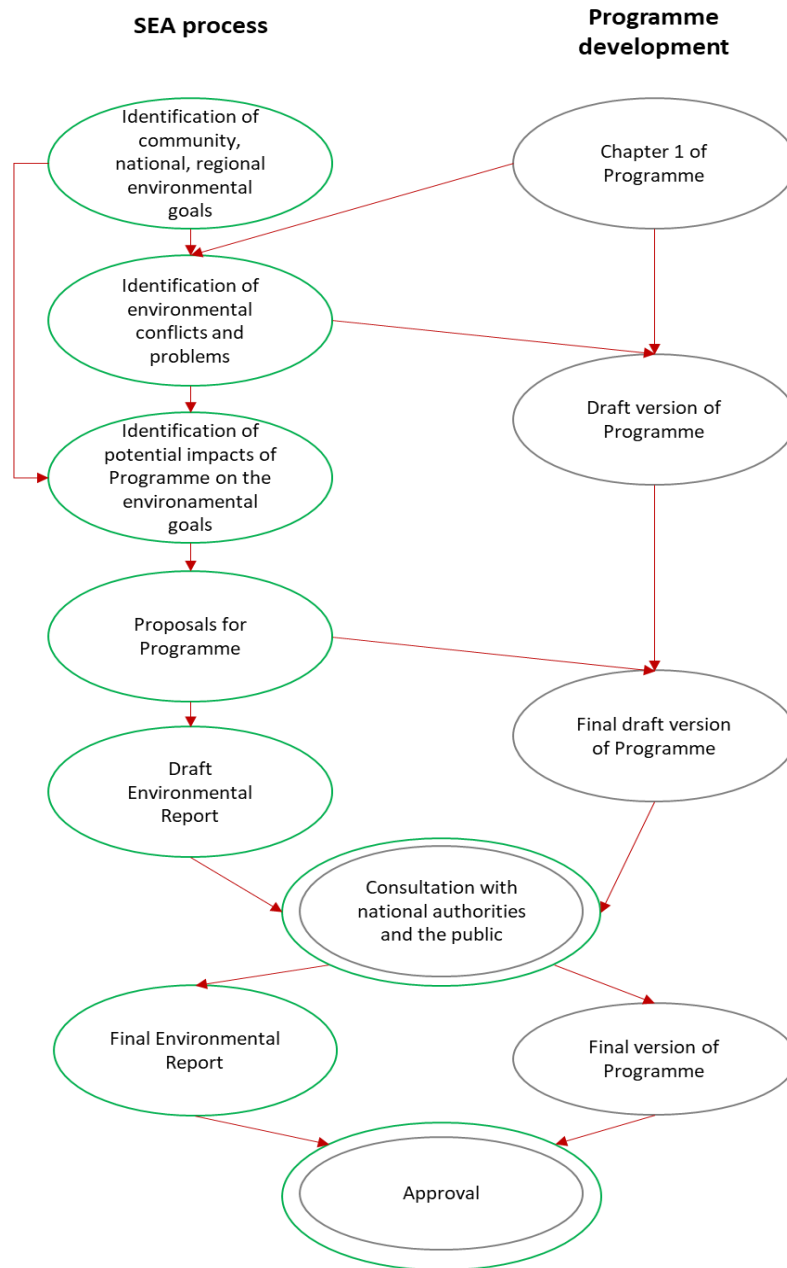


Figure 1: Relationship between the SEA and programme development processes

1.3. Incorporation of comments and proposals made during the SEA process

The environmental assessment was carried out in parallel with the preparation of the programme, allowing the environmental aspects of the different versions of the programme to be monitored and the effects of the modifications to be assessed. As the Programme since the beginning of the planning process includes a number of development areas that result in the resolution of environmental conflicts (see priority areas of the "Green Cooperation" priority), while supporting very few potentially

polluting activities (e.g. tourism), the suggestions made by the SEA Expert Group typically concerned minor modifications (e.g. clarifications, extension of the scope of beneficiaries). Nevertheless, the good "environmental performance" of the scheme can of course be further improved. Our recommendations on how to improve the quantitative and qualitative protection of environmental elements and systems, mainly for the implementation phase of the programme, are set out in Chapter 5 of the evaluation report.

The environmental authorities have had the opportunity to be actively involved in the strategic assessment process on two occasions. On the first occasion, they could comment on the Scoping Report of the strategic environmental assessment and on the second occasion on the draft report summarising the findings of the environmental assessment.

In Hungary, both the Scoping Report and Draft Environmental Report have been circulated towards national environmental authorities as defined by the national legislation on 25 November 21, asking for their comments and opinions by 31 December 2021. Received feedbacks are summarized in Annex II and Annex IV of the current document, also indicating how the comments have been addressed by the SEA team.

In Slovakia, in line with national legislation, the responsible body, i.e. the Ministry for Investment, Regional Development and Informatisation (MIRDI) has been responsible for coordinating consultation of the Scoping Report. They have defined the scope of assessment of the Interreg Programme document based on comparison of two variants: zero option and proposed strategy included in the programme document. Accordingly, MIRDI has defined specific points to be taken into account during the preparation of the environmental report. These points are listed in Annex III of the current document, also indicating how the comments have been addressed by the SEA team. No additional comments have been received to the scope of assessment during its public consultation.

For the consultation of the Draft Environmental Report in Slovakia, the Member States have decided to take advantage of the Espoo contact/focal network of the SEA Protocol, and decided to distribute all SEA-related information of the Programme through one channel asking the national contact point/focal point of the Slovak Republic, i.e. the Ministry of Environment (MoE) to initiate the procedure required by the country specific laws by forwarding the documents whom it may concern within the country. Feedback, comments and all remarks were expected through the same channel.

Accordingly, MoE published the Draft Environmental Report on the respective Slovak online platform (www.enviroportal.sk) on 9 December 2021, and a public hearing was organized on 21 December. Besides, MIRDI, being responsible for managing the Programme as National Authority, has forwarded the document to the concerned authorities with a call and time limit for delivery of an opinion on the environmental report. Written comments of environmental authorities have been requested within 21 days following the publication of the documents. The Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic has then summarized the feedbacks collected by MIRDI from Slovak environmental authorities to the Draft Environmental Report and sent them to the Hungarian contact point to the

SEA Protocol. Received feedbacks are summarized in Annex V of the current document, also indicating how the comments have been addressed by the SEA team.

At the same time, in accordance with Slovak legislation (No. 24 / 2006 Coll.), MoE has appointed an independent expert to draw up its final statement as regards the environmental impact assessment of the Programme.

Parallel to the above consultation process with national environmental authorities, the draft environmental report, along with the draft version of the Interreg programme document have been published on the official website of Interreg VI-A Hungary-Slovakia (<https://www.skhu.eu/program/interreg-2021-2027>) in national languages and open for public consultation from 25 November 2021 to 31 January 2021. However, no comments relevant for the SEA were received.

MAIN CHARACTERISTICS OF THE INTERREG VI-A HUNGARY-SLOVAKIA COOPERATION PROGRAMME

1.4. The analysed territory

The cooperation area of the Programme covers a territory of 61 46 km², homes for 8,85 million citizens.

The programming region on the Slovak side covers the following 5 NUTS3 regions ('kraj') giving home to 3.34 million people altogether:

- SK010 - Bratislava region
- SK021 - Trnava region
- SK023 - Nitra region
- SK032 - Banská Bystrica region
- SK042 - Košice region

The programming region on the Hungarian side includes the following 8 NUTS3 regions ('megye' and the capital city of Budapest) in Hungary:

- HU212 - Komárom-Esztergom county
- HU221 - Győr-Moson-Sopron county
- HU311 - Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén county

- HU323 - Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg county
- HU312 - Heves county
- HU110 - Budapest
- HU120 - Pest county
- HU313 - Nógrád county



Figure 2:
The analyzed territory of the Programme
(Source: Territorial analysis prepared by
CESCI, 2020.)

1.5. Main objectives and actions of the Programme

1.5.1. Overview of the intervention logic of the Programme

| Priority axis | Specific objective | Action/intervention field |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Green Cooperations | P2 – SO VI Promoting the transition to a circular and resource efficient economy | 1.1.1. Resource and waste management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>More efficient production</i> ▪ <i>Sustainable waste management and waste prevention</i> |
| | | 1.1.2. Short supply chains |
| | P2 – SO VII Enhancing protection and preservation of nature, biodiversity and green infrastructure, including in urban areas, and reducing all forms of pollution | 1.2.1. Protection and preservation of the natural capital <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Nature conservation and preservation</i> ▪ <i>Improvement of surface and ground water quality</i> ▪ <i>Biodiversity</i> ▪ <i>Green infrastructure</i> |
| | | 1.2.2. Joint risk management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Flood risk management</i> ▪ <i>Disaster risk management</i> |
| 2. Social cooperations | P4 – SO I Enhancing the effectiveness and inclusiveness of labour markets and access to quality employment through developing social infrastructure and promoting social economy | 2.1.1. Social innovations for disadvantaged and vulnerable groups |
| | P4 – SO II Improving equal access to inclusive and quality services in education, training and lifelong learning through developing accessible infrastructure, including by fostering resilience for distance and on-line education and training | 2.2.1. Inclusive and quality education |

| Priority axis | Specific objective | Action/intervention field |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| | P4 – SO V Ensuring equal access to health care through developing infrastructure, including primary care and promoting the transition from institutional to family- and community-based care | 2.3.1. Family and community-based health care services |
| | | 2.3.2. Cross-border development of healthcare institutions |
| | P4 – SO VI Enhancing the role of culture and sustainable tourism in economic development, social inclusion and social innovation | 2.4.1. Preservation of local heritage |
| | | 2.4.2. Complex development of tourism destinations |
| 3. Institutional cooperations | ISO1 – Action b) Enhance efficient public administration by promoting legal and administrative cooperation and cooperation between citizens, civil society actors and institutions, in particular, with a view to resolving legal and other obstacles in border regions | 3.1.1. Eliminating border obstacles |
| | ISO1 – Action c) Build up mutual trust, in particular by encouraging people-to-people actions | 3.2.1 Small project fund |

Figure 3: Intervention logic of the Programme

1.5.2. Detailed information on specific objectives of the Programme

Chapter 1.3. of the programme document provides the following justification for the selection of specific objectives for the Interreg VI-A Hungary Slovakia Cooperation Programme.

P2 – SO VI: Promoting the transition to a circular and resource efficient economy

In both countries there is a shift towards an innovation ecosystem consisting of universities, research institutions, start-ups, SMEs and large enterprises, individuals, public bodies, NGOs and municipalities. Challenges can be tackled by smart specialisation on cross-border level too. Harmonised and joint actions can be envisaged in thematic fields regarded strategic, such as agroindustry (e.g. biofood), energy efficiency, renewable resources (e.g. solar, biomass, geothermic energy), green and circular economy (e.g. waste management). Challenges grouped around slow transition to circular economy are reflected in weak eco-innovation performance, as well as in low resilience of the border regions' industry to climate change impacts. Both countries are lagging behind in the field of resource efficiency. Since the challenge concerns both countries, through joint, cross-border cooperation, they can move together towards circular economy and higher resource efficiency.

It is worth continuing the initiatives in creating cross-border supply chains (see a few of the TAPes, i.e. Territorial Action Plans for Employment). In border areas geographic proximity supports the creation of such chains. Bringing producers, sellers and costumers closer together by supporting the production, processing and market links among them is of great importance, underlined by the recent COVID-19 pandemic too. The majority of the Slovak-Hungarian border areas can build on short (food) supply chains owing to many factors (e.g. the existence of cross-border landscapes, often with organic

farming). The supply chains would support not only economic development but serve sustainability (ecological production, packaging and pollution reduction, circular economy goals etc.).

P2 – SO VII: Enhancing protection and preservation of nature, biodiversity and green infrastructure, including in urban areas, and reducing all forms of pollution

One of the main cohesion elements of the border region is its landscape structure, which does not follow the administrative borders. The landscape is not only connecting and dividing the countries, but in several cases, it is also the ground for the joint actions in relation to enhancing nature protection, biodiversity and green infrastructure. Potentials lie in the application of functional approach taking into account integrated management of cross-border landscapes, development of cross-border management structures, systematic collection of cross-border data in particular.

The whole programme area is part of the Danube water system. Owing to the hydro-geographic location of the two countries, their surface and underground water bodies - including rivers and drinking water sources of high importance, as well as their catchment areas - are having a transboundary character (see tributaries of the Danube and the Tisa such as the Ipoly/Ipel' the Bodrog fed by the Ondava, the Laborec and the Uh, the Sajó/Slaná, the Hernád/Hornád). The upper and lower river sections are places of shared natural values, water habitats as joint potentials, but also represent shared challenges. Due to the transboundary water bodies, joint solutions are required in flood protection and disaster management, improving water quality and remediation of pollution.

Owing to the cross-border character of landscapes, habitats and bio-geographic regions, high share of nature protection areas also stretches along and across the border. Special attention should be given to endangered species and non-native invasive species as joint threats to biodiversity of shared areas.

P4 – SO I: Enhancing the effectiveness and inclusiveness of labour markets and access to quality employment through developing social infrastructure and promoting social economy

Access to quality employment heavily depends on the inclusiveness of the labour markets of the programme area. Unemployment, especially long-term one, and its subsequent consequences are social challenges to be tackled on both sides. Employability of people with low educational attainment living in areas of weak accessibility to employment centres, non-inclusive structure of local economy, educational and employment services is a joint challenge.

Typically, the most disadvantaged and high-unemployment regions coincide, where labour market integration is one of the most critical points. High share of the most disadvantaged regions and districts are situated along the national boundary in both countries. In Slovakia, the southern areas are less developed, more poverty-stricken and have worse employment rates than the northern areas from Okres Rimavská Sobota to Okres Trebišov.

Similarly, in Hungary's northern regions the social problems are more pronounced (e.g. see the Cserehát region). There is also a strong east-west divide; labour market challenges related to unemployment are more significant on the eastern side where a bundle of social problems is present

including access to labour market. To sum up, challenges in these border areas are centred around the intertwined problems of persisting long-term unemployment, high unemployment rate among people with low educational attainment and poor skills, extensive bordering areas with high number and proportion of population at risk of poverty or social exclusion.

Answers to tackling challenges may include development of integrated labour market services (network of pools of jobs and SMEs), cross-border functional urban areas, and integrated programs targeting population at risk of poverty or social exclusion on cross-border level.

P4 – SO II: Improving equal access to inclusive and quality services in education, training and lifelong learning through developing accessible infrastructure, including by fostering resilience for distance and on-line education and training

The two educational systems are largely similar and thus inter-permeable that gives space for cross-border cooperation. Cross-border provision of educational functions, developments based on the joint and complementary features of cross-border functional urban areas have high potential. Cross-border student migration has significantly increased in the last decade along with Slovak citizens participating in the Hungarian public education system. High number of educational stakeholders participates in bilateral and inter-institutional educational cooperation forms in the vicinity of the border.

Educational attainment is one of the most descriptive factors considering the social and spatial inequalities of the programme area. Evidence indicate that social mobility is rather limited on the eastern part of the programme area – both in Slovakia and Hungary – the preservation of the social status for a significant part of young people living in small settlement in the close proximity of the border pose a serious challenge as their educational situation increasingly pushes them to the deprived strata. They face financial and cultural obstacles to high level of education, and their income and status also predicts downward social mobility. The COVID-19 pandemic has also underlined the importance of equal access to educational offers for remote areas lacking sufficient infrastructure and skills to participate in (digital and remote) learning. Thus, the educational portfolios need to be integrated not only due to the outmigration but also because the offer - especially in vocational training - could be more colourful should it be jointly organised.

P4 – SO V: Ensuring equal access to health care through developing infrastructure, including primary care and promoting the transition from institutional to family- and community-based care

There is a need for balancing unequal demographic trends in the region by addressing migration, depopulation and the ageing of the society. Growing dependency ratio and ageing especially call for serious and urgent interventions in improving social conditions by enabling elderly people to take a more active part in the production, distribution and consumption of goods and services while at the same time satisfying their living and health needs. Consequently, support for the development of cross-border social services and silver economy is of great significance. There is a growing need for promoting the active ageing, alternative care activities, knowledge sharing of professionals, joint strategies to enhance the population retention capacity of the border area, launching tailor-based

social services. Potentials lie in supporting cross-border integration of related public services and improving accessibility of social care functions across the border.

Healthcare cooperation is underlined by challenges of deteriorating healthcare systems regarding personnel and territorial coverage in distinct border regions, untapped potentials in cross-border health care provision regarding hospitals and, outpatient care, the need for a more complex and integrated cooperation would be preferred on the field of the cross-border emergency services. The examples related to COVID-19 crisis show the significance of cross-border health service development, in particular with regard to commuters crossing the border regularly. Better preparedness for treatments related to viruses should be developed. Therefore, responses are required especially in relation to cross-border share of available capacities, platforms enabling the cross-border movement and operation of ambulance cars, support of joint surveys, strategies, action plans, purchase of health-care equipment, development of telemedical and e-health infrastructure, exchange of know-how and capacity building activities. Consequently, there is a need for identification and development of cross-border health care zones around medical centres. Future development can partly rely on already existing solutions (e.g. treatment of Slovaks at the hospital of Esztergom).

P4 – SO VI: Enhancing the role of culture and sustainable tourism in economic development, social inclusion and social innovation

The role of culture and tourism in the cohesion and socio-economic life of the border region is stressed by multiple potentials and challenges. The border area is rich in tangible and intangible heritage elements of the co-existing Slovak and Hungarian cultures, many of which are situated along the border. A large variety of historical urban centres rich in monuments and other built cultural attractions like castles, museums, and sacral monuments lie in the border area. Thematic routes with different cultural topics supporting the interconnection of cultural attractions provide a great opportunity for diversifying the offer of border destinations and making the region more attractive.

Considering overnight stays, there is a potential for further strengthening the cohesion of the border region. There are extensive areas and numerous sites with growing number of incoming tourists from the neighbouring country too, which are either situated along the state borders or could be better interconnected. The tourism sector of the rural, often peripheral regions performs much weaker, despite their varied natural and cultural heritage and potentials in slow and sustainable tourism packages in the post-pandemic recovery.

Lack of interlinked cultural and natural heritage sites by thematic routes and sufficient mobility solutions harden the capitalization. Cross-border tourist flow underlines the potential in creating joint tourist products, services, information and marketing tools to better boost tourism across the border. Thus, there is a potential in developing joint cross-border tourist destinations. Destination level cooperation gives a good basis for tourism developments which would further increase the valorisation of heritage, the connectedness of such tourist attractions. The territorial actors share the view that tourism is the key topic of the integrated development of the borderland.

ISO1 – Aciton b: Enhance efficient public administration by promoting legal and administrative cooperation and cooperation between citizens, civil society actors and institutions, in particular, with a view to resolving legal and other obstacles in border regions

The border region has been going through a dynamic opening process during the last decade. As a result, the social and economic relations have significantly enhanced at functional urban areas. In parallel with it, several legal and administrative obstacles have emerged. These obstacles, rooted in the different legal and public administration systems, cover fields from education (e.g. recognition of certificates), health care (e.g. limited movement of ambulance cars across the border), short supply chains (e.g. taxation problems of producers) and of transport (e.g. complex standards for public transport) but employment, disaster management, public procurement issues are also affected. These factors significantly hamper both economic and social interactions on a daily basis. Stronger cohesion of the border regions and the intensification of interactions require comprehensive monitoring, analysis and elimination of legal as well as administrative obstacles. Thus, there is a need for eliminating or mitigating barriers to cross-border mobility and integration on a coordinated level.

In overcoming obstacles and promoting cooperation between administrations and civil society actors, certain types of territorial cooperation have a long history in the border region. Hundreds of twin town agreements have been set-up since the regime change and the Slovak-Hungarian border gives home to the most EGTCs in the EU.

Instead of developing parallel structures on both sides of the border, there is a need for the strategic utilisation of functional areas to find joint solutions for better governance and service provision in certain thematic fields. As practice shows it is often the missing approach to create long-term, institutionalised, strategic plans and the lack of information dissemination on cross-border life events related to cross-border migration that hinders stronger integration. Cooperation would help tackling cross-border legal and administrative barriers and contribute to the successful realisation of other activities planned within the chosen SOs of the Programme at the same time

ISO1 – Aciton c: Build up mutual trust, in particular by encouraging people-to-people actions

People-to-people cooperation projects are an important and successful tool in CBC programmes that are designed to initiate and promote grassroots contacts and interaction between people on different sides of the border. P2P is supported by various factors: thousand-year co-existence of Slovaks and Hungarians; existing cooperation initiatives supporting the fields of culture, education, science, sports and youth of the two countries; high density of partnerships regarding town-twinning; high share of Slovak and Hungarian cultural and civil organisations interested in interethnic, intercultural and bilingual interactions; entertainment, leisure, visiting family and friends as important motivations in crossing the border.

Interpersonal, especially cultural cooperation was a very popular topic especially among the applicants of the Small Project Fund calls of the previous Programme. Festivals, camps, youth encounters, cultural exchanges are frequent themes of these projects that help building mutual trust and giving space to P2P interactions. The Small Project Fund as a tool has been assessed as very useful by the regional

stakeholders, who feel that they could efficiently use this support to attain their goals in the pursuit of territorial development. According to the unanimous opinion of the regional stakeholders, within this SO SPF should be kept. Apart from physical outputs, the related developments form a massive basis for any further and additional cross-border initiative by bringing stakeholders closer together. The biggest added value is its effect on building partnerships, as kind of a horizontal approach too that contributes to all the other designated SOs. Thus, there is a proven need for a larger number of stronger cultural and P2P cooperation projects in order to enhance mutual trust and knowledge between the citizens and to reduce the separating effects of the border.

For further details as regards the specific actions proposed within the Interreg VI-A Hungary-Slovakia Programme, please refer to Chapter 2 of the programme document.

1.6. Relationship with other relevant plans programmes, and environmental protection objectives established in these documents

The environmental assessment also included an analysis on the relationship between specific objectives of the Programme and objectives of EU-level, and national programmes relevant from an environmental point of view. We examined whether objectives of Programme support, hinder, or do not affect the achievement of environmental or sustainability goals set in strategic documents. Results of the analysis are summarized in the table below.

| Environmental and/or sustainability objectives of the documents | Priorities and specific objectives of the Programme | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|---------------|-----------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|------------------|------------------|
| | Priority axis 1 | | Priority axis 2 | | | | Priority axis 3 | |
| | PO2 SO VI | PO2 SO VII | PO4 SO I | PO4 SO II | PO4 SO V | PO4 SO VI | ISO1 Action b | ISO1 Action c |
| EUROPEAN UNION | | | | | | | | |
| European Green Deal | | | | | | | | |
| Increasing the EU's climate ambition for 2030 and 2050 | + | + | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Supplying clean, affordable and secure energy | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Mobilising industry for a clean and circular economy | + | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Building and renovating in an energy and resource efficient way | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| A zero pollution ambition for a toxic-free environment | + | + | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Preserving and restoring ecosystems and biodiversity | + | + | - | - | - | ? | - | - |
| From "Farm to Fork": a fair, healthy and environmentally friendly food system | + | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Accelerating the shift to sustainable and smart mobility | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 8th Environmental Action Programme (proposal) | | | | | | | | |
| Achieving the 2030 greenhouse gas emission reduction target and climate neutrality by 2050 | + | + | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Enhancing adaptive capacity, strengthening resilience and reducing vulnerability to climate change | - | + | + | + | + | - | - | - |
| Advancing towards a regenerative growth model, decoupling economic growth from resource use and environmental degradation, and accelerating the transition to a circular economy | + | - | - | - | - | ? | - | - |
| Pursuing a zero-pollution ambition, including for air, water and soil and protecting the health and well-being of Europeans | + | + | - | - | + | - | - | - |
| Protecting, preserving and restoring biodiversity, and enhancing natural capital (notably air, water, soil, and forest, freshwater, wetland and marine ecosystems) | + | + | - | - | - | ? | - | - |
| Reducing environmental and climate pressures related to production and consumption (particularly in the areas of energy, industrial development, buildings and infrastructure, mobility and the food system) | + | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 | | | | | | | | |
| Bringing nature back to agricultural land | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Addressing land take and restoring soil ecosystems | - | + | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Increasing the quantity of forests and improving their health and resilience | - | + | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Win-win solutions for energy generation | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Restoring freshwater ecosystems | - | + | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Greening urban and peri-urban areas | - | + | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Reducing pollution | + | + | - | - | - | - | - | - |

| Environmental and/or sustainability objectives of the documents | Priorities and specific objectives of the Programme | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|---------------|-----------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|------------------|------------------|
| | Priority axis 1 | | Priority axis 2 | | | | Priority axis 3 | |
| | PO2 SO VI | PO2 SO VII | PO4 SO I | PO4 SO II | PO4 SO V | PO4 SO VI | ISO1 Action b | ISO1 Action c |
| Addressing invasive alien species | - | + | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Improving knowledge, education and skills | - | + | - | ? | - | - | - | - |
| HUNGARY | | | | | | | | |
| National Framework Strategy on Sustainable Development of Hungary | | | | | | | | |
| Natural resources: Biodiversity, renewable natural resources | - | + | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Natural resources: Reducing the environmental impact on human well-being | + | + | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Natural resources: Rational use of non-renewable natural resources | + | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| National Development and Territorial Development Concept of Hungary | | | | | | | | |
| Demographical change, healthy and renewable society | - | - | + | + | + | - | - | - |
| Sustainable use of our natural resources, preservation of our values and protection of our environment | + | + | - | - | - | ? | - | - |
| Sustainable spatial structure based on regional potentials | + | - | - | - | - | - | + | - |
| National Environmental Programme 5 (proposal) | | | | | | | | |
| Improving the environmental conditions for human health and quality of life, reducing the impact of environmental pressures | + | + | - | - | - | ? | - | - |
| Protection, restoration and sustainable use of natural values | + | + | - | - | - | ? | - | - |
| Improving resource saving and efficiency, greening the economy and strengthening the circular economy | + | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Improve environmental safety | + | + | - | - | - | ? | - | - |
| National Climate Change Strategy of Hungary | | | | | | | | |
| Decarbonization | + | + | - | - | - | ? | - | - |
| Adaptation and preparation | - | + | - | - | + | - | - | - |
| Ensuring a climate partnership | ? | ? | - | - | - | - | ? | - |
| National Energy and Climate Plan of Hungary | | | | | | | | |
| Decarbonization | + | + | - | - | - | ? | - | - |
| Energy efficiency | + | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Energy security | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Research, innovation, and competitiveness | + | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| National Water Strategy (Kvassay Jenő Plan) of Hungary | | | | | | | | |
| Water retention to make better use of our waters | - | + | - | - | - | - | - | - |

| Environmental and/or sustainability objectives of the documents | Priorities and specific objectives of the Programme | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|---------------|-----------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|------------------|------------------|
| | Priority axis 1 | | Priority axis 2 | | | | Priority axis 3 | |
| | PO2 SO VI | PO2 SO VII | PO4 SO I | PO4 SO II | PO4 SO V | PO4 SO VI | ISO1 Action b | ISO1 Action c |
| Preventive flood and inland water protection | - | + | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Gradual improvement of water quality until good status / potential is reached | - | + | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| High quality water utility service, implementation of rainwater management, with tolerable consumer load | - | + | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Improving the relationship between society and water (at individual, economic and decision-making levels) | - | + | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| National Landscape Strategy of Hungary | | | | | | | | |
| Landscape utilization based on landscape features | ? | + | - | - | - | ? | - | - |
| Liveable landscape - liveable settlement - wise land use | ? | + | - | - | - | ? | - | - |
| Increasing landscape identity | - | - | - | - | - | + | - | - |
| National Tourism Development Strategy 2030 of Hungary | | | | | | | | |
| The Kiszaludgy Tourism Development Program: product and attraction development based on destination logic, basic infrastructure development | - | - | - | - | - | + | - | - |
| Identity | - | - | - | - | - | + | - | - |
| REPUBLIC OF SLOVAKIA | | | | | | | | |
| Strategic Transport Development Plan of the Slovak Republic until 2030 - Phase II | | | | | | | | |
| To safeguard equal access of settlements and industrial zones... | + | - | + | + | + | + | - | - |
| Sustainable development of transport system... | + | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Improvement of competitiveness ... | + | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Improvement of safety and security of transport... | - | + | + | - | - | + | - | - |
| Lowering the negative environmental and socio-economic effects of the transport incl. the climate change... | + | + | + | + | + | + | - | - |
| Greener Slovakia - Strategy of the Environmental Policy of the Slovak Republic until 2030 | | | | | | | | |
| Sustainable use and efficient protection of natural resources (water, ecosystems and landscape, soil, forests, raw materials) | + | + | - | - | + | + | - | - |
| Climate change and air protection | + | + | - | - | - | + | - | - |
| Green economy and governance | + | + | - | + | - | + | + | + |
| Vision and Strategy of the Development of Slovakia 2030 - National National Strategy for Regional Development | | | | | | | | |
| To stop demographic decline and support the growth of economically active population | + | - | + | + | + | - | - | - |
| To support accessibility and quality of education and to harmonise it with labour market demand | - | - | + | + | - | - | - | - |
| To improve health of population and length of active life | - | + | + | - | + | - | - | - |
| To safeguard efficient and sustainable management of natural resources | + | + | - | - | - | - | - | - |

| Environmental and/or sustainability objectives of the documents | Priorities and specific objectives of the Programme | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|---------------|-----------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|------------------|------------------|
| | Priority axis 1 | | Priority axis 2 | | | | Priority axis 3 | |
| | PO2 SO VI | PO2 SO VII | PO4 SO I | PO4 SO II | PO4 SO V | PO4 SO VI | ISO1 Action b | ISO1 Action c |
| To support the development of resilient innovation oriented regional economies | + | + | + | + | - | + | - | - |
| To complete infrastructure of innovation oriented green economy | + | + | + | + | + | + | - | - |
| To support sustainability and resilience of national and regional economies | + | + | + | + | + | + | + | - |
| To support accessibility, transparency and efficiency of public governance | | | - | - | - | | + | - |
| To support economic sustainability of local and regional communities | + | + | + | + | + | + | + | + |
| To support accessibility and sustainability of modern efficient infrastructure, services, and housing | + | + | + | + | + | + | + | - |
| National Strategy for Sustainable Development | | | | | | | | |
| Democracy development, modern state and public governance system, social solidarity and security | - | - | + | + | + | + | + | + |
| Balanced territorial development | + | + | + | + | - | + | + | + |
| High quality of human resources | + | - | + | + | + | - | - | + |
| New model of economy | + | + | + | + | - | + | - | - |
| High quality of living environment | + | + | - | - | + | + | - | - |
| National Strategy for Biodiversity Protection | | | | | | | | |
| Nature protection | - | + | - | - | + | + | - | - |
| Sustainability and strengthening of the ecosystems | - | + | - | - | + | + | - | - |
| Protection of biodiversity in the state agricultural, forestry, fishing policy | + | + | - | - | + | + | - | - |
| Fight with invasive species | - | + | - | - | + | - | - | - |
| Lowering the pressure on biodiversity and rational use of genetic resources | - | + | - | - | + | + | - | - |
| Harmnoising sectoral and environmental policies | + | + | + | + | + | + | + | + |
| National policy framework for the development of the market with alternative fuels | | | | | | | | |
| Support for the development of infrastructure of alternative fuels | + | - | -+ | - | - | + | - | - |
| Research and development in the field of alternative fuels | + | - | + | + | - | + | - | - |
| Support of entrepreneurs in the field of alternative fuels | + | - | + | - | - | + | - | - |
| Stimulation of demand on cars with alternative engine | + | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Recovery and Resilience Plan years 2018-2030 | | | | | | | | |
| Green economy | + | + | + | + | - | + | - | - |
| Education | - | - | + | + | - | - | - | - |
| Science, research and innovations | + | - | + | + | - | - | - | - |

| Environmental and/or sustainability objectives of the documents | Priorities and specific objectives of the Programme | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|---------------|-----------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|------------------|------------------|
| | Priority axis 1 | | Priority axis 2 | | | | Priority axis 3 | |
| | PO2 SO VI | PO2 SO VII | PO4 SO I | PO4 SO II | PO4 SO V | PO4 SO VI | ISO1 Action b | ISO1 Action c |
| Public health | - | + | - | + | + | - | - | - |
| More efficient public governance and digitalisation | - | - | - | + | - | - | + | + |
| Spatial Development Perspective of Slovak Republic | | | | | | | | |
| Promotion of the development of the economic basis and the strengthening of its competitiveness and effectiveness | + | - | + | + | - | + | - | - |
| Promotion of balanced settlement development, including the rural development | + | + | + | + | + | + | + | - |
| Provision of equivalent access to infrastructure | + | - | + | + | + | + | - | - |
| Protection and creation of environmental, natural and cultural heritage | - | + | - | - | - | + | - | - |
| Promotion of integration and cohesion | + | + | + | + | + | + | + | - |
| Provision of sustainable development | + | + | + | + | + | + | + | + |
| National strategy for the development of bicycle transport and cycling tourism in the Slovak Republic | | | | | | | | |
| Cycling infrastructure development | - | - | + | + | - | - | - | - |
| Education and public awareness rising | - | - | + | + | - | - | - | - |
| National investment plan 2018 - 2030 | | | | | | | | |
| Support and development of green economy, transport, energy sector, ICT | + | + | + | + | - | + | - | - |
| Green and environmental infrastructure | + | + | - | - | - | + | - | - |
| Climate change adaptation, mitigation | + | + | - | - | - | + | - | - |
| Science, research, innovations | + | + | + | + | - | + | - | - |
| Education | + | - | + | + | - | - | - | - |
| Public health | - | - | - | - | + | - | - | - |

Legend

- + Specific objective of Programme is in line with environmental/ sustainability objective
- ! Specific objective of Programme jeopardizes the achievement of the environmental/ sustainability goal
- ? Specific objective's impact on the environmental objective depends on the way of implementation
- 0 Specific objective of Programme and environmental/ sustainability objective are not related to each other

Figure 4: Relationship between specific objectives of the Programme and objectives of EU-level, and national strategies relevant from an environmental point of view

The Programme is in fully accordance with relevant strategic documents as listed in the table above. The defined priorities relate to the priorities of cross-sectoral as well as sectoral policies in the field of environmental, social and economic sustainability.

Overall, it can be concluded that **the Programme supports**, directly or indirectly, and to obviously varying degrees, **the achievement of most of the environmental and sustainability objectives identified in the EU and Member State level strategy documents**. This is primarily due to the fact that the Programme includes activities with different environmental approaches, so that the planned actions include interventions with a specific preventive focus (e.g. "Development of circular economy"), as well as those aimed at monitoring and remedying pollution that has already occurred (e.g. "Improvement of surface and ground water quality"). Finally, it is definitely worth emphasizing that the planned actions are not expected to prevent the achievement of any environmental and sustainability objectives.

1.7. Internal consistency of the programme document from an environmental aspect

1.7.1. Contradictions between Chapter 1 and Chapter 2 of the Programme

The Chapter 1 of the Programme, besides economic and social characteristics, also explores the environmental characteristics of the development area, and identifies the most important environmental conflicts. According to the planning logic, the objectives and actions of the Programme set out in the second chapter are aimed at resolving these.

Overall, the intervention logic of the Programme adequately reflects the environmental challenges identified in Chapter 1. Most of these, especially increasing amount of waste generated, vulnerability of biodiversity, surface and ground water, unfavourable consequences climate change are responded in a substantive manner by the relevant actions of the Programme under the priority axis 1. "Green Cooperation". Still, the Programme does not address all the environmental and sustainability challenges identified in the first chapter (e.g. gaps in exploiting renewable energy potential), which is due to its limited resources and relevantly, the necessity of focusing on the planned developments.

1.7.2. Internal consistency of the Programme from an environmental point of view

The internal synergy of the Programme was examined at the level of each action. The assessment sought to clarify whether the individual actions together amplify the expected positive or possibly the adverse environmental impacts, further on, whether there are any of them that have conflicting environmental consequences. The results may differ in terms of the effects on different environmental elements. Therefore, for the sake of clarity, in the table below presenting the results of the assessments we have focussed on the processes having the greatest impact.

| Actions | 1.1.1 | 1.1.2 | 1.2.1. | 1.2.2. | 2.1.1. | 2.2.1. | 2.3.1 | 2.3.2. | 2.4.1. | 2.4.2. | 3.1.1. | 3.2.1. |
|---------|-------|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 1.1.1 | | + | + | 0 | 0 | + | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 1.1.2 | + | | + | 0 | + | 0 | 0 | 0 | + | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 1.2.1 | + | + | | + | 0 | 0 | + | + | + | >< | 0 | 0 |
| 1.2.2. | 0 | 0 | + | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2.1.1. | + | + | 0 | 0 | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2.2.1. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2.3.1. | 0 | 0 | + | 0 | 0 | 0 | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2.3.2. | 0 | 0 | + | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2.4.1. | 0 | + | + | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | + | 0 | + |
| 2.4.2. | 0 | 0 | >< | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | + | | 0 | 0 |
| 3.1.1. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | 0 |
| 3.2.1. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | + | 0 | 0 | |

Legend

| | |
|----|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| + | Actions jointly contributing to a positive environmental impact |
| ! | Actions jointly causing some adverse environmental impacts |
| >< | Actions potentially causing contradictory environmental impacts |
| 0 | Actions not interrelated in terms of environmental impact |

Figure 5: Synergies of actions from an environmental point of view

The main result of the internal environmental consistency analysis of the Programme is that the Programme does not contain any actions that could amplify each other's adverse environmental effects and thus create a risk of increased exploitation of and pressure on environmental elements and systems. On the contrary, the analysis has shown that **most of the actions within the Programme are either environmentally neutral or have unrelated environmental consequences** (e.g. the actions “Development of circular economy” and “Complex development of tourism destinations” both have environmental impacts, but these are typically not in the same area and are not independent of each other). Of course, the **simultaneous implementation of some actions that are particularly beneficial from an environmental, nature and landscape point of view will multiply the expected positive impacts. Potentially opposite environmental impacts have only been identified between tourism development and action aimed at protecting natural capital.** In this case the key concern is the potential adverse environmental effects of tourism development, which can largely be prevented though, as detailed in Section 4.1.

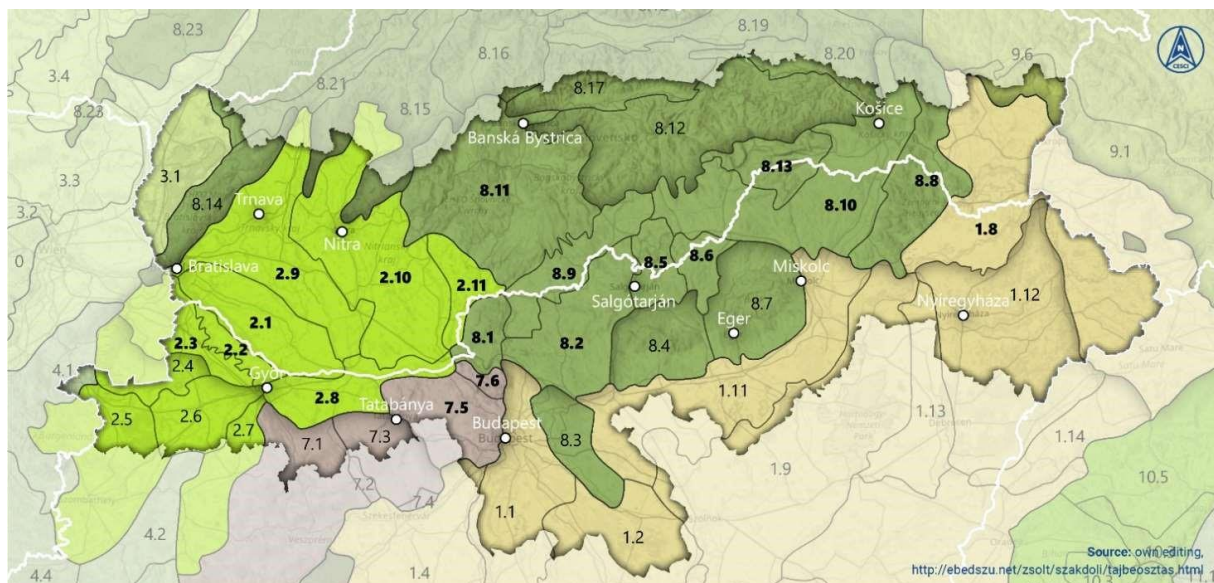
2. CURRENT STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT IN THE PROGRAMME AREA AND THE LIKELY EVOLUTION THEREOF WITHOUT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME

The following chapter is partly an extract and summary from Chapter 2 of Territorial Analysis, while the other part is based on public databases.

2.1. The environmental characteristics of the areas which are likely to be affected by the programme objectives

2.1.1. Landscape structure

One of the main cohesion elements of the border region is its landscape structure, which do not respect administrative borders, although, sometimes natural features can define borders between countries. The landscape is not only connecting and dividing the countries, but in several cases, it is also the ground for the joint heritage management.



Macroregions of the Programme Area and the mesoregions in the border area

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>1. Nagyalföld / Velká dunajská nížina 1.8. Felső-Tisza-síkság</p> <p>2. Kisalföld és peremvidéke / Malá dunajská nížina 2.1. Csallóköz / Žitný Ostrov; 2.2. Szigetköz; 2.3. Mosoni-síkság; 2.8. Győr-Esztergomi-síkság; 2.9. Mátyusföld; 2.10. Nyitra-Bácsi-halomvidék / Podunajská pahorkatina – východná časť; 2.11. Honti-medence / Hontianská kotlina</p> <p>3. Duna-Morva medence / Moravsko-Viedenská kotlina</p> | <p>7. Dunántúli-középhegység 7.5. Dunazug-hegyvidék; 7.6. Visegrádi-hegység</p> <p>8. Északnyugati-Kárpátok / Západné Karpaty 8.1. Börzsönyvidék; 8.2. Cserhátvidék / Cerová vrchovina; 8.5. Medvesvidék / Medvešská vrchovina; 8.6. Vajdavár-dombvidék; 8.7. Bükkvidék; 8.8. Eperjes-Tokaji-hegyvidék / Slanské vrchy); 8.9. Nógrádi-medence / Ipel'ská kotlina; 8.10. Sajó-Hernád-medence / Rimavsko-košická kotlina); 8.11. Selmeci-körhegység / Slovenské stredohorie; 8.12. Gömör-Szepesi-érchegység / Slovenské rudohorie); 8.13. Gömör-Tornai-karszt / Slovenský kras</p> |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|



Figure 6: Macro- and mesoregions in the border area (Source: Territorial analysis, CESCI, 2020.)

The Hungarian part of the programme area is characterized by flatlands and mountain ranges, while highlands dominate the Slovak part, with flatlands to the south, and rugged hills interspersed with wide valleys to the east and west. The programme area incorporates 5 natural geographic macroregions of the Pannon-Carpathian region, of which the Transdanubian Mountains (Dunántúli-középhegység) belong exclusively to Hungary, the Danube-Morava Basin only to Slovakia. The Little Plain (Kisalföld/Malá dunajská kotlina), the Great Plains (Nagyalföld) and the North-Western Carpathians all stretch across the national boundary.

The studied area comprises about 50 mesoregions with distinguished geography, hydrography and relief endowments. Going more into details, the programme area can be divided into around 200

micro-regions. Approximately 20 of the mesoregions and 80 of the microregions are considered as border landscapes, and being geographically similar.

The landscape along the Hungary-Slovakia national boundary is versatile, but the differences do not relate to the administrative borders, the landscapes cross the border in their natural way. From a territorial perspective, cross-border landscapes and landscape characteristics, such as border rivers, mountains or plains, stretching across the border might either connect or divide Hungary and Slovakia.

2.1.2. Soil conditions

The soil conditions in the area covered by the Programme are very diverse, as illustrated by the FAO soil map below.

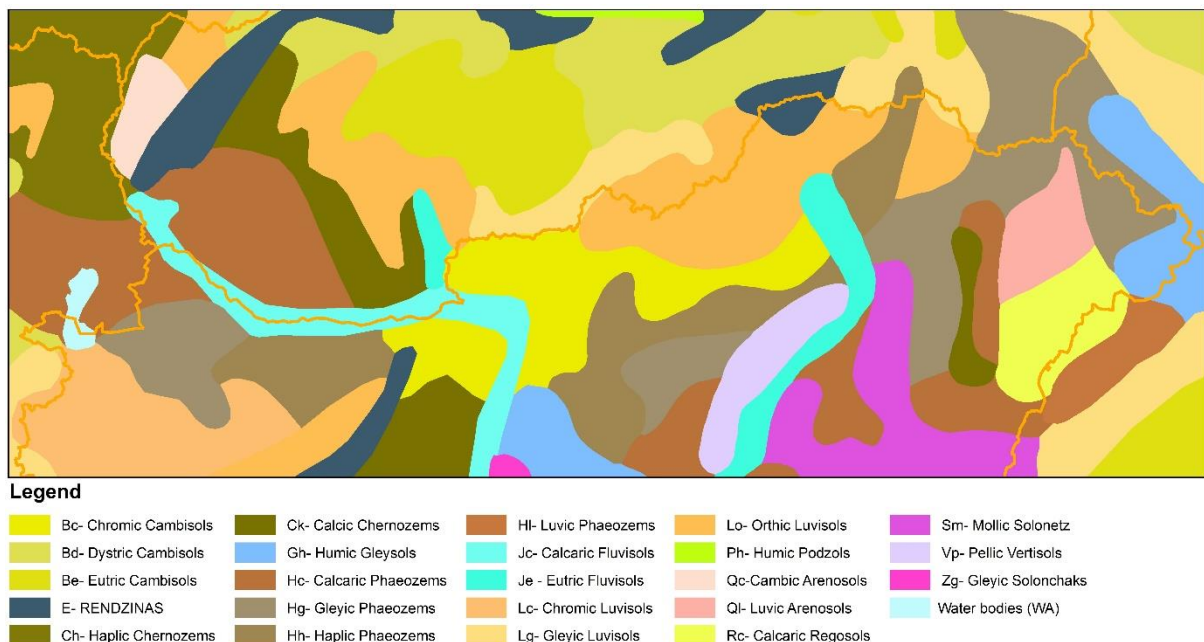


Figure 7: Soil conditions of the Programme area (Source: FAO)

Formation of soil types was mainly determined by the topographic and hydrographic conditions, which also determine the threats to which soils are confronted. In hilly and mountainous areas, there is a significant risk of erosion, which is exacerbated by improper cultivation methods (e.g. downhill cultivation), next to climate change impacts. Areas exposed to wind, such as the Little Hungarian Plain and the Great Hungarian Plain, are threatened by deflation, which can also be exacerbated by climate change, however, the impact can be mitigated by proper cultivation and creation of forest belts.

2.1.3. Water resources, river basins, water management

The whole programme area belongs to the catchment area of the Danube. The Danube is the most significant water link between the two countries, the other significant border river is the Ipoly/Ipel'. Slovakia's western border river is the Morava. The major rivers of the Danube Lowland (Podunajská nížina) are the Little-Danube (Malý Dunaj/Kis-Duna), the Váh/Vág, the Nitra and the Hron/Garam. The

right-bank tributaries of the Danube are the Mosoni-Duna and the Rába, the latter one joined by rivers Répce and Marcal. Turning to the East, the Tisza/Tisa is the biggest river, being a border river on a short section, too. Important right-bank tributaries are the Bodrog fed by the Ondava, the Latorica, the Laborec and the Uh, and the Sajó/Slaná fed by the Hernád/Hornád. A left-bank tributary of importance in the programme area is the Szamos/Someş, springing from Romania.

The protection of water quality is essential for preserving the purity of the water bases. One of the most significant drinking water sources is under the alluvial gravel deposits of the Little Plain (Kisalföld/Malá dunajská kotlina). Besides, four relevant drinking water sources can be found in the programme area (Komárňanská Vysoká Kryha/Dunántúli-középhegység; Slovenský kras/Aggtelekihegység; the river Bodrog; the river Szamos/Someş) . Karsts are especially valuable parts of the drinking water base. The Aggtelek Karst and the Slovak Karst (Slovenský kras) form one unit from a hydrogeological perspective, as underground water sources are linked and directly affect each other. Karst water is particularly vulnerable to pollution; therefore, its protection is primarily important for the sake of long-term water supply.

2.1.4. Natural values, protected areas, biodiversity

All along the national boundary, several areas are either protected or deserving protection in the future. Relatively well conserved ecosystems with rich biodiversity are located in the area in focus. Different levels of protection serve these areas, from national parks to Natura 2000 areas. In Hungary, 5 national parks are situated in the border region: Fertő-Hanság National Park, Duna–Ipoly National Park, Bükk National Park, Aggtelek National Park and Hortobágy National Park. It has been debated for years now whether a Danube National Park at Szigetköz/Malý Žitný ostrov would be necessary to be established.

The Slovak part of the frontier has 5 national parks, too: Nízke Tatry National Park, Muránska Planina National Park, Slovenský Raj National Park, Slovenský Kras National Park and Velka Fatra National Park.

The caves of Aggtelek and the Slovak Karst have been classified as joint natural world heritage sites of the two countries since 1995. Besides national parks, landscape protection zones, Natura 2000 and Ramsari areas, numerous smaller, protected sites, natural assets (e.g. caves, bogs, salt ponds), natural monuments (e.g. hive stones, earthworks, mounds, springs) are situated in the border region. In accordance with national and European Union legislation, development in the Natura 2000 areas is rather restricted - only activities compatible with the aims of protection are authorized

However, the natural conditions of the border region do not only provide an appropriate basis to the protection of natural values, but they also play an outstandingly important role in the economic life of the region. The west side of the border region is a significantly important rural area in both countries. Viniculture is present in almost the entire border region. Natural values and conditions also play an important role in active tourism and bath tourism.

2.1.5. Cultural heritage

The Slovak-Hungarian border area is very rich in tangible and intangible heritage elements, many of which are situated along the border, or are even shared by both countries.

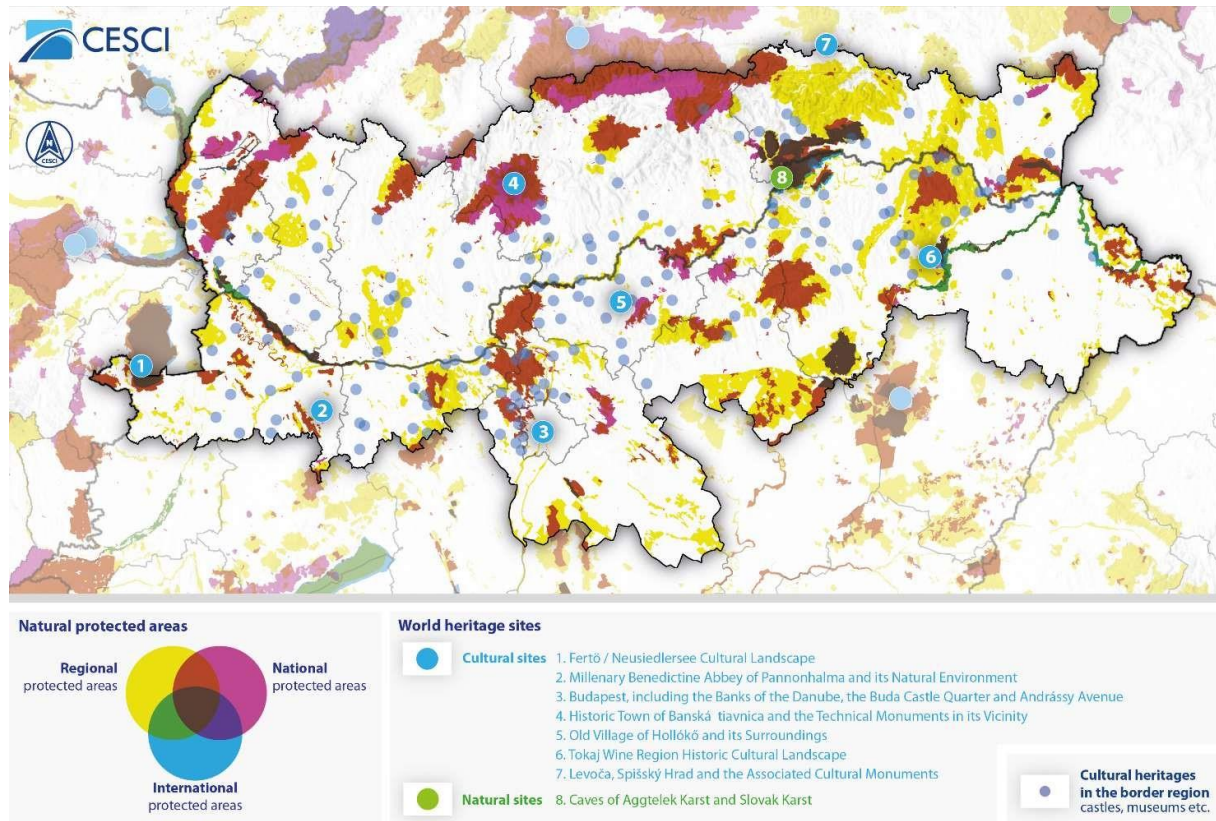


Figure 8: Natural and cultural heritages in the border area (Source: Territorial analysis, CESC, 2020.)

One of the foundations of cooperation based on heritage management is the existence of crossborder natural values and landscapes perceptible in the physical space and cultural heritage created over the centuries sometimes collectively, sometimes individually. The map above shows the main natural and cultural heritages of the region based on the database of natural reserves, the UNESCO World Heritage List and the cultural heritages in the cross-border area.

A large variety of historical urban centres rich in monuments and other built cultural attractions lie in the border area, e.g. from the city centre of Bratislava and Győr through the joint section of the Roman Limes and the cross-border fortress system of Komárom and Komárno, to Füzér Castle. Among these sites, several receive visitors from the neighbouring country, who are not only leading the chart of all incomers, but on certain days outnumber even the inland tourist traffic. Castles, palaces and mansions represent common heritage, but also the cult and respect of some historical personalities (e.g. the Rákóczi family).

The border regions do not only need the joint promotion of the heritage, they need the development of the related infrastructure as well. The overall management of the heritage and its exploitation in

the form of creative industry (collection, research, preservation, digitisation, presentation, processing, marketing, ecological and cultural event organisation) is still at an early stage. At integrated institutional level and on a long-term basis cooperation in heritage management is not widespread.

Intellectual cultural heritage elements

The following map was made focusing on the border region showing the cultural values and dot-like attractions in municipalities within 30 and 60 minutes of certain public border crossings.

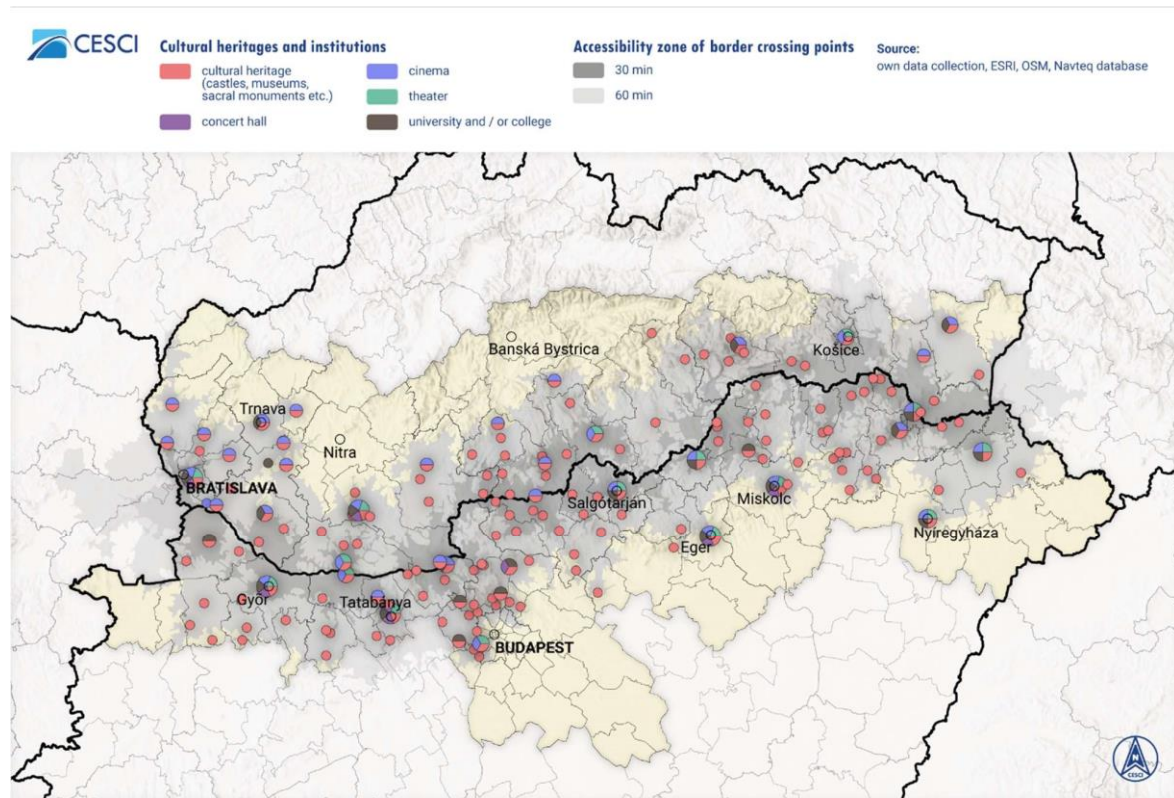


Figure 9: Cultural heritages and institutions in the border region (Source: Territorial analysis, CESCO, 2020.)

On the basis of the figure, it is immediately clear that the majority of cultural sites are located on the Hungarian side and they are especially rich in the area between Esztergom and Budapest, while the area around Bratislava appears with the most identified sites from the Slovakian side. Cultural heritage, like castles, museums, sacral monuments are the most numerous attractions on both sides of the border, but also with significant dominance of the Hungarian side especially in the eastern border areas. In the domain of theatres, the Hungarian side is more prevailing and it offers more widespread options, due to its better territorial coverage, while there are only few Slovakian theatres within close vicinity of borders. Concert halls and universities/colleges are also unequally distributed in Slovakia, thus they are concentrated in western regions, while Hungary possess a more equal distribution within the given border area. Finally, distribution of cinemas is denser around the regions of Bratislava and Trnava, but they appear approximately with the same level in the other regions on both sides of the border. A relative equal distribution of cinemas reflects the influence of the culture

of the film industry and the similar demand for it on both sides of the border. However, there are some subregions where this cultural function is only reachable on one side of the border. Thanks to the rising popularity of screening subtitled films and in parallel the knowledge of the other side's language these situations are serving as a good basis for cross-border functional cooperation.

2.1.6. Climate characteristics, the impacts of climate change

According to the forecast, years affected by drought will increase on both the Hungarian and the Slovakian side. The frequency of droughts increased in the inspected areas over the 50 years between 1962 and 2011. Extreme droughts have become more and more frequent in the second half of the period, besides the increasing trend. Between 1901 and 2016, extremities regarding warm temperature increased and extremities regarding cold temperature decreased because of climate change.

Water scarcity and aridification will not only become more frequent and prolonged, it will also affect the natural environment, natural resources, and agricultural forestry production bases. They also draw attention to the increasing uncertainties of the population's water and food supply and the deteriorating quality of drinking water and food ingredients, while production costs and the risks of corporations and investors increase. Since these risks and challenges are of a regional nature, a close cross-border cooperation is needed to solve the problems.

Extreme weather conditions, posing serious hydrological danger, occur more frequently as a consequence of climate change. The amount of precipitation days decreases, but that of days when a large amount of precipitation falls at once increases. This tendency affects the forestry and agricultural sector negatively on both sides of the border, damages soil erosion and flood control systems, and as the soil is unable to absorb intense precipitation, surface run-off can significantly increase. The extremely severe storms and hails are becoming increasingly common environmental phenomena, and they are posing significant risks to agricultural production.

A further consequence of climate change is the increased frequency and severity of floods in the warmer and wetter water period. The risk of floods can also be increased by factors like the mismanagement of floodplains, mud silting up or the incapacity of protection systems. Overall, the annual water balance shows a decreasing trend in the region regarding both surface and groundwater.

2.1.7. Natural resources, energy potentials

The border region has favourable geothermal conditions, which offers among others good conditions to establish thermal baths. The figure above shows that basically the eastern areas of the border region are characterized by a warmer heat flow, and these areas are more extended on the Hungarian side. The area beginning at the southeastern part of Pest region, expanding in a northeast direction through Heves region and Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén region, all the way until the eastern part of Košický kraj, including the region of Budapest and Banskobystrický kraj have the most favourable geothermal conditions. Also, due to the geographical structure of the Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg county and its hydrogeological features, the exploration of geothermal energy hides particularly favorable

opportunities, especially within the area closed by Tiszavasvári-Nagyhalász-Kisvárdá-Fehérgyarmat-Nagyecsed-Nagykálló.

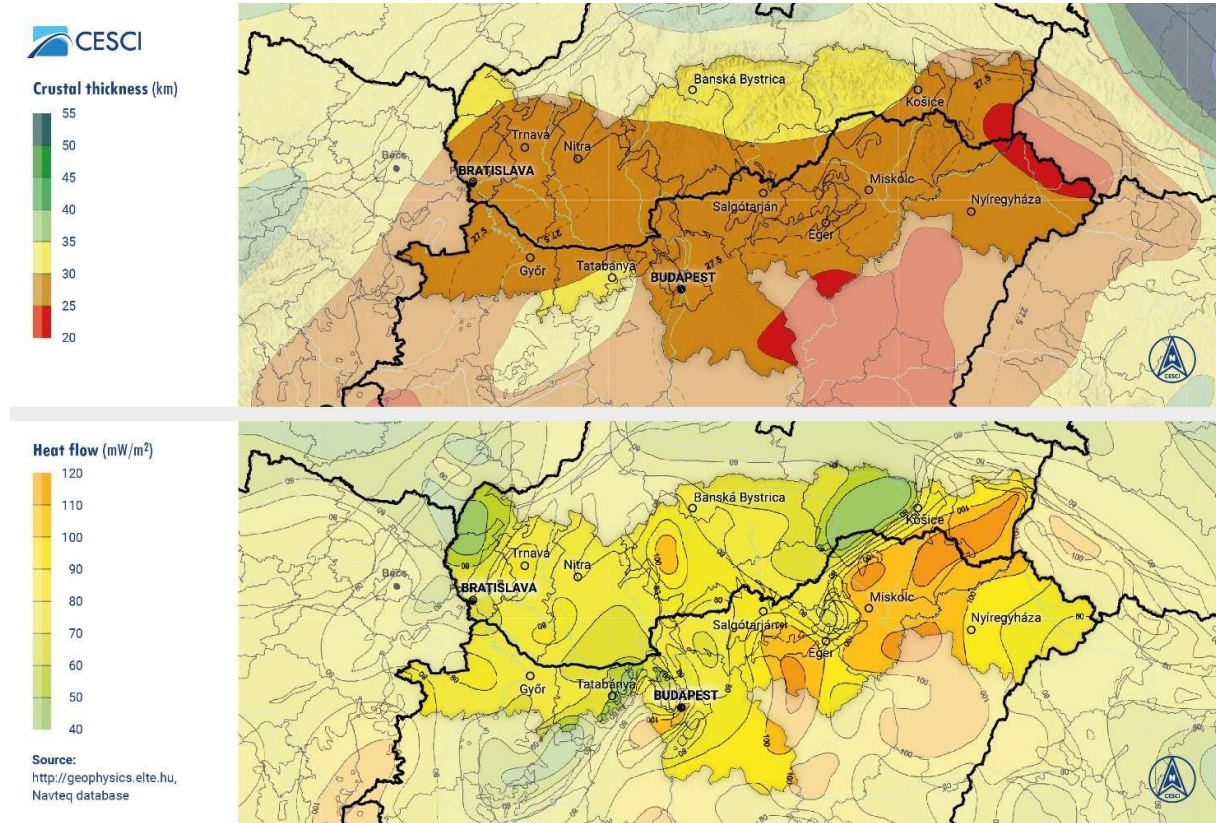


Figure 10: Heat-flow and crustal-thickness in the border region (Source: Territorial analysis, CESC, 2020.)

The utilization of geothermal energy for public heating purposes and energy recovery can be justified on these areas, which could partly substitute the imported natural gas, therefore it could reduce energy dependency and contribute to climate protection objectives. Fortunately, there are good examples for such pursuits in the border region, but the potential of geothermal energy is not sufficiently exploited yet. For example, a geothermal district heating system was established in Miskolc in 2013, by the utilization of ERDF funds, which has produced 733.277 GJ energy in 2015, substituting 25 million m³ natural gas, reducing CO₂ emission by 48.000 tons. In Galanta, the geothermal district heating system covers 90% of the yearly heat demand, which reduces the CO₂ emission by 4500 tons. Since geothermal conditions are very similar in the border area, research and development activities targeting the extensive use of geothermal energy could be promoted by the cross-border programme

2.1.8. Waste management

The amount of waste generated per capita per year is almost the same in the two countries. This amount corresponds to one third of the EU average, which can be considered satisfactory. At the same time, taking into account previous years, the trend is more unfavourable. Deriving from different baseline data, the amount of waste changes similarly since 2008: it has been steadily rising in both

countries since 2012 after the 2008 crisis. In Hungary, the largest increase can be observed in the field of construction and demolition waste. In the case of Slovakia, no specific type of waste can be emphasized; there is a similar increase for metal, plastic and glass waste.

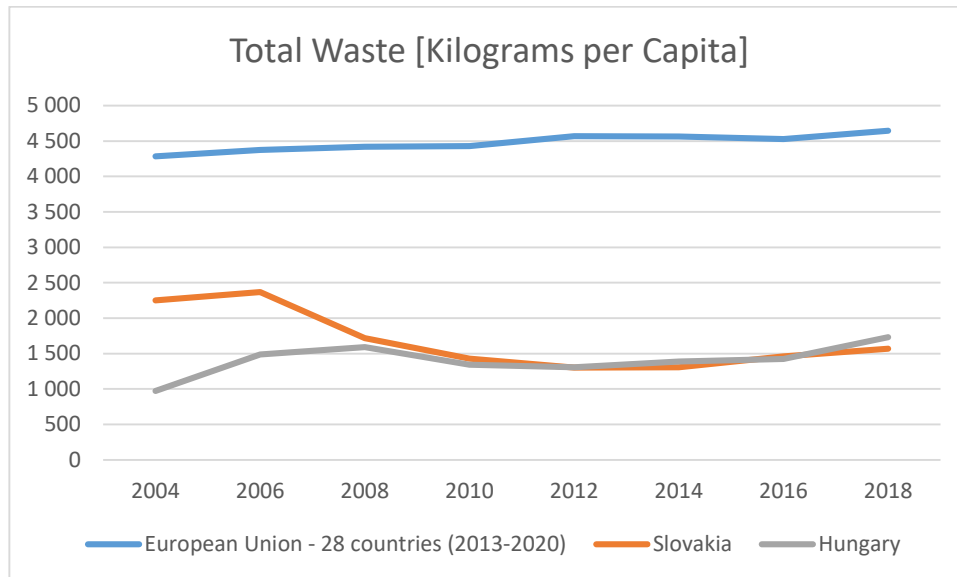


Figure 11: Changes in waste volumes per capita (Source: EUROSTAT)

2.2. Relevant environmental conflicts and problems

Based on the above, the following main environmental conflicts and challenges can be identified in the programme area:

- There is a significant risk of erosion in hilly and mountainous areas, which is exacerbated by climate change and improper cultivation practices. In areas exposed to wind, such as the Little Hungarian Plain and the Great Hungarian Plain, there is a threat of deflation, which can also be exacerbated by climate change, however, its impact can be mitigated with proper cultivation and creation of forest and shrub belts.
- The protection of water quality is essential for preserving the purity of the water bases. Karsts are especially valuable parts of the drinking water base. The Aggtelek Karst and the Slovak Karst (Slovenský kras) form one unit from a hydrogeological perspective, as underground water sources are linked and directly affect each other. Other important karst areas can also be found in the Bükk, in the Dunazug Hills (Buda Hills, Pilis, Vértes, etc.). Karst water is particularly vulnerable to pollution; therefore, its protection is primarily important for the sake of long-term water supply and the maintenance of ecosystems fed by the ecological water resources provided by the springs.
- An increase in the frequency and intensity of hydrological (e.g. floods, inland water) and extreme meteorological events (e.g. sudden downpours, storms, hail). The water balance of the rivers is very variable: floods and water shortages are a major problem. The need for better coordination between water management and water protection.

- Degradation and conversion of vegetation, the spread of invasive alien species due to climate change and the irresponsible human activities in recent decades that have been exploiting natural resources, destroying habitats, damaging and limiting species' habitats.
- Air pollution, especially seasonally high levels of particulate matter, is a serious challenge in parts of the programme area, especially in the Sajó valley, posing an important health risk for all residents, leading directly to various diseases and premature death.
- The amount of waste generated in both countries has been increasing since the end of the 2008 crisis.

2.3. Likely evolution of the environment without implementation of the Programme

The lack of implementation of the Programme might cause effects of different orientation on the state of the environmental elements and systems.

The lack of implementing the actions explicitly addressing environmental challenges (under priority axis “Green Cooperation”) may result in the persistence or possible escalation of existing environmental conflicts. As the environmental actions of the Programme include, in addition to some specific areas (e.g. nature conservation, improvement of water quality), actions that may affect the state of the environment as a whole, it can be concluded that the lack of planned developments might have a negative impact on the state of all environmental elements, but in particular on the state of wildlife and water.

Contrary to the above, the absence of actions with an environmental risk, limited to tourism development within the Programme, would logically avoid environmental pressures arising from this activity. However, due to the extremely low level of associated environmental risks (see Chapter 4.1 for details), the planned development of tourism is unlikely to have a significant impact on the state of the environment, i.e. the absence of these elements of the Programme would not result in significant environmental benefits.

3. LIKELY ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

3.1. Potential impacts on environmental systems

3.1.1. Soil

None of the Programme interventions were identified as potentially leading to a permanent and significant burden on the soils. The document defines the soils of the planning area as one of the most important natural resources, and accordingly, several measures specifically aim to protect soils and improve their condition, such as erosion protection, reducing soil pollution. Several measures have an indirect positive impact on soils, including waste management, development of circular economy, improvement of the status of surface waters.

A) Actions with no impact on soil

- 2.1.1. Social innovations for disadvantaged and vulnerable groups
- 2.2.1. Inclusive and quality education
- 2.3.1. Family and community-based health care services
- 2.3.2. Cross-border development of healthcare institutions
- 2.4.1. Preservation of local heritage
- Actions under Priority axis 3. “Institutional Cooperations”

B) Actions with likely positive effect on soil conditions

| Specific objective / Action | Likely positive impact on environmental system | | | |
|---------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| | Likelihood of the impact | Duration and frequency of the impact | Reversibility of the impact | Geographical scope of the impact |
| 1.1.1. Resource and waste management | medium | lasting | reversible | regional |
| | <p>The actions address boosting circular economy, optimizing waste management and reducing waste generation, which can all clearly improve soil status. Waste generation causes significant soil pollution through illegal landfills, moreover, specially engineered landfills also have negative impacts on soil. The measure aimed at changing consumption patterns is particularly important, as currently a significant proportion of food is becoming waste. This practice imposes a double burden on soils (surplus raw materials take up significant agricultural land, compounded by the treatment of waste generated).</p> <p>Recommended measure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is recommended to prioritize recycling and waste prevention related measures, while disposal of waste by landfill should only be supported as a last resort. • It is recommended that awareness-raising educational campaigns planned under the Programme should include the promotion of characteristics and importance of Good Agricultural Practice. • A possible topic for cross-border initiatives to prevent soil degradation and preserve its functions could be the identification of possible actions in extreme soil water management situations. | | | |
| 1.1.2. Short supply chains | medium | lasting | reversible | regional |
| | <p>Short supply chains are typically optimized already in the production phase, as the size of lands used for agricultural production can be more precisely designated in case of targeting known nearby markets. As a result, the arable land is also utilized more optimally, so overproduction and overuse of arable lands are less common. With reduced transport demand, the amount of contaminant input into soil originating from road traffic may also decrease, primarily along major transport routes.</p> | | | |

| Specific objective / Action | Likely positive impact on environmental system | | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1.2.1. Protection and preservation of the natural capital | Likelihood of the impact | Duration and frequency of the impact | Reversibility of the impact | Geographical scope of the impact |
| | high | lasting | reversible | regional |
| | <p>All the measures of the specific objective will have a positive effect on soil status. By improving the wetlands' environmental status, soil water balance gets improved in the surrounding areas, which has a positive effect on the physical condition of soils. Habitat improvement as well as afforestation, green infrastructure development and safeguarding biodiversity significantly increase soil organic matter and reduce the risk of erosion. The specific objective includes a dedicated soil conservation measure, too, targeting erosion control and soil status improvement in general. Pollution reduction is of paramount importance for the sake of soil protection, as there is a high level of contamination of former industrial areas in the planning area, and in addition, several active industrial areas still require special attention from soil protection point of view.</p> <p>Water protection measures have an indirect positive effect on soil quality (reduction of contaminants transported by water).</p> <p>Recommended measure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regarding soil protection, industrial, agricultural and mountainous areas are exposed to different risks, however, all areas should be addressed by the measures. | | | |
| 1.2.2. Joint risk management | Likelihood of the impact | Duration and frequency of the impact | Reversibility of the impact | Geographical scope of the impact |
| | medium | lasting | reversible | regional |
| | <p>Beneficial effects can be realized primarily by the restoration of natural floodplains, as thanks to periodic flooding, natural processes will dominate again in alluvial soil formation. Optimization of water resources may improve the water balance of the planning area, including the groundwater flow regime which has a positive effect on soils' water balance.</p> | | | |

C) Actions with adverse effect on soil

None of the actions.

D) Actions potentially also causing adverse effect on soil

| Specific objective / Action | Potential negative impact on environmental system | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 2.4.2. Complex development of | Likelihood of the impact | Duration and frequency of the impact | Reversibility of the impact | Geographical scope of the impact |
| | low | lasting | irreversible | local |

| | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| tourism destinations | <p>Although the action includes elements with a positive impact (natural heritage protection), measures of greater significance may also have a negative impact on the condition of the soils. Infrastructural development of tourism destinations typically entails land occupation (e.g. large parking lots), which worsens the quantitative status of soils. In the vicinity of transport infrastructure elements, soil pollution is increasing (by oil derivatives, heavy metals, etc.), which can lead to soil degradation.</p> <p>Recommended measure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When designing tourism facilities, efforts should be made to always reduce land occupation and the extent of paved surfaces. • During the implementation of the Programme, projects aimed at the development of tourism products, services and attractions should include some small-scale complementary measures to mitigate the environmental impacts of tourism (e.g., developing additional infrastructure (waste disposal facilities, toilets) to cope with increased visitor numbers. |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

3.1.2. Air

None of the Programme interventions were identified as potentially leading to a permanent and significant increase in air pollutant emissions. Although tourism developments imply a possible increase of emissions, mainly from transport, considering the volume of planned developments, they are expected to have an impact on air pollution in the area at most periodically and locally, without even approaching the relevant information thresholds. It has also extremely low probability, though based on the Programme content cannot be ruled out either, that activities aimed at developing circular economy could locally lead to an increase in air pollution on occasion. However, these adverse effects can be avoided by careful planning of developments. Finally, it is worth highlighting that the activities eligible under the action targeting the protection of natural capital are specifically facilitating the air quality improvement of the area concerned.

A) Actions not affecting air quality

- 2.1.1. Social innovations for disadvantaged and vulnerable groups
- 2.2.1. Inclusive and quality education
- 2.3.1. Family and community-based health care services
- 2.3.2. Cross-border development of healthcare institutions
- 2.4.1. Preservation of local heritage
- Actions under Priority axis 3. “Institutional cooperations”

B) Actions with a likely positive impact on air quality

| Specific objective / Action | Likely positive impact on environmental system | | | |
|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| | Likelihood of the impact | Duration and frequency of the impact | Reversibility of the impact | Geographical scope of the impact |
| 1.1.2. Short supply chains | low | lasting | reversible | regional |
| | <p>In the first place, the action can contribute to reducing transport-related air pollutant emissions by reducing overall transport needs. However, it should be highlighted that this influence is not made on the air quality status of the settlement itself affected by the development, but rather along the transit routes. The municipal air quality status will not be significantly affected by the action; however, creation of short supply chains will provide an opportunity to operate efficient, local logistics systems involving a wide range of producers, which in turn may lead to further reductions in transport emissions</p> <p>Recommended measure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We recommend the development and promotion of local logistics services involving a wide range of local producers during the Programme implementation. | | | |

| Specific objective / Action | Likely positive impact on environmental system | | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| 1.2.1. Protection and preservation of the natural capital | Likelihood of the impact | Duration and frequency of the impact | Reversibility of the impact | Geographical scope of the impact |
| | medium | lasting | reversible | regional |
| | <p>Among the versatile development areas supported under the action, interventions targeting surface water and groundwater quality improvement do not have any air quality relevance. On the other hand, among the development directions targeting wildlife protection (nature conservation and preservation, biodiversity, green infrastructure), those aimed at increasing vegetation cover and maintaining natural or semi-natural plant associations do have a positive effect on the air quality status of the area and settlements affected, too. Regarding municipal air quality, green infrastructure developments within urban environments are of outstanding importance, as playing a significant role in absorbing dust and other pollutants being concentrated in the settlements.</p> <p>Recommended measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In order to maximize impacts on air quality, it is recommended to always design and implement green infrastructure development elements on urban and extra-urban lands in a harmonized and systematic way during the Programme implementation, thus enabling creation of green corridors (possibly even along blue infrastructure elements) across settlements, which can improve their ventilation. • It should be considered to make measures such as planting of tree alleys, groups of trees and bushes eligible for funding in the framework of the Programme, in case they form part of a continuous green corridor. | | | |
| 1.2.2. Joint risk management | Likelihood of the impact | Duration and frequency of the impact | Reversibility of the impact | Geographical scope of the impact |
| | low | lasting | reversible | local |
| | <p>Most of the elements of the action do not affect municipal air quality. An exception is restoration of floodplains along rivers and related revitalization of wetlands, especially if they take place on urban lands. Increase in the extent of the undeveloped strips covered with vegetation or water supports urban ventilation, absorption of pollutants and thus reducing the concentration of air pollutants in the affected settlements</p> | | | |

C) Actions with adverse effect on air quality

None of the actions.

D) Actions potentially also causing adverse effect on air quality

| Specific objective / Action | Potential negative impact on environmental system | | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 2.4.2. Complex development of tourism destinations | Likelihood of the impact | Duration and frequency of the impact | Reversibility of the impact | Geographical scope of the impact |
| | low | lasting | reversible | local |
| | <p>Tourism developments, in particular through the expansion of transport demands, always entail an increase in air pollutants emissions. At the same time, the expected volume of developments under the Programme is not expected to result in achieving such an air pollution level that endangers human health or the biosphere.</p> <p>Recommended measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> When planning tourism developments, special emphasis should be placed on reducing the use of private cars (e.g. enabling public transport access, prioritizing active tourism developments; establishing cycling routes between attractions, expanding related services, etc.). Further development of tourism attractions with already a high number of visitors, especially points of interest (POIs) and urban sights, is not recommended in order to avoid the overtourism phenomenon, even if the planned development is aimed at organizing these attractions into a single “tourism programme package”. | | | |

E) The nature of effects on air quality cannot be determined at the planning level of the Programme

| Specific objective / Action | Environmental impact cannot be determined on the basis of the plan | | | |
|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1.1.1. Resource and waste management | Likelihood of the impact | Duration and frequency of the impact | Reversibility of the impact | Geographical scope of the impact |
| | low | lasting | reversible | local |
| | <p>First of all, it should be noted that the action specifically encourages the uptake of material- and energy-efficient, low-waste technologies and processes, so the implemented developments will almost certainly not result in significant point source emissions leading to exceeding air pollution limit values. This is also guaranteed by the consistent enforcement of the relevant environmental legislation. However, all industrial developments with a waste management scope may potentially lead to some air pollutant emissions, including potential odour pollution, whilst the arising transport demand volumes determine the associated transport-related pollutant emissions. The likely scope of the latter cannot be defined in the light of the Programme details, as the type, sectoral ranking and geographical location of the relevant facilities are currently unknown. Therefore, in case of implementating the action, having positive air quality impacts is likely on the whole, however, its certainty cannot be justified at the level of detail of the Programme.</p> | | | |

| Specific objective / Action | Environmental impact cannot be determined on the basis of the plan |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | Recommended measure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> When developing the interventions, special attention should be paid to minimizing transportation needs and, if possible, supplying it by rail. |

3.1.3. Noise and vibration

The Programme actions can be overall considered neutral in terms of noise and vibration exposure, with neither causing or reducing it. At the same time, some of the interventions under the “Protection of natural capital” action, in particular the development of green infrastructure in larger areas or on roadside verges, have the potential to significantly reduce residential noise nuisance. Although the primary impact is on wildlife, it should be noted that these developments also have positive noise protection effects on domestic animals, too.

A) Actions not having an effect related to noise and vibration exposure

- 1.1.2. Short supply chains
- 1.2.2. Joint risk management
- Actions under Priority axis 2. “Social cooperations”
- Actions under Priority axis 3. “Institutional cooperatins”

B) Actions with a likely positive impact related to to noise and vibration exposure

| Specific objective / Action | Likely positive impact on environmental system | | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| | Likelihood of the impact | Duration and frequency of the impact | Reversibility of the impact | Geographical scope of the impact |
| 1.2.1. Protection and preservation of the natural capital | low | lasting | reversible | local |
| | Within the action, grants aimed at establishing and expanding green infrastructure in urban areas are the ones that primarily are able to reduce the noise and vibration load of the affected area in a substantial way, even if being an end-of-pipe solution. In this context, however, it should be noted that the vast majority of the interventions planned under the action concern extra-urban areas, where afforestation, hedge planting and, in general, activities for conserving or expanding areas covered by vegetation result in beneficial noise and vibration protection effects primarily on wildlife. | | | |
| | Recommended measure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is recommended to also make those green infrastructure developments eligible during the Programme implementation which typically affect urban areas (e.g. tree planting along high-traffic transit routes). | | | |

C) Actions with adverse effect related to noise and vibration exposure

None of the actions.

D) Actions potentially also causing adverse effect related to noise and vibration exposure

None of the actions

E) The nature of effects on noise and vibration exposure cannot be determined at the planning level of the Programme

| Specific objective / Action | Environmental impact cannot be determined on the basis of the plan | | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| | Likelihood of the impact | Duration and frequency of the impact | Reversibility of the impact | Geographical scope of the impact |
| 1.1.1. Resource and waste management | low | lasting | reversible | regional |
| | <p>Most of the interventions targeting more efficient industrial production and sustainable waste management do not provide noise emission at all (e.g. awareness raising, enhancing cooperation with authorities, product development in accordance with circular economy principles). However, the action also includes such technological development directions in case of which, based on the information available, it cannot be stated with certainty that their implementation does not entail any risk of noise and vibration exposure (e.g. noise emissions from waste management can be reduced but not completely eliminated). This is due to the fact that the Programme, in accordance with its purpose, does not specify the sectoral classification, type and technology of the facilities to be developed. Nevertheless, the expected volume of developments under the Programme, as well as the necessary legislative compliance make it likely that neither these developments will lead to an increase in noise and vibration exposure beyond the relevant limits. At the same time, it should be emphasized that the potentially increasing transport demands generated by the developments may also lead to noise and vibration exposure along the affected road sections.</p> <p>Recommended measure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When developing the interventions, special attention should be paid to minimizing transportation needs. • The noise emissions of companies operating in industrial areas that may be established on the border should always be taken into account when assessing the impact on residential buildings across the border. | | | |

3.1.4. Surface waters and groundwater

No intervention axes can be identified within the Programme that would result in the deterioration of either the quantitative or qualitative status of surface water and groundwater. On the contrary, some of the planned activities are expected to contribute to their improvement. In addition to

supporting activities specifically targeting water management and water quality improvement, the protection of waters, primarily but not exclusively in terms of quantity, is also facilitated indirectly through other interventions of the Programme.

A) Actions not having an effect on surface water and groundwater

- 2.1.1. Social innovations for disadvantaged and vulnerable groups
- 2.2.1. Inclusive and quality education
- 2.3.1. Family and community-based health care services
- 2.3.2. Cross-border development of healthcare institutions
- 2.4.1. Preservation of local heritage
- Actions under Priority axis 3. “Institutional cooperations”

B) Actions with a likely positive impact on surface water and groundwater

| Specific objective / Action | Likely positive impact on environmental system | | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| | Likelihood of the impact | Duration and frequency of the impact | Reversibility of the impact | Geographical scope of the impact |
| 1.1.1 Resource and waste management | medium | lasting | reversible | regional |
| | Measures under the specific objective aimed at boosting circular economy, optimizing waste management and efficient resource use can clearly improve water status. Despite technological development, production of many products requires large amounts of water. A more efficient use of resources has a significant potential of reducing water use. Reducing the demand for new products (e.g., by increasing the durability of products) leads to the protection of the water resources used to produce them. It should be noted, however, that these positive effects are not always felt in the area of the project. | | | |
| | | | | |
| 1.1.2. Short supply chains | low | lasting | reversible | regional |
| | Short supply chains are typically optimized already in the production phase, as the size of lands used for agricultural production can be more precisely designated in case of targeting known nearby markets. As a result, the arable land is also utilized more optimally, overproduction and overuse of arable lands are less common, thus, irrigation needs can also significantly decrease, which can improve the quantitative status of waters. With the decreasing amount of pesticides and fertilizers applied, the qualitative water status can also get improved. | | | |
| | | | | |
| 1.2.1. Protection and preservation of the natural capital | high | lasting | reversible | regional |
| | All measures under the action will have a positive impact on water status. By improving wetlands’ status, the surface water and groundwater regime of the surrounding areas | | | |
| | | | | |

| Specific objective / Action | Likely positive impact on environmental system | | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| | will improve. Green infrastructure development and safeguarding biodiversity significantly increase the organic matter of soils, which improves water storage capacity of soils. As the best natural water retention medium is soil, water regime and water balance of the affected area may be significantly improved. The specific objective also includes a dedicated water protection measure, targeting the improvement of surface water and groundwater status. The measure aimed at reducing the amount of micro-contaminants, pharmaceutical residues and industrial contaminants should be highlighted, as it would partially fulfill a unresolved task. | | | |
| 1.2.2. Joint risk management | Likelihood of the impact | Duration and frequency of the impact | Reversibility of the impact | Geographical scope of the impact |
| | high | lasting | reversible | regional |
| | <p>It is forward-looking that the measure related to flood protection mentions the restoration of natural floodplains of watercourses. At the same time, flood defense infrastructure development should also seek to apply nature-based solutions, otherwise the effects of the two measures may be counteracted. Increasing water resources supply may also be a favourable intervention if it is combined with the optimization and regulation of the use of water resources.</p> <p>Recommended measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is recommended to implement only such flood protection measures that do not jeopardize nature conservation objectives and prefer the development of natural or semi-natural floodplains. Only flood protection works developments being in line with this approach are recommended to be eligible. • It is recommended to draft a specific measure for promoting sustainable and efficient use of water resources. | | | |

C) Actions with adverse effect on surface waters and groundwater

None of the actions.

D) Actions potentially also causing adverse effect on surface waters and groundwater

| | Likelihood of the impact | Duration and frequency of the impact | Reversibility of the impact | Geographical scope of the impact |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 2.4.2. Complex development of tourism destinations action | low | periodic, annual | reversible | local, regional |
| <p>Although the action includes elements with a positive impact (like natural heritage protection), its most significant activities may also have an adverse effect on the status of natural waters. In the case of lakeside and thermal water destinations (including health resorts), the growing visitor number may also negatively affect the quantitative and qualitative status of waters. Proper management of wastewater from tourism facilities is essential to avoiding adverse impacts.</p> <p>Recommended measure:</p> | | | | |

| | |
|--|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Surveys assessing the tourism potential of water bodies should incorporate water management and climate sections. Availability of a model able to project water resources and water quality changes for the upcoming decades, which also considers climate change impacts, is essential for long-term sustainable touristic utilization of water bodies. |
|--|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

3.1.5. Biodiversity, flora, fauna, habitats, Natura 2000 territories, nature reserves

The Programme does not support major infrastructural developments; **periodic pressure on habitats is likely to be caused by some of the tourism types, especially by active and ecotourism, which often takes place in protected areas and Natura 2000 territories and possibly but not certainly in some cases related to the development of the circular economy.** At the same time, indirect and direct positive effects can be expected as a result of several interventions. The Programme also includes specific habitat protection and revitalization measures generating positive impacts with a high probability and on a lasting basis. Spill-overs of water management, circular economy development and pollution reduction related interventions may improve the status of habitats and protected areas, as well as increase the biodiversity of the area concerned.

A) Actions not having an effect on biodiversity, flora, fauna, and Natura 2000 territories, nature reserves

- 1.1.2. Short supply chains
- 2.1.1. Social innovations for disadvantaged and vulnerable groups
- 2.2.1. Inclusive and quality education
- 2.3.1. Family and community-based health care services
- 2.3.2. Cross-border development of healthcare institutions
- 2.4.1. Preservation of local heritage
- Actions under Priority axis 3. "Institutional cooperations"

B) Actions with a likely positive impact on biodiversity, flora, fauna, and Natura 2000 territories, nature reserves

| Specific objective / Action | Likely positive impact on environmental system | | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
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| | | | | |
| 1.2.1. Protection and preservation of the natural capital | Likelihood of the impact | Duration and frequency of the impact | Reversibility of the impact | Geographical scope of the impact |
| | high | lasting | reversible | regional |
| | The action explicitly covers nature conservation and habitat protection interventions. The Programme identifies 3 main axes (wetlands, forest ecosystems and soil ecosystem services). The intervention groups appropriately handle the most important nature | | | |

| Specific objective / Action | Likely positive impact on environmental system | | | |
|---------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| | <p>conservation challenges of the planning area, thus, the extent of positive effects is expected to be high.</p> <p>Green infrastructure development and safeguarding biodiversity significantly increases the organic matter of soils, which improves the water storage capacity of soils, as well as enhances the quality of soil ecosystem services, thus adding to the positive effects of nature conservation interventions. Among the measures, there are also such interventions that are specifically aimed at enhancing biodiversity (wildlife crossings, fish passage facilities, hedges, etc.), which may increase the number and quality of ecological corridors. It should be emphasized that the Programme intends to jointly develop the network of green and blue infrastructure.</p> <p>Recommended measure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For planting outside populated areas, native tree species should be chosen. However, it is advised to support the introduction of those which are able to adapt to climatic conditions expected in the future. | | | |
| 1.2.2. Joint risk management | Likelihood of the impact | Duration and frequency of the impact | Reversibility of the impact | Geographical scope of the impact |
| | medium | lasting | reversible | regional |
| | <p>It is forward-looking that the measure related to flood protection mentions the restoration of natural floodplains of watercourses. If natural floodplains cover a larger area, the number and extent of semi-natural habitats can be significantly increased. However, it should be noted that the development of flood protection infrastructure should always be based on the above approach, i.e., prioritising nature-based solutions wherever possible. Increasing water resources supply may also be a favourable intervention if it is combined with the optimization and regulation of the use of water resources.</p> <p>Recommended measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is recommended to implement only such flood protection measures that do not jeopardize nature conservation objectives and prefer the development of natural or semi-natural floodplains. Only flood protection works developments being in line with this approach are recommended to be eligible. | | | |

C) Actions with adverse effect on biodiversity, flora, fauna, and Natura 2000 territories, nature reserves

None of the action.

D) Actions potentially also causing adverse effect on biodiversity, flora, fauna, and Natura 2000 territories, nature reserves

| Specific objective / Action | Potential negative impact on environmental system | | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 2.4.2. Complex development of tourism destinations action | Likelihood of the impact | Duration and frequency of the impact | Reversibility of the impact | Geographical scope of the impact |
| | medium | lasting | reversible | local |
| | <p>The development of destinations linked to natural heritage and natural areas may have an adverse effect on wildlife and protected areas in some cases. The increased number of visitors can disturb wildlife. The pressures generated by higher traffic are particularly harmful to wetlands, karst habitats and protected areas in general. Linear infrastructure developments increase the degree of habitat fragmentation, and pollution from roads is also harmful to wildlife. There is a risk of thermal and salinity pollution of water-related habitats as a result of possible thermal water exploitation, due to the surface disposal of used thermal waters.</p> <p>Recommended measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In all cases, developments must take into account the protection of ecological networks (core areas, ecological corridors, buffer areas) and avoid placing a strain on protected areas. • In the preparation of tourism (and all infrastructure) investments, it is essential to contact and consult the local nature conservation authorities and national park directorates. | | | |

E) The nature of effects on biodiversity, flora, fauna, and Natura 2000 territories, nature reserves cannot be determined at the planning level of the Programme

| Specific objective / Action | Environmental impact cannot be determined on the basis of the plan | | | |
|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1.1.1. Resource and waste management | Likelihood of the impact | Duration and frequency of the impact | Reversibility of the impact | Geographical scope of the impact |
| | low | lasting | reversible | local |
| | <p>Measures to boost circular economy, optimize waste management and use resources efficiently have an indirect impact on wildlife and protected areas. As the measure explicitly encourages the use of low material, energy and waste technologies, it is likely to reduce pressure and stress on soil, air and water, resulting in improved habitat conditions, which is beneficial for the biodiversity. At the same time, all industrial and waste management developments entail the risk of increased transport needs, air, water, noise and vibration pollution, and in some cases - especially in the case of waste management - increased stench, although the actual occurrence of these risks can be largely prevented or reduced to acceptable levels by complying with existing environmental legislation. The main risk of impacts on wildlife in the context of the action is the potential increase in transport demand, as road and waterborne transport in general have a significant disturbance impact on habitats and species.</p> <p>Overall, therefore, the implementation of the action is expected to have positive effects on wildlife, but there may be localised areas of increased risk, although this cannot be</p> | | | |

| Specific objective / Action | Environmental impact cannot be determined on the basis of the plan |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | confirmed at the level of detail of the Programme, as the exact nature and location of the encroachments is not known at present. |

3.1.6. Climate

With regard to climate, the expected effects of the planned Programme Actions is worth to be examined from two perspectives: once, their consequences on greenhouse gas emissions, second, their role in facilitating adaptation to the increasingly extreme climatic conditions.

Overall, no actions within the Programme have been identified that would result in a lasting and definite pressure on or change the components of the climate system or would hinder the efficient adaptation. On the contrary, at most of the planned developments, positive expected effects tend to dominate from a climate perspective. Nevertheless, some very low environmental risks can be identified in case of the tourism and bordercrossing actions, which can however be effectively prevented by appropriate measures.

A) Actions not having an effect on climate as an environmental system

- 2.1.1. Social innovations for disadvantaged and vulnerable groups
- 2.2.1. Inclusive and quality education
- 2.3.1. Family and community-based health care services
- 2.3.2. Cross-border development of healthcare institutions
- 2.4.1. Preservation of local heritage
- Actions under Priority axis 3. "Institutional cooperations"

B) Actions with a likely positive impact on climate as an environmental system

| Specific objective / Action | Likely positive impact on environmental system | | | |
|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| | Likelihood of the impact | Duration and frequency of the impact | Reversibility of the impact | Geographical scope of the impact |
| 1.1.1. Resource and waste management | medium | lasting | reversible | regional |
| | The action involves two intervention axes. Both of them promotes the elimination of environmental impact of waste: one of them ("More efficient production") representing the starting point, i.e. uptake of circular economy models for waste prevention, while the other one ("Sustainable waste management and waste prevention") the end point, i.e. upgrading the waste management system itself. From a climate protection point of view, these partly have different effects. Some of the development directions aimed at uptaking circular economy models (encouraging industrial symbiosis, supporting technologies with reduced resource use and emissions) result by definition in lower energy consumption and thereby lower greenhouse gas emissions. On the other hand, the others (circular product development, development | | | |

| Specific objective / Action | Likely positive impact on environmental system | | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| | <p>of waste management systems, awareness raising) prevent greenhouse gas emissions from industrial production by reducing the demand for new products, and also from decomposition of landfilled waste, the latter applying for biodegradable waste.</p> <p>At the same time, it has to be noted that the operation of waste management systems itself entails significant emissions, and the higher the amount of waste and secondary raw materials to be processed and transported, the higher the greenhouse gas emissions must be expected. Therefore, it is forward-looking that the Programme supports the on-site treatment, reuse, recycling and, ultimately, disposal of waste.</p> <p>Recommended measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As the main source of greenhouse gas emissions from landfills is biodegradable organic waste, it is proposed to pay special attention to this waste stream during the implementation of the action (e.g. in the framework of awareness raising actions). From climate protection point of view, it is duly justified to pursue a life cycle approach during the implementation of 1.1.1. Resource and waste management action, which, besides the elements included in the Programme (material- and energy efficiency, reduced waste generation), should also cover reducing of transport needs. | | | |
| 1.1.2. Short supply chains | Likelihood of the impact | Duration and frequency of the impact | Reversibility of the impact | Geographical scope of the impact |
| | medium | lasting | reversible | regional |
| | <p>The action's clearly favourable climate impact is mainly due to the main feature of short supply chains, i.e. reduced transport distances and transport needs, as a consequence. In addition, the rise of short supply chains can contribute to reducing packaging and preservation needs, which can lead to a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions through savings in energy consumption during the manufacture of the products and connected processes. However, the onset and expected extent of this effect is uncertain, and the Programme does not include any development axes specifically facilitating this.</p> <p>Recommended measures:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">It is recommended that in the context of the development of short supply chains, emphasis should be placed on supporting ideas to reduce the need for packaging and preservation of products, while of course strictly enforcing food safety requirements.</p> | | | |
| 1.2.1. Protection and preservation of the natural capital | Likelihood of the impact | Duration and frequency of the impact | Reversibility of the impact | Geographical scope of the impact |
| | high | lasting | reversible | regional |
| | <p>A common feature of the versatile development areas supported under the action is, that in the context of climate change, they can primarily but not exclusively be beneficial for adapting to its already unavoidable impacts. However, the expected extent of this effect varies from field to field.</p> | | | |

| Specific objective / Action | Likely positive impact on environmental system |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | <p>Development directions specifically aiming at wildlife protection (nature conservation and preservation, biodiversity, green infrastructure) make natural and semi-natural areas more resilient against the increasingly extreme climatic conditions by enhancing biodiversity, protecting and revitalizing complex ecosystems. Expanding green infrastructure in urban areas also contributes to preventing urban heat islands, which pose a public health risk, but expansion of forest and wetlands surrounding settlements can have a similar effect, too. In addition, the preservation and enhancement of areas covered by vegetation, especially by forests, as well as the improvement of their condition, also play an important role in climate protection through the increase of carbon sequestration capacity. However, it should be noted that the above benefits can only be achieved if during the planning process of the interventions the expected climatic conditions of the upcoming decades will be considered (e.g. variety selection adapted to future climatic conditions).</p> <p>Contrary to the above, planned developments targeting surface water and groundwater quality improvement have no direct impact on climate change mitigation or adaptation. However, it is worth noting that good water quality of surface water bodies, especially at low water levels, is of key importance for the protection of aquatic life, and as increasingly extreme climatic conditions are leading to more and more extreme flow regimes, interventions for improving water quality may also play an indirect role in climate change adaptation.</p> |

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|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| 1.2.2. Joint risk management | Likelihood of the impact | Duration and frequency of the impact | Reversibility of the impact | Geographical scope of the impact |
| | high | periodic, annual | reversible | regional |
| | <p>The development of risk management related preventive and post-intervention systems, infrastructures and proper cooperation between authorities will greatly help to reduce and as far as possible, to prevent damages caused by extreme weather events which are expected to become more and more frequent (e.g. storms, floods). The Programme's approach of dedicating particular importance to risk mitigation and prevention compared to the subsequent interventions is very welcomed and supported. This approach especially stands out regarding floods, as the Programme explicitly supports the revitalization of natural riverbeds and floodplains, thereby retaining part of flooding water. In addition to preventing flood damages, it can also mitigate the potential water stress typically affecting surface water and groundwater bodies in the region, as well as its consequent adverse effects on wildlife and the economy (e.g. wetland desiccation, decrease of agricultural yields due to drought).</p> <p>Recommended measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is recommended that awareness-raising activities on disaster management should also include the promotion of actions and behaviours to be adopted during the increasingly frequent extreme weather situations. | | | |
| 2.4.1. Preservation of local heritage | Likelihood of the impact | Duration and frequency of the impact | Reversibility of the impact | Geographical scope of the impact |
| | low | lasting | reversible | local |
| | <p>One of the strands of the action (promoting "smart and competitive villages" in rural areas) is particularly forward-looking in terms of both climate change mitigation and adaptation. Communities that make efficient use of local resources and adjust to local conditions produce lower greenhouse gas emissions than those urban areas which are highly dependent on global supply systems, and may be able to adapt more efficiently to some of the locally expected impacts of climate change (even if not all of them).</p> | | | |
| 2.3.1. Family and community-based health care services 2.3.2. Cross-border development of healthcare institutions | Likelihood of the impact | Duration and frequency of the impact | Reversibility of the impact | Geographical scope of the impact |
| | medium | periodic, annual | reversible | local |
| | <p>Developments in the health care system can play a key role in effective adaptation to climate change effects already unavoidable. Among these effects, based on their probability of occurrence and their health impacts, the expected increase in the frequency and intensity of summer heat waves and in the number of diseases transmitted by certain vectors are of paramount importance from a public health point of view. Nevertheless, these diseases can be effectively prevented by appropriate knowledge transfer, in which the primary health care supported under the Programme may play a decisive role. It is also worth mentioning that the mentioned climate change effects, especially the summer heat wave frequency increase, pose a heightened risk among the elderly population, whose health care development is given special emphasis in the Programme.</p> | | | |

C) Actions with adverse effect on climate as an environmental system

None of the action.

D) Actions potentially also causing adverse effect on climate as an environmental system

| Specific objective / Action | Potential negative impact on environmental system | | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| | Likelihood of the impact | Duration and frequency of the impact | Reversibility of the impact | Geographical scope of the impact |
| | medium | lasting | reversible | regional |
| 2.4.2. Complex development of tourism destinations | <p>Tourism development can contribute to increasing greenhouse gas emissions in several ways. On the one hand, they necessarily increase the demand for transport, and on the other hand, the operation of accommodation and some tourist attractions also consumes energy and thus emits greenhouse gases. Based on the detaildness of the Programme the likely scale of these impacts cannot be estimated but can be substantially mitigated through careful planning of developments.</p> <p>Recommended measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When planning tourism developments, special emphasis should be placed on reducing the use of private cars (e.g. enabling public transport access, prioritizing active tourism developments; establishing cycling routes between attractions, expanding related services, etc.). • It is recommended to adjust tourism developments primarily to the needs of those living in the two Member States concerned or in the neighbouring countries. Indeed, broadening the regional tourism offer and thus reducing the demand for long-distance tourism have the potential to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions from tourism. | | | |

3.1.7. Built environment, landscape, settlement surroundings, and cultural heritage

Overall, no actions within the Programme have been identified that would seriously endanger the built and urban environment, cultural heritage (including intangible, monumental and archaeological heritage) and landscape values. On the contrary, among the planned developments there are several that are specifically aimed at the preservation and sustainable utilization of the built and cultural heritage, especially the intellectual, historical and religious values. With regard to the latter, however, it should be noted that although the importance of sustainable utilization is emphasized within the Programme, the preservation of the built heritage, especially of monumental and archaeological heritage must be always given preference over tourism interests.

A) Actions not having an effect on the built environment, landscape, settlement surroundings, and cultural heritage:

- 1.1.1. Resource and waste management
- 1.1.2. Creation of short supply chains
- 2.1.1. Social innovations for disadvantaged and vulnerable groups
- 2.2.1. Inclusive and quality education
- 2.3.1. Family and community-based health care services
- 2.3.2. Cross-border development of healthcare institutions
- Actions under Priority axis 3. "Institutional cooperations"

B) Actions with a likely positive impact on the built environment, landscape, settlement surroundings, and cultural heritage

| Specific objective / Action | Likely positive impact on environmental system | | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| | Likelihood of the impact | Duration and frequency of the impact | Reversibility of the impact | Geographical scope of the impact |
| 1.2.1. Protection and preservation of the natural capital | medium | lasting | reversible | regional |
| | Among the versatile development directions to be implemented within the action, with the exception of those targeting the protection of groundwater and surface waters, all (nature conservation and preservation, biodiversity, green infrastructure) promote the preservation of traditional landscape structure and landscape values and, if necessary, their reintroduction. In terms of urban environment, green infrastructure development is of special significance, which, besides its many other positive environmental effects, also plays a decisive role in increasing the aesthetic value of urban landscapes. In general, the action does not contribute to cultural heritage preservation, but the preservation and development of the natural environment of cultural heritage elements also serves the protection of the heritage element (e.g. NPR Šomoška, PP Soví hrad) | | | |
| | 1.2.2. Joint risk management | high | lasting | reversible |
| As the action's both intervention axes (flood risk management, disaster risk management) has a declared goal to protect built environment (including urban green spaces besides buildings) from damages caused by disasters of various origins, its implementation clearly contributes to the protection of built environment. From landscape and urban landscape aspect, it is welcomed that for reducing flood risk, the Programme places special emphasis on prevention, including the restoration of river foreshores and floodplains, as this allows creating areas with a potential multi-purpose utilization, also being aesthetically and environmentally beneficial for the urban environment. | | | | |
| Recommended measures: | | | | |

| Specific objective / Action | Likely positive impact on environmental system | | | |
|----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It should be noted that flood protection infrastructure developments should follow the minimal intervention principle in all cases, and application of grey infrastructure solutions should be minimized as far as possible. It is recommended to develop a common plan with the involvement of the local inhabitants for the long-term utilization of the newly created, revitalized floodplains, particularly for those located in urban land, thus enabling to better integrate these areas into the urban fabric. | | | |
| 2.4.1. Preservation of local heritage | Likelihood of the impact | Duration and frequency of the impact | Reversibility of the impact | Geographical scope of the impact |
| | high | lasting | reversible | regional |
| | Given that the action is primarily aimed at encouraging the preservation and sustainable use of the local built, intangible and religious heritage, it obviously has a positive effect on their condition. | | | |

C) Actions with adverse effect on the built environment, landscape, settlement surroundings, and cultural heritage

None of the actions.

D) Actions potentially also causing adverse effect on the built environment, landscape, settlement surroundings, and cultural heritage

None of the actions.

E) The nature of effects on the built environment, landscape, settlement surroundings, and cultural heritage cannot be determined at the planning level of the Programme

| Specific objective / Action | Environmental impact cannot be determined on the basis of the plan | | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| | Likelihood of the impact | Duration and frequency of the impact | Reversibility of the impact | Geographical scope of the impact |
| 2.4.2. Complex development of tourism destinations | medium | lasting | irreversible | local |
| | The expected effects of the action on the built environment and landscape values are largely determined by the characteristics of developments to be implemented, especially in cases when a new tourism facility or a connected infrastructure (e.g. a parking lot) will be established. In this respect, the decisive factors are e.g. the features of the sites affected by the development, the applied architectural solutions, etc., which, however, are not currently known at the level of detail in the Programme. Nevertheless, it is definitely worth mentioning that the action a.o. also supports the preservation and renovation of cultural, historical and religious heritage sites, which naturally leads to improving their condition. On the other hand, although the importance of sustainable utilization is emphasized within the Programme, the | | | |

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| | <p>preservation of the built heritage, especially of monumental heritage must be always given preference over tourism interests.</p> <p>Recommended measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The design of tourism facilities must in all cases be largely adapted to the landscape, especially in cases where the object affected by the development is located at landmarks (e.g. lookout points). • It is recommended to maximise the use of construction and demolition waste in the design of tourist facilities. |
|--|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

3.1.8. Human health, and quality of life

Overall, no actions within the Programme have been identified that would endanger the quality of life, mental and physical health of those living in the Programme area. On the contrary, implementation of majority of the planned developments is rather expected to have a positive effect in terms of both health status and quality of life. In the case of circular economy and tourism development, although overall positive effects can also be predicted, the risk of localised increases in air pollution, noise and vibration pollution, which are harmful to human health, cannot be excluded. The likelihood of this occurring depends on the way the Programme is implemented.

A) Actions not having an effect on human health and quality of life

- 2.4.2. Complex development of tourism destinations
- 3.1.1. Eliminating border obstacles

B) Actions with a likely positive impact on human health and quality of life

| Specific objective / Action | Likely positive impact on environmental system | | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| | Likelihood of the impact | Duration and frequency of the impact | Reversibility of the impact | Geographical scope of the impact |
| 1.1.2. Short supply chains | low | lasting | reversible | territorial |
| | <p>As the action focuses mainly on shortening the food supply chain, it certainly has the potential to improve access to healthier food. On the one hand, decrease of food transport distances, as well as deliveries adapted to the current demand make possible to reduce the quantity of certain additives, and on the other hand, prevent the degradation of certain valuable vitamins and ingredients. It is worth mentioning though, that short food supply chains do not guarantee higher quality in themselves, however they certainly increase its chances. The action focuses on improving the supply side of short supply chains. However, for the success of the action, it is also essential to increase interest on the demand side.</p> <p>Recommended measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During the implementation of the action, it is worth to tackle increasing the demand side interest as well with the help of awareness raising campaigns. Information on the health and quality of life related benefits of food provided | | | |

| Specific objective / Action | Likely positive impact on environmental system | | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| | by short supply chains should be given to local community members and other actors. | | | |
| 1.2.1. Protection and preservation of the natural capital | Likelihood of the impact | Duration and frequency of the impact | Reversibility of the impact | Geographical scope of the impact |
| | medium | lasting | reversible | regional |
| | Some elements of the action contribute to preventing burdening the human body, while others to direct human health protection. The former category includes primarily groundwater and surface water related interventions (e.g. monitoring and assessment of micro-pollutants and pollutants in drinking water), while protection and conservation of natural and semi-natural habitats, safeguarding biodiversity, expansion of green infrastructure can directly affect the health and quality of life of those living in the Programme area. On the one hand, this is due to the interventions' indirect effects, such as the influence of vegetated areas in improving air quality and mitigating extreme weather events. At the same time, positive effects of green spaces on mental health needs to be highlighted, too. | | | |
| 1.2.2. Joint risk management | Likelihood of the impact | Duration and frequency of the impact | Reversibility of the impact | Geographical scope of the impact |
| | medium | lasting | reversible | regional |
| | The action's intervention axes directly influence the safety of life and property of the inhabitants living in the Programme area through capacity development for preventing natural and man-made disasters, as well as for disaster response. | | | |
| 2.1.1. Social innovations for disadvantaged and vulnerable groups 2.2.1. Inclusive and quality education 2.4.1. Preservation of local heritage | Likelihood of the impact | Duration and frequency of the impact | Reversibility of the impact | Geographical scope of the impact |
| | medium | lasting | reversible | regional |
| | Actions aimed at raising skill levels, supporting vulnerable social groups and strengthening local identity can certainly lead to the improvement of the living conditions of the local population by enhancing employment, cultural and sports opportunities. However, as the quality of living conditions within a given population is closely related to the general health status, it can be stated that the actions concerned also indirectly contribute to the long-term improvement of the physical and mental health status of the population. | | | |
| 2.3.1. Family and community-based health care services 2.3.2. Cross-border development of | Likelihood of the impact | Duration and frequency of the impact | Reversibility of the impact | Geographical scope of the impact |
| | high | lasting | reversible | regional |
| | Implementing the health care system developments will primarily represent a step forward in the treatment and cure of pre-existing illnesses (partly caused by | | | |

| Specific objective / Action | Likely positive impact on environmental system | | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| healthcare institutions | environmental adverse effects), however, as prevention activities also being eligible, a significant contribution to the prevention of the burden of disease can also be made. | | | |
| 3.2.1. Small project fund | Likelihood of the impact | Duration and frequency of the impact | Reversibility of the impact | Geographical scope of the impact |
| | low | lasting | reversible | regional |
| | Projects getting implemented from this source, above all various community events, cultural and sports programmes, in the first instance contribute to preserving and improving the mental health of those living in the area. | | | |

C) Actions with adverse effect on human health and quality of life

None of the actions.

D) Actions potentially also causing adverse effect on human health and quality of life

None of the actions.

E) The nature of effects on human health and quality of life cannot be determined at the planning level of the Programme

| Specific objective / Action | Environmental impact cannot be determined on the basis of the plan | | | |
|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| 1.1.1. Resource and waste management | Likelihood of the impact | Duration and frequency of the impact | Reversibility of the impact | Geographical scope of the impact |
| | low | lasting | reversible | local |
| | As the action primarily encourages the dissemination of low-material, low-energy and low-waste technologies and processes, as well as the improvement of reuse and recycling conditions within waste management, they are expected to lead to a reduction in the overall use and stress on environmental elements, which is obviously beneficial from an environmental health point of view. At the same time, as indicated in the chapters on air quality, noise and vibration and wildlife, all industrial and waste management developments entail risks of potential emissions of air pollutants, stench, noise and vibration, which are, however, mostly local and can be prevented or reduced to acceptable levels by full compliance with environmental legislation. Overall, it can therefore be concluded that the action will have an overwhelmingly positive, but indirect, impact on the health of the population in the area, but in the absence of detailed knowledge of the proposed development, it cannot be excluded that in some locations it may increase the risk of localised exposure to air, noise and vibration pollution that is harmful to human health and which should be avoided as a matter of priority. | | | |

| Specific objective / Action | Environmental impact cannot be determined on the basis of the plan | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 2.4.2. Complex development of tourism destinations | Likelihood of the impact | Duration and frequency of the impact | Reversibility of the impact | Geographical scope of the impact |
| | low | lasting | reversible | local |
| | <p>The effects (and their extent) of tourism developments on human health may vary according to the characteristics of the population concerned (e.g. tourists vs. locals living in destination areas), the type of tourism (e.g. active and ecotourism vs. focused urban tourism, etc.), and the characteristics of the destination concerned (e.g. health resorts vs. conference rooms). Consequently, at the Programme planning level, it can only be stated that the action aimed at the developing tourism destinations can significantly influence the health and quality of life of both the local population and the visitors indeed. The nature of the effects will be largely determined by the characteristics of the Programme implementation.</p> <p>Recommended measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is recommended that among the tourism grants, preference should be given to the developments planned with a sustainable approach of those tourism destinations which are highly beneficial for human health (e.g. health resorts, active tourism destinations). • In case of all tourism destinations, but especially of health resorts and protected natural areas and assets, special efforts must be made to eliminate the potential disturbing effects of tourism (especially noise generation, mass visits) in order to maintain the positive effects of tourism on human health at these destinations. | | | |

3.1.9. Environmental consciousness

Overall, no actions within the Programme have been identified that could in any way damage the environmental consciousness level of those living in the area covered by the Programme or even its visitors. On the contrary, most of the planned developments are to raise the level of environmental consciousness either in a targeted way or as a spillover effect.

The various actions' effects on environmental consciousness are assessed in a framework being different from the above chapters. It is because this effect is the result of different processes at each and every activity.

A) Awareness raising actions with a direct impact on environmental consciousness

The Programme includes several environmental, nature and climate protection related awareness raising activities, all obviously, though not declared, with the primary goal to raise the environmental consciousness of the population. The actual effects depend on the quality, quantity and frequency of the programmes organized, which is impossible to estimate in advance; however, involving professionals and organizations with relevant experience and references in the implementation will

do contribute to increase the environmental awareness raising impact of the initiatives. In particular, the following actions and activities of the Programme include environmental awareness raising elements:

- 1.1.1 Resource and water management
- 1.2.1. Protection and preservation of the natural capital
- 1.2.2. Joint Risk management
- 2.3.1. Family and community-based health care services

B) Actions with an indirect impact on environmental consciousness

In addition to the above mentioned actions and activities specifically aiming at awareness raising, the Programme also includes a number of such actions which indirectly call the attention of people living in the area (or at least those affected by the given projects) on the importance of protecting environmental elements via providing information on, preserving and protecting the local environmental, natural, landscape and cultural values and heritage. This category includes the following actions of the Programme:

- 1.1.2. Short supply chains
- 2.4.1. Preservation of local heritage

C) Actions with no effect or without an identifiable effect on environmental consciousness

Finally, the Programme of course also includes actions that are not directly or indirectly related to formation of environmental consciousness. At the same time, even in case of these, it may arise that these also have the potential to raise the level of population's environmental consciousness to a certain extent, not to be identified (e.g. such topics may appear in trainings). The following actions fall into this category:

- 2.1.1. Social innovations for disadvantaged and vulnerable groups
- 2.2.1. Inclusive and quality education
- 2.3.2. Cross-border development of healthcare institutions
- 2.4.2. Complex development of tourism destinations
- 3.1.1. Eliminating border obstacles
- 3.2.1 Small project fund

3.2. Summary of environmental impacts

Based on the results of the environmental assessment performed, it can be stated that **the Programme contains no actions the implementation of which would specifically endanger the status of any environmental element or system**. On the contrary, **a significant part of the activities implemented within the framework of the Programme directly or indirectly aims to reduce the use and pressure on environmental elements and systems, as well as to improve human health and quality of life in line with environmental concerns**.

By its nature, actions with a positive environmental impact are primarily included in the “ Green Cooperation” priority axis. The vast majority of activities eligible here, although to varying degrees, contribute to improving the status of almost all environmental elements. From environmental, nature and landscape protection point of view, it is beneficial that the Programme supports the implementation of awareness raising programmes in several environmental and sustainability related topics. This statement is valid despite the fact that only a moderate environmental impact of this type of action was found in the evaluation, as their environmental effectiveness is also influenced by many external circumstances independent of the Programme. On the other hand, it should be noted and explained that in the case of the “Development of Circular Economy” action under Priority Axis 1, the possibility of a slightly increasing local pressure or stress cannot be completely ruled out or justified in the same way for some environmental elements. The reason accounting for this is primarily the relatively low level of detail of the Programme due to its strategic nature, and the fact that even the cleanest production implies some stress and pressure on environmental elements. It is emphasized that this does not mean at all that there would be an increased risk of adverse effects, moreover, the circular approach makes it even likely that the pressure on environmental elements will decrease; based on the Programme content, this issue cannot currently be settled though.

The only intervention direction within the whole Programme that may lead with a certain likelihood to increasing pressure and stress of environmental elements and systems is tourism development.

It is well known that tourism can also cause adverse environmental effects, above all by growing transport demands, tourism facilities operation and disturbance of natural, semi-natural habitats, flora and fauna. At the same time, the volume of developments that can be implemented during the Programme makes it probable that **the Programme actions aimed at tourism development will not result in a high pressure and stress level on environmental elements and systems.** However, special attention will have to be paid for its prevention during the Programme implementation, recommendations for which are provided by the current environmental report.

Finally, **it should be noted that most of the Programme actions are not directly related to environmental values protection.** In particular, funding areas under Priority Axes 2 and 3 fall into this category. However, this does not mean that even these actions could not have indirect environmental effects, either positive or negative. In particular, the aimed improvement of the general living conditions via increasing skill levels, integrating vulnerable groups and creating new employment opportunities can make a significant contribution to ensuring that people living in the Programme area place greater emphasis on the protection of environmental and natural values and so adjust their lifestyle. At the same time, it cannot be ruled out that the rising standard of living has been shown to carry the risk of increased environmental pressure and stress, although the awareness raising activities widely supported by the Programme, as well as empowerment of local communities play an important role in the prevention thereof.

Considering the expected extent of the effects of the Programme on various environmental elements and systems, it can be stated that **the most favourable influences are likely in the fields of climate protection and adaptation, as well as protection of human health.** The Programme also promotes

significantly the protection of surface water and groundwater, soil, as well as natural and semi-natural habitats. The least progress can be expected in the field of prevention of noise and vibration pollution during the Programme implementation, however, such pressures are not considered to be essential in the area covered by the Programme.

The table below summarizes the environmental impacts of each action presented in detail in Chapter 4.1.

| Actions | Soil | Air | Noise, vibration | Water | Natural values | Climate | Built env., landscape | Human health | Env. consciousness |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|------|-----|------------------|-------|----------------|---------|-----------------------|--------------|--------------------|
| 1.1.1. Resource and waste management | +2 | ? | ? | +2 | ? | +2 | ? | 0 | +2 |
| 1.1.2. Short supply chains | +2 | +1 | 0 | +1 | 0 | +2 | 0 | +1 | +1 |
| 1.2.1. Protection and preservation of the natural capital | +3 | +2 | +1 | +3 | +3 | +3 | +3 | +2 | +3 |
| 1.2.2. Joint risk management | +2 | +1 | 0 | +3 | +2 | +3 | +2 | +2 | +2 |
| 2.1.1. Social innovations for disadvantaged and vulnerable groups | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | +2 | 0 |
| 2.2.1. Inclusive and quality education | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | +2 | 0 |
| 2.3.1. Family and community-based health care services | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | +2 | 0 | +3 | +1 |
| 2.3.2. Cross-border development of healthcare institutions | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | +2 | 0 | +3 | 0 |
| 2.4.1. Preservation of the local heritage | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | +1 | +3 | +2 | +1 |
| 2.4.2. Complex development of tourism destinations | -1 | -1 | 0 | -1 | -2 | -2 | ? | ? | 0 |
| 3.1.1. Eliminating border obstacles | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 3.2.1 Small project fund | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | +1 | 0 |

Legend

| | |
|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| +3 | positive environmental impact with a high probability |
| +2 | positive environmental impact with a medium probability |
| +1 | positive environmental impact with a low probability |
| 0 | no identifiable environmental impact |
| -1 | negative environmental impact with a low probability |
| -2 | negative environmental impact with a medium probability |
| -3 | negative environmental impact with a high probability |

? *direction of the environmental impact depending on the Programme implementation*

Figure 12: Environmental impacts of the actions in the Programme

4. RECOMMENDED MEASURES TO PROTECT ENVIRONMENT, GUIDELINES FOR LOWER HIERARCHY LEVELS

As stated in the previous chapter, the implementation of the Programme is not expected to lead to a significant deterioration of the state of the environment, on the contrary, it will help to resolve and mitigate many existing environmental conflicts. Nevertheless, the implementation manner of the Programme play a key role in achieving the positive environmental impacts. A key requirement in this respect is that the preparation and implementation of projects must fully comply with the environmental legislation in force in the Slovak Republic and Hungary. The following is a summary of our proposals to mitigate the potential negative environmental impacts of developments, grouped according to the specific objectives of the Programme (justification of proposals is provided in Chapter 4.1). We have made proposals only for those actions, that could have a significant environmental impact.

| Action | Proposal |
|--------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>1.1.1. Resource and waste management</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is recommended to prioritize recycling and waste prevention related measures, while disposal of waste by landfill should only be supported as a last resort. When developing the interventions, special attention should be paid to minimizing transportation needs and, if possible, supplying it by rail. The noise emissions of companies operating in industrial areas that may be established on the border should always be taken into account when assessing the impact on residential buildings across the border. As the main source of greenhouse gas emissions from landfills is biodegradable organic waste, it is proposed to pay special attention to this waste stream during the implementation of the action (e.g. in the framework of awareness raising actions). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> From climate protection point of view, it is duly justified to pursue a life cycle approach during the implementation of 1.1.1. Resource and waste management action, which, besides the elements included in the Programme (material- and energy efficiency, reduced waste generation), should also cover reducing of transport needs. |
| <p>1.1.2. Short supply chains</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We recommend the development and promotion of local logistics services involving a wide range of local producers during the Programme implementation. It is recommended that in the context of the development of short supply chains, emphasis should be placed on supporting ideas to reduce the need for packaging and preservation of products, while of course strictly enforcing food safety requirements. |

| Action | Proposal |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is recommended that awareness-raising activities on disaster management should also include the promotion of actions and behaviours to be adopted during the increasingly frequent extreme weather situations. • During the implementation of the action, it is worth to tackle increasing the demand side interest as well with the help of awareness raising campaigns. Information on the health and quality of life related benefits of food provided by short supply chains should be given to local community members and other actors. |
| 1.2.1. Protection and preservation of the natural capital | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regarding soil protection, industrial, agricultural and mountainous areas are exposed to different risks, however, all areas should be addressed by the measures. • It is recommended that awareness-raising educational campaigns planned under the Programme should include the promotion of characteristics and importance of Good Agricultural Practice. • A possible topic for cross-border initiatives to prevent soil degradation and preserve its functions could be the identification of possible actions in extreme soil water management situations. • In order to maximize impacts on air quality, it is recommended to always design and implement green infrastructure development elements on urban and extra-urban lands in a harmonized and systematic way during the Programme implementation, thus enabling creation of green corridors (possibly even along blue infrastructure elements) across settlements, which can improve their ventilation. • It should be considered to make measures such as planting of tree alleys, groups of trees and bushes eligible for funding in the framework of the Programme, in case they form part of a continuous green corridor. • It is recommended to also make those green infrastructure developments eligible during the Programme implementation which typically affect urban areas (e.g. tree planting along high-traffic transit routes). • For planting outside populated areas, native tree species should be chosen. However, it is advised to support the introduction of those which are able to adapt to climatic conditions expected in the future. |
| 1.2.2. Joint risk management | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is recommended to implement only such flood protection measures that do not jeopardize nature conservation objectives and prefer the development of natural or semi-natural floodplains. Only flood protection works developments being in line with this approach are recommended to be eligible. • It is recommended to draft a specific measure for promoting sustainable and efficient use of water resources. • It should be noted that flood protection infrastructure developments should follow the minimal intervention principle in all cases, and application of grey infrastructure solutions should be minimized as far as possible. • It is recommended to develop a common plan with the involvement of the local inhabitants for the long-term utilization of the newly created, revitalized floodplains, particularly for those located in urban land, thus enabling to better integrate these areas into the urban fabric. |
| 2.4.2. Complex development of tourism destinations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the preparation of tourism (and all infrastructure) investments, it is essential to contact and consult the local nature conservation authorities and national park directorates. |

| Action | Proposal |
|-------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When designing tourism facilities, efforts should be made to always reduce land occupation and the extent of paved surfaces. • When planning tourism developments, special emphasis should be placed on reducing the use of private cars (e.g. enabling public transport access, prioritizing active tourism developments; establishing cycling routes between attractions, expanding related services, etc.). • During the implementation of the Programme, projects aimed at the development of tourism products, services and attractions should include some small-scale complementary measures to mitigate the environmental impacts of tourism (e.g., developing additional infrastructure (waste disposal facilities, toilets) to cope with increased visitor numbers. • Further development of tourism attractions with already a high number of visitors, especially points of interest (POIs) and urban sights, is not recommended in order to avoid the overtourism phenomenon, even if the planned development is aimed at organizing these attractions into a single “tourism programme package”. • It is recommended that surveys assessing the tourism potential of water bodies should incorporate water management and climate sections. Availability of a model able to project water resources and water quality changes for the upcoming decades, which also considers climate change impacts, is essential for long-term sustainable touristic utilization of water bodies. • In all cases, developments must take into account the protection of ecological networks (core areas, ecological corridors, buffer areas) and avoid placing a strain on protected areas. • It is recommended to adjust tourism developments primarily to the needs of those living in the two Member States concerned or in the neighbouring countries. Indeed, broadening the regional tourism offer and thus reducing the demand for long-distance tourism have the potential to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions from tourism. • The design of tourism facilities must in all cases be largely adapted to the landscape, especially in cases where the object affected by the development is located at landmarks (e.g. lookout points). • It is recommended to maximise the use of construction and demolition waste in the design of tourist facilities. • It is recommended that among the tourism grants, preference should be given to the developments planned with a sustainable approach of those tourism destinations which are highly beneficial for human health (e.g. health resorts, active tourism destinations). • In case of all tourism destinations, but especially of health resorts and protected natural areas and assets, special efforts must be made to eliminate the potential disturbing effects of tourism (especially noise generation, mass visits) in order to maintain the positive effects of tourism on human health at these destinations. |
| All actions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During next phases of the Programme approval to take into account opinions of stakeholders as evaluated in the Annex IV and Annex V. |

5. ASSESSMENT OF THE MONITORING SYSTEM

The primary goal of the Programme's monitoring system is to record the scope of jointly implemented activities, regardless of the development area of activities. In view of this, the current indicators assigned to the Programme objectives are not suitable for measuring the impact of the implemented grants on the environment or sustainability, neither for monitoring many other significant horizontal objectives (e.g. gender equality). Opportunity for assessment and evaluation of the changes in environmental status induced by the Programme is provided by country-level monitoring systems operated by various national bodies in both participating countries. Their indisputable advantage is collecting and registering data on the basis of a professionally sound, uniform methodology. However, in order to be able to attribute the data recorded in them to the developments carried out under the project, it is essential to establish a register of the main characteristics of environmentally relevant developments. Indicators recommended to be collected and recorded:

- exact location and extent of areas affected by a development, in ha or m² depending on the project
- land use classification of areas affected by a development, identification of potentially affected protected natural areas and Natura2000 areas;
- extent urban green spaces established, in ha, if relevant
- area of the paved surfaces, in m², if relevant
- number of implemented cultural or tourist events, day / year, if relevant
- total number of municipalities involved in the cross-border integrated transport system
- total length of newly built or modernized cycle paths (km)
- total length of newly built or modernized tourist trails (km)

The collection of the above indicators is required for projects under actions with a potentially significant environmental impact, namely:

- all actions under the "Green Cooperation" priority
- 2.4.1. Preservation of local heritage
- 2.4.2. "Complex development of tourism destinations"

Among the national databases and regularly produced analyses and reports, the following are of particular relevance in the context of the analysis of the environmental impacts of the Programme. In particular, it is proposed to take into account

- Environmental Information System (Hungary)
- Assessments of the status of the listed species and habitat types carried out in the framework of the monitoring of the implementation of the Birds and Habitats Directives
- National level River Basin Management Plans and their implementation reports
- National traffic census data

It is recommended that all comprehensive evaluations of the Programme (if possible already mid-way through the programme cycle) include a detailed assessment of the environmental, sustainability

aspects and identification of the environmental, sustainability impacts of the Programme, based on the above databases.

6. NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

Main characteristics of the Programme

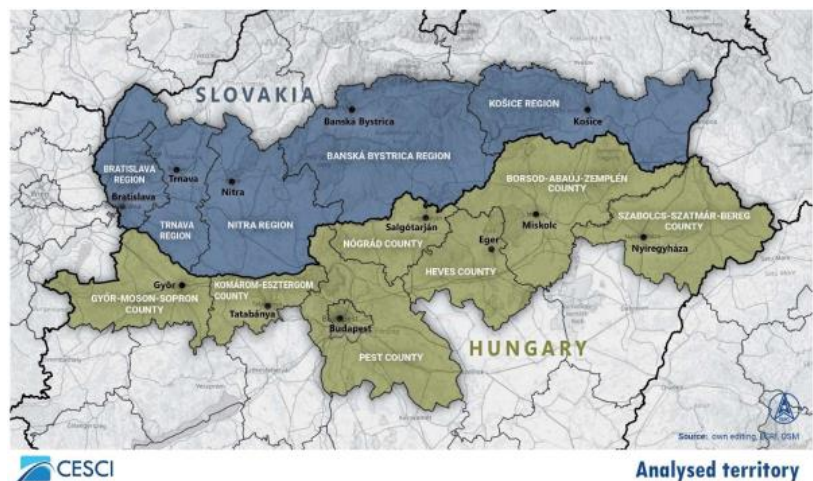
The cooperation area of the Programme covers a territory of 61 46 km², homes for 8,85 million citizens.

The programming region on the Slovak side covers the following 5 NUTS3 regions ('kraj') giving home to 3.34 million people altogether:

- SK010 - Bratislava region
- SK021 - Trnava region
- SK023 - Nitra region
- SK032 - Banská Bystrica region
- SK042 - Košice region

The programming region on the Hungarian side includes the following 8 NUTS3 regions ('megye' and the capital city of Budapest) in Hungary:

- HU110 - Budapest
- HU120 - Pest county
- HU212 - Komárom-Esztergom county
- HU221 - Győr-Moson-Sopron county
- HU311 - Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén county
- HU312 - Heves county
- HU313 - Nógrád county
- HU323 - Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg county



The analyzed territory of the Programme

(Source: Territorial analysis prepared by CESCO, 2020.)

Main objectives and actions of the Programme are as follows:

| Priority axis | Specific objective | Action/intervention field |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Green Cooperations | P2 – SO VI Promoting the transition to a circular and resource efficient economy | 1.1.2. Resource and waste management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>More efficient production</i> ▪ <i>Sustainable waste management and waste prevention</i> |
| | | 1.1.2. Short supply chains |
| | P2 – SO VII Enhancing protection and preservation of nature, biodiversity and green infrastructure, including in urban areas, and reducing all forms of pollution | 1.2.1. Protection and preservation of the natural capital <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Nature conservation and preservation</i> ▪ <i>Improvement of surface and ground water quality</i> ▪ <i>Biodiversity</i> ▪ <i>Green infrastructure</i> |
| | | 1.2.2. Joint risk management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Flood risk management</i> ▪ <i>Disaster risk management</i> |
| 2. Social cooperations | P4 – SO I Enhancing the effectiveness and inclusiveness of labour markets and access to quality employment through developing social infrastructure and promoting social economy | 2.1.1. Social innovations for disadvantaged and vulnerable groups |
| | P4 – SO II Improving equal access to inclusive and quality services in education, training and lifelong learning through developing accessible infrastructure, including by fostering resilience for distance and on-line education and training; | 2.2.1. Inclusive and quality education |
| | P4 – SO V Ensuring equal access to health care through developing infrastructure, including primary care and promoting the transition from institutional to family- and community-based care | 2.3.1. Family and community-based health care services |
| | | 2.3.2. Cross-border development of healthcare institutions |
| | P4 – SO VI Enhancing the role of culture and sustainable tourism in economic development, social inclusion and social innovation | 2.4.1. Preservation of local heritage |
| | | 2.4.2. Complex development of tourism destinations |
| 3. Institutional cooperations | ISO1 – Action b) Enhance efficient public administration by promoting legal and administrative cooperation and cooperation between citizens, civil society actors and institutions, in particular, with a view to resolving legal and other obstacles in border regions | 3.1.1. Eliminating border obstacles |
| | ISO1 – Action c) Build up mutual trust, in particular by encouraging people-to-people actions | 3.2.1 Small project fund |

Current environmental conflicts and problems in programme area and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the programme

Based on the situation analysis, **the following main environmental conflicts and challenges can be identified in the programme area:**

- There is a significant risk of erosion in hilly and mountainous areas, which is exacerbated by climate change and improper cultivation practices. In areas exposed to wind, such as the Little Hungarian Plain and the Great Hungarian Plain, there is a threat of deflation, which can also be exacerbated by climate change, however, its impact can be mitigated with proper cultivation and creation of forest and shrub belts.
- The protection of water quality is essential for preserving the purity of the water bases. Karsts are especially valuable parts of the drinking water base. The Aggtelek Karst and the Slovak Karst (Slovenský kras) form one unit from a hydrogeological perspective, as underground water sources are linked and directly affect each other. Karst water is particularly vulnerable to pollution; therefore, its protection is primarily important for the sake of long-term water supply.
- An increase in the frequency and intensity of hydrological (e.g. floods, inland water) and extreme meteorological events (e.g. sudden downpours, storms, hail). The water balance of the rivers is very variable: floods and water shortages are a major problem. The need for better coordination between water management and water protection.
- Degradation and conversion of vegetation, the spread of invasive alien species due to climate change and human activities in recent decades.
- The amount of waste generated in both countries has been increasing since the end of the 2008 crisis.

A lack of implementation of the Programme might cause effects of different orientation on the state of the environmental elements and systems.

- The lack of implementing the actions explicitly addressing environmental challenges (under priority axis “Green Cooperation”) may result in the persistence or possible escalation of existing environmental conflicts. As the environmental actions of the Programme include, in addition to some specific areas (e.g. nature conservation, improvement of water quality), actions that may affect the state of the environment as a whole, it can be concluded that the lack of planned developments might have a negative impact on the state of all environmental elements, but in particular on the state of wildlife and water
- Contrary to the above, the absence of actions with an environmental risk, limited to tourism development within the Programme, would logically avoid environmental pressures arising from this activity. However, due to the extremely low level of associated environmental risks, the planned development of tourism is unlikely to have a significant impact on the state of the environment, i.e. the absence of these elements of the Programme would not result in significant environmental benefits.

Likely environmental effects of programme implementation

Based on the results of the environmental assessment performed, it can be stated that **the Programme contains no actions the implementation of which would specifically endanger the status of any environmental element or system**. On the contrary, **a significant part of the activities implemented within the framework of the Programme directly or indirectly aims to reduce the use and pressure on environmental elements and systems, as well as to improve human health and quality of life** in line with environmental concerns.

By its nature, actions with a positive environmental impact are primarily included in the “Green Cooperation” priority axis. The vast majority of activities eligible here, although to varying degrees, contribute to improving the status of almost all environmental elements. From environmental, nature and landscape protection point of view, it is beneficial that the Programme supports the implementation of awareness raising programmes in several environmental and sustainability related topics. This statement is valid despite the fact that only a moderate environmental impact of this type of action was found in the evaluation, as their environmental effectiveness is also influenced by many external circumstances independent of the Programme. On the other hand, it should be noted and explained that in the case of the “Development of Circular Economy” action under Priority Axis 1, the possibility of a slightly increasing local pressure or stress cannot be completely ruled out or justified in the same way for some environmental elements. The reason accounting for this is primarily the relatively low level of detail of the Programme due to its strategic nature, and the fact that even the cleanest production implies some stress and pressure on environmental elements. It is emphasized that this does not mean at all that there would be an increased risk of adverse effects, moreover, the circular approach makes it even likely that the pressure on environmental elements will decrease; based on the Programme content, this issue cannot currently be settled though.

The only intervention direction within the whole Programme that may lead with a certain likelihood to increasing pressure and stress of environmental elements and systems is tourism development. It is well known that tourism can also cause adverse environmental effects, above all by growing transport demands, tourism facilities operation and disturbance of natural, semi-natural habitats, flora and fauna. At the same time, the volume of developments that can be implemented during the Programme makes it probable that **the Programme actions aimed at tourism development will not result in a high pressure and stress level on environmental elements and systems**. However, special attention will have to be paid for its prevention during the Programme implementation, recommendations for which are provided by the current environmental report.

Finally, **it should be noted that most of the Programme actions are not directly related to environmental values protection**. In particular, funding areas under Priority Axes 2 and 3 fall into this category. However, this does not mean that even these actions could not have indirect environmental effects, either positive or negative. In particular, the aimed improvement of the general living conditions via increasing skill levels, integrating vulnerable groups and creating new employment opportunities can make a significant contribution to ensuring that people living in the Programme area place greater emphasis on the protection of environmental and natural values and so adjust their

lifestyle. At the same time, it cannot be ruled out that the rising standard of living has been shown to carry the risk of increased environmental pressure and stress, although the awareness raising activities widely supported by the Programme, as well as empowerment of local communities play an important role in the prevention thereof.

Considering the expected extent of the effects of the Programme on various environmental elements and systems, it can be stated that **the most favourable influences are likely in the fields of climate protection and adaptation, as well as protection of human health**. The Programme also promotes significantly the protection of surface water and groundwater, soil, as well as natural and semi-natural habitats. The least progress can be expected in the field of prevention of noise and vibration pollution during the Programme implementation, however, such pressures are not considered to be essential in the area covered by the Programme.

The table below summarizes the environmental impacts of each action presented in detail in the Environmental Report.

| Actions | Soil | Air | Noise, vibration | Water | Natural values | Climate | Built env., landscape | Human health | Env. consciousness |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|------|-----|------------------|-------|----------------|---------|-----------------------|--------------|--------------------|
| 1.1.1. Resource and waste management | +2 | ? | ? | +2 | ? | +2 | ? | 0 | +2 |
| 1.1.2. Short supply chains | +2 | +1 | 0 | +1 | 0 | +2 | 0 | +1 | +1 |
| 1.2.1. Protection and preservation of the natural capital | +3 | +2 | +1 | +3 | +3 | +3 | +3 | +2 | +3 |
| 1.2.2. Joint risk management | +2 | +1 | 0 | +3 | +2 | +3 | +2 | +2 | +2 |
| 2.1.1. Social innovations for disadvantaged and vulnerable groups | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | +2 | 0 |
| 2.2.1. Inclusive and quality education | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | +2 | 0 |
| 2.3.1. Family and community-based health care services | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | +2 | 0 | +3 | +1 |
| 2.3.2. Cross-border development of healthcare institutions | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | +2 | 0 | +3 | 0 |
| 2.4.1. Preservation of local heritage | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | +1 | +3 | +2 | +1 |
| 2.4.2. Complex development of tourism destinations | -1 | -1 | 0 | -1 | -2 | -2 | ? | ? | 0 |
| 3.1.1. Eliminating border obstacles | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

| Actions | Soil | Air | Noise, vibration | Water | Natural values | Climate | Built env., landscape | Human health | Env. consciousness |
|--------------------------|------|-----|------------------|-------|----------------|---------|-----------------------|--------------|--------------------|
| 3.2.1 Small project fund | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | +1 | 0 |

Legend

| | |
|----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| +3 | positive environmental impact with a high probability |
| +2 | positive environmental impact with a medium probability |
| +1 | positive environmental impact with a low probability |
| 0 | no identifiable environmental impact |
| -1 | negative environmental impact with a low probability |
| -2 | negative environmental impact with a medium probability |
| -3 | negative environmental impact with a high probability |
| ? | direction of the environmental impact depending on the Programme implementation |

Recommended measures to protect environment, guidelines for lower hierarchy levels

As stated in the previous chapter, the implementation of the Programme is not expected to lead to a significant deterioration of the state of the environment, on the contrary, it will help to resolve and mitigate many existing environmental conflicts. Nevertheless, the implementation manner of the Programme play a key role in achieving the positive environmental impacts. A key requirement in this respect is that the preparation and implementation of projects must fully comply with the environmental legislation in force in the Slovak Republic and Hungary. The following is a summary of our proposals to mitigate the potential negative environmental impacts of developments, grouped according to the specific objectives of the Programme (justification of proposals is provided in Environmental Report). We have made proposals only for those actions, that could have a significant environmental impact.

| Priority axis or action | Proposal |
|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1.1.1. Resource and waste management | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is recommended to prioritize recycling and waste prevention related measures, while disposal of waste by landfill should only be supported as a last resort When developing the interventions, special attention should be paid to minimizing transportation needs and, if possible, supplying it by rail. The noise emissions of companies operating in industrial areas that may be established on the border should always be taken into account when assessing the impact on residential buildings across the border. As the main source of greenhouse gas emissions from landfills is biodegradable organic waste, it is proposed to pay special attention to this waste stream during the implementation of the action (e.g. in the framework of awareness raising actions). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> From climate protection point of view, it is duly justified to pursue a life cycle approach during the implementation of 1.1.1. Resource and waste management action, which, besides the elements included in the Programme (material- and energy efficiency, reduced waste generation), should also cover reducing of transport needs. |

| Priority axis or action | Proposal |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1.1.2. Short supply chains | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We recommend the development and promotion of local logistics services involving a wide range of local producers during the Programme implementation. • It is recommended that in the context of the development of short supply chains, emphasis should be placed on supporting ideas to reduce the need for packaging and preservation of products, while of course strictly enforcing food safety requirements. • It is recommended that awareness-raising activities on disaster management should also include the promotion of actions and behaviours to be adopted during the increasingly frequent extreme weather situations. • During the implementation of the action, it is worth to tackle increasing the demand side interest as well with the help of awareness raising campaigns. Information on the health and quality of life related benefits of food provided by short supply chains should be given to local community members and other actors. |
| 1.2.1. Protection and preservation of the natural capital | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regarding soil protection, industrial, agricultural and mountainous areas are exposed to different risks, however, all areas should be addressed by the measures. • It is recommended that awareness-raising educational campaigns planned under the Programme should include the promotion of characteristics and importance of Good Agricultural Practice. • A possible topic for cross-border initiatives to prevent soil degradation and preserve its functions could be the identification of possible actions in extreme soil water management situations. • In order to maximize impacts on air quality, it is recommended to always design and implement green infrastructure development elements on urban and extra-urban lands in a harmonized and systematic way during the Programme implementation, thus enabling creation of green corridors (possibly even along blue infrastructure elements) across settlements, which can improve their ventilation. • It should be considered to make measures such as planting of tree alleys, groups of trees and bushes eligible for funding in the framework of the Programme, in case they form part of a continuous green corridor. • It is recommended to also make those green infrastructure developments eligible during the Programme implementation which typically affect urban areas (e.g. tree planting along high-traffic transit routes). • For planting outside populated areas, native tree species should be chosen. However, it is advised to support the introduction of those which are able to adapt to climatic conditions expected in the future. |
| 1.2.2. Joint risk management | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is recommended to implement only such flood protection measures that do not jeopardize nature conservation objectives and prefer the development of natural or semi-natural floodplains. Only flood protection works developments being in line with this approach are recommended to be eligible. • It is recommended to draft a specific measure for promoting sustainable and efficient use of water resources. • It is recommended to implement only such flood protection measures that do not jeopardize nature conservation objectives and prefer the development of natural or semi-natural floodplains. Only flood protection works developments being in line with this approach are recommended to be eligible. |

| Priority axis or action | Proposal |
|----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It should be noted that flood protection infrastructure developments should follow the minimal intervention principle in all cases, and application of grey infrastructure solutions should be minimized as far as possible. • It is recommended to develop a common plan with the involvement of the local inhabitants for the long-term utilization of the newly created, revitalized floodplains, particularly for those located in urban land, thus enabling to better integrate these areas into the urban fabric. |
| 2.4.2. Complex development of tourism destinations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the preparation of tourism (and all infrastructure) investments, it is essential to contact and consult the local nature conservation authorities and national park directorates. • When designing tourism facilities, efforts should be made to always reduce land occupation and the extent of paved surfaces. • When planning tourism developments, special emphasis should be placed on reducing the use of private cars (e.g. enabling public transport access, prioritizing active tourism developments; establishing cycling routes between attractions, expanding related services, etc.). • During the implementation of the Programme, projects aimed at the development of tourism products, services and attractions should include some small-scale complementary measures to mitigate the environmental impacts of tourism (e.g., developing additional infrastructure (waste disposal facilities, toilets) to cope with increased visitor numbers. • Further development of tourism attractions with already a high number of visitors, especially points of interest (POIs) and urban sights, is not recommended in order to avoid the overtourism phenomenon, even if the planned development is aimed at organizing these attractions into a single “tourism programme package”. • It is recommended that surveys assessing the tourism potential of water bodies should incorporate water management and climate sections. Availability of a model able to project water resources and water quality changes for the upcoming decades, which also considers climate change impacts, is essential for long-term sustainable touristic utilization of water bodies. • In all cases, developments must take into account the protection of ecological networks (core areas, ecological corridors, buffer areas) and avoid placing a strain on protected areas. • It is recommended to adjust tourism developments primarily to the needs of those living in the two Member States concerned or in the neighbouring countries. Indeed, broadening the regional tourism offer and thus reducing the demand for long-distance tourism have the potential to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions from tourism. • The design of tourism facilities must in all cases be largely adapted to the landscape, especially in cases where the object affected by the development is located at landmarks (e.g. lookout points). • It is recommended to maximise the use of construction and demolition waste in the design of tourist facilities. • It is recommended that among the tourism grants, preference should be given to the developments planned with a sustainable approach of those tourism destinations which are highly beneficial for human health (e.g. health resorts, active tourism destinations). • In case of all tourism destinations, but especially of health resorts and protected natural areas and assets, special efforts must be made to eliminate the potential |

| Priority axis or action | Proposal |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | disturbing effects of tourism (especially noise generation, mass visits) in order to maintain the positive effects of tourism on human health at these destinations. |

Assessment of the monitoring system of the Programme

The primary goal of the Programme’s monitoring system is to record the scope of jointly implemented activities, regardless of the development area of activities. In view of this, the current indicators assigned to the Programme objectives are not suitable for measuring the impact of the implemented grants on the environment or sustainability, neither for monitoring many other significant horizontal objectives (e.g. gender equality). Opportunity for assessment and evaluation of the changes in environmental status induced by the Programme is provided by country-level monitoring systems operated by various national bodies in both participating countries. Their indisputable advantage is collecting and registering data on the basis of a professionally sound, uniform methodology. However, in order to be able to attribute the data recorded in them to the developments carried out under the project, it is **recommended to establish a register of the main characteristics of environmentally relevant developments**. Indicators recommended to be collected and recorded:

- exact location and extent of areas affected by a development, in ha or m² depending on the project
- land use classification of areas affected by a development, identification of potentially affected protected natural areas and Natura2000 areas;
- extent urban green spaces established, in ha (if relevant)
- area of the paved surfaces, in m² (if relevant)
- number of implemented cultural or tourist events, day / year, (if relevant)
- total number of municipalities involved in the cross-border integrated transport system
- total length of newly built or modernized cycle paths (km)
- total length of newly built or modernized tourist trails (km)

The collection of the above indicators is required for projects under actions with a potentially significant environmental impact, namely:

- all actions under the “Green cooperation priority
- 2.4.1. Preservation of local heritage
- 2.4.2. “Complex development of tourism destinations”

Among the national databases and regularly produced analyses and reports, the following are of particular relevance in the context of the analysis of the environmental impacts of the Programme. In particular, it is proposed to take into account

- Environmental Information System (Hungary)
- Assessments of the status of the listed species and habitat types carried out in the framework of the monitoring of the implementation of the Birds and Habitats Directives
- National level River Basin Management Plans and their implementation reports

- National traffic census data

It is recommended that all comprehensive evaluations of the Programme (if possible already mid-way through the programme cycle) include a detailed assessment of the environmental, sustainability aspects and identification of the environmental, sustainability impacts of the Programme, based on the above databases.

ANNEX I: OVERVIEW OF PROTECTED AREAS OF THE PROGRAMM AREA AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2020

Republic of Slovakia

| Name | Area in ha | Buffer zone area in ha |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| National Parks | | |
| NP Muránska planina | 20 317,8021 | 21 697,9644 |
| NP Nízke Tatry | 72 842,0000 | 110 162,0000 |
| NP Slovenský kras | 34 611,0832 | 11 741,5677 |
| NP Slovenský raj | 19 413,6700 | 5 474,7600 |
| Protected Landscape Areas | | |
| Biele Karpaty | 44 568,0000 | |
| Cerová vrchovina | 16 771,2273 | |
| Dunajské luhy | 12 284,4609 | |
| Latorica | 23 198,4602 | |
| Malé Karpaty | 64 610,1202 | |
| Poľana | 20 360,4804 | |
| Ponitrie | 37 665,4100 | |
| Štiavnické vrchy | 77 630,0000 | |
| Vihorlat | 17 485,2428 | |
| Záhorie | 27 522,0000 | |
| Natura 2000 sites | | |
| Sitecode | Sitename | Area, m2 |
| SKUEV0004 | Kopčianske slanisko | 87059 |
| SKUEV0006 | Latorica | 74774769 |
| SKUEV0007 | Cicarovsky les | 260916 |
| SKUEV0017 | Pri Orechovom rade | 16999 |
| SKUEV0021 | Viniste | 58037 |
| SKUEV0030 | Hoesske luky | 844508 |
| SKUEV0032 | Ladmovske vapence | 3322910 |

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| SKUEV0034 | Borsiansky les | 75616 |
| SKUEV0036 | Litava | 26300155 |
| SKUEV0037 | Oborinsky les | 98230 |
| SKUEV0044 | Badinsky prales | 1540486 |
| SKUEV0054 | Cudeninsky mociar | 1382290 |
| SKUEV0056 | Habanovo | 33197 |
| SKUEV0064 | Bratislavské luhy | 6810066 |
| SKUEV0067 | Cenkov | 792320 |
| SKUEV0069 | Bucské slanisko | 445921 |
| SKUEV0071 | Abov | 211209 |
| SKUEV0075 | Klatovské rameno | 2721053 |
| SKUEV0077 | Dunajské trstiny | 1691622 |
| SKUEV0083 | Eliasovský les | 306409 |
| SKUEV0084 | Zaton | 815472 |
| SKUEV0085 | Dolný haj | 582421 |
| SKUEV0091 | Ploská hora | 266266 |
| SKUEV0096 | Suriánske slaniska | 1693839 |
| SKUEV0098 | Nesvádske piesky | 170530 |
| SKUEV0104 | Homolské Karpaty | 51826206 |
| SKUEV0106 | Muran | 1788510 |
| SKUEV0116 | Jakubovské rybníky | 1377101 |
| SKUEV0121 | Marhecke rybníky | 574892 |
| SKUEV0123 | Dubrava | 212137 |
| SKUEV0126 | Vinodolský hajík | 217575 |
| SKUEV0130 | Zobor | 19049922 |
| SKUEV0133 | Horky | 824307 |
| SKUEV0134 | Kulhan | 689123 |
| SKUEV0154 | Suchá dolina | 31155 |
| SKUEV0157 | Stary vrch | 133939 |
| SKUEV0158 | Modry vrch | 1476389 |
| SKUEV0162 | Grgas | 470673 |
| SKUEV0168 | Horný les | 5501898 |
| SKUEV0173 | Kotlina | 3987721 |
| SKUEV0178 | V studienkach | 194497 |
| SKUEV0180 | Ludinsky haj | 1619380 |
| SKUEV0182 | Cicovské luhy | 4835950 |
| SKUEV0183 | Velkolelský ostrov | 3277367 |
| SKUEV0184 | Burdov | 16801461 |
| SKUEV0203 | Stolica | 28125023 |
| SKUEV0204 | Homola | 227342 |
| SKUEV0209 | Morske oko | 133253956 |
| SKUEV0216 | Sitno | 9356994 |

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| SKUEV0218 | Mociarka | 2215401 |
| SKUEV0220 | Sastinsky potok | 22376 |
| SKUEV0225 | Muranska planina | 202611270 |
| SKUEV0244 | Harmanecky Hlboky jarok | 504702 |
| SKUEV0249 | Hrbata lucka | 1806956 |
| SKUEV0250 | Krivostianka | 107644 |
| SKUEV0261 | Dedinska hora | 1327525 |
| SKUEV0277 | Nad vinicami | 4845 |
| SKUEV0292 | Drienova hora | 99747 |
| SKUEV0293 | Klučovske rameno | 4751137 |
| SKUEV0302 | Dumbierske Tatry | 266841203 |
| SKUEV0311 | Kaceny | 2749672 |
| SKUEV0312 | Devinske aluvium Moravy | 1488596 |
| SKUEV0341 | Dolny vrch | 15277613 |
| SKUEV0344 | Starovodske jedliny | 4687560 |
| SKUEV0350 | Brzotinske skaly | 4363721 |
| SKUEV0362 | Pieskovcove chrbyty | 986861 |
| SKUEV0384 | Klenovske Blata | 38964 |
| SKUEV0502 | Stokeravska vopenka | 128412 |
| SKUEV0512 | Mokrý les | 1718394 |
| SKUEV0520 | Horný tok Myjavy | 243975 |
| SKUEV0527 | Gachovec | 302412 |
| SKUEV0638 | Revistsky rybnik | 235552 |
| SKUEV0684 | Jelsovec | 64906 |
| SKUEV0694 | Vrchslatina | 178574 |
| SKUEV0729 | Rosiarka | 60580 |
| SKUEV0784 | Mašianské sysťovisko | 191283 |
| SKUEV0814 | Hubovo | 2248584 |
| SKUEV0822 | Maly Dunaj | 17383490 |
| SKUEV0841 | Dolny tok Tople | 137183 |
| SKUEV0843 | Dolny tok Ondavy | 792551 |
| SKUEV0864 | Holy vrsok | 363675 |
| SKUEV0865 | Rataj | 1919669 |
| SKUEV0868 | Vcelar | 193619 |
| SKUEV0872 | Jedzina | 6533636 |
| SKUEV0875 | Cierny hrad | 1010957 |
| SKUEV0876 | Horna hora | 1328615 |
| SKUEV0879 | Lupka | 226320 |
| SKUEV0901 | Havran | 3644346 |
| SKUEV0903 | Kyselova a Mnichova uboc | 363398 |
| SKUEV0918 | Volovske buciny | 610337 |
| SKUEV0921 | Meliatsky profil | 118978 |

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| SKUEV0929 | Helcmanovska bucina | 231242 |
| SKUEV0938 | Rakytova hora | 214150 |
| SKUEV0944 | Hornadske meandre | 1983704 |
| SKUEV0947 | Stredny tok Hrona | 3248571 |
| SKUEV0954 | Stredny tok Bodvy | 512797 |
| SKUEV0966 | Vinianska stran | 284845 |
| SKUEV1007 | Cicarovsky les | 722483 |
| SKUEV1064 | Bratislavské luhy | 289745 |
| SKUEV1173 | Kotlina | 2056006 |
| SKUEV1267 | Biele hory | 242706 |
| SKUEV1297 | Brezinky | 7303 |
| SKUEV1311 | Kačienky | 321982 |
| SKUEV1316 | Šranecké piesky | 7207719 |
| SKUEV2019 | Tarbucka | 89012 |
| SKUEV2112 | Slovensky raj | 1220132 |
| SKUEV0200 | Klenovsky Vepor | 3430988 |
| SKUEV0258 | Tlsty vrch | 12164777 |
| SKCHVU005 | Dolne Povazie | 323580755 |
| SKCHVU007 | Dunajske luhy | 176470725 |
| SKCHVU015 | Medzibodrozie | 344775509 |
| SKCHVU016 | Zahorske Pomoravie | 318813957 |
| SKCHVU017 | Muranska planina - Stolica | 257918145 |
| SKCHVU020 | Parizske mociare | 3752450 |
| SKCHVU022 | Polana | 323217979 |
| SKCHVU023 | Ulanska mokrad | 188385149 |
| SKCHVU027 | Slovensky kras | 448029666 |
| SKCHVU031 | Tribec | 218797010 |
| SKCHVU037 | Ondavska rovina | 204775636 |
| SKCHVU054 | Spacinsko-niznianske polia | 121570280 |
| SKUEV0003 | Rimava | 40672 |
| SKUEV0008 | Repiska | 618315 |
| SKUEV0010 | Komarnanske slanisko | 145469 |
| SKUEV0015 | Dolna Bukovina | 2926995 |
| SKUEV0019 | Tarbucka | 1715469 |
| SKUEV0020 | Bisce | 272717 |
| SKUEV0023 | Tomov stal | 15343 |
| SKUEV0026 | Raskovsky luh | 168901 |
| SKUEV0029 | Velky kopec | 237662 |
| SKUEV0052 | Selestianska stran | 90219 |
| SKUEV0062 | Priboj | 101276 |
| SKUEV0065 | Marcelovske piesky | 438879 |
| SKUEV0066 | Kameninske slaniska | 1194290 |

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| SKUEV0068 | Jursky chlm | 1045895 |
| SKUEV0070 | Martovska mokrad | 336738 |
| SKUEV0073 | Listove jazero | 415301 |
| SKUEV0079 | Horny haj | 729838 |
| SKUEV0086 | Krive hrabiny | 830403 |
| SKUEV0093 | Severny Bodicky kanal | 241252 |
| SKUEV0094 | Velky les | 460966 |
| SKUEV0099 | Pavelske slanisko | 184767 |
| SKUEV0105 | Spisskopodhradske travertiny | 1069464 |
| SKUEV0125 | Gajarske aluvium Moravy | 12049709 |
| SKUEV0131 | Gymes | 734160 |
| SKUEV0137 | Zahrada | 202416 |
| SKUEV0149 | Mackov bok | 39266 |
| SKUEV0151 | Pohorelske vrchovisko | 200439 |
| SKUEV0153 | Horne lazy | 380865 |
| SKUEV0160 | Karab | 761550 |
| SKUEV0167 | Bezodne | 654488 |
| SKUEV0170 | Mesterova luka | 1325059 |
| SKUEV0172 | Beznisko | 9224726 |
| SKUEV0174 | Lindava | 4030227 |
| SKUEV0175 | Sedliska | 448721 |
| SKUEV0179 | Cerveny rybnik | 2347207 |
| SKUEV0186 | Mlacky | 4025519 |
| SKUEV0199 | Plavno | 527602 |
| SKUEV0202 | Treskova | 252114 |
| SKUEV0208 | Senianske rybniky | 2093403 |
| SKUEV0217 | Ondriasov potok | 78354 |
| SKUEV0238 | Velka Fatra | 47397568 |
| SKUEV0248 | Mocidlianska skala | 2048051 |
| SKUEV0260 | Masiarsky bok | 2870415 |
| SKUEV0264 | Klokoc | 22812063 |
| SKUEV0266 | Skalka | 97166998 |
| SKUEV0267 | Biele hory | 101469283 |
| SKUEV0271 | Sandorky | 31108 |
| SKUEV0280 | Devinska Kobyla | 6430006 |
| SKUEV0286 | Hornadske vapence | 277788 |
| SKUEV0297 | Brezinky | 83365 |
| SKUEV0313 | Devinske jazero | 12332843 |
| SKUEV0317 | Rozporec | 828588 |
| SKUEV0326 | Strahulka | 11702154 |
| SKUEV0343 | Plesivske strane | 3975618 |
| SKUEV0347 | Domicke skrapy | 1115966 |

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| SKUEV0352 | Hrusovska lesostep | 401117 |
| SKUEV0356 | Horny vrch | 60288212 |
| SKUEV0364 | Pokoradzské jazierka | 626559 |
| SKUEV0388 | Vydrica | 73208 |
| SKUEV0392 | Brezovska stran | 659119 |
| SKUEV0393 | Dunaj | 14255085 |
| SKUEV0400 | Detviensky potok | 731800 |
| SKUEV0593 | Sokolec | 2248028 |
| SKUEV0669 | Drieňové | 908933 |
| SKUEV0737 | Palanta | 7587686 |
| SKUEV0785 | Havrania dolina | 107216 |
| SKUEV0800 | Devinska hradna skala | 43955 |
| SKUEV0820 | Dolny tok Hrona | 5872948 |
| SKUEV0824 | Dolny tok Ipla | 2006550 |
| SKUEV0845 | Backovska dolina | 2229351 |
| SKUEV0855 | Dedkovo | 155073 |
| SKUEV0857 | Micinske travertiny | 40758 |
| SKUEV0860 | Iliaska dolina | 1014135 |
| SKUEV0900 | Uchanok | 826446 |
| SKUEV0924 | Zbojnicka dolina | 204614 |
| SKUEV0926 | Prostredna dolina | 1021176 |
| SKUEV0935 | Hanistiansky les | 1198754 |
| SKUEV0948 | Bolerazske syslovisko | 566429 |
| SKUEV0957 | Uderinky | 1013730 |
| SKUEV0969 | Hradne luky | 596506 |
| SKUEV1149 | Mackov bok | 77615 |
| SKUEV1269 | Ostrovne lucky | 124294 |
| SKUEV1276 | Kuchynská hornatina | 14531 |
| SKUEV1357 | Cerová vrchovina | 3979160 |
| SKUEV2098 | Nesvadske piesky | 193120 |
| SKUEV2105 | Spisskopodhradske travertiny | 108202 |
| SKUEV2133 | Horky | 1223114 |
| SKUEV2158 | Modry vrch | 213538 |
| SKUEV2294 | Bagovsky vrch | 1432865 |
| SKUEV2366 | Driencansky kras | 12821620 |
| SKUEV0074 | Dubnik | 1718626 |
| SKUEV0905 | Holicske aluvium Moravy | 1458736 |
| SKCHVU003 | Cerová vrchovina - Porimavie | 303056505 |
| SKCHVU009 | Kosicka kotlina | 179719029 |
| SKCHVU014 | Male Karpaty | 503475606 |
| SKCHVU024 | Senianske rybniky | 27185771 |
| SKCHVU026 | Slnava | 5128634 |

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| SKCHVU029 | Syslovske polia | 17606924 |
| SKCHVU034 | Velkoblavovske rybniky | 925749 |
| SKUEV0024 | Hradna dolina | 143542 |
| SKUEV0038 | Oborinske jamy | 66181 |
| SKUEV0045 | Kopa | 905591 |
| SKUEV0053 | Kiarovsky mociar | 295513 |
| SKUEV0076 | Bokrosske slanisko | 99972 |
| SKUEV0078 | Mostova | 224952 |
| SKUEV0080 | Juhasove slance | 419038 |
| SKUEV0087 | Osminy | 988429 |
| SKUEV0089 | Martinsky les | 9941661 |
| SKUEV0090 | Dunajske luhy | 45412598 |
| SKUEV0092 | Dolnovazske luhy | 2086943 |
| SKUEV0095 | Panske luky | 687116 |
| SKUEV0097 | Palarikovske luky | 154216 |
| SKUEV0100 | Chotinske piesky | 71300 |
| SKUEV0113 | Dlhe luky | 169936 |
| SKUEV0115 | Bahno | 496686 |
| SKUEV0119 | Siroka | 2050176 |
| SKUEV0124 | Bogdalicky vrch | 565910 |
| SKUEV0129 | Cerovina | 3543334 |
| SKUEV0136 | Dolne lazy | 64868 |
| SKUEV0155 | Aluvium Starej Nitry | 4339317 |
| SKUEV0163 | Rudava | 19590390 |
| SKUEV0165 | Kutsky les | 3729741 |
| SKUEV0169 | Orlovske vrsky | 2072269 |
| SKUEV0177 | Smolzie | 678639 |
| SKUEV0212 | Muten | 330862 |
| SKUEV0236 | Bodrog | 1070532 |
| SKUEV0245 | Boky | 1680741 |
| SKUEV0246 | Supin | 126556 |
| SKUEV0247 | Rohy | 244115 |
| SKUEV0262 | Cajkovske bralie | 16211921 |
| SKUEV0263 | Hodrusska hornatina | 102692219 |
| SKUEV0269 | Ostrovne lucky | 6274990 |
| SKUEV0273 | Vtacnik | 31294728 |
| SKUEV0276 | Kuchynska hornatina | 32750986 |
| SKUEV0278 | Brezovske Karpaty | 13549478 |
| SKUEV0282 | Tisovsky kras | 14696489 |
| SKUEV0290 | Horny tok Hornadu | 583535 |
| SKUEV0291 | Svatojansky potok | 288620 |
| SKUEV0301 | Kopec | 37517 |

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| SKUEV0310 | Kralovoholske Tatry | 61124987 |
| SKUEV0316 | Sranecke piesky | 2721667 |
| SKUEV0319 | Polana | 30724215 |
| SKUEV0327 | Milic | 51139663 |
| SKUEV0342 | Drienovec | 2062429 |
| SKUEV0345 | Kecovske skrapy | 3546184 |
| SKUEV0349 | Jasovske dubiny | 356371 |
| SKUEV0351 | Folkmarska skala | 1367890 |
| SKUEV0354 | Hnilecke raseliniska | 544910 |
| SKUEV0357 | Cerova vrchovina | 26283695 |
| SKUEV0358 | Sovi hrad | 416615 |
| SKUEV0360 | Belezir | 616001 |
| SKUEV0365 | Dalovsky mociar | 825143 |
| SKUEV0366 | Driencansky kras | 16063105 |
| SKUEV0383 | Ponicka dubrava | 132828 |
| SKUEV0398 | Slana | 347217 |
| SKUEV0506 | Orlie skaly | 305159 |
| SKUEV0523 | Lakšárska duna | 52771 |
| SKUEV0526 | Kalaštovský potok | 448681 |
| SKUEV0640 | Bujacia luka | 21423 |
| SKUEV0728 | Podpolana | 16329 |
| SKUEV0730 | Hodosov les | 215561 |
| SKUEV0816 | Horný tok Ipla | 1197930 |
| SKUEV0817 | Rimava a Slana | 483954 |
| SKUEV0846 | Tisa | 761252 |
| SKUEV0852 | Vah pri Hlohovci | 1236709 |
| SKUEV0853 | Chtelnicke syslovisko | 732273 |
| SKUEV0859 | Lubietovske dubravy | 264857 |
| SKUEV0863 | Na Kostolnicou | 203188 |
| SKUEV0867 | Mochovska cerina | 8584841 |
| SKUEV0873 | Pohronsky Inovec | 4491134 |
| SKUEV0874 | Clnok | 4768545 |
| SKUEV0882 | Patianska cerina | 8085277 |
| SKUEV0890 | Pirovske | 1297094 |
| SKUEV0906 | Kalastovsky bor | 3571087 |
| SKUEV0907 | Peterklin | 942794 |
| SKUEV0908 | Kaltenbruk | 889190 |
| SKUEV0919 | Kloptan | 262741 |
| SKUEV0920 | Sokolia skala | 117599 |
| SKUEV0922 | Bubenik | 1703043 |
| SKUEV0925 | Abod | 912564 |
| SKUEV0928 | Stredny tok Hornadu | 2958842 |

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| SKUEV0956 | Luborecske dubiny | 4413153 |
| SKUEV0965 | Viniansky hradny vrch | 519570 |
| SKUEV1125 | Gajarské alúvium Moravy | 4692157 |
| SKUEV1278 | Brezovske Karpaty | 3218862 |
| SKUEV1293 | Klucovske rameno | 1977664 |
| SKUEV1362 | Pieskovcové chrbtty | 2207077 |
| SKUEV2064 | Bratislavske luhy | 2299388 |
| SKUEV2090 | Dunajske luhy | 12248701 |
| SKUEV2165 | Kutsky les | 113330 |
| SKUEV2184 | Burdov | 2532038 |
| SKUEV2269 | Ostrovne luky | 150012 |
| SKUEV2272 | Vozokansky luh | 99029 |
| SKUEV2285 | Aluvium Murana | 632257 |
| SKUEV2393 | Dunaj | 6671867 |
| SKUEV0201 | Gavurky | 680470 |
| SKUEV0259 | Stara hora | 24005090 |
| SKUEV0892 | Dolny Chlm | 507271 |
| SKUEV0893 | Kunesovske luky | 1438321 |
| SKCHVU004 | Dolne Pohronie | 2258609 |
| SKCHVU010 | Kralova | 12139619 |
| SKCHVU018 | Nizke Tatry | 382342616 |
| SKCHVU019 | Ostrovne luky | 83336001 |
| SKCHVU021 | Poiplie | 80556950 |
| SKCHVU035 | Vihorlatske vrchy | 328579103 |
| SKCHVU036 | Volovske vrchy | 1198227606 |
| SKCHVU038 | Zitavsky luh | 1553065 |
| SKUEV0001 | Tri peniazky | 1405386 |
| SKUEV0002 | Luky pod Ukorovou | 118653 |
| SKUEV0009 | Koryto | 250612 |
| SKUEV0012 | Besiansky polder | 27252 |
| SKUEV0013 | Straz | 198374 |
| SKUEV0018 | Luka pod cintorinom | 49595 |
| SKUEV0035 | Cebovska lesostep | 1923577 |
| SKUEV0046 | Javorinka | 443197 |
| SKUEV0047 | Dobrocsky prales | 2038887 |
| SKUEV0055 | Ipelske hony | 249383 |
| SKUEV0072 | Detvice | 889765 |
| SKUEV0088 | Siky | 327547 |
| SKUEV0112 | Slovensky raj | 127182284 |
| SKUEV0117 | Abrod | 1623564 |
| SKUEV0120 | Jasenacke | 503227 |
| SKUEV0132 | Kostolianske luky | 42170 |

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|-----------|-----------------------------|----------|
| SKUEV0135 | Bocina | 451872 |
| SKUEV0156 | Konopiska | 77465 |
| SKUEV0159 | Aluvium Zitavy | 463932 |
| SKUEV0161 | Suchohradske aluvium Moravy | 536680 |
| SKUEV0166 | Ciglat | 1757294 |
| SKUEV0171 | Zelienka | 1409810 |
| SKUEV0176 | Dvorciansky les | 1468541 |
| SKUEV0198 | Zvolen | 7544123 |
| SKUEV0213 | Kazarka | 1062546 |
| SKUEV0219 | Malina | 4388661 |
| SKUEV0226 | Vanisovec | 1968626 |
| SKUEV0227 | Cilizske mociare | 885969 |
| SKUEV0235 | Stretavka | 161388 |
| SKUEV0241 | Svrcinnik | 1071663 |
| SKUEV0265 | Sut | 90429301 |
| SKUEV0268 | Bukova | 94348 |
| SKUEV0270 | Hrusov | 4947991 |
| SKUEV0272 | Vozokansky luh | 60055 |
| SKUEV0279 | Sur | 4316894 |
| SKUEV0281 | Trstie | 287919 |
| SKUEV0283 | Luky pod Besnikom | 838956 |
| SKUEV0284 | Teplicke strane | 3522471 |
| SKUEV0285 | Aluvium Murana | 2245520 |
| SKUEV0287 | Galmus | 32005771 |
| SKUEV0294 | Bagovsky vrch | 2226567 |
| SKUEV0295 | Biskupicke luhy | 9162561 |
| SKUEV0298 | Brvniste | 747700 |
| SKUEV0299 | Baranovo | 8616398 |
| SKUEV0303 | Aluvium Hrona | 2250925 |
| SKUEV0314 | Morava | 2298028 |
| SKUEV0328 | Stredne Pohornadie | 70923817 |
| SKUEV0329 | Kovacske luky | 1464433 |
| SKUEV0340 | Cesky zavrt | 39163 |
| SKUEV0346 | Pod Straznym hrebenom | 1784325 |
| SKUEV0348 | Cierna Moldava | 18951241 |
| SKUEV0353 | Plesivska planina | 28608623 |
| SKUEV0355 | Fabianka | 6477804 |
| SKUEV0359 | Dechtarske vinice | 551888 |
| SKUEV0361 | Vodokas | 1372382 |
| SKUEV0363 | Tahan | 3108239 |
| SKUEV0395 | Pohrebiste | 850019 |
| SKUEV0399 | Bacusska jelsina | 45450 |

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|-----------|----------------------------|---------|
| SKUEV0402 | Bradlo | 1 |
| SKUEV0503 | Predhorie | 452907 |
| SKUEV0513 | Bencov mlyn | 199873 |
| SKUEV0552 | Lohotsky mociar | 220160 |
| SKUEV0695 | Rohoznianska jelšina | 45007 |
| SKUEV0804 | Javorec | 282484 |
| SKUEV0819 | Vazsky Dunaj | 7560350 |
| SKUEV0823 | Sovie vinohrady | 97950 |
| SKUEV0844 | Dolny tok Laborca | 973923 |
| SKUEV0847 | Pozdisovsky chrbat | 1121689 |
| SKUEV0856 | Zalomska | 75366 |
| SKUEV0858 | Horna skala | 1200781 |
| SKUEV0861 | Riecanske luky | 171718 |
| SKUEV0862 | Predajnianska slatina | 196952 |
| SKUEV0869 | Babsky les | 609905 |
| SKUEV0870 | Horsianska dolina | 1826266 |
| SKUEV0877 | Maly Bahorec | 59980 |
| SKUEV0880 | Prasicka dubina | 403877 |
| SKUEV0889 | Medovarske dubiny | 2195982 |
| SKUEV0891 | Domanicke strane | 205497 |
| SKUEV0899 | Borske piesky | 167382 |
| SKUEV0902 | Veternik | 213872 |
| SKUEV0904 | Gbelsky les | 2679277 |
| SKUEV0911 | Vrchna hora | 64573 |
| SKUEV0917 | Dlhy vrch | 45842 |
| SKUEV0940 | Hornadske luky | 643011 |
| SKUEV0941 | Trebejovske skaly | 472536 |
| SKUEV0958 | Stredny tok Ipla | 1116451 |
| SKUEV0959 | Galamia | 181826 |
| SKUEV0967 | Modransko-trnanske pustaky | 3525229 |
| SKUEV1013 | Straz | 3290941 |
| SKUEV1227 | Čiližské močiare | 3381763 |
| SKUEV1302 | Dumbierske Tatry | 130901 |
| SKUEV1303 | Alúvium Hrona | 2463434 |
| SKUEV1388 | Vydrica | 226886 |
| SKUEV2067 | Cenkov | 1763223 |
| SKUEV2155 | Aluvium Starej Nitry | 1403847 |
| SKUEV2216 | Sitno | 77245 |
| SKUEV2284 | Teplicke strane | 92465 |
| SKUEV2315 | Skalicke aluvium Moravy | 1060485 |
| SKUEV2357 | Cerova vrchovina | 5554701 |
| SKUEV2392 | Brezovska stran | 3541610 |

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|-----------|-------------------------|-----------|
| SKUEV0257 | Aluvium Ipla | 2506599 |
| SKUEV0315 | Skalicke aluvium Moravy | 2477757 |
| SKUEV1182 | Ďíčovské luhy | 1941729 |
| SKCHVU012 | Lehnice | 23871665 |
| SKCHVU025 | Slanske vrchy | 304899244 |
| SKCHVU033 | Velka Fatra | 89526008 |
| SKCHVU053 | Slovensky raj | 170501182 |

In addition to the large protected areas listed above, there are hundreds of smaller protected areas in the selfgovernmental regions Bratislava, Trnava, Nitra, Banska Bystrica and Kosice covered by the Programme.

Detailed information is available on the website of *Štátny zoznam osobitne chránených častí prírody SR* (<https://old.uzemia.enviroportal.sk>).

Hungary

| Name | Area in ha |
|----------------------------------|-------------|
| National Parks | |
| NP Fertő-Hanság | 23 862,0232 |
| NP Duna-Ipoly | 60 717,0053 |
| NP Bükk | 42 032,9669 |
| NP Aggtelek | 20 183,6720 |
| Protected landscape areas | |
| Szigetköz | 9 681,0957 |
| Pannonhalmi | 8 274,0488 |
| Gerecse | 8 675,4603 |
| Buda | 10 499,9340 |
| Gödöllő Hills | 11 478,4805 |
| Borsodi-Mezőség | 17 932,2 |

| | |
|---------------------|-------------|
| Grass Land in Heves | 16 114 |
| Hollókő | 141,2 |
| Kesznyéten | 6083,9 |
| East-Cserhát | 7 311,3279 |
| Karancs-Medves | 6 667,3061 |
| Mátra | 12 383,7236 |
| Tarnavidék | 9 310,0721 |
| Lázbérci | 3 710,5975 |
| Szatmár-Bereg | 21.891,7 |
| Zemplén | 26 765,3668 |

| Natura 2000 sites | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Sitecode | Sitename | Area, m2 |
| HUAN20001 | Aggteleki-karszt és peremterületei | 230938255 |
| HUAN20002 | Rakaca-völgy és oldalvölgyei | 20813725 |
| HUAN20004 | Hernád-völgy és Sajóládi-erdő | 50368271 |
| HUAN20005 | Szuha-völgy | 10387396 |
| HUAN21008 | Mádi Bomboly-bánya | 79403 |
| HUAN21009 | Mádi-Kakas-hegy | 153568 |
| HUBF30001 | Északi-Bakony | 30064879 |
| HUBN20008 | Vár-hegy - Nagy-Eged | 20364001 |
| HUBN20009 | Tard környéki erdőssztyepp | 4618146 |
| HUBN20018 | Upponyi-szoros | 12894865 |
| HUBN20031 | Mezőcsáti Rigós | 932013 |
| HUBN20034 | Borsodi-Mezőség | 148499163 |
| HUBN20037 | Nagy-Hanyi | 1678114 |
| HUBN20040 | Nagy-fertő - Gulya-gyep - Hamvajárás szikes pusztái | 18172252 |
| HUBN20044 | Recski Hegyes-hegy | 1614528 |
| HUBN20055 | Szentkúti Meszes-tető | 8925196 |
| HUBN20059 | Szandai Várhegy | 336968 |
| HUBN20063 | Karancs | 8816295 |
| HUBN20064 | Salgó | 1391754 |
| HUAN20003 | Bódva-völgy és a Sas-patak-völgye | 26941035 |
| HUAN20006 | Sajó-völgy | 20742860 |
| HUBN20065 | Gortva-völgy | 1553024 |
| HUBN20089 | Füzéri Pál-hegy | 7324221 |
| HUBN21094 | Bujáki Hényeli-erdő és Alsó-rét | 502129 |
| HUBN20002 | Hór-völgy, Déli-Bükk | 55196279 |

| Natura 2000 sites | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Sitecode | Sitename | Area, m ² |
| HUBN20005 | Kisgyőri Ásottfa-tető - Csókás-völgy | 24239142 |
| HUBN20012 | Egerbakta - Bátor környéki erdők | 26296226 |
| HUBN20015 | Izra-völgy és az Arló-i-tó | 13488749 |
| HUBN20017 | Borsodbótai Kotyindó-tető | 2974399 |
| HUBN20019 | Csernely-patak völgye | 1723051 |
| HUBN20025 | Nagybarcai Liget-hegy és sajóvelezdi Égett-hegy | 12019377 |
| HUBN20036 | Kétútközi-legelő | 1827064 |
| HUBN20042 | Boldogi Vajda-rét | 1076523 |
| HUBN20051 | Nyugat-Mátra | 14984940 |
| HUBN20052 | Apci Somlyó | 425284 |
| HUBN20067 | Szilvásvárad Aszaló és Szilvás-patak mente | 1838035 |
| HUBN20077 | Erdőbényei - olaszliszka magyar nőszirmos sztyepprétek | 224152 |
| HUBN20078 | Pácini Mosonna-erdő | 2244769 |
| HUBN20079 | Révleányvári erdők | 3533946 |
| HUBN20084 | Központi-Zempléni-hegység | 86624469 |
| HUBN20088 | Regéci Várhegy | 2455983 |
| HUBN21095 | Nagylóci Kő-hegy | 1980847 |
| HUDI20009 | Budai-hegység | 95228804 |
| HUDI20010 | Budaörsi kopárok | 5747313 |
| HUDI20011 | Csépi gyepek | 3349644 |
| HUDI20012 | Csévharaszi homokvidék | 12000072 |
| HUDI20013 | Csolnoki löszgyepek | 4107714 |
| HUDI20016 | Epöli szarmata vonulat | 15775759 |
| HUDI20026 | Ipoly völgye | 29364771 |
| HUDI20035 | Nagykőrösi pusztai tölgyesek | 33024828 |
| HUDI20039 | Pilis és Visegrádi-hegység | 301466219 |
| HUDI20042 | Ráckevei Duna-ág | 29098733 |
| HUHN20015 | Közép-Tisza | 15327930 |
| HUBN22096 | Tiszaújvárosi ártéri erdők | 1875208 |
| HUDI20014 | Debegió-hegy | 847036 |
| HUDI20017 | Érd-tétényi plató | 11649730 |
| HUDI20022 | Gógány- és Kőrös-ér mente | 8178400 |
| HUDI20030 | Központi-Gerecse | 58448601 |
| HUDI20032 | Mocsai ürgés legelő | 862616 |
| HUHN20035 | Önbölyi-erdő és Fényi-erdő | 14217642 |
| HUHN20036 | Bátorligeti Nagy-legelő | 4507155 |
| HUHN20041 | Apagy Falu-rét | 346307 |
| HUHN20063 | Baktai-erdő | 9703512 |
| HUHN20067 | Csikós-lápos | 780936 |
| HUHN20113 | Kisvárdai gyepek | 6872147 |

| Natura 2000 sites | | |
|-------------------|---------------------------------|-----------|
| Sitecode | Sitename | Area, m2 |
| HUHN20114 | Tiszalöki szikesek | 15873974 |
| HUHN20124 | Daru-rét | 1178258 |
| HUHN20127 | Kraszna menti rétek | 3754376 |
| HUHN20133 | Balkányi Libegős | 1391646 |
| HUHN21164 | Liget-legelő | 458875 |
| HUKN20001 | Felső-kiskunsági szikes puszta | 77054594 |
| HUBN20073 | Bodrogszegi Várhegy | 419766 |
| HUDI20045 | Szigethalmi homokbuckák | 690018 |
| HUFH20007 | Péri-repülőter | 2149699 |
| HUFH20009 | Gönyüi-homokvidék | 28809918 |
| HUDI10001 | Abonyi-kaszálóerdő | 4190049 |
| HUDI10006 | Tatai Öreg-tó | 26241355 |
| HUFH10001 | Fertő tó | 86918111 |
| HUHN10002 | Hortobágy | 120267588 |
| HUDI30001 | Vértés | 98976872 |
| HUFH20001 | Rábaköz | 59683910 |
| HUFH20003 | Fertőmelléki dombsor | 25599549 |
| HUHN20037 | Bátorligeti-láp | 3298896 |
| HUHN20038 | Újtanyai lápok | 3335941 |
| HUHN20043 | Paszabi kubikgödrök | 191457 |
| HUHN20045 | Kaszonyi-hegy - Dédai-erdő | 13117989 |
| HUHN20046 | Gelénes - Beregdaróc | 11592277 |
| HUHN20048 | Tarpa-Tákos | 63383248 |
| HUHN20049 | Lónya-Tiszaszalka | 40960451 |
| HUHN20054 | Csaholc - Garbolc | 40092021 |
| HUHN20055 | Rozsály - Csengersima | 9836655 |
| HUHN20058 | Teremi-erdő | 9098756 |
| HUHN20059 | Bika-rét | 660267 |
| HUHN20072 | Bökönyi Közös-legelő | 846797 |
| HUHN20116 | Tiszavasvári szikesek | 3332221 |
| HUHN21163 | Biri Nagy-rét | 2761027 |
| HUHN21165 | Penészleki gyepek | 4652513 |
| HUBN20069 | Kesznyéteni Sajó-öböl | 47265718 |
| HUBN20071 | Bodrogszeg és Bodrog hullámtere | 73698583 |
| HUBN20072 | Tokaji Kopasz-hegy | 3507112 |
| HUDI20046 | Székek | 36167652 |
| HUDI20048 | Szomódi gyepek | 2950531 |
| HUDI20051 | Turjánvidék | 121986941 |
| HUHN20057 | Grófi-erdő | 2290252 |
| HUBN10002 | Borsodi-sík | 362401230 |

| Natura 2000 sites | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| Sitecode | Sitename | Area, m2 |
| HUBN10004 | Hevesi-sík | 751178524 |
| HUBN10007 | Zempléni-hegység a Szerencsi-dombsággal és a Hernád-völgygel | 1144976482 |
| HUDI10003 | Gerecse | 266253262 |
| HUHN10001 | Szatmár-Bereg | 525376609 |
| HUKN10001 | Felső-kiskunsági szikes puszták és turjánvidék | 165579069 |
| HUBN20001 | Bükk-fennsík és a Lök-völgy | 143805622 |
| HUBN20004 | Szarvaskő | 6317601 |
| HUBN20006 | Miskolctapolcai Tatár-árok - Vörös-bérc | 5373909 |
| HUBN20011 | Ostoros-patak menti erdőpuszta | 488592 |
| HUBN20020 | Sátai Tőkés-völgy | 1141486 |
| HUBN20029 | Girincsi Nagy-erdő | 1120960 |
| HUBN20030 | Hejő mente | 4578878 |
| HUBN20032 | Tiszakeszi-morotva | 3057050 |
| HUBN20035 | Poroszlói szikesek | 9179328 |
| HUBN20038 | Kerecsendi Berek-erdő és Lógó-part | 1427900 |
| HUBN20039 | Pusztafogacs | 3196390 |
| HUBN20043 | Verpeléti Vár-hegy | 83876 |
| HUBN20046 | Gyöngyösi Sár-hegy | 3526822 |
| HUBN20050 | Gyöngyöspatai Havas | 3246195 |
| HUBN20058 | Bujáki Csirke-hegy és Kántor-rét | 1706022 |
| HUBN20074 | Tállyai Patócs-hegy - Sátor-hegy | 6752122 |
| HUBN20090 | Komlóskai Mogyorós-tető és Zsidó-rét | 3576250 |
| HUBN20092 | Telkibányai Király-hegy | 1820101 |
| HUBN20093 | Bózsvai Temető alja | 120228 |
| HUDI20008 | Börzsöny | 303993775 |
| HUDI20018 | Északi-Gerecse | 26871971 |
| HUDI20023 | Gödöllői-dombság | 75180381 |
| HUDI20025 | Hajta mente | 53617740 |
| HUDI20029 | Kocsi gyeppek | 472540 |
| HUDI20037 | Nyakas-tető szarmata vonulat | 4459618 |
| HUDI20040 | Gödöllői-dombság peremhegyei | 3176415 |
| HUDI20043 | Rekettyés | 3050294 |
| HUDI20055 | Veresegyházi-medence | 3550103 |
| HUFH20002 | Fertő tó | 112877757 |
| HUFH20006 | Dudlesz-erdő | 10825175 |
| HUFH30004 | Szigetköz | 171824415 |
| HUFH30005 | Hanság | 135455204 |
| HUHN20001 | Felső-Tisza | 285191639 |
| HUHN20002 | Hortobágy | 9892962 |
| HUHN20003 | Tisza-tó | 120258898 |

| Natura 2000 sites | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Sitecode | Sitename | Area, m2 |
| HUHN20032 | Gúti-erdő | 1754338 |
| HUHN20065 | Nyírturái-legelő | 288630 |
| HUHN20107 | Nagy-Vadas | 1862420 |
| HUHN20109 | Sóstói-erdő | 2803789 |
| HUHN20134 | Kállósejéni Csordalegelő | 312641 |
| HUHN20159 | Tunyogmatolcsi Holt-Szamos | 3029968 |
| HUHN20160 | Gőgő-Szenke | 726044 |
| HUKN20003 | Felső-kiskunsági turjánvidék | 17723731 |
| HUON20008 | Rába és Csörnöc-völgy | 335155 |
| HUBN20068 | Sajómercsei Körtvélyes-dőlő | 1965347 |
| HUDI20047 | Szigeti homokok | 8489292 |
| HUDI20050 | Alsó-Tápió és patak völgyek | 18016090 |
| HUFH20008 | Pannonhalmi-dombság | 76618474 |
| HUFH20010 | Répcse mente | 4322132 |
| HUFH20011 | Rába | 43488837 |
| HUFH20012 | Soproni-hegység | 52266498 |
| HUBN10001 | BodrozugőKopasz-hegyőTaktaköz | 226407728 |
| HUBN10003 | Bükk-hegység és peremterületei | 661986730 |
| HUBN10005 | Kesznyéten | 63504195 |
| HUBN10006 | Mátra | 373056287 |
| HUDI10004 | Jászkarajenői puszták | 86006072 |
| HUDI10008 | Ipoly völgye | 63534101 |
| HUHN10008 | Felső-Tisza | 148174088 |
| HUAN21007 | Bózsza-patak | 8319057 |
| HUBN20007 | Kisgyőri Halom-vár-Csincse-völgy - Cseh-völgy | 10007999 |
| HUBN20010 | Szomolyai Kaptár-rét | 768519 |
| HUBN20013 | Hevesaranyosi-fedémesi dombvidék | 12379087 |
| HUBN20014 | Gyepes-völgy | 30122584 |
| HUBN20021 | Domaházai Hangony-patak völgye | 11707986 |
| HUBN20027 | Ózdi Harmaci-dombok | 736835 |
| HUBN20041 | Pélyi szikések | 21147446 |
| HUBN20047 | Mátra északi letörése | 7800358 |
| HUBN20048 | Gyöngyöstarjáni Világos-hegy és Rossz-rétek | 3267022 |
| HUBN20049 | Mátrabérc - fallóskúti-rétek | 15067993 |
| HUBN20053 | Petőfibányai Kopasz-hegy | 254030 |
| HUBN20056 | Tepke | 24225153 |
| HUBN20057 | Bézsma | 8322759 |
| HUBN20060 | Sóshartyáni Hencse-hegy | 1059816 |
| HUBN20062 | Középső-Ipoly-völgy | 16787491 |
| HUBN20075 | Sárospataki Mandulás | 85841 |

| Natura 2000 sites | | |
|-------------------|----------------------------------|-----------|
| Sitecode | Sitename | Area, m2 |
| HUBN20081 | Long-erdő | 31586703 |
| HUBN20082 | Felsőregmeci Ronyva | 1722779 |
| HUBN20085 | Északi-Zempléni-hegység | 18530544 |
| HUBN20087 | Baskói rétek | 5857935 |
| HUDI20001 | Ácsi gyepek | 2991254 |
| HUDI20005 | Bársonyos | 7881054 |
| HUDI20015 | Déli-Gerecse | 18120796 |
| HUDI20019 | Felső-Tápió | 20478605 |
| HUDI20020 | Gerecse | 24372153 |
| HUDI20021 | Gerje-mente | 33435053 |
| HUDI20024 | Tápiógyörgye-újszilvási szikések | 17434193 |
| HUDI20028 | Kirvai löszgyepek | 2522946 |
| HUDI20034 | Duna és ártere | 131620772 |
| HUDI20038 | Nyugat-Cserhát és Naszály | 96090267 |
| HUDI20052 | Érd-százhalombattai táblarög | 248328 |
| HUDI21056 | Jászkarajenői puszták | 50191421 |
| HUHN20039 | Piricsei Júlia-liget | 735802 |
| HUHN20040 | Apagy Albert-tó | 941500 |
| HUHN20042 | Napkori legelő | 1612799 |
| HUHN20047 | Vámosatya-Csaroda | 20076411 |
| HUHN20050 | Kömörő-Fülesd | 19432731 |
| HUHN20051 | Eret-hegy | 1424349 |
| HUHN20053 | Magosligeti-erdő és gyepek | 5601097 |
| HUHN20056 | Jánki-erdő | 3979263 |
| HUHN20060 | Nyíregyházi lőtér | 1893017 |
| HUHN20062 | Ófehértói lőtér | 1590472 |
| HUHN20064 | Rohodi-legelő | 527371 |
| HUHN20071 | Nyírmihálydi-legelő | 670817 |
| HUHN20106 | Újfehértói gyepek | 4970469 |
| HUHN20120 | Vajai-tároló | 888700 |
| HUHN20125 | Nyírgyulaji Kis-rét | 1567022 |
| HUHN20128 | Nyírség-peremi égeresek | 2172680 |
| HUHN20129 | Nyírbogdányi rét | 616800 |
| HUHN20131 | Orosi gyepek | 1929796 |
| HUFH20013 | Határ-menti erdők | 22086971 |
| HUAN10001 | Aggteleki-karszt | 236095629 |
| HUAN10002 | Putnoki-dombság | 71138705 |
| HUDI10002 | Börzsöny és Visegrádi-hegység | 495554514 |
| HUFH10004 | Mosoni-sík | 130610245 |
| HUHN10004 | Közép-Tisza | 15323839 |

In addition to the large protected areas listed above, there are hundreds of smaller protected areas in the counties of Hungary covered by the Programme.

Detailed information is available on the website <http://web.okir.hu/map/?config=TIR&lang=hu>.

ANNEX II: COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE HUNGARIAN ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORITIES ON THE SCOPING REPORT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

| Number | Organisation sending the comment | Comment | Answer |
|--------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. | Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County Government Office Department of Public Health Public Health Division | I accept the topics of the SKHU CBC Programme. We do not make any special professional proposal beyond those mentioned in Annex 4 to the Government Decree. | It does not require any response. |
| 2. | Győr-Moson-Sopron County Government Office Department of Public Health Public Health Division | Regarding the requested opinion information, our authority has legal authorisation in the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government Decree No. 123 of 1997 (VII. 18.) on the protection of freshwater stocks and water works for drinking water distribution, • Government Decree No. 219 of 2004 (VII. 21.) on the protection of underground waters • Decree No. 13/2017. (VI. 12.) of EMMI on the waste-related public health requirements in the area of waste management, Government Decree No. 225/2015. (VIII. 7.) on the detailed rules of certain activities connected to hazardous waste. Based on the above, the Cooperation Programme has all the special (administrative) documents in term of the localisation in which our Authority is involved. The use of such information for monitoring purposes shall be at the discretion of the Programme Office. | It does not require any response. |
| 3. | Government Office of the Capital City Budapest National Chief Architect | Greener Europe Policy Objective: In connection with the Intervention entitled 'The expansion of renewable energy utilisation, please take into account cityscape aspects, as well. More Social and Welcoming Europe Policy Objective: | When preparing the environmental assessment report, we deal with the aspects mentioned in the comment in depth required by the detailedness of the Programme. |

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| | | When detailing the Intervention entitled “The assessment of local cultural heritage sites”, you should analyse values belonging to the World Heritage or those which are under national, local or district-level protection (in the case of the capital). | |
| 4. | Government Office of Pest County Environmental Protection, Nature Protection, Waste Management and Mining Department | Due to lack of competence, I transfer the submission that was submitted by Széchenyi Programiroda Tanácsadó és Szolgáltató Nonprofit Korlátolt Felelősségű Társaság (1053 Budapest, Szép u. 2. IV. em.; hereinafter referred to as the Applicant) to the Environmental Protection, Nature Protection, Waste Management and Mining Department of the Pest County Government Office and registered under No. PE-06/KTF/26476-1/2021. (hereinafter referred to as the Submission). | It does not require any response. |
| 5. | Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County Directorate for Disaster Management | Due to lack of competence, the Authority Deputy Director General of the National Directorate for Disaster Management of the Ministry of Interior will provide an opinion about the comment. | It does not require any response. |
| 6. | Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County Directorate for Disaster Management | Due to lack of competence, the Authority Deputy Director General of the National Directorate for Disaster Management of the Ministry of Interior will provide an opinion about the comment. | It does not require any response. |
| 7. | Metropolitan Directorate for Disaster Management Authority Division for Disaster Management | The Authority Deputy Director General of the National Directorate for Disaster Management of the Ministry of Interior will provide an opinion about the comment. | It does not require any response. |
| 8. | Heves County Government Office National Chief Architect | I have studied the Thematic Report and established that it is appropriate in terms of built environment, landscape and the protection of urban environment. At the same time, I inform you that I have no competence in the area of environmental and municipal health care. | It does not require any response. |
| 9. | Győr- Moson-Sopron County Directorate for Disaster Management Director | Due to lack of competence, the Authority Deputy Director General of the National Directorate for Disaster Management of the Ministry of Interior will provide an opinion about the comment. | It does not require any response. |
| 10. | Aggtelek National Park Directorate | In the table on page 5, the names of national parks are incorrect. The correct name of our directorate is the Aggtelek National Park Directorate. However, it | When compiling the environmental assessment report, we will correct the |

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| | | <p>can never be NPI. When used in Hungarian, it should be ANPI. The context does not reveal the aim, because other national park directorates are written in Hungarian.</p> <p>The Table on page 7: We suggest that the following be included in the list of “interventions”: “Protection of biomes and habitats”</p> | <p>names of National Park Directorates both in Hungarian and English.</p> <p>The table mentioned in the comment contains the interventions of the Programme, therefore it can be changed only if the requested intervention is added to the Programme.</p> |
| 11. | Notary of Nógrád County | After having reviewed the prepared topics, no demand for change arose. We agree with the content of the document. | It does not require any response. |
| 12. | Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County Government Office National Chief Architect's Office | The submitted topics meet the general content criteria for environmental assessment in accordance with Annex 4 to the Government Decree, as well as the criteria for built environment. | It does not require any response. |
| 13. | Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County Government Office National Chief Architect's Office | I consider the submitted environmental assessment topics professionally acceptable, but I recommend that the environmental assessment be prepared with full content according to Annex 4 to the Government Decree. Concerning the protection of the built environment, please elaborate the chapters related to the topic in sufficient detail professionally. | <p>The environmental assessment report was prepared in accordance with the content requirements in Annex 4 to <i>Government Decree No. 2/2005 (I.11.) on the environmental assessment of specific plans and programmes</i>.</p> <p>The chapter on the protection of the built environment was compiled in sufficient depth in line with the detailedness of the Programme.</p> |
| 14. | Notary of the Local Government Office of Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County | After having studied the material in detail, it can be established that the document is professionally well-founded and meets the content requirements specified in Annex 4 to the Government Decree. In the light of this, I suggest that the topics of the environmental assessment to be prepared should be accepted. I do not wish to make any comments or suggest any amendments. | It does not require any response. |
| 15. | Komárom-Esztergom County Government Office | As far as soil conservation is concerned, the environmental assessment of the Slovakia-Hungary Cross-Border Cooperation Programme is acceptable. | It does not require any response. |

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| | Department of Agriculture Division of Plant Protection and Soil Conservation | | |
| 16. | Nógrád County Government Office Department of Agriculture Division of Plant Protection and Soil Conservation | I agree with the content of the thematic report, and do not wish to amend it. | It does not require any response. |
| 17. | Nógrád County Government Office Department of Public Health | I have reviewed the documentation. Pursuant to Section 7 of Government Decree No. 2/2005 (I.11.) on the environmental assessment of specific plans and programmes, I do not wish to make any comments or suggest any amendments. | It does not require any response. |
| 18. | Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County Government Office Department of Public Health | <p>I have reviewed the opinions about the preliminary thematic report that describes the process of the strategic environmental assessment related to the preparation of the submitted SKHU CBC Programme. Concerning the area of public health, primarily bearing in mind that ultimately, the environment affects human beings and human health, I agree with the main goals of the SKHU CBC Programme and the suggested points of the environmental report regarding its content.</p> <p>In terms of the intervention fields, special attention should be paid to activities, interventions and measures serving the purpose of indirect or direct drinking water abstraction and the protection, conservation and improvement of perspective catchments, surface or underground waters. In the framework of the Cross-Border Cooperation Programme, the water quality of the rivers crossing the border, the establishment of water quality control systems, the protection of water resources and the harmonisation of the relevant regulations should be high priority and paid special attention to. The cross-border drinking water-producing plants near surface watercourses (the Borsodszirák Waterworks use the water of the river Bódva with groundwater recharging technology, the Eastern Peak Waterworks in Gesztely and the Sátoraljaújhely Waterworks I and II with wells deepened into the gravel terraces of the Hernád and the Ronyva respectively) are waterworks of primary importance which provide drinking water to a population of considerable size. In the karstic areas of the county, from which the Aggtelek Karst is part is part of the</p> | <p>It does not require any response.</p> <p>Basically, the comment is about the Programme itself and not about the topics of the environmental assessment report. Nevertheless, we agree with the comments, and we will implement them while preparing the environmental assessment report. At the same time, we would like to note that the proposals mentioned in the comment, particularly those about the improvement of the water quality of the rivers crossing the border, are parts</p> |

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| | | <p>Gömör-Tornai Karst, a geographical unit shared with Slovakia, several water-producing units operate, which were built on karst springs and are especially sensitive to surface effects. The protection of water sources, karst water systems and surface waters as well as sustainable water use are especially important so that human health risks can be reduced and prevented and drinking water supply can be ensured. With regard to geographical unity and connections, the achievement of this goal definitely requires joint activities and interventions based on cooperation.</p> | <p>of the Programme according to the plan.</p> |
| | | <p>The inputs of polluting substances from point and/or diffuse sources, deriving from municipal, industrial and agricultural activities, into surface waters and groundwaters constitute a large group of the pressures and impacts on the geological formation, the surface and the groundwater body. Such inputs represent a considerable risk to human health through the waters used for drinking water production.</p> <p>In order to improve the comfort and quality of life of the population, protect groundwater quality and achieve sustainable development and environmental goals, communal infrastructure systems should be developed and connections to communal systems should be encouraged. The protection of groundwater quality especially justifies the regular doing-away with ground- and groundwater-polluting home-based sewage collection systems and dehumidifiers.</p> <p>The development of communal infrastructure is a preferred means of improving the condition of the individual environmental factors. As an environmentally responsible measure, it contributes to raising the standard of the service and the standard of living of the population concerned. The healthier environment creates better living conditions. Due to reduced environmental risks, the health and quality of life of the population increases.</p> | <p>The comment is about the Programme itself and not about the topics of the environmental assessment report. Although we agree with the importance of the interventions mentioned in the comment, we would like to note that they are not necessarily achievable in the framework of the Programme.</p> |
| | | <p>Furthermore, I believe that it is essential to take measures aiming to keep the level of air-polluting substances under the air quality threshold limit. In order to decrease the amount of aeroallergenic plants, weed removal from public and private areas with the intense use of the available instruments of the authorities and sanctions should be a task of high priority. The prevention of the proliferation</p> | <p>The comment is about the Programme itself and not about the topics of the environmental assessment report. Although we agree with the importance of the interventions mentioned in the</p> |

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| | | of allergenic weeds and regular weed removal may contribute to the decrease in the amount of allergenic spores. In green space management, planting of highly allergenic tree types, such as birch, alder, ash, plane and willow, should be avoided. Regarding the protection of air quality, the conservation of green areas should be paid special attention. | comment, we would like to note that they are not necessarily in the focus of the Programme (e.g. sanctions imposed by the authorities, regular weed removal). |
| | | I support the removal of illegal landfills, joint cross-border activities and interventions aimed at changing the mindset of the population, as well as the promotion of selective waste collection and recycling. The removal of illegal landfills is essential, as they not only pollute the environment, but they also spoil the image of the area. | It does not require any response. |
| | | The support of repairing environmental damages caused by wastewater and waste requires cross-border cooperation. The areas of focus should be river valleys crossing borders, as they may carry the risk of pollution. | The comment is about the Programme itself and not about the topics of the environmental assessment report. Nevertheless, we agree with the comment, and we will implement it while preparing the environmental assessment report. |
| | | Taking into account the features of the terrain, I urge joint endeavours to use renewable energy sources to improve the environmental status, environmental safety and the quality of municipal environment. The joint prevention, preparation and management of possible disasters requires the support of joint activities in order to stop natural and man-made disasters, as well as joint actions in case of emergency situations. In addition, it is important to establish the technical background, strategies and a cooperation platform to prevent natural or man-made disasters threatening the inhabitants of the regions. | The comment is about the Programme itself and not about the topics of the environmental assessment report. At the same time, we believe that they Programme includes some activities mentioned in the proposals in the comment. |
| | | In terms of prioritised activities, it is important to draw attention to and develop knowledge and skills required for the preparation of regional strategies, which aim to stop and reduce the effects of global climate change. In the course of the implementation of the communications strategy, it is important to define the target populations. Regarding the individual target groups, it is important to prioritise age groups consisting of young people between 6-10, | Based on the wording of the comment, the priority the comment refers to cannot be identified (e.g. the programme does not support any communications strategy). |

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| | | 11-14 and 15-18 years. In order to promote optimal public participation, it is recommended to establish working relationships between the authorities, organisations, local governments concerned, institutions dealing with health promotion, which are suitable for influencing local public opinion, social organisations and the media. In addition to the body responsible for public health duties, the Health promotion Institute and the praxis communities of the given area could take part in professional coordination and practical implementation. | |
| | | Furthermore, other important aims include strategic and technical planning, the establishment of common systems for monitoring environmental pollution (air, water, soil), in terms of IT and technology, enabling the connection of the existing monitoring systems of authorities with the monitoring systems operated by utility service providers, the establishment of systems sending notifications of possible cross-border contamination, in particular with regard to the protection of surface and groundwaters and drinking water bases. | The comment is about the Programme itself and not about the topics of the environmental assessment report. At the same time, in our view, the Programme includes some activities related to the proposals mentioned in the comment (e.g. the further development of the monitoring system of surface waters). |
| | | The competent Authorities of Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County and Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County monitor the surface and groundwaters of the two counties concerned in accordance with the Water Framework Directive, on a monthly basis. The data of the analysis are recorded in the National Environmental Information System. The joint sampling and analysis of transboundary rivers take place at border segments, based on transboundary water agreements, on a monthly basis. Soil analyses are conducted in the event of potential contamination. | It does not require any response. |
| | | Near the Hungarian-Slovakian border, the measuring station in Putnok analyses the sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxide, carbon monoxide, ozone and PM10 concentration of the air. BTEX compounds and PM2.5 could be added to the components examined at the measuring station, by satisfying instrument development needs. | The comment is about the Programme itself and not about the topics of the environmental assessment report. |
| | | After satisfying instrument development needs for the purpose of analysing transboundary air quality pollution, a monitoring station should be set up in the territory of Bánréve, at a site that is not directly affected by pollution caused by local inhabitants and other activities. The measurement programme could be | The comment is about the Programme itself and not about the topics of the environmental assessment report. |

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| | | <p>conducted by means of a fixed or a mobile measuring station. It is suggested that the concentration of sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxide, carbon monoxide, ozone, BTEX compounds, PM10 and PM2.5 in the air shall be continuously measured at the measuring station. In order to conduct measurements at this new measuring station, a measurement plan has to be prepared by marking the measurement points, ensuring and continuously controlling the technical conditions for operation, safe location, electricity and the conditions for communication.</p> | |
| | | <p>The data measured by the 9 emission stations set up in the territory of Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County are available in the database of the National Air Quality Monitoring Network.</p> | <p>It does not require any response.</p> |
| | | <p>To improve and increase the health awareness of the population, in the framework of health education, the population should be made aware of risk factors threatening human health, their avoidance and the importance of taking part in targeted screening tests. Through organised health communication, the society should be informed about the skills and habits needed for the preservation and protection of healthy lifestyle and healthy as widely as possible. In order to achieve the goals related to the improvement of health and the professional implementation of programmes, the cooperation and involvement of healthcare and public health professionals are required. By achieving the regional strategic goals, the development of positive health behaviour should be supported at individual and community level. In addition, the population should be encouraged to treat health as an existential value.</p> | <p>The comment is about the Programme itself and not about the topics of the environmental assessment report. Although we agree with the importance of the interventions mentioned in the comment, we would like to note that they are not necessarily in the focus of the Programme.</p> |
| | | <p>It is important to create joint preventive programmes, define coordination tasks and the participating organisations, on the basis of which the management, organisation and coordination of public health work aimed at the maintenance and improvement of the health of the population concerned, the prevention and early diagnosis of illnesses should be carried out. Knowledge related to the prevention of infectious diseases caused by non-environmental factors should be developed at trainings and conferences organised for public health experts and those who work in primary healthcare and specialised care. A joint web-based IT database should be provided for this purpose.</p> | <p>The comment is about the Programme itself and not about the topics of the environmental assessment report. Although we agree with the importance of the interventions mentioned in the comment, we would like to note that they are not necessarily in the focus of the Programme.</p> |

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| | | <p>In my opinion, in the field of cooperation between institutions dealing with epidemiology, it is important to define the areas of cooperation, prepare and implement action plans, as well as to have initiatives in terms of environmental monitoring, information exchange and alerting related to public health and epidemiology. The activities of the project should include the coordination of epidemiological preventive activities, the development and execution of public information campaigns and trainings.</p> | <p>The comment is about the Programme itself and not about the topics of the environmental assessment report.</p> |
| | | <p>The availability of human services (healthcare, social care, education, public administration) at appropriate level is an important prerequisite for the quality of life of the population living in the region. In line with demographic trends, special attention should be paid to the developments of institutions catering for the elderly. It is important that as many healthcare and social services as possible should be locally available. It is also essential to improve the level of such services, so that they can be adapted to the changing needs of the population living in the given region.</p> | <p>The comment is about the Programme itself and not about the topics of the environmental assessment report. At the same time, we would like to note that some proposals mentioned in the comment, particularly those about the improvement of the care for the elderly, are parts of the Programme according to the plan.</p> |
| | | <p>In the development of municipal living spaces, recreational spaces serving the general public, the representative cityscape and public spaces play an important role. In the course of developing municipal living spaces, an important segment is the elimination and development of low-prestige and degraded territories. We are glad to hear that short- and mid-term goals include measures which provide a solution for the improvement of environmental and social factors which play a significant role regarding environmental health and public health. Consequently, creating the conditions for higher level community life by the development of green areas, recreational and leisure spaces should be a priority. As far as strengthening social cohesion is concerned, it is important to improve the situation of those who live in slums and solve the difficult life circumstances of the disadvantaged. Developments aimed at supporting the catching-up and social integration of the economically disadvantaged should be prioritised, by making this social group interested and strengthening their eco-consciousness.</p> | <p>The comment is about the Programme itself and not about the topics of the environmental assessment report. At the same time, we would like to note that some proposals mentioned in the comment, e.g. those about supporting the revival of vulnerable social groups, are parts of the Programme according to the plan.</p> |

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| | | In my professional field (public health), in order to improve the health of the population, the following actions are expected: the assessment and reduction of health risks arising from environmental factors, the development of healthcare and social infrastructures, as well as the expansion of the general public's opportunities in the areas of recreation, the maintenance of health and health promotion. Concerning my professional field, I support the planned prioritised areas which are specified as objectives of the SKHU CBC Programme for the programme period 2021-2027, have positive environmental health effects, improve the living conditions and reduce the health risks of the population concerned. Among the objectives of the programme, I embrace the development of more habitable municipal environment free from environmental impact, as well as the strengthening of environmental awareness. | It does not require any response. |
| 19. | Heves County Government Office Department of Public Health Public Health Division | Regarding the objectives described above, the content of the submitted preliminary topics are not objectionable. | It does not require any response. |
| 20. | Nógrád County Government Office National Chief Architect's Office | I agree with the topics of the environmental assessment under preparation. I do not raise any objections against it. At the same time, I would like to call upon those in charge to fully comply with the provisions of the urban development plans, urban planning schemes and of the cityscape protection regulations of the settlements concerned in the course of the implementation of the programme. | It does not require any response. |
| 21. | Ministry of Interior National Directorate General for Disaster Management Prevention and Authorisation Service | I have examined the topics related to the content of the SKV, and I consider it to be appropriate regarding the protection of waters. | It does not require any response. |
| 22. | Győr- Moson-Sopron County Government Office Department of Environmental | In the view of the Department, the air quality protection is not emphasised enough in the thematic report, therefore the Department suggests that air quality protection should be separately mentioned in the list of interventions included in table in point 2.2, as well as in the list of environmental features in point 2.4.1. | In accordance with the comments, the environmental assessment report will devote a separate chapter to the expected effects on air quality in the |

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| | Protection, Nature Protection and Waste Management | <p>The planned interventions include the improvement of surface waters and groundwaters. The Department believes that the results of monitoring the water quality of surface waters and groundwaters conducted by the Environmental Measurement Centre in the course of the implementation of the Water Framework Directive match well with the aforementioned list of interventions. The Department notes that currently, in this area, there is active cooperation between the countries, on the one hand, in the framework of the Transboundary Water Commission, on the other hand, on the basis of the so-called bilateral POLICY signed in Bős, on 29 May 1995. The aforementioned POLICY regulates the operation of the environmental monitoring system related to the AGREEMENT concluded by the Government of the Republic of Hungary and the Government of the Slovak Republic on 19 April 1995 on the replacement of runoffs in the Danube and the Mosoni Danube, as well as on certain temporary technical measures. The chemical and hydrobiological monitoring results received during the laboratory tests are collected in the National Environmental Information System (OKIR). In the light of the above, the Department suggests that the aforementioned environmental data and comments should be used for the preparation of the strategic environmental assessment documentation.</p> | <p>event of the realisation of the Programme. At the same time, we note that the table in point 2.2 criticised in the comment contains the interventions of the Programme, therefore it can be changed only if the requested intervention is added to the Programme.</p> <p>Thank you for drawing our attention to the results of the Environmental Measurement Centre. We will take them into account to the extent allowed by the detailedness of the Programme.</p> |
| 23. | Heves County Government Office Department of Environmental Protection, Nature Protection and Waste Management Division of Environmental Protection | <p>The proposals in the topics are in line with (they cover) the content requirements prescribed in Annex 4 to Government Decree No. 2/2005. (I. 11.), therefore, we consider them to be appropriate, and we do not intend to amend them.</p> | <p>It does not require any response.</p> |
| 24. | Government Office of Pest County Department of Agriculture and Forestry Division of Forest Monitoring | <p>As the forestry authority of the Pest County Government Office, we do not wish to comment on the thematic report.</p> | <p>It does not require any response.</p> |

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| 25. | Government Office of Pest County National Department of Environmental Protection, Nature Protection and Waste Management | The national authority established that the submitted documentation does not fall under the scope of Government Decree No. 2/2005., therefore the national authority is not entitled to issue an opinion on it, as requested. In the light of these considerations, the national authority, as a national environmental protection and nature protection authority, issues opinions only on plans or programmes prepared by administrative bodies with national competence. | It does not require any response. |
| 26. | Komárom-Esztergom County Government Office Department of Environmental Protection, Nature Protection and Waste Management | <p>Regarding waste management and geological formation: The aspects of waste management shall be applied in accordance with the rules specified by Act CLXXXV of 2012 on Waste (Waste Act) and, pursuant to Government Decree 385/2014 (XII. 31.) on the conditions of implementing the waste management public service activity and Section 88 (1) of the Waste Act referred to in the effective authorising provisions.</p> <p>Regarding air quality protection: The part on air quality protection shall be prepared pursuant to Government Decree No. 306/2010. (XII. 23.) on the protection of the air, as well as its implementing regulations (Decree No. 4/2011. (I. 14.) of the Ministry of Rural Development and Decree No. 6/2011. (I. 14.) of the Ministry of Rural Development), taking into account Decree 4/2002. (X. 7.) of the Ministry of Environment and Water establishing agglomerations and zones, as well.</p> <p>Regarding landscape conservation and nature protection: Based on the topics of the environmental analysis related to the 2021-2027 strategy of the Slovakia-Hungary Cross-Border Cooperation Programme, the environmental analysis to be conducted is expected to deal with the major values of the region concerned (biodiversity, wildlife, Natura 2000) in terms of nature protection and landscape conservation according to their importance, presenting them in a satisfactory manner.</p> <p>Regarding noise and vibration abatement: Compliance with the provisions of Government Decree No. 284 of 2007 (X. 29.) on certain rules for protection against environmental noise and vibration*, provisions of Decree 93/2007 (XII. 18.) of the Ministry of Environment and Water on the method of setting noise emission limit values and controlling noise and vibration</p> | The environmental assessment report was prepared in compliance with the laws referred to in the comment. Nevertheless, we draw your attention to the fact that the detailedness of the Programme do not allow the preliminary assessment of compliance with the referred legislation (see: the Programme outlines directions for support, but does not propose any specific investment projects). The remark of the person submitting the comment, according to which further details will be announced in the course of the relevant authorization procedures, is in line with the aforementioned statement. |

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| | | <p>emissions, as well as with the limit values specified in the Joint Decree No. 27/2008. (3 Dec) of the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Environment on the establishment of noise and vibration limit values shall be enabled. In the case of residential areas and areas to be protected from noise, when designating territories for industrial, economic and commercial purposes, appropriate protective distance shall be kept, so that compliance with the noise and vibration limit values can be ensured.</p> <p>On the whole, in terms of the protection of geological formation, air quality, landscape conservation and nature protection, waste management, as well as noise and vibration abatement, the Department takes notice of the content of the documentation. Further conditions will be announced in the course of the relevant authorization procedures.</p> <p>In the light of the above, I agree with the content of the submitted documentation and the annexes. I support the elaboration of such content in compliance with the legislation in force.</p> | |
| 27. | Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County Government Office Department of Agriculture, Division of Forestry | Basically, the topics annexed to the request are appropriate. In the case of investment projects which directly affect forests or are expected to have a significant effect on forests, please examine the impacts of the investment on forests in a separate point, in the chapter “2.5 The expected environmental impacts of the implementation of the Programme” of the topics. | The environmental assessment report deals with the expected impacts on forests at a level in accordance with the detailedness of the Programme. On the other hand, the length and the inner thematic balance of the document do not allow the description of the impacts on forests in a separate chapter. |
| 28. | Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County Government Office Department of Environmental Protection, Nature Protection and Waste Management | <p>The submitted topics meet the requirements specified in Government Decree No. 2/2005 (I.11.) on the environmental assessment of specific plans and programmes. The main objectives of the topics should be supported in terms of environmental protection and nature protection.</p> <p>The inventions belonging to the policy objective “Green Cooperations” include the reasonable use of raw materials, as well as sustainable waste management.</p> <p>In accordance with its climate and nature protection action plan, the Hungarian Government is gradually switching to circular economy, which includes circular</p> | <p>In accordance with the comment, we added the Climate and Nature Protection Action Plan to the list of plans relevant to the Programme.</p> <p>The authorities which can be involved in issuing opinions on the strategic environmental assessment report are specified in Annex 3 to <i>Government</i></p> |

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| | | waste management, as well. The action plan also serves the strategic reform of the domestic waste management sector. The Climate and Nature Protection Action Plan should be included in point 2.3.1. The Ministry of Innovation and Technology is responsible for the implementation of the action plan, therefore, we suggest that the Ministry should be involved in issuing opinions. | <i>Decree No. 2/2005 (I.11.) on the environmental assessment of specific plans and programmes.</i> |
| 29. | Fertő-Hanság National Park Directorate | Among the Main Objectives of the Programme, the Interventions belonging to the Specific Objective related to nature protection should include the protection of natural habitats, in particular the protection of Natura 2000 habitats. In the same place, we recommend that the following be added to Flood protection and disaster prevention initiatives: all other initiatives related to water management and water conservancy should be included, e.g. dams planned on the Danube, the Danube Waterway Development Programme, etc. In terms of nature protection, infrastructural and touristic initiatives may be relevant, as well, therefore, we believe that they should be dealt with. When assessing the coherence and consistency of the Programme, please consider the National Nature Conservation Master Plan, the National Biodiversity Strategy, the National Landscape Strategy, European Water Framework Directive and the plans of the national park directorates concerned. In the parts entitled 2.4. The current environmental status of the area covered by the Programme and 2.6. Proposed measures for the protection of environmental components and guidelines for programmes and projects at lower levels of the hierarchy, it might be worth paying special attention to those areas where the aim is to maintain the current status. Concerning such areas, only programmes serving the achievement of this goal and the protection of the current status should be prepared. | The first part of the comment refers to the programme itself and not to the topics of the strategic environmental analysis. When preparing the Environmental Report, we will consider the strategies for the Programme period (2021-2027) mentioned in the comment. Taking into account the plans of the national park directorates concerned may be essential when laying the foundation for specific developments to be realised in the framework of the Programme. However, the detailedness of the Programme itself, in accordance with the strategic level, does not allow us to get any relevant results based on the analysis of the conformity with the plans of national parks (the detailedness of management/maintenance plans and that of the content of the Programme is significantly different). |
| 30. | Győr- Moson-Sopron County Government Office | In the opinion of the National Chief Architect's Office, the submitted topics are appropriate. | When preparing the chapter of the environmental assessment report on |

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| | National Chief Architect | In addition, the National Chief Architect's Office suggests that, in addition to local cultural heritage sites, certain cross-border historic sites should be examined separately, with special attention. | cultural heritage, we will deal with the aspect mentioned in the comment in the depth required by the detailedness of the Programme. |
| 31. | Nógrád County Government Office Department of Environmental Protection, Nature Protection and Waste Management Division of Environment Protection and Nature Protection | The Government Office does not raise an objection against these topics, and agrees with their content. | It does not require any response. |
| 32. | Government Office of Pest County Department of Food Chain Safety, Animal Health, Plant Protection and Soil Conservation | <p>Regarding the region of Pest County, I make the following amendments.</p> <p>Within the Green Cooperation Policy Objective, the Region should focus on the quantitative and qualitative protection of soil and the preservation of its fertility. Fertility means that the soil can provide the vegetation with enough water and nutrients in sufficient quantity in time, thus enabling primary biomass production. As part of the natural environment, the soil ensures the biological cycle of materials. Arable land is a natural resource that revives in close connection and interaction with wildlife if the cycle of materials is uninterrupted. However, if material flow is interrupted, soil perishes and becomes a non-renewable resource. Appropriate professional recovery enables the preservation of the fertility of the soil and its utilisation as a natural resource. In this way, the pollution of surface and groundwaters can be prevented.</p> <p>Seeking to have an impact on soils, the Programme aims to strengthen short supply chains by involving intensive horticulture, adaptation to the challenges of climate change, spreading plant varieties which resist to traditional, extreme environmental conditions and preserving biodiversity. For example, in the areas of Pest County near the Slovakian border, traditionally, people used to grow berries.</p> | The comment refers to the programme itself and not to the topics of the strategic environmental analysis. |

| Number | Organisation sending the comment | Comment | Answer |
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| | | The fertility of the soil can be preserved or even improved by reviving farming traditions and raising the technological level of intensive agricultural production. In terms of soil conservation, the Programme should deal with the prevention of the physical, chemical and biological degradation of soils. In case of implementation, it should include sufficient guarantees to prevent the further decrease of arable land and to ensure the preservation of the fertility of soils. | |
| 33. | Government Office of the Capital City Budapest Department for Coordinating Building Affairs and Heritage Conservation | The proposed themes, which cover the topics of “built environment, landscape, municipal environment and cultural heritage” in accordance with the provisions in points 3.6.1.1.—2. of Annex 4 to Government Decree No. 2/2005 (I.11.), should specifically deal with monumental and archaeological heritage within cultural heritage. | When compiling the environmental assessment, we will consider the proposal. |
| 34. | Komárom-Esztergom County Government Office National Chief Architect | I support the topics of the environmental assessment to be prepared for 2021-2027 programme period of the Slovakia-Hungary Cross-Border Cooperation Programme. | It does not require any response. |
| 35. | Győr- Moson-Sopron County Government Office Department of Agriculture Division of Plant Protection and Soil Conservation | The Division of Plant Protection and Soil Conservation of the Department of Agriculture of the Győr- Moson-Sopron County Government Office does not intend to issue a separate opinion. | It does not require any response. |
| 36. | Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County Government Office Department of Agriculture Division of Plant Protection and Soil Conservation | As far as Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County is concerned, in terms of soil conservation, no environmental analysis should be prepared, as, on the basis of the objectives of the programme, it can be established that the changes are not contrary to the interests of soil conservation, therefore they are not objectionable. At the same time, in the course of investment projects which directly or indirectly affect arable land, the provisions of Section 43 (1) of Act CXXIX of 2007 on the protection of arable land shall be observed. In accordance with the aforementioned provisions, the conditions of soil-protecting farming shall not deteriorate in the affected and the neighbouring arable land, the arable land shall not be contaminated with non-soil substances. Not even the temporary storage of non-soil materials or hazardous materials shall be allowed on arable land. | It does not require any response. |

| Number | Organisation sending the comment | Comment | Answer |
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| | | <p>Before starting the construction of buildings, the holder of the authorisation shall provide for the conservation and utilisation of the surface soil (within the depth of the planned cut) pursuant to the provisions of the soil conservation plan!</p> <p>When establishing or developing animal farms, it shall be taken into account that arable land shall not be contaminated with liquid manure, wastewater and other hazardous and non-hazardous waste, with the exception of areas where it was approved and reported.</p> <p>Pursuant to Sections (1) and (2) of Decree No. 59 of 2008 (IV. 29.) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development laying down detailed rules of the action plan needed to protect waters against pollution caused by nitrates from agricultural sources and on data supply and registration, keepers of animals pursuant to point b) of Section 1 shall be obliged to keep a record and supply data!</p> <p>In the case of the realisation of greenfield investment projects, ploughland, meadows, pastures, reeds and wooded areas shall be removed from production (the permanent use of arable land for other purposes). The procedure can be initiated at the competent land registry.</p> <p>The professional authority's opinion (consent) shall not be subject to further independent appeal. The professional authority's decision may be contested by lodging an appeal against the decision closing the procedure.</p> | |
| 37. | Hortobágy National Park Directorate | <p>The Hortobágy National Park Directorate agrees with the content of the programme. The specified objectives may have benefits in the field of nature protection. The listed means for their achievement are relevant, while consultation at this stage of planning is to be welcomed.</p> | It does not require any response. |
| 38. | Bükk National Park Directorate | <p>In the three counties within the area of operation of our directorate (Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County, Heves County, Nógrád County), there are protected natural sites of considerable size and national importance (a national park, nine protected landscape areas, 14 conservation areas, ex lege protected areas), several ex lege natural values (caves), monuments (Cumanian barrows, earth fortresses, springs), protected natural monuments (beehive stones, geological key sections), natural sites of local significance, protected natural sites of European Community-level significance (Natura 2000 bird protection and nature conservation sites), an</p> | <p>The strategic programmes mentioned in the comment will be considered when preparing the Environmental Report. At the same time, we would like to note that the expected impacts of the implementation of the Programme on the state of natural values of different types, protected areas, protected</p> |

| Number | Organisation sending the comment | Comment | Answer |
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| | | <p>area subject to the Ramsar Convention (Borsodi-Mezőség Ramsar Site), a World Heritage site (Hollókő), a cross-border UNESCO Global Geopark (Novohrad-Nógrád Geopark), an aspirant UNESCO Global Geopark (Bükk Region Geopark) and unique landscape value.</p> <p>Based on the topics, the interventions of the 2nd specific objective, the Green Europe Policy Objective, may be directly aimed at or directly affect the following main objectives of the Programme: ‘The protection of endangered species and interventions against invasive species’; Flood protection and disaster prevention initiatives; The improvement of the quality of surface waters and groundwaters, elimination of contaminations. In terms of landscape and nature conservation, the component entitled ‘The protection of endangered species and interventions against invasive species’ is of primary importance. (We suggest that the term “invasive” should be replaced by the generally used “invading”.) Regarding landscape conservation and nature protection, conflicts of interests are predicted to arise in connection with the intervention called ‘Flood protection and disaster prevention initiatives’. In terms of landscape conservation and nature protection, the expansion of renewable energy utilisation in the area of public services may also lead to conflicts of interests which need to be solved.</p> <p>Regarding cross-border programmes, the coordination of interventions against invasive alien species along the border (e.g. along the river Ipoly) and the protection of large carnivores spreading across the border (e.g. wolf /Canis lupus/, brown bear /Ursus arctor/) may be highly important.</p> <p>The interventions of the 4th specific objective, the More Social and Welcoming Europe Policy Objective, may be directly aimed at or directly affect the above-mentioned main objectives of the Programme: ‘The assessment of local cultural heritage sites; The development of the infrastructure of tourism and marketing. In terms of landscape conservation and nature protection, with regard to the World Heritage site, the geoparks, as well as the core tasks of the directorate related to providing information and eco-tourism several opportunities for cooperation can be outlined in the field of the planned developments. On the other hand, conflicts of interests, which need to be solved, are anticipated, as well. .</p> | <p>natural sites and species etc. of European Community-level significance (Natura 2000), as well as the overall impact on the state of wildlife are described in a separate chapter, in detail required by the level of the Programme.</p> <p>We inform you that in terms of flood protection developments, the competent water conservancy authorities and water managers have been involved to the planning of the Programme.</p> |

| Number | Organisation sending the comment | Comment | Answer |
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| | | <p>When examining the coherence and consistency of the Programme in Hungary, the National Environmental Protection Programme and the National Biodiversity Strategy should be taken into account.</p> <p>When examining the current environmental status of the area covered by the Programme and the expected environmental effects of the implementation of the Programme, we recommend that the following areas be prioritised or partly examined: protected natural sites, protected natural sites of European Community-level significance (Natura 2000, as well as species), protected natural values, monuments, ex lege protected natural values, areas, monuments, the area subject to the Ramsar Convention (Borsodi-Mezőség Ramsar Site), the World Heritage site, as well as geoparks.</p> <p>We inform you that in terms of flood protection developments, it may be necessary to involve the competent water conservancy authorities and water managers. Water conservancy authorities in the territory of our directorate include the Directorates for Disaster Management in Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén, Hajdú-Bihar, Jász-Nagykun-Szolnok counties and the Metropolitan Directorate for Disaster Management, while the water conservancy managers concerned are the Directorate of Water Management of Northern Hungary, the Directorate of Water Management of the Central Danube Basin, Directorate of Water Management of the Central Tisza Basin, Directorate of Water Management of Tiszántúl and, in several counties, the National Directorate of Water Management.</p> | |
| 39. | Government Office of the Capital City Budapest Department of Public Health | <p>The Aggtelek-Jósvafő cave system is located on the border of the two countries. In its Decision No. 460/Gyf/1969., the National Directorate of Curative Places and Spas declared the Peace Cave of Jósvafő to be a medicinal cave. The procedure seeking to declare the Baradla Cave of Aggtelek to be a medicinal cave is in progress.</p> <p>In the Hungarian counties included in the Programme, there are several medicinal resorts.</p> <p>Győr-Moson-Sopron County: Sopron-Balf, Sopron-Lövérék Komárom-Esztergom County: Komárom</p> | <p>When preparing the Environmental Report, the comment will be considered. At the same time, we note that the detailedness of the Programme, according to its strategic level, does not allow the identification of the expected effects at the level of settlements, specific objects or institutions in case of its implementation.</p> |

| Number | Organisation sending the comment | Comment | Answer |
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| | | Heves County Eger, Gyöngyös-Kékestető, Parádszabolcs, Egerszalók, Demjén, Mátraderecske Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County Miskolc-Lillafüred, Mezőkövesd, Bogács According to the Government Office of the Capital City Budapest, the environmental assessment should also deal with the effects of the Programme on medicinal caves and medicinal resorts. | |
| 40. | Director of the Directorate for Disaster Management of Hajdú-Bihar County | I inform you that, pursuant to point I. 1. d) of Annex 3 to Government Decree No. 2/2005 (I.11.), the National Directorate General for Disaster Management of the Ministry of Interior (BM OKF) shall act in connection with water protection. The aforementioned body has already issued an opinion about the thematic report. | It does not require any response. |
| 41. | General Assembly of Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County | We have reviewed the report on the preliminary plan of the topics of the environmental analysis. We agree with its content, therefore we do not intend to issue an opinion, make any comments or amendments in connection with environmental health or municipal health care. | It does not require any response. |

ANNEX III. FULFILLMENT OF THE SCOPE REQUIREMENTS SET BY THE MINISTRY FOR INVESTMENT, REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND INFORMATISATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVAKIA

| Number | Scope requirement – individual points of the specified scope of evaluation of the strategic document | Fulfillment of the requirement |
|--------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. | As part of the evaluation report, in relation to other strategic documents, consider supplementing the list with the following strategic documents for the Slovak Republic: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Transport Development Plan of the Slovak Republic until 2030 - Phase II, • Recovery and Resilience Plan years 2018-2030, • National policy framework for the development of the market with alternative fuels, | Fulfilled in Chapter 2.3 in the form of a specific table. |

| Number | Scope requirement – individual points of the specified scope of evaluation of the strategic document | Fulfillment of the requirement |
|--------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National strategy for the development of bicycle transport and cycling tourism in the Slovak Republic | |
| 2. | In the evaluation report, add the indicators "total number of municipalities involved in the cross-border integrated transport system" and "total length of newly built or modernized cycle paths and cycle paths" | Fulfilled in the Chapter "Recommended measures to protect environment, guidelines for lower hierarchy levels" |
| 3. | Provide a more detailed description of the priorities and specific objectives of the program in the evaluation report. | Fulfilled in the Chapter 2.2. |
| 4. | In the area of support "Greener Borders", take into account the priorities of waste management and the completion of related infrastructure, as well as the elimination of environmental burdens and landfills | This priority is explicitly not included in the Programme but is reflected under the priority Green Cooperations and related specific objectives and actions/interventions fields. |
| 5. | In the evaluation report, provide a list of protected areas located in the eligible area of the program | Fulfilled in Annex I of the report |
| 6. | Thoroughly assess the possible environmental impacts that may occur as a result of the implementation of the strategic document, especially in relation to the protected areas of the national and European system, the territorial system of ecological stability and other nature protection interests | Fulfilled in Chapter 4. |
| 7. | When assessing the effects of the strategy paper on the environment and when preparing the assessment report, take into account the relevant requirements arising from the opinions delivered for the communication, or to the specified scope of the evaluation of the strategy paper | Fulfilled in the SEA as such. |
| 8. | In a separate annex to the evaluation report, evaluate all opinions and requirements contained therein that have been delivered for notification, or that will be delivered to the specified scope of evaluation of the strategy document | Not relevant, since no additional comments, opinions and requirements have been received as regards the scope of assessment during its public consultation. |
| 9. | In a separate annex to the evaluation report, evaluate the fulfillment of individual points of the specified scope of evaluation of the strategic document | Fulfilled in the form of this table (Annex III of the report) |

ANNEX IV. COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE HUNGARIAN ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORITIES ON THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT OF THE STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF THE SKHU CBC PROGRAMME

| Area of responsibility | Organisation sending the comment | Comment | Answer |
|----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|--------|
| No comments or objections raised | | | |
| protection of the built environment | Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County Government Office, Office of the Chief State Architect | | |
| nature and landscape conservation | Aggtelek National Park Directorate | | |
| protection of the built environment | Pest County Government Office, Office of the Chief State Architect | | |
| soil protection | Heves County Government Office Department of Agriculture, Division of Plant and Soil Protection | | |
| protection of the built environment | Heves County Government Office, Office of the Chief State Architect | | |
| forest protection | Pest County Government Office Department of Agriculture, Division of and Forest Surveillance | | |
| environment and urban health | Komárom-Esztergom County Government Office Department of Public Health | | |
| soil protection | Komárom-Esztergom County Government Office Department of Agriculture, Division of Plant and Soil Protection | | |
| environment, nature and landscape protection | Pest County Government Office Department of Environment Protection, Nature Protection, Waste Management and Mining Supervision | | |

| Area of responsibility | Organisation sending the comment | Comment | Answer |
|----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|--------|
| soil protection | Nógrád County Government Office Department of Agriculture, Division of Plant and Soil Protection | | |
| environment and urban health | Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County Government Office Department of Public Health | | |
| protection of the built environment | Capital City Government of Budapest, Office of State Chief Architect | | |
| soil protection | Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County Government Office Department of Agriculture, Division of Plant and Soil Protection | | |
| environment, nature and landscape protection | Győr-Moson-Sopron County Government Office Department of Environment, Nature Protection and Waste Management | | |
| environment, nature and landscape protection | Nógrád County Government Office Department of Environment, Nature Protection and Waste Management | | |
| environment and urban health | Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County Government Office Department of Public Health | | |
| protection of the built environment | Győr-Moson-Sopron County Government Office, Office of the Chief State Architect | | |
| surface water and groundwater protection | Ministry of Interior, National Directorate General for Disaster Management, Prevention and Licensing Service | | |
| environment, nature and landscape protection | Komárom-Esztergom County Government Office Department of Environmental Protection, Nature Conservation and Waste Management | | |

| Area of responsibility | Organisation sending the comment | Comment | Answer |
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| cultural heritage protection | | Capital City of Budapest Government Office Department of Construction and Heritage Protection | |
| environment, nature and landscape protection | | Heves County Government Office Department of Environment, Nature Protection and Waste Management | |
| environment and urban health | | Capital City of Budapest Government Office Department of Public Health | |
| forest protection | | Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County Government Office Department of Agriculture Division of Forestry | |
| protection of the built environment | | Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County Government Office, Office of State Architect | |
| protection of the built environment | | Komárom-Esztergom County Government Office, Office of State Architect | |
| Technical comments ¹ | | | |

¹ Several organisations (Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County Government Office Chief Architect's Office, Komárom-Esztergom County Government Office Chief Architect's Office, Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County Government Office Department of Department of Environmental Protection, Nature Conservation and Waste Management, Bükk National Park Directorate, Self-Government of Heves County) have drawn attention to typos and chapter numbering errors in the Hungarian translation of the Environment Assessment Report. As these do not apply to the English version, they are not published here, but have been corrected in the Hungarian translation.

| Area of responsibility | Organisation sending the comment | Comment | Answer |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| nature and landscape conservation | Hortobágy National Park Directorate | Missing from both documents (although it is referred to in many places, but maybe it is there, but we just missed it) is the Council Decision on the approval of the first and second amendments to the UN/ECE Espoo Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context, which should be in the document, at least at the level of a mention. | The main national, Community and international legislation relevant to the preparation of the Environmental Report has been added (Chapter 1.1) |
| | | Textual suggestions for the content of Figure 4 | The comment concerns the first column of Figure 4, which contains the objectives of the listed Community and national strategy documents, therefore we are not in a position to change their wording. |
| | | Annex II, Chapter 3.1.4: ... national park directorate located ... The official name of each national park is the Directorate! | In our opinion, the addition of the word "Directorate" to the name of the national parks in the chapters referred to is not justified, since the aim is not to list administrative bodies but natural areas of national importance protected by specific legislation. |
| | | 4.1.6 Chapter B, Action 1.2.1: The document identifies 3 main areas. Grassland could be included. | The comment concerns the presentation of the Programme. Given that the Programme does not include the grassland by name, we are not in a position to include it here. |

| Area of responsibility | Organisation sending the comment | Comment | Answer |
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| | | Chapter 7: The NUTS codes for Budapest and Pest county are: 110 and 120. | The error has been corrected. |
| | | Annex I, part for Hungary: the Satu Mare-Bereg Landscape Protection Area (21.891,7 ha) is excluded | The reported shortfall has been closed. |
| nature and landscape conservation | Bükk National Park Directorate | The number of actions in the table on page 7 of the Environmental Assessment Report is incorrect. | The error has been corrected. |
| | | On pages 56 and 65, there are typos and unnecessary punctuation. | The errors have been corrected. |
| Comments on content | | | |
| environment and urban health | Heves County Government Office Department of Public Health | In the case of the action "Complex development of tourist destinations", it is recommended to include in the documentation the assessment of the environmental impact of the effluents generated in the unsewered areas, in connection with the planned investments, accommodation, tourism and other facilities, in order to protect human health and preserve the quality of drinking water, also during the period of the Programme's negotiation. | The comment does not concern the Environmental Report, but the Programme itself. Nevertheless, we agree with the proposal and have included it in the Environmental Report (chapter 4.1.4). |
| soil protection | Győr-Moson-Sopron County Government Office Department of Agriculture, Division of Plant and Soil Protection | The assessment report basically identifies the soil degradation processes that reduce soil functions in the project area, but further investigation may be required to determine the action plan required in case of extreme soil water management in the project area. Considering that approximately 2/3 of the Carpathian Basin is classified as nitrate sensitive, it could be appropriate to introduce Good Agricultural Practices to maintain soil fertility and preserve soil functions in order to protect surface and groundwater quality. | The Environmental Report (chapter 4.1.1.) has been supplemented in line with the comment. |

| Area of responsibility | Organisation sending the comment | Comment | Answer |
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| environment, nature and landscape protection | Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County Government Office Department of Environment, Nature Protection and Waste Management | Suggested textual additions and clarifications to Chapter 3.1.4, paragraph 3. | The sentence has been amended to reflect the comment. |
| | | Proposal to delete the last sentence of paragraph 3 in Chapter 3.1.4. | In line with the comment, the sentence has been deleted. |
| | | In point 7, under the heading 'Recent environmental conflicts and problems in the area covered by the Programme and their likely evolution without the implementation of the Programme', replace point 4 ('Degradation and conversion of vegetation, spread of invasive alien species due to climate change and human activities in recent decades.')), we believe that the main environmental conflict and the greatest threat is the irresponsible and irresponsible human management that is not prudent, exploits natural resources, destroys habitats, damages and restricts species' habitats. | In line with the comment, the above statement has been added. |
| | | P02-SO(VII) Industrial, water treatment and water engineering installations near the border can only be installed with appropriate technical noise protection. Industrial areas and industrial zones should be designated as far away from the border as possible. The impact of noise emissions from planned installations should be taken into account when assessing the impact on residential buildings beyond the national border. | The Environmental Report has been completed in line with the comment (chapter 4.1.3.) |
| | | It is proposed to base the programme monitoring system on simple, comprehensible and accessible data, not excluding the possibility of defining specific programme indicators in the final analysis. | We fully agree with this comment, which is why the Environmental Report proposes to use the existing regional and national databases, based on a common protocol, to assess and evaluate the environmental impacts of the Programme. |

| Area of responsibility | Organisation sending the comment | Comment | Answer |
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| nature and landscape conservation | Bükk National Park Directorate | We agree with the assessment of the studies summarised in the table in Chapters 2.3 and 2.4.2, with the comment that some developments associated with Action 2.4.2 may also have potentially conflicting environmental effects with Actions 1.2.1. | Consistent with the comment, Figure 5 of the Environmental Report shows that the combination of Actions 2.4.2 and 1.2.1 could lead to potentially conflicting environmental impacts. |
| | | Textual addition to paragraph 3 of Chapter 3.1.4 and proposal to delete the last sentence of this paragraph. | The parts of the Environmental Report requested in the comments have been added or deleted. (Chapter 3.1.4.) |
| | | Textual proposal for an addition to Chapter 3.2, paragraph 3, indent 3. | The Environmental Report has been completed in line with the comment (Chapter 3.2) |
| | | Proposals to add to the list of protected landscape areas in Annex I. | The Environmental Report has been supplemented in line with the comment (Annex I) |
| environment and urban health | Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County Government Office Department of Public Health | Environmental conflicts and problems often have a cross-border impact. The main environmental issues in the programme area are water and waste management, waste water treatment and air pollution. Air quality has a significant impact on human health and ecosystems. Air pollution, particularly seasonally high levels of particulate matter, is a major challenge in the border region of the programme area and a major health risk for all its inhabitants, leading directly to various diseases and premature death. | The Environmental Report has been amended to include the issue of air pollution, as requested by the comment, and the other problems mentioned have been included in the list (chapter 3.2) |

| Area of responsibility | Organisation sending the comment | Comment | Answer |
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| nature and landscape conservation | Hortobágy National Park Directorate | Chapter 6: For monitoring, where a survey concerns the natural environment, efforts should be made to develop a standard protocol | We fully agree with this observation, which is why the Environmental Report proposes the use of existing regional and national databases, based on a common protocol, to assess and evaluate the environmental impacts of the Programme. |
| | | Annex I, Hungary section: international protected categories (Natura 2000 and Ramsar) are not included. | Annex I has been supplemented. |
| environment and urban health | Győr-Moson-Sopron County Government Office Department of Public Health | The largest current waste management item in Hungary is the disposal of demolition and construction waste. In the county of Győr-Moson Sopron, the use of this type of segregated waste in the construction of transport roads is becoming more and more common as a good practice. This practice could be continued, especially in the context of cooperation between countries in the implementation of tourism objectives. | The Environmental Report has been completed in line with the comment (chapter 4.1.7.) |
| | | In project selection procedure, attention should not only be paid to the waste management of the area to be developed. We consider it important that the evaluation criteria should include among the tourism objectives, for example, waste bins placed on the bicycle route, the possible establishment of mobile toilets, the placement of more lockable, separated waste bins and their regular emptying and maintenance. | The Environmental Report has been completed in line with the comment (chapter 4.1.1.) |

| Area of responsibility | Organisation sending the comment | Comment | Answer |
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| local environment and nature protection | Self-Government of Heves County | In the chapter "1.1 Purpose of the Strategic Environmental Assessment" on page 6 of the document, the Report refers only to Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council as the legal background. However, the chapter "1.3 Incorporation of comments and suggestions made during the SEA process" refers in general terms to the application of national legislation in the planning process. It is suggested that chapter 1.1 should also specifically list national legislation. | The Environmental Report has been completed in line with the comment (Chapter 1.1) |
| Comments not on the Environmental Report but on the Programme | | | |
| protection of the built environment | Komárom-Esztergom County Government Office Office of the Chief State Architect | An increase in the use of solar PV systems is expected due to the planned increase in renewable energy use for objective PO2 (to promote the transition to a circular and resource-efficient economy). The protection of the built landscape and the harmonious appearance of the landscape or landscape outcrop or view will be a priority for the installation of solar panels. It is considered appropriate to draw up guidelines for this in the framework of the programme, with the assistance of a landscape architect. | It should be noted that the Programme does not explicitly support the expansion of renewable energy use, and the PO2 objective mainly encourages industrial symbiosis and sustainable waste management. |
| environment, nature and landscape protection | Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County Government Office Department of Environment, Nature Protection and Waste Management | The chapter on "Sustainable waste management and waste prevention" should be clarified as follows: The aim of the measure is to increase the proportion of solid waste that is reused or recycled in relation to the amount generated, and... It is proposed to explain in more detail what measures are being taken to reduce the increasing amount of construction and demolition waste generated in Hungary. | - |
| environment and urban health | Borsod-Abaúj Zemplén County | With regard to the intervention areas, special attention should be paid to activities, interventions and measures for the protection, preservation and improvement of surface and groundwater, which are used directly or | In our view, the Programme |

| Area of responsibility | Organisation sending the comment | Comment | Answer |
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| | Government Office Department of Public Health | <p>indirectly for drinking water abstraction, and for the protection of long-term water sources, surface and groundwater.</p> <p>Within the framework of the Cross-Border Cooperation Programme, priority and special attention should be given to the water quality of the rivers crossing the border, the establishment of water quality monitoring systems, the protection of water resources, and the harmonization of relevant regulations.</p> <p>The planned interventions include improving the quality of surface and groundwater. The water quality of many cross-border rivers (the Danube, the Ipoly, the Sajó, the Hernád, the Bodrog and the Tisza) can and should be maintained through monitoring and prevention.</p> <p>Addressing the environmental damage caused by waste water and waste requires cross-border cooperation. The focus areas are river valleys crossing the borders, which are at risk of pollution.</p> | <p>pays due attention to the areas identified in the comment, within the limits of its possibilities.</p> |
| | | <p>With regard to the development of monitoring systems to be defined in the future, I consider it important to develop additional pollution monitoring systems (air, water, soil), to develop the IT and technical possibilities of linking existing official monitoring systems and monitoring systems operated by utility providers, and to develop notification systems for cross-border pollution, with special regard to the protection of surface and groundwater and drinking water sources.</p> | <p>-</p> |

| Area of responsibility | Organisation sending the comment | Comment | Answer |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | | The availability of good quality human services (health, social care, education, public administration) is an important prerequisite for the quality of life of the population living in the region. In line with demographic trends, particular attention should be paid to the development of institutions for the elderly. It is important to ensure that a wide range of health and social services are available locally, and to improve the quality of these services so that they can adapt to the changing needs of the population in the area. | In our view, the full range of proposed improvements cannot be supported under the Programme. |
| environment and urban health | Győr-Moson-Sopron County Government Office Department of Public Health | In the project selection point (1.2.6. Lessons learned from previous experiences- 13, o-,) Monitoring Committee members should not only be more actively involved, but we also recommend to expand the circle of participants with representatives of the specialised fields with experience and experts in epidemiology, project monitoring, informatics. | - |

ANNEX V. COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SLOVAK ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORITIES ON THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT OF THE STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF THE SKHU CBC PROGRAMME

| Organisation sending the comment | Comment | Answer |
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| Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic, European Funds Department | Requests that the name of the Fisheries Fund listed on page 17, subchapter 1.2.8, and states that for the programming period 2021-2027 the name shall be the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund | The comment concerns the Programme and not the Draft Environmental Report. |
| | Proposes the deletion of the relevant information, covering both the third and fourth paragraphs of the third and fourth paragraphs of the first subparagraph; 59, in Chapter 7.2, where it is stated that the Joint Secretariat will be financed from the technical assistance of the programme and the text will be adapted accordingly. | The comment concerns the Programme and not the Draft Environmental Report. |
| The Bratislava District Office, Section of environmental care, Department of Nature Protection and Selected Environmental Components of the Region | The Report is purely formal in terms of nature protection, without any specific activities/projects and with only generally evaluated impacts. | Since the Programme, as intended, does not contain project-level information (see detailed characteristics and locations of the developments to be supported), the Environmental Report can only make general statements. |
| | The Report states that no areas of the Program have been identified that would be in conflict with the objectives of environmental protection. In its opinion, however, given the planned activities at least in the area of improving transport infrastructure and developing tourism, conflicts with the interests of nature protection can be expected. | In our opinion, chapter 4.1.5 of the Environmental Report, in particular point D), addresses the potential negative impacts of tourism developments on wildlife, but we have nevertheless expanded this chapter and clarified its wording. We have also changed the relevant score in the summary table (from -1 to -2). |

| Organisation sending the comment | Comment | Answer |
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| | <p>Chapter 2 does not take into account all major planning programs, e.g. Action Plan of the Slovak Republic for Wetlands for the years 2019-2021, Care Program for the Protected Bird Area Košice Basin for the years 2018-2047.</p> | <p>The Action Plan of the Slovak Republic for Wetlands for the years 2019-2021 is not relevant for strategic document as its covering 2021-2027. The Care Program for the Protected Bird Area Kosice Basin is one of more than 90 Care programmes, and it is beyond the capacity of the Report to include other documents than the ones at the level of NUTS1 to NUTS3.</p> |
| | <p>For the Green Cooperations priority axis, the directorates of national parks and nature parks are included among the beneficiaries, but small protected areas of various categories and areas belonging to the European Natura 2000 network are also located outside the national parks, so it recommends that nature protection organizations are included among the beneficiaries.</p> | <p>The comment concerns the Programme and not the Draft Environmental Report, but it is recommended to follow this request.</p> |
| | <p>In Chapter 5, for activities that may have any impact on nature protection interests, there is no measure on the appropriateness of consulting and cooperating with the territorially competent nature protection office, and a measure on the use of native species when planting in areas outside the built-up area of municipalities. (from non-native plant species only species that are listed in Annex 3 to the Decree of the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic No. 170/2021 Coll., implementing the Nature Protection Act). At the same time, it is necessary to add a notification on the obligation to implement projects in accordance with the valid legislation of the Slovak Republic.</p> | <p>The Environmental Report has been amended in line with the comments (Chapter 4.1.5. and 5.)</p> |

| Organisation sending the comment | Comment | Answer |
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| | Chapter 7 states "... within the ongoing or subsequent evaluation of the Program, the impact of the implemented development activities on individual aspects of the environment can be identified." From the point of view of preventing negative impacts, it considers this method of their identification to be unacceptable. | The Environmental Report has been amended in line with the comment (Chapter 6. and 7.) |
| | Activity 1.2.1 Protection of natural capital states that it does not contribute to the preservation of cultural heritage. It should be noted that the activity generally does not contribute to the preservation of cultural heritage, because there are cases in Slovakia where they do (e.g. NPR Šomoška, PP Soví hrad, etc.). | The Environmental Report has been amended in line with the comment (Chapter 4.1.7.) |
| | Formally, the Report can be criticized for the incorrect use of the term "alien invasive species", the correct term is "non-native invasive species". | The wording has been corrected. |
| | It has the following comments on the specific requirements of the scope of the assessment concerning the interests of nature and landscape protection: No. "2.2.2. Add the indicators "total number of municipalities involved in the cross-border integrated transport system" and "total length of newly built or modernized cycle paths and tourist trails" in the evaluation report - not considered fulfilled. No. "2.2.5. Include in the evaluation report a list of protected areas located in the eligible area of the program" - partially fulfilled. Only large-scale protected areas are listed, and special protected parts of the national and European network of protected areas are omitted. It notes that Slovakia has developed a proposal to supplement the national list of sites of Community Importance, which is in the process of approval. | Both indicators indicated in comment No. 2.2.2 are included in the indicators listed in Chapter 6 of the Environmental Report. A list of Natura 2000 sites has been added to the Annex I of the Environmental Report. In our opinion, the inclusion of any other types of protected areas is not justified, as they should be taken into account in the preparation of specific projects under the Programme, not in the preparation of the Programme itself. Since the Programme, as intended, does not contain project-level information (see detailed |

| Organisation sending the comment | Comment | Answer |
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| | <p>No. "2.2.6. Thoroughly assess the potential environmental impacts that may result from the implementation of the strategic document, in particular in relation to the protected areas of the national and European network, the territorial system of ecological stability and other nature protection interests" - not fulfilled. Evaluation of impacts on protected areas is only general and the assessment of the effects on the territorial system of ecological stability and other nature protection interests is lacking.</p> | <p>characteristics and locations of the developments to be supported), the Environmental Report can only make general statements. However, the chapter on nature conservation and wildlife has been added, within the limits of the information available in the Programme.</p> |
| | <p>In the form that the Environmental Report Interreg VI-A Hungary-Slovakia Cross-Border Cooperation Program was submitted, it is not possible to take an expert opinion on it. It can only be stated in general that when evaluating individual projects/activities of the strategic document, it is necessary to ensure a thorough assessment of their environmental impacts in accordance with the Impact Assessment Act. When preparing specific projects, it recommends not interfering in protected areas, their protection zones and ÚSES elements and proposing activities that will not have a negative impact on the interests of nature protection. Cooperation with territorial competent offices of the Slovak State Nature Protection is advisable in this case.</p> | <p>In line with the above response, it is also noted here that the level of detail of the Programme does not allow for a detailed impact analysis. We fully agree with the recommendation in the comment that in the preparation and implementation of projects under the Programme, particular attention should be paid to the assessment of environmental impacts under the existing legislation, including consultation with the relevant environmental authorities. Reference to the latter is made in several places in the Environmental Report.</p> |
| | <p>Common cross-border solutions are needed in the areas of flood protection, disaster relief, water quality improvement and pollution remediation.</p> | <p>The comment concerns the Programme and not the Draft Environmental Report, but it is recommended to follow this request.</p> |
| | <p>At the level of border areas, address extreme weather conditions that pose a serious hydrological threat, extremely destructive storms, hail, drought with a lack of drinking water.</p> | <p>The comment concerns the Programme and not the Draft Environmental Report, but it is recommended to follow this request.</p> |

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| | <p>Include sections on water management and climate in surveys assessing the tourism potential of water bodies. Take into account changes in water resources and water quality for the coming decades and the impacts of climate change.</p> | <p>The comment concerns the Programme and not the Draft Environmental Report.</p> |
| | <p>The next stage of the strategic document must be prepared in accordance with the approved conceptual and planned documents of the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic, in compliance with the general provisions of Act No. 364/2004 Coll. on Waters and on the Amendment to the Act of the Slovak National Council No. 372/1990 Coll. on Offences, as amended, and in compliance with the provisions of § 39 of the Water Act, laying down the general conditions for the handling of pollutants and subsequently the Decree of the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic No. 200/2018</p> | <p>The comment concerns the Programme and not the Draft Environmental Report, but it is recommended to follow this request.</p> |
| <p>District Office of the Dunajská Streda, Department of Environment</p> | <p>The office calls for full compliance with environmental legislation and implementation of the proposed measures</p> | <p>This request results from the law, the Draft report supposes that the processes given by the law will be followed.</p> |
| <p>District Office of Trebišov, Department of Environment</p> | <p>In Chapter 3.1 Environmental characteristics of the area that are likely to affect the objectives of the program, in subchapter 3.1.1. Landscape structure, there is an inaccurate name of the area in which the Latorica Protected Landscape Area is located as the Great Danube Plain, while the Hungarian name is much more accurate, Felső - Tisza síkság, which could be translated as the Upper Tisza Plain.</p> | <p>The term Great Danube Plain on the map in Chapter 3.1.1 refers to the entire lowland macro-region in the central part of the Carpathian Basin. The Upper Tisza region in the northern part of this area is indeed far from the Danube river, but it still belongs to the macro-region called the Great Danube Plain.</p> |
| | <p>In the subchapter 3.1.3. Water resources, rivers, water management, the largest river that stands at the origin of the river Bodrog is omitted, i.e. the river Latorica.</p> | <p>The Environmental Report has been amended in line with the comments (Chapter 3.1.3.)</p> |

| Organisation sending the comment | Comment | Answer |
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| Public Health Authority of the Slovak Republic | The authority states that it agrees with the environmental report of the draft strategic document "Interreg VI-A Hungary-Slovakia cross-border cooperation program" and agrees with the draft strategy document; but seeks to apply its comments that can be found in their statement. Comments are listed below. | See responses below. |
| | 1. Create a register of the main characteristics of environmentally relevant development activities, which will enable easier assignment of data registered in national databases to the development activities of the Program. | In Chapter 6 of the Environmental Report, a list of environmentally relevant actions has been added. |
| | 2. From the hydrogeological point of view, the Aggtelek Karst and the Slovak Karst form single unit. Groundwater resources are interconnected and directly affect each other. In the interest of water resources protection, we propose to implement the objectives of the Protocol on Water and Health into the Program. | The comment concerns the Programme and not the Draft Environmental Report, but it is recommended to follow this request. |
| | 3. In implementing the individual activities of the Program, we recommend paying increased attention to minimizing transport needs due to the fact that environmental noise and especially road traffic noise remains a significant environmental problem that affects the health and well-being of millions of people in Europe. The increasing intensity of road traffic, combined with the growing rate of urbanization in recent decades, is also changing a person's perception and attitude towards noise, which affects the quality of life and health of individuals. | The comment concerns the Programme implementation and not the Draft Environmental Report, but the Report recommends to follow this request in SEA/EIA of particular projects (Chapter 4.1.3. and Chapter 5) |
| | 4. Between the border river Ipeľ and the river Hron in the south-eastern part of the Levice district, there are no water sources of suitable quality for the public supply of drinking water to the population. It is also necessary to solve the appropriate sewerage of agglomerations in this area so that the quality of groundwater and surface water is not negatively affected. | The comment concerns the Programme and not the Draft Environmental Report, but it is recommended to follow this request in the next phase. |

| Organisation sending the comment | Comment | Answer |
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| | 5. The largest source of noise in the Levice district is the intensive cross-border road traffic in Šahy (across the Šahy-Parassapuszta border crossing). In terms of reducing the noise pollution of the population of Šahy and the surrounding municipalities, an important solution would be to relocate the road of international importance I/66 Šahy - Zvolen (road R3) with the bypass of municipalities: Šahy, Hrkovce, Horné Semerovce, Hokovce. This intention is also addressed in the territorial documentation of the Nitra self-governing region. | The comment concerns the Programme and not the Draft Environmental Report, but it is recommended to follow this request in the next phase. |
| | 6. Add the negative effects of the circular economy on health and quality of life in Chapter 4.1.9 Human health and quality of life. This chapter only lists positive and neutral effects on health and quality of life. Given the changes in waste management and the expansion of the use of waste for energy purposes (incinerators, BPS), a negative impact of odours on the population can be expected, which is also acknowledged in the report on air pollution: "However, all industrial developments aimed at waste management can potentially lead to certain emissions of air pollutants, including potential air pollution by odours". Furthermore, the report itself states "... the activity also covers those directions of technological development for which, on the basis of the available information, it cannot be stated with certainty that their implementation does not present any risk of noise or vibration (e.g. noise emissions from waste management can be reduced but not completely eliminated). This is because the Program, in line with its intention, does not specify the sectoral classification, type and technology of the sites to be developed". In chapter 4.1.9. Human health and quality of life, the report states at the outset that the development of the circular economy does not affect human health and quality of life. Chapter 4.1.9. Human health and quality of life therefore contradicts the previous text | Based on the comment, to ensure consistency within the Environmental Report, Chapter 4.1.8 on human health and quality of life has been supplemented with a description of the human health impacts of the action 1.1.1. "Resource and waste management". |

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| | of the report, which is deliberately quoted and we therefore call for it to be supplemented. | |
| Office of the Nitra Autonomous Region, Department of Strategic Activities | The evaluation report and the draft strategy paper, "Cross-border cooperation programme International Slovak Republic-Hungary", must not conflict with the Territorial Plan of the Nitra Region. | We consider that the Environmental Report is in line with Territorial Plan of the Nitra Region. |
| District office Lučenec Department of Environment | Requires compliance with universally binding legislation. | We fully agree with this observation and the environmental report stresses the importance of this in several places. |
| District Office of Veľký Krtíš, Department of State Atmosphere Protection | The proposed strategic objectives, which have an impact on quality, requires to implement in accordance with the universally binding legislation on the protection of consumers. | We fully agree with this observation and the environmental report stresses the importance of compliance with legislation in several places. |
| No comments or objections raised | | |
| Ministry of Economic Affairs of the Slovak Republic, Department of Bilateral Trade Cooperation | | |
| Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and the Family of the Slovak Republic, Department of International Relations and European Affairs | | |
| Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic, Office of the Secretary-General of the Service Office | | |
| District Office Košice-okolie, Department of Environment | | |
| District Office of Nitra, Department of Environment, Department of State Water Management And selected environmental components of the country | | |
| District Office Nové Zámky, Department of Environment | | |
| District Office Poltár, Department of Environment, Department of State Water Management | | |

| Organisation sending the comment | Comment | Answer |
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| District Office Revúca, Department of Environment, Department of State Water Management | | |
| District office of Revúca, Department of Environment, Department of State Atmosphere protection | | |
| District Office of Rimavská Sobota, Department of Environment, Department of State Waste Management Administration | | |
| District Office of Rimavská Sobota, Department of Environment, Department of State Water Management | | |
| District office of Rožňava, Department of Environment, Department of State Atmosphere Protection | | |
| Municipality of Rožňava, Department of Environment, Department of State Water Management | | |
| District Office of Šaľa, Department of Environment, Department of State Waste Management | | |
| District Office Zlaté Moravce, Department of Environment | | |
| Office of the Trnava Autonomous Region, Department of Strategic Activities and projects | | |