



Building Partnership

INTERREG V-A SLOVAKIA – HUNGARY COOPERATION PROGRAMME

2014-2020

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List of abbreviations

AA	Audit Authority
BDCP	Budapest Danube Contact Point
CCA	Central Coordination Authority
CA	Certifying Authority
CF	Cohesion Fund
CPR	Common Provision Regulation
ENI	European Neighbourhood Instrument
EC	European Commission
EU	European Union
EUSDR	EU Strategy for the Danube Region
ETC	European territorial cooperation
ESIF	European structural and investment fund
EGTC	European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation
ERDF	European Regional Development Fund
EMFF	European Maritime and Fisheries Fund
EAFRD	European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development
ESF	European Social Fund
GDP	Gross domestic product
LEADER	Liaison Entre Actions pour le Developpement de l'Economie Rurale
IPA	Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance
ITI	Integrated territorial investments
IP	Investment priority
JS	Joint Secretariat
MA	Managing Authority
MC	Monitoring Committee
NA	National Authority
NUTS	Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics
OP	Operational programme
PA	Priority axes
PPP	Purchasing Power Parity
RDA	Regional Development Agency
TA	Technical assistance
TEN-T	Trans-European Transport Networks
TO	Thematic objective

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1 STRATEGY FOR THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME

Strategy for the cooperation programme's contribution to the Union strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth and the achievement of economic, social and territorial cohesion

1.1 Contributing to the EU strategy

Description for contributing to the performance of the Union strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth and for achieving economic, social and territorial cohesion

1.1.1 The context of the Interreg V-A Slovakia-Hungary

The EU cohesion policy

In the 2014-2020 programming period of the European Union, the cohesion policy is the main investment instrument for supporting the main priorities of the Union as envisaged in the Europe 2020 Strategy, i.e. smart, sustainable and inclusive growth and linked targets. The European Territorial Cooperation is one of the goals of cohesion policy and provides a framework for cooperation on internal borders of the EU. In line with these overall strategic goals, the Interreg V-A Slovakia-Hungary has been elaborated based on the relevant Strategic Guidelines, Regulations, Delegated and Implementing Acts of the Commission, especially on basis of the following strategies, reports and legislative acts:

- EU2020 strategy,
- Territorial Agenda of the European Union 2020,
- 5th Cohesion Report, 2010,
- The urban and regional dimension of the crisis. Eighth progress report on economic, social and territorial cohesion, June 2013
- Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 - Common Provision Regulation (CPR),
- Regulation (EU) No 1301/2013 on the European Regional Development Fund
- Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013 on specific provisions for the support from the European Regional Development Fund to the European territorial cooperation (ETC) goal

On the base of these guidelines the Interreg V-A Slovakia-Hungary will contribute to the delivery of the European Union EU2020 strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, and will contribute to the achievement of economic, social and territorial cohesion.

European Union Strategy for the Danube Region

In close co-operation with the concerned national and interregional programmes and institutions, within the scope of its operations the Interreg V-A Slovakia-Hungary will contribute to the implementation of some of the envisaged actions of the European Union Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR) endorsed by the European Council in April 2011. In line with this the Interreg V-A Slovakia-Hungary will definitely act to realize the four strategic policy objectives of the EUSDR on the regions of Hungary and Slovakia along the Danube:

- connecting the regions,
- protecting the environment,
- building prosperity and
- strengthening the concerned regions.

This will be done in line with the Hungarian Partnership Agreement, which states, that 'Hungary is in favour of having smaller scale, non-investment type EUSDR developments in the transnational

programmes whereas more significant developments are to be financed from the ‘mainstream programmes.’ According to the Slovak Partnership Agreement synergies between ETC and mainstream Operational Programmes (OPs) are expected.

1.1.2 The national programmes contributing to cohesion

The National Reform Programmes

The National Reform Programme 2013 of Hungary, April 2013 and the Council Recommendation on Hungary’s 2013 national reform programme (Council Recommendation on Hungary’s 2013 national reform programme and delivering a Council opinion on Hungary’s convergence programme for 2012-2016, Brussels, 29.5.2013, SWD(2013) 367 final) on one side, and the National Reform Programme 2013 of the Slovak Republic, April 2013 and the Council Recommendation on Slovakia’s 2013 national reform programme (Council Recommendation on Slovakia’s 2013 national reform programme and delivering a Council opinion on Slovakia’s stability programme for 2012-2016, Brussels, 29.5.2013, SWD (2013) 375 final) ensure the coherence with the Hungarian Partnership Agreement, and with the Slovakian Partnership Agreement respectively through which coherences are established with the Interreg V-A Slovakia-Hungary.

The national Partnership Agreements

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The Hungarian Partnership Agreement was approved by the European Commission on 29th of August 2014. The Hungarian Partnership Agreement states that in line with the strategic priorities of the National Development and Territorial Concept, the following main co-operation areas need to be supported in the framework of the international territorial co-operation:

- enhancing competitiveness and employment based on cross-border co-operation,
- promoting territorial integration in the border areas by strengthening environmental, transport, water management and energy networks,
- promoting institutional integration and improving relationships between communities in the border region.

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On the 30th of October, 2012 the European Commission published the Position of the Commission Services on the development of the Partnership Agreement and programmes in Slovakia for the period 2014-2020, where it presented its proposal for thematic objectives and priorities for the period 2014-2020, which may be the subject of future EU funding. This position paper formed the basis for the elaboration of the 2014-2020’s Partnership Agreement between the Slovak government and the Commission approved by the Commission on the 20th of June 2014.

According to the position of the Commission, the EU funds should be used to finance such priorities that have the greatest potential for growth, and refundable grants should be used in a greater extent. In order to reach the objectives of the Europe 2020 Strategy the Slovak Republic supports the narrowing of priorities in the future cross-border co-operation programme, and the determination of a small number of investment priorities that will promote socio-economic growth of the region.

The coordination with the draft operational programmes of Hungary and Slovakia are described in Chapter 6. Coordination.

Regional strategies of the programming area

The Interreg V-A Slovakia-Hungary has taken into account the following regional strategies:

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The eligible NUTS3 level counties have elaborated their development concepts for the period 2014-2020 as follows:

- Spatial Development Concept of Győr-Moson-Sopron County – 3.1 Draft (July 2013)
- Spatial Development Concept of Komárom-Esztergom County – III. proposing phase
- Spatial Development Concept of Pest County – Proposing phase II. volume – Consultation document (April 2013)
- Spatial Development Concept of Nógrád County – Proposing phase – Interim consultation document (15th January 2013)
- Spatial Development Concept of Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County – Proposing phase II. volume – Working paper
- Spatial Development Concept of Heves County (2014-2020) – Proposing phase
- Spatial Development Concept of Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County, 2014-2020 – accepted by decree 77/2013 of the Council of the County
- In the 7 NUTS2 regions, the Regional Innovation Agencies elaborated their Smart Specialization Strategies (S3 strategies), containing concepts for cross-border actions, too. (Versions 2013)

Additionally, to these strategies, the 'Wekerle Plan – Growth Strategy of the Hungarian Economy in view of the Carpathian Basin' deals with the development of the Hungarian economy in relation to territories in the Carpathian Basin and takes into account the possibilities of cross-border cooperation.

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The eligible NUTS3 level counties have elaborated their development concepts for the period 2014-2020 as follows:

- Economic and Social Development Plan of the Bratislava region for the period 2014-2020 (final version 21st June 2013)
- Economic and Social Development Plan of the Trnava region for the period 2009-2015 (final version) – the plan for the next programming period has not yet been prepared
- Economic and Social Development Plan of the Nitra region for the period 2008-2015 (final version) - the plan for the next programming period has not yet been prepared
- Economic and Social Development Plan of the Banská Bystrica region for the period 2008-2013 (final version) - the plan for the next programming period has not yet been prepared
- Economic and Social Development Plan of the Košice region for the period 2007-2013 (final version) - the plan for the next programming period has not yet been prepared

1.1.3 Lessons from the on-going programming period 2007-2013

Under the European Territorial Co-operation objective, the Hungary-Slovakia Cross-border Co-operation Programme 2007-2013 (Commission reference No: 2007 CB163 PO 068) is incorporating thirteen NUTS3 level counties of the Hungary-Slovakia border area, eight from Hungary and five from Slovakia, respectively. The overall strategic goal of the programme is the increased level of economic and social integration of the border area.

Based on Annual Implementation Reports and on the base of the final report, dated in December 2013 of the in-depth Evaluation of the Hungary–Slovakia Cross-border Cooperation Programme 2007-2013 prepared by Deloitte, the main lessons of the on-going HU-SK Programme were as follows:

- The Programme could not sufficiently focus on specific cross-border problems/issues, because at the time of programming there was a clear threat that a limited number of eligible fields of activities would not provide the chance of the required level of absorption.
- The biggest problem in timely implementation was that the project holders were in many cases unable to pre-finance their activities.
- Another persisting problem was that the infrastructure projects suffer the most from slow and hindered preparation.

Regarding priority axis 1:

- The invested funds for RTD objectives will certainly plant the seeds of a cooperative environment in the RTD sector between the key public RTD organisations of the two countries.
- Tourism cooperation was one of the most popular fields that the programme supports; however, there are serious problems about the sustainability of the results of these projects. The majority (32,3% and 26,5%) of the supported projects during the previous programming period and those included in the reserve list targeted the rehabilitation of potential tourist sites and development of tourist infrastructure (sometimes on one side of the border). Initiatives aiming to create integrated cross-border tourist products represented a smaller rate (20,6%). The development of common tourist marketing (14,7%) and sectorial cooperation (5,9%) were also supported. Consequently, the integration of tourist developments should be strengthened while the infrastructure and services needed for integration are partly developed.
- Regarding healthcare cooperation, the planned results could be reached with a much higher share of funding from the programme budget.
- The HR and labour market cooperation activities showed a very effective accomplishment of the originally set targets.

Regarding priority axis 2:

- The interest for renewable energy related projects were considerably higher than other activities of this measure.

1.2 The definition of the programme area

The Hungarian-Slovak is one of the longest internal land-locked borders of the European Union, with a total length of 679 km. The programming region is extremely heterogeneous considering its economic and social situation. The area covered by the NUTS 3 level regions ('megye' in Hungary, 'kraj' in Slovakia) is 61 496 km². The eligible areas are according to 3. Table and depicted in 1. Map. Two regions (Heves county and Budapest) have no direct connection with the state border. Their interests are based on territorial proximity and border effect influences experienced.

1.2.1 Analysis of the cohesion of the programming area

Territorial cohesion

According to the mission of cross-border ETC programmes, the following analysis does not give an overview on the situation of the whole territory of the programming area but **focuses on the internal territorial, economic and social cohesion** thereof. Consequently, all relevant and available data have been analysed from the point of view of three forms of cohesion by identifying factors hindering and strengthening internal cohesion. Unlike national sectorial programmes, the Interreg V-A SK-HU should not solve local or regional problems but rather support **cross-border** activities, cooperation forms, networks and joint developments. In this way it enables the region to contribute effectively to the achievement of **EU 2020 Strategy objectives**.

Analysis is divided into three chapters following the three forms of cohesion. Description has been made by using statistical data, the results of individual and focus group interviews and workshops, as well as analytical studies and regional strategic documents of the borderland. The level of territorial cohesion can be characterised:

- by the common use of landscapes and natural heritage,
- by the density and the level of use of border crossing points (permeability of the border),
- by the functionality of border towns, and
- by the presence of cross-border institutions.

COMMON LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT

Together with further 12 countries / provinces, Hungary and Slovakia belong to the Danube basin. The programming region in its entirety forms part of the Pannonian / Carpathian basin which gives its common characteristics. Its geomorphological features not ending at the border are determined by the meeting zone of mountainous areas and plains cut up by the rivers belonging to the catchment area of the Danube. The Hungarian-Slovak border which runs through landscapes of diverse characteristics does not constitute a sharp division everywhere. While on the Western section of the borderland the Danube and Ipoly/Ipeľ are considered as definite barriers hindering rather than facilitating border crossing, from Ipolytarnóc the border is not as clearly attached to natural growths.

At the level of small landscapes, the border divides coherent regions, e.g. Szigetköz – Žitný ostrov, Cserhátvidék – Cerová vrchovina, Nógrádi-medence – Ipeľská kotlina, Medvesvidék – Medvešská vrchovina, Sajó-Hernád-medence – Rimavsko-košická kotlina, Eperjes-Tokaji-hegyvidék – Slanské vrchy, Gömör-Tornai-karszt – Slovenský kras etc. As the landscapes (managed by five-five natural parks) and the forests cross the border **the protection of the environment, the natural heritage and biodiversity should be a common task** for both countries.

One of the biggest drinking water bases of Europe is situated under Žitný ostrov and Szigetköz and within the territory of the borderland; three further cross-border water bases are located: Komárnanská vysoká kryha – Dunántúli-középhegység; Slovenský kras – Aggteleki-hegység; Bodrog;

Aggteleki-karszt and Slovenský kras are orbicular from the point of view of water geology. (Annex 1, 4. Table)

The most frequent effect of climate change in the area is the huge quantity of moisture pouring down suddenly **which requires common water management**. (It is to be mentioned that due to its limited financial resources CBC programme cannot resolve the problems related to water management but can contribute to the resolution.) In addition, inland water and drought caused by extreme weather conditions, water erosion, soil degradation might bring on damages to **be handled commonly**. The catchment areas (like that of the Danube, the Tisza/Tisa or smaller rivers like Ipoly/Ipeľ, Bodrog, Sajó/Slaná, Hernád/Hornád) do not end at the border, the **risks and damages are common and should be managed commonly**. (1. Map)

BORDER CROSSING TRANSPORT

The density of border crossing points plays a crucial role from the point of view of any forms of cross-border cooperation. (3. Map, Annex 1) The average distance between two border crossing points along the Hungarian-Slovak border is 21,9 km (this volume is the highest along the Danube with an average of 50 km) while the same data in Western European countries is only 7-8 km. Thanks to the HUSK CBC programme 2007-2013 the density has increased during the previous programming periods: since 2003, 14 new crossing points have been opened. Considering the economic and social potential of an easily permeable border area **the density of border crossing points should be increased with a view to improving the economic and social conditions in the area**.

The volume of cross-border road traffic represents the intensity of transit and interregional cooperation. The most frequented border crossing points (Rajka-Čuňovo, Vámoszabadi-Medved'ov, Komárom-Komárno and Esztergom-Štúrovo) are located exceptionally along the Western part of the border line. Estimated volume of the traffic at these points exceeds 1,4-2,4 times that of the most frequented Eastern point (Tornyosnémeti-Milhost'). (Two third of the Hungary-Slovakia border traffic is performed through the first two crossing points!)

Three TEN-T core networks run through the programming region (the Baltic-Adriatic, the Orient / East-Med and the Rhine-Danube) but all these corridors touch the region only without creating real North-South connections between the two neighbouring countries. In the Eastern area of the borderland there is a **real need for a further North-South core network link**. (4. Map) Cross-border public transport is transacted also between the Western border regions only: between Bratislava and Rajka regulated bus line is operating (Nr 801) providing services to the daily commuters; there are cross-border local bus services between Komárno and Komárom (Nr 228) as well as Esztergom and Štúrovo (Nr 223). Four days per week buses turn once between Dunajská Streda and Győr as well as a new bus line starts operating in 2014 between Győr and Veľký Meder. In addition, public transport services are offered by the Hungarian and Slovak railways on two lines (Košice-Budapest, Bratislava-Štúrovo-Budapest) out of 10 possible opportunities. During the previous years, regression has been observed on rail traffic instead of expansion. (According to the results gained from TransHUSK project only 2% of the daily cross-border traffic is transacted by public transport means.) According to the results of the TransHUSK project only 2% of the passengers use the public transport means in cross-border relations while e.g. in the case of Hungary the modal split (the share of public transport is 33,9%) is one of the best in the EU (with an average of 17,4%). The difference can partly be explained by the lack of cross-border lines along the border. The opportunities provided by the Danube are not exploited at the moment from the aspect of public transport at all. There is a lack of cross-border intermodal service systems integrating different modes of transport. However, daily commuting, strengthening of business and institutional cooperation **shall force an increased**

integration of public transport facilities similar to the network developed around Vienna within the framework of Centrope initiative. At the same time, increase of share of public transport and rail and inland waterway transport of goods in cross-border relation also decrease the GHG emission in the region.

FUNCTIONAL URBAN AREAS ALONG THE BORDER

Like the landscapes, functional influencing zones (hinterlands) do not respect state borders either. In the Hungarian-Slovak border area the most significant examples are Bratislava, Budapest, Győr and Košice. These towns display remarkable spatial organising power on both sides of the border. In the case of Bratislava and Košice the process of suburbanisation clearly expands on the Hungarian territories as well. According to the 5. Map in Annex 1 two levels of urban network can be distinguished:

- the first one is defined by the larger regional centres (from Trnava to Michalovce) situated a bit further from (thus influencing less) the border area
- the second one is constituted of cities situated closer to the border or at the border line with real and daily influence on cross-border activities.

Apparently, within the circle of the latter ones there are several smaller or bigger cities (27 in total) the functional influencing area of which is truncated by the border. In some cases, it means a complementary situation where on one side of the border there is a functionally more developed settlement such as Šahy, Balassagyarmat, Rožňava, Sátoraljaújhely completing the lack in functions of the other side. In other cases, twin cities like Komárom-Komárno, Esztergom-Štúrovo, Salgótarján-Filákovo could more properly affect their surroundings together. Deficiencies rooted back to dividing border effects **hamper healthy development of cities in question not being able to fulfil their functional role**, potentially ensuing of their size. (The Joint Master Plan of Komárom and Komárno is a best practice example of common use of resources.)

Cross-border programmes might provide a solution to the problem by facilitating the development of a cross-border polycentric urban network and by improving the functions available for the citizens from the other side of the border, too. At the moment it is hard to enumerate good examples of successful cross-border service provision. There are examples of well-built professional cooperation between the water management institutions, natural park directorates, risk prevention authorities, SME supporting associations and research institutions (universities included). Hospitals are at the beginning of the institutionalized cooperation.

In general, with the exception of Bratislava suburban region developing in a very impressive way there is an apparent lack of solid and long term inter-institutional cooperation models making the operation of urban functions more economical. By opening the border and organizing the management of those functions, the Interreg V-A SK-HU can contribute to a better territorial thrift and a healthier development of border towns.

CROSS-BORDER INSTITUTIONS

From this aspect high number (13 in 2015) of EGTCs registered with Hungarian and Slovak participation (the border line is the most frequented by EGTCs in the EU) demonstrates the need for a more strategic integrated joint use of urban functions and territorial capital in the borderlands. (5. Map and 15. Table in Annex 1)

The majority of the EGTCs along the common border function at a European standard. Subject to their age, most of them have elaborated own cross-border territorial development strategy

(Arrabona, RDV, Ister-Granum, Abaúj-Abaújban, Bodrogközi, Sajó-Rima, Novohrad-Nógrád). Since 2008 when the first EGTCs were registered to the beginning of 2015, the Groupings have realised 56 projects in total with a value of more than 17 million euros. At that time, they have hired 24 employees, in total (the 'largest employers' are Arrabona and Pons Danubii with 5-5 and Ister-Granum and Novohrad-Nógrád with 4-4 employees). In 2014, their average gross annual expenses amount to more than 300 000 euros in spite of that two of the EGTCs were set up in 2013 only. Detailed information can be found in Annex 1., 1. Figure and in "Snapshot of EGTC's with Hungarian participation" published by CESCOI). Among the EGTCs established so far along the Hungarian-Slovak border:

- Pons Danubii and Via Carpatia have own affiliated company (ltd. with public benefit) on the other side of the border;
- Arrabona, Pons Danubii, Novohrad-Nógrád provide project development and management services to the stakeholders in the region;
- Abaúj-Abaújban, Bodrogközi, Ister-Granum, Sajó-Rima have strong regional embeddedness involving stakeholders also from the business and third sector
- Kras-Bodva, Torysa and Svinka due to their limited territorial coverage are performing less sightful activities

Challenges and responses in territorial cohesion are summarized in Annex 1, 5. Table.

Economic cohesion

The economic cohesion of the programming region is characterised by:

- the complementary and parallel economic features of both border areas providing opportunity to cooperation and
- the economic infrastructure which should be used commonly.

ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE BORDERLAND

One of the main particular features of the HUSK programming region consists in its extreme socio-economic disparities. Bratislava, Trnava and partly Nitra region from Slovakia and Győr-Moson-Sopron and Komárom-Esztergom county from Hungary constitute a dynamic region forming part of the Central European growing zone extended to the territories of Vienna and Southern Moravia. In particular, the Bratislava region presented a remarkable growth in the last decade. In 2008 the Slovak capital city region overtook the region of Vienna considering the GDP per capita in PPP. At the moment it annually produces seven times more than Nógrád county, but even Trnava region (third most developed territory of the programming region) produces the half only of that of Bratislava. (2. Figure in Annex 1)

Analysing the economic processes dynamically, it is well-marked that three groups of different development models from an eastern-western gradient. (3. Figure in Annex 1) While Slovak counties (notwithstanding Bratislava region) have shown a higher level of correlation, the Hungarian ones display heterogeneity. The convergence analysis below clearly demonstrates that the metropolitan zones have significantly left other counties standing: differences in competitiveness have not decreased but grown. (Data on FDI speaks for itself: 60% in Slovakia, 64% in Hungary has been invested in the metropolitan zone.) Győr-Moson-Sopron county correlates in many details with Bratislava region. Its development rate isn't as high, but is growing smoothly.

Another group is constituted by the counties the development level of which was not high at the beginning of the analysed period, but their growth was convincing (above the trend line): these are

the remaining Slovakian counties, except for Nitra region and two Hungarian counties (Heves and Komárom-Esztergom).

The last group includes counties the starting values and the growth rate of which were similarly low: Nógrád, Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén and Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg counties from Hungary, Nitra region from Slovakia. The backwardness of these counties has increased significantly during the last 10 years compared to the members of the first group, regardless of the European subventions that arrived into the region.

The most determining sector of the economy of the borderland is the automotive industry, playing a decisive role in the national economy of both countries. During the last two decades Slovakia has become a player with global significance in this field. Since 2007 Slovakia is the No 1 car producer per capita in the world. The situation of the automotive industry is determined by four car factories in the region (see 6. Table in Annex 1). In addition to car factories, Rába Holding, where military off-road trucks and buses are produced, is worthy of being mentioned too. The programming region is home to dozens of suppliers as well. In 2012, 274 suppliers interested in the automotive industry were operating in Slovakia, 202 of them with headquarters in Western Slovakia, mainly along the D1 highway. The rate of national suppliers in Hungary is lower than in Slovakia. Despite the parallel strength in industry the connections between the factories, suppliers, clusters and R&D centres are very rare.

Eastern Hungary and Eastern Slovakia are less developed, post-industrial areas where former heavy industry has suffered from decline after system transformation. The majority of the companies went into bankruptcy leaving behind rust belts. It could be a **common task to revitalise these rust belts and to launch town rehabilitation providing new jobs for the people living there.**

From the point of view of future development of the borderland it is thought-provoking that 78,5% of the GDP spent for R&D is expended by Budapest (62%) and Bratislava region. The index, which is one of the most important ones of EU 2020 Strategy, identifies a huge gap between metropolitan and other regions, which marks out completely different development paths. (4. Figure in Annex 1)

Due to preferable conditions, the agricultural sector should be mentioned as well because there are several production centres in the region, mainly in the territory of Kisalföld (Small Plain) and Slovak plain: Hurbanovo, Komárno, Nitra, Bábolna, Kibér, Győr etc. Agricultural production is mainly bordered by geomorphologic and soil endowments. On the fields of plains wheat, corn, barley, sugar beet and fodder-plant are frequently produced. In the eastern part of the programming area, fruit growing is remarkable. In the basins and on the sunny down slopes, grapes of outstanding quality are growing **defining sometimes cross-border wine-making zones.** In the Slovak mountainous area rye, oats and potatoes are the most frequent products and forest management is typical.

Similar and complementary endowments in agriculture make possible the development of **integrated cross-border markets of food products and cooperation of local product makers.** Due to favourable conditions there are **further possibilities to cooperate** in the field of agrarian sector (e.g. food processing, R&D activities) and rural development (e.g. between the LEADER LAGs). Latter possibilities can provide take-off point for the eastern territories which are enumerated in the group of European regions with the worst unemployment and poverty indicators.

The tertiary sector is well represented mainly in metropolitan zones by ICT companies, business and shopping centres, financial institutions and tourist service providers. There is no part of the programming region which is not significant from tourist aspect. It is not accidental that the most popular priority axis for the eligible applicant was that of tourism during the previous programming

periods. Several cross-border thematic routes, cycle paths, common water tourist infrastructure components have been completed. (7. Map, Annex 1)

However, common destination management is very rare: the cooperation of the Karszt/Kras region and the Novohrad-Nógrád geopark can be mentioned as good examples. The lack of common tourist destination management might be the main reason why the number visits from the other side of the border is low. (8. Map, Annex 1) **Common tourist management drawing the benefit of common cultural and natural heritage** and guaranteeing **long term sustainability** of project results could be one of the core topics of the Interreg V-A SK-HU. In addition, also the **improvement of the quality of the tourist services and the increase of the density of service providing enterprises** is needed in the major part of the borderland. Territorial integration or harmonisation of different tourist services is lacking, as well.

Tourism cooperation is one of the most popular fields that HUSK CBC programmes supported since PHARE funding was made available. The HUSK CBC 2007-2013 programme did not allow inviting all initiations in the sector but narrowed the scope to the already existing joint tourism products. The 2007-2013 programme expected that a few number of joint tourism products will be developed to a more bilateral system of offers, but it turned out that the potential of cross-border touristic offers is much wider than it was seen at the beginning. The possibility to get some co financing from the EU brought many project ideas to the table. Besides the evident effect of financing 38 projects, another important effect can be traced. That many near-the-border municipalities realised that they can develop a more attractive tourism potential with widening their offerings with the partner municipalities on the other side of the border.

INTENSITY OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Considering the density of enterprises, it can be set out that there are big differences between Hungary and Slovakia. (9. Map, Annex 1) As the interviewees confirmed, during the socialistic era entrepreneurship was not allowed in Czechoslovakia, while in a restricted manner it was allowed in Hungary. This is the reason why the number of operating Hungarian enterprises overcomes occasionally ten times the same data in Slovakia. The lack of SMEs is the most striking in Eastern Slovakia.

The cooperation of the business sector between the two countries is very strong: among the companies owned by foreigners the Hungarian ones represent the highest volume (19,8 %) in Slovakia (4,6% of the total number of companies) and the number of Slovak firms operating in Hungary is similarly growing (1,6 % by its rate and more than 10 000 by absolute quantity in 2012). The majority of the companies settled in the neighbourhood can be found in the western part of the border region (e.g. more than 75% of the Slovak companies have an address in those counties) and is involved in tertiary sector. In the eastern zone where the complementarily is remarkable, the cooperation is also weak.

ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE

The major part of the borderland suffers from a lack of proper transport connections that hinder the improvement of logistic facilities. At the same time, the region has three logistic centres with international significance:

- the BILK (Integrated Logistical Centre of Budapest) is situated at the crossing points of several trans-European transport corridors which makes it one of the most important logistical centres of the EU;

- the Bratislava-Győr axis plays an important gateway role for the large automotive companies involving logistic centres of Dunajská Streda, Malé Dvorníky, Galanta, Trnava and Gönyű;
- the third gateway should be considered as the most significant one, including the logistic area of Záhony from Hungary and Čierna nad Tisou and Košice from Slovakia: this gateway is expected to be used for transferring goods from Russia and the Far East towards Western Europe.

Further opportunities are given along the Danube (cargo ports of Komárom, Lábatlan and Štúrovo) and the alternative direction of railway corridor Nr IV: Bratislava-Štúrovo-Budapest used recently within the framework of the Balkan project.

The programme could contribute to the elimination of bottlenecks in freight transport. For the moment, the Danube can be crossed without weight restrictions at Medveďov/Vámosszabadi, exceptionally. At the same time, the underused capacities of the ports in Gönyű, Komárno and in Štúrovo; as well as, the capacities of the railway stations in Komárom and Štúrovo could be utilised in a more environmentally friendly way. Similarly, new and new plans are drafted concerning the reconstruction of the former Silk Road on rail. According to these plans, Čierna nad Tisou and Záhony are considered as concurrent facilities instead of cooperating and strengthening the global significance of both logistic centres and increasing the share of environmentally sound solutions in transport. National logistic centres are not cooperating with each other, for the moment. Instead, they are in a concurrent relationship with each other. However, from the point of view of the programming area, competitive strategy should be followed the proper instrument of which stands in the common use and potential integration of different (in the major part complementary) logistic facilities. Good logistic facilities could be better used in an integrated way and by creating cross-border intermodal logistics zones.

Industrial parks (IP) are determining players of economic development. Although, establishment of IPs began in Slovakia later than in Hungary during the 2000s, their number has increased dynamically in the last decade. It is a common feature that the majority of the functioning industrial parks are situated in the Western part of the borderland enhancing the attractiveness of the more developed region of the area.

R&D capacities follow the territorial settling of automotive companies and are better developed on the Hungarian side. In Slovakia recently the dual vocational training elements are introduced into educational and preparatory system, Hungary should share the gained experiences in this field. Challenges and responses in economic cohesion are summarized in Annex 1, in 7. Table.

Social cohesion

The social cohesion of the programming region is analysed through:

- the main social characteristics of the two border areas (demography, employment, interethnic situation) and
- the social relations that the cooperation can be enhanced by.

SOCIAL SITUATION OF THE REGION

Budapest and the western areas have a centripetal force not only in the border region, but in Hungary and Slovakia as a whole, which induces a joint attempt to reduce this force, with the hope of better results if actions are coordinated. Both countries must face and handle the problems of the eastern areas, which have younger populations but a less-favourable economic structure: the outflow of middle-aged, well-educated social groups, the growing proportion of the Roma in the population, the growing burden, poor capacity and acute deficiencies of the social care system.

In Slovakia, the southern areas (affected by a west-east gradient, too) are more underdeveloped, face more poverty and lower employment than the northern areas. Hungary has similar problems in its northern-eastern regions.

Socially deprived areas are highlighted by the skills indicators of the population. The ratio of working-age population with 8 form primary or lower education depicts the dimensions of basic disparities of the border region: the outstanding situation of the areas including the capitals as educational centres, and the obvious lagging behind of Hungarian counties (Nógrád, Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg) with fragmented settlement structures, stricken by a decreasing population and having a high percentage of Roma population. The west-east gradient is visible here, too.

There's little chance for a single social strategy along the border section, though. A kind of west-east gradient is present in the social differences of both countries, but Hungary has its best performing and least favoured areas along this very border, too, meanwhile Slovakia has a marked north-south gradient in the western areas, resulting in Southern Slovakia performing poorly compared to the north-western areas (except for the Slovak capital). Cooperation and social cohesion can be improved differently in the western and eastern areas. In the east the two countries might find joint action useful to reduce long-term unemployment and to integrate the Roma into society. In the west strengthening a shared labour market might prove to be useful.

The most disadvantaged areas of the Slovakia-Hungary border region are shown on 10. Map in Annex 1. The 11. Map in Annex 1 gives an overview on the social situation of the region based on a complex indicator integrating the following indexes:

- rate of population with low qualification
- unemployment rate
- rate of dependants
- emigration rate (inverse)
- average life expectancy at birth
- average income rate.

The map clearly represents three different groups of social development delineating the western-eastern gradient known from the economic chapter.

- 1) Four counties (Banská Bystrica, Košice, Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén, Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg) display unfavourable data by each index. This territory can be considered as the typical targeted region of EU 2020 Strategy: the educated people are leaving the region, the level of qualification is low, and the rate of early school-leavers and that of poverty are high.

Since 2003, the unemployment rate has been increasing in Northern Hungary and the employment rate is the lowest in the EU: less than 30%. The global crisis mostly affected the four counties of the group, considering the unemployment. In 2012 Banská Bystrica county was characterized by the worst rate (21%). In some cases, the index exceeds even 25% (e.g. okres Revúca and Rimavská Sobota). Since the situation on the Hungarian side is very similar it is important to support labour market initiatives at the cross-border level for the sake of increasing employment. However, the similarity of the problems can **generate projects seeking for common solutions. The conditions for cooperation are better in the influencing area of Košice** where small towns on the Hungarian side are not able to produce serious economic potential while on the Slovak side there is a more developed industrial area. In this case the problem stands in a parallel situation: high unemployment rate on the Slovak side does not allow for receiving a larger number of Hungarian job seekers. It is to be mentioned that the majority of the Roma population living in Hungary and Slovakia reside in these four counties, sometimes among terrible hygienic and social conditions. Their living conditions should be improved on both sides of the border in an integrated manner (e.g. employment, education, health care, housing etc.) **The Interreg V-A SK-HU should contribute to the resolution of these problems through PILOT actions launched on both sides of the border.**

- 2) The second group is characterised by more favourable figures. (See the unemployment rate on 12. Map in Annex 1.) During the period analysed, their migration rate was positive. The biggest migration surplus occurred in Pest county (in the early 2000s with 20%) but the index was favourable in the case of Bratislava, Trnava region and Győr-Moson-Sopron county, as well. Unemployment rates decreased remarkably in Nitra (2001: 23%; 2008: 7%) and Trnava (2001: 15%; 2008: 4%) regions, where companies situated in Hungary contributed to the decrease, obviously. In 2007 estimated number of commuters from Southern Slovakia commuting to Hungary reached 26 000 persons. The majority of them commuted from Nitra region to Komárom-Esztergom and Pest counties. Since 2009 the number of Slovak commuters has been decreasing (still more than 7 000 people have been registered in 2013) because of the global crisis and the joining of Slovakia to the Euro zone.

Regarding poverty, the situation is better than in the East but it shows differences within the group: Nógrád county is not at the same level as Trnava region. Similarly, there are clear differences between the rate of the active population in Slovakia (which is close to that of Bratislava region) and in Hungary. However, the internal correlation within the group is stronger than the divergent effects.

- 3) Finally, the two metropolitan zones and Győr-Moson-Sopron county show the best figures. The unemployment rate is very low (about 5% in 2012). At the same time the rate of graduated unemployed people is much higher than in any other groups of counties. In Bratislava this figure exceeds 20%. It is not surprising as the rate of non-qualified people is also the lowest there within the borderland. (13. Map in Annex 1)

Surfeit of social security system and high level unemployment rate are general givens of the Slovak-Hungarian borderland while this pattern is more articulated in the eastern part of the region. The level of dependence of the people on social security system is unsustainable. Because of the strong correlation, change of this situation is mainly reachable by the moderation of recently high unemployment rates.

The employment problems of the programming region can be divided into three different groups:

- 1) the most acute problem is the high rate of long-term unemployment which characterizes mainly the eastern and central part of the region;
- 2) despite of that statistics do not throw back the accurate number of Romas, there is a relative overlapping territorially between the long-term (permanent) unemployment and the regions habited by Romas;
- 3) completely different issue is (but also with relative overlapping) the high unemployment rate of tertiary educated people, mainly in the western part of the programming region. (14. Map, 15. Map, 16. Map, 17. Map in Annex 1.)

During the implementation of the Programme, the highest attention shall be dedicated to the eastern counties but for different reasons, unemployment initiatives should to be supported along the western border line, as well. In the case of Bratislava there is an inversed labour force migration: more than 95% of 2 200 persons commuting from Hungary to Slovakia are living in the Hungarian vicinity of Bratislava. According to the 2007 Human Poverty Index Bratislava region showed better indicators than Vienna, which produced an index similar to that of Budapest. However, social problems are not unknown there either (e.g. problems of high rate of homeless people). (See 18. Map in Annex 1)

It's only the far western end of the border and the Central-Hungarian Region, where there has been a constant migration surplus in the last years. The biggest migration surplus belongs to Pest County. Although the migration rate that almost reached 20‰ after 2000 has decreased to 8‰, the Budapest agglomeration is still a significant attraction in the region. While the migration into Pest County seems to calm down year by year, the capital city itself continues to gain population. Other areas of long-term positive migration rate are Győr-Moson-Sopron County, the Bratislava Region and the Trnava Region.

The decrease of the migration rate started a few years later in the Hungarian counties of the central areas (Komárom-Esztergom, Nógrád and Heves Counties), then in the Nitra and Banská Bystrica Region, but the change of the rate is more intense in Hungary, Nógrád County has reached a 7% outflow per year.

The same phenomena are intensified in the eastern areas with bigger migration-related population loss, thus in Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén and Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg Counties and the Košice Region. Although the migration rate of the latter was smaller than -1‰ in 2011, this average of the region hides serious disparities. While the town of Košice functions as a kind of a cultural and economic hotspot in the region, rural settlements are almost deserted. This process is only slowed by the high number of Roma people in the eastern areas who represent a high natural birth rate.

SOCIAL RELATIONS

Social relations between the two countries are defined by two factors. Firstly, politics at national level always directly influences international cooperation. The relationship between Slovakia and Hungary has varied from government to government during the last 20 years. Different

interpretations of the history and real or fake injuries sometimes bring on periods of conflict which influence (unfavourably) the models of cooperation. On the contrary, when the political relationships are good, contracts really facilitating cross-border common activities are signed (e.g. in the field of culture, education, science, sport and youth policy).

Secondly, there is a large Hungarian minority in Slovakia living along the border. On the one hand this given makes easy to start cooperation across the border: there are no language barriers and there is a real need for cooperation. Slovaks living in Hungary (most of them, some 6 000 people are living in the Pilis mountains) try to play a similar role of bridging between the neighbouring countries.

On the other hand - as the interviewees emphasized - Slovak-Hungarian cooperation is very rare. However, there are good examples as well, such as the cooperation between the natural parks around the Carst region; tourist initiatives (e.g. Via Mirabilis); common scenes of the National Theatres of Miskolc and Košice etc., helping the local stakeholders to demolish mental barriers.

At the same times Roma minorities can play no role in cross-border cooperation regardless their eventual internal social connections. Their involvement into the implementation of the programme is not only rational (considering their high ratio in population) but it can contribute to their inclusion on both sides of the border. Challenges and responses in social cohesion are summarized in Annex 1, in 8. Table.

1.3 Strategic objectives of the programme

ETC programmes have to fulfil two general objectives: they have to strengthen territorial, economic and social cohesion as well as to contribute to smart, sustainable and inclusive growth of the region and the European Union (EU 2020 Strategy). Accordingly, also the Interreg V-A Slovakia-Hungary has these two general objectives. The programme level objectives are ranged under three forms of cohesion and are in harmony with the results of territorial analysis. The 9. Table in Annex 1 presents the system of objectives of the programme and the activities proposed, including their matching with relevant thematic objectives (TO) and their contribution to the EU 2020 Strategy.

According to the results of the analysis, the Interreg V-A Slovakia-Hungary is aiming to include the following types of interventions:

- Supporting the harmonised protection, development and utilisation of the common natural and cultural heritage of the border region (protection of biodiversity; assuring the conditions for common water management and risk management; renovation of cultural, built heritage sites; development of cross-border tourist products and services) (TO 6).
- Increasing the density of border crossing points (TO 7); and strengthening the harmonisation of public and environment-friendly transport and multimodality within the region and improving the quality of the services (TO 7).
- Contributing to the improvement of the social conditions by increasing the rate of employment in the region and by improving the conditions of cross-border labour force mobility (creation of new jobs, development of labour force information systems, development of the training and transport conditions of cross-border labour force migration). The priority gives emphasis on the social inclusion of people living in deep poverty and Roma in case of the employment initiatives. (TO 8)¹

The shortages of command of language of the labour force, the lack of infrastructural conditions, the low level of cooperation between small and medium sized enterprises in the area, the development of the level of qualification are also features the eligible regions. Social and employment cooperation cover a relatively narrow territory and a low number of fields. The development of joint integrated actions based on local and regional potentials, the utilization of endogenous potentials and local initiatives, and the implementation of local strategies based on these specificities are needed, improving the level of employment. In the east the two countries might find joint pilot action useful to reduce long-term unemployment and to integrate the Roma into society. In the west strengthening a shared labour market might prove to be useful. The low level of services facilitating cross-border commuting might also be improved to assist employment initiatives. The priority also focuses on the development of key conditions for improving labour mobility and puts emphasis on

¹ The analysis of the region's territorial cohesion revealed that the social cohesion and employment need to be improved within the whole eligible area, both in the western and in the eastern areas, but due to its lacks differently. In the most deprived regions the utmost reasons for high unemployment are the low level of qualification, the high rate of early school-leavers, the high rate of poverty and that the majority of the Roma population are living in these areas. In the regions with more favourable social and employment situation, the unemployment rates decreased remarkably due to commuters to Hungary. The situation of poverty is also better in these regions, but there are clear differences between the rate of the active population in Slovakia and in Hungary. Finally, though the two metropolitan zones and Győr-Moson-Sopron county show the best figures, the rate of graduated unemployed people is very high. The labour force migration also exists here, but inversed, from Hungary to Slovakia. Social problems also exist which lead to unemployment.

the integration of the cross-border labour market and fosters the employment as well as the improvement of accessibility to cultural, natural resources and job opportunities through local strategies based on endogenous potentials.)

- Strengthening the social cohesion by supporting inter-institutional, inter-municipal and people-to-people cooperation (TO 11).

To implement the strategy of the programme on a sustainable way, the defined priority axes according to the selected thematic objectives and investment priorities are designed to assure sustainability of the actions. Based on the detailed cohesion analysis the overview of the justification for the selection of thematic objectives and investment priorities is shown on 1. Table.

1.3.1 Justification for the choice of thematic objectives

Justification for the choice of thematic objectives and corresponding investment priorities, having regard to the Common Strategic Framework, based on an analysis of the needs within the programme area as a whole and the strategy chosen in response to such needs, addressing, where appropriate, missing links in cross-border infrastructure, taking into account the results of the ex-ante evaluation.

Thematic objectives	Investment priorities
Thematic objective 6: Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency	Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage (ERDF Reg., Art. 5. (6) (c))
Justification for selection	
The cohesion analysis of the programme area shows, that the Hungarian – Slovak border divides many organically cohesive cultural landscapes. The integration of these cultural landscapes already started thanks e.g. to the cooperation of national parks, joint cultural events or the development of thematic tourist paths through earlier CBC programmes. But further integration of the regions natural and cultural environment is fundamental in fostering sustainable development.	

Thematic objectives	Investment priorities
Thematic objective 7: Promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures	Enhancing regional mobility by connecting secondary and tertiary nodes to TEN-T infrastructure, including multimodal nodes (ERDF Reg., Art. 5. (7) (b))
Justification for selection	
As the territorial analysis highlighted the density of border crossing points is ¼ compared to that of Western European countries. This fact clearly weakens the internal cohesion of the border region and in some cases contributes to the socio-economic backwardness thereof. Due to the set of the TEN-T network elements within the programming region better accessibility can often be guaranteed on the other side of the border.	

Thematic objectives	Investment priorities
Thematic objective 7: Promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures	Developing and improving environmentally-friendly (including low-noise) and low-carbon transport systems, including inland waterways and maritime transport, ports, multimodal links and airport infrastructure, in order to promote sustainable regional and local mobility (ERDF Reg., Art. 5. (7) (c))
Justification for selection	
As the territorial analysis pointed out the competitiveness of the border region had been hindered by the weak interconnectivity of the regional centres and the unfavourable effects of truncated urban influencing areas. According to the EU 2020 strategy and the White Paper 2011 (Single European Transport Area) resource efficient and environmentally sound multimodal transport is to be developed. By supporting the development of cross-border public transport infrastructure and services the programme contributes to the increase of mobility and it improves the functional role of the cities located along the border.	

Thematic objectives	Investment priorities
Thematic objective 8: Promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility	Promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility by integrating cross-border labour markets, including cross-border mobility, joint local employment initiatives, information and advisory services and joint training (ETC Reg., Art. 7. (a) (i) as amended to ERDF Reg., Art. 5. (8) (b))
Justification for selection	
The analysis of the region's territorial cohesion revealed that the cross-border labour force mobility was mainly determined by the unemployment rate, the shortages of command of language of the labour force, the lack of infrastructural conditions. In order to improve employment endowments and enhance the labour force mobility the increase in the cooperation between small and medium sized enterprises in the area, the development of the level of qualification, the utilization of endogenous potentials and local initiatives, and the implementation of local strategies based on these specificities are needed.	

Thematic objectives	Investment priorities
Thematic objective 11: Enhancing institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders and efficient public administration	Enhancing institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders and efficient public administration by promoting legal and administrative cooperation and cooperation between citizens and institutions (ERDF Reg., Art. 5. (11) amended by ETC Reg., Art. 7. (a) (iv))
Justification for selection:	
The cohesion analysis revealed that among institutions operating in the field of labour market, health, education as well as among institutions dealing with promotion of entrepreneurship there is a real need to enhance institutional capacity and to develop efficient public services. In order to enhance cross-border services (health, tourism, know-how transfer, legal consultancy, etc.), measures aimed at the improvement of institutional capacity and efficiency of public administration are needed, by promoting legal and administrative cooperation as well as cooperation between citizens and institutions.	

1.3.2 Justification of the financial allocation

The overall ERDF support for the Interreg V-A Slovakia-Hungary is 155 808 987 EUR (current prices) million Euros, consisting of a share of 95 721 555 EUR from the Hungarian side allocated from the ETC share of the Hungarian ERDF support, and of a share of 60 087 432 EUR from the Slovakian side allocated from the ETC share of the Slovakian ERDF support. Taking into account the co-financing rate of 85 % corresponding to Article 120(3) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, the amount with the national public funding is totalling 183 304 694 EUR. 6 % of the ERDF allocation will be used by the Priority axis 5 - Technical Assistance, the remaining Union support will focus on the 4 core Priority axes corresponding to 4 thematic objectives.

PRIORITY AXIS 1 – NATURE AND CULTURE

The Hungarian-Slovak border region has a rich biodiversity, well-preserved ecosystems, close to border or cross-border protected areas and areas deserving protection, significant drinking water reservoirs, rivers and lakes crossing the border and villages and cities rich in historic past and built heritage. This unique natural and cultural heritage offers a huge potential for developing local economies, but also raises the importance of conservation and in that respect the liability of local population and stakeholders in different sectors. It is therefore important on the priority level and also from the allocation point of view to support such actions and operations, which enable joint protection, development and touristic utilization of the border regions common natural and cultural heritage including joint water management and disaster avoidance and creating conditions for the renewal of the cultural and architectural heritage and the development of cross-border tourism products and services and to support this wide variety of actions with a sufficient allocation. Based on previous interest and the wide variety of actions supported by Priority axis 1 the total allocation of this priority axis is the biggest within the program capping at 35,58 % of the total allocation.

PRIORITY AXIS 2 - ENHANCING CROSS-BORDER MOBILITY

The development of a higher level of territorial, economic and social cohesion requires the improvement of accessibility within the region (cross-border infrastructure and capacities of public transport and transport of goods). The thematic objective No 7 aims mainly at enhancing the internal connectivity of the European Union as a unique and integrated economic space. Consequently, the

focus of the programme is set on the activities related to the development of TEN-T infrastructure. These activities exceed the framework of the ETC CBC programmes. As the TEN-T network will be reviewed in 2023, the programme region should be prepared for the opportunity of potential enlargement of the core network.

The internal cohesion of the programming region should be strengthened through the development of cross-border public transport and logistics services. There is a remarkable backwardness in the region compared to the western European territories and e.g. the Centroe region where cross-border public transport platforms improve the accessibility of the larger cities and the mobility. Intelligent transportation systems (ITS) provide different services and enhance the intermodality preferring environmentally sound solutions and low GHG emission. When developing facilities improving the level of cross-border mobility and transport of goods the programme does not only strengthen the economic cohesion of the programming region but also contributes to the fulfilment of the EU 2020 targets. For Priority axis 2 there will be allocated 22,21 % of the total ERDF allocation.

PRIORITY AXIS 3 - PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE AND QUALITY EMPLOYMENT, AND SUPPORTING LABOUR MOBILITY

The Priority axis 3 focuses on the development of key conditions for improving labour mobility and puts emphasis on the integration of the cross-border labour market and fosters the employment as well as the improvement of accessibility to cultural, natural resources and job opportunities based on local growth strategies and on endogenous potentials. The complexity of the specific area under this thematic objective determines large scale and complex project proposals. Projects may induce several sub projects and initiatives, including the important infrastructural elements as roads. For Priority axis 3 there will be allocated 22,21 % of the total ERDF allocation. This allocation gives the possibility for vertically integrated large scale projects that could absorb a significant proportion of the Programme's budget and addresses an important joint problem of the eligible area, gives the possibility for projects which - due to their design and implementation or their envisaged results - really connect the specific territories on both sides of the border.

PRIORITY AXIS 4 - ENHANCING CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION OF PUBLIC AUTHORITIES AND PEOPLE LIVING IN THE BORDER AREA

Analysis of social and economic cohesion of the region, as well as individual and focus group interviews with stakeholder participation revealed that for the sake of a stronger cohesion there is a real need for a more well-based and long-term cooperation between the institutions and the territorial governments operating as well as the people living in the programming region. According to the main closures of the territorial analysis (in field of functional cooperation), one of the biggest weaknesses of the border region is the lack of strategic co-operation of institutions, which would be able to provide cross-border services e.g. in the field of education, training, health care, social services, water monitoring, risk prevention etc. At the same time, according to the Digital Agenda and for the sake of a stronger economic and social cohesion the services and the information provided by the different institutions should be available via internet or mobile apps (see e-governance and m-governance) in each European country. In the border regions these needs are based more thoroughly than in other parts of Europe. Consequently, an enhanced inter-institutional cooperation enabled by ICT solutions is a necessity for increased permeability of the border. For Priority axis 4 there will be allocated 14 % of the total ERDF allocation.

PRIORITY AXIS 5: TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The national co-financing rates may be different in case of TA beneficiaries; Hungary may apply higher rate of national contribution in PA5. For Priority axis 5 there will be allocated 6 % of the total ERDF allocation. The overview of the Interreg V-A Slovakia-Hungary investment strategy is shown in 2. Table.

1. TABLE: OVERVIEW OF THE INVESTMENT STRATEGY OF THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME

Priority axes	ERDF support (EUR)	Share of the total Union support to the operational programme (ERDF)	Thematic objective	Investment priorities	Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priorities	Result indicators corresponding to the specific objective
Priority axis 1: Nature and culture	55 427 808	35,57 %	Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency (Thematic objective 6.)	1.1. Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage (ERDF Reg., Art. 5. (6) (c))	SO 1.1 To increase the attractiveness of the border area	R110 Total number of visitors in the region
Priority axis 2: Enhancing cross-border mobility	34 608 080	22,21 %	Promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures (Thematic objective 7.)	2.1. Enhancing regional mobility by connecting secondary and tertiary nodes to TEN-T infrastructure, including multimodal nodes (ERDF Reg., Art. 5. (7) (b))	SO 2.1 Increasing the density between border crossing points along the Hungarian-Slovak border	R210 Average distance between border crossing points
				2.2. Developing and improving environmentally-friendly (including low-noise), and low-carbon transport systems including inland waterways and maritime transport, ports, multimodal links and airport infrastructure, in order to promote sustainable regional and local mobility (ERDF Reg., Art. 5. (7) (c))	SO 2.2.1 Improving cross-border public transport services	R221 Change in the volume of cross-border public transport

Priority axes	ERDF support (EUR)	Share of the total Union support to the operational programme (ERDF)	Thematic objective	Investment priorities	Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priorities	Result indicators corresponding to the specific objective
					SO 2.2.2 Improving cross-border logistic services	R222 Change in the volume of cross-border good transport
Priority axis 3: Promoting sustainable and quality employment	34 608 080	22,21 %	Promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility (Thematic objective 8.)	3.1. Promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility by integrating cross-border labour markets, including cross-border mobility, joint local employment initiatives, information and advisory services and joint training (ETC Reg., Art. 7. (a) (i) as amended to ERDF Reg., Art. 5. (8) (b))	SO31 Decreasing employment inequalities among the regions with a view to improving the level of employment within the programming region	R310 Increase in the employment rate
Priority axis 4: Enhancing cross-border cooperation of public authorities and people	21 816 480	14%	Enhancing institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders and efficient public administration (Thematic objective 11.)	4.1. Enhancing institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders and efficient public administration by promoting legal and administrative cooperation and cooperation between citizens and institutions (ERDF Reg., Art. 5. (11) amended by ETC Reg., Art. 7. (a) (iv))	SO41 Improving the level of cross border inter-institutional cooperation and broadening cross border cooperation between citizens	R410 Level of cross-border cooperation

Priority axes	ERDF support (EUR)	Share of the total Union support to the operational programme (ERDF)	Thematic objective	Investment priorities	Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priorities	Result indicators corresponding to the specific objective
Priority axis 5: Technical assistance	9 348 539	6%	NA	NA	SO51 Ensuring the effective management, implementation, control and audit of the Interreg V-A SK-HU	NA

2 PRIORITY AXES

2.1 Priority axis 1: Nature & Culture

ID of the priority axis:	PA1
Title of the priority axis:	Nature & Culture
Fund:	ERDF
Calculation basis:	Total
ID of the investment priority:	6c
Title of the investment priority:	Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage
ID:	SO11
Specific objective:	To increase the attractiveness of the border area

The results that the Member seek to achieve with Union support

- Better utilization of the regions endogenous natural and cultural potential in supporting the sustainable development of local economies;
- Increase in social, economic and territorial cohesion by supporting joint cultural activities and activities concerning to nature preserving and protection;
- Improving social, economic and territorial cohesion by supporting joint cultural and nature conservation activities;
- Increase in the number of visitors in the programme area.

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

Programme specific result indicator

ID	Indicator	Measure- ment unit	Baseline Value	Baseline Year	Target Value (2023)	Source of Data	Frequency of reporting
R110	Total number of visitors in the region	Number / year	7.074.754	2012	7.800.000	national statistical data (ŠUSR, KSH)	in 2018, 2020, 2023

2.1.1 Actions to be supported under the investment priority

A description of the type and examples of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives, including, where appropriate, identification of the main target groups, specific territories targeted and types of beneficiaries.

Types and examples of actions to be supported:

- Supporting the cooperation and development of cultural heritage sites (e.g. heritage renewal strategies, studies and plans, reconstruction, building of small complementary infrastructure to site signage, visitor centres, etc.)
- Maintaining and promoting natural heritage in the programme area (e.g. such as floodplain restoration, wetlands, renaturalising rivers and river banks, projects aimed at non-productive functions of forests - ecological, environmental and public functions, integrated cross-border strategic plans for the restoration and conservation of green infrastructure, environmental awareness raising activities, landscape and species protection activities, etc.)
- Design cross border action plans, set up models and test pilot actions to better capitalize the regions cultural and natural heritage and to combine tourism with the promotion and protection of the regions natural and cultural heritage by performing creative and artistic actions (e.g. destination management, joint marketing strategies, exchange of experiences, mutual learning, pilot activities);
- Developing small scale quality tourism linked to local environmental or cultural features for SMEs (product and service innovation, applying innovative solutions and ICT uptake, developing high value added tourism in niche markets - cultural and environmentally friendly tourism, gastronomy tourism, sports tourism, etc. clustering activities involving tourism industries)
- Design and construction of local access roads linked to sites of cultural and natural heritage, preparation and construction of cross-border road infrastructure which on the one hand decrease the travelling time between the towns of the regions, thus decrease the GHG emission (environment); on the other hand, these new connections increase the number of visitors (culture and tourism). As the planned roads and bridges will be constructed with weight limit, heavy traffic will not be allowed, the pollution will decrease;
- Joint development of environmentally friendly tourism products and offers and development of cross border infrastructure for eco-tourism (e.g. support for planning and building safe and sustainable small vessel cross-border water trails and infrastructure like watercourse access and egress facilities, parking, and craft loading and unloading spaces, route and hazard signage on the watercourse, etc. and support for planning and building safe and sustainable cross border shared 'green ways'² and infrastructure like pre-development of

² A greenway is a linear open space established along either a natural corridor, such as a river front, stream valley, or ridgeline, or over land along a railroad right-of-way converted to recreational use, a scenic road, or other route. It is any natural or landscaped course for pedestrians, equestrian or bicycle passage; or open space connector linking parks, natural reserves, wildlife habitat corridor, cultural features, or historic sites with each other and with populated areas or a certain strip of linear park designated as parkway or greenbelt.

green-ways including feasibility and planning studies, trail service facilities like car parking, toilets, showers, bike wash, shelters, information centres, etc.;

- In case of activities related to road constructions passive noise reduction (noise barriers, protecting trees) solutions.

Types of beneficiaries (indicative list):

- Public institutions;
- Private institutions serving public interests;
- State owned companies;
- Churches;
- EGTC;
- NGOs;
- Development agencies;
- Municipalities, county municipalities;
- Universities and research institutes;
- Chambers;
- Organizations set up by special law, providing public services (e.g. foundations, associations)
- Small and medium sized enterprises.

Main target groups of the support

The eligible region's population, local communities, entrepreneurs, tourists, non-profit organizations.

The actions do not address any specific territories.

The guiding principles for the selection of operations:

- Operations will be selected through calls for proposals with no limitation regarding their type (open, restricted, one-round, two-round etc.). These calls can be open to proposals addressing the full thematic scope of the specific objective, or the programme authorities may also decide to issue more targeted calls for proposals focusing on certain key areas within the scope of this specific objective. The content and type of calls is subject to approval by the Monitoring Committee.
- A Small Project Fund may also be applied under this priority axis. Small projects are supporting small scale investments in the field of tourism, environment and culture with a clear contribution to landscape and nature protection. The management structure of the Small Project Fund will be realised through two projects (1 on western part of the border region and 1 on eastern part of the border region). The detailed description of the projects is described in chapter 5.3.3. The management of the Small Project Fund.
- All operations must have a clear cross-border aspect (projects must demonstrate the additional character of the cross-border approach compared to regional, national, interregional or transnational approaches, in case of soft projects they should demonstrably draw on the results of cross-border cooperation, for example, transferring models / knowledge / technology from one region to another, combining different skill sets not available in one region, gaining a critical mass otherwise unattainable, etc.). Within PA1 vertical integration may be applied as set out in chapter 4 of the Programme.

- Operations must meet all quality criteria set in the call for proposal approved by the MC and they must be focused, relevant, viable, sustainable, fit-for-purpose and environmental-friendly.
- Effects of actions carried out under this priority on sites included or intended to be included in the Natura 2000 network must be assessed in line with Article 6 (3) of Directive 92/43/EEC, or a signed, dated and stamped declaration by the competent national authority stating that no negative effects are foreseen must be provided by the applicants.
- Operations must demonstrably contribute to the expected results of the priority axis namely increase the number of visitors in the programme area.
- Road connections may only be financed under this investment priority if they are complementary investments to projects related to natural and cultural heritage, and are absolutely necessary for spreading the benefits of the projects over the borders. Road construction operations must be complementary to investments financed by the programme or national mainstream programmes contributing to the thematic objective and the specific objective of the priority axis and contribute to the decrease of GHG emission.
- Operations should be solidly anchored to existing territorial strategies (eg. plans of economic and social development in Slovakia, and in Hungary, development strategies of EGTCs, etc.) and foster the fulfilment of the objectives thereof. Operations with stronger links to related existing strategies and programmes will have priority.

Further selection criteria are detailed in Chapter 8. Horizontal principles.

Output indicators

COMMON AND PROGRAMME SPECIFIC OUTPUT INDICATORS

ID	Indicator (name of indicator)	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	enterprises	40	beneficiaries	annually
CO02	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving grants	enterprises	40	beneficiaries	annually
CO09	Sustainable tourism: Increase in expected number of visits to supported sites of cultural and natural heritage and attractions	visits/year	30.000	beneficiaries	annually
CO13	Roads: Total length of newly built roads	km	7	beneficiaries	annually
CO23	Nature and biodiversity: Surface area of habitats supported in order to attain a better conservation status	hectares	100 549	beneficiaries	annually
O11	Length of reconstructed and newly built 'green ways'	km	89	beneficiaries	annually

2.1.2 Performance framework of the priority axis

Priority axis	Indicator type	ID	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestones for 2018	Final target 2023	Source of data	Explanation of relevance of indicator, where appropriate
PA1	Output	CO02	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving grants	enterprises	0	40	Beneficiaries	By the year 2018 the scheme providing support for SMEs will be fully operational and by 2023 40 SMEs will receive support. The Task Force has decided to allocate 10 million € for SME support. MC will decide on the management structure of the scheme, which can be PP Light or de minimis.
PA1	Key implementation step	K0001	Number of calls for SMEs	number	1	1	JS	Based on the decision of the Task Force the programme shall provide direct support to SMEs and their cooperation within PA1. The implementation of direct support for SMEs is therefore a cornerstone of the performance framework.
PA1	Output	CO13	Roads: Total length of newly built roads	km	0	7	Beneficiaries	To achieve the target value of indicator CO09 it is necessary to improve access to the sites of cultural and natural heritage. The total allocation that can be used for building roads under COI 032 is 9.590.000 €. The approximate cost for building 1 km of roads is 1.400.000 € taking into account the big differences (geomorphological characteristics, presence of bridges, etc.) in the technical parameters of potential projects.

Priority axis	Indicator type	ID	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestones for 2018	Final target 2023	Source of data	Explanation of relevance of indicator, where appropriate
PA1	Key implementation step	K0002	Elaborated technical documentation for road construction	number	1	4	Beneficiaries	Submitted and registered technical documentation for road construction – linked to the CO13 'Total length of newly built road', where the baseline is 0.
PA1	Output	O11	Length of reconstructed and newly built 'green ways'	Km	9	89	Beneficiaries	The total allocation that can be used for building greenways under COI 90 is 8.915.000 €. The approximate cost for building 1 km of greenway is 100.000 €. This estimate is based on parallel report of the State Audit Office of Hungary and the Supreme Audit Office of the Slovak Republic.
PA1	Output	CO23	Nature and biodiversity: Surface area of habitats supported in order to attain a better conservation status	Hectares	28 000	100 549	Beneiciaries	The target value has been calculated taking into account the total allocation for COI 85 and 86, amounting 7.541.208 €. The approximate support for 1 ha of surface area has been calculated as the avrg. yearly env. protection expenditure of SVK and HUN general governments by COFOG groups and economic transactions for the years 2003-2012 divided by the total area of both countries which amounts for 75 €/ha. The value for 2018 has been calculated as twice the annual average of supported area.

Priority axis	Indicator type	ID	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestones for 2018	Final target 2023	Source of data	Explanation of relevance of indicator, where appropriate
PA1	Financial	F0001	Total amount of submitted expenditure for validation	EUR	4 207 597	65 209 186	Certifying authority, monitoring system	In line with Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No. 215/2014 Art. 5, point 2 and taking into account the decommitment rule set out in Art. 136 of Regulation (EU) 1303/2013 CPR and the yearly allocations of the programme, the amount for 2018 is the total allocation for 2014 and 2015 of the current PA minus the prefinancing for the years 2014-16 and 2018 (According to Article 86. 1 of the CPR) and the amount for 2023 is the total allocation of the current PA.

Additional qualitative information on the establishment of the performance framework:

- The total allocation of output indicators selected for the performance framework of PA1 is 36 046 208 € (COI32,75,77,85,86,90) which is 65,03 % of the total allocation of PA1.
- The parallel report of the State Audit Office of Hungary and the Supreme Audit Office of the Slovak Republic mentioned for O11:
 - Jelentés a kerékpárút hálózat fejlesztésére fordított pénzeszközök felhasználásának ellenőrzéséről
 - Audit on utilization and management of EU funds and public funds allotted for bike routes
 - Správa o výsledku kontroly hospodárnosti, efektívnosti a účinnosti využitia prostriedkov EÚ a verejných prostriedkov na výstavbu a údržbu cyklotrás 2006 – 2011 v obci Kráľová pri Senci
 - Správa o výsledku kontroly hospodárnosti, efektívnosti a účinnosti využitia prostriedkov EÚ a verejných prostriedkov na výstavbu a údržbu cyklotrás 2006 – 2011
 - Správa o výsledku kontroly hospodárnosti, efektívnosti a účinnosti využitia prostriedkov EÚ a verejných prostriedkov na výstavbu a údržbu cyklotrás 2006 – 2011
 - Správa o výsledku kontroly hospodárnosti, efektívnosti a účinnosti využitia prostriedkov EÚ a verejných prostriedkov na výstavbu a údržbu cyklotrás 2006 – 2011
- For CO23 Environmental protection expenditure of general government by COFOG groups and economic transactions

2.1.3 Categories of intervention

Dimension 1 Intervention field		
Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
PA1	032 – Local access roads (new build)	9 590 000
PA1	075 – Development and promotion of tourism services in or for SMEs	5 000 000
PA1	077 – Development and promotion of cultural and creative services in or for SMEs	5 000 000
PA1	085 – Protection and enhancement of biodiversity, nature protection and green infrastructure	4 271 208
PA1	086 – Protection, restoration and sustainable use of Natura 2000 sites	3 270 000
PA1	090 – Cycle tracks and footpaths	8 915 000
PA1	091 – Development and promotion of the tourism potential of natural areas	10 361 000
PA1	092 - Protection, development and promotion of public tourism assets	3 250 000
PA1	094 – Protection, development and promotion of public cultural and heritage assets	5 770 600
Dimension 2 Form of finance		
Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
PA1	01 – Non-repayable grant	55 427 808
Dimension 3 Territory		
Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
PA1	01 – Large Urban areas (densely populated > 50 000 population)	13 856 952
PA1	02 – Small Urban areas (intermediate density > 5 000 population)	16 625 342
PA1	03 – Rural areas (thinly populated)	24 945 514
Dimension 6 Territorial delivery mechanism		
Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
PA1	07 – Not applicable	55 427 808

2.2 Priority axis 2: Enhancing cross-border mobility

2.2.1 Investment priority 7b

ID of the priority axis	PA2
Title of the priority axis	Enhancing cross-border mobility
Fund	ERDF
Calculation basis	Total
ID of the investment priority	7b
Title of the investment priority	Enhancing regional mobility by connecting secondary and tertiary nodes to TEN-T infrastructure, including multimodal nodes
ID	SO21
Specific objective	Increasing the density between border crossing points along the Hungarian-Slovak border

The results that the Member seek to achieve with Union support

As a consequence of the implementation of activities under the SO21 the density of border crossing road infrastructure will be increased, the travelling time from regional and subregional centres to the TEN-T corridors will be shortened, consequently the specific GHG emission will decrease. In accordance with the paragraphs Nr (12), (21) and (42) of the Preamble, as well as the points Art. 4. a) iv, b) i, ii; Art. 5. (1) b, (2); Art. 10. (1) c; Art. 30. e; Art. 50. (3) a, b, c of the Regulation (EU) No 1315/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council the investments have to result in a better connectivity between the urban zones (secondary and tertiary nodes) of and the comprehensive and core components of TEN-T network crossing the programming region. The programme is expected to promote also the implementation of measures of the 2nd River Basin Management plan both national level and the Danube River Basin District level coordinated by the ICPDR.

Programme specific result indicator

ID	Indicator	Measurement Unit	Baseline Value	Baseline Year	Target Value (2023)	Source of Data	Frequency of reporting
R210	Average distance between border crossing points	km	21,9	2014	15	beneficiaries	in 2018, 2020 and 2023

Actions to be supported under the investment priority

A description of the type and examples of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives, including, where appropriate, identification of the main target groups, specific territories targeted and types of beneficiaries.

Types and examples of actions to be supported

1. preparation of investments: elaboration of studies, analyses, feasibility studies, technical plans, purchase of permissions (these activities can be supported exceptionally as preparatory activities of realised construction projects);
2. construction of cross-border roads, bridges and ferries and infrastructure, including passive noise reduction (noise barriers, protecting trees) solutions with clear and direct link to the TEN-T network.

Types of beneficiaries (indicative list)

- Public institutions;
- Planning institutions;
- State owned companies with objectives related to the objective of the priority (public transport);
- Municipalities, county / regional municipalities.

Main target groups of the support

People crossing the border regularly (students, workers, entrepreneurs etc.)

Addressed specific territories:

The activities are addressed those secondary and tertiary nodes of the region where closer TEN-T connectivity can be ensured on the other side of the border.

The guiding principles for the selection of operations:

- Operations will be selected through permanently open calls for proposals.
- All operations must have a clear cross-border aspect road construction not crossing the border are not supported unless they form part of a bigger, cross-border development programme (larger investment realized on both sides of the border facilitating cross-border mobility) aiming to broaden TEN-T network. Investments in infrastructure not deserving cross-border mobility are not supported.
- Operations must meet general quality criteria and they must be focused, relevant, viable, fit-for-purpose.
- Infrastructural projects must have completed documentation (technical plans with all permissions needed).
- New connections should provide shorter distance and decrease in travel time.
- MA should check the TEN-T relevance through assessment of individual experts mutually agreed by the two partner states. MA should commit itself to submit project proposals to the MC for decision only if TEN-T relevance is verified beforehand by the independent assessment. The impact and TEN-T relevance of all planned projects will be confirmed by independent experts on the basis of the following criteria:
 - The project improves a connection between a tertiary node and the TEN-T network

- Connections which effectively cross the border or which create new, direct border crossing
- Shorten travel time
- Mutual socio-economic and environmental benefit
- In line with the road safety directive
- Applicants have to have the proper financial and technical instruments for the planned activities.
- Soft activities can be supported only in case of preparation of concrete investments.
- Effects of actions carried out under this priority on sites included or intended to be included in the Natura 2000 network must be assessed in line with Article 6 (3) of Directive 92/43/EEC, or a signed, dated and stamped declaration by the competent national authority stating that no negative effects are foreseen must be provided by the applicants.
- Promotion of the implementation of measures of the 2nd River Basin Management plan both national level and the Danube River Basin District levels to reach the WFD objectives.
- Investment to inland waterways/ infrastructure will be implemented in accordance with Art.4 of the Directive 2000/60/EC, the river basin management will be respected.

Further selection criteria are detailed in Chapter 8. Horizontal principles.

Output indicators

COMMON AND PROGRAMME SPECIFIC OUTPUT INDICATORS

ID	Indicator (name of indicator)	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
CO13	Roads: Total length of newly built roads	km	9	beneficiaries	annually

2.2.2 Investment priority 7c

ID of the investment priority	7c
Title of the investment priority	Developing and improving environmentally-friendly (including low-noise), and low-carbon transport systems including inland waterways and maritime transport, ports, multimodal links and airport infrastructure, in order to promote sustainable regional and local mobility
ID	SO 2.2.1
Specific objective	Improving cross-border public transport services

The results that the Member seek to achieve with Union support:

Thanks to the planned interventions the interconnectivity of regional centres and sub-centres and the internal permeability of the border region will be improved. Increase in number of users of public transport facilities decreases the pollution. As a result of the CP, the number of cross-border public transport services and the passengers using these services will increase which indirectly improves also the level of social interconnectivity.

Service in this context means a utility facilitating cross-border mobility, e.g. new bus line (passengers travelling on the line per year), e-ticketing service (passengers using e-ticketing per year), mobile application (users applied the application), developed intelligent transport system (e.g. automated scheduling, route planner, display board etc.)(Users of developed tools per year), cross-border common tariff system (passengers using the system: customers), operating cross-border transport association (passengers travelling on the cross-border lines of the association), etc.

ID of the investment priority	7c
Title of the investment priority	Developing and improving environmentally-friendly (including low-noise), and low-carbon transport systems including inland waterways and maritime transport, ports, multimodal links and airport infrastructure, in order to promote sustainable regional and local mobility
ID	SO 2.2.2
Specific objective	Improving cross-border logistic services

The results that the Member seek to achieve with Union support:

Thanks to the planned interventions the interconnectivity of regional centres and sub-centres as well as economic areas along the border will be improved. Increase in volume of rail and inland waterway transport decreases the pollution. As a result of the PA, logistic service providers start to cooperate in order to create synergies across the border. The users of integrated logistic services will increase and in this way economic cohesion of the border area will be strengthened.

Service in this context means every logistic service provided for facilitating cross-border good transport, e.g. ICT-platform deserving the flow of goods (number of developed ICT tools), intermodal logistic terminal, integrated cross-border service providing system (entrepreneurs using the services provided by the terminal annually) etc.

Programme specific result indicator

ID	Indicator	Measure-ment Unit	Baseline Value	Baseline Year	Target Value (2023)	Source of Data	Frequency of reporting
R221	Change in the volume of cross-border public transport	persons	382 849	2013	450 000	service providers	in 2018, 2020 and 2023
R222	Change in the volume of cross-border good transport	EUR	8 565 130 424	2013	10 000 000 000	national statistical offices	in 2018, 2020 and 2023

2.2.3 Actions to be supported under the investment priority

A description of the type and examples of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives, including, where appropriate, identification of the main target groups, specific territories targeted and types of beneficiaries.

Types and examples of actions to be supported Under SO 2.2.1

1. preparation of investments: elaboration of studies, analyses, concepts; elaboration of recommendations concerning legal-administrative bottlenecks hampering cross-border mobility (e.g. allowance of cabotage, ease of international transport rules between the two states etc.);
2. development of cross-border intelligent transport systems (ITS), passenger information systems, on-line schedules, e-ticketing, mobile apps, common tariff systems;
3. development and integration of cross-border public transport services, establishing transport associations;
4. investments on infrastructure (e.g. vehicles – buses, ferries, boats -, bus and railway stations, ferry ports),
5. investments contributing to a better accessibility of urban functions complementing the actions implemented under PA3 but not overlapping activities targeted by that PA;
6. development of demand-driven cross-border transport services;
7. in case of activities related to road constructions passive noise reduction (noise barriers, protecting trees) solutions;

Types and examples of actions to be supported Under SO222:

1. preparation of investments: elaboration of studies, analyses, concepts;
2. realization of cross-border cooperation initiatives in the field of logistics, development of integrated service systems, infrastructure and ICT applications;
3. investments on infrastructure (e.g. railway stations, ferry ports and roads linking new ports to the existing transport network).

Types of beneficiaries (indicative list):

- Public institutions;
- Private institutions serving public interests;
- State owned companies;
- EGTCs;
- NGOs;
- Development agencies,
- Municipalities, county/regional municipalities (as subjects of state subvention);
- Universities and research institutes of transport.

Main target groups of the support:

- People crossing the border regularly (students, workers, entrepreneurs etc.). (SO221)
- Enterprises interested in Hungarian-Slovak cross-border good transport. (SO222)

Addressed specific territories:

The activities are addressed mainly urban influencing areas, where transport logistic centres and critical mass for effective public transport services concentrate.

The guiding principles for the selection of operations:

- Operations will be selected through open or restricted calls for proposals.
- All operations must have a clear cross-border aspect (in case of investments in road infrastructure elements really crossing the border can be supported; soft elements should demonstrably draw on the results of cross-border cooperation, for example, joint strategies for territories from both sides of the border, functions available for both sides, combining different skill sets not available in one region, gaining a critical mass otherwise unattainable, etc.). Investments in infrastructure not deserving cross-border mobility are not supported.
- Operations must meet all quality criteria set in the call for proposals approved by the MC and they must be focused, relevant, viable, fit-for-purpose.
- Infrastructural projects must have completed documentation (technical plans with all permissions needed).
- The results should be mainly achieved by environmentally friendly transport services, including the use of renewable fuels, which should be ensured partly by the rail and waterway transport eventually resulting in decreased pollution and GHG emission.
- Applicants have to have the proper financial and technical instruments for the planned activities.
- Soft activities can be supported only in case of preparation of concrete investments.
- Effects of actions carried out under this priority on sites included or intended to be included in the Natura 2000 network must be assessed in line with Article 6 (3) of Directive 92/43/EEC, or a signed, dated and stamped declaration by the competent national authority stating that no negative effects are foreseen must be provided by the applicants.
- Investment to inland waterways/ infrastructure will be implemented in accordance with Art.4 of the Directive 2000/60/EC, the river basin management will be respected.

Further selection criteria are detailed in Chapter 8. Horizontal principles.

Output indicators

COMMON AND PROGRAMME SPECIFIC OUTPUT INDICATORS

ID	Indicator (name of indicator)	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
O221	Number of new public transport services started within the framework of the programme	piece	10	beneficiaries	annually
O222	Number of new logistic services started within the framework of the programme	piece	10	beneficiaries	annually

2.2.4 Performance framework of the priority axis

Priority axis	Indicator type	ID	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestones for 2018	Final target 2023	Source of data	Explanation of relevance of indicator, where appropriate
PA2	output	CO13	Roads: Total length of newly built roads	km	0	9	beneficiaries	3 new roads (out of them 1 bridge) can be constructed in relationship with the TEN-T network. Average length of potential IP 7b type projects is 3 km. The approximate cost for building 1 km of roads is 1.400.000 € taking into account the big differences (geomorphological characteristics, presence of bridges, etc.) in the technical parameters of potential projects.
PA 2	Key implementation step	K0002	Elaborated technical documentation for road construction	NA	1	3	beneficiaries	Submitted and registered technical documentation for road construction – linked to the CO13 'Total length of newly built road', where the baseline is 0.
PA 2	output	O221	Number of new public transport services started within the framework of the programme	piece	2	10	beneficiaries	Through the measurement of the users of the new services the outputs of the projects can be clearly identified.
PA2	output	O222	Number of new logistic services started within the framework of the programme	piece	1	10	beneficiaries	Through the measurement of the users of the new services the outputs of the projects can be clearly identified.

Priority axis	Indicator type	ID	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestones for 2018	Final target 2023	Source of data	Explanation of relevance of indicator, where appropriate
PA2	Financial	F 0001	Total amount of submitted expenditure for validation	EUR	2 627 144	40 715 389	Certifying authority, monitoring system	In line with Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No. 215/2014 Art. 5, point 2 and taking into account the decommitment rule set out in Art. 136 of Regulation (EU) 1303/2013 CPR and the yearly allocations of the programme, the amount for 2018 is the total allocation for 2014 and 2015 of the current PA minus the pre-financing for the years 2014-16 and 2018 (According to Article 86. 1 of the CPR) and the amount for 2023 is the total allocation of the current PA.

Additional qualitative information on the establishment of the performance framework:

The total allocation of output indicators selected for the performance framework of the PA2 amounts to 29.8 M EUR which is 86.1% of the budget of the PA2 (COI030, COI032, COI43, COI44, COI072).

2.2.5 Categories of intervention

Dimension 1 Intervention field		
Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
PA2	030 – Secondary road links to TEN-T road network and nodes (new build)	16 690 000
PA2	032 – Local access roads (new build)	2 670 000
PA2	042 – Inland waterways and ports (regional and local)	4 810 000
PA2	043 – Clean urban transport infrastructure and promotion (including equipment and rolling stock)	3 500 000
PA2	044 – Intelligent transport systems (including the introduction of demand management, tolling systems, IT monitoring, control and information systems)	1 740 000
PA2	072 – Business infrastructure for SMEs (including industrial parks and sites)	5 198 080
Dimension 2 Form of finance		
Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
PA2	01– Non-repayable grant	34 608 080
Dimension 3 Territory		
Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
PA2	01 – Large Urban areas (densely populated > 50 000 population)	10 053 040
PA2	02 – Small Urban areas (intermediate density > 5 000 population)	13 970 040
PA2	03 – Rural areas (thinly populated)	10 585 000
Dimension 6 Territorial delivery mechanism		
Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
PA2	07– Not applicable	34 608 080

2.3 Priority axis 3: Promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility

ID of the priority axis	PA3
Title of the priority axis	Promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility
Fund	ERDF
Calculation basis	Total
ID of the investment priority	8e
Title of the investment priority	Promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility by integrating cross-border labour markets, including cross-border mobility, joint local employment initiatives, information and advisory services and joint training

Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priority and expected results

ID	SO31
Specific objective	Decreasing employment inequalities among the regions with a view to improving the level of employment within the programming region

As a result of the integrated projects implemented within the framework of the PA, the employment level of the less developed regions of the programming area is expected to grow. The conditions of cross-border commuting and the accessibility to employment will be improved.

Programme specific result indicator

ID	Indicator	Measurement Unit	Baseline Value	Baseline Year (2023)	Target Value	Source of Data	Frequency of reporting
R310	Increase in the employment rate	%	63,2	2013	65,2	EUROSTAT	in 2018, 2020, and 2023

2.3.1 Actions to be supported under the investment priority

A description of the type and examples of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives, including, where appropriate, identification of the main target groups, specific territories targeted and types of beneficiaries.

Types and examples of actions to be supported:

All the actions shall be implemented as part of an integrated territorial action plan. Action plan means the implementation documentation of projects for a midterm period. It gives a background and justification for the interventions planned. In the action plan, the relation of the planned activities with existing strategies should be described, and the territorial challenges and opportunities must be identified, which conclude to territorial aims. It describes in details the projects to be implemented to reach territorial aims, the necessary financial, human and other

resources, timing, responsible organisations for the implementation of the projects, etc. An action plan should cover neighbouring territories within the eligible region covering territories from both member states.

Each action plan shall serve the establishment of new working places. New job means new employment, saving existing workplaces are not considered as new jobs. The base value for identifying new workplaces is the number of employees of the last year in case of an existing organization. Self-employment is acceptable in the following forms: the personal participation of an owner of a company or organization, personal involvement of the members of cooperatives, supportive member of a family, etc.

Eligible actions which can be implemented within the framework of a project are the followings:

- 1) targeted actions strengthening employment by the development of products and services based on local potential (e.g. development of local product markets; revitalising rust belts and declining industrial zones by ensuring new ways of utilisation; improving the conditions of tourism; improving the access to urban functions; development of social economy mainly in the regions with high level of poverty and habited by Roma people etc.);
- 2) initiatives and services aimed at improving cross-border labour mobility;
- 3) infrastructural investments contributing to modernization, structural transformation and sustainable development of specific areas and resulting in measurable improvement in terms of labour mobility (in case of activities related to road constructions passive noise reduction (noise barriers, protecting trees) solutions included);
- 4) launching and implementation of joint integrated cross-border employment initiatives:
 - a) joint employment initiatives (including facilitating the employment of persons leaving the labour market),
 - b) labour market cooperation initiatives,
 - c) innovative employment projects (with emphasis on the employability of Roma people);
- 5) establishment of business services promoting employment and the creation of infrastructural conditions thereof:
 - a) background services promoting employment, such as databases, consultancy services, websites, etc.,
 - b) development of new business services, cross-border co-operation of business support structures,
 - c) initiatives facilitating the cross-border spread of business information,
 - d) development of IT systems, networks to support employment;
- 6) joint education and training programmes:
 - a) exploration and preparation of training needs, with the aim of determining the training directions necessary for the labour market (and with a view on life-long-learning actions and green jobs),
 - b) awareness raising among employers (business associations, enterprises, in particular SMEs) in the area of preventing and combating discrimination,
 - c) common use of expert and consultancy services:
 - i) legal counselling for people experiencing discrimination in the labour market

- ii) monitoring and fighting against discrimination on the labour market,
 - iii) incentives for employers;
- 7) setting up and operation of a supportive management function for the term of the implementation of the action plan, for fulfilling the tasks of the common management, coordination of the projects, outreach the disadvantaged groups, preparation and update of the action plans, elaboration of reports and perform communication activities.

Actions from No. 3-7 alone are not eligible, only as additional supportive actions completing the activities No. 1-2. Clear connection between the supportive actions and major actions should be presented. Direct or indirect contribution of the planned actions to the creation of employment possibilities should be presented. Only actions with clear direct or indirect contribution to the creation of employment possibilities are acceptable. In case of activities related to road constructions clear connection and contribution to employment initiatives is a must.

Additionally, extra efforts (e.g. special seminars for applicants from field of disadvantaged groups as a support for preparation of projects, extra points in assessment could applied if approved by the MC) are planned to address directly the special needs of young starters, Roma and permanently unemployed people.

Main target groups of the support:

The eligible region's population, local communities, entrepreneurs

Types of beneficiaries (indicative list):

- Public institutions;
- Private institutions serving public interests;
- State owned companies;
- EGTC;
- NGOs;
- Development agencies,
- Municipalities, county/regional municipalities;
- Universities and other colleges;
- Chambers;
- Social enterprises
- Small and medium sized enterprises.

The guiding principles for the selection of operations:

Operations will be selected through open calls for proposals in two-round selection procedure. All the actions shall be implemented as part of a territorial action plan. The integrated territorial action plans must contain actions addressing the full thematic scope of the specific objective, and reflecting to the requirements of specific territories, sectors or functions, present strategic approach.

In the first round, the proposals contain the action plan, without the detailed description of the projects. The eligibility of the action plans will be evaluated first. An action plan should provide detailed justification on the contribution of the actions to the strategy and to the specific objective of the priority axes. Beside others, the following elements should be sufficiently developed to form a basis for evaluation criteria in the first round:

- adequacy of the action plans,
- compliance with the main thematic approach and aim of the investment priority,

- compliance with territorial parameters and development needs of the area concerned,
- compliance of the action plan and the unemployment initiatives with the specific employment problems of the targeted territory (see chapter 1.1.1.4.3.),
- compliance of the target groups of the action plan and the unemployment initiatives with the social development needs delineating the western-eastern gradient (see chapter 1.1.1.4.3.),
- content of interlinked actions,
- cross-border impact,
- reference and link to other major investments (within the frame or beyond the present CP),
- economic and social utility of the projects – with special regard to the less developed regions,
- matching the European (EU 2020 Strategy), national (NRPs mainly) and regional strategies and Ops,
- consistency with the Employment guidelines (Council Decision 2010/707/EU),
- realistic financial and implementation capacities.

The creation of new jobs is a must for all Action plans.

The projects are expected to be integrated, within the framework of an action plan 3-8 projects should be implemented. One of the projects should cover the activities related to coordination among different projects.

Infrastructural initiatives improving the permeability of borders for the sake of a higher employment level of the region, including road constructions must have fully prepared documentation (technical plans with building permissions).

The elaboration of the action plans; the financing of the preparatory tasks or documents are preconditions and will be eligible activities and costs for the action plans only in case of positive decision on financing after the second round. Applicants with action plans fulfilling the eligibility criteria will have the possibility to submit a proposal in the 2nd round with the projects in details.

Action plans from regions with less than 0,4 Complex Social Index value will be preferred (for Complex Social Index and regions fall under please see 11. Map in the Annex 1).

Action plans in the most developed regions should primarily address the unemployment of highly educated people.

In case of the employment initiatives the involvement of people living in deep poverty and Roma shall get preference.

Action plans should be based on endogenous potentials with the objective of exploiting them for a higher level of employment rate; local, sub-regional strategies should contribute in an organic, effective and cross-border way to the decrease of long-term unemployment and to the economic growth.

All operations must have a clear cross-border aspect (road infrastructure elements really crossing the border; soft elements should demonstrably draw on the results of cross-border cooperation, e.g. joint strategies for bordering territories, products or services or functions available for both sides of the border, extended urban functions from one side of the border to the other, transferring models/knowledge/technology from bordering regions, combining different skill sets not available in one region, gaining a critical mass otherwise unattainable, etc.).

Operations must meet all quality criteria set in the call for proposals approved by the MC and they must be focused, relevant, viable, fit-for-purpose.

Effects of actions carried out under this priority on sites included or intended to be included in the Natura 2000 network must be assessed in line with Article 6 (3) of Directive 92/43/EEC, or a signed, dated and stamped declaration by the competent national authority stating that no negative effects are foreseen must be provided by the applicants. Further selection criteria are detailed under in Chapter 8. Horizontal principles.

Output indicators

COMMON AND PROGRAMME SPECIFIC OUTPUT INDICATORS

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	enterprises	10	beneficiaries	annually
CO02	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving grants	enterprises	10	beneficiaries	annually
CO08	Productive investment: Employment increase in supported enterprises	FTE	20	beneficiaries	annually
CO13	Roads: Total length of newly built roads	km	11	beneficiaries	annually
CO39	Urban development specific indicators: Public or commercial buildings built or renovated in urban areas	square meters	3000	beneficiaries	annually
CO44	Labour market and training: Number of participants in joint local employment initiatives and joint training	persons	100	beneficiaries	annually
O311	Number of (integrated territorial) action plans	number	10	beneficiaries	annually
O312	Number of women in joint local employment initiatives and joint trainings (participants of employment initiatives from above CO44)	persons	50	beneficiaries	annually
O313	Number of participants from groups at risk of discrimination, including Roma in joint local employment initiatives and joint trainings (participants of employment initiatives from above CO44)	persons	25	beneficiaries	annually
O314	Number of new business services promoting employment and consultancy services	number	15	beneficiaries	annually

2.3.2 Performance framework of the priority axis

Priority axis	Indicator type	ID	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestones for 2018	Target value	Source of data	Explanation of relevance of indicator, where appropriate
PA3	output	O311	Number of (integrated territorial) action plans	number	0	10	Bene-ficiaries	Actions under this priority must be part of an integrated territorial action plans, therefore a cornerstone of the performance framework.
PA3	Key implementation step	K0003	Selected action plans	number	5	10	Bene-ficiaries	Selected action plans – linked to the O311 'Number of (integrated territorial) action plans', where the baseline is 0.
PA3	output	CO44	Labour market and training: Number of participants in joint local employment initiatives and joint training	persons	30	100	Bene-ficiaries	The main objective of the priority concerns to the increase of the employment. The expected number of action plans is 10. 10 persons as average is planned to be involved in local employment initiatives or training/ action plan. It is expected that till 2018 cca. 1/3 persons will be trained.
PA3	output	O314	Number of new business services promoting employment and consultancy services	number	5	15	Bene-ficiaries	The indicator contributes to the main objective of the priority through new business services promoting employment. 1-2 new services per action plan are expected. It is expected that till 2018 cca. 1/3 business services will be running.

Priority axis	Indicator type	ID	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestones for 2018	Target value	Source of data	Explanation of relevance of indicator, where appropriate
PA3	Financial	F0001	Total amount of submitted expenditure for validation	EUR	2 627 144	40 715 389	Certifying authority, monitoring system	In line with Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No. 215/2014 Art. 5, point 2 and taking into account the decommitment rule set out in Art. 136 of Regulation (EU) 1303/2013 CPR and the yearly allocations of the programme, the amount for 2018 is the total allocation for 2014 and 2015 of the current PA minus the pre-financing for the years 2014-16 and 2018 (According to Article 86. 1 of the CPR) and the amount for 2023 is the total allocation of the current PA.

Additional qualitative information on the establishment of the performance framework:

The indicator CO44 and O314 covers the categories of interventions code no. 072, 073, 102, 103, 104 and 109. The total allocation for these categories of interventions is 18.258.080 EUR, which is 52,76 %.

2.3.3 Categories of intervention

Dimension 1 Intervention field		
Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
PA3	032 - Local access roads (new build)	15 350 000
PA3	055 - Other social infrastructure contributing to regional and local development	1 000 000
PA3	072 - Business infrastructure for SMEs (including industrial parks and sites)	3 600 000
PA3	073 - Support to social enterprises (SMEs)	1 381 080
PA3	102 - Access to employment for job-seekers and inactive people, including the long-term unemployed and people far from the labour market, also through local employment initiatives and support for labour mobility	11 200 000
PA3	103 - Sustainable integration into the labour market of young people, in particular those not in employment, education or training, including young people at risk of social exclusion and young people from marginalised communities, including through the implementation of the Youth Guarantee	1 077 000
PA3	104 - Self-employment, entrepreneurship and business creation including innovative micro, small and medium sized enterprises	500 000
PA3	109 - Active inclusion, including with a view to promoting equal opportunities and active participation, and improving employability	500 000
Dimension 2 Form of finance		
Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
PA3	01 - Non-repayable grant	34 608 080
Dimension 3 Territory		
Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
PA3	01 - Large Urban areas (densely populated > 50 000 population)	7 671 616
PA3	02 - Small Urban areas (intermediate density > 5 000 population)	9 982 424
PA3	03 - Rural areas (thinly populated)	16 954 040
Dimension 4 Territorial delivery mechanism		
Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
PA3	07 - Not applicable	34 608 080

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

ID of the priority axis	PA4
Title of the priority axis	Enhancing cross-border cooperation of public authorities and people living in the border area
Fund	ERDF
Calculation basis	Total
ID of the investment priority	11b
Title of the investment priority	Enhancing institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders and efficient public administration by promoting legal and administrative cooperation and cooperation between citizens and institutions

Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priority and expected results

ID	SO41
Specific objective	Improving the level of cross border inter-institutional cooperation and broadening cross border cooperation between citizens.

The results that the Member seek to achieve with Union support

As a result of the activities of the PA4 internal social cohesion of the programming area will be strengthened and the level of inter-institutional cooperation will be improved. Further expected results are:

- Strengthened cross border cooperation between citizens, lively cross-border exchange of experiences.
- Improvement of the capacities of the institutions participated in and strengthened interest toward cross-border activities.
- Improved mutual understanding and mutual rapprochement among the ethnic groups living in the region.
- Increase in the number of long-term (institutionalised) partnerships.
- High level of social participation in cross-border activities.
- High number of joint sustainable events, actions covering the major part of the programming region.
- Improved level of bilingualism within the programming region.

Programme specific result indicator

ID	Indicator	Measurement Unit	Baseline Value	Baseline Year	Target Value (2023)	Source of Data	Frequency of reporting
R410	Level of cross-border cooperation	score	3,4	2015	4,1	Beneficiaries	In 2018, 2020 and 2023

2.4.1 Actions to be supported under the investment priority

A description of the type and examples of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives, including, where appropriate, identification of the main target groups, specific territories targeted and types of beneficiaries.

Types and examples of actions to be supported:

The level of cross-border inter-institutional cooperation depends on two main factors: the capacity of the institutions of the border area which can be improved (among others) by mutual exchange of experiences; and the professional level and strategic basis of cooperation between different institutions from both sides of the border. Accordingly, the programme supports the following types of activities:

- 1) Strengthening and improving the cooperation capacity and the cooperation efficiency between different organisations (public authorities) of particular sectors (e.g. education, health care, social care, risk prevention, water management, culture etc.) through common professional programmes, trainings, exchange of experiences, capitalisation and know-how transfer, etc.
- 2) Support of activities focusing on the improvement of cross-border services provided jointly, development of small infrastructure necessary for joint service provision included:
 - elaboration of studies and plans related to the development of the border region in sectorial bases (involving public institutions providing cross-border services from both sides of the border) not covered by the other priority axes,
 - joint planning and development of cross-border services provided by public authorities,
 - development of legal instruments and ICT solutions improving cross-border service provision (strengthening the flow of information, e-governance, m-governance etc.),
 - development of cross-border services in the field of health care, training and education, social care, security, administration (e.g. data provision) etc.
- 3) Launching and strengthening sustainable cross-border cooperation between citizens from both sides of the border and to strengthen social cohesion of the programming area resulting in improved cross-border services. The following non-exhaustive list of activities can be supported:
 - organization of cultural events, performances, festivals;
 - launching of exchange programmes in the field of culture, education, professional life, research;
 - organization of trainings, summer schools, summer academies (not with an aim of labour migration), competitions;
 - creation of common artworks, movies, theatrical performances;
 - publishing brochures, books, booklets, DVDs;
 - launching of TV or radio programmes;
 - implementation of actions and initiatives strengthening bilingualism within the region, etc.
 - Activities listed under type of activities Nr 3 will be supported through a Small Project Fund. Within the Small Project Fund in this priority axis people-to-people projects are supported without investment elements. (Unlike small project fund of the PA1 where small scale infrastructure projects focusing on nature and culture are supported.)
 - The management structure of the Small Project Fund should be realised through two projects (1 on western part of the border region and 1 on eastern part of the border region). The detailed description of the management of SPF is described in chapter 5.3.3. The management of the Small Project Fund.

Types of beneficiaries (indicative list):

- Public institutions;
- Private institutions serving public interests;
- State owned companies;
- EGTCs;
- NGOs;
- Development agencies;
- Municipalities, county / regional municipalities;
- Organizations set up by special law, providing public services (e.g. foundations, associations);
- Universities and research institutes;
- Chambers;
- Churches.

Main target groups of the support of actions 1,2:

Regional and local organizations, public and private institutions providing cross-border services, institutions of governmental sector;

Main target groups of support of action 3:

The eligible region's population, local communities, entrepreneurs, NGOs.

The guiding principles for the selection of operations:

ACTIONS 1,2:

- Operations will be selected through calls for proposals. These calls are open to proposals addressing the scope of the specific objective, or the programme authorities may also decide to issue more targeted calls for proposals focusing on certain key areas within the scope of this specific objective.
- All operations must have a clear cross-border aspect.
- Operations must meet all quality criteria set in the call for proposals approved by the MC and they must be focused, relevant, viable, fit-for-purpose.
- The value of small investments and equipment procurement shall be commensurable with the weight of total project.
- The high potential for capitalisation and transferability, as well as project capitalising on existing results will be considered with emphasis among guiding principles for selection of operations.
- Effects of actions carried out under this priority on sites included or intended to be included in the Natura 2000 network must be assessed in line with Article 6 (3) of Directive 92/43/EEC, or a signed, dated and stamped declaration by the competent national authority stating that no negative effects are foreseen must be provided by the applicants.
- Further selection criteria are detailed in Chapter 8. Horizontal principles.

ACTION 3:

- Operations will be selected through calls for proposals. These calls can be open to proposals addressing the full thematic scope of the specific objective, or the programme authorities may also decide to issue more targeted calls for proposals focusing on certain key areas within the scope of this specific objective.

- All operations must have a clear cross-border aspect.
- Activities should have a time perspective: the programme does not support individual events; the partners have to endeavour to lay the basis for long-term partnership. One-off events are not supported.
- Projects, which capitalize on the existing results and make one step further to establish more sustainable connections between the communities, as well as, community building projects and those ensuring the participation of greater number of people will be prioritized.
- Mirror projects without personal meetings of project partners are not supported.
- Sustainability of cooperation should be encouraged through the selection.
- Actions are supported under the strategic framework to increase social cohesion of the programme area.
- Operations must meet all quality criteria set in the call for proposals approved by the MC and they must be focused, relevant, viable, fit-for-purpose.
- Further selection criteria are detailed in Chapter 8. Horizontal principles.

Output indicators

COMMON AND PROGRAMME SPECIFIC OUTPUT INDICATORS

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
O411	Number of cross-border products and services developed	Number	20	Beneficiaries	annually
O412	Number of documents published or elaborated outside of the framework of SPF	Number	40	Beneficiaries	annually
O413	Number of cross-border events	Number	400	Beneficiaries	annually
O414	Number of documents published or elaborated in the framework of SPF	Number	200	Beneficiaries	annually
O415	Number of people participated in cooperation	Number	10 000	Beneficiaries	annually
O416	Number of women participated in cooperation	Number	4 000	Beneficiaries	annually
O417	Number of participants from socially marginalized groups, including Roma	Number	300	Beneficiaries	annually

2.4.2 Performance framework of the priority axis

Priority axis	Indicator type	ID	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestones for 2018	Final target 2023	Source of data	Explanation of relevance of indicator, where appropriate
PA4	Output	O411	Number of cross-border products and services developed	Number	4	20	Beneficiaries	Based on the experiences (quality and number) with cross-border institutional building projects and SPF projects from previous programming periods the indicator is relevant to show the real effect of the PA. Expected number of implemented inter-institutional projects is between 40 and 50. Taking into consideration that not every project will result in service provision, 20 new services are expected till the end of the programming period.
PA4	Output	O412	Number of documents published or elaborated outside of the framework of SPF	Number	5	40	Beneficiaries	Based on the experiences (quality and number) with cross-border institutional building projects from previous programming periods the indicator is relevant to show the real effect of the PA. The target value is set for 40, as 1 document is expected by project.
PA4	Output	O413	Number of cross border events	Number	100	400	Beneficiaries	Based on the experiences (quality and number) with cross-border institutional building projects and SPF projects from previous programming periods, the indicator is the most relevant to show the real effect of the PA. The target value is set for 400, because it is expected that the majority of the projects supported by SPF will contain one event, at least.

Priority axis	Indicator type	ID	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestones for 2018	Final target 2023	Source of data	Explanation of relevance of indicator, where appropriate
PA4	Output	O414	Number of documents published or elaborated in the framework of SPF	Number	50	200	Beneficiaries	Based on the experiences (quality and number) with cross-border institutional building projects and SPF projects from previous programming periods the indicator is relevant to show the real effect of the PA. It is expected that the majority of the projects will contain publishing activity, as well.
PA4	Financial	F0001	Total amount of submitted expenditure for validation	EUR	1 656 117	25 666 448	Certifying authority, monitoring system	In line with Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No. 215/2014 Art. 5, point 2 and taking into account the decommitment rule set out in Art. 136 of Regulation (EU) 1303/2013 CPR and the yearly allocations of the programme, the amount for 2018 is the total allocation for 2014 and 2015 of the current PA minus the pre-financing for the years 2014-16 and 2018 (According to Article 86. 1 of the CPR) and the amount for 2023 is the total allocation of the current PA.

Additional qualitative information on the establishment of the performance framework:

The aim of this PA is to enhance the institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders and improve the efficiency of public administration. To reach these targets several eligible actions were defined and in line with these actions justifiable and measurable indicators for the performance framework of the priority axis were also defined. The selected output indicators cover all categories of interventions under the Dimension of intervention fields.

2.4.3 Categories of intervention

Dimension 1 Intervention field		
Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
PA4	096 - Institutional capacity of public administrations and public services related to implementation of the ERDF or actions supporting ESF institutional capacity initiatives	4 000 000
PA4	119 - Investment in institutional capacity and in the efficiency of public administrations and public services at the national, regional and local levels with a view to reforms, better regulation and good governance	8 816 480
PA4	120 - Capacity building for all stakeholders delivering education, lifelong learning, training and employment and social policies, including through sectoral and territorial pacts to mobilise for reform at the national, regional and local levels	9 000 000
Dimension 2 Form of finance		
Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
PA4	01 – Non –repayable grant	21 816 480
Dimension 3 Territory		
Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
PA4	01 - Large Urban areas (densely populated > 50 000 population)	10 908 240
PA4	02 - Small Urban areas (intermediate density > 5 000 population)	6 544 944
PA4	03 - Rural areas (thinly populated)	4 363 296
Dimension 4 Territorial delivery mechanism		
Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
PA4	07 – Not applicable	21 816 480

2.5 Priority axis 5: Technical Assistance

ID of the priority axis	PA5
Title of the priority axis	Technical Assistance
Fund	ERDF
Calculation basis	Total
ID	SO51
Specific objective	Ensuring the effective management, implementation, control and audit of the Interreg V-A SK-HU

The results that the Member seek to achieve with Union support: NA

2.5.1 Actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives

Based on the lessons from the financing period 2007-2013 listed in section 1.1.1.2, the measures related to the management of the programme should focus on:

- the human resource development of the management bodies,
- development of overall management processes, in particular on procurement, control and audit services,
- strengthening the institutional capacity of relevant partners involved in the programme,
- visibility and publicity of the programme,
- actions to remove administrative burdens.

In line with this Priority axis 5 Technical assistance provides support to measures related with the management of the programme such as:

- 1) Measures related to human resources management of bodies responsible for the implementation, control and audit of the programme:
 - selection, training, studying, assessment, and rewarding of employees (covering salaries etc.), while also overseeing organizational leadership and culture;
 - internal and external staff training (seminars, workshops, courses, internships, domestic / foreign business trips, etc.);
 - mobility management,
 - improving internal communication between the management and control organisations;
- 2) Measures related to office/facility management of bodies responsible for the implementation of the programme:
 - Procurement of small, expendable, daily use office items such as paper clips, post-it notes, and staples, small machines such as hole punches, binders, staplers and laminators, writing utensils, paper, etc;
 - Procurement of higher-cost office equipment like computers, printers, fax machines, photocopiers, office furniture such as chairs, cubicles, filing cabinet, desks, etc.;
 - Improvement of IT background and procurement of IT systems related to the programme implementation.

- 3) Measures related to the overall management, control and audit of the programme:
 - Organization and technical support of working group meetings, commissions and committees and activities relating to safeguarding the exercise of their powers;
 - Procurement of expert services related to programming, evaluation, monitoring, publicity, audit in line with the provisions of the relevant regulations;
 - Procurement of legal advice and translation services;
 - Procurement of studies, reports, surveys (including defining programme specific result indicators) and other external expert services;
 - Costs of first level control;
 - Internal and external costs concerning to actions of audit authority and cooperation authorities;
 - Measures enabling to meet deadlines for payments and progress reports approval;
 - Measures to progress on the differentiation in the control of different project types;
 - Strengthening anti-fraud and anti-corruption measures - efficient involvement of partners in the Programme implementation and making information available for the purpose of enhancing transparency and preventing fraud;
- 4) Strengthening the institutional capacity of relevant partners limited to the public sector and primarily directed to the administrations and services directly engaged in the implementation of ERDF including capacity development:
 - dedicated workshops,
 - training sessions,
 - coordination and networking structures, contributions to the cost of participating in meetings on the preparation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of a programme;
- 5) Visibility and publicity of the programme;
 - Information, promotion, publicity and exchange of experience;
 - Development and implementation of the programmes communication plan.
- 6) Actions to reduce administrative burden for beneficiaries:
 - Simplified verification of costs;
 - Reduction of the amount of needed paperwork and to speed up the reporting and control procedures;
 - Application of e-Cohesion principles.

2.5.2 Output indicators expected to contribute to results

Output indicators

ID	Indicator (name of indicator)	Measurement unit	Target value (2023) – optional	Source of data
O511	Number of employees (FTEs) whose salaries are co-financed by technical assistance	FTE	41	Internal registry
O512	Number of publicity events	Number of events	15	Joint Secretariat
O513	Number of studies and evaluation documents	Finished studies and evaluation documents	2	Joint Secretariat
O514	Number of training initiatives for the management bodies	Training initiatives	15	Joint Secretariat

2.5.3 Categories of intervention

Dimension 1 Intervention field		
Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
PA5	121 - Preparation, implementation, monitoring and inspection	7 348 539
PA5	122 - Evaluation and studies	500 000
PA5	123 - Information and communication	1 500 000
Dimension 2 Form of finance		
Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
PA5	01 – Non-repayable grant	9 348 539
Dimension 3 Territory		
Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
PA5	07 – Not applicable	9 348 539

3 FINANCING PLAN

Financial appropriation from the ERDF (in EUR)

Fund	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total
ERDF	0	19 012 531	16 114 675	29 280 267	29 865 871	30 463 190	31 072 453	155 808 987
IPA amounts	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ENI amounts	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	19 012 531	16 114 675	29 280 267	29 865 871	30 463 190	31 072 453	155 808 987

2. TABLE: TOTAL FINANCIAL APPROPRIATION FROM THE ERDF AND NATIONAL CO-FINANCING (IN EUR)

Priority axis	Fund	Basis for the calculation of the Union support			Indicative breakdown of the national counterpart		Total funding (e)=(a)+(b)	Co-financing rate (f)=(a)/(e)	For information	
		(Total eligible cost or public eligible cost)	Union support (a)	National counterpart (b)=(c)+(d)	National Public funding (c)	National private funding (d)			Contributions from third countries	EIB contributions
PA 1	ERDF	Total	55 427 808	9 781 378	9 781 378	0	65 209 186	85%	0	0
	IPA	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	ENI	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PA 2	ERDF	Total	34 608 080	6 107 309	6 107 309	0	40 715 389	85%	0	0
	IPA	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	ENI	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PA 3	ERDF	Total	34 608 080	6 107 309	6 107 309	0	40 715 389	85%	0	0
	IPA	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	ENI	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PA 4	ERDF	Total	21 816 480	3 849 968	3 849 968	0	25 666 448	85%	0	0
	IPA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	ENI	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PA 5	ERDF	Total	9 348 539	1 649 743	1 649 743	0	10 998 282	85%	0	0
	IPA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	ENI	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	ERDF	Total	155 808 987	27 495 707	27 495 707	0	183 304 694	85%	0	0
	IPA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	ENI	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	Total all Funds	Total	155 808 987	27 495 707	27 495 707	0	183 304 694	85%	0	0

Breakdown by priority axis and thematic objective (in EUR)

Priority axis	Thematic objective	Union support	National counterpart	Total funding
PA 1	TO6	55 427 808	9 781 378	65 209 186
PA 2	TO7	34 608 080	6 107 309	40 715 389
PA 3	TO8	34 608 080	6 107 309	40 715 389
PA 4	TO11	21 816 480	3 849 968	25 666 448
PA 5	NA	9 348 539	1 649 743	10 998 282
Total		155 808 987	27 495 707	183 304 694

4 INTEGRATED APPROACH

According to the decisions made by the Task Force tools of CLLD and integrated territorial investment (ITI) defined by the CPR will not be applied in the Interreg V-A SK-HU. However, integrated territorial approach will be used in different ways.

4.1 Vertical integration of projects

Vertically integrated projects are focusing on a particular, mainly sectorial problem (e.g. in rust belts the utilization of real estate left off can be managed in an integrated way with a focus on new jobs; the integrated management of natural resources can be resolved by following a territorial strategy etc.).

Vertical integration of projects means the use of synergies between projects under one common PA. In case of PA3, action plans unite different activities of different stakeholders in a border region with a view to creating new jobs and decreasing unemployment rate. Similarly, under PA1, projects suitable to existing territorial strategies approved on either side of the border and small projects deserving the fulfilment of the objectives of larger projects of PA1 can be awarded by additional scores during the evaluation.

In each case when cross-border road or bridge construction is needed for the fulfilment of tourist, environment protecting or employment aims justification of that need should be provided with through the use of integrated approach. In these cases, matching of the construction works the investments realized within the framework of national OPs can be approved.

4.2 Horizontal integration of projects

Horizontal integration means the use of cross-cutting approach. In this way a higher level of concentration of resources and a stronger impact can be achieved. E.g. projects improving the tourist infrastructure under the PA1 and those increasing the employment level in tourist sector under PA3 can mutually strengthen each other. Similarly, institutional cooperation under PA4 can contribute to the accessibility of urban functions within PA3; SPF projects of PA1 (small infrastructure developments) and those of PA4 (series of actions or events) can complement each other.

The main aim of horizontal integration is to guarantee sustainability and synergies between different actions.

Community-led local development

Will not be applied.

Integrated actions for sustainable urban development

Will not be applied.

Integrated Territorial Investment (ITI)

Will not be applied.

4.3 Contribution towards macro-regional and sea basin strategies

Contribution of planned interventions towards macro-regional and sea basin strategies subject to the needs of the programme area as identified by the relevant Member States and taking into account, where applicable, strategically important projects identified in those strategies

Contribution towards the European Union Strategy for the Danube Region

The European Union Strategy for the Danube Region which was approved in 2011 during the Hungarian presidency is based on two documents: The Communication and the Action Plan. The Communication has set the main objectives (four pillars) of the Strategy. The Action Plan defined the priority areas and potential projects (as examples) related to particular pillars (being in harmony with the EU 2020 Strategy objectives):

- connecting the Danube region:
 - to improve mobility and multimodality
 - to encourage more sustainable energy
 - to promote culture and tourism, people to people contacts;
- protecting the environment of the Danube region:
 - to restore and maintain the quality of waters
 - to manage environmental risks
 - to preserve biodiversity, landscapes and the quality of air and soils;
- building prosperity in the Danube region:
 - to develop the Knowledge Society through research, education and information technologies
 - to support the competitiveness of enterprises, including cluster development
 - to invest in people and skills;
- strengthening the Danube region:
 - to step up institutional capacity and cooperation
 - to work together to promote security and tackle organised and serious crime.

According to the communication of the European Commission ‘Facilitating joint actions and transnational cooperation in the Danube Region using the possibilities provided by the new Cohesion Policy Regulations’ each operational programme should contribute to the implementation of the macro-regional strategies. This request is especially addressed to the stakeholders interested in ETC programmes aiming to strengthen territorial, economic and social cohesion of a given territory within the area of the EUSDR. The mechanisms to ensure coordination with the European Union Strategy for the Danube Region are described in Section 6.2.

5 IMPLEMENTING PROVISIONS FOR THE INTERREG V-A SLOVAKIA-HUNGARY

5.1 Relevant authorities and bodies

Table 17: Relevant authorities and bodies

Authority/body	Name of the authority/body and department or unit	Head of the authority/body (position or post)
Managing authority	Prime Minister's Office 1055 Budapest Kossuth Lajos tér 1-3. Hungary	Minister of Prime Minister's Office
Certifying authority, where applicable	Hungarian State Treasury 1054 Budapest Hold utca 4. Hungary	Financial Vice president
Audit authority	Directorate General for Audit of European Funds 1115 Budapest Bartók Béla út 105-113. Hungary	Director General of Directorate General for Audit of European Funds
Body to which Commission will make payments	Hungarian State Treasury 1054 Budapest Hold utca 4. Hungary	Financial Vice president

Table 18: Body or bodies carrying out control and audit tasks

Authority/body	Name of the authority/body	Head of the authority/body
Body or bodies designated to carry out control tasks	Széchenyi Programoffice Consulting and Service Nonprofit Llc. 1053 Budapest Szép utca 2. Hungary	Head of Széchenyi Programme office
	Prime Minister's Office 1055 Budapest Kossuth Lajos tér 1-3. Hungary (For Priority Axis Technical Assistance in case of HU TA Beneficiaries)	Minister of Prime Minister's Office
	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic Dobrovičova 12 812 66 Bratislava, Slovak Republic	Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic
Body or bodies designated to be responsible for carrying out audit tasks	Directorate General for Audit of European Funds 1115 Budapest Bartók Béla út 105-113. Hungary	Director General of Directorate General for Audit of European Funds

5.2 Procedure for setting up the Joint Secretariat

According to Regulation No 1299/2013, Art. 23, paragraph 2 the Managing Authority (MA), after consultation with the relevant Hungarian and Slovakian authorities shall set up a Joint Secretariat. The relevant Slovak and Hungarian authorities agreed to set up a Joint Secretariat for the programming period 2014-2020 on the basis of the existing JTS of the HU-SK CBC Programme 2007-2013. According to this, the staff of the Joint Secretariat will be employed by Széchenyi Programme Office Nonprofit LLC. (hereinafter referred as SZPO) on the basis of a new framework agreement. The JS will be located in Budapest. The Joint Secretariat shall have an international staff from the Member States. The JS will be financed from Technical Assistance. Main tasks of the JS:

- supports the Managing Authority and Monitoring Committee in performing their tasks and functions;
- provides potential beneficiaries with information on funding opportunities from the programme and supports beneficiaries in implementation of operations;
- organizes the Monitoring Committee meetings including the preparation and delivery of documents;
- supports the process of selecting operations, collecting and processing evaluation forms for the appraisal and selection of operations;
- prepares and distributes to the Monitoring Committee members minutes made on the Monitoring Committee meetings;
- provides potential beneficiaries with information and consultation on possibilities of acquiring financial support from the programme;
- supports the process of searching for suitable project partners to carry out operations;
- receives project applications;
- performs the official registration of project applications;
- performs the administrative and eligibility checks of project applications;
- provides the quality assessment of project applications in cooperation with independent evaluators;
- informs applicants on results of the assessment process and selection of project applications;
- prepares the draft ERDF Subsidy Contract with the lead beneficiary;
- processes documents to elaborate annual and final reports on the programme implementation;
- performs information and promotion activities in line with the EU regulations and the Communication Strategy for the Programme (including drawing up a communication strategy for the whole implementation Programme period, establishment and the maintenance of the programme's website);
- is responsible for the content and update of the programme official website;
- participates in preparing and updating the supporting documentation for applicants and beneficiaries;
- cooperates with the Managing Authority in performing tasks related to the establishment and operation of the system recording and storing data in the electronic form on each operation;
- informs about irregularities in accordance with procedures approved by the Managing Authority.

Detailed descriptions of measures and responsibilities of individual entities involved in the management and control of Interreg V-A SK-HU are included in their procedures manuals.

5.3 Summary description of the management and control arrangements

5.3.1 Joint implementation structure

Member states participating in the cooperation programme shall designate, for the purposes of Article 123(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, a single managing authority; for the purposes of Article 123(2) of that Regulation, a single certifying authority; and, for the purposes of Article 123(4) of that Regulation, a single audit authority.

Managing Authority (MA)

The Managing Authority shall perform its tasks pursuant to Article 125 of the Regulation (EU) No. 1303/2013. Regarding verification pursuant to Article 125 paragraph 4 a) of the Regulation (EU) No. 1303/2013 the Managing Authority is – pursuant to Article 23 paragraph 4 (iii) of the Regulation No. 1299/2013 – obliged to ensure that expenditure of every beneficiary is verified by an designated controller. The main tasks of the Managing Authority include mainly:

- Support to the Monitoring Committee and provision of information necessary to perform its activities;
- Monitoring the implementation of the Programme indicators;
- Elaboration of the Programme documents and their updates;
- Establishment of a system for recording and storing data in the electronic form;
- Cooperation with other institutions implementing the Programme (e.g. drawing up and updating the Programme documents, drawing up annual reports for the European Commission);
- Signing ERDF Subsidy Contract and annexes with Lead Beneficiary of project approved by the Monitoring Committee;
- Introduction of an efficient and proper measure against fraud while taking into account risks identified;
- Determining and imposing financial corrections due to incorrect implementation of the ERDF Subsidy Contract by a beneficiary;
- Making sure that the expenditure of each beneficiary participating in an operation has been verified by a designated Controller;
- Examining complaints on the implementation of ERDF Subsidy Contract;
- Conducting evaluations in line with EU regulation;
- Specification of procedures making sure that all documents related to expenditure and audits necessary for the purpose of an adequate audit trail are stored in accordance with terms and conditions specified in Article 72 g) of the Regulation (EU) No. 1303/2013;
- Ensuring the functioning of the Programme's official website done by JS in cooperation with NA;
- Ensuring that the control systems in the Member States function properly. Actions to be carried out will be laid down in the Description of Management and Control System.

Although the MA bears overall responsibility for the Programme, certain horizontal tasks (employment of JS members, contribution to the set-up and operation of the programme's Monitoring and Information System, legal services) will be delegated to a separate unit of SZPO, the hosting institution of the JS. The delegation of tasks will be prescribed in the Description of the Management and Control System and will be regulated by a specific framework agreement signed between the MA and SZPO.

Slovakian National Authority (SK NA)

The Slovakian National Authority shall perform the Member State tasks in accordance with the Regulations (EU) No. 1303/2013 and 1299/2013. The main tasks of the National Authority include in particular:

- cooperation with the Managing Authority in performing relevant activities in Slovakia in order to ensure effective and efficient implementation of the programme;
- provision of the national co-financing to beneficiaries located on the territory of Slovak Republic.
- establishment of national requirements and conditions for the Programme implementation and ensuring that they function effectively and in accordance with the provisions and principles of the Programme.
- examination of complaints/reservations concerning the results of the verifications by Controllers;
- giving confirmation, at the request of the Managing Authority, of the eligibility of beneficiaries pursuant to the national law;
- ensuring the functioning of the national control system for normal and for TA projects.
- ensuring the Slovakian national co-financing to TA projects.

Hungarian National Authority (HU NA)

The Prime Minister's Office acting as Managing Authority fulfils also tasks deriving from national responsibility. The main tasks include in particular:

- provision of national co-financing to beneficiaries located on the territory of Hungary;
- establishment of national requirements and conditions for the Programme implementation and ensuring that they function effectively and in accordance with the provisions and principles of the Programme;
- examination of complaints concerning the results of the verifications by Controllers;
- ensuring the functioning of the national control system for normal and for TA projects.
- ensuring the Hungarian national co-financing to TA projects.

Certifying Authority (CA)

The Certifying Authority shall perform its tasks in accordance with Article 126 of the Regulation (EU) No. 1303/2013. The CA shall be responsible in particular for:

- drawing up and submitting payment applications to the Commission, and certifying that they result from reliable accounting systems, are based on verifiable supporting documents and have been subject to verifications by the MA;
- drawing up the accounts referred to in point (a) of Article 59(5) of the Financial Regulation;
- certifying the completeness, accuracy and veracity of the accounts and that the expenditure entered in the accounts complies with applicable law and has been incurred in respect of operations selected for funding in accordance with the criteria applicable to the operational programme and complying with applicable law;
- ensuring that there is a system which records and stores, in computerised form, accounting records for each operation, and which supports all the data required for drawing up payment requests and accounts, including records of amounts recoverable, amounts recovered and amounts withdrawn following cancellation of all or part of the contribution for an operation or operational programme;
- ensuring, for the purposes of drawing up and submitting payment requests, that it has received adequate information from the MA on the procedures and verifications carried out in relation to expenditure;
- taking account when drawing up and submitting payment requests of the results of all audits carried out by, or under the responsibility of, the audit authority;
- maintaining, in a computerised form, accounting records of expenditure declared to the Commission and of the corresponding public contribution paid to beneficiaries;
- keeping an account of amounts recoverable and of amounts withdrawn following cancellation of all or part of the contribution for an operation. Amounts recovered shall be repaid to the budget of

the Union prior to the closure of the operational programme by deducting them from the subsequent statement of expenditure.

- the paying function of the CA means that based on the application for reimbursement approved by the MA/JS the CA transfers the contribution from the programme single bank account directly to the Lead Beneficiaries.

Audit Authority (AA)

The Audit Authority shall perform its tasks in accordance with Article 127 of the Regulation (EU) No. 1303/2013 and Article 25 of the Regulation (EU) No. 1299/2013. Functioning of Audit Authority in details will be described in Strategy of audit. The AA shall be responsible in particular for:

- the declared expenditure shall be audited based on a representative sample and, as a general rule, on statistical sampling methods.
- a non-statistical sampling method may be used on the professional judgement of the audit authority, in duly justified cases, in accordance with internationally accepted audit standards and in any case where the number of operations for an accounting year is insufficient to allow the use of a statistical method.
- the compliance of the management and control system shall be audited in line with Article 124 and Attachment XIII of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013
- system audits shall be performed
- audits on operations shall be performed on an appropriate sample of operations according to Article 127 (1) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013;
- audits shall be performed on accounts with objective to gain adequate assurance about the completeness, accuracy and substance of sums declared in accounts in line with Article 137 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, while Audit Authority takes into account results of system audits performance on CA level and audit of operations;
- till 15th February in next year after finishing accounting year:
 - develops audit opinion on accounts and summary of final auditor reports and control on the base of Article 127 (5) letter (a) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 59(5) of Regulation (EU, EURATOM) No 966/2012
 - prepares a control report setting out the main findings of the audits carried out, including findings with regard to deficiencies found in the management and control systems, and the proposed and implemented corrective actions in line with Article 127 (5) letter (b) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013.
- the AA shall, within eight months of adoption of an operational programme, prepare an audit strategy for performance of audits in line with Article 127 (4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013.

Group of Auditors

A Group of Auditors (GoA) may be set up to assist the AA. The representatives of the GoA will be appointed by the concerned Member State. Auditors from Slovakia will be nominated by the Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic while auditors from Hungary will be nominated by the AA directly. It shall draw up its own Rules of Procedure and shall be chaired by the AA. The AA and the auditors appointed to the GoA shall be independent from the management and control system of the Programme.

Monitoring Committee (MC)

Monitoring Committee shall perform its tasks in accordance with Article 49 of the Regulation (EU) No. 1303/2013 and shall be responsible for selection of projects in accordance with Article 12 of the Regulation (EU) No. 1299/2013.

After adoption of the Cooperation Programme when establishing the MC and finalizing the Rules of Procedure, Article 5 of the Regulation (EU) No. 1303/2013 and Article 4 of Commission delegated regulation (EU) No 240/2014 of 7 January 2014 on the European code of conduct on partnership in the framework of the European Structural and Investment Funds will be respected. Members of the MC shall have relevant expertise, experience on territorial development, cooperation programmes and networking. The MC shall be:

- a) competent regional, local, urban and other public authorities,
- b) economic and social partners,
- c) independent bodies representing civil society, such as environmental partners, non-governmental organisations, and bodies responsible for promoting social inclusion, gender equality and non-discrimination. Their involvement would be ensured by taking into account their experience and knowledge in the eligible area and the recommendation of the counties.

Appropriate composition of the MC will ensure that on the national level only relevant partners (state and regional authorities, independent bodies representing civil society according to the TO of the CP) are involved in the preparation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the cooperation programme.

The MC shall review the implementation of the programme and progress towards achieving its objectives, and more specifically the functions listed in Article 110 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013. It will select the projects financed by the cooperation programme. The MC will also adopt the methodology, criteria for selection of projects and the eligibility rules. The detailed provisions will be drawn up in the Monitoring Committee's rules of procedure.

A separate Monitoring Subcommittee/Monitoring Subcommittees is foreseen to be established for the management of SPFs. Its/their establishment should be decided by the Monitoring Committee at the beginning of the implementation of the programme. Its/their competences, as well as their working arrangements, including the relationship with the MC, will be defined by the MC in the Rules of Procedure of the Monitoring Subcommittee.

5.3.2 Management verification

Member states shall establish the national system for the control of projects implemented under the Programme and ensuring that the system functions effectively and in accordance with the provisions and principles of the Programme;

In accordance with Article 23 of the Regulation (EU) No. 1299/2013 the Slovak Republic and Hungary entrusted entities with the performance of verification pursuant to Article 125 paragraph 4 a) of the Regulation (EU) No. 1303/2013 (hereinafter referred to as "controllers").

The designated controllers of the programme will work in the frame of:

- the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the SR in Slovakia,
- Széchenyi Programme Office with its regional offices
- Prime Minister's Office (in case of Hungarian TA Beneficiaries)

A controller shall verify the delivery of co-financed products and services, expenditure reported by beneficiaries, and the compliance with the valid legislation, Programme rules and subsidy contract. Such verification includes an administrative check of expenditure incurred to beneficiaries, and on the spot verifications (during the project implementation). On the spot verifications shall be performed upon a sample of projects.

5.3.3 Project cycle description

Provision of information on the Programme and consultations

The JS and Info Points shall provide applicants with information on the Programme and consultations on project ideas. Moreover, the Info Points shall initiate project ideas, provide assistance and support in interconnecting (networking) project partners, and organize trainings for applicants.

Submission of project applications

The process of project selection will be organised as calls for proposals with earmarked allocation. The schedule of calls as well as allocation available for each of them will be proposed by the MA and NA. Within the calls for proposals the applicants submit to the JS, by the stated deadline, the prepared project proposals with all the required attachments.

General principles of projects assessment

The system of projects selection will be effective, transparent and objective. The systems' effectiveness is to ensure that only the projects, which meet the condition of optimal expenditure-result relation and which suit the current social-economic needs of the cross-border area best, are selected. One of the key criteria will be the analysis of planned institutional, organisational and financial durability of the effects that are to be achieved. In order to guarantee transparency of the system, it will include mechanisms to guarantee that persons responsible for evaluation are impartial (e.g. declaration of impartiality) and not influenced by any external parties not involved in the evaluation process. The system of project selection will take into account the need for balance between the necessity of ensuring in-depth evaluation and the quickness and efficiency of the process of evaluation of a large number of applications. The procedure of call for applications provides for a certain degree of standardisation of the evaluation method to reduce the level of subjectivity of evaluators and to ensure that various evaluations are comparable. This is also crucial due to the need to ensure the possibility of tracing the path of selection of a given project as part of the Programme auditing and inspection activities. Detailed rules and project selection criteria will be approved by the MC.

Formal and eligibility assessment

Upon submission of project applications the formal compliance and eligibility assessment is carried out in order to verify whether:

- the submitted application fulfils all the required formal and eligibility criteria,
- the project and its planned activities comply with national and EU legislation as well as programme rules,
- the submitted project is ready to be implemented (including formal and legal readiness, the complete and comprehensive division of tasks and responsibilities of the project partners),
- all other conditions set at the programme level for the project to receive co-financing have been met.

Quality assessment

The quality assessment is conducted by the JS and a team of experts specializing in particular themes and subjects, having knowledge on the cross-border cooperation and being able to assess both the expected level of co-operation of the project partners during the project implementation and the impact of the project on local and/or regional community on both sides of the border.

All assessments shall be carried out upon the common methodology and criteria specified in advance to be approved by MC. Formal and eligibility assessment shall be performed by the JS staff. The logistics of the activities related to the quality assessment lies with the JS. The results of the both assessments are archived by the JS.

Assessment summary and decision on selection of projects

The decision to award co-financing to a given project is based on the MC selection. The MC makes its decision based on assessment materials received from the JS. The principles of decision-making are stipulated in the MC Rules of Procedure.

Legal commitment of ERDF resources

The JS informs the applicants about the MC decisions. Subsequently the JS prepares all the documents necessary for drafting the ERDF Subsidy Contract, which constitutes the basis of awarding the ERDF grant. The ERDF Subsidy Contract is signed between the Managing Authority and the project's Lead Beneficiary.

Implementation of projects

Projects shall be implemented in accordance with terms and conditions specified in the ERDF Subsidy Contract. The Lead Beneficiary as well as other beneficiaries shall perform activities specified in the approved grant application.

Monitoring and control (check) of projects

The joint monitoring IT system (IMIS 2014-2020), will be used for monitoring the project implementation. Since the Lead Beneficiary principle is applied, the project monitoring and project verification is to be carried out at two levels. The first one is the national level, where every beneficiary submits information on implemented activities and expenditure incurred to be verified by the respective controller. The second level is the project level, where the whole project implementation is verified by the JS.

Payments to beneficiaries

Payments of funds to beneficiaries are performed by the Certifying Authority from the funds received from the EU budget.

Examination of complaints

The projects will be selected by the MC. In case the applicant has objections against the decision, he/she can submit official complaint to the MA asking for examination of the assessment process. Managing Authority will set up a complaint board (representatives of the MA, NA and JS) which will handle the complaint. If the complaint board finds out that the complaint had been relevant, the project will be resubmitted to the MC for reconsideration. In the case that the complaint board will consider the complaint irrelevant, the complaint will be rejected and the new decision of the MC will not be needed. Assessment Manual – which will be approved by the MC – will set up procedures which have to be followed by the Applicants and programme management organization in case of complaints.

In Hungary in case the complaint is submitted against FLC, the National Authority has the right to investigate it and to make decision according to national legislation. In case of irregularity detected on the territory of Hungary, remedy is regulated according to national legislation.

In Slovakia Beneficiary will receive FLC Draft Report. Within stated period of time Beneficiary may react on findings of the FLC Draft Report and submit a complaint according to national legislation. The FLC shall investigate it and decide whether there are reasons for acceptance or refusing of the complaint of the

Beneficiary and issue a Report with final decision and detailed reasoning. Every refused complaint must be duly reasoned by the FLC.

The procedure described above is without prejudice to any mechanism or process for legal redress at national level.

Arrangements on public procurement provisions

The projects are implemented in line with the EU and national regulations on public procurement. More detailed regulations will be laid down in programme documents and at the level of the co-financing agreement and partnership agreement. Capacity for meeting the requirements of the EU procurement rules at beneficiaries will be ensured by Call for proposals (i.e. eligible cost of public procurement experts). These capacities at programme management bodies are guaranteed by own staff and also by external expertise if needed.

In order to address the specific needs of people at highest risk of discrimination or social exclusion (e.g. marginalised Roma, long-term unemployed), the Member States will apply social considerations in public procurement through contract performance clauses to support their employment in case it corresponds to the national legislation.

5.3.4 The management of Small Project Fund

Expert interviews and focus group workshops during the first phase of the programme elaboration have brought to light a great interest among small civil society organizations to take part in cross-border development activities but which – due to their limited organizational capacity and experience or the small budget of their projects – are not eligible for support through other priorities of the programme. This interest was also supported by regional authorities and the results of the cohesion analysis of the border region (see the chapters dedicated to Social cohesion: there is a need for a stronger cohesion between the populations of both countries and for an improvement of bilingualism). A possible way to enable small NGOs to participate in the programme is the introduction of a Small Project Fund into the programme.

The Small Project Fund might be implemented through two umbrella projects financed from priorities 1 and 4. Every umbrella project will be managed by a single Lead Beneficiary (in accordance with the Article 9, 11, 22 and 12(3) of the ETC Regulation, prospectively two EGTCs playing the role of intermediary body except for tasks of financial management who will be responsible for setting up a partnership at project level. Procedures for the selection of the Lead Beneficiaries including the minimum requirements and selection criteria (eg. financial conditions, proof of solvency, professional experiences in CBC, professional indemnity insurance, internal reporting and control arrangements, staffing requirements, accounting policies and procedures, service level agreements, etc.) will be drawn up by the MA and approved by the MC. Based on these criteria the MC will decide on the Lead Beneficiaries.

5.3.5 The management of the Technical Assistance

Activities covered by the TA will be financed using the project management approach. All programme management activities (i.e., the work of the JS, the development and the management of the Monitoring and Information system, information and publicity activities of the Programme, etc.) to be reimbursed by the TA budget shall be prepared in the form of 'TA projects'.

TA projects are implemented by programme management bodies, also by AA and CA. TA projects have to be previously approved by the MC. Reimbursements will take place on the basis of incurred and paid expenditures subject to a regular control. Detailed information will be presented in the relevant manual.

5.4 Apportionment of liabilities

Apportionment of liabilities between involved countries in case of financial revisions from MA or EC

5.4.1 Reduction and recovery of payments from beneficiaries

According to Article 27 of the Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013 the MA shall ensure that any amount paid as a result of an irregularity is recovered from the lead or sole beneficiary. Beneficiaries shall repay to the Lead Beneficiary any amounts unduly paid.

The MA shall also recover funds from the Lead Beneficiary (and the Lead Beneficiary from the beneficiary) following a termination of the subsidy contract in full or in part based on the conditions defined in the subsidy contract.

If the Lead Beneficiary does not succeed in securing repayment from another beneficiary or if the MA does not succeed in securing repayment from the Lead Beneficiary or sole beneficiary, the Member States, depending on whose territory the beneficiary concerned is located or, in the case of an EGTC, is registered, shall reimburse the MA any amounts unduly paid to that beneficiary based on Article 27 (3) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013 [ETC].

In parallel to / after reimbursement of the irrecoverable amount by the Member States to the MA, the Member States hold the right to secure repayment from the beneficiary or sole beneficiary located on its territory, if necessary through legal action. For this purpose the MA and the Lead Beneficiary shall assign their rights arising from the ERDF Subsidy Contract and the partnership agreement to the Member States in question.

The MA shall be responsible for reimbursing the amounts concerned to the general budget of the Union in accordance with the apportionment of liabilities among the participating Member States as laid down in this cooperation programme and in Article 27 of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013 [ETC].

In the case of irregularities discovered, for example, by the Court of Auditors or by the EC, which result in certain expenditures being considered ineligible and in a financial correction being the subject of a EC decision on the basis of Articles 136 to 139 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 [CPR], the financial consequences for the Member States are laid down in the section 'liabilities and irregularities' below.

Any related exchange of correspondence between the EC and Member States will be copied to the MA/Joint Secretariat. The latter will inform the MA/CA and the AA where relevant.

5.4.2 Liabilities and irregularities among participating Member States in case of financial corrections imposed by the managing authority or the Commission

The MSs will bear liability in connection with the use of the programme ERDF funding as follows:

- Each MS bears liability for possible financial consequences of irregularities caused by the beneficiary located on its territory in the proportion of ERDF claim to the EC for the period, which forms the basis for the financial correction.
- For a systemic irregularity or financial correction on programme level that cannot be linked to a specific MS, the liability shall be jointly and equally borne by the MSs.
- For systemic irregularity or financial correction (the latter decided by the EC), the Member States shall bear the financial consequences in proportion to the relevant irregularity detected on the respective Member States territory.
- In case of irregularities that result from the actions and decisions made by the Managing Authority, the Certifying Authority and/or the Joint Secretariat, liability towards the European Commission and the Monitoring Committee is borne by the Member State hosting the Managing Authority, the Certifying Authority and/or the Joint Secretariat.

If the MA/Joint Secretariat, the CA, any Member State becomes aware of irregularities, it shall without any delay inform the liable Member State or the MA/Joint Secretariat. The latter will ensure the transmission of information to the CA and AA/group of auditors, where relevant.

5.4.3 Use of the Euro

According to the Article 28 (b) of the Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013 expenditure incurred in a currency other than the euro shall be converted into euro by the beneficiaries using the monthly accounting exchange rate of the Commission in the month during which that expenditure was submitted for verification to the MA or the controller in accordance with Article 23 of this Regulation.

5.4.4 Involvement of partners

In line with the provisions of the Regulations (EU)(1303/2013), (1299/2013) and the Delegated Act (C(2013)9651) the authorities responsible for the preparation of the programme set up a wide partnership as one of the first steps of the programming procedure. Ministries, NUTS3 institutions, scientists, researchers, experts of regional development, EGTCs, experts for Roma issues, umbrella organizations of commerce and industry, professional associations, regional development agencies, local actions groups, etc. were all invited to participate in the preparations of the operational programme. A complete list of relevant partners invited is included in Chapter 9.3. In addition information related to programming events was also made public through the website of the programme: <http://www.husk-cbc.eu/>.

Before starting the programming the relevant authorities of both countries set up a joint Task Force for Strategic Planning and Programming in order to supervise the programming procedure. The Task Force consists of representatives of central government bodies and NUTS 3 regions and other partners in line with the Delegated Regulation 240/2014 (associations of municipalities, other professional associations) and its main task is among others to decide on preparation of all the relevant documents concerning the programming process of the new programming period 2014 – 2020 as well as its priorities.

From the beginning the programming methodology followed a strictly participative approach. During September and October 2013 the planners conducted a total of 30 individual in-depth interviews with stakeholders (ministries, NUTS 3 institutions, associations of municipalities, researchers, experts for Roma issues, professional associations) from both sides of the border with the view to gather inputs concerning the territorial, social and economic cohesion of the region and its development challenges. Moreover 3

focus group interviews and workshops aimed at gathering inputs concerning the development needs of the programme area were also held in Esztergom (3rd of October 2013), Dunajská Streda (11th October 2013) and Košice (14th October 2013) with a total of 139 participants. Further workshops concerning:

- the programme strategy (Tatabánya, 2nd December 2013),
- Integrated territorial investments (Gödöllő, 12th December 2013),
- indicative actions (Banská Bystrica, 5th February 2014),
- programme indicators (Budapest, 6th February 2014),
- implementation issues (Budapest, 18th February 2014),
- small project fund (Budapest, 25th February 2014),
- ex ante evaluation results (Budapest, 31st March 2014),
- implementation issues (Bratislava, 3rd April 2014),
- small project fund (Budapest, 21st May 2014),

were also held and their valuable inputs were taken into account while drafting the programme. Meeting minutes and participant satisfaction surveys were prepared for each meeting and distributed to the relevant parties.

The public hearing process on the Operational Programme draft and the Strategic Environmental Assessment report have also given a good opportunity for stakeholder participation and involvement. Public hearing events were organized according to the national legislation. The partnership events contributed significantly to the strategic choices during the planning process, as

- in choice of the thematic objectives and investment priority,
- defining actions to be supported under the priority axes,
- defining beneficiaries.

Representatives of the EGTCs operating along the SK-HU border line have been interviewed, invited to the workshops (some of them also gave presentation) and the meetings of the Task Force. Similarly to other stakeholders, EGTCs were permanently informed on the shaping of the CP both via email and personally at the EGTC workshops organised quarterly by CESCO.

The partnership principle will be properly applied also in the process of implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the programme. At CP level the partnership concerning monitoring and evaluation will be enabled through the membership in the MC. Many of the partners currently involved in the preparation of the cooperation programme are foreseen to be involved in the MC in the future. Continuity between the preparation and implementation and monitoring will be ensured through the organisations or people involved in both the preparation and later the implementation and monitoring. Having a link between preparation and later implementation contributes to good management of the programme and achievement of the objectives.

6 COORDINATION

6.1 Coordination with the Operational Programmes of Hungary and Slovakia

In relation to national investment programmes financed from the resources of the ESIF, the coherence is ensured with the Partnership Agreements of both Hungary and Slovakia and at the same time, coordination is needed in cases, where there is a possible overlap of thematic priorities. The Government of SR (Central Coordination Authority (CCA)), who is responsible for coordination of management of ESIF in the period 2014–2020, performs the following measures ensuring cooperation and synergies:

- Active cooperation and offering methodological guidance in creation of management systems in purpose of unifying steps and eliminating risks.
- Regarding the monitoring as tool for ESIF management, CCA is following the fulfilment of cohesion and ETC objectives of OPs.
- Official establishment of working group, for the purpose of coordination between implemented cohesion objectives and other financial instruments. Member of the Government of SR, responsible for coordination of using financial sources from EU funds, will lead working group with members representing institutions responsible for programmes' implementation.
- In case of necessity it is possible to create ad-hoc working group for coordination in MC, where the members will be the representatives of the relevant programmes.
- Complementarity between the RDP 2014-2020 and Interreg V-A SK-HU will be ensured in accordance with ESIF on the national level by CCA and also in cooperation with Section of Rural Development in MoARD. The coordination will be also ensured through meetings and discussions with representatives of MoARD dealing with RDP. Further coordination, complementarity will be guaranteed also by their membership in MC.

The Government of Hungary ensures the coordination of the Interreg V-A SK-HU with the national OPs via the active cooperation of the responsible Management Authorities and implementation bodies:

- Cooperation and offering methodological guidance in creation of management systems in purpose of unifying steps and eliminating risks.
- Regarding the monitoring as tool for ESIF management, the Prime Minister's Office is following the fulfilment of cohesion and ETC objectives of OPs.
- Official establishment of working group, for the purpose of coordination between implemented cohesion objectives and other financial instruments. The responsible ministry for coordination of using financial sources from EU funds will lead the working group with members representing institutions responsible for programmes' implementation.
- In case of necessity it is possible to create ad-hoc working groups for coordination in MC, where the members will be the representatives of the relevant programmes.
- In Hungary the Prime Minister's Office – in its capacity as responsible for the implementation of RDP by the State Secretary for agricultural and rural development – will ensure the coordinated approach by the rural development programmes via its internal processes.

PRIORITY AXIS1: NATURE & CULTURE

Concerning the Hungarian mainstream OPs the EDIOP, the Economic Development and Innovation OP needs special coordination effort regarding the Interreg V-A SK-HU as both programmes target the same investment priority 6c. On the level of activities, a possible overlap may occur in the first activity, supporting the development of cultural heritage sites. This can be handled by stressing the cross border impact of projects financed through the Interreg V-A SK-HU.

In relation of the Slovakian mainstream OPs none of the 9 mainstream operational programmes does include the investment priority targeted by the Interreg V-A SK-HU - namely 6c - Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage, therefore no special coordination activities are needed at the level of investment priorities. Although some of the actions included in OP Quality of Environment PA1 IP 6d targeted at ecosystem services are similar to some of the activities included in the Interreg V-A SK-HU, due to the strict cross border nature of the supported actions in the Programme, the risk of double financing is minimal.

The Hungarian Territorial Operational Programme and the Slovakian RIUS have a strong territorial approach by selecting operations through the Territorial Selection System. Coordination mechanism with a focus on seeking synergies in relevant investments will be provided.

Both the Hungarian RDP (PAs 4A, 6A and 6B) and the Slovakian RDP (PA 4) do have priorities, where coordination efforts are needed to avoid overlap and to seek synergies with the specific objective of SO11. The Interreg V-A SK-HU and the RDP in Slovakia focus on protection of environment from different aspects. The Slovak RDP within Priority 4 is aiming on restoration, preservation and enhancing of ecosystems with activities linked directly to farming and forestry. It is planned to implement projects with the objective to provide farmers, foresters or entrepreneur with information and knowledge about preservation of nature. Beneficiaries will get guidance how to practice farming or forestry with special aspect on environment protection or will get directly incentives for environmentally friendly farming. The Hungarian RDP puts particular emphasis on actions related to restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry with actions contributing to increase the competitiveness of farmers, especially young farmers. Moreover, Hungary will target interventions for farmers for using environment/climate-friendly land management practices, including organic farming etc. Priority Axis "Knowledge transfer and innovation in agriculture, forestry and rural areas" will address the training, information actions, exchanges and farm visits, advisory services and the training of advisors. An important element is innovation where support will be provided to strengthen the link between agriculture, food and forestry sectors.

The Interreg V-A SK-HU within SO11 supports maintenance of nature and cultural heritage, where farmers as beneficiaries will be not included. The focus of this priority will be different compared to the RDP. The main activities will be related to protection of environment and cultural heritage - preservation of nature and protection of cultural heritage, and building small infrastructure in order to attract tourists and make the border regions more attractive (e.g. to green infrastructure, linked with development of tourism and similar).

PRIORITY AXIS 2: ENHANCING CROSS-BORDER MOBILITY

The Hungarian ITOP, Integrated Transport Development OP and the Slovakian Integrated Infrastructure Development OP are focusing on transport infrastructure and service development as well as urban and suburban network development. They are not dealing with the specific cross-border crossing points included in the Interreg V-A SK-HU. Hungarian ITOP mentions the need of elimination of obstacles at former border crossing stations but these do not form part of the Interreg V-A SK-HU.

Hungarian EDIOP includes interventions in the field of. Interreg V-A SK-HU can complement these interventions with a cross-border aspect. Besides that, the planning of these infrastructural developments are dealt with on the highest governmental planning level, therefore the coordination among the relevant OPs will be assured continuously.

PRIORITY AXIS 3: PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE AND QUALITY EMPLOYMENT, AND SUPPORTING LABOUR MOBILITY

Among the Slovakian and Hungarian Operational programmes, the following linkages can be identified:

- Slovak Operational Programme of Human Resources, the Priority no. 1. Employment, the measure 1.1. Improving the access to employment for job seekers and inactive people, including local employment initiatives and labour force mobility.
- Hungarian Operational Programme of Economic Development and Innovation, the Priority no. 5. Employment and training.
- Hungarian Territorial OP, the Priority 6. Human development in the counties and localities, promotion of employment and social co-operation.
- Hungarian Operational Programme for the Competitive Central Hungary, the Priority 6. Programmes for promoting employability.

There is no overlap between these measures and the investment priority 3.1. of the Interreg V-A SK-HU, because it improves the conditions of employment and cross-border labour mobility as a result of integrated projects. The main difference is that the increase of the employment appears as a result of integrated projects and the cross-border attitude in the Interreg V-A SK-HU. Nevertheless, concerning these measures, a special attention should be paid to avoid double financing of projects, which are implemented within these measures and within the Priority Axis 3 of the Interreg V-A SK-HU.

- Hungarian Operational Programme of Human Resources, Priority No. 5. Financial means for strengthening social co-operation, promoting social innovation and transnational cooperation.

There is no possibility of the overlapping with the investment priority 3.1 of the Interreg V-A SK-HU, because the aim of the Implementation of local strategies, social innovation and transnational co-operation is the improvement of local initiatives for equal opportunities.

The Hungarian TOP and the Slovakian RIUS have a strong territorial approach by selecting operations through the Territorial Selection System. Special coordination mechanism with a focus on seeking synergies in relevant investments will be provided.

- Among the other Slovakian and Hungarian OPs, there is no other OP specialized for integrated territorial approach and for the development of endogenous potentials as a part of a territorial strategy.

Both the Hungarian RDP (PA 6A) and the Slovakian RDP (PA 6) do have priorities, where coordination efforts are needed to avoid overlap and to seek synergies and complementarities with the specific objective of SO31. The Interreg V-A SK-HU is going to fund actions plans under PA3 to support employment. The

synergies and complementarity in case that the action plan will include rural development issues (agriculture, diversification) will be consulted with MA responsible for RDP in order to achieve complementarity and avoid overlapping. Coordination with RDPs in Slovakia and Hungary will be ensured by inviting the programme authorities to the MC meetings, consulting the calls for proposals with the relevant authorities in Slovakia and Hungary before submitting the documents to the MC for approval, discussing the relevant topics during national consultation.

PRIORITY AXIS 4: ENHANCING CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION OF PUBLIC AUTHORITIES AND PEOPLE LIVING IN THE BORDER AREA

The Slovak Operation Program of Effective Public Administration contains 1 priority:

1) Improvement the efficiency of the public administration and the institutional capacity

Within the first priority the following specific objectives are supported:

- 1.1. System improvement and process optimization with a focus on citizens and businesses
- 1.2. Modernisation of SALW and increasing staff competencies
- 1.3. Increasing the efficiency of the judicial system and law enforcement
- 1.4. Ensuring transparent and effective public procurement rules and promoting consistent application of the principles 3E

There is no risk of the overlap of the specific objectives of the OP Effective Public Administration with the investment priority 4.1 of the Interreg V-A SK-HU because the 1st Priority of the Effective Public Administration OP is concentrating on state administration in Slovakia, and on optimisation of the internal system. No cross border attitude appears within these two measures.

Concerning the measure 1.2 Modernisation of SALW and increasing staff competencies of the OP Effective Administration a special attention should be paid to avoid double financing of projects, which are implemented within this measure and within the Interreg V-A SK-HU focusing on enhancing of the institutional capacity of some Slovak public institutions.

Among the Hungarian OPs, there is no OP specialized for effective administration or building the institutional capacity of public institutions.

6.2 Coordination with the European Union Strategy for the Danube Region

The Interreg V-A SK-HU Programme can contribute to the interventions of the EUSDR in three different ways:

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

Correspondence of the given project to the priorities of the EUSDR is to be evaluated with premium scores during the evaluation (with a maximum of 2% of maximum scores). 12. Table in Annex 1 shows the synergies between the EUSDR priority areas and the specific objectives of the Interreg V-A SK-HU Programme.

The Interreg V-A SK-HU Programme can make use of the Budapest Danube Contact Point (BDCP) for supporting coordination and joint planning actions in areas of mutual interest. The BDCP is an organization established by the Government of Hungary and the European Investment Bank to support the joint development of transnational functional regions. BDCP facilitates cooperation among different programs and stakeholders on the international, national or regional level. BDCP can be invited to MC meetings on request.

National co-ordinators responsible for implementation of Danube Strategy can be invited to the MC meetings on request. Ensuring the synergies between the CP and the Danube Strategy, the PA co-ordinators of the Danube Strategy shall be consulted by the MC.

7 REDUCTION OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE BURDENS

7.1 Assessment of the administrative burden of beneficiaries

The on-going evaluation of the Hungary-Slovakia Cross Border Programme 2007-2013, which was carried out in 2012 and 2013, gives valuable information on administrative requirements imposed on beneficiaries by bodies responsible for the programmes implementation. Even though the project application procedure of the programme is deemed to be the simplest and advanced amongst similar regional development programmes the evaluation revealed certain opportunities for improvement. The most important are as follows:

- **Paperwork on project level.** The on-going evaluation revealed that project reporting requires too much documentation or paperwork.
- **Internal institutional communication.** Communication barriers between the FLC and the JTS, regarding the projects were also identified.
- **Payment and progress report approval deadlines.** The time spent with progress report approvals or transferring the approved payments, is stretching over the signed contractual boundaries.
- **Electronic data processing.** The inefficiency of IMIS uploads came up especially regarding the upload of the financial plans.
- **Lack of process differentiation in projects types.** The evaluation revealed that the project selection and approval process could be significantly improved with the introduction of a two tier approach.
- **Differences in national legislations.** Joint governmental co-operation should be improved to detect and override legislative barriers due to different national legislative framework (technical standards, public procurement) and promote cross border territorial co-operation of funding institutions.
- Project feasibility studies do not reflect real needs of the programme.

7.2 Main actions planned to reduce the administrative burden

Already during the 2007-2013 period several steps were taken by the MA and JTS of the programme to reduce or remove some of the complexities related to administrative and financial management and reporting of projects. As a result of these actions the on-going evaluation concludes that while starting with quite high time requirements, the programme run along a successful learning curve and managed to decrease not just the average time needs between approvals and transfers but also the deviations from the average.

Simplified verification of costs will be applied through flat rates, unit prices, lump sums in line with Articles 67 and 68 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and with implementation of the Commission Regulation (EU) No 481/2014 in cases, when it contributes to decreasing of administrative burden, while the experiences of MA, JS and FLC will be taken into account from period 2007–2013. The prescription of the Commission Regulation (EU) No 481/2014 has been taken into account already at the time of drafting the Programme.

The simplified cost options that have been made available and are also planned to be used for projects foreseen under the Small Project Fund in PA1 and PA4.

They are foreseen to reduce the amount of needed paperwork and to speed up the reporting and control procedures. The cost simplification will be built in line with the relevant provisions of the Regulation (EU)

1303/2013, furthermore the experience of the MA, CA and JS of the current period as well as that of the FLC's will be taken into account.

Application of e-Cohesion principles on programme level also offer many opportunities for simplification. The Regulation(EU) 1303/2013 (Article 112(3)) states that at the latest by the end of 2015 programmes should ensure that all data exchanges between beneficiaries and programme authorities should be carried out electronically. More precisely the e-Cohesion initiative for the structural funds sets the following minimum requirements for electronic data exchange in the 2014 - 2020 period:

- Electronic exchange – only for post-award processes;
- 'Only once' encoding + interoperability – within the same OP;
- Minimum technical requirements as data integrity + confidentiality, authentication of the sender (Directive 1999/93/EC), storage in compliance with defined retention rules (Article 132 of the Regulation (EU) 1303/2013)
- No technical requirements on software platforms and protocols;
- Electronic audit trail -in compliance with Art. 112, 132 + national requirements on the availability of documents.

The electronic data exchange system operated under HU-SK CBC Programme 2007-2013 already largely complied with these norms. The Interreg V-A Slovakia-Hungary will continue to operate fully in line with these principles from the start of the programme period. Actions foreseen under Priority axis 5 (TA) and described in Chapter 2.5.3. will have a positive impact on the overall reduction of administrative burden for beneficiaries especially on the following fields:

- Simplified verification of costs;
- Reduction of the the amount of needed paperwork and to speed up the reporting and control procedures;
- Simplified application by application of e-Cohesion principles.

The above actions planned to reduce the administrative burden will be introduced till the first calls for proposals will be published.

8 HORIZONTAL PRINCIPLES

8.1 Sustainable development

The selected operations of the programme contribute to the requirements of environmental protection, resource efficiency, reduction climate change mitigation and adaptation to this change, resistant towards disasters, avoiding risks and risk management, at the same time enables shift towards the quality prevention of environmental resources.

The entire programme strategy is built around the concept of a sustainable development, some objectives, priorities and individual interventions are directly focused on the promotion of technology development and infrastructural developments for the low carbon economy, resource efficient and environmental friendly developments.

SO11 serves to increase the attractiveness of the border area in order to make it an attractive place for its inhabitants, visitors and businesses, and will support actions for maintaining and promoting cross border natural and cultural heritage, developing of environmentally friendly tourism products and offers, as well as border infrastructure for eco-tourism.

PA2 has also been designed to contribute to the sustainable development of the area through the development of cross-border public transport and logistic services. Intelligent transportation systems (ITS) provide different services and enhance the intermodality preferring environmentally sound solutions and low ghg emission. When developing facilities improving the level of cross-border mobility and transport of goods the priority also contributes to the fulfilment of the EU 2020 targets, especially through **IP7b and IP7c**. The actions of the **SO221 and SO222 also** contribute to the fulfilment of EU 2020 targets concerning the decrease of ghg emission, and to the fulfilment of EU 2020 targets and the White Paper 2011 objectives on resource efficiency. Investment to inland waterways/ infrastructure under this priority will be implemented in accordance with Art.4 of the Directive 2000/60/EC, the river basin management will be respected. The coordination will be insured by the attendance of MC members from the Ministries of Environment as a responsible body for Water management. The call for proposals will be consulted with the respective representatives from the Ministry of Environment.

PA3 also address the strategic development of territories with specific natural and cultural resources through promoting the development of endogenous potential of specific areas. This PA also focuses on the utilization of endogenous potentials of areas and improves the accessibility to cultural, natural resources that contributes to the underlying principle of sustainability. The potential actions cover activities aiming to boost local economy (local products, low energy consumption, short-distance transport etc.) or to revitalise rust belts in the regions with declined heavy industry.

The clear contribution to sustainable development will be eligibility criteria in the selection procedure. Project proposals are only eligible if the project objectives and activities do not conflict with the principles of sustainable development and the contribution to the aspects of resource efficiency is preferred criteria. The project owners will be obliged to justify that the project contributes to the EU 2020 targets by choosing 3 fields at least from a matrix contained potential contributions.

Actions contributing to the Climate change and energy sustainability targets for the EU 2020 are listed in 13. Table, Annex 1.

The **PA4** Enhancing cross-border cooperation of public authorities and people living in the border area has also been designed to strongly contribute to the sustainable development of the area through the improving the level of cross border inter- institutional cooperation. Within this priority the actions focusing on strengthening the cooperation capacity and efficiency between different organizations of particular

sectors (e.g. education, health care, culture, etc.), on improvement of cross-border services, development of necessary small infrastructure and focusing on common promotion of borderland will be supported. In all of the priority axes under the guiding principles for the selection of operations the following criteria should be applied:

- At the level of project assessment and selection, due attention will be paid to the environmental protection requirements, climate change mitigation and adaptation, but also to the policy's economical aspect: efficiency and rational approach of the projects to funds and resources.
- In case of transport development energy and resource efficiency and the aspect of smart urban and regional mobility should be promoted.
- For projects involving building construction and/or renovation climate-friendly architectural solutions should be chosen, and cost-optimal levels of energy performance according to Directive 2010/31/EU are required, and projects going beyond cost-optimal levels are favoured.
- If a project involves purchasing products the requirements set out in Annex III of the Energy Efficiency Directive (2012/27/EU) should be requested.
- In case of road constructions silent road surface for road constructions in populated areas can be requested.
- In case of purchasing vehicles for the improvement of the transport conditions, silent modes shall be taken into account.
- In case investments negatively affect nature, fauna and flora, and biodiversity, only projects should be selected, where investments are accompanied by compensatory measures and damage mitigation.

8.2 Equal opportunities and non-discrimination

The border region displays similar and complementary features in social conditions, at the same time. The biggest challenge on this field is to seek a solution and instruments for decreasing social disparities between the West and the East, and for establishment of inclusive social development. The eastern part of the programme area can be considered the typical targeted region of EU 2020 Strategy: the educated people are leaving the region, the level of qualification is low, and the rate of early school-leavers and that of poverty are high. The territorial analysis of the program reveals the disadvantaged situation of the following target groups:

- Roma people, young entrants, permanently unemployed.

In the field of equal opportunities, the cross-border programme addresses the needs of those facing multiple disadvantages, e.g., permanently unemployed, those from Roma and other ethnic minority communities. The following specific actions directly promote the equal opportunities:

- **PA2: Enhancing cross-border mobility** contributes to the improvement of accessibility within the region enhancing the cross-border mobility through the development of cross-border public transport and logistics services in order to reach a higher level of social cohesion and employment rate. By decreasing the closeness of border region the new infrastructure improves the attractiveness, contributes to job creation and makes available public services in a higher standard for the people living in underdeveloped territories.
- **PA3** reflects to the high differences in demographic features of the programme area, the high differences of urban and rural areas, the differences in the population density. The investment priority aims the main economic problem of the region, the fact of high level of unemployment.

Within the frame of this intervention extra efforts will be put on labour market initiatives and employment models directly aiming young starters, Roma and permanently unemployed people.

- In social field the **PA4** aims to mitigating the lack of cross-border education, social and other public services which can improve the preparedness of the people for working. The principle of equal opportunities is also reflected in the design of the indicators for monitoring and evaluation, and in the eligibility and project selection criteria to be applied under various measures.

The following criteria will be used as favoured in project selection: number of women or disadvantaged persons participating in joint education and training activities, events or using jointly developed facilities, number of new working places.

Actions contributing to the social targets for the EU 2020 are listed in 14. Table, Annex 1.

Contribution to national Roma inclusion strategies

The social conditions are very similar on both sides of the border. There is high rate of unemployed people, early school leavers and population suffering from poverty (mainly Roma people) in the Eastern counties. The operational programme facilitates the inclusion of the disadvantaged people, the combat against poverty and Roma inclusion. The following interventions are planned to improve the situation of the disadvantaged people or those living in poverty in the field of employment, on educational level, or skills and work culture. The operational programme connects to the national strategies with the following PAs and IPs:

- **PA3** gives the field for complex developments including the development of the economy, but altogether with educational, social, employment issues. The strategies may concern to labour intensive sectors also. The investment priority reinforces the protection of local markets and local production, revitalise rust belts and declining industrial zones by ensuring new ways of utilisation; improves the conditions of tourism; supports the social economy mainly in the regions with high level of poverty and Roma people. The IP may contribute to the goals of the national social inclusion strategies by improving the urban functions of available for the citizens from the other side of the border. The investment priority also gives the field for social innovation and employment initiatives, among these atypical forms of employment or public employment initiatives also. The possible targeted activities help the stakeholders in the interest of the employment of disadvantaged, enhances activities that encourages employment, and gives the possibility for labour market trainings.
- **PA3** may improve the legal regulation and institutional structures, contains measures and activities promoting the public service system, and measures establishing cooperation in the field of health, education, labour market information and common monitoring interface.

The operational programme contributes to the following goals of the Hungarian Inclusion Strategy and of the Strategy of the Slovak Republic for the integration of Roma up to 2020. (See 14. Table, in Annex 1.) In all of the priority axes under the guiding principles for the selection of operations the following criteria should be applied:

- Only projects could be selected, which are non-discriminatory and transparent and take into account gender equality and non-discrimination principles.
- In projects, where it is feasible, preference will be given on the social inclusion of people living in deep poverty and Roma in case of the employment initiatives.

8.3 Equality between men and women

In order to assure a match with the equality between men and women, the programme aims to increase and secure improved access to education for women, training and employment opportunities for women. In the frame of the **PA3** and **PA4**, the planned employment initiatives, background services promoting employment, joint education and training programmes, the organization of cultural events, performances, festivals, and trainings will give extra efforts to involve women, and disadvantaged groups.

As diverse research results demonstrate in the former communist states numerous forms of discrimination of women still have been existed from the remarkable differences in wages through low involvement to decision making to physical violence. Due to the limited instruments this programme is not capable to abolish these inequalities completely but can contribute to a better understanding and can give models for tackling these problems. Within the framework of different priority axes the equality principle will be used as follows:

- **PA 3 (TO 8):** The main objective of the PA is to increase the number of the jobs through the utilisation of endogenous potential of different sub-regions of the borderland. In several cases it means the restructuring of local economy, development of processes of local products and investing in social economy where women are over-represented. This tendency can be strengthened by awarding a higher level of involvement of women. Similarly, in the case of trainings a mandatory level of 50% of women's participation will be prescribed.
- **PA 4 (TO 11):** The main objective of the priority axis is to manage common learning processes and to create common solutions to similar or complementary problems on both sides of the border. In this process women can play a decisive role which is to be confirmed by a mandatory rate of involvement of women in the activities to be carried out. This prescription is to be used in activities realised out of SPF with the joint management of parallel or complementary institutions aiming to improve service provision in the borderland, mutual understanding, and bilingualism.

The national authorities responsible for programme implementation will ensure the meeting of the requirements of the above described three horizontal principles in harmony with the principles laid down in the Partnership Agreements of the two countries.

9 SEPARATE ELEMENTS

9.1 Major projects to be implemented during the programming period

The Interreg V-A Slovakia-Hungary does not contain major projects.

9.2 The performance framework of the cooperation programme

Priority axis	ID	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestone for 2018	Final target (2023)
PA1	CO02	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving grants	enterprises	0	40
PA1	K0001	Number of calls for SMEs	Number	1	1
PA1	CO13	Roads: Total length of newly built roads	Km	0	7
PA1	K0002	Elaborated technical documentation for road construction	Number	1	4
PA1	O11	Length of reconstructed and newly built 'green ways'	Km	9	89
PA1	CO23	Nature and biodiversity: Surface area of habitats supported in order to attain a better conservation status	Hectares	28 000	100 549
PA1	F0001	Total amount of submitted expenditure for validation	EUR	4 207 597	65 209 186
PA2	CO13	Roads: Total length of newly built roads	Km	0	9
PA2	K0002	Elaborated technical documentation for road construction	NA	1	3
PA2	O221	Number of new public transport services started within the framework of the programme	Piece	2	10
PA2	O222	Number of new logistic services started within the framework of the programme	Piece	1	10
PA2	F0001	Total amount of submitted expenditure for validation	EUR	2 627 144	40 715 389
PA3	O311	Number of (integrated territorial) action plans	Number	0	10
PA3	K0003	Selected action plans	Number	5	10
PA3	O314	Number of new business services promoting employment and consultancy services	number	5	15
PA3	CO44	Labour market and training: Number of participants in joint local employment initiatives and joint training	Persons	30	100
PA3	F0001	Total amount of submitted expenditure for validation	EUR	2 627 144	40 715 389

Priority axis	ID	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestone for 2018	Final target (2023)
PA4	O411	Number of cross border products and services developed	number	4	20
PA4	O412	Number of documents published or elaborated outside of the framework of SPF	number	5	40
PA4	O413	Number of cross border events	number	100	400
PA4	O414	Number of documents published or elaborated in the framework of SPF	number	50	200
PA4	F0001	Total amount of submitted expenditure for validation	EUR	1 656 117	25 666 448

9.3 List of relevant partners involved in the preparation of the cooperation programme

The following list includes organizations that were involved in the preparation of the Interreg V-A Slovakia-Hungary.

Members of the Interreg V-A Slovakia-Hungary Task Force:

1. Prime Minister's Office (HUN)
2. Ministry of Public Administration and Justice (HUN)
3. Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
4. Office of National Economic Planning on behalf of Ministry for National Economy (HUN)
5. Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County
6. Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County
7. Heves County
8. Nógrád County
9. Pest County
10. Komárom-Esztergom County
11. Győr-Moson-Sopron County
12. Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the SR
13. Banská Bystrica region
14. Bratislava region
15. Košice region
16. Nitra region
17. Trnava region
18. Representative of the European Commission
19. Central Coordinating Authority - Government Office of the SR
20. Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the SR
21. Association of Towns and Municipalities of SR
22. Association of Towns and Municipalities of HU

Organizations that attended the focus-group interviews and workshops in Esztergom, Dunajská Streda and Košice:

1. Esztergomi Európa Intézet
2. Regionálna rozvojová agentúra Južný región
3. INNONET Nonprofit Kft.
4. Ister-Granum EGTC
5. European Institute of Cross-Border Studies
6. Ipoly – Garam RFÜ
7. Észak-Alföldi Regionális Fejlesztési Ügynökség Nonprofit Kft.
8. Vysoká škola múzických umení v Bratislave
9. Mesto Šahy
10. Obec Svodín
11. Emberi Erőforrások Minisztériuma Kulturális Ágazat
12. Úrad Nitrianskeho samosprávneho kraja
13. Bay Zoltán Alkalmazott Kutatási Közhasznú Nonprofit Kft.
14. Regionálna rozvojová agentúra Južný región
15. Magyar Tudományos Akadémia Bölcsészettudományi Kutatóközpont, MTA BTK
16. Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg Megyei Területfejlesztési és Környezetgazdálkodási Ügynökség NKft.
17. Nyergesújfalu Város Önkormányzata
18. Széchenyi Programiroda
19. Nógrád Megyei Kereskedelmi és Iparkamara
20. Széchenyi István Egyetem
21. ECOVAST Egyesület
22. Komárom-Esztergom Megyei Kereskedelmi és Iparkamara
23. Balassagyarmat Város Önkormányzata
24. JTS of HU-SK CBC Programme 2007-2013
25. Forest Trade Kft.
26. Nógrádi Fejlesztési Ügynökség
27. Ipolydamásd Község Önkormányzata
28. Nógrád Megyei Önkormányzati Hivatal
29. Heves Megyei Vállalkozás és Területfejlesztési Alapítvány
30. Vidékfejlesztési Minisztérium Környezeti Fejlesztéspolitikai Főosztály
31. KIM Határon Átnyúló Területi Közigazgatási Kapcsolatok Főosztálya
32. Emberi Erőforrások Minisztériuma Egyházi, Nemzetiségi és Civil Társadalmi Kapcsolatokért Felelős Államtitkárság
33. Esztergomi Környezetkultúra Egyesület
34. Regionálna rozvojová agentúra Trnavského samosprávneho kraja
35. Arrabona EGTC
36. Výskumný ústav potravinársky Bratislava
37. Agripent s.r.o.
38. Heves Megyei Kereskedelmi és Iparkamara
39. Pons Danubii EGTC
40. Výskumný ústav potravinársky
41. Tata város önkormányzata
42. Bakony-Balaton Mechatronikai és Járműipari Klaszter
43. Közép-Dunántúli Regionális Fejlesztési Ügynökség
44. Nitrianska regionálna komora SOPK
45. Észak-dunántúli Vízügyi Igazgatóság
46. RRA Ister
47. Ústav ekonómie a manažmentu, Ekonomická univerzita v Bratislave
48. Közlekedésfejlesztési Koordinációs Központ
49. Győr-Moson-Sopron Megyei Önkormányzat
50. Mesto Tisovec
51. Košický samosprávny kraj
52. EZÚS Via Carpatia s ručením obmedzeným
53. Mesto Rožňava
54. Határmenti Régió Fejlesztéséért Alapítvány
55. Mesto Moldava nad Bodvou
56. Spišská regionálna rozvojová agentúra
57. Határmenti Régió Fejlesztéséért Alapítvány
58. EZÚS Euroregión Karpatia
59. Prešovská Univerzita vPrešove
60. Košice – Európske hlavné mesto kultúry 2013, n.o.
61. Aggteleki Nemzeti Park Igazgatóság

62. Nyugat-dunántúli Regionális Fejlesztési Ügynökség Közhasznú Nonprofit Kft.
63. Emberi Erőforrások Minisztérium, Egyházi, Nemzetiségi és Civil Társadalmi Kapcsolatokért Felelős Államtitkárság - Egyházi Kapcsolattartási és Együttműködési Főosztály
64. Norda Nonprofit Kft.
65. Szabolcs Szatmár Bereg Megyei Önkormányzat

66. Torna község önkormányzata
67. Obec Ždaňa
68. Novohrad-Nógrád EGTC
69. Akadémia ozbrojených síl g. M.R. Štefánika, Liptovský Mikuláš
70. Úrad Banskobystrického samosprávneho kraja
71. Slovenská obchodná a priemyselná komora, Kosická regionálna komora
72. SMJV Polgármesteri Hivatal

Organizations that attended the SWOT and strategy workshop in Tatabánya:

1. Széchenyi Programiroda
2. HUSK-JTS
3. Közlekedésfejlesztési Koordinációs Központ
4. Nemzeti Fejlesztési Ügynökség
5. KEMÖH
6. Komárom-Esztergom Megyei Önkormányzat
7. Vidékfejlesztési Minisztérium
8. Győr-Moson-Sopron Megyei Önkormányzat
9. NORDA Nonprofit Kft.
10. NGM
11. Komárom-Esztergom Megyei Önkormányzat
12. Pest Megye Önkormányzata

13. Észak-Alföldi Regionális Fejlesztési Ügynökség
14. Komárom-Esztergom Megyei Önkormányzati Hivatal
15. Úrad Košického samosprávneho kraja
16. EZÚS - Via Carpatia
17. Ministerstvo pôdohospodárstva a rozvoja vidieka SR
18. Bratislava self-governing region
19. Ministerstvo zahraničných vecí a európskych záležitostí SR
20. Trnavský samosprávny kraj
21. Úrad Banskobystrického samosprávneho kraja
22. EZÚS Pons Danubii (EGTC)

Organizations that attended the ITI workshop in Gödöllő:

1. Bratislavský samosprávny kraj
2. Arrabona EGTC
3. Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic
4. Ister-Granum EGTC
5. RRA Komárno
6. Nógrádi Fejlesztési Ügynökség
7. Közlekedésfejlesztési Koordinációs Központ
8. Regionálna Rozvojová Agentúra, Galanta
9. Gemerské Dechtáre
10. Komárom-Esztergom Megyei Önkormányzat, RDV EGTC
11. Jó Palóc Egyesület

12. Košický samosprávny kraj, Via Carpatia EGTC
13. Novohrad-Nógrád EGTC
14. Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg Megyei Önkormányzat
15. ÉMVIZIG
16. Abaúj Abaújban EGTC
17. Bodrogközi EGTC
18. Cserhát Vidékfejlesztési Egyesület
19. Nemzetgazdasági Minisztérium
20. EXOS s.r.o. Košice
21. Pons Danubii EGTC
22. Odbor stratégie, územného rozvoja a riadenia projektov - Bratislavský samosprávny kraj

Organizations that attended the actions workshop in Banská Bystrica:

1. BRK SOPK
2. Közigazgatási és Igazságügyi Minisztérium
3. Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic
4. Emberi Erőforrások Minisztériuma - Ministry of Human Resources
5. Obec Čata
6. Vidékfejlesztési Minisztérium
7. Nemzetgazdasági Minisztérium
8. Slovenský vodohospodársky podnik, š.p. Banská Štiavnica
9. Slovenský vodohospodársky podnik, š.p., OZ Banská Bystrica
10. Obec Veľké Turovce
11. Regionálna rozvojová agentúra pre rozvoj regiónu Stredného Poiplia
12. Bratislavský samosprávny kraj
13. Obec Lenártovce
14. Lénártfalva község
15. MAS TOKAJ-ROVINA, o. z.
16. Slovenské Nové Mesto
17. Úrad splnomocnenca vlády pre rómske komunity
18. Slovenský hydrometeorologický ústav Bratislava, pracovisko Banská Bystrica
19. Slovenská obchodná a priemyselná komora, Banskobystrická regionálna komora
20. Obec Hronovce
21. Arrabona EGTC
22. Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén Megyei Kereskedelmi és Iparkamara
23. HUSK JTS
24. Slovenský vodohospodársky podnik, š.p.
25. LESY Slovenskej republiky, štátny podnik
26. Via Carpatia EGTC
27. Úrad práce sociálnych vecí a rodiny Komárno
28. EURES-T Danubius slovensko-maďarské cezhraničné partnerstvo
29. Prime Minister's Office, Hungary
30. Nitriansky samosprávny kraj
31. Sajó-Rima EGTC
32. Slovenský vodohospodársky podnik, Regionálna rozvojová agentúra pre rozvoj regiónu Stredného Poiplia Veľký Krtíš
33. Egyházi, Nemzetiségi és Civil Társadalmi Kapcsolatokért Felelős Államtitkárság
34. Start People s.r.o.
35. Miskolci Egyetem
36. ÉMVÍZIG
37. Győr-Moson-Sopron Megyei Önkormányzat
38. VÁTI Nonprofit Kft. Központi Ellenőrzési Osztály (HU FLC)
39. Mesto Tornaľa
40. Közlekedésfejlesztési Koordinációs Központ
41. SZSI Slovenský zväz stavebných inžinierov - Celoštátna odborná skupina Doprava
42. NAŠE DVORY 2015, o.z.
43. Zväz stavebných podnikateľov Slovenska
44. Magyar Kereskedelmi és Iparkamara Magyar-Szlovák Tagozatának titkára
45. Karpatský euroregión Slovensko
46. Slovenský vodohospodársky podnik š.p. OZ Košice
47. KDRFÜ
48. Közép-Dunántúli Regionális Fejlesztési Ügynökség
49. Obec Svodín
50. Úrad Košického samosprávneho kraja
51. NADÁCIA MOJMÍR
52. Univerzita J. Selyeho
53. Slovenská asociácia malých podnikov
54. Banskobystrický samosprávny kraj
55. Győr-Moson-Sopron Megyei Kormányhivatal Munkaügyi Központja
56. Észak-Alföldi Regionális Fejlesztési Ügynökség / Észak-Alföld Regional Development Agency
57. MZVaEZ SR

Organizations that attended the SME workshop:

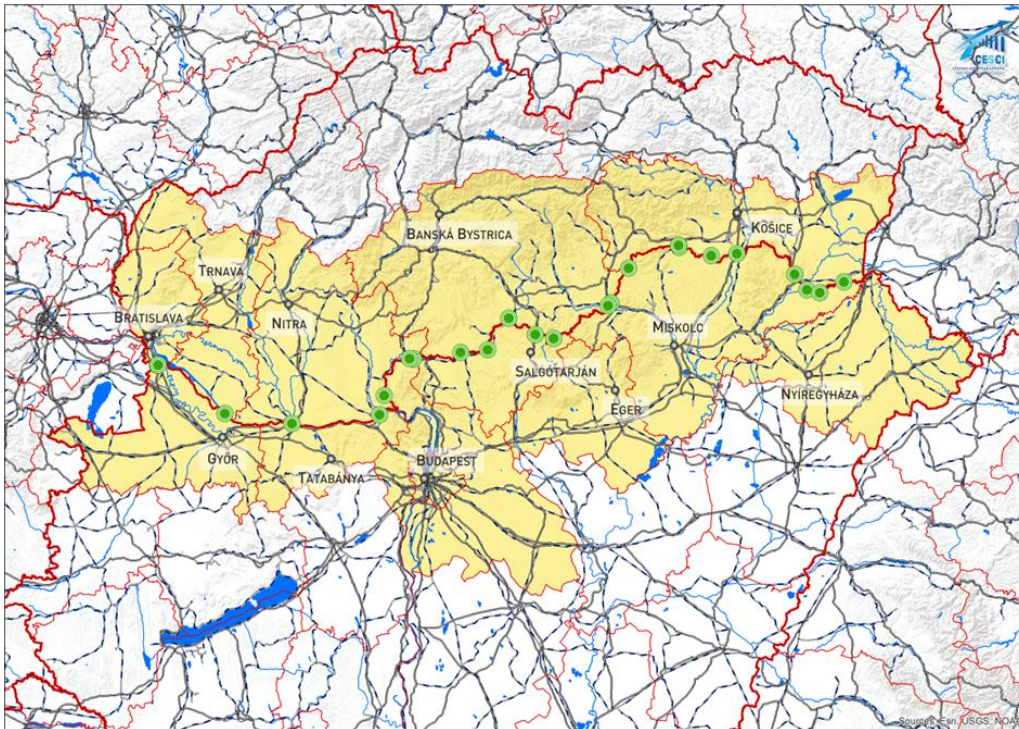
1. Bratislavská regionálna komora SOPK
2. Pest County Foundation for Enterprise Promotion
3. Győr-Moson-Sopron Megyei Kereskedelmi és Iparkamara
4. NORRIA Regional Innovation Agency of North Hungary Nonprofit Co,
5. Planidea/PMKIK
6. MPSVaR SR
7. Nyugat-Pannon Regionális Fejlesztési Zrt.
8. Innoreg KMRIÜ Khe.
9. Innovact
10. Local Enterprise Agency Heves County
11. Ministry of National Economy, Hungary
12. Bay Zoltán Nonprofit Ltd. for Applied Research
13. Észak-Alföld Regional Development Agency
14. Prime Minister's Office, Hungary
15. Planidea Tudásközpont

10 ANNEXES

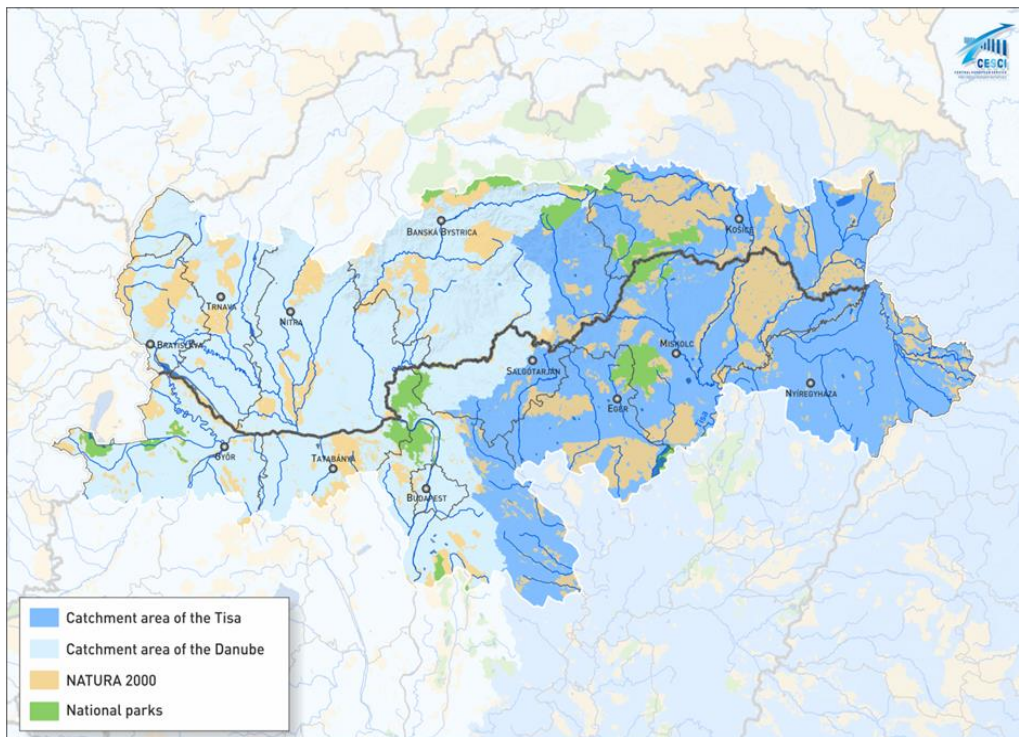
10.1 Annex 1: Maps, Figures, Tables

10.1.1 Maps

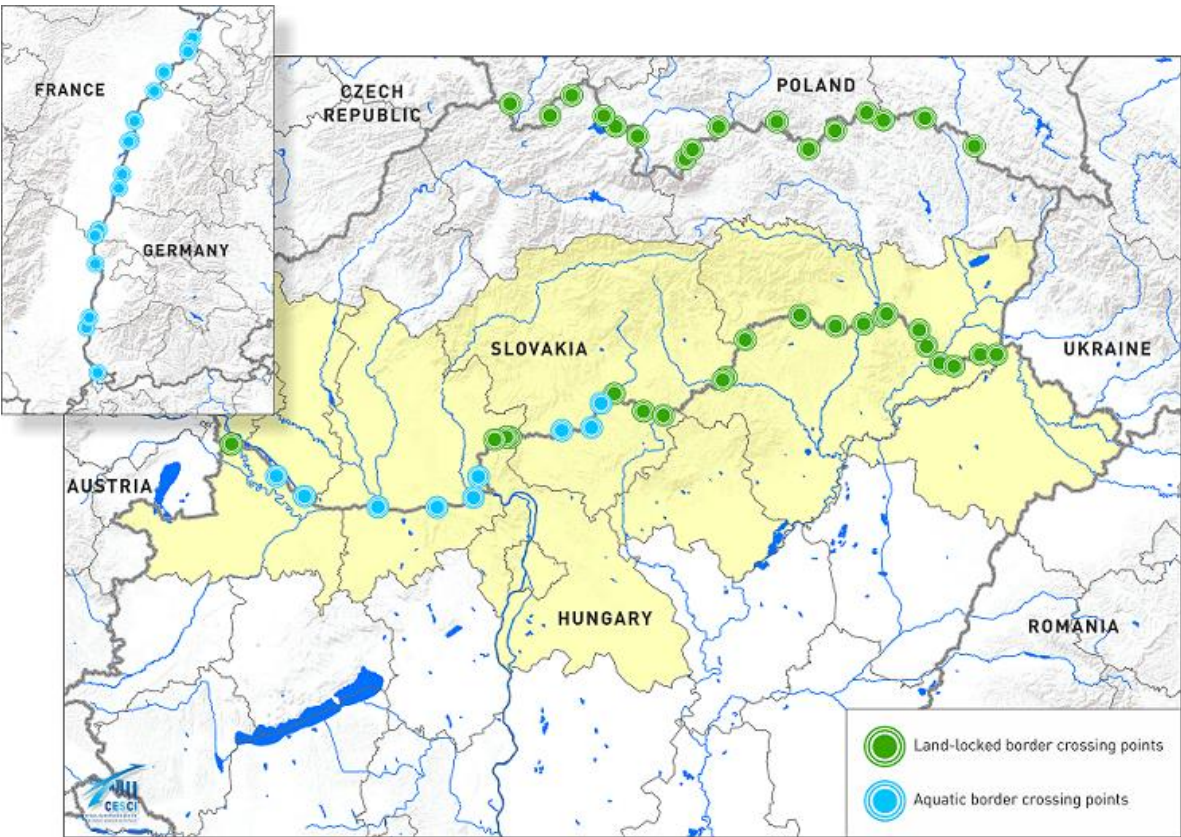
1. MAP: MAP OF THE PROGRAMMING REGION



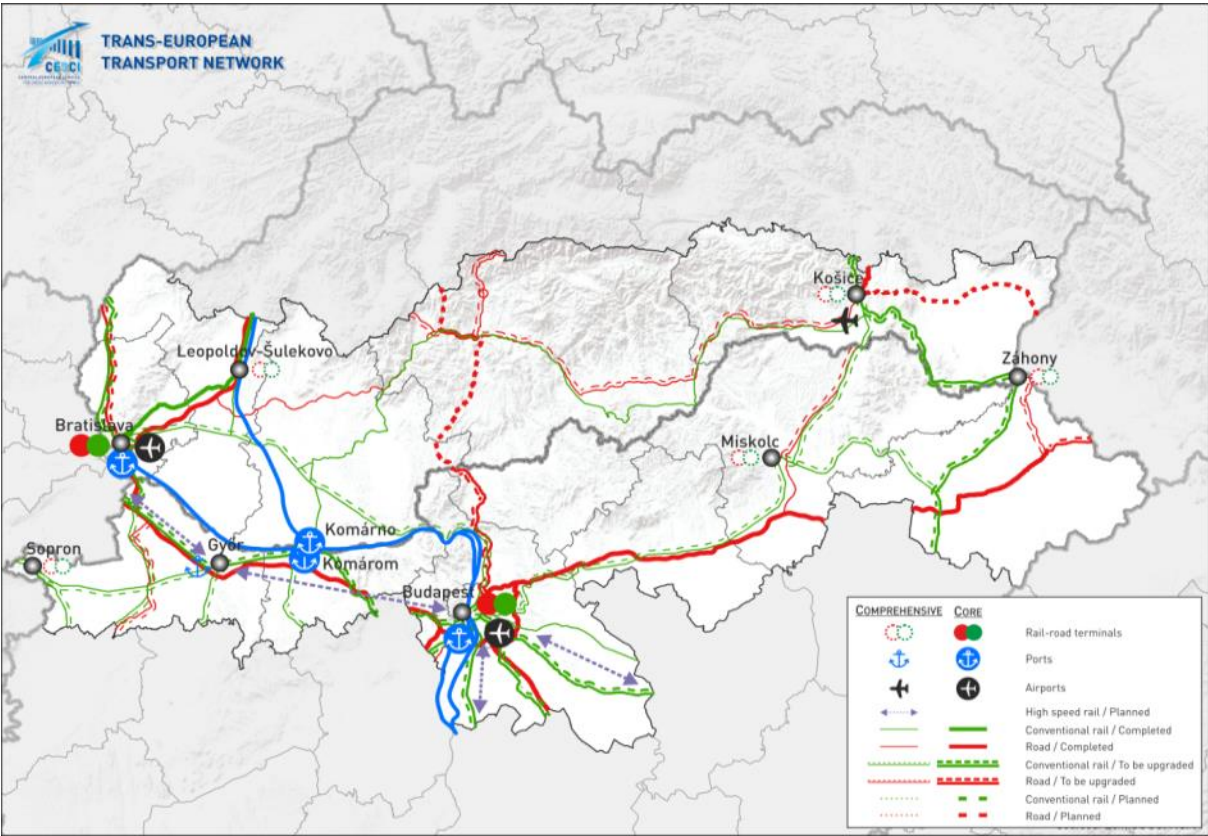
2. MAP: RIVER (DANUBE AND TISA) CATCHMENT AREAS CROSSING THE BORDER



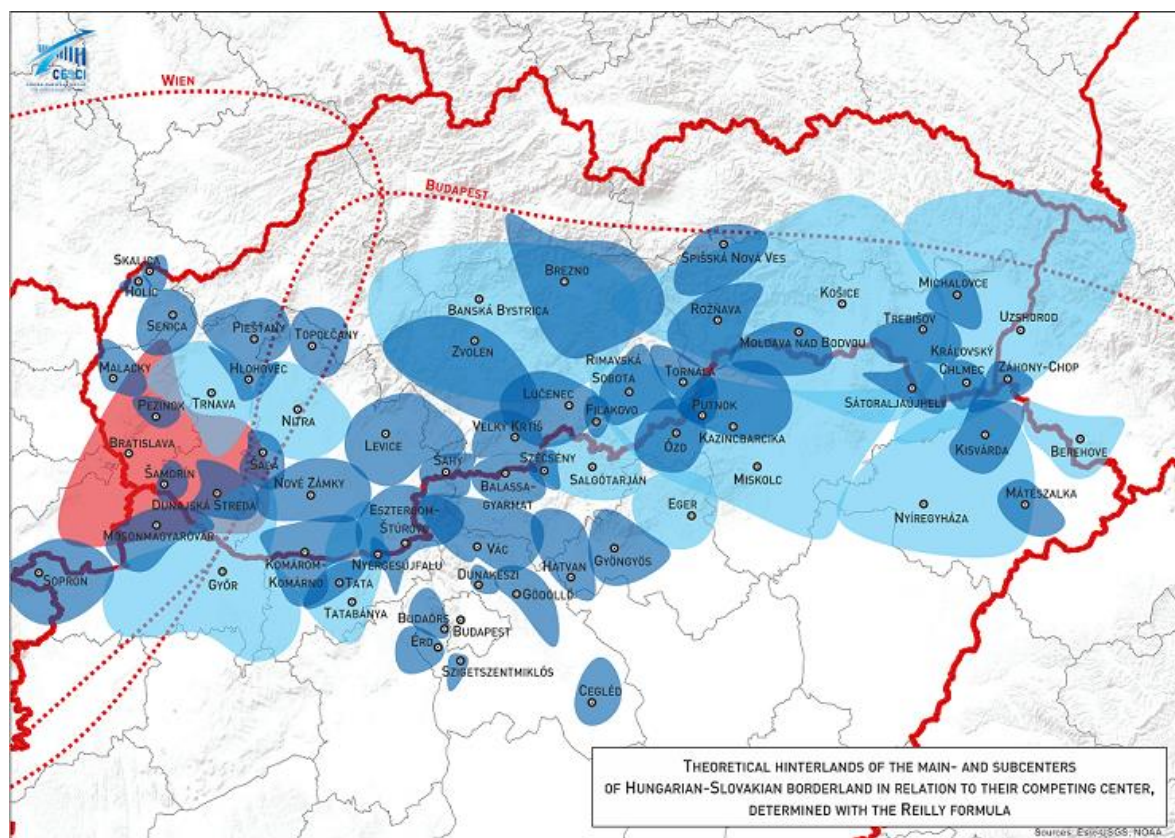
3. MAP: DENSITY OF BORDER CROSSING POINTS COMPARED TO OTHER BORDER AREAS



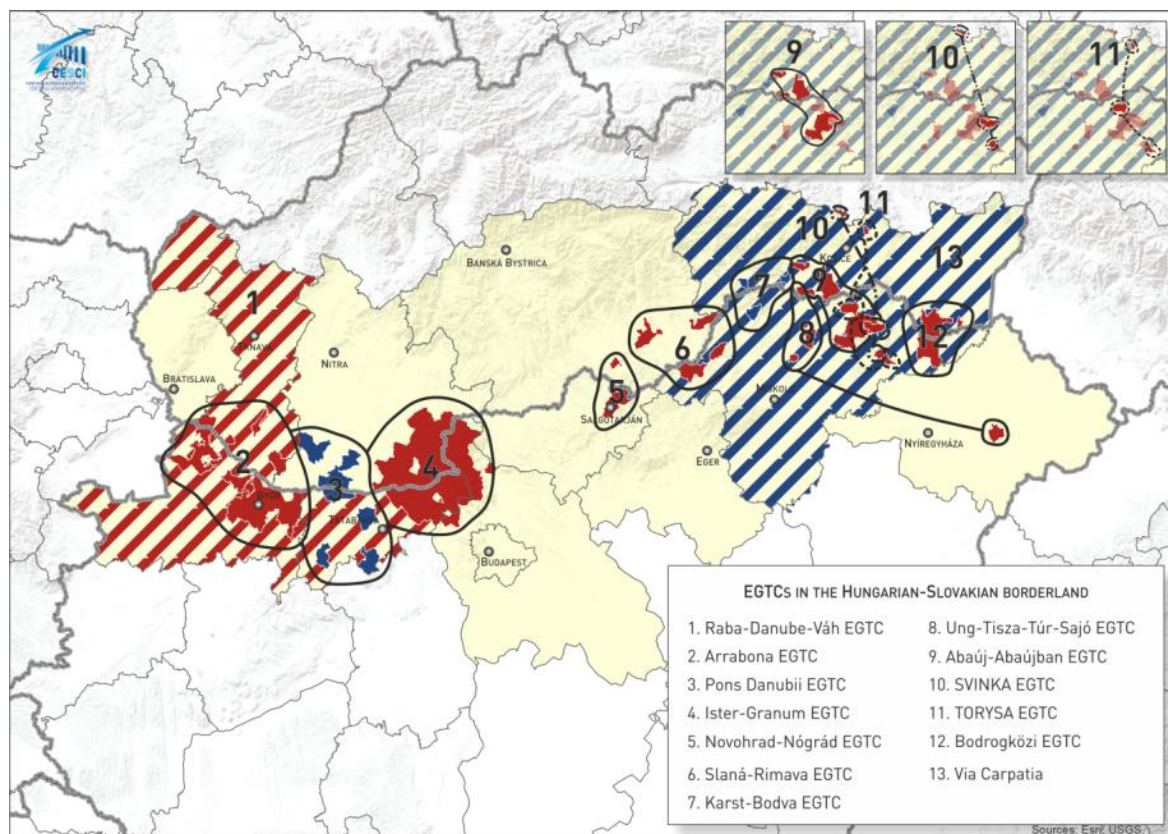
4. MAP: COMPONENTS OF TEN-T NETWORK WITHIN THE PROGRAMMING REGION



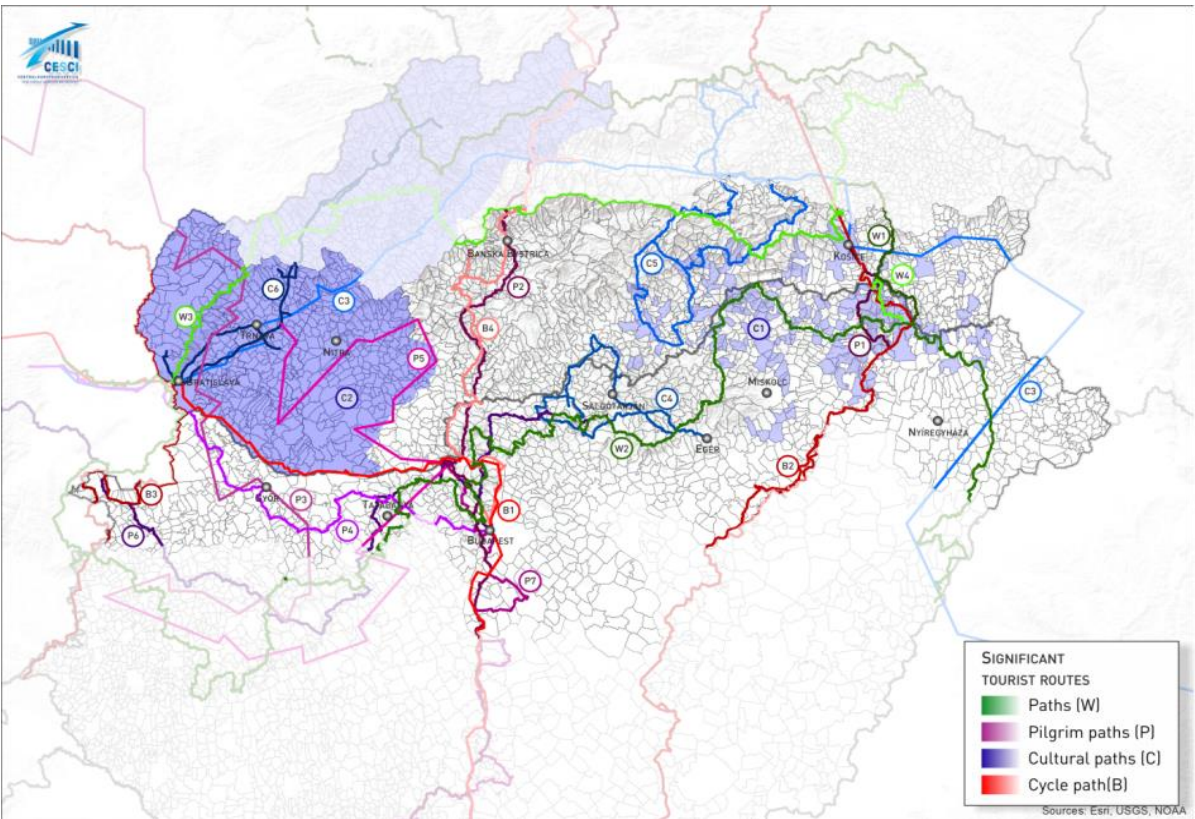
5. MAP: THEORETICAL HINTERLANDS ALONG THE HUNGARIAN-SLOVAK BORDER DETERMINED WITH REILLY FORMULA



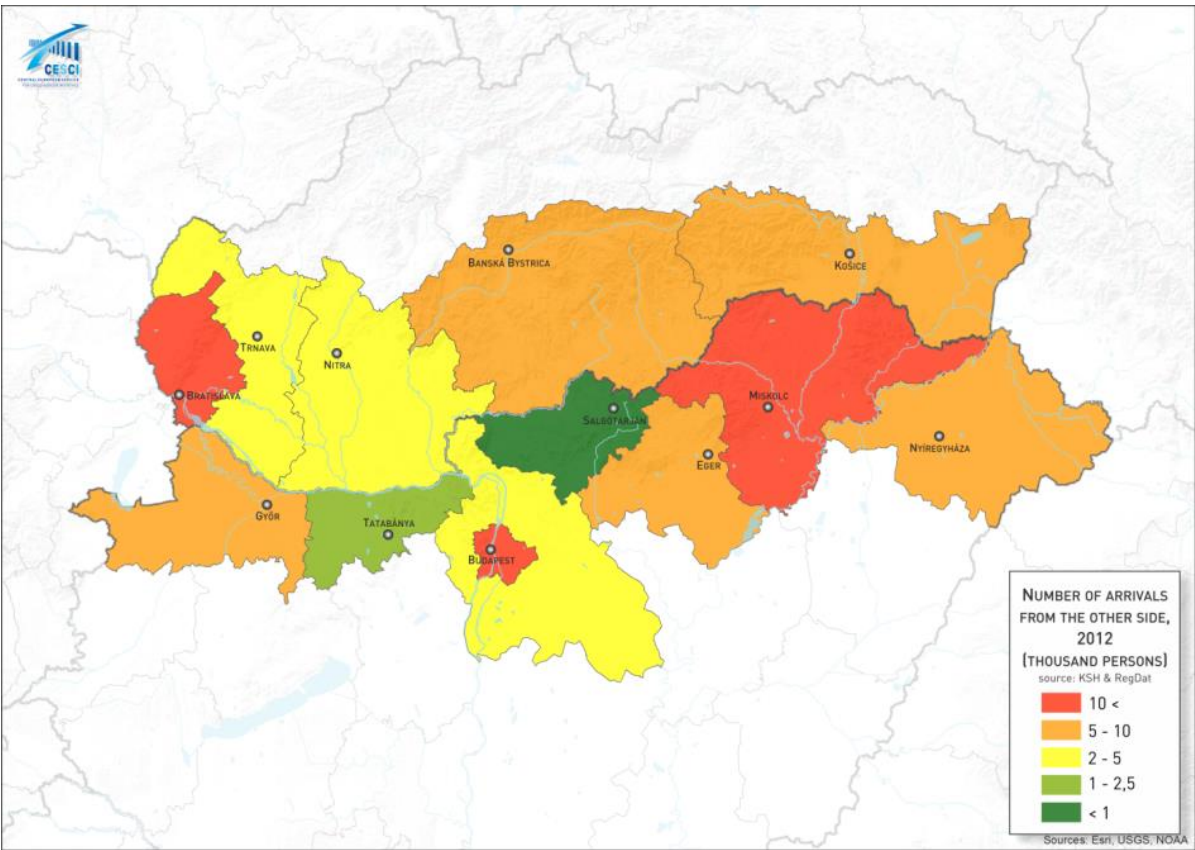
6. MAP: EGTCs ALONG THE HUNGARIAN-SLOVAK BORDER



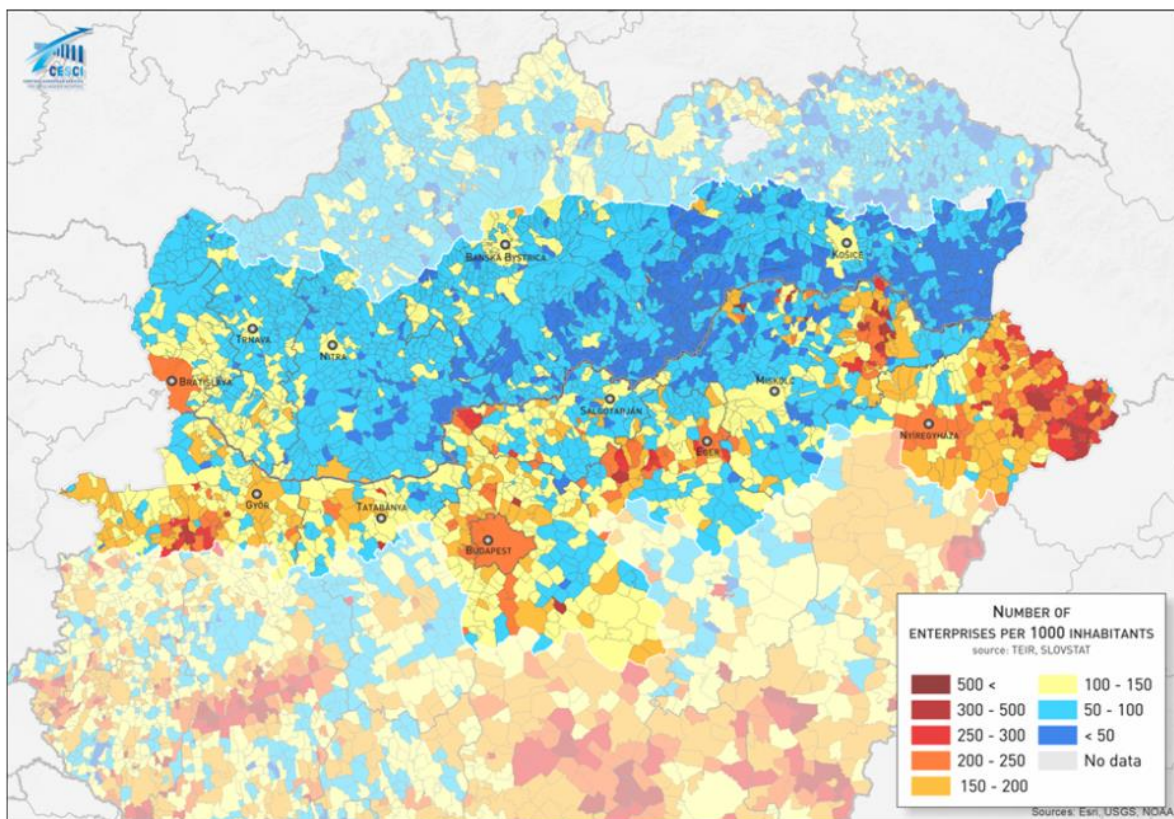
7. MAP: CROSS-BORDER THEMATIC TOURIST ROUTES IN THE PROGRAMMING REGION IN 2014



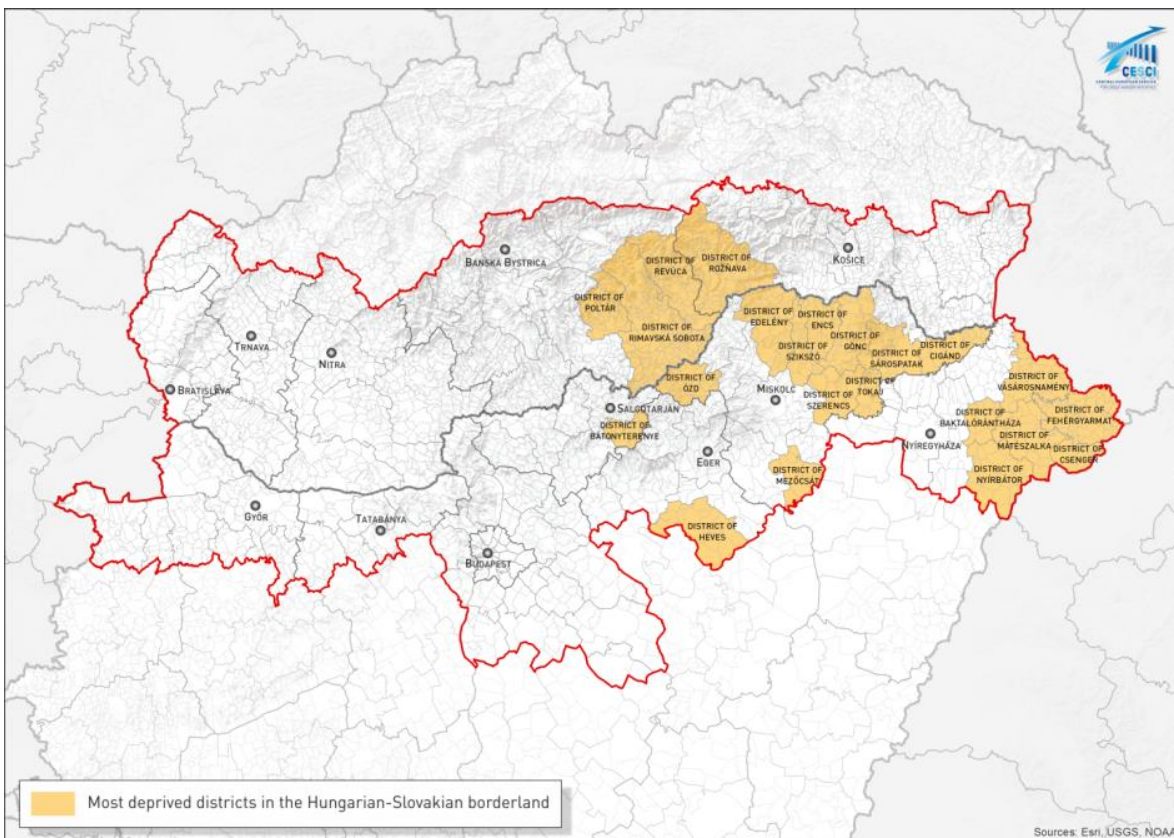
8. MAP: CROSS-BORDER TOURIST VISITS IN THE PROGRAMMING REGION



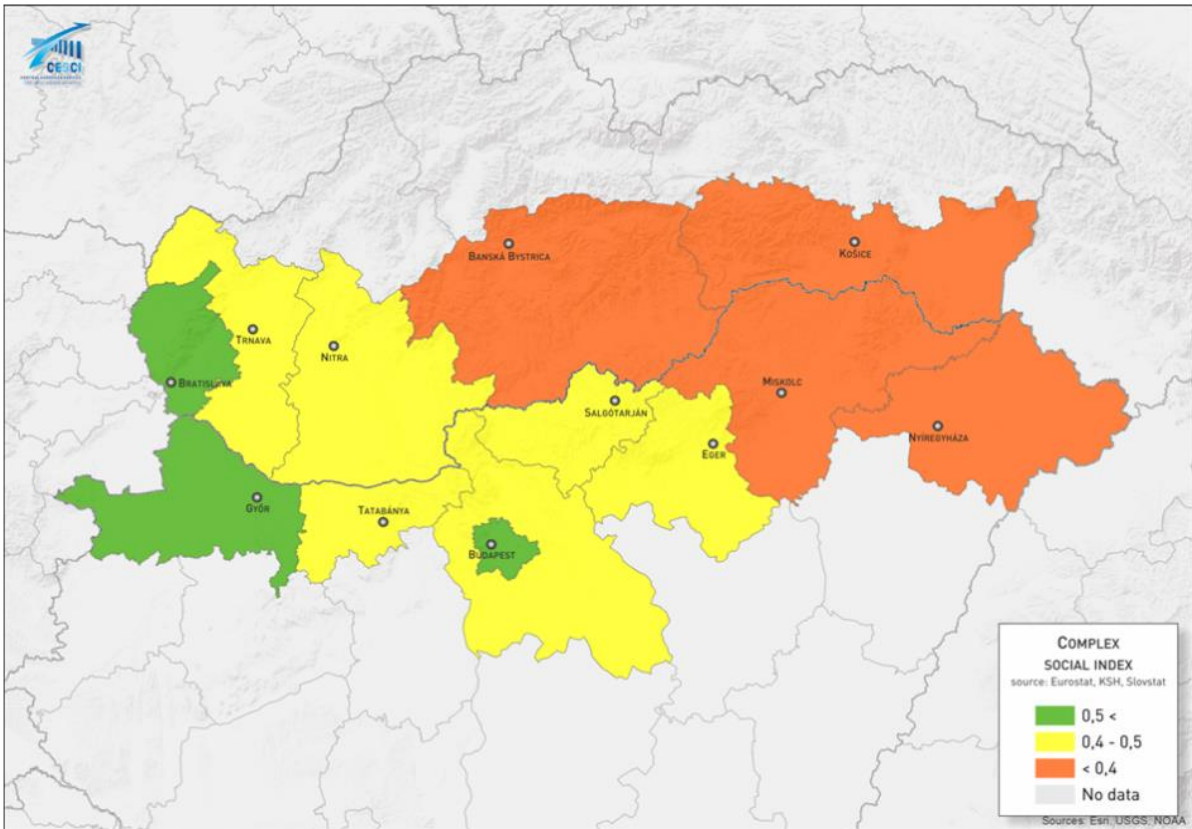
9. MAP: NUMBER OF ENTERPRISES PER 1000 PERSONS (2010)



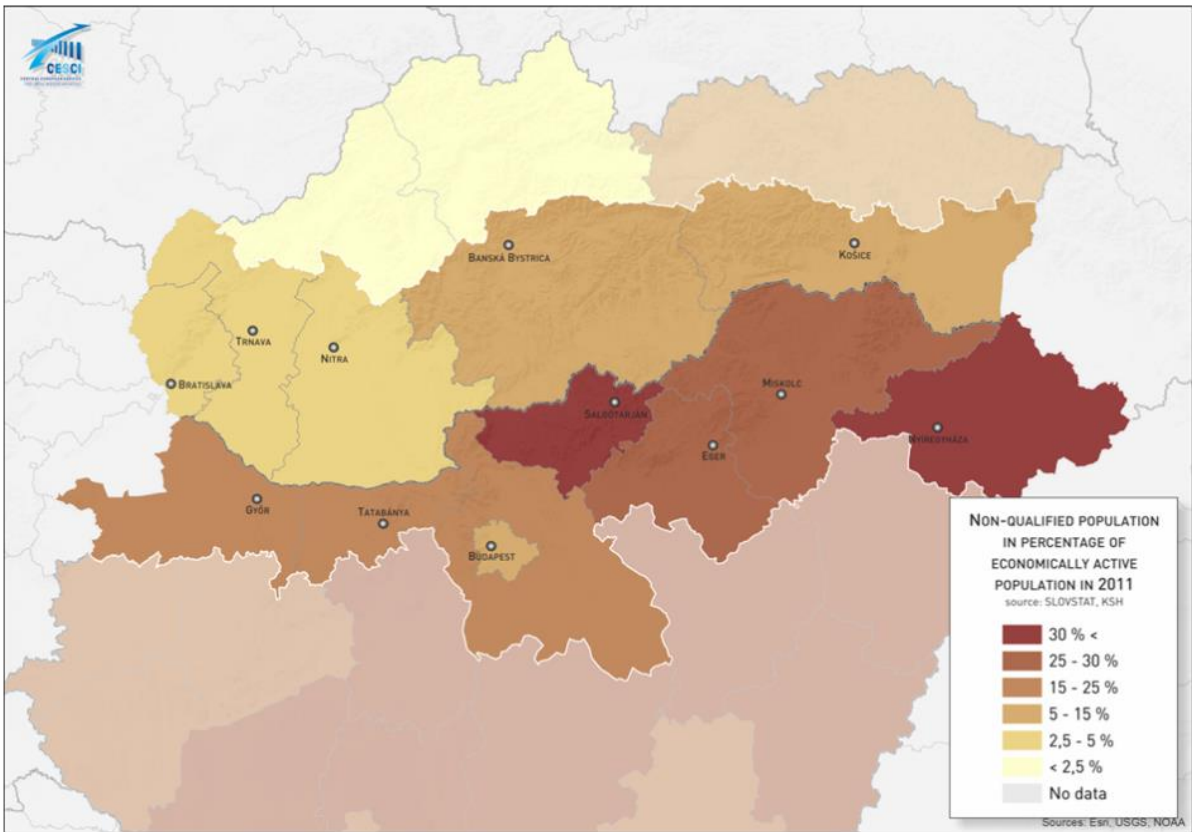
10. MAP: MOST DISADVANTAGED AREAS OF THE SLOVAKIA-HUNGARY BORDER REGION



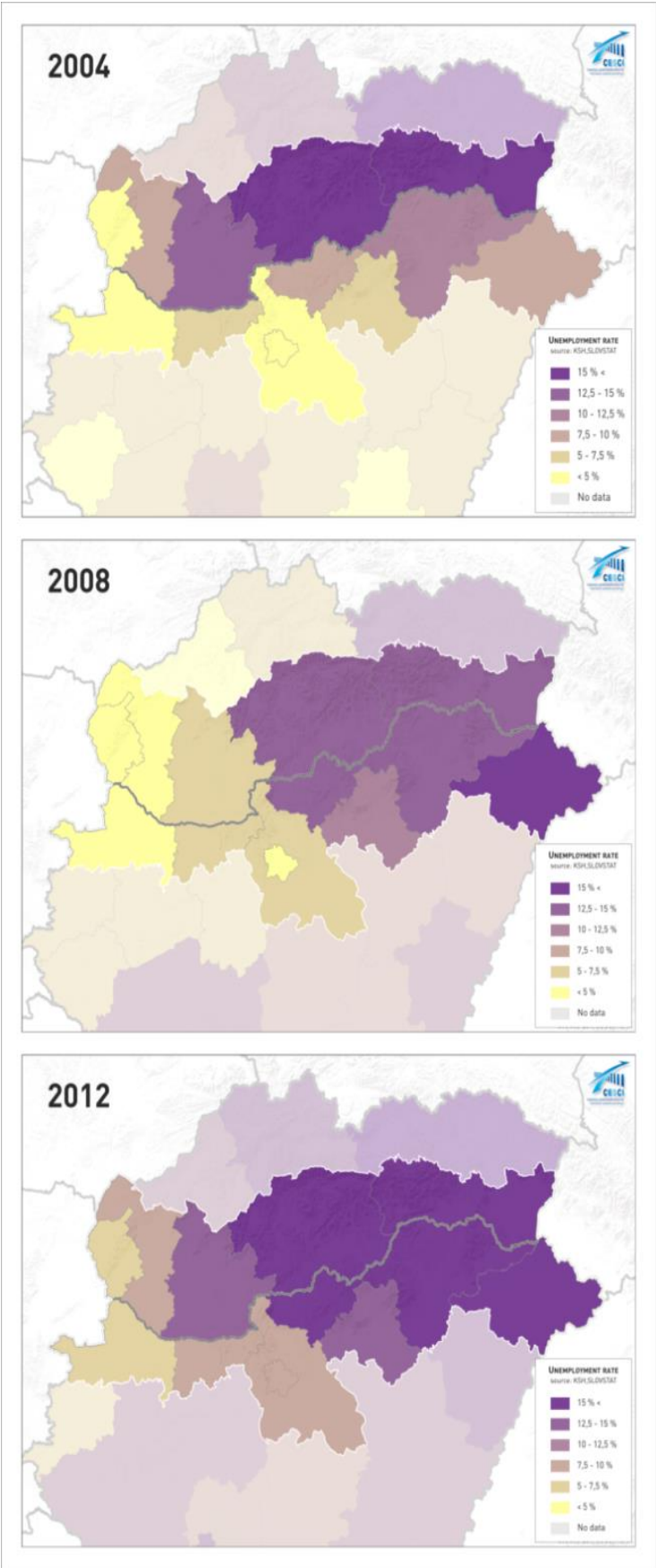
11. MAP: SOCIAL SITUATION OF THE BORDERLAND ANALYSED WITH COMPLEX SOCIAL INDEX



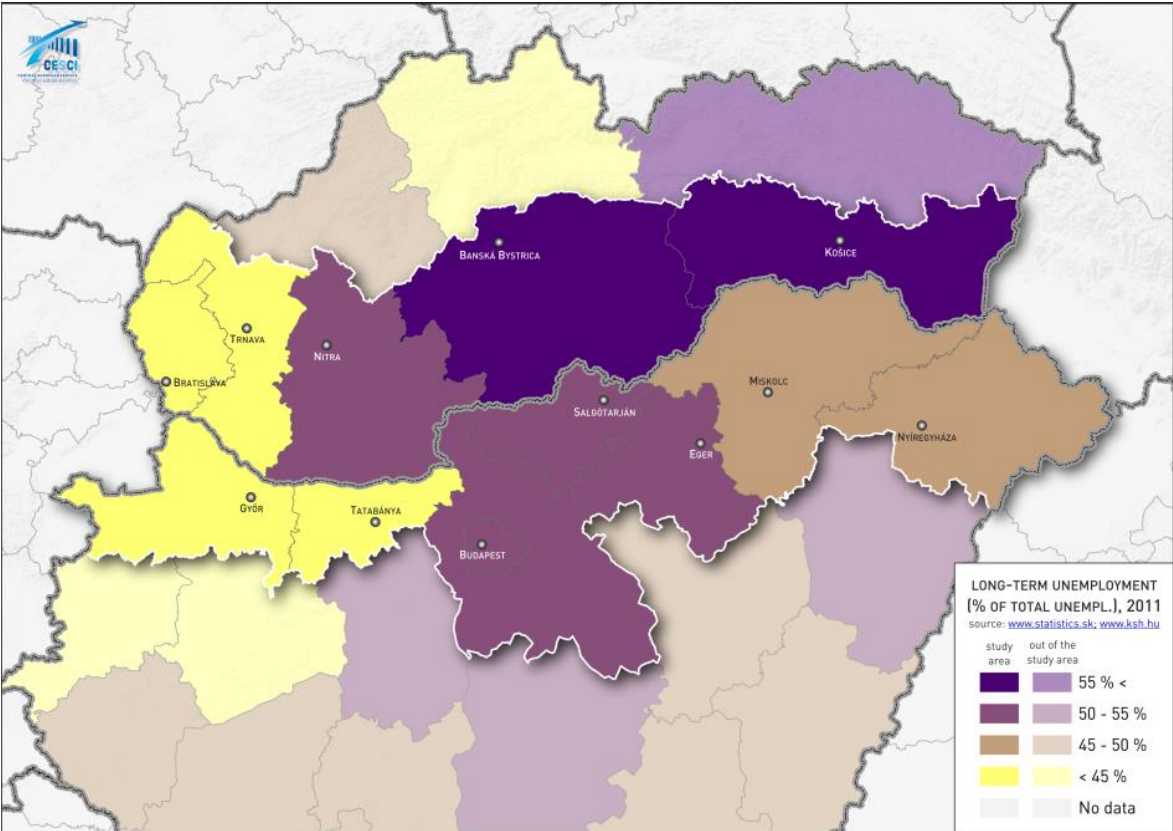
12. MAP: NON-QUALIFIED POPULATION



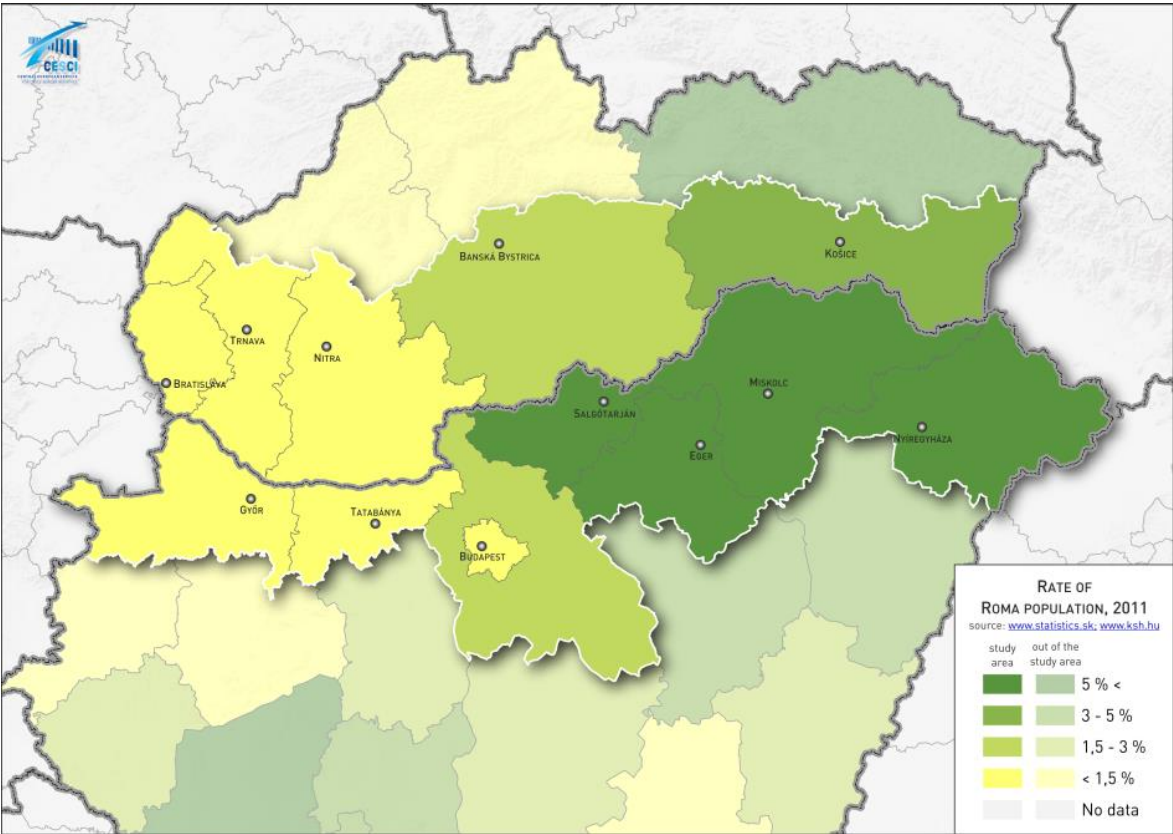
13. MAP: CHANGE IN UNEMPLOYMENT RATE BETWEEN 2001 AND 2012



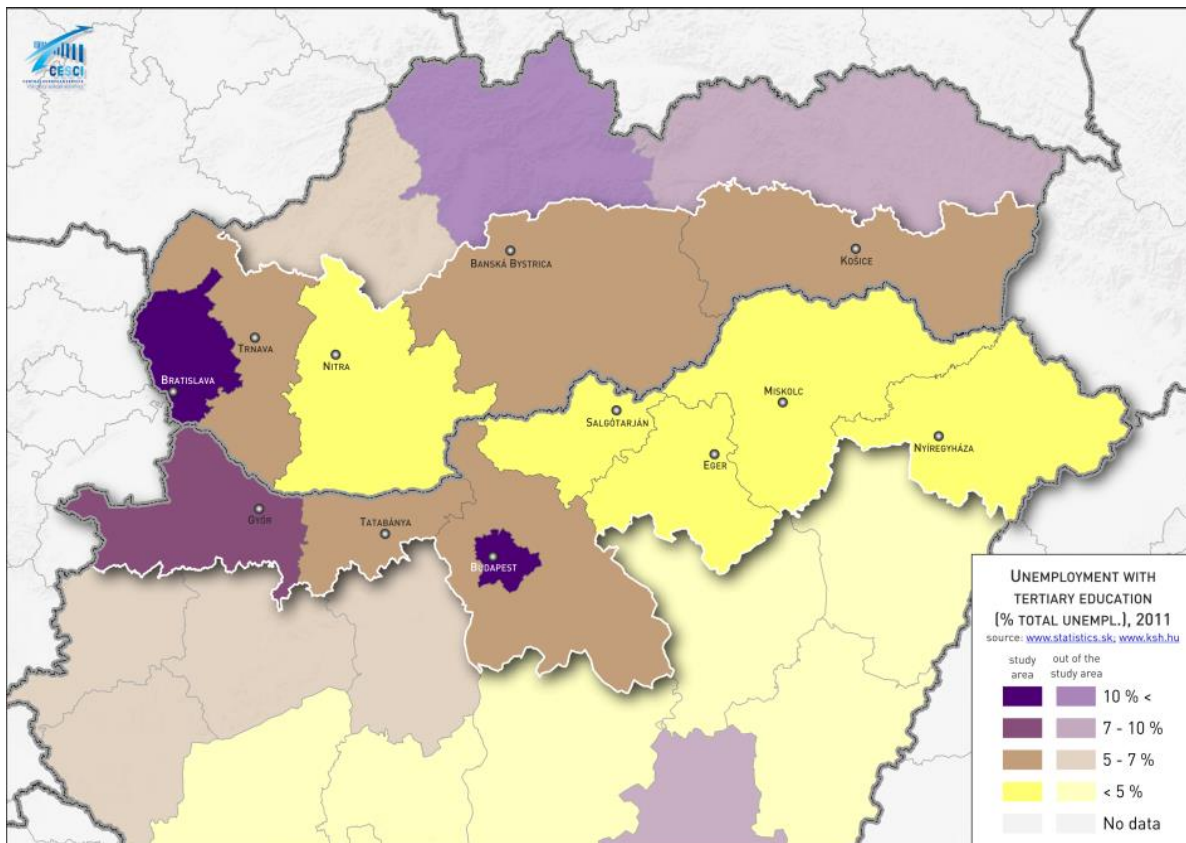
14. MAP: LONG-TERM UNEMPLOYMENT



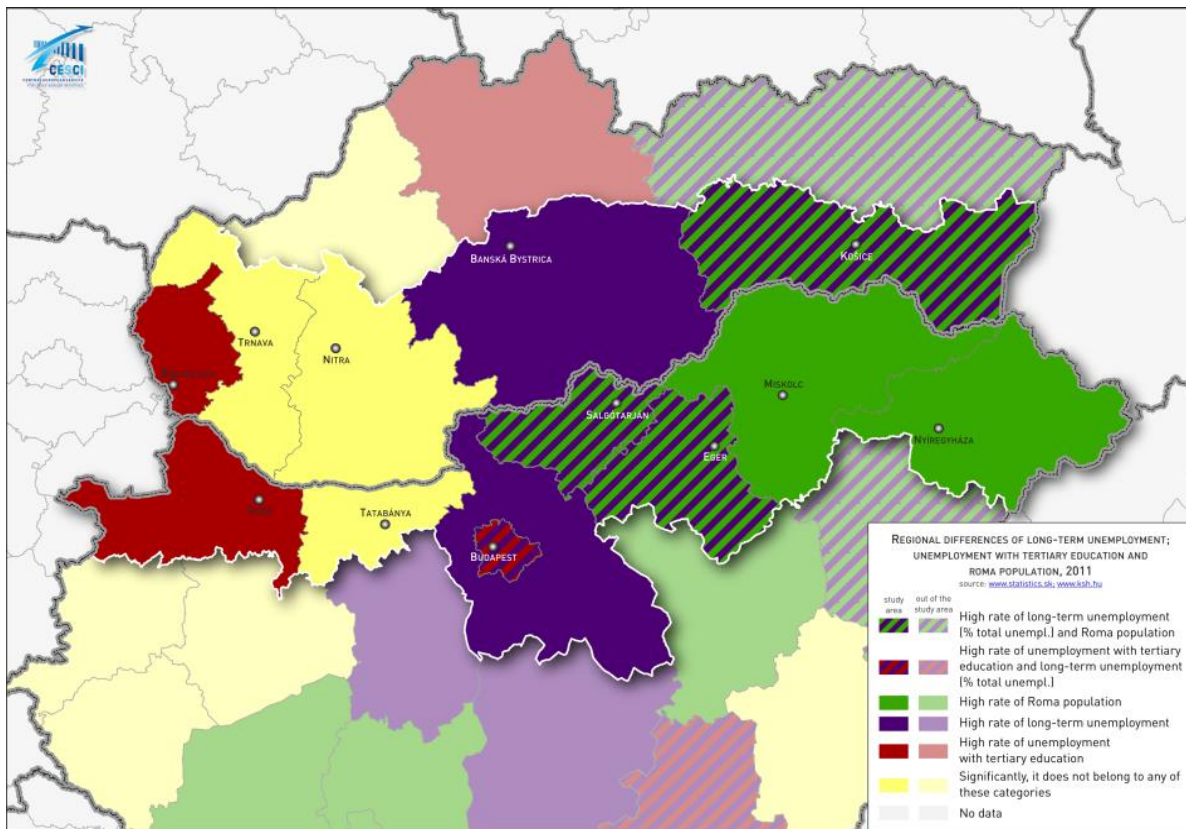
15. MAP: RATE OF ROMA POPULATION



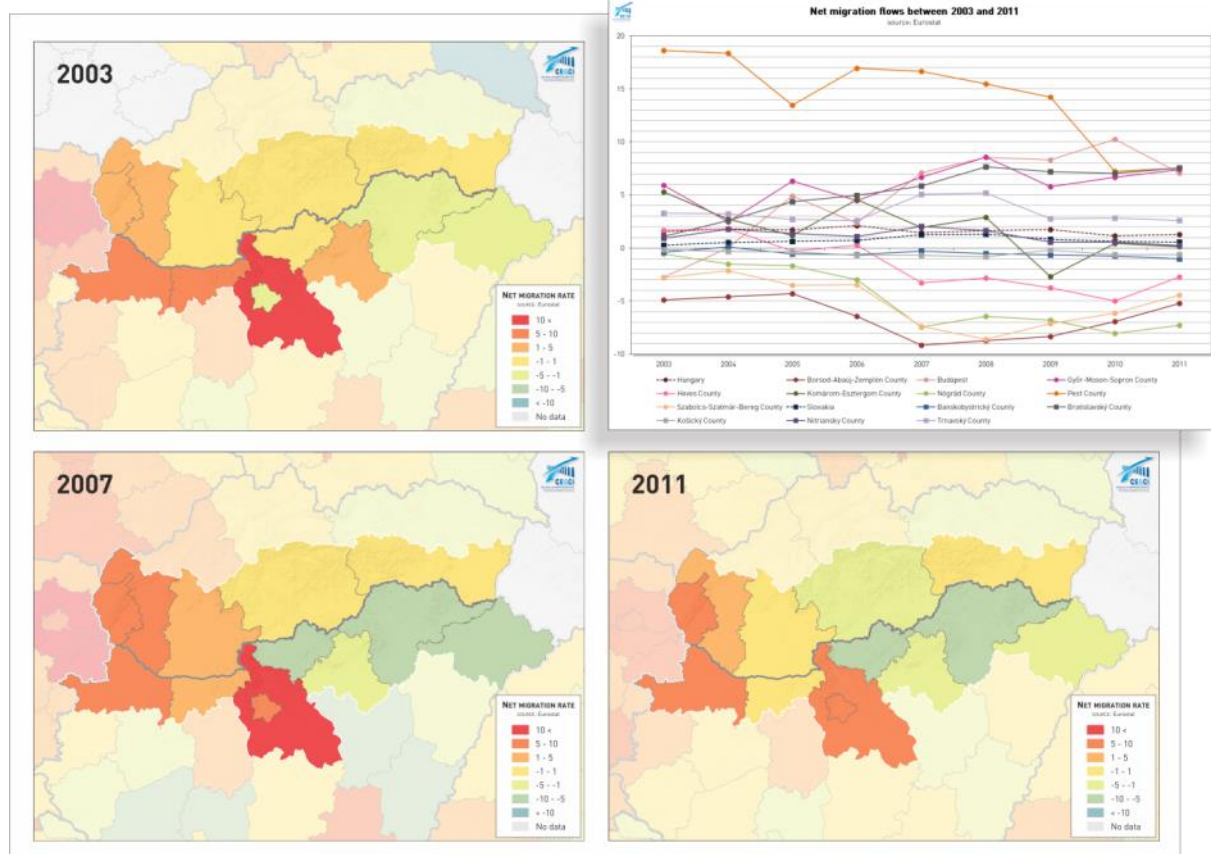
16. MAP: UNEMPLOYMENT WITH TERTIARY EDUCATION



17. MAP: REGIONAL DIFFERENCES

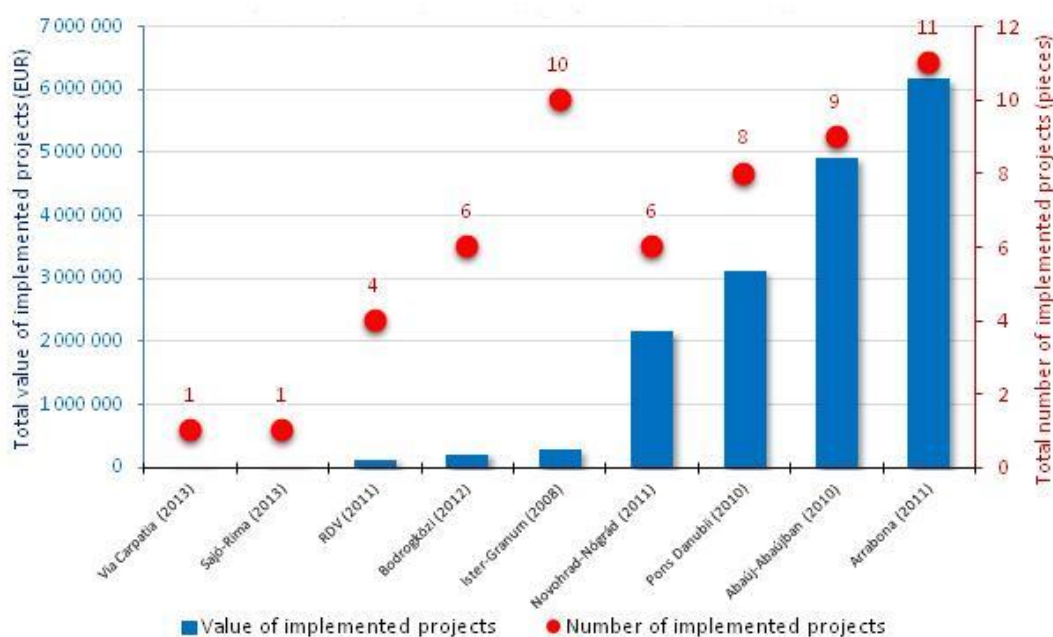


18. MAP: NET MIGRATION OF THE SLOVAKIA-HUNGARY BORDER REGION

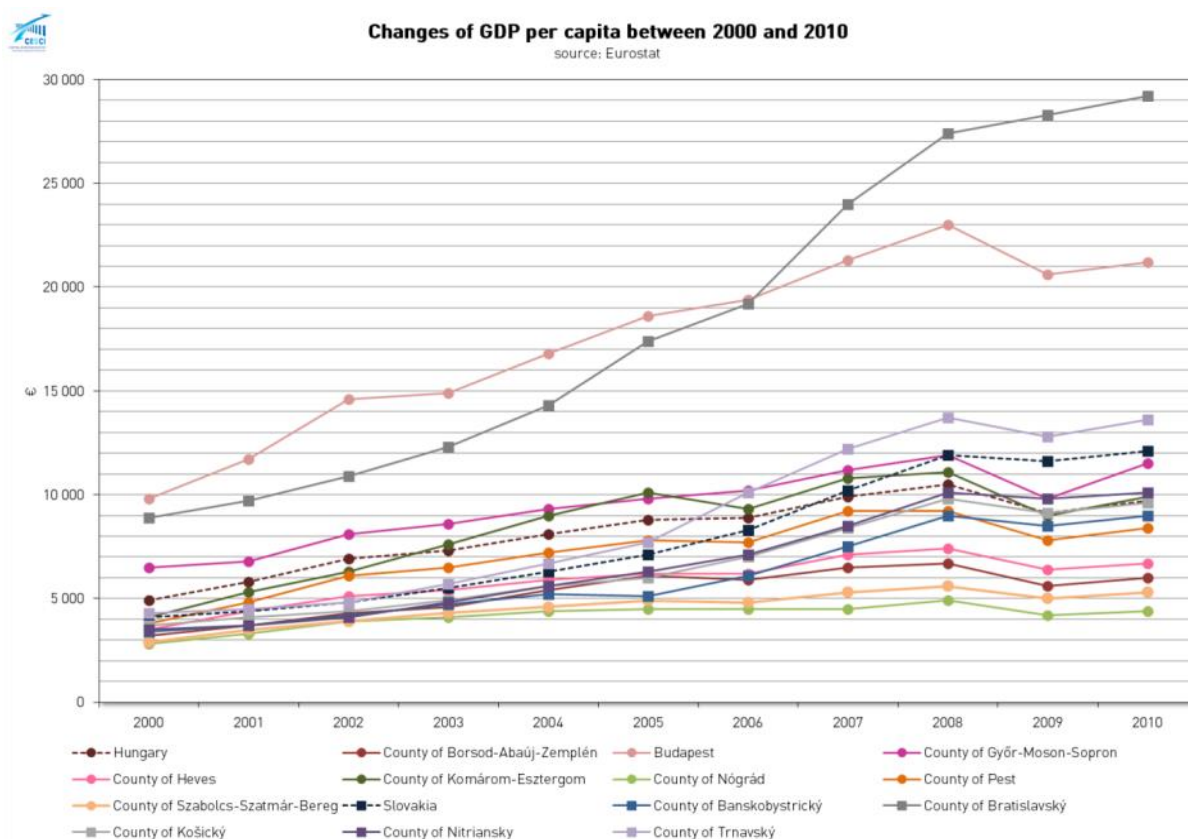


10.1.2 Figures:

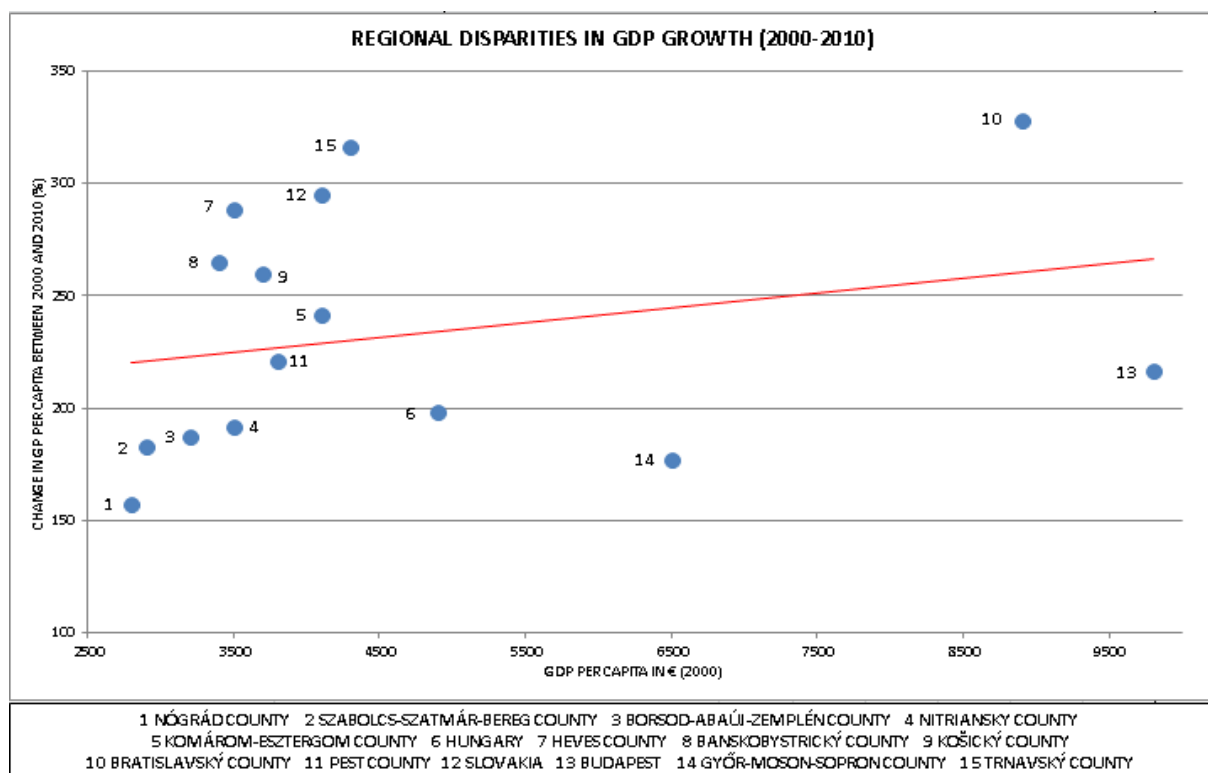
1. FIGURE: ACTIVITY OF EGTCs ALONG THE HU-SK BORDER



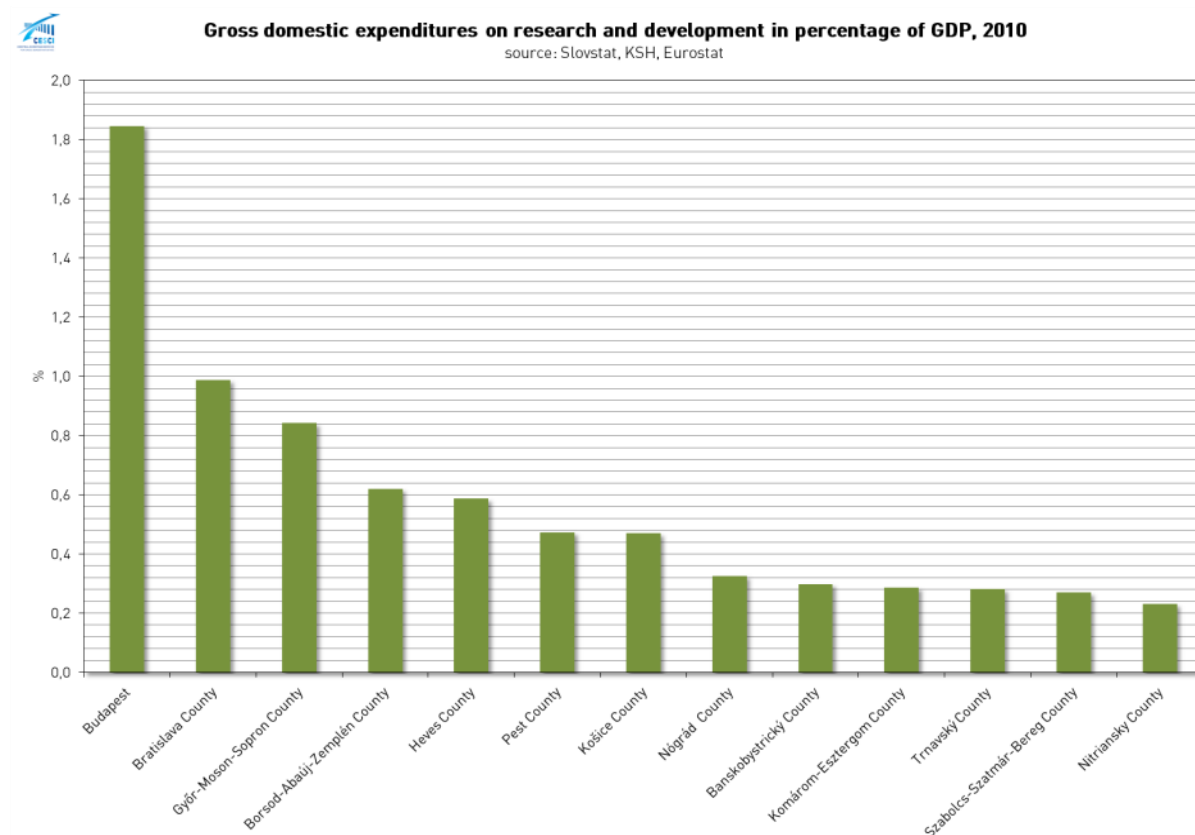
2. FIGURE: TERRITORIAL DISPARITIES WITHIN THE PROGRAMMING AREA CONSIDERING GDP PER CAPITA (2000-2010)



3. FIGURE: TERRITORIAL DISPARITIES DESCRIBED WITH B CONVERGENCE



4. FIGURE: GDP EXPENDITURES ON R&D IN PERCENTAGE OF GDP



10.1.3 Tables:

3. TABLE: THE ELIGIBLE NUTS 3 PROGRAMMING REGIONS

Name of the region	NUTS 3	Area (Km ²)	Population (2011)
Bratislavský kraj	SK 010	2 047	599 931
Trnavský kraj	SK 021	4 146	554 021
Nitriansky kraj	SK 023	6 342	690 311
Banskobystrický kraj	SK 032	9 456	660 991
Košický kraj	SK 042	6 753	790 837
Győr-Moson-Sopron megye	HU 221	4 205	449 967
Komárom-Esztergom megye	HU 212	2 265	311 411
Pest megye	HU 102	6 390	1 237 561
Budapest	HU 101	526	1 733 685
Nógrád megye	HU 313	2 546	201 919
Heves megye	HU 312	3 637	307 985
Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén megye	HU 311	7 250	684 793
Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg megye	HU 323	5 934	555 496

4. TABLE: HUNGARIAN-SLOVAK CROSS-BORDER WATER BASES

Name	Area (km ²)			Type ³	Use	Layer depths (m)
	Total	HU	SK			
Podunajská nížina, Žitnýostrov/Szigetköz, Hanság, Rábca	3 363	1 152	2 211	P	Drinking water Irrigation Agriculture Industry	2-5
Komárňanská vysoká kryha / Dunántúli-khg.	3 811	3 248	563	K, C	Drinking water Balneology Energetics	0-2500
Slovenský kras / Aggteleki-hg.	1 090	492	598	K, C	Drinking water Other	0-500
Bodrog	2 216	750	1 466	P	Drinking water Irrigation	2-10

³ K - Karst spring, P - Porous sediment, C - Confining layer

5. TABLE: CHALLENGES AND RESPONSES IN TERRITORIAL COHESION

Relevant field of investigation	Main territorial challenges	Potential intervention areas within the framework of the Interreg V-A Slovakia-Hungary Programme	Relevant thematic objectives
Joint landscape management	Development of resource efficient joint landscape management and environment and nature protection	Landscape rehabilitation, recultivation Regionally harmonized use of landscape Joint actions on the field of environment protection and preservation of biodiversity	TO 6 TO 11
	Qualitative and quantitative protection of water resources	Development of common water management and risk prevention system Joint actions in the field of water management	TO 6 TO 11
	Development of integrated and sustainable cross-border tourist management and thematic routes	Organisation development (tourist destination management) Development of tourist products and infrastructure Development of tourist information portals and service systems Joint marketing activities Renovation, development and utilisation of natural and cultural heritage sites with tourist aims Development of enterprises interested in tourism	TO 6
Border crossing infrastructure	Increase of the density of border crossing points	Elaboration of studies and plans related to the construction of new border crossing infrastructure Construction of border crossing infrastructure	TO 6 TO 7 TO 8
	Development of border crossing public transport by enforcing multimodality	Elaboration and operation of integrated regional ticket systems and tariff communities Harmonisation of schedules Creation of new cross-border lines Development of joint transport associations	TO 7
Cross-border functional relations	Development of cross-border functional urban influencing areas	Joint urban network initiatives Investments related to the enforcement of common utilization of urban functions, strengthening the cooperation between institutions Rehabilitation of cross-border urban functional areas	TO 8 TO 11

6. TABLE: CAR PRODUCTION WITHIN THE BORDER REGION (2011)

	Volume of produced cars (2011)	Number of employees (2011)
Volkswagen Slovakia (Bratislava) ⁴	400 000	8 400
PSA Peugeot Citroën (Trnava)	252 000	2 953
Audi Hungaria (Győr) ⁵	39 518 ⁶	7 322
Hungarian Suzuki (Esztergom) ⁷	170 000	3 400

7. TABLE: CHALLENGES AND RESPONSES IN ECONOMIC COHESION

Relevant field of investigation	Main economic challenges	Potential intervention areas within the framework of the Interreg V-A Slovakia-Hungary Programme	Relevant thematic objectives
Intensity of entrepreneurship	Increase the number of operating SMEs in the border region	Support for setting up new businesses in the border region (mainly on the other side of the border); facilitating the exchanges of experiences and the development of local initiatives	TO 6 TO 8 TO 11
Economic infrastructure	Use of potential of cross-border integrated logistic zones and the cooperation of industrial parks	Development of networks of logistic centres and industrial parks Support for development of multimodal logistic services Development of real-time information system on logistics	TO 7

⁴http://www.sario.sk/userfiles/file/Ensario/PZI/sectorial/auto/automotive_industry.pdf

⁵Audi Hungaria Ltd. 2011 éves jelentés (annual report of 2011)

⁶In the case of Audi Hungaria Ltd. the production of engines is more significant than car producing.

⁷www.suzuki.hu. It is remarkable that all the big car factories are operating in the western region of the borderland.

8. TABLE: CHALLENGES AND RESPONSES OF SOCIAL COHESION

Relevant field of investigation	Main social challenges	Potential intervention areas within the framework of Interreg V-A Slovakia-Hungary Programme	Relevant thematic objectives
Social characteristics of the border region	Decrease of social disparities, combating against poverty	Exchange of experiences, good practices, looking for common, cross-border solutions Actions contributing to the implementation of the European Union's Roma Strategy Contribution to the elaboration and implementation of complex and integrated anti-poverty programmes crossing the border	TO 8 TO 11
	Support for cross-border labour force migration	Information activities in the field of labour market Development of joint services of employment Integrated regional development actions based on local and regional potential improving the level of employment Organisation of training activities for improving the capacity and the ability to work	TO 8
	Coordination of vocational education and preparation of labour market	Elaboration of joint training programmes, curricula Cross-border job burses Development of dual training system	TO 8
Social relations	Animation of cross-border social relations	Dissemination of existing best practice models. Further development and strengthening of existing cooperation models. Support of cross-border inter-institutional cooperation.	TO 11
	Support of developments based on cultural diversity	Protection and sustainable development of cultural heritage. People-to-people activities. Strengthening bilingualism in the border region (actions, events, exchange of students, services etc.).	TO 6 TO 11
	Support for cross-border service provision	Development of legal, governance and e-governance tools facilitating cross-border service provision, development of the EGTCs and the cooperation among them. Strengthening the bilingualism of the service provision.	TO 11

9. TABLE: CONTRIBUTION OF THE PROGRAMME TO THE EU2020 STRATEGY

To strengthen territorial cohesion	Contribution to EU 2020 Strategy	Relevant TO	To strengthen economic cohesion	Contribution to EU 2020 Strategy	Relevant TO	To strengthen social cohesion	Contribution to EU 2020 Strategy	Relevant TO
1.1 To protect and use commonly natural heritage			2.1 To enhance cross-border economic cooperation			3.1.To improve mutual understanding		
Protection of biodiversity	Sustainable growth	TO 6	Supporting the economic cooperation of SMEs, suppliers, RDI and training centres	Smart growth	TO 8	Common management and utilization of built heritage	Sustainable growth	TO 6
Common water management	Sustainable growth	TO 6	Supporting the integration of local product markets	Sustainable growth Smart growth	TO8	Strengthening long-term cooperation between people living in the border area	Sustainable growth Inclusive growth	TO 11
Nature and environment protection	Sustainable growth	TO 6	Supporting cooperation of LEADER LAGs and agrarian innovation organisations	Sustainable growth	TO8	Strengthening bilingualism in the region	Sustainable growth Inclusive growth	TO 11
Common risk prevention and risk management	Sustainable growth	TO 6 TO 11				Inter-institutional cooperation and development of common services	Smart growth	TO 11
Development of green infrastructure	Sustainable growth	TO 6						
Rehabilitation of rust belts and declined industrial areas	Sustainable growth Smart growth	TO 8						

To strengthen territorial cohesion	Contribution to EU 2020 Strategy	Relevant TO	To strengthen economic cohesion	Contribution to EU 2020 Strategy	Relevant TO	To strengthen social cohesion	Contribution to EU 2020 Strategy	Relevant TO
1.2 To develop tourism commonly			2.2 To develop common economic infrastructure			3.2 To strengthen social inclusion and fight against poverty		
Common tourist management	Sustainable growth Smart growth	TO 6	Enhancing the cooperation between economic development service providers (chambers, industrial parks, innovation centres, incubation centres)	Smart growth	TO 11	Exchange of experiences, common PILOT actions for the improvement of the situation of the regions lagging behind the most	Inclusive growth	TO 8
Development of joint tourist destinations, products and thematic routes	Sustainable growth Smart growth	TO 6	Development of cross-border logistic services	Smart growth	TO 7	Actions in the field of Roma inclusion (integrated training and employment programmes and infrastructure development)	Inclusive growth	TO 8
Development of tourist infrastructure	Sustainable growth Smart growth	TO 6 TO 8						
Common tourist marketing	Sustainable growth Smart growth	TO 6						
Development of tourist services	Smart growth	TO 8						

To strengthen territorial cohesion	Contribution to EU 2020 Strategy	Relevant TO	To strengthen economic cohesion	Contribution to EU 2020 Strategy	Relevant TO	To strengthen social cohesion	Contribution to EU 2020 Strategy	Relevant TO
1.3.To improve the permeability of the border						3.3. To improve employment level and cross-border labour force migration		
Development of border crossing infrastructure	Sustainable growth	TO 7				Integrated interventions aiming to improve employment level based on endogenous potential (with emphasis on disadvantaged and Roma people, women and youth)	Inclusive growth	TO 8
Development of cross-border transport services	Sustainable growth Smart growth	TO 7				Development of cross-border labour migration services	Smart growth	TO 8
						Development of cross-border training facilities; realisation of training programmes	Smart growth Inclusive growth	TO 8
						Development of social economy	Smart growth Inclusive growth	TO 8
1.4.To reconstruct and develop cross-border functional urban influencing areas								

To strengthen territorial cohesion	Contribution to EU 2020 Strategy	Relevant TO	To strengthen economic cohesion	Contribution to EU 2020 Strategy	Relevant TO	To strengthen social cohesion	Contribution to EU 2020 Strategy	Relevant TO
Enhancing the urban functions in border towns	Smart growth Inclusive growth	TO 8						
Improvement of labour market role of the cities in the region	Smart growth Inclusive growth	TO 8						
Improvement of accessibility of urban functions from the other side of the border	Sustainable growth Smart growth Inclusive growth	TO 7 TO 8						
Common development of public services and their accessibility	Smart growth Inclusive growth	TO 7 TO 8 TO 11						
Strengthening institutionalised cooperation in the programming region	Smart growth Inclusive growth	TO 8 TO 11						

10. TABLE: COORDINATION NEEDS REGARDING THE HUNGARIAN OPs

OP	Source of funding	Priority axes	Related SO in Interreg V-A Slovakia-Hungary
Economic Development and Innovation OP	ERDF, ESF, YEI	1. Small and medium sized enterprises	-
		2. Research and innovation	-
		3. Infocommunication development	-
		4. Energy	-
		5. Employment and training	SO31
		6. Tourism	SO11
		7. Financial instruments	-
Competitive Central Hungary OP	ERDF, ESF	1. Promotion of enterprise competitiveness and promotion of knowledge economy	-
		2. Promotion of financial means and services	-
		3. Supporting energy efficiency, intelligent energy consumption, renewable energy	-
		4. Development of territorial environment and public services	-
		5. Support of programmes for social co-operation and human resources	SO31, SO41.
		6. Programmes for promoting employability	SO31
Territorial OP	ERDF, ESF	1. Territorial economic development for employment promotion	SO31
		2. Enterprise-friendly territorial development for preserving the local population	-
		3. Conversion to low-carbon economy in urban areas	-
		4. Promotion of local community services and strengthening social co-operation	SO41
		5. CLLD type urban development	-
		6. Human development in the counties and localities, promotion of employment and social co-operation	SO31, SO41
Human Resources Development OP	ERDF, ESF	1. Promotion of co-operating society	-
		2. Infrastructural development for strengthening social cooperation	-
		3. Thriving knowledge capital	-

OP	Source of funding	Priority axes	Related SO in Interreg V-A Slovakia-Hungary
		4. Infrastructural development for thriving knowledge capital	-
		5. Financial means for strengthening social co-operation, promoting social innovation and transnational cooperation	SO41
Integrated Transport OP	CF, ERDF	1.Improvement of international (TEN-T) road accessibility	SO21
		2. Improvement of international (TEN-T) railway and waterway accessibility	SO221
		3. Development of sustainable urban transport, improvement of suburban railway accessibility	SO221
		4. Improvement of the energy efficiency of the transport systems	-
Environment and Energy Efficiency OP	CF, ERDF	1. Climate change adaptation	-
		2. Development of municipal water supply, waste water collection and treatment, wastewater management	-
		3. Development of waste management and remediation	-
		4. Landscape and species protection measures	SO11
		5. Energy efficiency and the use of renewables	-
Public Administration and Services OP	ESF, CF		SO41
Rural Development OP	EAFRD	1A) Fostering innovation, cooperation, and the development of the knowledge base in rural areas 1B) Strengthening the links between agriculture, food production and forestry and research and innovation, including for the purpose of improved environmental management and performance 1C) Fostering lifelong learning and vocational training in the agricultural and forestry sectors	-

OP	Source of funding	Priority axes	Related SO in Interreg V-A Slovakia-Hungary
		2A) Improving the economic performance of all farms and facilitating farm restructuring and modernisation, notably with a view to increasing market participation and orientation as well as agricultural diversification 2B) Facilitating the entry of adequately skilled farmers into the agricultural sector and, in particular, generational renewal	-
		3A) Improving competitiveness of primary producers by better integrating them into the agri-food chain through quality schemes, adding value to agricultural products, promotion in local markets and short supply circuits, producer groups and inter-branch organisations 3B) Supporting farm risk prevention and management	-
		4A) Restoring, preserving and enhancing biodiversity, including in Natura 2000 areas, and in areas facing natural or other specific constraints and high nature value farming, as well as the state of European landscapes 4B) Improving water management, including fertiliser and pesticide management 4C) Preventing soil erosion and improving soil management	-
		5A) Increasing efficiency in water use by agriculture 5B) Increasing efficiency in energy use in agriculture and food processing 5C) Facilitating the supply and use of renewable sources of energy, of by products, wastes, residues and other non food raw material for the purposes of the bio-economy 5D) Reducing green house gas and ammonia emissions from agriculture 5E) Fostering carbon conservation and sequestration in agriculture and forestry	-
		6A) Facilitating diversification, creation and development of small enterprises, as well as job creation 6B) Fostering local development in rural areas 6C) Enhancing the accessibility, use and quality of information and communication technologies (ICT) in rural areas	-
Fisheries OP	EMFF		

11. TABLE: COORDINATION NEEDS REGARDING THE SLOVAK OPs

OP	Source of funding	Priority axes	Related SO in Interreg V-A Slovakia-Hungary
OP Research and Development	ERDF	1. Support for RDI	-
		2. Support for RDI in the Bratislava region	-
		3. Strengthening the competitiveness and growth of SMEs	-
		4. Strengthening the competitiveness and growth of SMEs in the Bratislava region	
OP Integrated Infrastructure	ERDF, CF	1. Railway infrastructure (TEN-T core) and the renewal of fleet	SO21
		2. Development of road infrastructure (TEN-T)	SO21
		3. Public passenger transport	SO221
		4. Development of waterway infrastructure (TEN-T)	SO21
		5 Development of rail infrastructure (beyond TEN-T core)	-
		6. Development of road infrastructure (beyond TEN-T)	SO21
		7. Informatisation	-
OP Human Resources	ERDF, ESF	1. Education	SO31
		2. Employment	-
		3. Social inclusion	-
		4. Integration of the Roma minority	SO31
		5. Technical infrastructure in municipalities with the presence of the Roma minority	-
OP Quality of Environment	ERDF, CF	1. Development of environment infrastructure by sustainable natural resources	SO11
		2. Adaptation to climate change, especially in flood protection	SO11
		3. Support for risk management and for ability against natural disaster management	SO11
		4. Energy efficiency, low-carbon economy	-
Integrated Regional OP	ERDF	1. Secure and environment friendly regional transport	SO21, SO221
		2. Easier, more efficient and better public services	SO41

OP	Source of funding	Priority axes	Related SO in Interreg V-A Slovakia-Hungary
		3. Competitive and attractive regions by enterprise development and employment promotion	SO31
		4. Development of living conditions and environment in the regions	SO11
		5. CLLD	-
OP Effective Public Administration	ERDF, ESF	1 Development of institutional capacity and efficiency of public governance	SO41
OP Rural Development	EAFRD	1. Knowledge transfer and innovation in agriculture, forestry and rural areas	-
		2. Enhancing farm viability and competitiveness of all types of agriculture in all regions and promoting innovative farm technologies and the sustainable management of forests	-
		3. Promoting food chain organisation, including processing and marketing of agricultural products, animal welfare and risk management in agriculture	-
		4. Restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry	SO11
		5. Promoting resource efficiency and supporting the shift towards a low carbon and climate resilient economy in agriculture, food and forestry sectors	-
		6. Promoting social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas	SO31
OP Fisheries	EMFF		
OP Technical Assistance	ERDF		

12. TABLE: SYNERGIES BETWEEN THE EUSDR PRIORITY AREAS AND THE SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES OF THE INTERREG V-A SLOVAKIA-HUNGARY

EUSDR priority areas	Relevant PA of the Interreg V-A SK-HU
Priority Area 1A "To improve mobility and intermodality of inland waterways"	Priority axis 2, PA2: Enhancing cross-border mobility
Priority Area 1B "To improve mobility and intermodality - rail, road and air"	Priority axis 2, PA2: Enhancing cross-border mobility
Priority Area 2 "To encourage more sustainable energy"	-
Priority Area 03 "To promote culture and tourism, people to people contacts"	Priority axis 1, PA1: Nature & Culture
Priority Area 4 of the EUSDR "To restore and maintain the quality of waters"	Priority axis 1, PA1: Nature & Culture
Priority Area 05 of the EUSDR "To manage environmental risks"	Priority axis 4, PA4: Enhancing cross-border cooperation of public authorities and people living in the border area -
Priority Area 06 "To preserve biodiversity, landscapes and the quality of air and soils"	Priority axis 1, PA1: Nature & Culture
Priority Area 07 "To develop the Knowledge Society (research, education and ICT)"	-
Priority Area 08 "To support the competitiveness of enterprises"	-
Priority Area 09 of the EUSDR "To invest in people and skills"	Priority axis 3, PA3: Promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility
Priority Area 10 "To step up institutional capacity and cooperation"	Priority axis 4, PA4: Enhancing cross-border cooperation of public authorities and people living in the border area
Priority Area 11 of the EUSDR "To work together to tackle security and organised crime"	-

13. TABLE: ACTIONS CONTRIBUTING TO THE CLIMATE CHANGE, ENERGY SUSTAINABILITY AND SOCIAL TARGETS FOR THE EU IN 2020

EU2020 target	Envisaged actions
Climate change and energy sustainability targets	
greenhouse gas emissions 20% (or even 30%, if the conditions are right) lower than 1990	SO21: Increasing the density of border crossing points along the Hungarian-Slovak border SO221: Improving cross-border public transport services
20% of energy from renewables	SO11: To increase the attractiveness of the border area. SO21: Increasing the density of border crossing points along the Hungarian-Slovak border SO221: Improving cross-border public transport services SO31: Decreasing employment inequalities among the regions with a view to improving the level of employment within the programming region
20% increase in energy efficiency	SO31: Decreasing employment inequalities among the regions with a view to improve the level of employment within the programming region
Social targets	
Employment (75% of the 20-64 year-olds to be employed)	SO31: Decreasing employment inequalities among the regions with a view to improving the level of employment within the programming region
Fighting poverty and social exclusion (at least 20 million fewer people in or at risk of poverty and social exclusion)	SO21: Increasing the density of border crossing points along the Hungarian-Slovak border SO222.: Improving cross-border logistic services SO31: Decreasing employment inequalities among the regions with a view to improving the level of employment within the programming region
Education (at least 40% of 30-34-year-olds completing third level education)	SO41: Improving the level of cross border inter-institutional cooperation and broadening cross border cooperation between citizens. SO31: Decreasing employment inequalities among the regions with a view to improving the level of employment within the programming region

14. TABLE: CONTRIBUTION TO THE STRATEGIES RELATED TO THE ROMA POPULATION

Goals of the strategy	PA and IP
Hungarian National Social Inclusion Strategy	
1. Reduction of the ratio of individuals living in poverty and social exclusion, with special regard to the Roma population	
1.1. Promoting the labour market inclusion of the Roma and those living in extreme poverty, and raising their level of employment	PA 3 IP 8e
3. Improvement of equal access to social and economic goods and reinforcement of social cohesion	PA 3 IP 8e
3.2. Reduction of local and regional segregation	PA 3 IP 8e
3.3. Improving the state of health of the Roma, individuals living in extreme poverty and children, increasing life expectancy at birth and improving their access to the health care system	PA 4 IP 11b
Strategy of the Slovak Republic for the integration of Roma up to 2020	
D 2.2. Employment	
1. Support the increase of employability of Roma community members	PA3 IP 8e
2. Support increased employment of Roma community members	PA 3 IP 8e
3. Improve the relations of Roma community members with Labour Offices and other institutions using better and broader consultancy services and even increasing the number of employees	PA 4 IP 11b
D .2.3. Health	
4. Ensure accessibility of healthcare services, improve their real accessibility by removing obstacles (both geographical and financial), introduce a program of minimal dental care, and improve communication between MRK members and medical personnel in the provision of healthcare, with a potential impact on improving the provision of healthcare in the communities	PA 2 IP 7b PA 3 IP 8e PA 4 IP 11b
8. Stabilize, optimize and broaden network of community workers in the area of health education, create conditions for employing Roma, and implement and evaluate the pilot program of community workers active in health education in hospitals with the goal of preparing MRK patients, especially in OB-GYN and paediatrics for a stay in the hospital, communication with the medical personnel as well as other patients and/or visitors	PA 4 IP 11b
D 2.6. Non-Discrimination	
1. Remove obstacles to more effective implementation of antidiscrimination legislation	PA 4 IP 11b
2. Establishing space and mechanisms for solving and preventing conflicts between Roma and non-Roma population	PA 4 IP 11b

15. TABLE: EUROPEAN GROUPINGS OF TERRITORIAL COOPERATION ALONG THE HUNGARIAN-SLOVAK BORDER, AT THE END OF 2013

Name of the EGTC	Date of registration	Country members	County/township/settlement members
Ister-Granum	11.2008	Hungary, Slovakia	HU: Esztergom, Annavölgy, Bajna, Bajót, Csolnok, Dág, Dömös, Epöl, Ipolydamásd, Ipolytölgyes, Keszölc, Kóspallag, Lábatlan, Leányvár, Letkés, Máriahalom, Márianosztra, Mogyorósbánya, Nagybörzsöny, Nagymaros, Nagysáp, Nyergesújfalú, Perőcsény, Piliscsabam, Piliscsév, Pilismarót, Pilisszentkereszt, Pilisszentlászló, Sárísáp, Süttő, Szob, Tát, Tésa, Tinnye, Tokod, Úgy, Vámosmikola, Verőce, Visegrád, Zebegény; SK: Bajtava, Bátorové Kosihy, Bielovce, Bíňa, Bruty, Búč, Čata, Chľaba, Gbelce, Hronovce, Ipeľský Sokolec, Kamenica nad Hronom, Kamenín, Kamenný Most, Keť, Kravany nad Dunajom, Kubáňovo, Leľá, Lontov, Malá nad Hronom, Malé Kosihy, Malé Ludince, Moča, Mužla, Nána, Nová Vieska, Nýrovce, Obid, Pastovce, Pavlová, Pohronský Ruskov, Radvaň nad Dunajom, Salka, Sikenička, Svodín, Šalov, Šarkan, Štúrovo, Zalaba, Zelizovce
Ung-Tisza-Túr-Sajó	01.2009	Hungary, Slovakia	HU: Kántorjánosi, Baktakék, Homrogd; SK: Janik
Kras-Bodva	02.2009	Slovakia, Hungary	SK: Hrušov; HU: Perkupa, Varbóc
Abaúj-Abaújban	06.2010	Hungary, Slovakia	HU: Arka, Boldogkőújfalu, Boldogkőváralja, Fony, Hejce, Hernádcéce, Korlát, Mogyoróska, Regéc; SK: Cestice, Debrad, Komarovce, Nižný Lanec, Perín, Rešica, Veľká Ida
Pons Danubii	11.2010	Slovakia, Hungary	SK: Komárno, Hurbanovo, Kolárovo; HU: Kisbér, Komárom, Oroszlány, Tata
Arrabona	06.2011	Hungary, Slovakia	HU: Győr, Abda, Böny, Börcs, Dunakiliti, Dunaszeg, Dunaszentpál, Győrújbarát, Győrújfalu, Halászi, Ikrény, Kisbajcs, Kunsziget, Mecsér, Mosonszolnok, Nagyszentjános, Pér, Rábapatona, Vámoszabadi, Vének; SK: Dunajská Streda, Horný Bar, Šamorín, Veľký Meder
Rába-Duna-Vág	12.2011	Hungary, Slovakia	HU: Komárom-Esztergom county, Győr-Moson-Sopron county; SK: Trnava county
Novohrad-Nógrád	11.2011	Hungary, Slovakia	HU: Salgótarján; SK: Fiľakovo
Bodrogközi	04.2012	Hungary, Slovakia	HU: Alsóberecki, Felsőberegkei, Karcsa, Karos, Tiszacsermely, Tiszakarád; SK: Bara, Čermochov, Klin nad Bodrogom, Ladmovce, Malý Horeš, Malý Kamenec, Somotor, Streda nad Bodrogom, Veľký Kamenec, Viničky, Zemplín

Name of the EGTC	Date of registration	Country members	County/township/settlement members
Sajó-Rima	04.2013	Hungary, Slovakia	HU: Putnok, Ózd; SK: Rimavská Sobota, Tornaľa
Via Carpatia	05.2013	Slovakia, Hungary	SK: Košice county; HU: Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén county
Torysa	11.2013	Hungary, Slovakia	HU: Sározsadány, Gönc; SK: Čížatice
Svinka	11.2013	Hungary, Slovakia	HU: Tolcsva, Háromhuta; SK: Obišovce

10.2 Annex 2: Methodology and action plan for defining the indicators

10.2.1 Priority axis 1: Nature & Culture

16. TABLE: PROGRAMME SPECIFIC RESULT INDICATOR

ID	Indicator	Measurement Unit	Baseline Value	Baseline Year	Target Value (2023)	Source of Data	Frequency of reporting
R110	Total number of visitors in the region	Number / year	7.074.754	2012	7.800.000	national statistical data (ŠUSR, KSH)	In 2018, 2020 and 2023

ID	Indicator	Definition	Source of data and defining baseline and target values
R110	Total number of visitors in the region	A visitor in accommodation establishment of tourism is a person (except staff and owner) using services of temporary accommodation establishment regardless of country of permanent residence. Children are also included in the number of visitors. The visitor uses accommodation services for the reason of holiday, business trip, participation in sport event, training course, symposium, stay in spa and convalescent centres, visit of friends or relatives, participation in church events, etc.	<p>Data from both countries are obtained at NUTS 3 level including every eligible NUTS 3 region (also the capitals). Source of data:</p> <p>Slovakia – RegDat (Regional Statistics Database) / Statistics of tourism by region by territory, type of indicator and period / http://px-web.statistics.sk/PXWebSlovak/index_en.htm</p> <p>Hungary – STADAT / 6.4.5.2. A kereskedelmi szálláshelyek vendégforgalma http://www.ksh.hu/docs/hun/xstadat/xstadat_eves/iga011b.html</p> <p>Baseline value: SK 2.108.414 HU 4.966.340</p> <p>Target value: The target value for 2023 has been calculated using linear regression based on existing values (2003-2013) minus the average of the absolute deviations of data points from their mean. $2.186.000 (SK) + 5.680.000(HU) \approx 7.800.000$</p>

17. TABLE: COMMON AND PROGRAMME SPECIFIC OUTPUT INDICATORS

ID	Indicator (name of indicator)	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
CO09	Sustainable tourism: Increase in expected number of visits to supported sites of cultural and natural heritage and attractions	visits/year	30.000	beneficiaries	annually
O11	Length of reconstructed and newly built 'green ways'	km	89	beneficiaries	annually
CO13	Roads: Total length of newly built roads	km	7	beneficiaries	annually
CO23	Nature and biodiversity: Surface area of habitats supported in order to attain a better conservation status	hectares	100 549	beneficiaries	annually
CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	enterprises	40	beneficiaries	annually
CO02	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving grant	enterprises	40	beneficiaries	annually

ID	Indicator	Definition	Source of data and defining target values
CO09	Sustainable tourism: Increase in expected number of visits to supported sites of cultural and natural heritage and attractions	CO09 according to Guidance Document on Monitoring and Evaluation – ERDF (EC, 30/2014) http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docoffic/2014/working/wd_2014_en.pdf	The ex ante estimated increase in number of visits to a site in the year following project completion. Valid for site improvements that aim to attract and accept visitors for sustainable tourism. Includes sites with or without previous tourism activity (e.g. nature parks or buildings converted to museum). One visitor can make multiple visits; a group of visitors count as many visits as many members the group has. The Managing Authorities set the methodology for estimating the expected number that can be based on demand analysis. The number is a best estimate. A revision is needed after the project selection procedure.

ID	Indicator	Definition	Source of data and defining target values
O11	Length of reconstructed and newly built 'green ways'	A greenway is a linear open space established along either a natural corridor, such as a river front, stream valley, or ridgeline, or over land along a railroad right-of-way converted to recreational use, a canal, scenic road, or other route. It is any natural or landscaped course for pedestrians, equestrian or bicycle passage; or open space connector linking parks, natural reserves, wildlife habitat corridor, cultural features, or historic sites with each other and with populated areas or a certain strip of linear park designated as parkway or greenbelt.	<p>The total allocation that can be used for building greenways under COI 90 is 8.915.000 €. The approximate cost for building 1 km of greenway is 100.000 €. This estimate is based on parallel report of the State Audit Office of Hungary and the Supreme Audit Office of the Slovak Republic.</p> <p>http://www.asz.hu/jelentes/13006/jelentes-a-kerekparut-halozat-fejlesztese-forditott-penzeszkozok-fel-hasznalasanak-ellenorzesrol-parhuzamos-ellenorzes-a-szlovak-szamvevoszekkel/13006j000.pdf</p> <p>The target value for 2023 is $8.915.000 / 100.000 = 89$ km</p>
CO13	Roads: Total length of newly built roads	CO13 according to Guidance Document on Monitoring and Evaluation – ERDF (EC, 30/2014) http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docoffic/2014/working/wd_2014_en.pdf	The total allocation that can be used for building roads under COI 032 is 9 590.000 €. The approximate cost for building 1 km of roads is 1.400.000 € taking into account the big differences (geomorphological characteristics, presence of bridges, etc.) in the technical parameters of potential projects.
CO23	Nature and biodiversity: Surface area of habitats supported in order to attain a better conservation status	CO23 according to Guidance Document on Monitoring and Evaluation – ERDF (EC, 30/2014) http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docoffic/2014/working/wd_2014_en.pdf	<p>The target value has been calculated taking into account the total allocation for COI 85 and 86 which amounts for 7.541.208 €. The approximate support for 1 ha of surface area has been calculated as the average yearly environmental protection expenditure of SVK and HUN general governments by COFOG groups and economic transactions for the years 2003-2012 divided by the total area of both countries which amounts for 75 €/ha.</p> <p>The target value for 2023 is 100 549 hectares.</p>

ID	Indicator	Definition	Source of data and defining target values
CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	CO01 according to Guidance Document on Monitoring and Evaluation – ERDF (EC, 30/2014) http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docoffic/2014/working/wd_2014_en.pdf	The total allocation granted for SME supported by decisions of Task Force is 10.000.000 €.
CO02	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving grants	CO02 according to Guidance Document on Monitoring and Evaluation – ERDF (EC, 30/2014) http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docoffic/2014/working/wd_2014_en.pdf	The total allocation granted for SME supported by decisions of Task Force is 10.000.000 €.

10.2.2 Priority axis 2: Enhancing cross-border mobility

18. TABLE: PROGRAMME SPECIFIC RESULT INDICATOR

ID	Indicator	Measurement Unit	Baseline Value	Baseline Year	Target Value (2023)	Source of Data	Frequency of reporting
R210	Average distance between border crossing points	km	21,9	2014	15	beneficiaries	In 2018, 2020 and 2023
R221	Change in the volume of cross-border public transport	persons	382 849	2013	450 000	service providers	In 2018, 2020 and 2023
R222	Change in the volume of cross-border good transport	EUR	8 565 130 424	2013	10 000 000 000	national statistical offices	In 2018, 2020 and 2023

ID	Indicator	Definition	Source of data and defining baseline and target values
R210	Average distance between border crossing points	<p>The value of the indicator can be defined as an average ratio:</p> $D = L / x$ <p>where:</p> <p>D = density of border crossing points</p> <p>x = number of existing border crossing road infrastructure</p> <p>L = total length of the Hungary-Slovakia common border line (= 679 km).</p>	<p>Baseline value:</p> <p>679 km / 31 border crossing points = 21,9 km</p> <p>Target value:</p> <p>The number (15) is a result of a conservative estimation. 679 km / (31+21 border crossing points) = 13,05 km; 679 km / (31 + 14 border crossing points) = 15,08 km (Since 2003 14 new border crossing points have been constructed with the support of different HUSK programmes)</p>

ID	Indicator	Definition	Source of data and defining baseline and target values
R221	Change in the volume of cross-border public transport	<p>According to the information given by service providers, the number of the cross-border passengers has increased during the last two years significantly, as it follows: MÁV / ŽSSK: 231 631 (2012), 265 634 (2013); Esztergom – Štúrovo (Vértes Volán Zrt.): 6050 (2012), 4669 (2013); Komárom-Komárno (Vértes Volán Zrt.): 14 205 (2012), 13 818 (2013); Győr – Dunajská Streda (SAD DS): 6788 (2012), 4559 (2013); Bratislava-Rajka (DP Bratislava): 62 348 (2012), 94 169 (2013).</p> <p>The target value of the indicator has been established with a realistic estimation, based on the data of the previous years.</p> <p>Changes in cross-border passenger traffic: 2013/2012 = 115%; 2022/2013 = 118%</p> <p>It is to be highlighted that the indicator R221 does not refer to individual cross-border transport (e.g. by car, bicycle etc.).</p>	<p>Baseline value: 382 849 persons Target value: 450 000 persons</p> <p>When following a realistic estimation we expected a slow decrease in cross-border public transport along the existing lines except for rail and the bus line Nr 801 between Bratislava and Rajka. Due to the planned developments, the expected decrease will be compensated partly by new lines, partly by new services with higher standard. In addition, we expect further increase in the rate of individual transport means and new ways of transporting (like Uber or Carpooling).</p>

ID	Indicator	Definition	Source of data and defining baseline and target values
R222	Change in the volume of cross-border good transport	<p>Measurement Unit: Free-at-frontier value (FFV) in both destinations (total). $8,565 \text{ bn EUR} * 1,0969 * 1,05 = 9,864 \text{ bn EUR}$</p> <p>Average annual growth of FFV between 2009 and 2013 (last 5 years) was: 109,6%. (The same indicator amounted to 120,2% between 2003 and 2013.) Average change in GDP at market prices between 2009 and 2013 in Hungary: -0,94; in Slovakia: 1,04. Average change in GDP at market prices of the two countries: 0,05.</p>	<p>Baseline value: 8 565 130 424 EUR (2013) Target value: 10 000 000 000 EUR (2023)</p> <p>Free-at-frontier value between the two countries has developed very fast in the 2000's, from 1,555 billion EUR in 2003 to 6,098 billion EUR in 2008. Following this first wave, the increase has slowed down and in the years of 2009 and 2013 remission occurred. However, the value in 2013 (8,565 billion euros) is by 40% more than in 2008. Taking into account the organic limits of production and the smaller growth of GDP in the two countries compared with that in the 2000's, we used a conservative estimation in this case, as well. We counted with the value of average growth of FFB between 2009 and 2013 for the future 9 years and an average change at market prices characterising the previous years of crisis. It is expected that the economic situation does not change dramatically, and in this way, the change of GDP at market prices will grow faster than during the previous five years. http://statinfo.ksh.hu/Statinfo/themeSelector.jsp?page=2&szst=QKT</p>

19. TABLE: COMMON AND PROGRAMME SPECIFIC OUTPUT INDICATORS

ID	Indicator (name of indicator)	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
CO13	Roads: Total length of newly built roads	km	9	beneficiaries	annually
O221	Number of new public transport services started within the framework of the programme	piece	10	beneficiaries	annually
O222	Number of new logistic services started within the framework of the programme	piece	10	beneficiaries	annually

ID	Indicator	Definition	Source of data and defining target values
CO13	Roads: Total length of newly built roads	CO13 according to Guidance Document on Monitoring and Evaluation – ERDF (EC, 30/2014) http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docoffic/2014/working/wd_2014_en.pdf	Under this PA 3 new roads (out of them 1 bridge) can be constructed in relationship with the TEN-T network. Average length of potential IP 7b type projects is 3 km. The approximate cost for building 1 km of roads is 1.400.000 € taking into account the big differences (geomorphological characteristics, presence of bridges, etc.) in the technical parameters of potential projects.
O221	Number of new public transport services started within the framework of the programme	The services should be identified by each regardless of the number of the projects implemented.	<p>Target: 10 new services</p> <p>There are 3 larger metropolitan or pole city areas along the border (Bratislava-Győr, Budapest, Košice) where public transport can be developed with a perspective of sustainability, and further existing connections between Komárom-Komárno and Esztergom and Štúrovo are functioning. Furthermore, services potentially can be developed in the Salgótarján and Lučenec-Fiľakovo region, around Balassagyarmat, Sátoraljaújhely or in the Gemer/Gömör region etc. Within the framework of the programme 5-6 public transport projects are expected to be realised. 10 services mean an average of 2 services developed by projects.</p> <p>According to the projects implemented during the last years, the following historical data can be taken into account. Purchase of new bus vehicles for international transport: approx. 400 000 EUR (projects: Bratislava-Rajka, Győr-Veľký Meďer); development of cross-border electronic route planner and information portal (Transplan: HU-SRB): approx. 240 000 EUR; development of cross-border passenger information system (34 boards + 2 touch-screen post + 2 new loud speaker system) (AT-HU): approx. 820 000 EUR.</p>
O222	Number of new logistic services started within the framework of the programme	The services should be identified by each regardless of the number of the projects implemented.	<p>Target: 10 new services</p> <p>Beside the two metropolitan areas with large capacities in the field of logistics, the Danubian area (Győr-Gönyű, Komárom-Komárno, Esztergom-Štúrovo), the urban influencing area of Košice and Miskolc, as well as the international logistics centres of Čierna nad Tisou and Záhony are the main targeted areas of the specific objective.</p> <p>Within the framework of the programme 5-6 good transport projects are expected to be realised. 10 services mean an average of 2 services developed by projects.</p>

10.2.3 Priority axis 3: Promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility

20. TABLE: PROGRAMME SPECIFIC RESULT INDICATOR

ID	Indicator	Measurement Unit	Baseline Value	Baseline Year	Target Value (2023)	Source of Data	Frequency of reporting
R310	Increase in the employment rate	percentage	63,2	2013	65,2	EUROSTAT	In 2018, 2020 and 2023

ID	Indicator	Definition	Source of data and defining baseline and target values
R310	Increase in the employment rate	<p>The employment rate is calculated by dividing the number of persons aged 20 to 64 in employment by the total population of the same age group. The indicator is based on the EU Labour Force Survey. The survey covers the entire population living in private households and excludes those in collective households such as boarding houses, halls of residence and hospitals. Employed population consists of those persons who during the reference week did any work for pay or profit for at least one hour, or were not working but had jobs from which they were temporarily absent.</p> <p>(source: http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/tgm/refreshTableAction.do?tab=table&plugin=1&pcode=tsdec420&language=en)</p>	<p>http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/tgm/refreshTableAction.do?tab=table&plugin=1&pcode=tsdec420&language=en</p> <p>Target value: Defined based on the data of the last 10 years</p>

21. TABLE: COMMON AND PROGRAMME SPECIFIC OUTPUT INDICATORS

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
O311	Number of (integrated territorial) action plans	number	10	beneficiaries	annually
CO13	Roads: Total length of newly built roads	km	11	beneficiaries	annually
CO44	Labour market and training: Number of participants in joint local employment initiatives and joint training	persons	100	beneficiaries	annually
O312	Number of women in joint local employment initiatives and joint trainings (participants of employment initiatives form above CO44)	persons	50	beneficiaries	annually
O313	Number of participants from groups at risk of discrimination, including Roma in joint local employment initiatives and joint trainings (participants of employment initiatives form above CO44)	persons	25	beneficiaries	annually
O314	Number of new business services promoting employment and consultancy services	number	15	beneficiaries	annually
CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	enterprises	10	beneficiaries	annually
CO02	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving grant	enterprises	10	beneficiaries	annually
CO08	Productive investment: Employment increase in supported enterprises	FTE	20	beneficiaries	annually
CO39	Urban development specific indicators: Public or commercial buildings built or renovated in urban areas	square meters	3000	beneficiaries	annually

ID	Indicator	Definition	Source of data and defining target values
O311	Number of (integrated territorial) action plans	See explanation in Chapter 2.3.4.	10 Action Plans (including 3-8 projects, in average) are expected.
CO13	Roads: Total length of newly built roads	CO13 according to Guidance Document on Monitoring and Evaluation – ERDF (EC, 30/2014) http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docoffic/2014/working/wd_2014_en.pdf	4 projects are expected to be implemented, at maximum. Average length of IP 8e type roads is 3 km. The approximate cost for building 1 km of roads is 1.400.000 € taking into account the big differences (geomorphological characteristics, presence of bridges, etc.) in the technical parameters of potential projects.
CO44	Labour market and training: Number of participants in joint local employment initiatives and joint training	CO44 according to Guidance Document on Monitoring and Evaluation – ERDF (EC, 30/2014) http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docoffic/2014/working/wd_2014_en.pdf	The expected number of action plans is 10.10 persons as average is planned to be involved in local employment initiatives or training / action plan.
O312	Number of women in joint local employment initiatives and joint trainings (participants of employment initiatives form above CO44)	CO44 according to Guidance Document on Monitoring and Evaluation – ERDF (EC, 30/2014) http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docoffic/2014/working/wd_2014_en.pdf	The expected number of action plans is 10.10 persons as average is planned to be involved in local employment initiatives or training / action plan. Additionally it is estimated, that the number of women among the participants is 50 in the total CO44.
O313	Number of participants from groups at risk of discrimination, including Roma in joint local employment initiatives and joint trainings (participants of employment initiatives form above CO44)	CO44 according to Guidance Document on Monitoring and Evaluation – ERDF (EC, 30/2014) http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docoffic/2014/working/wd_2014_en.pdf	The expected number of action plans is 10.10 persons as average is planned to be involved in local employment initiatives or training / action plan. Additionally it is estimated, that the number of people from groups at risk of discrimination, including Roma is 25 in the total CO44.
O314	Number of new business services promoting employment and consultancy services	The indicator covers the services under Action type no. 5 (business services promoting employment) and under Action type 6 (common use of expert and consultancy services), please see Action type 5 and 6 under chapter 2.3.4.1.	1-2 new services per action plan are expected.

ID	Indicator	Definition	Source of data and defining target values
CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	CO01 according to Guidance Document on Monitoring and Evaluation – ERDF (EC, 30/2014) http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docoffic/2014/working/wd_2014_en.pdf	10 Action Plans are expected. It is expected that 1 enterprise will be involved in one action plan, at least.
CO02	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving grant	CO02 according to Guidance Document on Monitoring and Evaluation – ERDF (EC, 30/2014) http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docoffic/2014/working/wd_2014_en.pdf	10 Action Plans are expected. It is expected that 1 enterprise will be involved in one action plan, at least.
CO08	Productive investment: Employment increase in supported enterprises	CO08 according to Guidance Document on Monitoring and Evaluation – ERDF (EC, 30/2014) http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docoffic/2014/working/wd_2014_en.pdf Number of new workplaces in supported enterprises (including SME's and social enterprises) - Social enterprises are enterprises, of which key distinguishing characteristics are the social and societal purpose combined with an entrepreneurial spirit. Social enterprises devote their activities and reinvest their surpluses to achieving a wider social or community objective either in their members' or a wider interest.	10 Action Plans are expected. It is expected that 1 enterprise will be involved in one action plan, at least. It is expected that 1 involved enterprise will create 2 new workplaces as an average.
CO39	Urban development specific indicators: Public or commercial buildings built or renovated in urban areas	CO39 according to Guidance Document on Monitoring and Evaluation – ERDF (EC, 30/2014) http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docoffic/2014/working/wd_2014_en.pdf	10 Action Plans are expected. It is expected that in case of an action plan 300 m2 of buildings will be renovated as an average.

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

22. TABLE: PROGRAMME SPECIFIC RESULT INDICATOR

ID	Indicator	Measurement Unit	Baseline Value	Baseline Year	Target Value (2023)	Source of Data	Frequency of reporting
R410	Level of cross-border cooperation.	Score	3,4	2015	4,1	Beneficiaries	In 2018, 2020 and 2023

ID	Indicator	Definition	Source of data and defining baseline and target values
R410	Level of cross-border cooperation	Rating of the cross border cooperation among institutions acting in the Programming area in the previous periods according to specific survey	<p>The planned survey classified the level of cross-border inter-institutional cooperation based on a questionnaire sent to the institutions acting in Hungarian-Slovak border area. Ranking between 1 and 7 represents the level of inter-institutional cooperation in different fields of actions. The final value of ranking was calculated on basis of the data of the questionnaire filled in by the representatives of institutions operating within the programming region.</p> <p>The survey will be repeated three times during the programming period: in 2018, 2020, 2023</p>

23. TABLE: COMMON AND PROGRAMME SPECIFIC OUTPUT INDICATORS

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
O411	Number of cross-border products and services developed	Number	20	Beneficiaries	annually
O412	Number of documents published or elaborated outside of the framework of SPF	Number	40	Beneficiaries	annually
O413	Number of cross-border events	Number	400	Beneficiaries	annually
O414	Number of documents published or elaborated in the framework of SPF	Number	200	Beneficiaries	annually
O415	Number of participants in cooperation	Number	10 000	Beneficiaries	annually
O416	Number of women participated in cooperation	Number	4 000	Beneficiaries	annually
O417	Number of participants from socially marginalized groups, Including Roma	Number	300	Beneficiaries	annually

ID	Definition	Source of data and defining target values
O411	Expected number of implemented inter-institutional projects is between 40 and 50. Taking into consideration that not every project will result in service provision, 20 new services are expected till the end of the programming period.	
O412	1 document is expected by project.	
O413	It is expected that the majority of the projects supported by SPF will contain one event, at least.	
O414	It is expected that the majority of the projects will contain publishing activity, as well.	
O415	The total number of people participating in cooperation activities including staff members, trainees, performers, participants forms the general public etc. Where appropriate to be confirmed by an attendance sheet, otherwise as estimated by the beneficiary.	
O416	The total number of women participating in cooperation activities including staff members, trainees, performers, participants forms the general public etc. Where appropriate to be confirmed by an attendance sheet, otherwise as estimated by the beneficiary.	
O417	Total aggregate number of people involved in cooperation from socially marginalized groups. To be determined based on the total number of participants from projects specially targeting marginalized communities.	

10.2.5 Priority axis 5: Technical Assistance

24. TABLE: OUTPUT INDICATORS

ID	Indicator (name of indicator)	Measurement unit	Target value (2023) – optional	Source of data
O511	Number of employees (FTEs) whose salaries are co-financed by technical assistance	FTE	41	Internal registry
O512	Number of publicity events	Number of events	15	Joint Secretariat
O513	Number of studies and evaluation documents	Finished studies and evaluation documents	2	Joint Secretariat
O514	Number of training initiatives for the management bodies	Training initiatives	15	Joint Secretariat

ID	Indicator	Definition	Source of data and defining target values
O511	Number of employees (FTEs) whose salaries are co-financed by technical assistance	Employees (FTEs) whose salaries are co-financed by technical assistance: MA, AA, CA, HUFLC, SKFLC, Info Points	MA, JS
O512	Number of publicity events		JS estimation based on the experiences in the former period
O513	Number of studies and evaluation documents		JS estimation based on the experiences in the former period
O514	Number of training initiatives for the management bodies		JS estimation based on the experiences in the former period

10.3 Annex 3: Reasoning for result indicator

10.3.1 Reasoning for the R410 result indicator “Level of cross-border cooperation”

The cooperation programme intends to develop strategic frameworks, shared perspectives and concrete pilot action in specific policy areas where cross-border cooperation is expected to make a difference. Given problems require the efforts of many different actors working together to mitigate or even resolve common challenges. Better cooperation of key actors extends the reach to tackle challenges. The cooperation programme is one influencing factor - amongst others - to promote cooperation of actors in specific policy fields.

Therefore, it is proposed to focus result indicators on the (evolving) intensity of cooperation of key actors / key institutions in the programme area in order to improve the framework conditions in specific policy fields. Since the cooperation programme cannot directly generate major physical impact in economic, social or territorial terms, the focus should be set on the specific observation variable “cooperation” which is within the scope of the programme and can be directly influenced.

Target is an increasing intensity of cooperation to contribute to a higher degree of integration of the heterogeneous SK-HU cross border region. The intensity or level of cooperation as an indicator is often used in social sciences. Cooperation is generally treated as meaning the cooperative way that two or more actors / entities in the specific programme area work together towards a shared goal (specific objective).

The programme specific result indicator in its general form is defined as:

The intensity of cross border cooperation of key actors/key institutions in the programme area to achieve the results defined in the cooperation programme.

The result indicator will be measured at the level of detailed results (specific level) and subsequently aggregated at the level of the specific objective (overall level). The “cooperation” indicator is designed as a “survey based composite indicator” which reflects the intensity of cooperation of key actors in the programme area in the different fields of action addressed by a specific objective. The total cooperation intensity is calculated from the partial values, which reflect the cooperation behaviour in selected areas of interest (linked to the results intended). Thus a direct connection with the fields of action /intended results of the programme where changes are expected is given. The change in the various fields of action can be observed in a detailed way (as internal information), and simultaneously a synthetic single value (e.g. 2.4) for reporting can be provided.

For the understanding of change, it is important not only to observe a single value, but to reflect the changes in the various fields of action addressed by the programme. So much more plausible and robust findings may be obtained.

10.3.2 Practical implementation regarding the R410 result indicator

Primary data collection by a survey

The baseline of the result indicator will be established through a survey (preferably cost efficient online-survey) among key actors/key institutions in the programme area. Surveyed key actors will consist of actual programme beneficiaries, key stakeholders in the programme area as well as there is a sample of the entire population of potential beneficiaries (target group) in the programme area in a specific policy field (e.g. environment, culture, transport, employment, mobility, governance).

It is important to note that the established methodology for setting the baseline can be used throughout the programming period (an investment that pays off). Also the ongoing observation of changes in the

baseline values at certain cut off dates related to the “enhanced” reporting needs - collection of data in 2018, 2020, 2023.

Data on actors collected by the JS (contact database) can help to identify and to specify the target population more in detail (e.g. a list of respondents in various policy fields was collected; however, this dataset does not comprise contact persons and email addresses). The various types of actors which are involved are basically policy makers, private sector, other public sectors, interest groups, higher education institutions, and intermediaries. The institutions will be contacted per email with invitations to attend an efficient online-survey containing a limited number of questions related to the “expected results” of the Specific Objective.

The questionnaire should be written bilingual in Hungarian and Slovak. It is proposed to use an online questionnaire to collect data that included the observed variables as well other demographic and descriptive information about the collaborations to which respondents and their organizations belonged. The questionnaire shall be limited to essential questions to assure a sufficient rate and quality of response. The questions should be directly connected to the fields of action addressed by the programme, this for clarity and transparency sake. The survey can also be used to simultaneously communicate information about the programme to the target group (“multi-purpose tool”).

The same questionnaire could be used in the Application Forms and Reporting Templates of the projects to be filled in by the beneficiaries. In this way there is “live monitoring” of the contributions to the baseline and the SO as projects are implemented. The conclusions are then triangulated via the cross-cut evaluation.

To operationalize the level of cooperation in a specific field of action it is suggested to use closed-ended question within a matrix (see example below). Respondents from the programme area are asked to what extent they cooperate with each other partner in the programme area in a specific field of action. Answer options are on a 1 to 7 scale with 1 indicating “no interaction at all” and 7 indicating a fully developed cooperation level.

Each cooperation intensity level is explained by certain criteria. Lowest level of cooperation occurs when there is little communication and partnership quality. The highest level of cooperation occurs when there is frequent communication and decisions are made by consensus and outcomes are concrete and useful. The criteria clearly aim at more professionalization in cooperation. It is also possible that some actors have no interaction with other groups, especially at baseline situation, and this possibility is reflected in the instrumentation by allowing respondents to choose “1” to indicate no collaboration whatsoever.

Scale	Aspects to be considered when rating the cooperation intensity
1 No interaction at present (No)	It is possible that some actors have no cross border interaction with other groups especially at the baseline situation or cooperation existed in the past but has been declined for various reasons
2 Occasional contacts (Poor)	Occasional contacts between SK and HU actors without concrete implementation activities
3 Discussion phase (Fair)	Cooperation between SK and HU actors is in the discussion phase without concrete implementation activities
4 Planning phase (Good)	Cooperation between SK and HU actors is in the more structured planning phase even though without concrete implementation activities
5 First results (Very good)	Cooperation between SK and HU actors has been established and first results with respect to common challenges have been achieved
6 Broader results (Excellent)	Cooperation between SK and HU actors has been established and is working and broader results towards shared goals have been achieved, however, some weaknesses in operating the cooperation still exist
7 Effective and sustainable cooperation (Fully developed)	<p>The highest level of targeted cooperation between SK and HU actors occurs when all the criteria are fully met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The partnership composition is relevant and appropriate • Cooperation activities are well managed and there is an efficient internal communication • There is a sound financial basis for cooperation activities • Training and capacity building activities are offered • The outcomes are concrete and usable • Synergies with other policies, programmes and projects are achieved

10.3.3 Analysis of data collected

Different data collected through the survey have to be aggregated in order to build a single result indicator value. The calculation of the result indicator is done as follows:

The Result indicator value is: Total score (number of responses multiplied by the scale value) divided by the total number of responses. The indicator clearly reflects the development of cooperation. A shift towards higher scale categories will increase the value of the result indicator. It is ensured that the number of responses (which may change over the years) does not affect the result.

10.3.4 Illustration how to establish the composite indicator value (calculation methodology)

Scale of cooperation	1 No	2 Poor	3 Fair	7 Fully developed
Related criteria, for instance (example)					
Quality of communication between actors	Non existing	Poor	Fair		Excellent
Competence of partnerships	Non existing	Poor	Fair		Excellent
Concreteness and usability of outcomes	Non existing	Poor	Fair		Excellent
Number of responses of key actors per fields of action where cooperation is expected*					
Cooperation in the field of nature and culture heritage	10	15	5		1
Cooperation in the field of transport	5	15	0		0
Cooperation in the field of employment and labour mobility	8	18	30		5
Cooperation in the field of governance	8	18	30		5
Calculation					
No of responses	31	66	65		11
Total score: number of responses multiplied by the scale value	31	132	195		77
Total score 2015 divided by number of responses	435 / 173 = 2,5 (baseline value 2015)				
Target value in 2023	2,5 x 20% + 2,5 = 3,0				
Effect resulting from the cooperation programme	+ 0,4 (assessed by an external evaluator)				
Effect resulting from other influencing factors	+0,1 (assessed by an external evaluator)				

* Responses are counted as average of 1-7 answers within the cooperation field