



Citizen's summary 2018

of the

**INTERREG V-A SLOVAKIA-HUNGARY
COOPERATION PROGRAMME**

The Annual Implementation Report 2018 of the Interreg V-A Slovakia-Hungary Cooperation Programme has been prepared pursuant to Annex X of Commission implementing regulation (EU) 2015/207. The report is intended to give a brief overview of the activities that were undertaken in the frame of the programming process, focusing on the year 2018. In December 2017 the [first round of call for proposals](#) within Priority Axis 3 (Promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility) was closed. Within the call the applicants were expected to submit a complex development plans tailored for certain regions (territories), so called Territorial Action Plans for Employment (TAPE). As a result of these plans employment inequalities among the regions shall decrease with a view to improve the level of employment in the programming area. After finishing the admissibility check still in 2017 the year 2018 continued with the formal, eligibility and quality **assessment of the TAPE-s**. Out of the 16 submitted TAPE-s 9 applications passed all levels of the assessment process, and were approved by the members of the [Monitoring Committee \(MC\) on their meeting on 26 April 2018 in Bratislava](#). The second round of TAPE call ([Call for TAPE projects](#)) was opened in August 2018 with the submission deadline in November 2018. This was the call, where the individual projects belonging to the previously approved TAPEs had to be further developed and submitted in more detailed structure. The assessment of the submitted applications is ongoing at the moment.

Within Priority Axis 2 (Enhancing cross-border mobility) there had been a continuously open call since 2016. However, due to several external factors the number of received applications was lower than expected at the time of the planning of the Programme. Thus the Monitoring Committee decided to close this call for good. Altogether 20 applications were submitted to this priority axis, out of which 8 met all conditions for receiving financial support from the Programme. After the decisions were made about the winning projects the MC members authorized the Managing Authority to initiate the [modification of the Cooperation Programme](#) at the European Commission so the remaining ERDF funds (12,1 M EUR) in Priority axis 2 can be reallocated to Priority axis 1 (PA1 – Nature and culture). PA1 is the most popular theme within the Programme. During the 1st Call for proposals the interest towards the grants was 5 times higher than the available ERDF amount within this PA. On 29 October 2018 the European Commission approved the request for modification of the Programme. So the next call for proposals within PA1 due in 2019 will include also the reallocated amount from PA2. So the available funds for the call to be launched in 2019 is 21,9 million EUR ERDF in Priority axis 1 and 5,48M EUR ERDF is Priority axis 4.

Parallel with the opening of the reporting module of IMIS 2014-2020 the JS organized **Lead Beneficiary seminars** for the Lead Beneficiaries of those projects that are in implementation phase.

In spring 2018 a new call was launched, [Call for Small and Medium sized Enterprises \(SME\)](#) within Priority axis 1 (PA1 – Nature and culture). The aim of the call was involve SME-s from the eligible area to achieve the goal of this priority axis: to increase the attractiveness of the border area. In cooperation with the county municipalities and the Info Points the JS held two info days for the potential applicants. After 3 months of duration of the call the requested ERDF amount of submitted applications reached 125% of financial allocation of the call so the call was suspended, and finally closed in September. After the evaluation of the 29 project proposals 6 was approved by the Monitoring Committee for implementation on their meeting on 20 September 2018 in Győr. After the supporting decision was made the Call was not reopened but terminated permanently. The concept of the call will be revised based on the experiences of the SKHU/1801 call, and the remaining funds will be available for the SME-s during the next call in 2019.

Besides the TAPE concept the decision makers opened another new tool within the Programme. This is the Small Project Fund to facilitate the implementation of small budgeted project proposals. This tool is divided into two: the Eastern and Western part of the programming area with two separate management institutions. During the second half of 2018 the **Small Project Fund for the [Eastern](#) and [Western](#) Programming Area** opened their 1st pilot call for proposals.

In case of the Eastern side of the Small Project Fund managed by the Via Carpatia EGTC, the decision on the first approved small projects was made by the Monitoring Committee in December 2018. While Rába-Duna Vág EGTC responsible for management of the Small Project Fund on the Western side shall announce the winners in early 2019.

There was a **[MC meeting organized in Győr on 20 September 2018](#)** with three main goals: making decision about the submitted SME project proposals (SKHU/1801), to get familiar with the draft legislation for the next programming period (2021-2027) and to jointly celebrate the European Cooperation Day. On the occasion of the [European Cooperation Day](#) and the [European Year of Cultural Heritage](#) the Interreg V-A Slovakia-Hungary Cooperation Programme organized a **photo contest** to encourage the citizens of the two partnering countries – Hungary and Slovakia to take an active part in the celebration of the European Cooperation Day and show a piece of the many natural and cultural heritages of the Hungarian and Slovak border area. 12 best photos out of the submitted 56 were selected based on the evaluation of the jury and a Facebook vote. These photos were featured in outdoor exhibitions in Győr, Hungary (20-28 September 2018) and Košice, Slovakia (1-6 October 2018), as well as in the Wall Calendar of 2019.