

# Summary of 2018

## Main activities of the Programme in 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 improving 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. 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 received 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

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 several 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.

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 1<sup>st</sup> pilot call for proposals.

Via Carpatia EGTC, managing the Eastern side, expects the decision on the first approved small projects 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 two main goals: to get familiar with the draft legislation for the next programming period (2021-2027) and to jointly celebrate the [European Cooperation Day](#) with an open-air photo exhibition. More information about the monitoring committee meetings can be found in '[Programme implementation](#)' menu point.