

Protocol

of the 13th Monitoring Committee Meeting

for the Interreg V-A Slovakia-Hungary Cooperation Programme

20 December 2022, online

Chair of the Meeting:

Nikoletta Horváth

I.

Opening of the meeting and approval of the Agenda

Presentation of the purpose of the meeting

Presented by: Nikoletta Horváth

I/1) The Monitoring Committee

approved the Agenda of the 13th Monitoring Committee Meeting for the Interreg V-A Slovakia-Hungary Cooperation Programme held on 20 December 2022 online as texted in the document *13_MC_agenda_Interreg-SKHU_v2-00*.

II.

Information on actual implementation phase and N+3 status of the Interreg V-A SKHU Cooperation Programme

Presented by: Csilla Veres

Veres Csilla presented actual implementation phase and N+3 status of the Interreg V-A SKHU Cooperation Programme. The past period has been characterised by crisis management and flexible project solutions. She thanked the Monitoring Committee for their supportive approach. Number of closed projects is 79 out of 169 contracted normal projects. Planning of the new programming period's schedule to facilitate the delivery of n+3 have started. The contracted ERDF allocation of each priority axis by counties was presented. At the beginning of the year a survey was carried out to measure the additional financial needs of projects, afterwards the requests were evaluated. The two rounds of reallocation of unused funds was approved by the MC with no objections in 2022.

II/1) The Monitoring Committee

acknowledges the information on N+3 and actual programme implementation status of the Interreg V-A SKHU Cooperation Programme as presented in the document *13_MC_programme_status_v1-02.pdf*.

III.

Information on the achievements of Small Project Fund

Presented by: Erika Begalová (Via Carpatia EGTC) and Ema Vasiová (RDV EGTC)

Erika Begalová (Via Carpatia EGTC) and Ema Vasiová (RDV EGTC) presented the current state and achievements of Small Project Fund of the Interreg V-A SKHU Cooperation Programme.

The Small Project Fund of eastern border area operated with a budget of 7.3 million EUR. For priority axis 1 1.8 million EUR and for priority axis 4 5.5 million EUR was allocated. Altogether 4 call for proposals were launched and 7 assessment rounds were carried out. 277 projects were submitted, out of which 127 were implemented.

Within the frame of the Small Project Fund operated in the western border 147 out of 352 received applications were approved, but 21 beneficiaries withdrew due to COVID, resulting in 126 implemented projects. Due to the pandemic situation, many modifications had to be processed, with a total of 140 MC decisions and 113 RDV decisions.

III/1) The Monitoring Committee

was informed about the achievements of Small Project Fund as it is presented in Eastern_Small_Project_Fund.pdf and Western_Small_Project_Fund.pdf.

IV.

Actual status of effectiveness, efficiency and impact evaluation of the Interreg V-A Slovakia-Hungary Cooperation Programme

Presented by: Kitti Dubniczki (CESCI)

The 1st phase of a combined evaluation of the Interreg V-A Slovakia-Hungary Cooperation Programme was initiated in 2018 while the 2nd phase of a combined evaluation started in 2022 based on the approved Inception report. The evaluation processes were presented. Interviews were conducted with Programme bodies (MA, NA, MC, JS, FLC) and beneficiaries. It is obvious from the evaluation, that the beneficiaries were having mainly financial and procedural obstacles but not cultural. The programme indicators were met very early. Detailed information on the result of the evaluation will be provided for the Monitoring Committee in the first half of 2023.

IV/1) The Monitoring Committee

was informed about the actual status of effectiveness, efficiency and impact evaluation of the Interreg V-A Slovakia-Hungary Cooperation Programme as presented in the Programme_evaluation.pdf.

V.

Information on and acknowledgement of the report summarising the findings of evaluations carried out during the programming period and the main outputs and results of the Interreg V-A Slovakia-Hungary Cooperation Programme

Presented by: Csilla Veres

V/1) The Monitoring Committee

acknowledged the report summarising the findings of evaluations carried out during the programming period and the main outputs and results of the Interreg V-A Slovakia-Hungary Cooperation Programme texted in the document *Evaluation_summary_v4-00*. The Monitoring Committee mandates the Managing Authority to upload the report into the SFC system by 31/12/2022.

VI.

Presentation of the social media campaign of the programme – plans and results

Presented by: Szilvia N. Varagya (aPRimage, s.r.o.)

VI/1) The Monitoring Committee

was informed about ongoing social media campaign of the Interreg V-A SKHU Cooperation Programme, future plans and expected results as it is presented in the document *Communication_campaign.pdf*.

VII.

Discussion on and approval of the modified Rules of Procedures of the Monitoring Committee

Presented by: Nikoletta Horváth

VII/1) The Monitoring Committee

approved the modified Rules of Procedures of the Monitoring Committee texted in the documents *Rules_of_Procedure_of_the_MC_b5-02*.

VIII.

Discussion on and approval of authorization of the MA to act in case of project prolongations without former MC decision

Presented by: Nikoletta Horváth

VIII/1) The Monitoring Committee

authorized the Managing Authority to act in the matter of project prolongations (after prior consent with the National Authority and Joint Secretariat) in order to support the smooth project implementation.

IX.

Any other business

Presented by: Nikoletta Horváth

Nikoletta Horváth provided information on the actual status of new programming period. On 3 November 2022, the European Commission approved the Interreg Programme of Hungary-Slovakia 2021-2027. The first meeting of the Monitoring Committee will take place on 24 January 2023. According to the plans, the agenda will contain the approval of the selection method for the OSI and SPF as well as a programme calendar for better ensuring a smooth implementation.

During the preparation of Interreg programmes 2021-2027 in which Hungary participates the financial resources of the Interreg envelope provided for Hungary for supporting cross-border cooperation projects have not been yet fully committed. Therefore, Hungary decided to provide additional ERDF financing to the Interreg VI-A Hungary-Slovakia Programme in an amount of 4.270.755 EUR in order to commit the envelope fully. It would mean additional financial resources for the programme. The programme modification is made in two phases, first phase was approved by the programming committee, the second phase adjusting the programme budget, indicators and performance framework will be approved by the monitoring committee.