

Protocol

of the 4th Programming Committee Meeting

for the future Interreg Programme between Hungary and Slovakia
28 October 2021, online meeting

Chair of the Meeting:

Nikoletta Horváth

I.

Opening and approval of the Agenda

Presentation of the purpose of the meeting

Presented by: Nikoletta Horváth

I/1) The Programming Committee

approves the Agenda of the 4th Programming Committee Meeting for the future Interreg Programme between Hungary and Slovakia held on 28 October 2021 online as texted in the document *Agenda_4th-PC-meeting_v1-01*.

II.

Summary of the results of the focus group workshops

Presented by: Barna-Lázár Zoltán

The Programming Committee was informed about the results and main outcomes of the focus group workshops, which were organised in Slovakia and Hungary. Four workshops were organised on each side of the border (eight workshops altogether) focusing on main topics of the chapter 2 of the Programme Document – A Greener Europe (PO2) and A More Social Europe (PO4).

The representative of the European Commission (Katalin Péntzes) raised a question whether the complementarity of the Programme Document with the mainstream national operational programmes was assessed. Barna-Lázár Zoltán confirmed that the complementarity of the Programme Document with the mainstream national operational programmes was assessed as regards all SOs.

III.

Discussion and approval on the 2nd draft of the Programme Document

Presented by: Veres Csilla

III/1) Veres Csilla introduced to the Programming Committee in details the main updates and modifications of the 2nd draft of the Programme Document in comparison to the 1st draft.

III/2) The Programming Committee **approved with the following conditions** the 2nd draft of the Programme Document as it is texted in the document *Interreg-programme_2021-2027_v2-25*.

- Members of the Programming Committee have raised a number of remarks, which they will also submit in written form. Among the most important ones were the following:
 - The representative of the European Commission (Katalin Péntzes) pointed out that principles of European Green Deal and digitalisation (especially in tourism) shall be highlighted in the Programme Document, and can also be considered as guiding horizontal principles.
 - PO4 so(v) – ensuring equal access to healthcare and fostering resilience of health systems, including primary care, and promoting the transition from institutional to family-based and community-based care:

As telemedicine is an innovative tool that can significantly improve access to healthcare and the quality of medical services, it shall be highlighted as an example of ICT innovation in healthcare.

- PO4 so(vi) enhancing the role of culture and sustainable tourism in economic development, social inclusion and social innovation:

It was recommended to include and emphasise the valorisation of cultural heritage in this specific objective (Peter Wolf).

- ISO1 so(ii) Enhance efficient public administration by promoting legal and administrative cooperation and cooperation between citizens, civil society actors and institutions, in particular, with a view to resolving legal and other obstacles in border regions - Small project fund – Action 3.1.2:

Members of the Programming Committee appreciated accepting of their proposal to increase financial allocation for SPF (dr. Lakatosné dr. Novák Éva, Steindl Balázs) as it is texted in document *Indicative_budget_Table_8_IP_v1-08*.

Outcomes from the discussion:

- European Green Deal objectives and digitalization shall be emphasized more in the Programme Document.
- Telemedicine shall be incorporated as an example of ICT innovation in healthcare.
- The valorisation of cultural heritage shall be included in the description specific objective - so(v) – Enhancing the role of culture and sustainable tourism in economic development, social inclusion and social innovation.

- Capitalization will be introduced under Communication chapter.
- Increased financial allocation for Small project fund (SPF).
- The Programming Committee has approved the 2nd draft of the Programme Document with reservation that the experts will integrate the comments from the Members sent by written form within 10 days after the reception of present Protocol. Comments can be provided directly to the text of the 2nd draft of the Programme Document in “track changes” mode.

IV.

Introduction of the strategic project under the PO 3 – Eliminating border obstacles

Presented by: Gyula Ocskay (CESCI)

IV/1) Gyula Ocskay and Rudolf Bauer (CESCI-Carpathia) introduced to the Programming Committee the main objectives, actions and target groups of the strategic project.

- Members of the Programming Committee have raised some remarks on the expected outcomes of the strategic project. Among the most important ones is the following:

It was recommended to create kind of an e-manual, which would be regularly updated and would reflect on legislative obligations set on each side of the border, especially in the area of spatial planning, environmental protection, public procurement and construction (Martin Hakel).

V.

Any other business

Presented by: Nikoletta Horváth

V/1) Presentation of the proposed financial allocation for each Specific objective within the 2nd draft of the Programme Document. It was highlighted that the financial allocation presented per actions is only a prognosis elaborated for the indicator methodology. Only financial allocation for Priority Axis 1, 2 and 3 shall be included in the Programme Document.

V/2) Presentation of the future steps and timeframe:

1. Sending informally the draft of the Programme Document to the European Commission.
2. The compliance with the ‘do no significant harm’ (DNSH) principle is being assessed by a group of external experts with a deadline of 30 November 2021. Short reference should be incorporated in the Programme document.
3. Proposals of Country Reports 2019 (Annex D) will be incorporated into Chapter 1 by CESCI.

4. Short reference to Border Orientation Paper and horizontal principles should be reflected in the Programme document.
5. After the approval of the SEA Scoping Report, the 1st draft of the Environmental Report shall be approved by PC with the present Protocol (as it is texted in the document *Draft_environmental_report_v1-04*) and online public consultation will be launched following the approval.
6. The Programme document shall be translated to Slovak and Hungarian language for public consultation. The activity is in progress and shall be completed by middle of November 2021. PC members will be asked to promote public consultation on their social media platforms and inform the target groups on all possible communication channels.
7. Appendix 3 to the Programme document shall be prepared for the strategic project.
8. Considering the necessary steps discussed before, the PC for the final approval is expected in January 2022. After the governmental approvals (approx. 4-8 weeks in Hungary), the possible submission date of the final Programme Document to the European Commission would be April 2022.