

## Protocol

### of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Programming Committee Meeting

for the future Interreg Programme between Hungary and Slovakia  
31 March 2021, online meeting

#### Chair of the Meeting:

Nikoletta Horváth

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#### 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Programming Committee Meeting for the future Interreg Programme between Hungary and Slovakia held on 31 March 2021 online as texted in the document *Agenda\_3rd-PC-meeting\_v1-01*.

Based on the logins the quorum of the meeting is constituted.

#### II.

##### Discussion and approval on the 1<sup>st</sup> draft of Chapter 2 of Programme Document

Presented by: Barna-Lázár Zoltán

II/1) The Programming Committee

**acknowledged with conditions** the 1<sup>st</sup> draft of Chapter 2 of Programme Document as it is texted in the document *01\_2021-2027\_Chapter2\_draft\_v3\_12*.

- 1<sup>st</sup> draft of the Chapter2 of Programme Document shall be considered as a long-list of actions which needs to be adjusted to the available funds once the budget of the programme will be known.
- 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:

##### Policy Objective (PO) 2 – A Greener Europe

- It was suggested to exclude from eligible applicants' the central governmental authorities and state owned companies and to prioritise municipalities, NGOs and SMEs (József Berényi).

- Central governmental authorities and state owned companies may be the only eligible beneficiaries of some actions (e.g. Water Management Organizations, National Parks). Target groups were selected according to the subject of actions, narrowing the target groups is not appropriate in this stage of programming (Katarína Mihaľová, Nikoletta Horváth).

Specific Objective (SO) (VI) – Promotion the transition to a circular and resource efficient economy:

There were raised several comments/concerns in regards to the action “Strengthening the logistic infrastructure and cold storage facilities” whether:

- taking into account the financial allocation for the programme, this type of measure will not consume majority of the available allocation and whether there will be enough financial resources to support also other priorities of the programme (Martin Hakeľ);
- there will not be an overlapping with European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (Katarína Mihaľová, Martin Hakeľ);
- merging actions under the SO can be an alternative for not emphasizing the support of logistic infrastructure (Csilla Veres)

Ivan Fecenko questioned the support of logistic infrastructure in agriculture in context of circular economy from (i) technical and (ii) financial point of view:

- (i) The support to logistic infrastructure should be provided mainly to industries participating in circular economy (not exclusively to agriculture).
- (ii) The Interreg programmes with limited allocations generally do not plan bigger infrastructure, which is expensive (in context of Interreg). This have to be noted while planning the breakdown of allocation for programme/ policy objectives, bearing in mind thematic concentration and other programme priorities.

As regard for logistic infrastructure and cold storage facilities, the text of Chapter 2 will be revised and put more reflects on the intention of programmers that they are planned to be small-scale investments (Zoltán Barna-Lázár).

Present version of the Chapter 2 is developed with a distinction made between the coverage of European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and Interreg Programmes.

SO (VII) – Protecting and enhancing nature protection, and biodiversity and green infrastructure, (...) and protecting natural heritage and natural resources:

It was recommended to:

- introduce “green approach” as a horizontal approach, not only as a separate specific objective (Martin Hakeľ);
- horizontal approach shall be included and discussed on the level of Call for Proposals (Csilla Veres);
- include into the SO also an action focused on “Climate changes” (Martin Hakeľ);
- several action proposed contribute to objective of “Climate changes” (Zoltán Barna-Lázár);

- include into the action “Remediation of the existing sources of pollution” specifically support for tailings ponds and management of hazardous waste, especially Microplastics Contamination, which is present in northern Hungary and eastern Slovakia (Viktor Oroszi).
- Specification of tailings ponds in the Programming Document would excessively emphasise this phenomenon, although this is only one of the targeted actions (Katarína Mihaľová).

PO 4 – A More Social Europe:

It was recommended to:

- change the title of this PO, e.g. Social and More Inclusive Europe (József Berényi);
- use Territorial Action Plans (TAPs) instrument for more actions within the PO and also if possible in the whole programming document (Veronika Ormandíková).

SO (I) – Enhancing the effectiveness and inclusiveness of labour markets and access to quality employment through developing social infrastructure and promoting social economy:

It was recommended to:

- enlarge the scope of the action “Supporting social innovation pilot actions for disadvantaged and vulnerable groups” by supporting also Hungarian minorities (József Berényi);
- minority issues shall not be handled separately, as considering the specifics of the programming area NGOs addressing minorities are included and targeted by the programming document (Katarína Mihaľová, Ivan Fecenko).

SO (V) – Enhancing the role of culture and sustainable tourism in economic development, social inclusion and social innovation:

It was recommended to:

- support not only cultural heritage attracted by tourism but also innovative cultural heritage sites (Veronika Ormandíková);
- support not only small infrastructure within the action “Development of tourism infrastructure and marketing (by TAPs) but infrastructure as such, without the limitation in regards to the size (Veronika Ormandíková).

ISO1 – Better INTERREG Governance:

It was recommended to:

- support within the Small Project Funds also small infrastructural projects (Veronika Ormandíková).
- use pre-financing in case of small projects (Veronika Obbágy).

There is no legal limitation on appliance of small infrastructure within small projects under ISO1, but as they are limited in financial resources, soft projects are mostly targeted under this PO (Ivan Fecenko, Nikoletta Horváth).

**Outcomes from the discussion:**

- SO (VI) Action: Strengthening the logistics infrastructure and cold storage facilities – the scope of the action should be clarified.
- SO (VII) Action: Remediation of the existing sources of pollution – the scope of the action should be clarified.
- Territorial Action Plans (TAPs) – the potential use of TAPs within multiple actions should be analysed by taking into account the feasibility and its effect on N+2/N+3 targets of the future Programme.
- The integration of horizontal approach shall be investigated; however, this may be handled on CfP level as well.
- The eligibility and categories of costs within Small Project Funds shall be analysed (e.g. simplified cost options) with the involvement of Interact and the Audit Authority.
- The Programming Committee has decided to acknowledge the 1<sup>st</sup> draft of Chapter 2 of Programme Document with reservation that the experts will integrate the comments from the Members sent by written form after the PC meeting till the end of the duration of circulating the draft protocol, into the draft Chapter 2 document.
- Members of the Programming Committee can submit their comments to the Chapter 2 of Programme Document within 10 days after the sending of the draft Protocol.

**III.****Discussion and approval on the 1st draft of Chapter 4-7 of Programme Document**

Presented by: Nikoletta Horváth

III/1) The Programming Committee

**Acknowledged** the 1st draft of Chapter 4-7 of Programme Document as it is texted in the document *02\_Interreg\_2021\_2027\_Slovakia\_and\_Hungary\_v2-00*.

**IV.****Any other business**

Presented by: Nikoletta Horváth

IV/1) Presentation of the current status of Strategic Environmental Assessment.

- Members of the Programming Committee were informed that the first phase of Strategic Environmental Assessment is ongoing (public procurement of SEA experts are launched and kick-off meeting with Ministry of Agriculture responsible for SEA procedure in Hungary as contact point was organized). Afterwards contracting with SEA experts the Inception Report will be forwarded to the PC members via written procedure. A second phase of SEA will be launched in parallel in both Member States as a public consultation.

IV/2) Modification of Rules of Procedures due to legal succession.

- Managing Authority has initiated the change of Rules of Procedure due to the change of the list in voting members of the Programming Committee, whereas Ministry of Innovation and Technology is replaced by the Prime Minister's Office as of the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2021.