

Slovenia – Hungary

On the basis of Article 106.i of the Public Finance Act of the Republic of Slovenia the Ministry of Cohesion and Regional Development, Kotnikova 5, 1000 Ljubljana, represented by the Interreg and Financial Mechanisms Office, Cross-Border Programmes Management Division issues the following

OPEN CALL FOR PROPOSALS (for small-scale projects)

in the frame of the Interreg VI-A Slovenia–Hungary 2021-2027 Programme
(Reference number: 4300-9/2023)

1. Managing Authority

Ministry of Cohesion and Regional Development, Kotnikova 5, 1000 Ljubljana, represented by the Cohesion Directorate, Interreg and Financial Mechanisms Office, Cross-Border Programmes Management Division acts as Managing Authority.

The Managing Authority is the contracting authority for the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

2. Legal basis

- Public Finance Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 11/11 – official consolidated text, 14/13 – revised, 101/13, 55/15 – ZFisP, 96/15 – ZIPRS1617, 13/18 and 195/20 US Dept.);
- Rules on the procedures for implementing the budget of the Republic of Slovenia (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, no. 50/07, 61/08, 99/09 – ZIPRS1011, 3/13, 81/16, 11/22, 96/22 and 105/22 – ZZNŠPP);
- Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2021, laying down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund Plus, the Cohesion Fund, the Just Transition Fund and the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund and financial rules for those and for the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, the Internal Security Fund and the Instrument for Financial Support for Border Management and Visa Policy (Common Provisions Regulation) with all amendments;
- Regulation (EU) 2021/1059 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2021 on specific provisions for the European territorial cooperation goal (Interreg) supported by the European Regional Development Fund and external financing instruments (Interreg Regulation) with all amendments;
- Regulation (EU) 2021/1058 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2021 on the European Regional Development Fund and on the Cohesion Fund (ERDF Regulation) with all amendments;



- Implementing acts and delegated acts adopted in accordance with the aforementioned regulations;
- Other legal acts applicable to the implementation of projects co-funded by the ERDF;
- Interreg Programme Slovenia-Hungary No CCI2021TC16RFCB045, approved by the European Commission Decision, No C(2022)8276 final as of 14. 11. November 2022 with all amendments.

The pronouns used in the masculine gender form in this document shall be considered as including the feminine gender form in line with the principles of gender-neutral language.

3. Open Call for Small-scale Project Proposals

This Open Call for Small-scale Project Proposals (SSP) is issued by the Managing Authority.

The Application Package, consisting of the Manual for Beneficiaries for small-scale projects, the ERDF Subsidy Contract sample, the Partnership Agreement template and the Interreg Programme Slovenia-Hungary (IP SI-HU) is available for download on the website www.si-hu.eu.

The IP SI-HU for the programming period 2021-2027 invites potential beneficiaries to submit project applications in the frame of this Open Call for Small-scale Project Proposals.

4. Subject of the SSP Open Call

The IP SI-HU is funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) under the European Territorial Cooperation objective. The subject of this SSP Open Call for Proposals is co-financing projects that contribute efficiently to the visibility of the programme by: building mutual trust and generating new links in civil society cooperation in the border regions, as well as enhanced individual relationships.

The subject of this SSP Open Call for Proposals is co-financing of small-scale projects that correspond to the following priority and related specific objective:

Priority 3: Cooperating border region

- ✓ *Specific objective 3.2: Build up mutual trust, in particular by encouraging people-to-people actions*

Under this Specific objective trust building activities in the field of arts and culture, sports, minorities, intercultural dialogue, intergenerational solidarity shall be supported.

The small-scale projects shall apply a result-oriented approach. **The coherence of the project intervention logic** (i.e. the project overall objective, the project-specific objectives, activities, outputs and expected results) **with the targeted specific objective and the indicators of the programme shall be clearly demonstrated.**



For a detailed description of the content of the priority and programme-specific objective, including the actions and target groups, please refer to subchapter 2.3.2 of the IP SI-HU in order to make your project compliant with the programme.

In line with the terms of this Open Call, a small-scale project proposal shall address the mentioned **priority** and **programme-specific objective**.

In the IP SI-HU, the following three types of small-scale projects will be supported:

- Type I - cooperation project based on unit costs
- Type II - mutual trust building projects based on lump sum
- Type III - employee exchange projects based on lump sum

5. Available funding, co-financing rate and project size

A total of **EUR 352.726** of ERDF funding shall be made available for co-financing of small-scale projects in the frame of the current SSP Open Call for Proposals.

The funds shall be available as follows:

Priority	ERDF funding in EUR
3 Cooperating border region (Specific objective 3.2 - Build up mutual trust, in particular by encouraging people-to-people actions)	352.726
Total	352.726

Only eligible expenditure (see point 10 of this document) shall be co-financed by the programme. Co-financing from the ERDF shall amount to a maximum of 80% of the total eligible costs, and at least 20% shall be provided by the Project Partners' own contribution and/or other sources¹.

The projects eligible for participation in this call shall apply for **up to EUR 25.000 of ERDF** funds.

6. Programme area

The programme area comprises two Slovenian (Pomurska, Podravska) and two Hungarian (Vas, Zala) NUTS-3 regions.

7. Partnership requirements

In line with the minimum requirement, the partnership shall have **at least one Project Partner from Slovenia and one from Hungary** or an EGTC (European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation) registered in one of the partner countries consisting of members from both Member States. The Programme recommends 2 Project Partners in a small-scale project.

¹ For detailed information see the Manual for Beneficiaries for small scale projects.



Natural persons and political parties **shall be excluded** from participation. All other legal non profit entities shall be able to participate provided they are not acting as external service providers in the same project and have the **financial, administrative and operational capacity** to participate in the programme. Partners shall appoint a Lead Partner. All Partners shall be **located within the programme area**.

8. Eligible period of co-financing

Expenditure shall be considered eligible at the earliest from the date of the approval of the project from Monitoring Committee of the IP SI-HU.

The project's end date shall be the date defined in the ERDF Subsidy Contract but shall not be later than 31 December 2028.

9. Project duration

The duration of the small-scale projects shall not exceed **12 months**.

10. Eligible costs

1. **125 EUR unit cost** per participant per event day for Type I projects (total cost),
2. **31,250 EUR lump sum** for Type II projects (total cost), and
3. **31,250 EUR lump sum** for Type III projects (total cost).

A detailed description of eligible costs of all three types of small-scale projects is included in the Manual for Beneficiaries of small-scale projects (Chapter 4).

11. Project development support

Before submitting their small-scale project proposals, the applicants should read the documents related to the respective SSP Open Call for Proposals published on the website www.si-hu.eu. Any inquiries and requests for additional information during the Call should be sent by e-mail to the Joint Secretariat (JS) at si-hu.mkrr@gov.si.

The following **information and support** related to project development and preparation of applications shall be **provided by the JS, including the Info Points in Hungary**:

- information about the programme and the SSP Open Call Proposals ;
- information about the preparation and submission of small-scale project applications;
- organisation of information workshops;
- publication of frequently asked questions and answers;
- publication of information about approved small-scale projects.

Support concerning specific small-scale project's content-related topics, including information on State Aid, Project Partner search or information on national co-financing (the latter applies to Project Partners from Hungary) shall be **provided by the representatives of both Member States** (National



Authorities). It is strongly recommended that all Project Partners contact their National Authorities prior to submission of their project application.

Contacts are listed in the Manual for Beneficiaries for Small-scale Projects on the dedicated programme website. The information about the planned information workshops, most frequently asked questions and approved projects shall also be available on the programme website www.si-hu.eu.

12. Submission of project applications

Project applications can be submitted at any time between the launch date and the closing date of the SSP Open Call or as long as the funding is available. The applicants can submit small-scale project applications continuously after the Open Call is launched.

The first deadline for the submission of small-scale project applications is 28 July 2023 (at 12.00 a.m.). All subsequent deadlines for the submission of small-scale project applications shall be published on the programme website www.si-hu.eu at least two months before the set deadline. Small-scale project applications received in due time before each Monitoring Committee (MC) and fulfilling all requirements shall be subject to MC decision.

The project application shall be submitted through Jems. The submitted application shall contain all the required data and shall be accompanied by signed and scanned document annexed to the Application Form as stated in the Manual for Beneficiaries for small-scale projects.

The Application Pack is available on the dedicated programme website www.si-hu.eu.

13. Project selection

The small-scale projects shall have **cross-border impacts on the programme area**. At least three of the cross-border cooperation criteria shall be fulfilled. The Project Partners shall cooperate in project development, joint implementation and joint financing or joint staffing.

The selection of small-scale projects shall be based on the assessment of the received applications following a procedure, which shall ensure the respect of the principles of transparency and equal treatment. The small-scale project application submitted through Jems shall be the only one considered valid.

The small-scale project selection procedure shall be conducted in two phases:

Administrative compliance and eligibility check

The set administrative and eligibility criteria shall be fulfilled by each small-scale project proposal. The small-scale project applications that fully comply with the administrative and eligibility criteria shall be subject to further quality assessment.

If there are some discrepancies or some certain documents are missing according to the administrative check, the Lead Partner shall be asked for supplements. The supplements may refer to the compliance



with criteria A3, B1 and B2 only. **The Lead Partner shall be able to supplement the project application within seven (7) calendar days** after the request for supplements has been sent. In case the small-scale project application fully complies with the set administrative and eligibility criteria after the requested supplements have been provided and is approved by the MC, all supplements shall be entered in the Application Form (in the Jems) before signing the Subsidy Contract.

Quality Assessment

The small-scale project applications that pass the administrative compliance and eligibility check shall be further assessed for quality against the following assessment criteria:

- Strategic assessment criteria
- Operational assessment criteria

During the quality assessment answers given to the set four groups of thematic questions will be evaluated. The total number of points for a small-scale project application in the scope of quality assessment shall be 20 (100 %). Each small-scale project application shall score at least 2,5 points in each thematic group and has to achieve at least 55% or 11 points in order to be further considered. Projects not reaching 11 points will be rejected. Projects reaching 11 points or more shall be discussed at the MC meeting with the possibility of being **approved or rejected (not approved for funding)**.

For IP SI-HU, it is crucial that **horizontal principles** are integrated in the planning, implementation, monitoring, reporting and evaluation of the project activities. During the whole life cycle of the projects, partners are requested to consider actions cross-cutting project activities, taking into account the horizontal principles of the EU. More precisely, actions should be planned, implemented and reported considering the horizontal **principles of equal opportunity, non-discrimination, gender equality and environmental sustainability**. The Project Partners shall indicate the contribution of the small-scale project to horizontal principles as positive, neutral or negative and provide a short justification.

The detailed description of the scoring applied in the scope of the assessment is provided in Chapter 3, Subchapter 3.2.1.2 of the Manual for Beneficiaries for small-scale projects, which is part of the Application Pack published on the programme website www.si-hu.eu.

14. Small-scale project approval

The **final decision** on the small-scale project shall be made by the MC of the programme. The MC shall formally decide whether to approve or reject the project application for funding and shall set the corresponding ERDF contribution by taking into consideration the quality of each project application and its contribution to the programme objectives.

15. Notification regarding project selection

The MAJS shall inform the Lead Partner whether its project proposal was approved/not approved for funding within 30 calendar days from the decision of the MC.



16. Amendments to the SSP Open Call for Proposals

Any amendment to the text of the SSP Open Call for Proposals or its Application Package shall be published on the programme website www.si-hu.eu.

Amendments to this SSP Open Call for Proposals shall be published in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia. Applicants are obliged to respect potential amendments to the Open Call and its Application Package published in the manner as described above.

17. Language

The SSP Open Call for Proposals and the Application Package shall be **published in the Slovene, Hungarian and English language**. In case of discrepancies between the Slovene and the Hungarian text of the Open Call and the Application Package, harmonized English version shall prevail and shall be used as a tool for common understanding.

The small-scale project application shall be bilingual, written in both the **Slovene and Hungarian language**, except for **the project summary which shall be written in the Slovene, Hungarian and English language**. In case of discrepancies, the language of the Lead Partner shall prevail.

18. Other provisions

The results of the SSP Open Call for Proposals are considered as information of public nature and shall be published on the website www.si-hu.eu after signature of ERDF Subsidy Contracts with the selected Lead Partners.

Ministry of Cohesion and Regional Development