



**Interreg**



**SLOVENIA - HUNGARY**

European Union | European Regional Development Fund

# ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT 2017

Cooperation Programme  
Interreg V-A Slovenia-Hungary  
for the programme period 2014-2020

March 2018

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## 1. IDENTIFICATION OF THE ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

CCI	2014TC16RFCB053
<b>Title</b>	Cooperation Programme Interreg V-A Slovenia-Hungary
<b>Version</b>	1.3
<b>Reporting year</b>	2017
<b>Date of approval of the report by the Monitoring Committee</b>	23 March 2018

## 2. OVERVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME (ARTICLE 50(2) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013 AND ARTICLE 14(3)(A) OF REGULATION (EU) No 1299/2013)

Key information on the implementation of the cooperation programme for the year concerned, including on financial instruments, with relation to the financial and indicator data.

This is the third Annual Implementation Report for the Cooperation Programme Interreg V-A Slovenia-Hungary 2014-2020. It reports on the progress achieved under the CP in implementing the programme during the calendar year 2017. The report complies with Article 50(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, which requires the Managing Authority to submit an Annual Implementation Report till 31 of May in the year following full calendar year of implementation. The report was prepared by the Government Office for Development and European Cohesion Policy, acting as the Managing Authority of the programme in co-operation with its programme partners. The Monitoring Committee approved the Annual Implementation Report 2017 on **March 2018 in the frame of the 6th** Monitoring Committee Interreg V-A SI-HU.

### Designation process

All activities regarding the designation process started already in 2015 and continued in 2016 with the preparation of the Description of Management and Control System (DMCS) and all required Programme guidelines. The DMCS with required annexes was submitted to the Audit Authority in the beginning of August 2016. In their report dated on 8 March 2017 the MA **and the CA were designated so the programme and Authorities comply with the designation criteria.**

### Selection of projects

At the beginning of the year 2017 final decision on projects submitted in the frame of the second deadline has been reached at 4th MC meeting on 16 January 2017 where members of Monitoring Committee approved five projects (4 from 1st PA and 1 from 2nd PA). In year 2017, we had two submission deadlines. Third deadline for submission of project proposals ended 11 April 2017 and the fourth deadline ended on 14 November 2017. Till third deadline we received 26 applications, after the assessment seven projects had been approved to be co-financed (4 from 1<sup>st</sup> Priority Axis and 3 from 2<sup>nd</sup> Priority Axis). Till fourth deadline we have received 18 applications which were administrative checked till the end of the calendar year.

### Programme meetings and preparation of the manuals

Monitoring Committee members met twice in year 2017. Once on 16 January 2017 on 4th MC meeting and second time on 5-6 July 2017 on 5th MC meeting. Beside selection of project applications, MC members

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were informed on update on the closure of the programme 2007-2013 and on the programme implementation 2014-2020, they approved the Annual Implementation Report 2016, **they were presented the survey for lead partners of the 1<sup>st</sup> evaluation of the programme and updated in the field of anti-fraud, conflict of interests, irregularities and audits. They were also acquainted with activities** taken for promotion of programme and projects. In addition, the representative of the European Commission presented the ESI Open Data Platform to the MC members which is a visual tool to show the use of funds and reaching the planned results.

To ensure the efficient implementation of the Cooperation Programme one Bilateral programme group meeting with programme partners (National Authorities (NAs), CA, First Level Control (FLC)) was organized in 2017, to discuss topics related to implementation of the programme.

Within the both deadlines for the submission of project proposals in the Open Call of the CP Interreg SI-HU in 2017 altogether 2 workshops intended for potential applicants and for reporting were organized where around 100 people participated. Within the third deadline one workshop was carried out on 2 March 2017 in Zalaegerszeg. Within the fourth deadline one workshop has been carried out on 22 June 2017 in Rakičan. In frame of the workshop carried out in Zalaegerszeg the MA and the JS presented the Cooperation Programme, Open Call and Application Package, the new electronic monitoring system (eMS), eligibility rules and requirements concerning information and communication. In the frame of the workshop in Rakičan the participants were presented how to prepare a quality project and the most common mistakes that occurred in the preparation of project. Also, the preparation of the project through the reporting aspect was presented via the eMS system. In addition, round tables were held on three different themes: Pre-conditionality, target orientation and sustainability; Quality of projects in terms of the Interreg V-A SI-HU Cooperation Program and assessment of the implementation of PS Interreg V-A SI-HU. In general participants liked the workshops, specially the one carried out in Rakičan, because it was more focused. In order to help the project development, the JS/IPs carried out individual consultations with potential beneficiaries, in 2017 we carried out 37 consultations on face-to face basis and in additions many more over the phone.

During the reporting year 2017, several programme manuals were prepared or needed to be adopted by the JS in cooperation with the MA and relevant programme bodies. Some documents/manuals are aimed for the public and are therefore published on the website [www.si-hu.eu](http://www.si-hu.eu) (Manual for Beneficiaries including the Part for Reporting, Eligibility of expenditure etc.) others are covering the procedures for programme bodies and are therefore available on the programme's intranet (Arachne manual\_V1, Guidelines for closure and archiving\_V1, Manual on verification and validation of expenditure\_V2, Guidelines for using TA funds\_V2, , Irregularity Guidelines\_V2 ). In February 2017 both countries also signed Memorandum of Understanding between the Republic of Slovenia and Hungary, and the Managing Authority, the Certifying Authority, the Audit Authority on the Implementation of the Cooperation Programme INTERREG V-A SLOVENIA-HUNGARY.

The programme uses the e-monitoring system (eMS). The eMS system and its functionalities fully comply with the e-Cohesion regulatory requirements (according to final audit opinion). The development of the information system is still ongoing task, where the system is constantly updated with new and improved features. These activities were also ongoing in year 2017.

### Publicity and communication measures

The MA is also responsible for coordination of the tasks linked to the requirements on information, publicity and transparency as well as for the information and communication activities regarding CP as set out in Articles 115 and 116 of CPR. In year 2017 the programme organised one major event for the general public together with the CP Interreg SI-AT and Interreg SI-CRO under the auspices of the EC DAY initiative, called "Pohorje tour". In frame of the one-day-tour the group of 350 participants, from Slovenia, Austria, Hungary and Croatia, went to Pohorje with a cable car from the lower station of the Maribor funicular. The path led

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hikers to the church of Sv. Bolfenka, where the participants were presented with the DETOX project, co-financed by the Cooperation Program Interreg V-A Slovenia-Croatia. Hikers went on to look at the lookout tower where the Mura Raba Tour project was presented, which will be co-financed under the Cooperation program Interreg V-A Slovenia-Hungary. The hike ended at the cabin Mariborska koča, where the project PalaeoDiversiStyria co-financed under the Cooperation program Interreg V-A Slovenia-Austria was presented. On the occasions of the public events participants received promotional items (notepad, pen, etc.). The Programme's website, respectively all three language versions were continuously updated, 32 news were published, 224 people subscribed for the Programme Newsletter, who received e-newsletters 35 times. In year 2017 the website had 17.178 visits by 6.247 visitors. The Programme is also present in the social media with its facebook page. During its one-year operation 139 people signed up and liked the page, 37 posts were published and the highest number of reached people was 950 with one single post. The uniform visual identity was used for all programme documents (e.g. invitations, handouts, presentations), on the programme website, on the promotional materials, in frame of the events and other activities.

### Financial data

In relation to the financial data, in the second half of the year 2017 two payment claims have been sent to the Commission in the sum of EUR 462.634,23 ERDF funds (679.164,43 total eligible costs). The programme received 92.468,84 EUR ERDF funds for pre-financing and interim payment in amount of 3.386,26 ERDF EUR (total amount 7.525,01 EUR). Altogether 9.146.583,02 EUR ERDF has been allocated to the twelve approved and contracted projects, which means that till the end of year 2017, the selected and contracted projects represented 80% of the ERDF allocated to PA1 and 32,5% of the ERDF allocated to PA2, and 69% of all funds intended for implementation of projects under PA 1 and PA2. Seven Technical Assistance (TA) projects were approved to 100% of the ERDF allocation. At the programme level, the share of all contracted Union funds was 72%. All approved projects and projects of technical assistance are in implementation phase, where the pre-financing of activates come from own budget of institutions cooperating in the projects. No projects were fully implemented by the end of 2017.

### 3. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PRIORITY AXIS (ARTICLE 50(2) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013)

#### 3.1. Overview of the implementation

ID	Priority axis	Key information on the implementation of the priority axis with reference to key developments, significant problems and steps taken to address these problems
1	<b>ATTRACTIVE REGION</b>	<p><i>In 2017 the final decision on projects assessed in the frame of the 2<sup>nd</sup> deadline has been reached. At 4<sup>th</sup> MC meeting on 16 January 2017 members of Monitoring Committee approved four projects from 1st PA. During this year under PA1 two deadlines (3rd and 4th) for submission of projects proposals were carried out. The 3<sup>rd</sup> was opened between 26 July 2016 and 11 April 2017. All together 14 project applications under this priority have been submitted, requesting EUR 9,8 mil ERDF. All the project applications have been forwarded to the assessment. After the administrative and eligibility check 13 applications were eligible. Among 13 applications that were checked for quality, four projects, from 1<sup>st</sup> Priority axis had enough points to be approved.</i></p> <p><i>The Subsidy contracts with LPs of seven projects (GO IN NATURE, ESCAPE, Iron Curtain Cycling, Guide2Visit, Mura Raba tour, TELE-KA-LAND, Horse based tourism – HBT) have been signed, one approved project (GardEN) did not fulfil the set conditions yet. The committed ERDF amount of all approved projects is 8.546.027,33 EUR ERDF. Till the end of the year</i></p>

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		<p>410.381,87 EUR ERDF have been certified, two payment claims have been forwarded to the Commission.</p> <p>At this stage of implementation no significant problems have been identified in the implementation of the PA1.</p> <p>4<sup>th</sup> deadline was set to 14 November 2017 and till the set deadline 7 project applications have been received under this priority, requesting 4,3 m ERDF. After administrative and eligibility check, only 3 project applications were forwarded to quality assessment. The assessment is still in process.</p>
<b>2</b>	<b>COOPERATIVE REGION</b>	<p>In 2017 the final decision on projects assessed in the frame of the 2<sup>nd</sup> deadline has been reached. At 4<sup>th</sup> MC meeting on 16 January 2017 members of MC approved one project from 2<sup>nd</sup> PA. During this year, under PA2 two deadlines (3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>) for submission of projects proposals were carried out. The 3<sup>rd</sup> deadline was opened between 26 July 2016 and 11 April 2017. All together 12 projects applications under this priority have been submitted, requesting EUR 2,8 m ERDF. All the project applications have been forwarded to the assessment. After the administrative and eligibility check only 9 applications were eligible. Among 9 applications that were checked for quality, only four projects had enough points to be approved, three of them have been approved for cofinancing.</p> <p>The Subsidy contracts with LPs of 4 projects (Right profession II, e-Documenta pannonica, E-ECONOMY and Back in the day) have been signed. The committed ERDF amount of all approved projects is 1.070.830,69 EUR ERDF. Till the end of the year 70.103,36 EUR ERDF have been certified, two payment claims have been forwarded to the Commission.</p> <p>4<sup>th</sup> deadline was set to 14 November 2017 and we have received till deadline 11 project applications under this priority, requesting 3,1 m ERDF. After administrative and eligibility check, 7 project applications were forwarded to quality assessment. The assessment is still in process.</p> <p>We still observe the problem with low quality of projects under this PA. although it has to be written that due to the measures taken (focused workshops and individual consultation) received project in year 2017 are much better than projects received in year 2016. But the main reasons for low number of good projects still lies in the fact that projects were not focused enough, the general idea was ok, but after project partners made project to big (in financial and content sense) and they lost the basic concept of the planned project. And also a lot of project ideas could be implemented without cross-border cooperation.</p>
<b>3</b>	<b>TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE</b>	<p>The Technical Assistance (TA) activities are to finance the preparatory, management, monitoring, evaluation, information and control activities of the Interreg SI-HU Programme, together with activities to reinforce the administrative capacity for implementing the funds. The Technical assistance budget for period 2014-2020 amounts to 1.500.000,00 ERDF EUR.</p> <p>In year 2017 within the Technical Assistance (TA 1) the following major activities were implemented:</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Activities in connection with implementation, monitoring and inspection of the Programme;</i></li> <li>• <i>Two sessions of the Monitoring Committee (4<sup>th</sup> meeting on 16 January 2017 and 5<sup>th</sup> meeting on 5 – 6 July 2017) for approval of projects, update on the current stage of programme implementation, information on the Annual Implementation Report 2016, they were presented the survey for lead partners of the 1st evaluation of the programme and updated in the field of anti-fraud, conflict of interests, irregularities and audits and update on information and Publicity activities - ETC day 2017;</i></li> <li>• <i>Information and activities actions; Organisation of the event “Pohorje tour”, under the auspices of the EC DAY initiative (23<sup>rd</sup> September 2017);</i></li> <li>• <i>Organisation of one bilateral programme group meeting (5<sup>th</sup> meeting 27 September 2017);</i></li> <li>• <i>Preparation of the documentation and activates in connection with open call for projects (3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> deadline)</i></li> <li>• <i>Consultancy/support to potential applicants, to partners of already submitted projects and face-to-face meetings with LP/PP of approved projects;</i></li> <li>• <i>JS members processed assessment procedures of projects submitted in the frame of the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> deadline for submission of applications;</i></li> <li>• <i>Preparation of the three Written procedures;</i></li> <li>• <i>Preparation of programme documents (Irregularity Guideline V2s, Guidelines for Archiving and Closure, Arachne manual_V1, Manual on verification and validation of expenditure_V2, Guidelines for using TA funds_V2 ,</i></li> <li>• <i>twelve subsidy contracts have been signed;</i></li> <li>• <i>163.793,57 EUR ERDF have been certified;</i></li> <li>• <i>two payment claims have been forwarded to the Commission;</i></li> </ul> <p><i>At this stage of implementation no significant problems have been identified in the implementation of the PA3 (Technical Assistance).</i></p>
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### 3.2. Common and programme specific indicators (Article 50(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Data for common and programme-specific indicators by investment priority transmitted using the tables 1 to 2 below.



**TABLE 1: Result indicators (by priority axis and specific objective);** applies also to technical assistance priority axis

Automatic from SFC						ANNUAL VALUE										Observations (if necessary)
ID	Indicator	Measurement Unit	Baseline Value	Baseline Year	Target Value (2023)	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	
1.1	Number of overnight stays in the programme area	Number	5,269,268	2014	5% increase 5,532,728											No date is available for the year 2017 because the first reporting will be done in 2018.
2.1	The level of cross-border cooperation at institutional level in the programme area	scale	3.05	2015	20% increase 3.66											No date is available for the year 2017 because the first reporting will be done in 2018.

**TABLE 2: Common and programme specific output indicators (by priority axis, investment priority); applies also to technical assistance priority axes).**

S – Selected operations F – Fully implemented operations*	ID	Indicator (name of indicator)	Measurement unit	Target value <sup>1</sup> (2023)	CUMULATIVE VALUE										Observations (if necessary)
					2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	
S	CO09	Increase in expected number of visits to supported sites of cultural and natural heritage and attractions (EU)	Visits/Year	10.000	0	0	3.000	28.225							
F					0	0	0	0							
S	6c.2	Number of people participating in interpretation and educational events related to the cultural and natural heritage (P)	Number	2000	0	0	0	3.991							
F					0	0	0	0							
S	6c.3	Number of joint cross-border touristic products /	Number	12	0	0	8	75							
F					0	0	0	0							

<sup>1</sup> Targets are optional for technical assistance priority axes.

		<i>services newly developed (P)</i>															
S	6c.4	<i>Length of cycle tracks and footpaths</i>	<i>km</i>	8	0	0	0	28,14									
F					0	0	0	0									
S	11.1	<i>Number of institutions/org anizations involved in cross-border initiatives</i>	<i>Number</i>	100	0	0	0	277									
F					0	0	0	0									
S	11.2	<i>Number of joint professional agreements and protocols</i>	<i>Number</i>	20	0	0	0	13									
F					0	0	0	0									
S	3.1	<i>Number of successfully implemented projects</i>	<i>Number</i>	36	0	7	8	19									
F					0	0	0	0									
S	3.2	<i>Number of programme events</i>	<i>Number</i>	14	0	1	5	9									
F					0	1	5	9									
S	3.3	<i>Full time equivalent positions financed by the Technical</i>	<i>Number</i>	9	0	9	9	9									
F					0	3,5	9,14	9,14									The number of FTEs already employed and co-financed by



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			<i>expenditure for Priority Axis 1</i>														
<b>1</b>	<i>Output indicator</i>	CO09	<i>Increase in expected number of visits to supported sites of cultural and natural heritage and attractions</i>	<i>Visits/Year</i>	800	20,000	0	0	0	0							Within the projects approved till end of 2017 the number for this indicator is 28.225 visits. The final value will be reported after the projects covering this indicator will be completed.
<b>2</b>	<i>Financial indicator</i>	P2.1	<i>Amount of certified expenditure for Priority Axis 2</i>	<i>Euro</i>	465,755.10	3,876,488.24	0	0	0	82,474							
<b>2</b>	<i>Output indicator</i>	11b.1	<i>Number of institutions/or ganizations involved in cross-border cooperation</i>	<i>Number</i>	12	100	0	0	0	0							Within the projects approved till end of 2017 277 institutions/organisations will be involved. The final value will be reported after the projects covering this indicator will be completed.

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2	Output indicator	11b.2	Number of joint professional agreements and protocols	Number	3	20	0	0	0	0									Within the projects approved till end of 2017 13 joint professional agreements and protocols will be signed. The final value will be reported after the projects covering this indicator will be completed.
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\* Member States submit cumulative values for output indicators. Values for financial indicators are cumulative. Values for the key implementation steps are cumulative if the key implementation steps are expressed by a number or percentage. If the achievement is defined in a qualitative way, the table should indicate whether they are completed or not.

## 3.4. Financial data (Article 50(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

**TABLE 4: Financial information at priority axis and programme level** as set out in Table 1 of Annex II to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 1011/2014<sup>2</sup> [Model for transmission of financial data]<sup>3</sup> and table 16 of model for cooperation programmes under the European territorial cooperation goal

Priority Axis	Fund	Calculation basis	Total funding	Co-financing rate	Total eligible cost of operations selected for support	Proportion of the total allocation covered with selected operations	Public eligible cost of operations selected for support	Total eligible expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the managing authority	Proportion of the total allocation covered by eligible expenditure declared by beneficiaries	Number of operations selected
1	ERDF	Total	11,764,706.00	85.00%	10,054,185.20	85,46%	10,054,185.20	482,802,29	4,10%	9
2	ERDF	Total	3,876,489.00	85.00%	1,259,800.00	32,50%	1,259,800.00	82,474.61	2,13%	4
3	ERDF	Total	3,000,000.00	50.00%	3,000,000.00	100,00%	3,000,000.00	327,587.26	10,92%	7
<b>Total</b>	ERDF		18,641,195.00	79.37%	14,313,986.04	76,79%	14,313,986.04	892,864,16	4,79%	20
<b>Grand total</b>			<b>18,641,195.00</b>	<b>79.37%</b>	<b>14,313,986.04</b>	<b>76,79%</b>	<b>14,313,986.04</b>	<b>892,864,16</b>	<b>4,79%</b>	<b>20</b>

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 286, 30.9.2014, p. 1.

<sup>3</sup> Structured data required for the report on YEI which is to be submitted in April 2015 in accordance with Article 19(3) and Annex II of Regulation (EU) No 1304/2013.

Where applicable, the use of any contribution from third countries participating in the cooperation programme should be provided (for example IPA and ENI, Norway, Switzerland)

*Not applicable for the Cooperation Programme Interreg V-A Slovenia-Hungary.*

**TABLE 5: Breakdown of the cumulative financial data by category of intervention (Article 112(1) and (2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No 1304/2013) as set out in Table 2 of Annex II to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 1011/2014 [Model for transmission of financial data] and tables 6-9 of Model for cooperation programmes**

#### Dimension 1 Intervention field

Priority axis	Code	Amount selected for support(EUR)	Expenditure declared by Beneficiary to MA
1	032 Local access roads (new build)	500,000	0,00
1	034 Other reconstructed or improved road (motorway, national, regional or local)	500,000	0,00
1	090 Cycle tracks and foot paths	1,500,000	0,00
1	091 Development and promotion of the tourism potential of natural areas	1,500,000	0,00
1	093 Development and promotion of public tourism services	1,500,000	482,802.29
1	094 Protection, development and promotion of public cultural and heritage assets	2,500,000	0,00
1	095 Development and promoting of public cultural and heritage services	2,000,000	0,00



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2	119. Investment in institutional capacity and in the efficiency of public administrations and public services at the national, regional and local levels with a view to reforms, better regulation and good governance	1,000,000.00	8,474.61
2	120. Capacity building for stakeholders delivering education, lifelong learning, training and employment and social policies, including through sectoral and territorial pacts to mobilize for reform at national, regional and local level	2,295,015.00	0.00
3	121 Preparation, implementation, monitoring, inspection	1,300,000.00	293,145.43
3	122 Evaluation and studies	100,000.00	27,140.08
3	123 Information and communication	100,000.00	7,301.75

### Dimension 2 Form of finance

Priority axis	Code	Amount selected for support(EUR)	Expenditure declared by beneficiary to MA
1	01 non-repayable grant	10,000,000	482,802.29
2	01 non-repayable grant	3,295,015.00	82,474.61
3	01 non-repayable grant	1,500,000.00	327,587.26

### Dimension 3 Territory Type

Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
---------------	------	--------------

1	01 Large Urban areas (densely populated > 50 000 population)	1,000,000.00
1	02 Small Urban areas (intermediate density > 5000 population)	4,000,000.00
1	03 Rural areas (thinly populated)	5,000,000.00
2	01 Large Urban areas (densely populated > 50 000 population)	1,647,508.00
2	02 Small Urban areas (intermediate density > 5000 population)	988,504.00
2	03 Rural areas (thinly populated)	659,003.00
3	07 Not applicable	

TABLE 6: Cumulative cost of all or part of an operation implemented outside the Union part of the programme area

1	2	3	4	5
	The amount of ERDF support* envisaged to be used for all or part of an operation implemented outside the Union part of the programme area based on selected operations (EUR)	Share of the total financial allocation to all or part of an operation located outside the Union part of the programme area (%)	Eligible expenditure of ERDF support incurred in all or part of an operation implemented outside the Union part of the programme area declared by the beneficiary to the managing authority (EUR)	Share of the total financial allocation to all or part of an operation located outside the Union part of the programme area (%)

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		(column 2/total amount allocated to the support from the ERDF at programme level *100)		(column 4/total amount allocated to the support from the ERDF at programme level *100)
All or part of an operation outside the Union part of the programme area <sup>4</sup>				

\* ERDF support is fixed in the Commission decision on the respective cooperation programme.

<sup>4</sup> In accordance with and subject to ceilings set out Article 20 of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013.

#### **4. SYNTHESIS OF THE EVALUATIONS (Article 50(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)**

Synthesis of the findings of all evaluations of the programme that have become available during the previous financial year, including the name and reference period of the evaluation reports used.

*The Evaluation plan of the Cooperation programme Interreg V-A Slovenia-Hungary was discussed on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monitoring Committee in May 2016 and after with supplements approved via written procedure in September 2016. According to the evaluation plan, four evaluations feeding into the respective Annual Implementation Reports are foreseen; two implementation evaluations and two impact evaluations.*

*According to the Evaluation plan the first evaluation was planned and carried out in the year 2017.*

*The purpose of evaluation ("Evaluation of the CP Interreg V-A SI-HU") was to assess the programme management and implementation focusing on project application and selection procedure and Communication strategy. The analysis based on the monitoring data provided by the Joint Secretariat (JS), data obtained from Application Forms, and data available on the programme website and the survey for the lead partners. The overall cut-off date was 30 March 2017, whereas data on achievement of indicators of the Communication strategy refer to 31 December 2016. The Evaluation of Communication Strategy was done in July 2017.*

*The assessment focused on the programme structures related to implementation of the open call with use of the following judgement criteria: sufficient HR capacities of the programme bodies, established and respected procedures and working processes, and established coordination and cooperation between programme bodies. The programme structures related to implementation of the open call have been effectively set up and operate in professional manner.*

*The programme bodies put considerable attention to ensure conditions for increasing the efficiency and simplification of the programme delivery mechanisms related to the processing of the open call and implementation of the projects. The assessment considered the following judgement criteria: project applicants are provided by quality support by programme bodies, programme procedures are user friendly to applicants/beneficiaries, procedures allow for selection of programme-relevant and feasible cross border projects, and efficient implementation of programme procedures.*

*The procedures related to processing of applications submitted to the open call were carried out in a fairly efficient and effective manner. The support to potential applicants is well accessible and the overall quality of provided support assessed very well by the users. Experience in the processing of two rounds of applications however revealed further needs for support, which was already taken into consideration in the 3<sup>rd</sup> round carried out in the year 2017.*

*Introduced changes of the programme procedures and processes compared to the 2007-2013 period have to some extent lessened the user-friendliness of the programme towards applicants; in particular, because of the stricter AB check procedure and greater complexity of the application forms coupled with deficiencies in the performance of the eMS at the beginning.*

*The criteria for assessment of the quality of projects are relevant and allow selection of quality projects whereas there is some space for further fine-tuning in terms of clarity and distribution of points.*

*The efficiency of the project assessment and selection process in terms of time needed until the MC decision is relatively good, although some negative effects on the increase of the overall workload in the following deadlines are possible because of repeated assessment procedures for the same projects.*

*The approved projects are in the early start of implementation. With the amount of the programme ERDF funds being committed to them, these are likely to contribute effectively towards the achievement of targets of the output indicators. The progress is in particular promising under PA1. The progress towards achievement of the specific objectives of PA2 is moderate in terms of the number of approved projects and sectors addressed so far.*

*In terms of geographical coverage, the programme achievements are likely to be more visible in the Pomurska region and Vas county.*

**PA 1 - ATTRACTIVE REGION:** *Projects aim to linking natural and cultural heritage of the area into different tourist offers, products and services that should (through creation of packages) attract more visitors to the programme area.*

*Expected contributions of these projects to the achievement of targets of programme output indicators show that the programme has potential to progress very well. In most cases outputs show the underestimation of targets during programming.*

*The biggest increase is to be expected with regard to the number of joint CB-tourist products (2023 target value is 12; % of target for 1<sup>st</sup>+2<sup>nd</sup> round of applications stands at 56, which is 467%). The CP or the Implementation manual for beneficiaries however do not provide any common definition of a joint CB-product, which gives space to beneficiaries for different interpretations of what a CB-tourist product is.*

*Relatively ambitious are also beneficiaries' predictions about the expected annual increase in the visits to supported sites of cultural and natural heritage and attractions (2023 target value is 10.000; % of target for 1<sup>st</sup>+2<sup>nd</sup> round of applications stands at 20.300, which is 203%). The beneficiaries proposed own methodologies, how these visits will be measured or assessed.*

*The outputs indicator "length of cycle tracks and footpaths" has potential to progress well also (2023 target value is 8; % of target for 1<sup>st</sup>+2<sup>nd</sup> round of applications stands at 4,14, which is 52%). Actual achievements and contributions to programme specific objectives will be possible to assess at later stages when project outcomes become visible.*

*Results to be achieved within this PA are expected to be wider. They could e.g. comprise increased awareness of people included in interpretation events, increased income of tourist providers, new job opportunities in less developed areas, improved visibility of destinations and its cultural and natural heritage, increased cooperation between tourism magnets and rural hinterland, etc. These cannot be captured by one proposed indicator only.*

**PA 2 - COOPERATIVE REGION:** *An important factor to be observed in assessing the actual outcomes of the projects, is the intensity and quality of involvement and interactions between the institutions.*

*Slow progress in the implementation of this priority affects mainly the output indicator "number of joint professional agreements and protocols". 2023 target value is 20 whereas % of target for 1<sup>st</sup>+2<sup>nd</sup> round of applications stands at 2, which is only 10%.*

*The priority considers a relatively wide spectrum of different sectors, where the institutional cooperation is supposed to increase (environment, social services, employment, spatial planning, public transports, civil protection and risk, cultural cooperation). That some potential for cooperation exists, was reflected in received applications, however the quality of proposed projects was relatively low and the PA2 has therefore not been properly addressed yet. 2023 target value for Number of institutions/organizations involved in CB-initiatives is 100 whereas the percentage of target for 1<sup>st</sup>+2<sup>nd</sup> round of applications stands at 201, which is 201%, already. The target for 2013 for Number of Joint professional agreements and protocols is 20 whereas the percentage of target for 1<sup>st</sup>+2<sup>nd</sup> round of applications stands at 2, which is 10% which is at the moment low, but considering that most of the funds are available still the indicator will be reached.*

**PA 3 - TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE:** *The overall programme implementation started with a considerable delay and most projects have only started. The team financed by the TA funds is fully assigned to the programme and operated with relatively high level on intensity in 2016. The project events seem to be progressing well in accordance with the needs.*

*The range of programme output indicators for the TA is quite limited and does not sufficiently observe any qualitative aspects of the implementation.*

*The MC adopted the Communication strategy of the programme on its first meeting in November 2015. The Strategy defines communication objectives, key messages and target groups, communication tools and activities.*

*Towards the achievement of the communication strategy objectives is the progress well according to the achievement of the target values of the communication strategy indicators. The programme effectively establishes communication tools for both internal and external communication. The access to the programme information and funding opportunities and results of the assessment and selection processes are available to public. At present, the general public was addressed to a lesser extent.*

**CONCLUSIONS:**

*Linked to programme structures and procedures and considering that by the time of the assessment was carried out, the 4th round of applications has being processed under open call following the same procedures and, that half of the ERDF funds have already been committed, major changes in the project assessment procedures and steps were not introduced .*

*The programme is characterised by late start of the implementation, which was further prolonged due to high share of administratively incompliant projects in the 1st round, and postponements due to low quality. Despite that, the likely effectiveness of the programme is still promising in particular under PA 1, whereas PA 2 has not been properly addressed yet.*

*The Communication strategy targets are progressing well. The implementation of the programme has revealed some additional needs where actions should be strengthened.*

**5. ISSUES AFFECTING THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PROGRAMME AND MEASURES TAKEN (ARTICLE 50(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)**

a) Issues which affect the performance of the programme and the measures taken

*There were no major issues affecting the performance of the programme in year 2017, however the programme has faced some issues which needed our more focused attention. We noticed the problem with understanding of the programmes 2<sup>nd</sup> Priority Axis (Cooperative Region) corresponding to the Thematic Objective 11 and consequently low quality of projects under this PA. Although this problem drag our attention already in previous year and we make at that time some steps to solve this issue we still observe the same problem. Although it has to be written that due to the measures taken (focused workshops and individual consultation) received project in year 2017 are much better than projects received in year 2016. The main reason for low number of good projects lies in the fact that projects are not focused enough. For this reason we prepared focused workshop on TO 11 (PA 2). In the frame of this workshop the participants were presented how to prepare a quality project specially under the 2<sup>nd</sup> PA. In addition an interesting open discussed has been carried out in the frame of round tables on three different themes: Pre-conditionality; Target orientation and sustainability; Quality of projects in terms of the Interreg V-A SI-HU Cooperation Program and assessment of the implementation of PS Interreg V-A SI-HU. At the same time during whole year 2017, we were inviting potential applicants under this PA for individual consultations.*

*Regarding the designation process all activities started already in 2015 and continued in 2016 with the preparation of the Description of Management and Control System (DMCS) and all required Programme guidelines. As provided in their report dated on 8 March 2017 the MA and the CA were designated.*

b) OPTIONAL FOR LIGHT REPORTS, otherwise it will be included in point 9.1 (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

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An assessment of whether progress made towards targets is sufficient to ensure their fulfilment, indicating any remedial actions taken or planned, where appropriate

### **6. CITIZEN'S SUMMARY (Article 50(9) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)**

The citizen's summary is attached as a separate document.

### **7. REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (Article 46 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)**

Where the managing authority decided to use financial instruments it must send to the Commission a specific report covering the financial instruments operations as an annex to the annual implementation report.

*Not applicable for CP Interreg V-A Slovenia-Hungary.*

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### 8. WHERE APPROPRIATE, PROGRESS IN PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF MAJOR PROJECTS AND JOINT ACTION PLANS (Article 101(h) and Article 111(3) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 14(3)(b) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

*Not applicable for CP Interreg V-A Slovenia-Hungary.*

#### 8.1. Major projects

*Not applicable for CP Interreg V-A Slovenia-Hungary.*

**TABLE 7: Major projects**

Project	CCI	Status of MP 1. completed 2. approved 3. submitted 4. planned for notification/submission to Commission	Total investments	Total eligible costs	Planned notification/submission date (if applicable) (year, quarter)	Date of tacit agreement / approval by Commission (if applicable)	Planned start of implementation (year, quarter)	Planned completion date (year, quarter)	Priority Axis/Investment priorities	Current state of realisation – financial progress (% of expenditure certified to Commission compared to total)	Current state of realisation - physical progress Main implementation stage of the project 1.completed/in operation; 2.advanced construction; 3. construction; 4. procurement;	Main outputs	Date of signature of first works contract <sup>5</sup> (if applicable)	Observations (if necessary)

<sup>5</sup> In the case of operations implemented under PPP structures the signing of the PPP contract between the public body and the private sector body (Article 102(3) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013).





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										eligible cost)	5. design			
												<type='S' maxlength=875 input='M'>	<type='D' input='M'>	<type='S' maxlength=875 input='M'>

Significant problems encountered in implementing major projects and measures taken to overcome them.

Any change planned in the list of major projects in the cooperation programme



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### 8.2. Joint action plans

#### Progress in the implementation of different stages of joint action plans

*Not applicable for CP Interreg V-A Slovenia-Hungary.*

**TABLE 8: Joint action plans**

Title of the JAP	CCI	Stage of implementation of JAP 1. completed 2. > 50% implemented 3. Started 4. approved 5. submitted 6. planned	Total eligible costs	Total public support	OP contribution to JAP	Priority axis	Type of JAP 1. normal 2. pilot 3. YEI	[Planned] submission to the Commission	[Planned] start of implementation	[Planned] completion	Main outputs and results	Total eligible expenditure certified to the Commission	Observations (if necessary)

#### Significant problems encountered and measures taken to overcome them



**PART B - REPORTING SUBMITTED IN YEARS 2017, 2019 AND FINAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 14(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)**

**9. ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 14(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)**

9.1 Information in Part A and achieving the objectives of the programme (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

FOR EACH PRIORITY AXIS - Assessment of the information provided above and progress towards achieving the objectives of the programme, including the contribution of the ERDF to changes in the value of result indicators, when evidence is available from evaluations

9.2. Specific actions taken to promote equality between men and women and to promote non-discrimination, in particular accessibility for persons with disabilities, and the arrangements implemented to ensure the integration of the gender perspective in the cooperation programme and operations (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 14(4), subparagraph 2, (d) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

An assessment of the implementation of specific actions to take into account the principles set out in Article 7 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 on promotion of equality between men and women and non-discrimination, including, where relevant, depending on the content and objectives of the cooperation programme, an overview of specific actions taken to promote equality between men and women and to promote non-discrimination, including accessibility for persons with disabilities, and the arrangements implemented to ensure the integration of the gender perspective in the cooperation programme and operations

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9.3. Sustainable development (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 14(4), subparagraph 2, (e) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

An assessment of the implementation of actions to take into account the principles set out in Article 8 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 on sustainable development, including, where relevant, depending on the content and objectives of the cooperation programme, an overview of the actions taken to promote sustainable development in accordance with that Article

9.4. Reporting on support used for climate change objectives (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

9.5 Role of partners in the implementation of the cooperation programme (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 14(4), subparagraph 1, (c) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

Assessment of the implementation of actions to take into account the role of partners referred to in Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, including involvement of the partners in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the cooperation programme

**10. OBLIGATORY INFORMATION AND ASSESSMENT ACCORDING TO ARTICLE 14(4), Subparagraph 1 (a) and (b), of REGULATION (EU) No 1299/2013**

10.1 Progress in implementation of the evaluation plan and the follow-up given to the findings of evaluations

10.2 The results of the information and publicity measures of the Funds carried out under the communication strategy



**11. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WHICH MAY BE ADDED DEPENDING ON THE CONTENT AND OBJECTIVES OF THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME (Article 14(4), subparagraph 2 (a), (b), (c) and (f), of REGULATION (EU) No 1299/2013)**

11.1 Progress in implementation of the integrated approach to territorial development, including sustainable urban development, and community-led local development under the cooperation programme

11.2 Progress in implementation of actions to reinforce the capacity of authorities and beneficiaries to administer and to use the ERDF

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11.3 Contribution to macro-regional and sea basin strategies (where appropriate)

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11.4 Progress in the implementation of actions in the field of social innovation

<i>n.a.</i>
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**12. Financial information at priority axis and programme level (Articles 21(2) and 22(7) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)**

For the purpose of assessing progress towards the achievement of milestones and targets set for financial indicators in the years 2018 and 2023, table 4 of Part A of this Annex shall have the following two additional columns:

13	14
<b>Data for the purpose of the performance review and performance framework</b>	
<b>Only for report submitted in 2019: Total eligible expenditure incurred and paid by beneficiaries and certified to the Commission by 31/12/2018</b> Article 21(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013	<b>Only for final implementation report: Total eligible expenditure incurred and paid by beneficiaries by 31/12/2023 and certified to the Commission</b> Article 22(7) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013



