



ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT
2016

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

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1. IDENTIFICATION OF THE ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

CCI	2014TC16RFCB053
Title	Cooperation Programme Interreg V-A Slovenia-Hungary
Version	1.3
Reporting year	2016
Date of approval of the report by the Monitoring Committee	5 July 2017

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 second 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 2016. The report complies with Article 50(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, which requires the Managing Authority to submit an Annual Implementation Report within fifth months (31 May) of the end of each full calendar year of implementation. According to the Article 14(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013 for the report submitted in 2017 the deadline is 30 June. 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 2016 on **5th July 2017 in the frame of the 5th** 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. The Audit Authority (AA), supported by external auditors as Independent Audit Body (IAB), conducted an audit (assessment) of compliance of designated authorities with the designation criteria for internal control, risk management, management and control activities and monitoring as set in Annex XIII to the Regulation (EU) No. 1303/2013. The IAB requested supplementing the DMCS in parts that were already sufficiently covered in programming period 2007-2013. MA supplemented the DMCS and produced additional manuals and guidelines according to IAB observations and resubmitted the DMCS to IAB for further checking. As provided in their report dated on 8 March 2017 the MA, the National Control Unit in Republic of Slovenia, national control units in Hungary and the CA designated for the programme comply with the designation criteria.

Selection of projects

After launching the Open call in December 2015 we had two submissions deadlines in year 2016. First deadline for submission of project proposals was 12 February 2016 and the second deadline was set to 25 July 2016. Till first deadline we received 46 applications, but after the assessment only one project from 1st

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Priority axis had enough points to be approved. Main difficulties for applicants were administratively related where almost eighty percent of applications required supplementing which is not allowed according to programme rules, so programme rejected most of the applications. Till second deadline we have received 43 applications where administrative quality of applications improved significantly and most of the applications went through the quality assessment. At 3rd MC meeting in December 2016, no decision regarding selection of projects could be reached, since MC members from both participating countries in the programme were unable to reach the consensus about selection of projects. The final decision 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).

Programme meetings and preparation of the manuals

Monitoring Committee members met twice in year 2016. Once on 25-26 May 2016 on 2nd MC meeting and second time on 5-6 December 2016 on 3rd MC meeting. Beside selection of project applications, on both meetings, MC members were informed on update of the programme implementation 2007-2013 and 2014-2020, they approved the Final Implementation Report OP SI-HU 2007-2013, the Annual communication plan for 2016, the Evaluation plan and the Annual Implementation Report 2014/2015 for CP Interreg V-A SI-HU. They were also acquainted with activities taken for promotion of programme and projects.

To ensure the efficient implementation of the Cooperation Programme two Bilateral programme group meetings with programme partners (National Authorities (NAs), CA, First Level Control (FLC)) were also organized in 2016, namely on 22 April 2016 and on 27 October 2016, both times in Maribor, to discuss topics related to implementation of the programme.

Within the both deadlines (February and July 2016) for the submission of project proposals in the Open Call of the CP Interreg SI-HU in 2016 altogether, 3 workshops intended for potential applicants were carried out where around 300 people participated. Within the first deadline two workshops were carried out, one on 13 January 2016 in Szombathely and on 18 January 2016 in Radenci. Within the second deadline only one workshop has been carried out on 14 June 2016 in Moravske Toplice. In frame of all workshops the Managing Authority and the Joint Secretariat presented the Cooperation Programme, Open Call and Application Package, the new electronic monitoring system (eMS), eligibility rules and requirements concerning information and communication. The first workshop was the one that was visited the most. During the Workshops we published questionnaires where we evaluated the level of knowledge of participants. Since the level of knowledge was low, the events were adjusted to suit the needs of the audience. In general participants liked the workshops and dis gain new knowledge, but this was not seen in the application process when projects were evaluated. In addition on the workshop in the frame of the second deadline also lessons learned, common mistakes and FAQs were presented. In order to help the project development, the JS/IPs carried out individual consultations with potential beneficiaries, in 2016 we carried out 36 consultations on face-to face basis and in additions many more over the phone.

During the reporting year 2016, several programme manuals were prepared by the Joint Secretariat in cooperation with the Managing Authority and relevant programme bodies. Those Manuals describe in detail the procedures needed for the management and control system of the programme, as well as the guidelines for project applicants/beneficiaries when preparing or implementing their projects. Some documents/manuals are aimed for the public and are therefore published on the website 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 (Manual on verification and validation of expenditure, Guidelines for using TA funds, Guidelines on State-Aid Identification and Monitoring etc.).

The programme uses the e-monitoring system (eMS) developed by Plot in cooperation with Interact. The

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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. This activities were also ongoing in year 2016.

Publicity and communication measures

The Managing Authority 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 2016 the programme organised one major event for the general public in 2016 together with the CP Interreg SI-AT under the auspices of the EC DAY initiative, called "Hike to the triple border". In frame of the one-day-tour the 150 participants passed 3 times 3 different borders in the region and visited 4 interesting EU co-financed CBC projects. The group went by bus from Maribor to visit the castle in Grad in Goričko. The route led the participants to Trdkova where they walked to the "tromejnik" the border stone between Slovenia, Hungary and Austria. The participants also visited the Apple House in Gornji Senik/Oberzemming, the museum of Slovenians from the Porabje region in Monošter/St. Gotthard (all results of the projects implemented from the OP SI-HU 2007-2013) and the castle Tabor in the nature park Raab, where the project 321 go, which is being implemented in the frame of the cross-border Cooperation Programme Interreg V-A Slovenia-Austria, was presented. Taking the possibility during the day the first ERDF Subsidy Contract in the new Programme was also signed by the Managing Authority and the Lead Partner in a special place (Tromejnik – Three-lateral Border Stone). The Programme's website, respectively all three language versions were continuously updated, 23 news were published, 212 people signed up for the Programme Newsletter, who received e-newsletters 15 times, the website had 9.378 visitors. In October 2016 the Programme also made appearance in the social media with creation of a facebook profile. On the occasions of the public events participants received promotional items (notepad, pen, etc.). Moreover in frame of the programme, 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, no costs have been certified and no payment claims have been forwarded to the Commission. In the previous years (2014-2016) the initial pre-financing payments were transferred from the European Commission (EC) to the Certifying Authority (CA) in the amount of 739.750,75 EUR. In 2016 the programme received 295.900,30 EUR ERDF funds for pre-financing. Prefinancing of the programme was not used, since it is intended for the reimbursement of first application claims when projects start to report and MA has to pay 100% of the claim according to legislation. Altogether 882.321,27 eur ERDF has been allocated to the one approved project which means that in 2016, the selected and contracted project represented 9% of the ERDF allocated to PA1 and 7% 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 16%. All approved projects and projects of technical assistance are in implementation phase, where the pre-financing of activities come from own budget of institutions cooperating in the projects. No advance payments have been made from ERDF funds.

In relation to the indicator data, the progress can be measured for the 1 approved projects within the Priority axis 1 (1st deadline of the Open Call) and for the Technical assistance (table 2). No projects fully implemented the activities by the end of 2016.

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	ATTRACTIVE REGION	<p><i>In 2016, under PA1 two call for proposals were carried out. The 1st deadline was opened between 18 December 2015 and 12 February 2016. All together 32 projects applications under this priority have been submitted, requesting EUR 20,4 m ERDF which constituted ca. 200% of the available allocation for this priority. All the project applications have been forwarded to the assessment. After the administrative and eligibility check only 6 applications were eligible. Among 6 applications that were checked for quality, only one project from 1st Priority axis had enough points to be approved. The main reasons for low number of good projects lies in the fact that projects were not focused enough, did not contribute to the programme indicators or they did not build on cross-border cooperation.</i></p> <p><i>The subsidy contract with LP of this project GREEN EXERCISE has been signed in September 2016. The contracted ERDF amount is 882.321,27 EUR. However, till the end of the year no costs have been certified, no payment claims have been forwarded to the Commission. Doe no costs have been cerified on the project yet, project implemented several activities (kick off Event of the project, project coordination Meeting: 1 pcs, employed persons in the project: 12 persons, financial report: 1 pcs, project Communication Strategy: 1 pcs, appearance at AGRA in Gornja Radgona: 1 time (Goričko Nature Park Public Institute), project-profile on community page (Facebook): 1 pcs, project e-news: 1 pcs, procurement of trekking bikes at the Goričko Nature Park Public Institute: 10 pcs, procurement of microbus at the Ōrség National Park Directorate: 1 pcs, preparation of technical specification of the Green Park in Moravske Toplice: 1pcs.</i></p> <p><i>At this stage of implementation no significant problems have been identified in the implementation of the PA1.</i></p> <p><i>Second deadline was set to 25 July 2016 and we have received till deadline 28 applications has been received under this priority, requesting 19,4 m ERDF, which constituted ca. 210% of the available allocation for this priority. Due to measures taken to avoid mistakes in preparation of applications (workshops, published FAQ on mistakes on the webpage, eMS has been upgraded, face-to-face meetings with potential applicants), 22 project applications passed eligibility check. After quality check, 7 project applications had enough points to be approved. The date of MC for selection of projects was 5 and 6 December 2016, but unfortunately, MC members could not reached common decision on which projects to approve. The final decision has only have been reached at next 4th MC meeting on 16 January 2017 where members of Monitoring Committee approved four projects from</i></p>

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		1 st PA.
2	COOPERATIVE REGION	<p><i>In 2016, under PA2 two call for proposals were carried out. The 1st deadline was opened between 18 December 2015 and 12 February 2016. All together 14 projects applications under this priority have been submitted, requesting EUR 3,8 m ERDF which constituted ca. 115% of the available allocation for this priority. All the project applications have been forwarded to the assessment. After the administrative and eligibility check only 5 applications were eligible. Among 5 applications that were checked for quality, only one project had enough points to be postponed (where postponement means that project has to be improved in content according to recommendations received by assessors and resubmitted) none of them has been approved. No actions were financed within this Priority Axis in year 2016. First project under this priority axis has been selected at the beginning of year 2017.</i></p> <p><i>Second deadline was set to 25 July 2016 and we have received till deadline applications has been received 15 project applications under this priority, requesting 3,9 m ERDF, which constituted ca. 120% of the available allocation for this priority. Due to measures taken to avoid mistakes in preparation of applications (workshops, published FAQ on mistakes on the webpage, eMS has been upgraded, face-to-face meetings with potential applicants), 12 project applications passed eligibility check. After quality check, 1 project application had enough points to be approved. The date of MC for selection of projects was 5 and 6 December 2016, but unfortunately, MC members could not reached common decision on which projects to approve. The final decision has only have been reached at next 4th MC meeting on 16 January 2017 where members of Monitoring Committee approved one project from 2nd PA).</i></p> <p><i>The main reasons for low number of good projects lies in the fact that projects were not focused enough, the general idea was ok, but after they made project to big (in financial and content sense) and they lost the basic concept of the planned project. Organisations that already cooperate did not upgrade the cooperation, they just sign the protocol, they are focusing on partners that they already know and finally a lot of project ideas could be implemented without cross-border cooperation.</i></p>
3	TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE	<p><i>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.</i></p> <p><i>In year 2016 within the Technical Assistance (TA 1) the following major activities were implemented:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>• Activities in connection with implementation, monitoring and inspection of the Programme;</i> <i>• Two sessions of the Monitoring Committee (2nd meeting on 25 - 26 May 2016 and 3rd meeting on 5 – 6 December 2016) for approval of projects, update on the current stage of programme implementation,</i>

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		<p><i>information on the Annual Implementation Report 2015 and Final Implementation report 2007-2013, approval of Evaluation plan and Annual Communication Plan for 2017 and update on information and Publicity activities - ETC day 2016;</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>• Information and activities actions; Organisation of the event “Hike to the triple border”, under the auspices of the EC DAY initiative (21st September 2016);</i> <i>• Organisation of two bilateral programme group meetings (3rd meeting 22 April 2016 and 4th meeting 27 October 2016);</i> <i>• Preparation of the documentation and activates in connection with open call for projects (1st and 2nd deadline)</i> <i>• Consultancy/support to potential applicants, to partners of already submitted projects and face-to-face meetings with LP/PP of approved projects;</i> <i>• JS members processed assessment procedures of projects submitted in the frame of the 1st and 2nd deadline for submission of applications;</i> <i>• Preparation of the three Written procedures;</i> <i>• Preparation of programme documents (Evaluation plan, Reporting Guidelines,</i> <i>• one subsidy contract has been signed;</i> <i>• no costs have been certified;</i> <i>• no payment claims have been forwarded to the Commission;</i> <p><i>At this stage of implementation no significant problems have been identified in the implementation of the PA3 (Technical Assistance), but due to the support applicants require for applications process, it is already seen that capacity and man-power at the level of Joint Secretariat is barely sufficient.</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 2016 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 2016 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 ¹ (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								
F					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								There were no projects targeting number of people participating in interpretation and educational events related to the cultural and natural heritage approved within the 1st deadline for submission.
F					0	0	0								

¹ Targets are optional for technical assistance priority axes.

S	6c.3	Number of joint cross-border touristic products / services newly developed (P)	Number	12	0	0	8								
F					0	0	0								
S	6c.4	Length of cycle tracks and footpaths	km	8	0	0	0								There were no projects targeting length of cycle tracks and footpaths approved within the 1st deadline for submission.
F					0	0	0								
S	11.1	Number of institutions/org anizations involved in cross-border initiatives	Number	100	0	0	0								There were no projects targeting number of institutions/organizations involved in cross-border initiatives approved within the 1st deadline for submission.
F					0	0	0								
S	11.2	Number of joint	Number	20	0	0	0								There were no projects targeting

		<i>professional agreements and protocols</i>														number of joint professional agreements and protocols approved within the 1 st deadline for submission.
F					0	0	0									
S	3.1	<i>Number of successfully implemented projects</i>	<i>Number</i>	36	0	7	8									
F					0	0	0									
S	3.2	<i>Number of programme events</i>	<i>Number</i>	14	0	1	5									
F					0	1	5									
S	3.3	<i>Full time equivalent positions financed by the Technical Assistance for the implementation of the Cooperation Programme</i>	<i>Number</i>	9	0	9	9									
F					0	3,5	9,14									The number of FTEs already employed and co-financed by the Technical Assistance.

* S - Selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries]

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F - Fully implemented operations [actual achievement]

3.3 Milestones and targets defined in the performance framework (Article 50(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013) – submitted in annual implementation reports from 2017 onwards

Reporting on financial indicators, key implementation steps, output and result indicators to act as milestones and targets for the performance framework (submitted starting with the report in 2017).

TABLE 3: Information on the milestones and targets defined in the performance framework

Priority Axis	Indicator Type (Key implementation step, financial, output or, where appropriate)	ID	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestone for 2018	Final target (2023)	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Observations (if necessary)
1	Financial indicator	P1.1	Amount of certified expenditure for Priority Axis 1	Euro	600,000.00	11,764,705.89	0	0	0								The first projects started with the implementation in mid of 2016, therefore no reports of the LPs were received by

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2	Output indicator	11b.2	Number of joint professional agreements and protocols	Number	3	20	0	0	0								
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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 1011/2014² [Model for transmission of financial data]³ 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%	1,038,025.04	8.82%	1,038,025.04	0.00	0.00%	1
2	ERDF	Total	3,876,489.00	85.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0
3	ERDF	Public	3,000,000.00	50.00%	3,000,000.00	100.00%	3,000,000.00	0.00	0.00%	7
Total	ERDF		18,641,195.00	79.37%	4,038,025.04	21.66%	4,038,025.04	0.00	0.00%	8
Grand total			18,641,195.00	79.37%	4,038,025.04	21.66%	4,038,025.04	0.00	0.00%	8

² OJ L 286, 30.9.2014, p. 1.

³ 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	0,00
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	0,00
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	0,00
3	122 Evaluation and studies	100,000.00	0,00
3	123 Information and communication	100,000.00	0,00

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	0,00
2	01 non-repayable grant	3,295,015.00	0,00
3	01 non-repayable grant	1,500,000.00	0,00

Dimension 3 Territory Type

Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
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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 (%) (column 2/total amount)	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 (%) (column 4/total amount)

		allocated to the support from the ERDF at programme level *100)		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 ⁴				

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

⁴ 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 2nd 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 focusing on the programme management structure and processes, project application, selection procedures and Communication Strategy is planned for the year 2017. The final results will be presented in AIR 2017.

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 2016, however the programme has faced some issues which have affected the programme's implementation. The year 2016 was challenging for all programme structures, due to the overlapping of both financial periods, by closing the programme period 2007-2013 and preparing all the necessary documents/ procedures for designation of the programme 2014-2020. Despite the limited human resources involved in the activities covering both programme periods, the programme authorities managed to approve project and to implement activities related to two deadlines for submission, assessment and selection 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. The Audit Authority (AA), supported by external auditors as Independent Audit Body (IAB), conducted an audit (assessment) of compliance of designated authorities with the designation criteria for internal control, risk management, management and control activities and monitoring as set in Annex XIII to the Regulation (EU) No. 1303/2013. The IAB requested supplementing the DMCS in parts that were already sufficiently covered in programming period 2007-2013. MA supplemented the DMCS and produced additional manuals and guidelines according to IAB observations and resubmitted the DMCS to IAB for further checking. As provided in their report dated on 8 March 2017 the MA, the National Control Unit in Republic of Slovenia, national control units in Hungary and the CA designated for the programme comply with the designation criteria. Programme fully implemented the e-Cohesion directive as it is already from the start of the programme possible to conduct all processed in electronic form with a single signon.

We could also mention, what has already been mentioned in the previous points, that in the frame of the first deadline we have had 76% of submitted project applications that had been rejected regarding eligibility. Most common mistake were: not all (mandatory) fields were filled in bilingually, not all (mandatory) fields in the Application Form were filled in, the Lead Partner was located outside the programme area, information presented in the application package documents was not consistent, the budget section was not filled in bilingually, the budget section was not completely filled, obligatory annexes were not submitted, the obligatory Annexes were not filled in completely, the obligatory Annexes were not filled in completely. To avoid mistakes in preparation of applications, for the second deadline we implemented additional corrective measures such as organized workshops, published FAQ on mistakes on

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the webpage, eMS has been upgraded to newer version where certain bugs were fixed and plugins for administrative check has been implemented, face-to-face meetings with potential applicants had been carried out. These measures turned out to be useful, since only 20% of all project applications submitted in the frame of the second deadline were ineligible after eligibility check.

Another important issue is understanding of the cooperation programme by MC delegations, where we have noticed interpretation differences by both MS delegations. This led to non-confirmation of projects in the 2nd deadline where no projects were confirmed. More clarification meetings between MS delegations had been organized and certain compromise has been found in order to proceed with the implementation of the programme.

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

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)

Is in the 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 ⁵ (if applicable)	Observations (if necessary)

⁵ 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' input='G'>	<type='S' input='G'>	<type='S' input='S'>	<type='N' input='M'>	<type='N' input='M'>	<type='D' input='G'>	<type='D' input='G'>	<type='D' input='G'>	<type='D' input='G'>	<type='S' input='G'>	<type='P' input='M'>	<type='S' input='S'>	<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

Under the Open call for proposals (which is constantly open and project applicants can submit applications at any time between deadlines on a 24/7 basis), two deadlines have been published (deadlines are specified within the before mentioned single Open call) and in total 89 applications have been processed by end of 2016. Only one project was approved by MC under 1st deadline, whereas the decision on the selection of projects under 2nd deadline was postponed from December 2016 to January 2017 when five more projects were approved.

In 2016, the selected and contracted project represented 9% of the ERDF allocated to PA1 and 7% 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 16%. No disbursement has been made yet.

8 partners from the only approved project in 2016 come from Pomurska region (4) and Vas country (4), while Podravska region and Zala county were not yet involved in the implementation. The beneficiaries did not submit progress reports in 2016. Therefore, the progress in achievement of the programme objectives was assessed on the basis of planned outcomes of projects approved until 31 December 2016, and their expected contributions to the programme output indicators and specific objectives. The calculation of result indicators for priority axes is planned for 2018 and is thus not addressed in this report either.

PA1: Attractive region

The expected result is developed sustainable touristic offer of the programme area based on the protection/conservation of natural & cultural resources and activation of local resources that would lead to increase of overnight stays and indirectly to increase in the number of local service providers, enterprises and locally available jobs. There seem to be major interest for cooperation within PA1; 70% and 65% of all received applications under 1st and 2nd deadline targeted this intervention area.

The approved project GREEN EXERCISE contributes by linking cultural & natural heritage and healthy life motives into new tourist products and packages. The project area will benefit from 9 Green parks and 5



biking routes that promote natural and cultural heritage on their way. New accommodation facilities another tourist related services and capacity building actions will be implemented.

Expected contribution of projects approved under 1st deadline to the programme output indicators:

- the project will contribute to the increase in the number of visits to supported sites of cultural and natural heritage and attractions with 3000 visitors, representing 30% of the target value of indicator C0009
- with 8 new CB-touristic products/services the 67% of the target value of indicator 6c.3 is to be achieved
- no contribution to the indicators 6c.2 (people participating in interpretation and educational events related to cultural and natural heritage) and 6c.4 (cycle tracks and footpaths) is indicated. Contribution to these indicators is expected from the 4 projects that were approved in January 2017.

From other applications submitted for the programme co-financing it is seen that project applicants in the programme area do not cooperate significantly, so similar applications were received from different applicants. To receive synergy between such project applications, JS increased counselling in stage of development of the projects, where applicants with similar ideas are targeted. JS will try to combine project applicants with similar ideas, so the repetition of projects is minimised with the objective to reach as many applicants as possible and to cover larger areas within the programme. The objective of the programme is also to increase the diversity of the projects, thus covering various topics with similar amount of co-financing.

After analysing the projects that were not successful in PA 1, the counselling process for applicants has been upgraded, where projects have been oriented towards achieving other output indicators, that are still missing to be reached.

PA2: Cooperative region

The result is expected in higher level, more stable, as well as more extended legal and administrative cross-border cooperation among institutions and organizations from both sides of the border, more efficient public administration, delivery of quality public services and functional governance initiatives to effectively address the joint challenges manifested in the programme area. Areas to be addressed include environmental protection, energy efficiency, renewable energy, social services (social innovation), healthcare, employment, spatial planning, accessibility, civil protection, risk prevention and management, cultural cooperation...

Although 14 applications received under 1st deadline addressed this PA (30% of all received) and 5 were assessed for the quality, none was selected. The main reasons were: the general idea was ok, but after they made project to big (in financial and content sense) and they lost the basic concept of the planned project; organisations that already cooperate did not upgrade the cooperation, they just sign the protocol, they are focusing on partners that they already know and finally a lot of project ideas could be implemented without cross-border cooperation.

15 applications were received to 2nd deadline, 12 were assessed for their quality.

The programme received many applications targeted at 2nd priority, but content wise applications do not fulfil qualitative criteria and alignment with cooperation programme. From the assessments it was seen that applicants do not understand properly the intention of the programme priority, so the MA and JS discussed of using more targeted approach in the priority 2 for the next deadlines with special focus given understanding of the programme logic in 2nd priority.

MA and JS have made significant efforts to target priority 2 already on 3rd Workshop for applicants before 2nd deadline. The focus was given to more detailed explanation of Cooperation programme, especially in light of 2nd priority. Applicants were informed about what kind of projects programme expects within this



priority and also the invitations for the workshop have been sent to many different potential stakeholders with the region by using the databases available at National Authorities. Unfortunately, very few organizations responded to such invitation and even those that were participating were not willing to share project ideas or problems with other participants.

Overall assessment of the achievement of the programme objectives

The progress in achievement of programme objectives by end of 2016 is modest. Implementation under PA1 started with one project, while PA2 was not yet activated.

Although the interest for cooperation is high and has been reflected in high number of received applications to both deadlines, only a few projects were eventually selected: 1 (2016) + 5 (2017).

Under the 1st deadline, only 24% of applications passed the administrative and eligibility check. The JS analyzed the most common mistakes and notified potential applicants to the 2nd deadline through website and informative workshop. The situation improved as 79% of applications under 2nd deadline passed this step and entered quality assessment. The MC decided that procedures will remain the same for the 3rd deadline.

Looking at expected contributions to the programme specific objectives of one approved project, the following is observed. With only one project approved (1st Priority Axis) the achievement of output indicators for both priorities can not be realistically predicted. (doe already at the beginning of the year 2017 another five projects were approved and the picture regarding the achievement of programme output indicators significantly improves).

PA3: Technical assistance

Seven TA projects have been approved in 2016. Achievement of targets for the TA projects is progressing well and in accordance with the plan. The staff and teams have been set up and operating. Information actions and support to applicants and beneficiaries is being implemented by all relevant bodies.

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



The principles set out in the Article 7 of the Regulation (EU) no 1303/2013 were respected in the programme implementation in the following ways:

Respect of horizontal principles was included in the chapter 3.5 of the Implementation manual for beneficiaries – Part 1 (about the programme). Applicants were requested to self-assess in the application form the contribution of project proposal to these principles (positive, neutral or negative) and to describe/justify the selection.

The MC adopted the quality assessment criteria for the projects submitted to open call for proposals. The set of strategic criteria examines positive contributions of the project to promotion of equality between men and women and to equal opportunities and non-discrimination. The project demonstrating positive contributions to any of the two principles is assessed with 1 point for each one. The maximum score of points under strategic set of criteria is 39.

Respect of horizontal principles was promoted on three informative workshops for potential applicants.

Applicants self-assessed contributions to promotion of equality between men and women and non-discrimination mainly as positive in terms of respecting these principles in their implementation.

Respect of equal opportunities and non-discrimination is basically demonstrated by enabling access to project outputs and results to all interested target groups, with the intension to address also specific ones, such as minorities on both sides of the border, enabling access to cultural & natural sites and services to persons with disabilities. Overall, the projects address to a large extent the population in rural & peripheral areas and focus on opportunities for activation of their economic potentials that lag behind urban areas.

All projects intend to provide for equal opportunities for the men and women to be engaged in the projects teams and project activities, but in general do not increase this equality so the foreseen impact is neutral.

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

The principles set out in Article 8 of the Regulation (EU) no 1303/2013 were also taken into account in the programme implementation. In the Strategic Environmental Assessment for the programme has been prepared together with Ministry for Environment. The projects connected to road construction have been assessed from the sustainable mobility point of view.

Sustainable development as horizontal principle was included in the Implementation manual for beneficiaries – Part 1 (about the programme) in chapter 3.5 including concrete examples to be respected in all projects. Applicants were requested to self-assess in the application form the contribution of project proposal to sustainable development (positive, neutral or negative) and to describe/justify the selection.



The MC adopted the quality assessment criteria for the projects submitted to open call for proposals. The set of strategic criteria examines positive contributions sustainable development. The projects demonstrating positive contributions is assessed with 1 points. The maximum score of points under strategic set of criteria is 39.

Main contributions are expected from projects approved under PA1 that focus on valorisation of natural and cultural resources in sustainable cross border tourism offers that at the same time activate local knowledge and skills. The approved projects promote soft mobility (walking and cycling) and include awareness raising topics related to preserving cultural and natural heritage in the new tourist programmes being developed.

Majority of project applications do not show sustainability of projects after the project closure or do not provide sufficiently transparent method of monitoring it. This area will be specifically tackled in workshops where JS will presents the application process and areas of attention for future applicants.

The confirmed project does not involve building performance so there is no cost-optional level of energy performance.

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

Priority axis	Amount of support to be used for climate change objectives (EUR)	Proportion of total allocation of the programme (%)
P 1	70.486,70	0,71%
Total	70.585,70	0,48%

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

The Monitoring Committee has been formed in respect of Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013. The process of selection and nomination of MC members has been coordinated by the National Authorities of Slovenia and Hungary.

The MC comprises members with voting rights and members in advisory capacity. The voting members are representatives of the national level and regional actors, which were nominated with a view to provide representation of all relevant sectors addressed by the Cooperation Programme.

The members in advisory capacity include representatives of the national and regional levels relevant for specific areas of interventions foreseen in the programme, civil society, economic partners, EC,...



The functioning of the MC has been effective. MC is supported by Joint Secretariat. MC members have access to relevant materials and information on the intranet. MC decisions are also published on the programme website along with the names of members of MC

MC members organise preparatory meetings on both sides of the border, where relevant topics are discussed and opinions aligned. Preparation also allows for more efficient and effective discussion at MC meetings, however it is seen that governmental members play significant role in work of the MC.

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

Evaluation plan of the programme was prepared by the MA with the assistance of the JS at the beginning of the 2016 and approved by the MC in September 2016. Following its adoption it was sent to the EC for information through the System for Fund Management in the EU (SFC). It is available on the programme website www.si-hu.eu.

As stated in the Art 54 (1) of the CPR as well as in guidance documents from the EC the content of the evaluation plan concerns mainly the following areas: evaluations on the efficiency and effectiveness of the programme (foreseen in years 2017 and 2019) and impact evaluations (foreseen in years 2020 and 2022).

According to the evaluation plan the first evaluation will be carried out in the year 2017. First preparations and activities were done already in the 2016. The focus of the evaluation was on programme management and implementation, the project application and selection procedures and the Communication strategy. The evaluation was carried out on the basis of desk research, by using an online survey for all Lead Partners of the submitted projects in the frame of the first and second deadline of the Open Call and interviews of the programme structures. JS gathered data, needed for the evaluation, with the implementation of their activities: check of the administrative compliance and eligibility, qualitative assessment of the applications for the applications received within the 1st and 2nd deadlines of the open call. They also collected different types of data from the eMS system, made analyse about the project achievements (outputs and results indicators, deliverables) and about the financial data of the approved projects. The results of this evaluation will be included into AIR 2017.

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

The first two years were a really active period in the life of the CP Interreg SI-HU Programme. After the EC approval (18 September 2015) the programme bodies speeded up the communication activities as well. First of all, the MA, in cooperation with the JS organised the opening conference, which was held on 20 October 2015 in Murska Sobota. In accordance with the Communication Strategy which was accepted on 24 November 2015 at statutory meeting of the Monitoring Committee and in accordance with the Annual Communication Plan 2016 several communication tools and channels were used in order to promote the Programme.

In year 2015 we focused more on the first communication phase. In frame of the opening conference three successfully implemented and closed projects financed out of OP SI-HU 2007-2013 presented their activities and results and we prepared the Final brochure of the OP SI-HU 2007-2013 too.



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In year 2016 we entered the second communication phase which was set in the Communication Strategy. During this phase the primary task was not the dissemination of the results and best practices of the previous programming period but the promoting of the funding opportunities of the CP Interreg SI-HU Programme. In the frame of this work the Open Call of the Cooperation Programme Interreg V-A Slovenia-Hungary for the period 2014-2020 and the official Application Pack was published, which consists of the Implementation Manual for Beneficiaries, templates' of obligatory annexes (Lead Partner statement, Project Partner statement and Partnership Agreement) and the Subsidy Contract template.

The key communication channel of the current programme period was the programme website, as in the period 2007-2013, but of course other channels worked actively in order to contribute the implementation of the general communication objective described in the Communication Strategy. Programme-level events implemented in the last 2 years have contributed to the implementation of the specific - programme level - communication objective set out in Communication Strategy.

Activities set in the Communication Strategy are proceeding according to the approved Strategy furthermore the communication outputs which were set in the Communication Plan 2016 were fully carried out with minor delays at some point (signing the ERDF contract) however this delay could be handled within the planned time frame. In addition to this appropriate media coverage was also ensured at every event organised within the Programme in 2016.

To reach the specific communication objectives the activities of 2016 can be grouped referring to planned target audience whom the Programme would like to reach with the different communication activities and also grouped referring to the communication objectives which the Programme would like to reach:

Communication activity/tool	Target audience	Related communication objective
Kick-off event	General public Potential beneficiaries Expert and political public Media	1. Increasing the awareness about the Programme and also the Cohesion policy and EU funds among the general public, stakeholders, the expert public (political public), the media and beneficiaries and highlight the role, achievements and impact of the Cooperation Programme and its projects,
Annual Event under auspice of the EC Day initiative		
Website		1. Increasing the awareness about the Programme and also the Cohesion policy and EU funds among the general public, stakeholders, the expert public (political public), the media and beneficiaries and highlight the role, achievements and impact of the Cooperation Programme and its projects, 2. Informing potential beneficiaries about funding opportunities under the Cooperation Programme.
Newsletter		
facebook profile		
Signing ERDF contracts		
Workshops	Potential beneficiaries Expert and political public Media	2. Informing potential beneficiaries about funding opportunities under the Cooperation Programme.

Planned and implemented activities and reached results based on the list of communication tools:

On-line communication:

- The Programme's website, respectively all three language-mutations were continuously updated. Until 31 December 2016 27 e-news were published and sent out as e-newsletter, 212 people signed up



for the Programme Newsletter, who received e-newsletters 27 times, the website had 79.188 visits, by 9.378 single users.

- In October 2016 the Programme made appearance in the social media with creation of a facebook profile. In the short period till 31 December 2016 7 posts were published which have reached 464 people. In connection to these posts nearly 1000 interactions were carried out by visitors. The facebook page of the Programme had 76 likes till the end of this period.

Direct communication:

- The opening conference was held on 20 October 2015 in Murska Sobota with more than 200 participants. The Member States participating in the cooperation program were represented at a high level, Mrs Alenka Smerkolj, Minister and Mr Zsigmond Perényi, Deputy State Secretary welcomed the participants.

- Within the 2 deadlines (February and July 2016) for the submission of project proposals in the Open Call of the CP Interreg SI-HU in 2016 altogether 3 workshops intended for potential applicants were carried out where more than 300 people participated. In frame of the workshops the CP, Open Call and Application Package, eMS, lessons learned, common mistakes and FAQs were presented.

- In order to help the project development, the JS/IPs carried out 36 individual consultations with potential beneficiaries.

- The programme organised one major event for the general public in 2016 together with the CP Interreg SI-AT under the auspices of the EC DAY initiative, called "Hike to the triple border". In frame of the one-day-tour the 100 participants passed 3 times 3 different borders in the region and visited 4 interesting EU co-financed CBC projects. Taking the possibility during the day the first ERDF Subsidy Contract in the new Programme was also signed by the Managing Authority and the Lead Partner in a special place (Tromejnik – Three-lateral Border Stone).

Communication with media and PR / Media communication – advertising:

- To all public events press was invited so they had the opportunity to promote the Programme in the local media (TV AS).

- In case of events the programme uses the roll-ups in order to visualise the programme.

Publication activities:

- The programme issued two brochures, the whole Cooperation Programme and the Citizen's summary.

Other (additional) tools:

- On the occasions of the public events participants received promotional items (notepad, pen, etc.)

- Moreover in frame of the programme, 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.

The implemented information and publicity measures in the year 2016 involved several activities described in the chapter 6.2 Obligatory activities of the Communication Strategy.

The set budget for the implementation of the Communication Strategy for year 2016 was 20.000 EUR and the programme spent 19.200 EUR.



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

The integrated approach to territorial development as stated in the CP was observed also in selection of projects. The main goal of one approved project is a common cross-border promotion of extant touristic service related to cultural heritage and natural assets with an expansion towards emphasizing the importance of a healthy way of life, sustainable and environmentally friendly means of transport (especially cycling). The recreational parks (Green Parks) on both sides of the border in nine different places is plan to be established in order to promote the following topics: natural environment, protected natural assets, sustainable land-use and means of transport, healthy way of life and exercise.

The sustainable urban development and community-led local development under the cooperation programme are not used.

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

For the purpose of reinforcing the capacity of authorities, Joint Secretariat (JS) members and the Managing Authority (MA) attended several trainings in 2016 organised by Interact (Raising project quality, Financial and Project management, Indicators and data collection, Finance management camp). Also trainings regarding the eMS system were organised for the programme authorities and throughout the year regular meetings with the authorities (JS/MA) from CP Slovenia-Austria and CP Slovenia-Croatia were organised to share the experience and to reinforce the knowledge of programme management.

All the relevant guidelines for the beneficiaries were prepared and detailed information regarding the project implementation, reporting process and regarding the program rules in general were presented to the beneficiaries of the approved projects on the face-to-face meetings and throughout the 1st implementation period the beneficiaries received all the support needed from their JS Contract managers. The implementation of the project selected within the 1st deadline of the Open Call started in August 2016 and the 1st reporting period ended in January 2017.

It is seen that informatics knowledge is not only a problem for applicants, but for programme structures as well. To improve the capacity on this level, information system workshops were frequently organized and a lot of processes within programme bodies altered to adjust to electronic documents and communication. For the future also seminars for using different office programmes and more analytical tools are considered.

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

Within the application, the contribution to the relevant macro-regional strategies has to be described by the project partners, however in this regard no additional points are allocated to the projects within the quality check. The only project approved till end of the 2016 with acronym GREEN EXERCISE (within the 1st Open Call of the CP Interreg V-A Slovenia-Hungary) is contributing to the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR), under Pilar 1 Connectaion the Danubien Region, PA 1.4 - Culture and tourism.



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

n.a.

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

