



Interreg



SLOVENIA – HUNGARY

European Union | European Regional Development Fund

CITIZEN'S SUMMARY 2016

Cooperation programme
Interreg V-A Slovenia-Hungary
in the programme period 2014–2020
5 July 2017

www.si-hu.eu

I. BACKGROUND

This is the brief summary of second Annual Implementation Report (AIR) for the Cooperation Programme Interreg V-A Slovenia-Hungary for programming period 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 and it 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 meeting Interreg V-A SI-HU.

II. OVERVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME

In comparison to previous reporting year, the year 2016 was quite active.

Monitoring Committee members of the programme 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.

All activities regarding the designation process started 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, 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. As provided in their report the Managing Authority, the National Control Unit in Republic of Slovenia, national control units in the Republic of Slovenia and the CA designated for the programme comply with the designation criteria.



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 eMS system and its functionalities fully comply with the e-Cohesion regulatory requirements (according to audit opinion).

III. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PRIORITY AXIS

After launching the Open call in December 2015 we had two submission deadlines (February and July 2016) in year 2016. Within the both deadlines 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 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. 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.



Picture: Workshop for potential applicants Szombathely



The programme has three Priority axis, out of which the third is Technical assistance.

Priority axis		
1	Attractive region	Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing cultural and natural heritage
2	Cooperative region	Enhancing institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders and efficient public administration by promoting legal and administrative cooperation and cooperation between citizens and institutions
3	Technical Assistance	Contributing to the efficient implementation of the Cooperation Programme.

➤ **1ST DEADLINE**

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, requesting 24,2 MIO ERDF. After the administrative and eligibility check only eleven applications were eligible. Among these eleven applications that were checked for quality, only **one project from 1st Priority axis (Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing cultural and natural heritage)** 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.

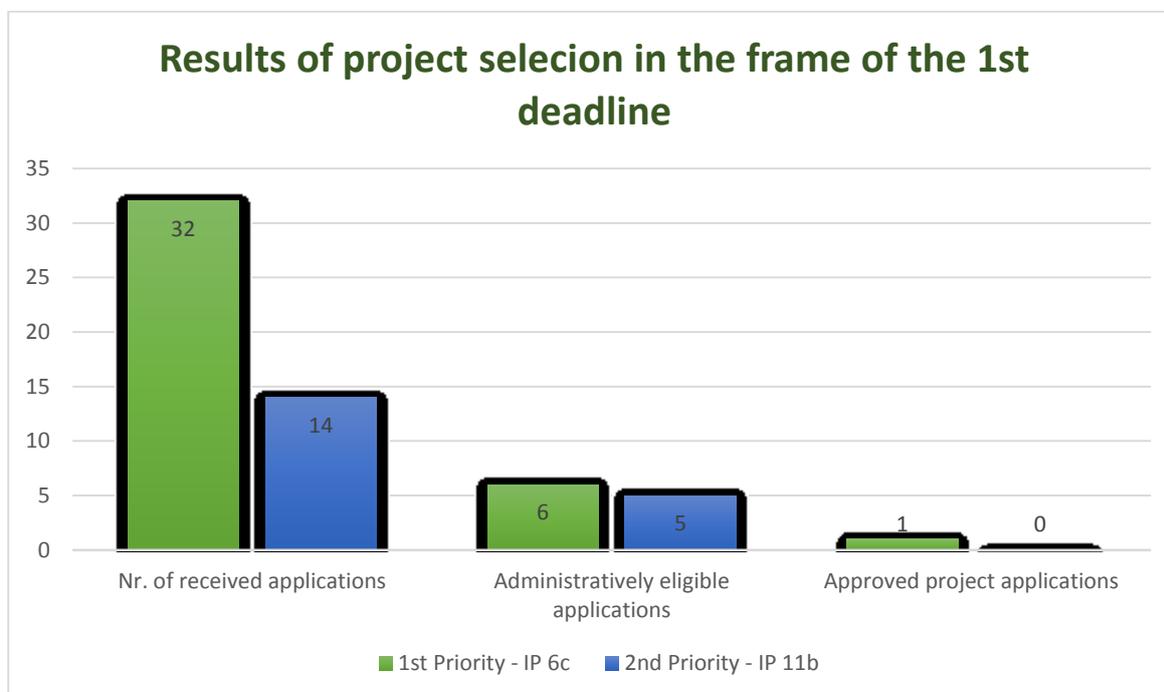


Chart 1: Results of project selection – 1st deadline



Approved project – GREEN EXERCISE

The subsidy contract with LP of this project (Őrségi Nemzeti Park Igazgatóság) has been signed in September 2016. The contracted ERDF amount is 882.321,27 EUR. The main goal of the 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. In order to reach the goals the extant cultural and ecotouristic elements with project-planned developments will be linked with help of marked (hiking and cycling) routes. Furthermore, a youth hostel for accommodation will be established. With all these developments, project partners will try to elongate the stay of visitors in the project area.

➤ 2ND DEADLINE

Second deadline was set to 25 July 2016 and we have received till deadline 43 applications, requesting 23,3 m ERDF. 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), 34 project applications passed eligibility check. After quality check, 8 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 five projects (4 from 1st PA and 1 from 2nd PA).

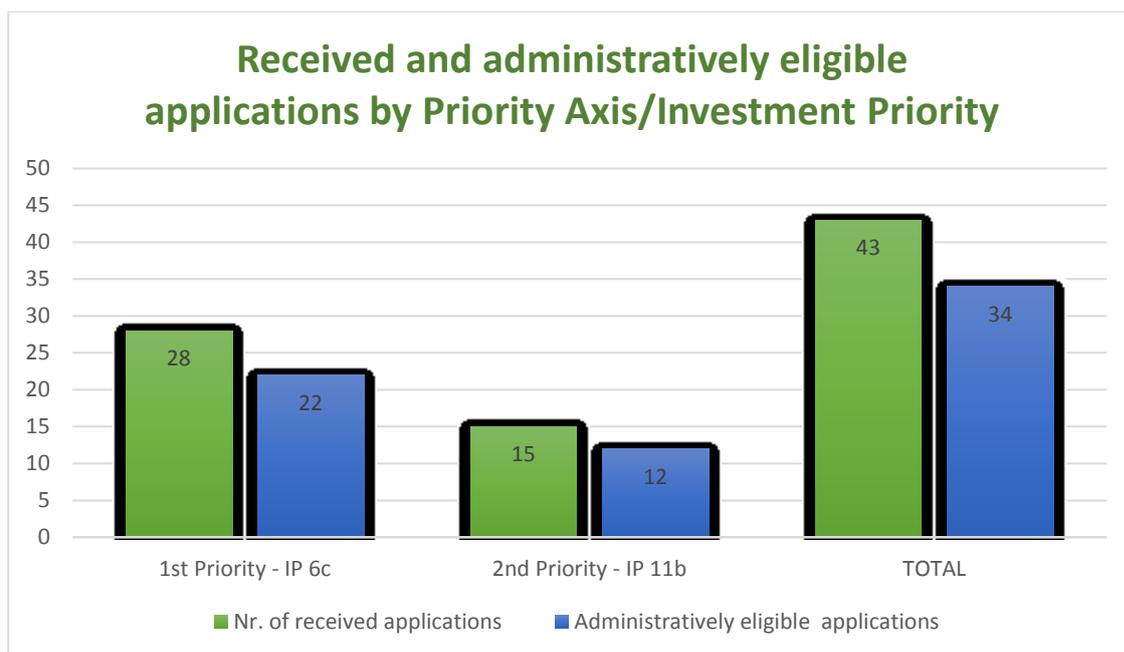


Chart 2: Received and administrative eligible applications – 2nd deadline





Chart 3: Country of the LP in received applications in both deadlines

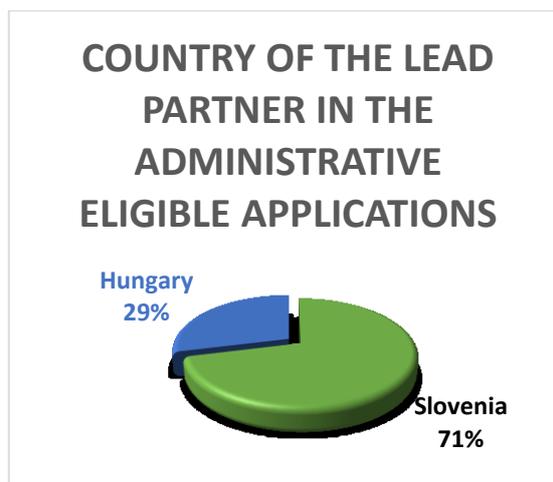


Chart 4: Country of the LP in the admin. eligible applications in both deadlines

➤ TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

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 2007-2013 amounts to 1.500.000,00 ERDF EUR.

IV. 2016 IN FIGURES

In year 2016 there were two deadlines, but we approved only one project. As already mentioned above, selection of projects under the second deadline took place at the beginning of year 2017.

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.

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%.

In relation to the indicator data, the progress can be measured only on the level of the selected projects. No projects fully implemented the activities by the end of 2016.



V. PUBLICITY AND MEASURES TAKEN IN 2016

In line with Article 42(4) of IPA II Regulation, 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 area. 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 (Green Exercise) 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-mutations 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.



Picture: EC-day 2016 and signing of Subsidy Contract for the first project



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VI. INFORMATION

The latest new on the programme implementation are available on the programme website:

www.si-hu.eu

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