

# Environmental Report for Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Interreg V-A Slovenia-Hungary Cross-Border Co-operation Programme 2014-2020

**June 2015**

## Executive Summary

The scope of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is to ensure integration of environmental concerns into plans, programmes and policies and minimise potential environmental impacts of their implementation. SEA is thus required for the cooperation programme Interreg V-A Slovenia-Hungary 2014-2020. The legal basis is constituted of different legislative acts valid in Slovenia and Hungary, but they are all based on EU SEA Directive, therefore it is possible to use a common approach. The process will include relevant authorities in the Cooperation Programme area. In Slovenia, the procedure is administered by the Sector for SEA of the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning.

The Environmental Report is based on the third draft of the Cooperation Programme Slovenia-Hungary 2014-2020, Interreg V-A, version 3.1 received on 5 February 2015. The Methodology is based on Slovene Decree on Environmental Report because it is more detailed in prescribing the approach to impact assessment. An internal scoping was conducted initially to determine the key evaluation issues the results of ex-ante evaluation that was performed at the same time were also taken into account.

The Cooperation Programme Slovenia-Hungary 2014-2020 Interreg V-A (CP SI-HU in further text) was assessed. Conceptually the CP SI-HU programme 2014-2020 follows the ambition of European cohesion and the Europe 2020 strategy, with its aims at "smart, sustainable, inclusive growth". The programme takes into account the relevant macro-regional, national and regional strategies. The programme area covers 10,658 km<sup>2</sup> in total, with 2 3rds belonging to the Hungarian and a 3rd to the Slovenian border region and the border of around 100 km in length.

The programme area has a population of about 980,500 inhabitants, of which 55% live in Hungary and 45% in Slovenia; the population density is below national averages everywhere except in Pomurje region. The programme area includes the following eligible NUTS3 regions:

- Podravje and Pomurje regions in Slovenia,
- Vas and Zala counties in Hungary.

The timeframe of the programme implementation is 7 years, from 2014 to 2020, and additional 3 years for the finalisation of funded projects. Thus, the total period of the programme implementation is 2014 till 2023.

The programme lists types and examples of actions to be supported under each investment priority. The actions are broadly defined in order to allow for diversity of projects. Because the fraction of funding that can be spent on physical investment is very small, the projects are unlikely to comprise investment that would require and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). Some of the projects, particularly in the field of physical and service infrastructure for tourism might lead in the long term to so called "EIA-type" of projects.

The structure of CP SI-HU is presented in the following table. The financial plan amounts to 18.641.194,12 EUR in total, with ERDF contributing 14,795,015.00 EUR (79,37 % of total funding).

Priority	Thematic objective (TO) and Investment priority	specific objective	Desired result
<b>Priority 1</b> <b>Attractive Region</b>  <b>Total financing: 11,764,705.88 €</b> <b>Union support: 10,000,000.00 €</b>	Thematic Objective 6 Environmental protection & resource efficiency  6(c) Protecting, promoting and developing cultural and natural heritage	To increase attractiveness through the diversification and cross-border integration of the touristic offer in the programme area, based on the protection and development of natural and cultural heritage.	The programme aims to reach a higher level of development of sustainable forms of tourism in the remote, rural regions of the programme area, while building on the experience and attractiveness of the important tourist centres located here.
<b>Priority 2</b> <b>Cooperative Region</b>  <b>Total financing: 3,876,488.24 €</b> <b>Union support: 3,295,015.00 €</b>	Thematic Objective 11 Institutional capacity building & efficient public administrations	To increase the capacity for cooperation in order to reach a higher level of maturity in cross-border relations	Further deepen and expand the cross-border cooperation between institutions and organizations from the two sides of the border, by increasing the institutional capacity of the stakeholders in delivering better quality public services and exploit the potentials of cross-border relations.
<b>Priority 3</b> <b>Technical Assistance</b>  <b>Total financing: 3,000,000.00 €</b> <b>Union support: 1,500,000.00 €</b>		Contribution to the efficient implementation of the Cooperation Programme.	The Priority Axis will support the sound and efficient implementation of the Cooperation Programme. In this sense, it will ensure the proper operation of the programme management structures in delivering their specific tasks.

Source: third draft of the Cooperation Programme Slovenia-Hungary 2014-2020, Interreg V-A, version 3.1 received on 5 February 2015. HitesyBartuczHollai Euroconsulting Kft., February 2015

In the scoping phase the key environmental issues to be assessed in SEA were determined on the basis of draft CP SI-HU and environmental objectives were determined. Selection of environmental objectives was based on various EU programme documents and national level documents. Environmental objectives and their indicators are shown in the following table.

Issue	Environmental Objective	Environmental Indicators
Preserved and well managed natural resources	Maintained diversity of species and natural habitats	The state of habitat types in the area where infrastructure, supported within the framework of intervention priority 6c of the CP SI-HU programme, will be implemented.
	favourable condition of Natura 2000 network	The state of qualifying species and habitat types of Natura 2000 sites where projects, supported with the funds of the CP SI-HU, will be implemented.
	Improved water management	The quality of groundwater in aquifers in areas where projects concerning water management, supported within the framework of the CP SI-HU, will take place
The chemical and ecological state of surface waters in areas where projects concerning water management, supported within the framework of the CP SI-HU, will take place		
Preserved and enhanced heritage	favourable condition of natural heritage (Protected Areas, Natural Values etc.)	The state of natural heritage in the areas of implementation of individual projects, supported with the funds of the CP SI-HU programme.
	favourable condition of cultural heritage (both objects and areas)	The number and the state of objects and areas in which projects, supported with the funds of the CP SI-HU, will be implemented.

The CP SI-HU area characterised by quite good environmental conditions. The following key issues were pointed out in the context of cross-border issues:

The following key aspects with cross-border impact have been identified in the program area CP SI-HU:

- management of Natura 2000 sites and protected areas: there are cross-border areas of preserved nature and natural heritage and cooperation for its protection and sustainable management has been established in the past; probably the most known example is Goričko-Orseg protected area, including its cooperation with Raaba in Austria. It is important to keep and further strengthen the coordinated nature conservation; this will help to keep high levels of biodiversity, ensure green corridors for migration of species, provide natural areas for recreation, education and related tourism and will thus also positively affect the quality of life.
- preservation of cultural heritage: the programme area has many historic sites and is historically connected. Moreover, it is known for its cultural richness and diversity. This in turn also contributes to the development of tourism in the area.
- Water quality and water management: there are no major rivers flowing across the border, but the area has been affected by increasing occurrence of floods. Moreover, changes in water table can affect agriculture and other economic activities, and further pollution could threaten provision of safe drinking water. Streams and rivers have been affected by changing water regime and construction of various types of infrastructure (irrigation, flood protection, transport).

The likely significant effects on the environment were assessed by reviewing potential significant impacts of CP SI-HU on several levels: on strategic level, by priority axis/specific objectives and by potential projects (types of supported activities). The impacts were assessed on the basis of several factors (whether they are positive or negative, direct or indirect, how large are they, are they reversible and the potential for cumulative and synergistic effects). We have also considered that the potential for negative impacts will be reduced in the process of different permitting procedures, e.g. , the prior procedure for the assessment of effects on the environment („pre-EIA“ in Slovenia) and the assessment of acceptability of effects of the plan on the Natura 2000 areas (Appropriate Assessment; in Slovenia also for protected areas) in accordance with the Habitats Directive.

During the implementation of CP SI-HU cumulative and synergistic impacts will arise both within the programme itself (e.g. among the sustainable tourism projects) and with other programmes, for example operational

programmes for ESI funds. Synergistic effects can especially be expected in combination with activities supported by Community-led Local Development (CLLD). The results are presented in the following table.

Issue	Environment-al Objective	Description of the Effects	Total score
<b>Preserved and well managed natural resources</b>	Maintained diversity of species and natural habitats	<p>Biodiversity will be predominantly affected by projects and activities supported by intervention priority 6c. Within the framework of intervention priority 6c, the CP SI-HU supports joint strategic planning of areas with high biodiversity (in the context of natural heritage), small scale investments regarding sustainable utilization of cultural and natural heritage, improving accessibility to cultural and natural heritage sites, awareness raising on sustainable use of natural resources and similar, which can have a positive effect on the preservation of biodiversity.</p> <p>A negative effect of such activities can occur in the case of inappropriate siting of infrastructure for improving accessibility and demonstration/education. The scale of such type of investment is too small to have a significant impact on biodiversity in general. Overuse of an area due to excessive number of visitors or poor visitors' management can also have a negative effect on biodiversity, however, it is highly unlikely that the numbers of visitors will increase to such extent.</p> <p>The potential for negative impact on biodiversity within the investment priority 11 is negligible, since the projects will be mostly focused on the activities of local communities in built environment (villages, urban areas). In the event that any selected project will be focused on exchange of experience, empowerment, advocacy and capacity building for cross-border cooperation in biodiversity protection or collaboration, exchange of best practices and capacity building for biodiversity conservation and management, investment priority 11 could have a positive impact, but probably only visible in the long term.</p>	B
	favourable condition of Natura 2000 network	<p>Similar conclusions apply as for the biodiversity. In general, the intervention priority 6c will predominantly have a positive effect on the preservation of Natura 2000 sites in favourable condition, however, a negative effect can occur in the case of inappropriate siting of infrastructure or an excessive number of visitors and/or poor visitors' management. Mitigation measures are required to ensure appropriate siting and visitors' management of projects focusing on infrastructure and development of tourism in Natura 2000 sites.</p> <p>The potential for negative impact on biodiversity within the investment priority 11 is negligible, but there could be long-term positive effects in case some of selected projects will focus on Natura 2000 management (see above explanation of impacts on biodiversity).</p>	C
	Improved water management	<p>The investment priority 6c focuses on sustainable tourism, heritage and sustainable natural resources management, thus supported projects are likely to contribute to an increased care for waters. The projects focusing on transport infrastructure for improved accessibility for tourism may affect the waters (their natural flow, river banks), however, the projects are likely be on a scale that is small enough not to cause significant negative effects.</p> <p>The potential for negative impact of the investment priority 11 on waters is negligible. However, within this investment priority some of the projects might focus on exchange of experience and capacity building for cross-border cooperation in environmental protection, civil protection and common risk prevention and management, and that could have long-term positive effects on water quality and flood management.</p>	B
<b>Preserved and enhanced heritage</b>	Favourable condition of natural heritage (Protected Areas, Natural Values etc.)	<p>For the effects of all intervention priorities the same applies as for the environmental objective "favourable condition of Natura 2000 network". The development of sustainable forms of tourism related to natural heritage may contribute to its preservation and raising awareness on its existence and role.</p> <p>Inappropriate siting of infrastructure for improving accessibility and demonstration/education can have a negative effect of such activities. It is possible that the number of visitors would increase, which can lead to negative effects in the case of excessive number of visitors or poor visitors' management, however,</p>	C

Issue	Environment-al Objective	Description of the Effects	Total score
		this is rather unlikely. Nevertheless, mitigation measures are needed to avoid potential negative impact. The potential for negative impact on natural heritage within the investment priority 11 is negligible, but there could be long-term positive effects in case some of selected projects will focus on natural heritage (see above explanation of impacts on biodiversity).	
	Favourable condition of cultural heritage (both objects and areas)	The intervention priority 6c comprises activities which will lead to an improved preservation, presentation and promotion of cultural heritage. Moreover, some of the projects supported by investment priority 11 will be in the field of joint cultural heritage. An increased number of visitors is possible, but it is supposed to have insignificant negative impact on cultural heritage. The projects may contribute to the preservation of cultural heritage and raising awareness on its existence.	B

Mitigation measures are needed for projects aimed at developing infrastructure and services for promotion and development of tourism in areas with high biodiversity, such as Natura 2000 sites and protected areas. The following two mitigation measures were suggested:

- Justification of infrastructure investments in terms of location and design in cases when they deal with or affect natural heritage and/or areas of cultural heritage. The proposed requirement would ensure that the siting is well considered in terms of important aspects of heritage and landscape. For example, siting of roads, footpaths or visitors' infrastructure should be justified in case it affects natural and/or cultural heritage.
- Description of visitors' management as part of application for projects to be funded from investment priority 6c that are focused on activities that would promote visits to natural heritage and areas of cultural heritage. With strong promotion of heritage, there is a risk of negative impacts of large number of visitors (noise, habitat destruction through uncontrolled behaviour, decreased amenity value). This could be avoided by planning visitors management in advance, when projects are prepared.

Considering the estimated size of projects, the eligible share of infrastructure and current levels of visitors to Natura 2000 sites and Protected Areas, this risk of negative impacts is very low, but should nevertheless be accounted for and avoided by taking the mitigation measures described above. The Managing Authority and the Joint Technical Secretariat are in charge of the implementation of both mitigation measures in the phase of tender preparation. The Managing Authority and the Joint Technical Secretariat should also monitor the performance of the implementation within the framework of monitoring the effects and results of the supported projects.

The results of the analysis of the effects were compared with two alternatives, the so-called zero alternative and the alternative with investment priority 8d, which was one of the options discussed by the Task Force in the early stages of programme preparation. It turns out that both alternatives have less favourable environmental impacts than the selected program.

Monitoring the achievement of environmental objectives CP SI-HU will be ensured through the monitoring of selected indicators alongside of monitoring and evaluation of CP SI-HU implementation; it will be done for the first time between 2017 and 2019 and the second time at the end of the programme.

Overall, the implementation of CP SI-HU is likely to have very little negative impact on the environment and quite significant positive impact. Among the positive effects worth mentioning is the coordinated management of nature conservation areas and care for heritage. In most cases, the negative effects are likely to be so small that they will be insignificant. Moreover, most of the co-financed projects will have environmental impacts that will be visible only on mid- to long term. The following recommendations were proposed in order to further reduce the negative impacts and strengthen the positive impact we present the following recommendations:

- Results of monitoring of environmental indicators and achievement of objectives should be publicly available on the website of CP SI-HU,
- Projects that involve natural and cultural heritage should include a dissemination plan that will (among other) target also local population and other similar heritage sites in wider region (Slovenia, Hungary, Austria and Croatia),
- Projects that involve natural and cultural heritage should ensure sustainability of results; this should be checked at the end of the project.

## Povzetek

Namen celovite presoje vplivov na okolje (CPVO) je zagotoviti upoštevanje vseh okoljskih izhodišč v planih, programih in politikah ter zmanjšati potencialne vplive njihovega izvajanja na okolje. Potrebno jo je izvesti tudi za program sodelovanja Interreg V-A Slovenija-Madžarska 2014-2020 (v nadaljnjem besedilu PS SI-HU). Pravno podlago tvorijo različni predpisi, ki veljajo v Sloveniji in treh sodelujočih zveznih deželah, a vsi temeljijo na Direktivi EU o celoviti presoji vplivov na okolje, zato je mogoč enoten pristop. Postopek bo vključeval pristojne organe v območju Programa. V Sloveniji proces vodi Ministrstvo RS za okolje in prostor – Sektor za CPVO.

Okoljsko poročilo temelji na tretjem osnutku Programa Interreg V-A Slovenija – Madžarska 2014 – 2020 – verziji 3.1, prejeti 5. februarja 2015. Metodologija ocenjevanja je bila povzeta po slovenski Uredbi o okoljskem poročilu, ki najbolj natančno predpisuje način ocenjevanja vplivov. Na začetku priprave okoljskega poročila je bil izveden interni scoping za določitev ključnih vsebin. Pri ocenjevanju so bili upoštevani tudi zaključki predhodnega vrednotenja, ki je potekalo istočasno.

Presojan je bil Program sodelovanja INTERREG V-A Slovenija-Madžarska 2014-2020. Konceptualno Program čezmejnega sodelovanja Slovenija–Madžarska 2014–2020 sledi prizadevanjem za evropsko kohezijo in Strategiji Evropa 2020 in upošteva makroregionalne, nacionalne in regionalne strategije. Programsko območje obsega 10,658 km<sup>2</sup>, pri čemer sta dve tretjini območja v madžarskem in ena tretjina v slovenskem obmejnem območju ob meji, ki meri približno 100 km.

V programskem območju živi okoli 980,500 ljudi, od tega jih 55 % živi na Madžarskem in 45 % v Sloveniji. Območje programa obsega naslednje NUTS 3 regije:

- Podravsko in Pomursko regijo v Sloveniji,
- Železno županijo in županijo Zala na Madžarskem.

Časovni okvir za izvajanje programa je 7 let (2014–2020) in dodatna 3 leta za dokončanje financiranih projektov. Skupni časovni okvir za izvajanje programa je torej obdobje 2014–2023.

Program opredeljuje vrste in primere aktivnosti, ki bodo podprte v okviru vsake prednostne naložbe. Aktivnosti so opredeljene na splošno, da bi omogočili raznolikost projektov. Ker je delež sredstev, ki jih je mogoče porabiti za fizične naložbe, zelo majhen, je malo verjetno, da bodo projekti zajemali naložbe, za katere bi bila potreba presoja vplivov na okolje (PVO). Nekateri projekti, zlasti na področju fizične in storitvene infrastrukture za turizem lahko dolgoročno privedejo do tako imenovanih »PVO projektov«.

V naslednji preglednici je predstavljena struktura PS SI-HU. Skupaj finančni načrt programa znaša 18.641.194,12 EUR, od česar je prispevek ESRR 14,795,015.00 EUR (79,37 % celotnega financiranja).



Prioriteta	Tematski cilj (TC) in Prednostna naložba	Specifični cilj	Željeni rezultat
<b>Prioriteta 1</b> <b>Privlačna regija</b>  <b>Celotno financiranje: 11,764,705.88 €</b> <b>Podpora Unije: 10,000,000.00 €</b>	Tematski cilj 6 Ohranjanje in varstvo okolja in spodbujanje učinkovite rabe virov  6(c) Ohranjanje, varstvo, promocija in razvijanje naravne in kulturne dediščine	Povečati privlačnost z diverzifikacijo in čezmejno integracijo turistične ponudbe v programskem območju, temelječe na varovanju in razvoju naravne in kulturne dediščine.	Program namerava doseči višjo raven razvoja trajnostnih oblik turizma v odmaknjenih, podeželskih regijah programskega območja, pri čemer bo gradil na izkušnjah in privlačnosti pomembnih turističnih centrov v območju.
<b>Prioriteta 2</b> <b>Sodelujoča regija</b>  <b>Celotno financiranje: 3,876,488.24 €</b> <b>Podpora Unije: 3,295,015.00 €</b>	Tematski cilj 11 Izboljšanje institucionalnih zmogljivosti javnih organov in zainteresiranih strani ter prispevanje k učinkoviti javni upravi	Povečati usposobljenost za sodelovanje, da bi dosegli višjo stopnjo zrelosti čezmejnih odnosov	Dodatno poglobiti in razširiti čezmejno sodelovanje med institucijami in organizacijami z obeh strani meje s povečanjem institucionalne usposobljenosti deležnikov za zagotavljanje bolj kakovostnih javnih storitev in izkoristiti potencialne čezmejnih odnosov.
<b>Prioriteta 3</b> <b>Tehnična pomoč</b>  <b>Celotno financiranje: 3,000,000.00 €</b> <b>Podpora Unije: 1,500,000.00 €</b>		Prispevati k učinkoviti izvedbi Programa sodelovanja	Prioriteta bo podpirala smiselno in učinkovito izvajanje Programa sodelovanja. V tem smislu bo zagotovila pravilno delovanje upravnih struktur programa pri uresničevanju njihovih specifičnih nalog.

Vir: tretji osnutek Programa sodelovanja Slovenija-Madžarska 2014-2020, Interreg V-A, verzija 3.1, prejet 5 februarja 2015. HitesyBartuczHollai Euroconsulting Kft., februar 2015

V fazi scopinga (vsebinjenja) so bile na podlagi osnutka PS SI-HU določene ključne vsebine, ki smo jih obravnavali v okviru celovite presoje, in določeni okoljski cilji. Pri določitvi okoljskih ciljev smo izhajali iz različnih programskih dokumentov na ravni EU in na nacionalni ravni v obeh državah. Okoljski cilji in kazalci zanje so predstavljeni v spodnji preglednici.

Tema	Okoljski cilj	Okoljski kazalci
Ohranjeni in dobro upravljani naravni viri	Ohranjena raznolikost vrst in habitatov	Stanje habitatnih tipov območij v območjih, kjer bo urejena infrastruktura, podprta v okviru prednostne naložbe 6c programa PS SI-HU.
	Ugodno stanje mreže območij Natura 2000	Stanje kvalifikacijskih vrst in habitatnih tipov območij Natura 2000, v katerih se bodo izvajali projekti, podprti s sredstvi programa PS SI-HU.
	Izboljšano upravljanje z vodami	Kakovost podzemne vode v vodonosnikih na območjih, kjer bodo izvajani projekti na temo upravljanja voda, podprti v okviru PS SI-HU.
		Kemijsko in ekološko stanje površinskih voda na območjih, kjer bodo izvajani projekti na temo upravljanja voda, podprti v okviru PS SI-HU.
	Število ljudi pod vplivom poplav (živeči na poplavnih območjih) na območjih, kjer bodo izvajani projekti na temo zmanjšanja tveganja poplav in s tem povezanih aktivnosti civilne zaščite, podprti v okviru PS SI-HU, supported within the framework of the PS SI-HU, will take place.	
Ohranjena in spodbujena dediščina	Ugodno stanje naravne dediščine (zavarovana območja, naravne vrednote ipd.)	Stanje naravne dediščine na območjih izvajanja posamičnih projektov, podprth s sredstvi programa PS SI-HU.
	Ohranjene lastnosti objektov in območij kulturne dediščine	Število in stanje objektov in območij, v katerih se bodo odvijali projekti, podprti s sredstvi programa PS SI-HU.

Za območje izvajanja PS SI-HU je značilno dokaj dobro stanje okolja. V kontekstu čezmejnih vplivov so bili v programskem območju PS SI-HU izpostavljeni naslednji ključni vidiki:

- **Upravljanje z območji Natura 2000 in zavarovanimi območji:** v območju programa so območja ohranjene narave in naravne dediščine in sodelovanje za njihovo zavarovanje in trajnostno upravljanje je bilo že vzpostavljeno v preteklosti; verjetno najpomembnejši primer je zavarovano območje Goričko-Orseg, vključno z njegovim sodelovanjem z zavarovanim območjem Raaba v Avstriji. Pomembno je vzdrževati in nadalje krepiti usklajeno ohranjanje narave; to bo pomagalo ohraniti visoko stopnjo biotske raznovrstnosti, zagotovilo zelene koridorje za migracijo vrst, zagotovilo naravna območja za rekreacijo, izobraževanje in s tem povezanim turizmom in bo tako tudi pozitivno vplivalo na kakovost življenja.
- **ohranjanje kulturne dediščine:** programsko območjeina številne zgodovinske objekte in območja in je zgodovinsko povezano. Poleg tega je znano po kulturnem bogastvu in raznolikosti. To lahko pripomore tudi k razvoju turizma v območju.
- **Kakovost voda in upravljanje z vodami:** v območju ni večjih rek, ki bi tekle preko meje, vendar je območje prizadelo vse pogostejše pojavljanje poplav. Poleg tega lahko spremembe v višini podtalnice vplivajo na kmetovanje in druge gospodarske aktivnosti, in nadaljnje onesnaženje lahko ogrozi zagotavljanje varne pitne vode. Potoki in reke so pod vplivom spremenjenega vodnega režima in gradnje različnih vrst infrastrukture (namakanje, varstvo pred poplavami, transport).

Vplive na okolje smo vrednotili tako, da smo pregledali smo možne bistvene vplive PS SI-HU na več ravneh: Na strateški ravni, po posameznih prednostnih oseh in specifičnih ciljih ter po potencialnih projektih (tipi podprtih aktivnosti). Ocenjevali smo več dejavnikov vplivov (ali so pozitivni ali negativni, neposredni ali posredni, kako veliki so, ali so reverzibilni, možnost kumulativnih in sinergijskih vplivov). Upoštevali smo tudi, da bo možnost negativnih vplivov zmanjšana v okviru različnih postopkov – na primer v predhodnem postopku ocene vplivov na okolje (v Sloveniji), na Natura območjih (v Sloveniji pa tudi na zavarovanih območjih) pa tudi s presojo

sprejemljivosti vplivov plana na varovana območja («Appropriate Assessment») v skladu s Habitatsko direktivo. Rezultati so predstavljeni v naslednji preglednici.

Med izvajanjem PS SI-HU bo prišlo do kumulativnih in sinergijskih vplivov tako znotraj samega programa (npr. med projekti trajnostnega turizma) kot z drugimi programi, npr. Operativnimi programi ESI skladov. Sinergijske vplive lahko pričakujemo še posebej v kombinaciji s projekti, podprtimi v okviru lokalnega razvoja, ki ga spodbuja skupnost (Community-led Local Development - CLLD). Rezultati so predstavljeni v spodnji preglednici.

Tema	Okoljski cilj	Opis vplivov	Skupna ocena
Ohranjeni in dobro upravljani naravni viri	Ohranjena raznolikost vrst in habitatov	<p>Na biotsko raznovrstnost bodo vplivali predvsem projekti in aktivnosti, izvajani v okviru prednostne naložbe 6c. v okviru prednostne naložbe 6c PS SI-HU podpira skupno območij z visoko biotsko raznovrstnostjo (v kontekstu naravne dediščine), manjše naložbe za trajnostno rabo naravne in kulturne dediščine, izboljšanje dostopnosti do kulturne in naravne dediščine, osveščanje o trajnostni rabi naravnih virov in podobno, kar ima lahko pozitiven vpliv na ohranjanje biotske raznovrstnosti.</p> <p>Do negativnega vpliva takih aktivnosti lahko pride v primeru neprimerne umeščanja infrastrukture za izboljšanje dostopnosti in prikaz/izobraževanje. Obseg tega tipa investicij je premajhen, da bi imel bistven vpliv na biotsko raznovrstnost na splošno. Prekomerna raba določenega območja zaradi prevelikega obiska ali slabega upravljanja z obiskom lahko tudi negativno vpliva na biotsko raznovrstnost, vendar je malo verjetno, da bi število obiskovalcev naraslo do te mere.</p> <p>Možnost za negativne vplive na biotsko raznovrstnost v okviru tematskega cilja 11 je zanemarljiva, saj bodo projekti večinoma osredotočeni na aktivnosti v lokalnih skupnostih in v grajenem okolju (vasi, urbana območja). V primeru, da bo kateri od izbranih projektov osredotočen na izmenjavo izkušenj, opolnomočenje, zagovorništvo in krepitev zmogljivosti za čezmejno sodelovanje na področju biotske raznovrstnosti ali sodelovanje, izmenjavo dobrih praks in usposabljanje za ohranjanje in upravljanje biotske raznovrstnosti, bi prednostna naložba 11 lahko imela pozitiven vpliv, a verjetno viden le dolgoročno.</p>	B
	Ugodno stanje mreže območij Natura 2000	<p>Velja podobno kot za biotsko raznovrstnost. Na splošno bo imela prednostna naložba 6c večinoma pozitiven vpliv na ohranjanje ugodnega stanja Natura območij, vendar lahko pride do negativnega vpliva v primeru neprimerne umeščanja infrastrukture za izboljšanje dostopnosti in prikaz/izobraževanje ali prevelikega obiska oziroma slabega upravljanja z obiskom. Potrebni so omilitveni ukrepi zagotavljanja primerne umeščanja in upravljanja z obiskom v projektih, ki so ciljno namenjeni infrastrukturi in razvoju turizma v Natura območjih.</p> <p>Možnost za negativne vplive na območja Natura 2000 v okviru tematskega cilja 11 je zanemarljiva, vendar bi lahko prišlo do dolgoročnih pozitivnih vplivov v primeru, da bi se kateri od izbranih projektov osredotočil na upravljanje območij Natura 2000 (glej zgornjo razlago vplivov na biotsko raznovrstnost).</p>	C
	Izboljšano upravljanje z vodami	<p>Prednostna naložba 6c je osredotočena na trajnostni turizem, dediščino in trajnostno upravljanje naravnih virov, zato bodo podprti projektiv verjetno pripomogli k izboljšani skrbi za vode. Projekti, ki se osredotočajo na prometno infrastrukturo za izboljšano dostopnost za turizem, lahko vplivajo na vode (njihov</p>	B

Tema	Okoljski cilj	Opis vplivov	Skupna ocena
		naravni tok, rečne bregoe), vendar bodo projekti verjetno dovolj majhni, da ne bodo povzročili pomembnih negativnih učinkov. Možnost negativnega vpliva prednostne naložbe 11 na vode je zanemarljiva. Nekateri projekti v okviru te prednostne naložbe bodo morda osredotočeni na izmenjavo izkušenj in usposabljanje za za čezmejno sodelovanje na področju varstva okolja, civilne zaščite in skupno preprečevanje in obvladovanje tveganja, kar bi lahko imelo dolgoročne pozitivne učinke na kakovost vode in obvladovanje poplav.	
<b>Ohranjena in spodbujena dediščina</b>	Ugodno stanje naravne dediščine (zavarovana območja, naravne vrednote ipd.)	Za vplive vseh prednostnih naložb velja podobno kot za okoljski cilj „Ugodno stanje mreže območij Natura 2000“. Razvoj trajnostnih oblik turizma, povezanih z naravno dediščino lahko pripomore k ohranjanju naravne dediščine in osveščanju o njenem obstoju in vlogi. Neprimerno umeščanje infrastrukture za izboljšanje dostopnosti in prikaz/izobraževanje bi lahko imelo negativne vpliv. Možno je, da bo število obiskovalcev naraslo, kar lahko ima negativne vplive zaradi prevelikega obiska ali slabega upravljanja z obiskom, vendar je to malo verjetno. Kljub temu so potrebni omilitveni ukrepi, da bi zmanjšali potencialen negativni vpliv. Možnost za negativne vplive na naravno dediščino v okviru tematskega cilja 11 je zanemarljiva, vendar lahko pride do dolgoročnih pozitivnih vplivov v primeru, da bodo kateri od izbranih projektov osredotočeni na naravno dediščino (glej zgornjo razlago vplivov na biološko raznovrstnost).	C
	Ohranjene lastnosti objektov in območij kulturne dediščine	Prednostna naložba 6c vključuje aktivnosti, ki bodo privedle do izboljšane ohranjanja, predstavitve in promocije kulturne dediščine. Poleg tega bodo določeni projekti, podprti v okviru prednostne naložbe 11, osredotočeni na področje skupne kulturne dediščine. Možen je povečan obisk, a naj ne bi imel bistvenega negativnega vpliva na kulturno dediščino. Projekti lahko prispevajo k ohranjanju kulturne dediščine in izboljšanju osveščenosti o njenem obstoju in vlogi.	B

Potrebni so omilitveni ukrepi za projekte, namenjene razvoju infrastrukture in storitev za promocijo in razvoj turizma na območjih z visoko biotsko raznovrstnostjo, kot so Natura 2000 in zavarovana območja. Predlagana sta naslednja omilitvena ukrepa:

- Utemeljitev infrastrukturnih naložb v smislu lokacije in projektiranja v primerih, ko projekti vključujejo naravno dediščino in / ali območja kulturne dediščine ali pa na dediščino vplivajo. Predlagana zahteva bi zagotovila, da so lokacije dobro premišljene v smislu pomembnih vidikov dediščine in krajine. Na primer, umeščanje cest, pešpoti ali infrastrukture za obiskovalce mora biti v primeru, da vpliva na naravno in / ali kulturno dediščino, podrobneje utemeljeno.
- Opis upravljanja z obiskom kot del prijave za financiranje projekta iz prednostne naložbe 6c, ki se osredotoča na aktivnosti, ki bi spodbujale obiske naravne dediščine in območij kulturne dediščine. Ob močni promociji dediščine obstaja nevarnost negativnih vplivov velikega števila obiskovalcev (hrup, uničevanje življenjskega prostora z neprimernim obnašanjem, zmanjšana rekreacijska vrednost). Temu se je mogoče izogniti z vnaprejšnjim načrtovanjem upravljanja obiskovalcev, v fazi priprave projektov.

Glede na pričakovano velikost projektov, upravičen delež naložb v infrastrukturo v okviru posameznega projekta in trenutno število obiskovalcev na območjih Natura 2000 in zavarovanih območjih, je tveganje za negativne

vplive zelo nizko, vendar ga je kljub temu treba upoštevati in se morebitnim negativnim vplivom izogniti s sprejetjem omilitvenih ukrepov, opisanih zgoraj. Za izvajanje obeh omilitvenih ukrepov sta odgovorna Organ upravljanja in Skupni tehnični sekretariat v fazi priprave razpisne dokumentacije. Organ upravljanja in Skupni tehnični sekretariat naj bi tudi spremljala učinkovitost izvajanja v okviru spremljanja učinkov in rezultatov podprtih projektov.

Rezultate analize vplivov smo primerjali z dvema alternativama, takoimenovano ničelno alternativo in alternativo s prednostno naložbo 8d, ki je bila ena od možnosti, o kateri se je v začetnih fazah priprave programa pogovarjala delovna skupina. Izkazalo se je, da imata obe obravnavani alternativni manj ugodne vplive na okolje kot izbrani program.

Spremljanje doseganja okoljskih ciljev PS SI-HU bo zagotovljeno s spremljanjem izbranih kazalcev ob izvajanju spremljanja in vrednotenja izvajanja PS SI-HU, prvič v obdobju med l. 2017 in 2019 in drugič ob zaključku izvajanja programa.

V celoti gledano bo imelo izvajanje PS SI-HU zelo verjetno zelo malo negativnih vplivov na okolje in precejšen pozitiven vpliv. Med pozitivnimi vplivi velja izpostaviti usklajeno upravljanje območij ohranjanja narave in skrb za dediščino. Večinoma bodo negativni vplivi tako majhni, da bodo nebitni. Poleg tega se bodo pri večini sofinanciranih projektov vplivi na okolje pokazali šele srednjeročno ali dolgoročno. Predlagali smo naslednja priporočila za dodatno zmanjšanje negativnih vplivov in okrepitev pozitivnih vplivov:

- Rezultati spremljanja doseganja okoljskih ciljev naj bodo javno dostopni na spletni strani PS SI-HU,
- Projekti, ki vključujejo naravno in kulturno dediščino, naj vključujejo tudi načrt obveščanja, ki bo (med drugim) usmerjen tudi v lokalno prebivastvo in druga podobna območja dediščine v širši regiji (Slovenija, Madžarska, Avstrija in Hrvaška),
- Pri projektih, ki bodo vključevali naravno in kulturno dediščino, je treba zahtevati trajnost rezultatov in jo ponovno preveriti ob zaključku projekta.

## Vezetői összefoglaló

A Stratégiai Környezetvizsgálat (SEA) célja, hogy biztosítsa a környezetvédelmi szempontok integrálását a tervekbe, programokba és politikákba, és minimálisra csökkentse ezek lehetséges környezeti hatását a végrehajtásuk során. Ezért szükséges a SEA az Interreg V-A Szlovénia-Magyarország 2014-2020 együttműködési programban. Noha jogalapját különböző, Szlovéniában és Magyarországon érvényes törvényerejű rendelkezések képezik, ezek mind az EU SEA irányelvén alapulnak. Ezért lehetséges egy közös megközelítés. A folyamatban részt kell venniük az együttműködési program területén működő illetékes hatóságoknak. Szlovéniában az eljárást a Környezetvédelmi és Területrendezési Minisztérium SEA Főosztálya felügyeli.

A Környezetvédelmi Jelentés az Interreg V-A Szlovénia-Magyarország 2014-2020 együttműködési program harmadik tervezetének alapján készült, melynek 3.1-es verzióját 2015. február 5-én kaptuk kézhez. A módszertan alapja a szlovén környezetvédelmi jelentésről szóló rendelet, mivel ez részletesebben leírja a hatásvizsgálat elvégzésének módját. Ennek első lépéseként egy belső felmérést végeztünk a legfontosabb értékelési kérdések meghatározására, és figyelembe vettük a vele egyidőben elkészült előzetes (ex-ante) értékelési jelentés megállapításait is.

Elvégeztük az Interreg V-A Szlovénia-Magyarország 2014-2020 együttműködési program (a továbbiakban CP SI-HU) értékelését. Konceptiójában a CP SI-HU 2014-2020 program követi az európai kohéziós stratégiát és az Európa 2020 stratégiát, amely az "intelligens, fenntartható és befogadó növekedési" elősegítését tűzi ki célul. A program figyelembe veszi a vonatkozó makro-regionális, nemzeti és regionális stratégiákat. A program célterülete 10658 km<sup>2</sup> területet fed le, melynek kétharmada Magyarország határmenti régiójához, a fennmaradó egyharmad pedig a szlovén határrégióhoz tartozik, mintegy 100 km hosszúságú határszakasszal.

A programterület lakossága mintegy 980.500 fő, ebből 55% Magyarországon, 45% Szlovéniában él. A népsűrűség mindenütt az országos átlag alatt van, kivéve a Pomurje régiót. A program terület az alábbi támogatható NUTS3 régiókat foglalja magában:

- Podravje és Pomurje régió Szlovéniában
- Vas és Zala megye Magyarországon

A program végrehajtásának időkerete 7 év 2014-től 2020-ig, további 3 év áll rendelkezésre a finanszírozott projektek befejezéséhez. Így a program végrehajtásának a teljes időszaka 2014-2023.

A program felsorolja az egyes beruházási prioritások alatt támogatandó tevékenységek típusait példákkal illusztrálva. A tevékenységeket a projektek sokfélesége érdekében tágan definiálták. Mivel a támogatási összeg kis része fordítható csak a fizikai beruházásokra, nem valószínű, hogy a projektek olyan infrastrukturális beruházásokat hajtanának végre, amelyek Környezeti Hatáselemzést (KHE) követelnének meg. Ugyanakkor egyes projektek, különös tekintettel a turisztikai fizikai és szolgáltatási infrastruktúra területén levőkre hosszú távon úgynevezett KHE-típusú projektekhez vezethetnek.

A CP SI-HU struktúráját az alábbi táblázat szemlélteti. A pénzügyi terv összege 18 641 194,12 euró, melyhez az ERFA összesen 14 795 015 euróval járul hozzá (a teljes összeg 79,37%-a).

Prioritás	Tematikus célkitűzés (TO) és beruházási prioritás	Konkrét célkitűzés	Kívánt eredmény
<b>1. prioritás</b> <b>Vonzó Régió</b>  <b>Teljes finanszírozás: 11 764 705,88 €</b> <b>Uniós támogatás: 10 000 000,00 €</b>	6-dik tematikus célkitűzés Környezetvédelem és erőforrás-hatékonyság  6(c) A kulturális és természeti örökség védelme, támogatása és fejlesztése	A programterület vonzerejének növelése turisztikai ajánlatainak diverzifikációján és a határokon átnyúló integrációján keresztül a természeti és kulturális örökség védelmére és fejlesztésére alapozva.	A program célja a fenntartható turizmus magasabb szintre emelése a programterület távoli, vidéki régiókban, az programterületen található fontos turisztikai központok tapasztalataira és vonzerejére támaszkodva.
<b>2. prioritás</b> <b>Kooperációs Régió</b>  <b>Teljes finanszírozás: 3 876 488,24 €</b> <b>Uniós támogatás: 3 295 015,00 €</b>	11-dik tematikus célkitűzés Intézményi kapacitásfejlesztés és hatékony közigazgatás	Az együttműködési képesség növelés annak érdekében, hogy a határon átnyúló kapcsolatok magasabb szintre lépjenek	Tovább mélyíteni és bővíteni a határon átnyúló együttműködést a határ két oldalán működő intézmények és szervezetek között azáltal, hogy a jobb minőségű közszolgáltatások nyújtására és a határon átnyúló kapcsolatok nyújtotta lehetőségek kiaknázására vonatkozó kapacitásukat fejlesztjük.
<b>3. prioritás</b> <b>Technikai Segítségnyújtás</b>  <b>Teljes finanszírozás: 3 000 000,00 €</b> <b>Uniós támogatás: 1 500 000,00 €</b>		Hozzájárulás az Együttműködési Program megvalósításához	A Prioritási Tengely támogatja az Együttműködési Program megbízható és hatékony végrehajtását. Ennek megfelelően biztosítani fogja a program menedzsment struktúrák megfelelő működését programmal kapcsolatos feladataik végrehajtásában..

A felmérési szakaszban a SEA-ban értékelendő kulcsfontosságú környezetvédelmi szempontokat és a környezetvédelmi célkitűzéseket a CP SI-HU tervezet alapján határoztuk meg. A környezetvédelmi célok kiválasztása a különböző uniós program dokumentumok és a nemzeti szintű dokumentumok alapján történt. A környezetvédelmi célokat és azok indikátorait az alábbi táblázatban mutatjuk be.

Kérdés	Környezetvédelmi cél	Környezetvédelmi indikátor
Megőrzött és jól kezelt természeti erőforrások	Fajok sokféleségének és természetes élőhelyek fenntartása	A CP SI-HU 6c beavatkozási prioritásának keretében megvalósítandó projektek infrastrukturális beruházásokkal érintett területein levő élőhely típusok állapota.
	A Natura 2000 hálózat kedvező állapota	Az érintett fajok és élőhely típusok állapota a Natura 2000 területeken, ahol a CP SI-HU forrásaival támogatott projekteket valósítanak meg.
	Fejlett vízgazdálkodás	A talajvíz minősége a víztározókban azokon a területeken, ahol a CP SI-HU keretében támogatott, vízgazdálkodással kapcsolatos projekteket valósítanak meg. A felszíni vizek kémiai és ökológiai állapota azokon a területeken, ahol a CP SI-HU keretében támogatott, vízgazdálkodással kapcsolatos projekteket hajtanak végre.
Megőrzött és fejlesztett örökség	A természeti örökség (védett területek, természeti értékek, stb.) kedvező állapota	A természeti örökség állapota az egyes, a CP SI-HU program forrásai által támogatott projektek végrehajtási területén.
	A kulturális örökség (objektumok és területek egyaránt) kedvező állapota	Az objektumok és területek száma és állapota, ahol a CP SI-HU forrásaival támogatott projektek kerülnek megvalósításra.

A CP SI-Hu területet nagyon jó környezeti feltételek jellemzik. A határon átnyúló jelentőségük miatt az alábbi kulcsfontosságú kérdéseket érdemes kiemelni:

A CP SI-HU program területén a következő, határon átnyúló hatású fő szempontokat azonosítottuk:

- A Natura 2000 helyszínek és védett területek kezelése: vannak határon átnyúló természetvédelmi és természeti örökségi területek, amelyek védelmére és fenntartható kezelésére együttműködés jött létre a múltban. Talán a legismertebb példa erre a Goričko-Örség védett terület, beleértve az osztrák Raaba-val való együttműködést. Fontos megtartani és erősíteni az összehangolt természetvédelmet, ez segíteni fog a biológiai sokszínűség magas szintjének fenntartásában, a fajok vándorlásához szükséges zöld folyosók biztosításában, a rekreációs célú természetes területek biztosításában, az oktatásban és a kapcsolódó idegenforgalomban, és így pozitívan befolyásolja majd az életminőséget is.
- A kulturális örökség megőrzése: a programterületen számos műemléki helyszín található, és ezek történelmileg is összekapcsolódnak. A programterület kulturális gazdagságáról és sokszínűségéről híres, ez pedig szintén hozzájárul a térség turizmusfejlesztéséhez.
- Vízminőség és vízgazdálkodás: Nincsenek nagy folyók, amik átlépnék a határt, azonban a területet egyre gyakrabban sújtják árvizek. A talajvízszint változásai hatással lehetnek a mezőgazdaságra és egyéb gazdasági tevékenységekre, a további szennyezés pedig veszélyeztetheti a biztonságos ivóvízellátást. A patakokra és folyókra hatást gyakorol a változó vízjárás és a különböző típusú infrastruktúrák kiépítése (öntözés, árvízvédelem, szállítás).

A környezetet érintő valószínűsíthetően jelentős hatásokat a CP SI-HU több szinten is értékeli: stratégiai szinten, a prioritási tengely/konkrét célkitűzések szintjén és a lehetséges projektek (támogatott tevékenység típusok) szintjén. A hatásokat több tényező alapján értékelték (pozitív vagy negatív, közvetlen vagy közvetett, a hatás nagysága alapján, megfordíthatóak-e, és a potenciális kumulatív és szinergikus hatások alapján). Azt is figyelembe vettük, hogy az esetleges negatív hatásokat csökkenteni fogják a különböző engedélyezési eljárások, például a



környezetet érintő hatások előzetes vizsgálatára irányuló eljárás ("előzetes-környezeti hatásvizsgálat" Szlovéniában), valamint a Natura 2000 területeket érintő hatások elfogadhatóságának értékelése (Megfelelőségi

Értékelés, amely Szlovéniában a védett területekre is szükséges) összhangban az EU Élőhelyvédelmi Irányelvvel. A CP SI-HU végrehajtása során kumulatív és szinergikus hatások is fel fognak lépni mind magában a programban (például a fenntartható turizmus projektek között), és más programokkal közösen is, például az ESI források operatív programjaival. Szinergikus hatásokra különösen a közösségi szinten irányított helyi fejlesztésekkel (CLLD) összefüggésben lehet számítani. Az eredményeket a következő táblázatban mutatjuk be.

Kérdés	Környezetvédelmi cél	A hatások leírása	Össz pont szám
<b>Megőrzött és jól kezelt természeti erőforrások</b>	Fajok sokféleségének és természetes élőhelyek fenntartása	<p>A biológiai sokféleséget túlnyomó részt a 6c beavatkozási prioritás által támogatott projektek és tevékenységek fogják befolyásolni. A 6c beavatkozási prioritás keretében a CP SI-HU támogatja a közös stratégiai tervezést a nagy biodiverzitású területeken (a természeti örökséggel összefüggésben), a kulturális és természeti örökség fenntartható hasznosítását célzó kis léptékű beruházásokban, a kulturális és természeti örökségi területek hozzáférhetőségének javításában, a természeti erőforrások fenntartható használatát célzó ismeretterjesztésében és a hasonló, a biológiai sokszínűség megőrzésére pozitívan ható tevékenységekben.</p> <p>Ilyen tevékenységek esetén negatív hatása a hozzáférhetőséget javító és a demonstrációs/oktatási célú infrastruktúrák nem megfelelő elhelyezésének esetében fordulhat elő. Az ilyen típusú beruházások általában túl kicsik ahhoz, hogy jelentős hatással legyenek a biológiai sokféleségre. Egy terület túlhasználata a látogatók nagy száma, vagy a rossz látogatói menedzsment miatt szintén negatív hatással lehet a biodiverzitásra. Ugyanakkor nem valószínű, hogy a látogatók száma a biológiai sokszínűsége veszélyes mértékben megnövekedne.</p> <p>A 11. beruházási prioritás lehetséges negatív hatása a biológiai sokszínűsége elhanyagolható, mivel a projektek főként a helyi közösségeknek az épített környezetében (falvak, városi területek) való tevékenységére koncentrálnak.</p> <p>A 11. beruházási prioritásnak abban az esetben lehet pozitív hatása, ha a kiválasztott projekt középpontjában a biológiai sokszínűség védelmével kapcsolatos határon átnyúló együttműködéshez köthető tapasztalatcsere, támogatás, és kapacitásbővítés; vagy a biológiai sokszínűség megőrzéséhez és kezeléséhez kapcsolódó együttműködés, a jó gyakorlatok megosztása és a kapacitásbővítés áll. Ez azonban csak hosszú távon válik érzékelhetővé</p>	B
	A Natura 2000 hálózat kedvező állapota	<p>Hasonló következtetések érvényesek, mint a biodiverzitás esetében. Általánosságban a 6c beavatkozási prioritás pozitív hatással lesz a Natura 2000 helyszínek kedvező állapotának megőrzésére, azonban negatív hatás is lehetséges, infrastruktúrák nem megfelelő elhelyezésének és a túl sok látogató és/vagy rossz látogatói menedzsment esetében. Enyhítő intézkedésekre van szükség a megfelelő elhelyezés és a látogatói menedzsment biztosítására a Natura 2000 területeken az infrastruktúrára és turizmusfejlesztésre összpontosító projektek esetében.</p> <p>A 11. beruházási prioritás lehetséges negatív hatása a biológiai sokszínűsége elhanyagolható, de előfordulhatnak hosszú távú pozitív hatásai egyes kiválasztott projekteknek, amennyiben azok a Natura 2000 menedzsmentre fókuszálnak (lásd a fenti magyarázatot a biológiai sokszínűsége gyakorolt hatásokról)</p>	C
	Fejlettvízgazdálkodás	<p>A 6c beruházási prioritása a fenntartható turizmusra, örökségre és a természeti erőforrások fenntartható kezelésére összpontosít, így a támogatott projektek várhatóan hozzájárulnak ahhoz, hogy a vízkészletek védelme nagyobb figyelmet kapjon. Azok a projektek, amelyeknek középpontjában a közlekedési infrastruktúra áll a turizmus hozzáférhetőségének javítása érdekében, hatással lehetnek a vizekre (természetes áramlásukra, folyópartokra), azonban a projektek valószínűleg túl kis léptékűek ahhoz, hogy jelentős negatív hatással legyenek.</p>	B

Kérdés	Környezetvéde Imi cél	A hatások leírása	Össz pont szám
		A 11. beruházási prioritás lehetséges negatív hatása a vizekre elhanyagolható. Azonban ebben a beruházási prioritásban egyes projektek fókuszálhatnak a határon átnyúló együttműködéshez kapcsolódó tapasztalatcserére és kapacitásbővítésre, a polgári védelemre és a közös kockázat-megelőzésre és kezelésre, amelyeknek hosszú távon pozitív hatása lehet a vízminőségre és az árvízi védekezésre.	
<b>Megőrzött és fejlesztett örökség</b>	A természeti örökség (Védett területek, természeti értékek, stb.) kedvező állapota	Valamennyi beavatkozási prioritás hatásainak esetében ugyanaz érvényes, mint a "A Natura 2000 hálózat kedvező állapota" környezetvédelmi cél esetében. A természeti örökséghez kapcsolódó fenntartható turisztikai formák fejlesztése hozzájárulhat annak megőrzéséhez és a létezése és szerepe iránti tudatosság növeléséhez. A hozzáférhetőséget javító és a demonstrációs/oktatási célú infrastruktúrák nem megfelelő elhelyezése negatív hatással lehet az ilyen tevékenységekre. Elképzelhető, hogy a látogatók száma növekedni fog, és a túlzottan nagy látogatószám és rossz látogatói menedzsment negatív hatásokat eredményezhet. Ez azonban meglehetősen valószínűtlen. Ennek ellenére, enyhítő intézkedésekre van szükség a lehetséges negatív hatások elkerülésének érdekében. A természeti örökséget érintő potenciális negatív hatások a 11. beruházási prioritásban elhanyagolhatóak, azonban hosszú távú pozitív hatások lehetnek néhány, a természeti örökségre koncentrált projekt esetében (lásd a fenti magyarázatot a biológiai sokszínűsége gyakorolt hatásokról).	C
	A kulturális örökség (objektumok és területek) kedvező állapota	A 6c beavatkozási prioritás olyan tevékenységeket tartalmaz, amelyek a kulturális örökség fokozott megőrzéséhez, bemutatásához és népszerűsítéséhez vezetnek. Továbbá, egyes a 11. beruházási prioritás által támogatott projektek várhatóan a közös kulturális örökséghez kapcsolódnak majd. Lehetséges a látogatók számának növekedése, azonban ez feltételezhetően jelentéktelen negatív hatással lesz a kulturális örökségre. A projektek hozzájárulhatnak a kulturális örökség megőrzéséhez és a meglétük iránti tudatosság növeléséhez.	B

Enyhítő intézkedések szükségesek az infrastruktúra- és szolgáltatásfejlesztést, a nagy biodiverzitású turisztikai területek, például a Natura 2000 területek és a védett területek fejlesztését és népszerűsítését célzó projektek esetében. Az alábbi két enyhítő intézkedés ajánlott:

- Az infrastruktúráis befektetések tervének és elhelyezésének indoklása olyan esetekben, ahol természeti örökségi és/vagy kulturális örökségi területek érintettek. A javasolt előírás biztosítaná, hogy az elhelyezés jól átgondolt az örökség- és a tájvédelem szempontjából. Például az utak, járdák és látogatói infrastruktúrák elhelyezését meg kell indokolni ha azok kihatnak a természeti és/vagy kulturális örökségre.
- A látogató-menedzsment ismertetése a pályázati anyagban a 6c beruházási prioritásból finanszírozandó projektek esetében, amelyek középpontjában a természeti örökségi és kulturális örökségi területek látogatásának népszerűsítése áll. Az örökség erős népszerűsítése esetében fennáll a veszélye a látogatók nagy számából fakadó negatív hatásoknak (zaj, az élőhelyek pusztulása a kontrollálatlan magatartás következtében, csökkent élvezeti érték). Ez elkerülhető, ha a projektek előkészítési fázisában előre tervezik a látogató-menedzsmentet is.

Figyelembe véve a projektek becsült méretét, az infrastruktúráis beruházások megengedett mértékét és a látogatók számának jelenlegi szintjét a Natura 2000 területeken és a védett területeken, a negatív hatások kockázata nagyon alacsony. Mindazonáltal ezeket a kockázatokat figyelembe kell venni és a fentebb bemutatott enyhítő intézkedésekkel el kell kerülni a bekövetkezésüket. Az Irányító Hatóság és a Közös Technikai Titkárság felelősek mindkét enyhítő intézkedés végrehajtásáért a pályázat előkészítési szakaszban. Az Irányító Hatóságnak

és a Közös Technikai Titkárságnak a támogatott projektek hatásainak és eredményeinek nyomon követése során figyelemmel kell kísérnie a végrehajtás minőségének megfelelőségét.

A hatások elemzésének eredményeit összehasonlítottuk két alternatívával, az úgynevezett zéró alternatívával és a 8d befektetési prioritás alternatívájával, amely egyike volt a munkacsoport által vizsgált opcióknak a program-előkészítés kezdeti szakaszában. Megállapítottuk, hogy mindkét alternatíva kedvezőtlenebb környezeti hatással járt volna, mint a kiválasztott program.

A CP SI-HU környezetvédelmi céljainak elérését a CP SI-HU végrehajtásának nyomon követésével és értékelésével párhuzamosan a kiválasztott (környezeti) indikátorok nyomon követése biztosítja. Első alkalommal ez 2017 és 2019 között fog megtörténni, második alkalommal pedig a program végén.

Összességében a CP SI-HU végrehajtása valószínűleg nagyon kevés negatív hatást gyakorol a környezetre és igen jelentős pozitív hatása lesz. A pozitív hatások között érdemes megemlíteni a természetvédelmi területek és örökség gondozás összehangolt kezelését. A legtöbb esetben a negatív hatások valószínűleg olyan kicsik, hogy jelentéktelenek lesznek. Ugyanakkor a legtöbb társfinanszírozott projekt környezeti hatása csak közép- és hosszú távon lesz észrevehető. A következő ajánlások javasoltak a negatív hatások további csökkentése és a pozitív hatások erősítése érdekében:

- A környezetvédelmi indikátorok nyomonkövetésének eredményét és a célkitűzések elérését nyilvánosan elérhetővé kell tenni a CP SI-HU honlapján,
- A természeti és kulturális örökséggel kapcsolatos projekteknek tartalmaznia kell egy disszeminációs tervet, amely (többek között) a helyi lakosságot és a tágabb régió hasonló örökségi helyszíneit (Szlovénia, Magyarország, Ausztria és Horvátország) célozza meg,
- A természeti és kulturális örökséggel kapcsolatos projekteknek biztosítaniuk kell az eredmények fenntarthatóságát; ezt ellenőrizni kell a projektek végén.

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## List of Acronyms:

ARSO	Environment Agency of Slovenia
CBC	Cross border cooperation
CfP	Call for proposals
CP	Cooperation Programme
CPR	Common provision regulation; Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 laying down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006
EARDF	European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development
EC	European Commission
EGTC	European grouping for territorial cooperation
ESI	European Structural and Investment Funds
EU	European Union
EUSDR	EU Strategy for Danube Region
IP	Investment Priority
JMC	Joint monitoring committee
JTS	Joint Technical Secretariat
MA	Managing Authority
NGO	Non-governmental organization
NUTS	Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics
OP EKP 2014–2020	Operational Programme for implementation of European Cohesion Policy in Slovenia 2014–2020
RBMP	River Basin Management Plan
RDP 2014–2020	Rural Development Programme for Slovenia 2014-2020
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SME	Small and medium-size enterprises
TA	Technical Assistance
TO	Thematic objective

# 1. Introduction: Process of SEA

## a) Purpose and scope

The scope of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is to ensure integration of environmental concerns and considerations into plans, programmes and policies and minimise potential environmental impacts of their implementation. SEA is required by the so-called SEA Directive<sup>1</sup> and was applied to the EU Cohesion Policy for the first time in the 2007-2013 programming period.

SEA is required in the 2014-2020 programming period, too. The Common Provision Regulation requires an ex ante evaluation for each programme in order to improve the quality of its design. Where appropriate, the ex-ante evaluation must incorporate the requirements for strategic environmental assessment set out in Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, taking into account also climate change mitigation needs. Both Ex-ante Evaluation Report and Environmental Report for the Interreg V-A Slovenia-Hungary (CP SI-HU Programme in further text) will be sent together with the draft Cooperation Programme to the Commission services which will consider them when assessing the Cooperation Programme prior to their adoption.

The Environmental Report serves as a basis for the Strategic Environmental Assessment process that includes relevant authorities in the Cooperation Programme area, namely Ministry of Agriculture and Environment – Sector for SEA (Slovenia) and relevant environmental authorities in Hungary. The SEA is conducted in the following steps:

1. Screening statement – issued by the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment – Sector for SEA (Slovenia)
2. Scoping and consultation
3. Environmental Report preparation
4. Consultation on the Environmental Report
5. Integration of recommendations from the consultation process
6. Information on the Decision
7. Monitoring of the significant environmental impacts
8. Approval of the document.

## b) Legal framework of the assessment

The legal basis for the SEA differs across the programme area:

- In Slovenia, the SEA Directive has been transposed by the Decree laying down the content of Environmental Report and on detailed procedure for the assessment of the impacts on certain plans and programmes on the environment (Official Gazette of the RS, no. 73/05).
- In Hungary, the SEA is transposed by the Government Decree on the SEA 2/2005 (I.11) and the Government Decree 100/2014 (III.25.) which modifies the Government Decree 2/2005 (I.11).

## c) Links of programming process and SEA

The programming process and the process of preparation of the environmental report were aligned and implemented simultaneously. The ex-ante evaluation and SEA process started almost at the same time as the preparation of the programme itself, namely in June 2014. The structure of the Environmental Report and scoping were carried out in end of June/early July when the first draft of the programme was drawn up and was later taking place parallel to the ex-ante evaluation and preparation of the CP SI-HU.

At the beginning of the preparation of environmental report – in the scoping phase – thematic objectives and intervention priorities had still been debated and finally agreed upon at the Task Force meetings, consisting of representatives of relevant institutions from Slovenia and Hungary, the Managing Authority and the Joint Technical Secretariat. Decision to select the investment priority 6c has brought an opportunity to strong positive impact on biodiversity, natural and cultural heritage, depending on the approach to implementation.

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<sup>1</sup> Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 June 2001 on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment

Representatives of the programming team and the working group were informed of the findings of potential effects, together with the findings of ex-ante evaluation, since these contents are related. The results of scoping, priority environmental issues and the environmental objectives were presented at the working group meetings which took place on 11 November 2014.

Some of the environmental issues of the CP SI-HU and potential effects on the environment were discussed with certain stakeholders in the programme area at a series of meetings between in November 2014.

In what follows, coordination of findings from ex-ante evaluation and the public consultation within the framework of both processes (preparation of the programme and the SEA process) is needed. On the basis of the results, the final version of the CP SI-HU will be prepared and the environmental report will be complemented accordingly. Following the submission of the CP SI-HU to the European Commission, coordination of the environmental report with the comments of the European Commission will take place.

#### d) Scoping

On the basis of information on the programme the SEA team has internally performed a scoping in key environmental issues to be assessed in the view of likely impacts of the Cooperation Programme. With the help of the Hungarian Prime Minister's Office - Deputy State Secretariat for International Affairs a scoping consultation was carried out with relevant Hungarian authorities according to Hungarian legislation. If necessary, they will be further coordinated with the relevant authorities for the protection of the environment in the programme area.

The state of the environment in the programme area, the CP SI-HU and its positive and negative impacts, as well as direct and indirect, long term impacts were considered. We determined on which environmental factors, as defined in the Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 June 2001 on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment could affect the programme and would, therefore, require further detailed coverage. The findings are presented in the table below.

Table 1: Environmental factors important for the CP SI-HU

Environmental Factors	Detailed assessment	Justification
Biodiversity, flora and fauna	Yes	The investment priority 6c/priority axis 1 of the CP SI-HU supports activities for the preservation of natural heritage which could contribute to the preservation of biodiversity, flora and fauna, including small-scale investments in tourist infrastructure (most likely visitors infrastructure in protected areas) and development of tourist services and products. Some of the proposed activities can also have negative effect; this will largely depend on the type of selected projects. This factor is covered in two chapters, i.e. the chapter on biodiversity and the chapter on natural heritage.
Soil	No	Potential effects of activities supported by the CP SI-HU on the protection and quality of soil are negligible; therefore, this factor was not covered separately.
Water	Yes	The investment priority 6c/priority axis 1 of the CP SI-HU supports activities for tourism development that might affect the quality and quantity of waters. Moreover, the territorial objective 11/priority axis 2 can fund projects on joint water management, flood risk control and similar. The quality and quantity of waters and flood risk control are one of the factors of quality of life in the programme area.
Air	No	Potential effects of activities supported by the CP SI-HU on the air quality are negligible; therefore, this factor was not covered separately.
Climate factors	Yes, but not in a separate chapter	The aspect of climate change mitigation and adaptation might be the subject of some projects on environmental protection, energy efficiency, renewable energy, urban management and planning,



Environmental Factors	Detailed assessment	Justification
		regional development and civil protection and common risk prevention and management that can be supported from priority axis 2 (IP 11). The potential for increased greenhouse gas emissions as a consequence of programme implementation is negligibly small.
Material assets	No	Material assets were not covered separately, as they had been already covered within the framework of other chapters.
Cultural Heritage	Yes	The investment priority 6c/priority axis 1 of the CP SI-HU supports activities in the context of tourism development which will contribute to the protection of cultural heritage, which is why it is important to include this aspect, as well.
Landscape	No	The activities supported by the CP SI-HU programme are highly unlikely to affect the landscape. Potential effects on the landscape are indirectly covered within the framework of the chapter on biodiversity and within the framework of effects on cultural heritage.
Population and human health	No	The CP SI-HU aims to improve the quality of life in the programme area by supporting preservation of natural and cultural heritage and tourism development, thus also facilitating economic growth and improving employment possibilities. The programme will have a positive effect on the quality of life and the population. Certain issues important for the quality of life are covered within the segment of chapters on waters, biodiversity and cultural heritage. The effects on economic growth have been assessed in the ex-ante evaluation.
Interrelationship between the above factors	Yes, but not in a separate chapter	The interrelationship between factors has been considered when assessing each of the listed environmental factors.
Creation or increase in risk for natural or man-made disasters	Yes, but not in a separate chapter	The thematic objective 11/priority axis 2 of the CP SI-HU programme supports, among others, also activities aimed at exchange of experience, empowerment, advocacy and capacity building for cross-border cooperation in different fields, including civil protection and common risk prevention and management. The issue is partially addressed in the assessment of impact on water, as flood risk prevention and protection is one of the pressing risk issues in the programme area.

The analysis of the state and trends and the assumptions regarding the state in case the plan is not implemented, have been based on publicly accessible data on the state of the environment in the programme area. In the scoping phase it was confirmed that data differs in terms of both depth and accuracy (e.g. on geographical level – some data are available only on the national level, some only on the level of municipalities). Consequently, it will be difficult to coordinate the common indicators and ensure their monitoring.

Scoping has resulted in identification of the following environmental issues as the key ones:

- management of Natura 2000 sites and protected areas,
- preservation of cultural heritage,
- Water quality and water management, including flood risk management and geothermal resources.

#### e) SEA Objectives

In the scoping phase the key environmental issues to be assessed in SEA were determined on the basis of draft CP SI-HU and environmental objectives were determined. Selection of environmental objectives was based on various EU programme documents and national level documents. Environmental objectives and their indicators are shown in the following table.

Issue	Environmental Objective	Environmental Indicators
Preserved and well managed natural resources	Maintained diversity of species and natural habitats	The CP SI-HU programme area is rich in biodiversity, especially with wetland and water habitats. The investment priority 6c/priority axis 1 of the CP SI-HU supports tourism development, but in a sustainable way and in the context of preservation and presentation of natural heritage. Projects in this field could contribute to conservation of biodiversity, as activities aimed at conservation and sustainable use of natural heritage usually have a positive impact on biodiversity conservation.
	favourable condition of Natura 2000 network	Similar justification as for the environmental objective in the field of biodiversity. The programme area contains a rich network of Natura 2000 sites, which form continuous cross-border areas. The programme area is important also in the EU context because of important resting and wintering areas for migratory bird species.
	Improved water management	The programme area is rich in water resources, ranging from rivers to lakes and groundwater, including thermal waters. Abundant and unpolluted water resources are important for the quality of life in the area, tourism development, agriculture and economic development in general. The investment priority 6c/Priority Axis 1 supports activities for development of tourism that are related to the good water quality and quantity, while the thematic objective 11/Priority Axis 2 supports activities for exchange of experience, know-how, best practice and capacity building for environmental protection, civil protection and common risk prevention and management that might include projects on water quality, water management and flood risk prevention and protection.
Preserved and enhanced heritage	favourable condition of natural heritage (Protected Areas, Natural Values etc.)	Similar justification as for the environmental objective in the field of biodiversity. The program area is very rich in natural heritage and includes a number of protected areas, as well as smaller natural values important for the preservation of local specifics, identities and amenity value of the area.
	favourable condition of cultural heritage (both objects and areas)	Some of the projects that CP SI-HU will finance in the framework of investment priority 6c/priority axis 1 will be dedicated to cultural heritage and its preservation and use for tourism development.

The proposed SEA objectives entail all of the key environmental issues identified at scoping and will enable for sound assessment of environmental impacts, as well as sound monitoring and linking of the results of SEA directly to the implementation of the programme.

#### f) Relationship with other relevant plans and programmes

The Programme is related to numerous EU policy documents, the key one being the Strategy EU 2020. The two priority axis of the CP SI-HU are focusing on sustainable growth (priority axis 1) and inclusive growth (priority axis 2). Activities supported by the programme will contribute to smart growth, too, but to a lesser extent. The following contribution is envisaged in the programme:

- Smart growth: knowledge and innovation based tourism development (new, high quality products and services with cutting-edge technologies; bilateral cooperation); knowledge sharing in cooperation actions,
- Sustainable growth: preservation and sustainable utilization of cultural and natural values and resources by promoting resource efficient, greener and more competitive tourism development (green tourism brand),

- Inclusive growth: tourism development (as labor intensive economic sector) in remote areas delivering social and territorial cohesion, promoting cooperation, by involving also new actors from the public and civil world in combatting against poverty and social exclusion, based on participatory approach and large stakeholder involvement.

The Programme has considered macro-regional country and region specific programmes, strategies and recommendations that are relevant in the cross-border cooperation context. These are:

- the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR),
- the EU Strategy for the Alpine Region,
- National level strategies and programmes:
  - Development Strategy of Slovenia 2014-2020,
  - National Reform Programme of Slovenia 2013-2014,
  - National Reform Programme of Slovenia 2014-2015,
  - National Reform Programme 2014 of Hungary,
  - National Development and Regional Development Concept 2020 of Hungary (OFTK)
  - Smart Specialization Strategy of Slovenia,
- Regional strategies and programmes:
  - draft Regional Development Programme of Pomurje for 2014-2020,
  - draft Regional Development Programme of Podravje for 2014-2020,
  - draft Regional Development Plan of Zala county for 2014-2020,
  - Regional Development Concept of Vas county.

#### **g) Relevant Environmental Strategies, Programmes and Policies**

Environmental strategies, plans, programmes that were taken into account by the SEA are:

- At European Level:
  - EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change (COM(2013) 216)
  - Green Infrastructure (GI) - Enhancing Europe's Natural Capital (COM(2013) 249)
  - Our life insurance, our natural capital: an EU biodiversity strategy to 2020 (COM(2011) 244)
  - Territorial Agenda of the European Union 2020 - Towards an Inclusive, Smart and Sustainable Europe of Diverse Regions (May 2011)
  - Roadmap for Moving to a Competitive Low Carbon Economy in 2050 (COM(2011)112)
  - Roadmap to a Resource Efficient Europe (COM(2011) 572)
  - Eco-innovation Action Plan (Eco-AP) (COM(2011) 899)
- At national level:
  - National Sustainable Development Strategy of Hungary (2012-2024),
  - National Environmental Action Plan of Slovenia (2005 – 2012, ReNPVO),
  - 4th National Environmental Program of Hungary (2014-2019),
  - River Basin Management Plan for Danube and Adriatic 2009-2015 and Programme of Measures for Water Management in Slovenia,
  - National Water Strategy of Hungary (2013-2021)
  - Natura 2000 Management programme for Slovenia for the period 2014-2020.

Table 1: Overview of links with environmental EU strategies, policies and legislation

Specific Objectives	Possible key areas of cooperation:	Links with environmental European strategies, policies and legislation
<p><b>Priority axis 1: ATTRACTIVE REGION: The priority axis includes one investment priority 6c corresponding to the thematic objective 6.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create the proper background physical and service infrastructure for tourism in remote areas</li> <li>• Provide help for the stakeholders to improve their tourism service quality, effectiveness and competitiveness, through e.g. networking, clustering</li> <li>• Improve visibility, branding of the region by joint communication (ICT tools)</li> <li>• Diversification of joint product and services through crosslinking of remote cultural and natural heritage spots with larger tourism destinations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our life insurance, our natural capital: an EU biodiversity strategy to 2020 (COM(2011) 244) provides a framework for Natura 2000 management and supports protected areas for conservation of biodiversity.</li> <li>• Among the priorities of the Territorial Agenda of the European Union 2020 - Towards an Inclusive, Smart and Sustainable Europe of Diverse Regions (May 2011) are: promotion of polycentric and balanced territorial development, territorial integration in cross-border and transnational functional regions, ensuring global competitiveness of the regions based on strong local economies and managing and connecting ecological, landscape and cultural values of regions.</li> <li>• Roadmap to a Resource Efficient Europe (COM(2011) 572) stipulates good status of waters, minimised impacts of droughts and floods and water abstraction below 20% of available renewable water resources.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Priority axis 2: COOPERATIVE REGION: The priority axis can include one TO with one single investment priority (11).</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Societal challenges, as ageing, poverty, migration, quality social services, healthcare</li> <li>• Environmental protection, renewable energy, risk management</li> <li>• Cross-border accessibility and interoperability (soft measures, collaboration)</li> <li>• Harmonization of labor market needs with education and vocational training with special focus on youth and all deprived groups</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Among the priorities of the Territorial Agenda of the European Union 2020 - Towards an Inclusive, Smart and Sustainable Europe of Diverse Regions (May 2011) are: promotion of polycentric and balanced territorial development, territorial integration in cross-border and transnational functional regions, ensuring global competitiveness of the regions based on strong local economies, improving territorial connectivity for individuals, communities and enterprises and managing and connecting ecological, landscape and cultural values of regions.</li> </ul>

## h) Assessment Methodology and specificity of the SEA

The approach to SEA was based on the following guidance documents for SEA of EU funding programmes:

- Guidance document on ex-ante evaluation for the Programming Period 2014-2020 (2013): Monitoring and evaluation of European Cohesion Policy: European Regional Development Fund, European Social Fund, Cohesion Fund - Annex 1: Ex-ante evaluation and the Strategic Environmental Assessment; January 2013
- Greening Regional Development Programmes Network (2006): Handbook on SEA for Cohesion Policy 2007-2013, February 2006.

The Environmental Report is based on the draft of the Cooperation Programme Slovenia-Hungary 2014-2020, Interreg V-A, version 3.1 received on 5 February 2015.

The assessment of impacts was carried out in 3 phases:

- Possible alternatives were discussed as the first step to highlight the strategic approach of the CP SI-HU Programme in terms of the strategy, selected territorial objectives, the defined priorities and specific objectives, the interrelations between the priorities, the consideration of the horizontal principle of sustainable development and the programme indicators.
- Second, the effects of individual specific objectives and selected types of actions were assessed. The assessment was qualitative and focused on general assumptions about causes and effects because only types of projects are defined and no detailed characteristics of the individual projects (location, size, activities etc.) cannot be known at this stage.
- In the last phase, the overall potential effects of the programme on the environmental issues and its contribution to the EU objectives were assessed.

The following aspects of impacts will be assessed:

- **Direct impact:** occurs when the plan foresees an intervention into the environment which directly affects the relevant environmental indicators within the plan's area of effect. The established area of direct effect is determined on the basis of field measurements, details on the intervention into the environment and other material circumstances.
- **Indirect impact:** occurs when the plan foresees an intervention into the environment with impacts which are not a direct consequence of the plan's implementation but instead occur at a indirect location from the site of the initial impact, or they occur as a consequence of complex interrelated events, for example an intervention into the environment which changes the water level and consequently affects nearby wetlands.
- **Cumulative impact:** occurs when the plan foresees an intervention into the environment which, in itself, has a negligible effect on the state of the environment indicators, yet, in combination with existing interventions into the environment or in combination with other interventions planned and implemented on the basis of other plans, has a significant effect on the relevant environmental indicators; or when several negligible effects of a single intervention, or a series of interventions in the context of the same plan have a significant combined effect on the relevant environmental indicators.
- **Synergistic impact:** occurs when the plan foresees an intervention into the environment with impacts which, when combined, are greater than the sum of their parts. Synergistic impacts are typically involved in cases where the amount of impacts on habitats, natural resources or populated areas approaches the compensation limit of these impacts.
- **Short-term impact:** is an impact which ceases to affect the relevant environmental indicators within five (5) years after its onset.
- **Medium-term impact:** is an impact which ceases to affect the relevant environmental indicators between five (5) and ten (10) years after its onset, thus likely to span beyond the programming period.
- **Long-term impact:** is an impact which does not cease to affect the relevant environmental indicators within ten (10) years after its onset, thus having a lasting effect beyond the programming period.
- **Permanent impact:** is an impact which leaves lasting consequences.
- **Temporary impact:** is an impact of a temporary nature.

Impact of programme on environmental objectives was assessed for individual environmental issues. The Slovene Decree on Environmental Report defines assessment grading of potential impacts as shown in the table

below and does not allow for flexibility. As a result, the grading approach as prescribed by Slovene legislation was used.

**Table 2: The relevance matrix for assessment of impacts on environmental objectives**

Grade	Explanation of grade
A	No impact /impact can be positive
B	Insignificant impact
C	Insignificant impact (in respect to mitigation measures)
D	Significant impact
E	Devastating impact
X	Determination of impact is not possible

Assessment of impacts in the context of the strategic environmental assessment should be guided by the precautionary principle. As a result, the overall assessment of an impact should be given on the basis of the maximum negative impact. The result is a slightly blurred picture of the overall impact of CP SI-HU, as any time there is any negative impact that is significant, but could be mitigated by mitigation measures, the grade C should be given although the program often has positive effects on an issue, parameter, or environmental objective.

**i) Uncertainties, Data Gaps and Technical Deficiencies**

Environmental data on the programme area varies in availability and detail. On the Hungarian side, some of the data are collected centrally by state services, and the regions also have their own systems of data collection for certain data, while on the Slovene side most of the environmental data is collected by Environment Agency and the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia. GIS data vary in the level of detail and level of other information attached to the geospatial information in question. These differences were leveraged by using qualitative assessment and expert judgement where necessary.

**j) Consultation with the stakeholders and environmental authorities**

Sectoral organisations were consulted according to national procedures in both countries. In Slovenia, the relevant Ministries and Agencies were contacted in the period of prior to public consultation, however, they did not have any comments. Some amendments of the Environmental Report were nevertheless made to improve presentation of baseline situation concerning Natura 2000 sites and permitting procedures for visiting and presenting natural values; these are important because of potential support for projects developing sustainable tourist activities in protected areas, Natura 2000 sites and natural values.

Consultation with sectoral organisations in Hungary were performed in 2 rounds according to Hungarian legislation. In the first round (2 December 2014-6 January 2015), relevant institutions were sent the Environmental Report Syllabus (table of contents) for potential comments. Most of the comments referred to the topics that should, in the opinion of these institutions, be included in the CP and its measures. A summary of comments and how they were addressed is shown in the table below.

**Table 3: Overview of comments received in the 1<sup>st</sup> round of consultation in Hungarian part of programme area**

Institution	Comment
West-Transdanubian Water Directorate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The draft CP doesn't support the development of crossborder water management and the activities envisaged by the EU Water Framework Directive and the EU Floods Directive, although it is an important issue in the cross-border area.</li> <li>• These activities were eligible in the previous programming period 2007-2013 and several successful projects were implemented.</li> <li>• The following objectives are indispensable: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- reduction of natural hazards in the field of water management</li> <li>- improvement of the sustainable use of natural resources and landscape with the aim of preservation of their high quality (the programme should include these objectives also in the new period)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Studies and research on surface water and groundwater should be done during the preparation phase to provide the base of projects aiming the crossborder economical cooperation, energy development (renewable energy) and the improvement of ecotourism.</li> </ul> <p><b>How the comments were considered:</b> Measures and eligible activities are based on the decisions by the authorities preparing the CP and decision on their selection is beyond SEA unless the environmental issue is critical, but overlooked in the CP; it was assessed that this was not the case. The issue of water management and flood control was however considered to a larger extent in the baseline assessment and the proposed objectives were taken into consideration when SEA objectives were designed.</p>
<p>Órség National Park Directorate</p>	<p>During the SEA the following issues should be taken into consideration:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the relation between the objectives and possible projects of the programme and the recently published Prioritised Action Frameworks for Natura 2000</li> <li>the relation between the possible content and activities of the future projects and the Maintenance Plan for Natura 2000</li> <li>the positive environmental impact of the programme can be ensured by supporting the relevant natural park directorates in case of the submission of the applications</li> </ol> <p><b>How the comments were considered:</b> The first 2 issues were addressed in the baseline assessment and considered later during the assessment of potential impacts of the CP on nature conservation.</p>
<p>Vas County Government Office, Policy administration service of public health</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Waste water treatment is underdeveloped in this area due to the character of the settlement-structure (small villages) this area, thus the construction of the drainage system should have priority.</li> <li>The programme should contain activities regarding the collection of hazardous waste, increase of separate waste collection and examining the possibility of establishing a waste yard in the region.</li> <li>The situation analysis should include demographic data; age structure of the population, factors affecting health status and the analysis of the region's environmental condition.</li> <li>The SEA should contain the changes in the health status of the population, the social and economic condition (especially in the quality of life) due to the possible impacts.</li> </ol> <p><b>How the comments were considered:</b> The first 2 comments address the selected measures and eligible activities of the CP. These are based on the decisions by the authorities preparing the CP and decision on their selection is beyond SEA unless the environmental issue is critical, but overlooked in the CP; it was assessed that this was not the case. The issues 3 and 4 were addressed in the baseline assessment and considered later during the assessment of potential impacts of the CP on nature conservation and health status; the latter was considered to the extent possible on the basis of available data.</p>
<p>Government Office of Zala County Department of Architecture and Cultural Heritage</p>	<p>In situation analysis of various types of protection, review of the cultural heritage should be done by using current data from public registers (data on archaeological sites, archaeological licence, monuments, historic landscapes are available at Gyula Forster National Centre for Cultural Heritage Management).</p> <p><b>How the comments were considered:</b> The data were obtained and reviewed for the baseline analysis as suggested.</p>

In the second round (2 March – 8 April 2015), relevant institutions were sent the CP SI-HU 2014-2020 in Hungarian and the Environmental Report in English that contained non-technical summary in Hungarian. Most of the comments again were more relevant for the CP and its measures. The National Environmental Council and the Vas County Government Office, Plant Protection and Soil Conservation Directorate only commented that the

CP will have no or positive effect on the environment. A summary of comments and how they were addressed is shown in the table below.



Table 4: Overview of comments received in the 2<sup>nd</sup> round of consultation in Hungarian part of programme area

Institution	Proposals, comments	Consultation response and consideration of the comments
<b>West-Transdanubian Water Directorate</b>	Same comments as in the first phase of consultation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The comments refer to the Cooperation Programme - suggestions on objectives and activities to be funded, not Environmental Report or SEA process.</li> <li>Water management was considered in more detail during baseline analysis.</li> </ul>
<b>Vas County Government Office, Policy administration service of public health</b>	<p>Suggestions for measures and activities regarding waste water treatment and sewerage development, beach infrastructure, spa infrastructure, hiking routes, visitor centres, waste yards for hazardous waste.</p> <p>A list of regulations to be taken into account during the programming procedure was provided.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The comments refer to the Cooperation Programme - suggestions on objectives and activities to be funded, not Environmental Report or SEA process.</li> <li>SEA took into consideration that all the waste regulation must be taken into account at the project level as it is legally binding.</li> </ul>
<b>Government Office of Zala County Department of Architecture and Cultural Heritage</b>	The document doesn't contain information regarding the protection of cultural heritage and the description of projects. Therefore during the planning of projects it should be examined whether the activities will have an impact on the cultural heritage or not according to Act LXIV of 2001 on the protection of cultural heritage. Data regarding archaeological sites, archaeological licence, monuments, historic landscapes is available at Gyula Forster National Centre for Cultural Heritage Management, which is the only relevant authority.	Data on cultural heritage is included in the analysis. The projects have to consider cultural heritage - this is checked in the procedures for obtaining a construction permit. However, a mitigation measure (or rather an enhancement measure that would strengthen the positive impact of the CP) could be added that the projects with the activities that might be relevant for cultural heritage, should consider cultural heritage in the project planning phase.
<b>Zala County Government Office</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Types of cultivation should be reconsidered or changed on the fields suffering from soil erosion, and other cultivation methods should be examined in the surrounding fields as well as this affects biodiversity. It is recommended to organize farming consultations. A list of investigations of farm production, soil degradation, invasive species presence, pest control forecast system and water management was suggested.</li> <li>It was suggested that more funds should be available for protection of cultural heritage. Additional cultural heritage sites and sustainable tourism sites (Heviz lake, fishing lakes) were suggested to be included in the baseline assessment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The comments on cultivation are comments on the Cooperation Programme, but are not relevant for it - they are relevant for the Rural Development Programme.</li> <li>Heviz lake and the listed monuments were added to the lists in the description of the baseline.</li> </ul>
<b>West Transdanubian Inspectorate for Environmental Protection and Nature Conservation</b>	During the implementation of the projects it is recommended to decrease their the potential negative impacts to the lowest level.	This will be achieved with the mitigation measures and legislative requirements.
<b>National Public Health and Medical Officer Service, Office of the</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In spa development, instead of letting the the water with mineral content and/or warm water into the surface water, it is recommended to be reinjected to avoid negative impacts.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The measure proposed for spa (water reinjection) should be dealt with within the building permits as its suitability can be highly specific for each site; it could be added as a recommendation.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Chief Medical Officer of State</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The result of the monitoring of indicators regarding environmental protection and the achievement of the objectives should be announced for the public on the website of the programme.</li> <li>• The projects concerning natural and cultural heritage should include a dissemination plan targeting the local population and the similar sights of the extended region (Slovenia, Hungary, Austria and Croatia)</li> <li>• The projects concerning natural and cultural heritage should ensure the sustainability of the results, which should be also monitored at the end of the projects.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitoring of the indicators should be published with the monitoring and evaluation reports.</li> <li>• Dissemination plan for local population and similar sights of the extended region could be included as a recommendation, however, this is not relevant enough on the programme level. It could be included in individual projects.</li> <li>• All the projects will need to prove sustainability in order to receive funding, thus this will be done also for projects concerning natural and cultural heritage.</li> </ul>
<p><b>National Inspectorate for Environmental Protection and Natural Conservation</b></p>	<p>The National Inspectorate noted that according to the expectations the implementation of the Programme will not have a negative and significant impact on the natural heritages and ecological systems. Nevertheless, it made several observations/suggestions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In case of tourism development the protected areas should be take into account as the touristical usage of this kind of areas can be executed only with the proper limitations e.g.: avoiding the environmentally sensitive areas, ensuring the propers conditions of visiting natural areas etc.</li> <li>• Information materials, brochures, manuals regarding natural heritage can provide useful information for the inhabitants, entrepreneurships and authorities, therefore the spreading these documents on local level is recommended.</li> <li>• Organizing mass and technical sport events on Natura 2000 areas is allowed only with the the proper permit of the relevant authority concerning nature protection.</li> <li>• In order to protect the lithosphere innovative and environmentally friendly technologies are recommended, as the main source of pollution derives from human activities. Furthermore, energy efficiency should be fostered and the ratio of renewable energy should be increased as well.</li> <li>• During the implementation some investments can cause an increase in the amount of waste, which depends on the volume of the project.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The proposed mitigation measures will ensure that proper limitations of the protected areas will be taken into account.</li> <li>• Information and dissemination is obligatory in every project, so it is expected that the information materials regarding natural heritage will be produced.</li> <li>• Mass and technical sport events on Natura 2000 areas are going to be regulated by relevant authorities.</li> <li>• Concerning protection of litosphere, infrastructural projects that might affect the litosphere will be very limited. Some environmental criteria will be included in selection process (grading system) and they are likely to suffice to ensure that environmentally friendly and energy efficient measures are recommended.</li> </ul>

General public consultation was organised simultaneously in Slovenia and in Hungary:

- In Slovenia, public consultation was conducted by publishing the Environmental Report in Slovene language on the website of the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning of Republic of Slovenia between 2 March and 2 April 2015. The invitation and the documents (CP SI-HU 2014-2020 and Environmental Report) could be accessed at:
  - [http://www.mop.gov.si/si/delovna\\_podrocja/presoje\\_vplivov\\_na\\_okolje/cezmejna\\_presoja\\_vplivov\\_na\\_okolje/postopek\\_javne\\_razprave\\_na\\_temo\\_strateske\\_presoje\\_vplivov\\_na\\_okolje\\_sea\\_za\\_program\\_cezmejnego\\_sodelovanja\\_interreg\\_v\\_a\\_slovenija\\_madzarska\\_2014\\_2020/](http://www.mop.gov.si/si/delovna_podrocja/presoje_vplivov_na_okolje/cezmejna_presoja_vplivov_na_okolje/postopek_javne_razprave_na_temo_strateske_presoje_vplivov_na_okolje_sea_za_program_cezmejnego_sodelovanja_interreg_v_a_slovenija_madzarska_2014_2020/)
  - [http://www.mop.gov.si/fileadmin/mop.gov.si/pageuploads/podrocja/cpvo/interreg\\_V\\_A\\_slo\\_hu\\_2014\\_2020\\_okoljsko\\_porocilo.pdf](http://www.mop.gov.si/fileadmin/mop.gov.si/pageuploads/podrocja/cpvo/interreg_V_A_slo_hu_2014_2020_okoljsko_porocilo.pdf).
- In Hungary, public consultation was done in the framework of 2<sup>nd</sup> round of consultation with the sectoral institutions by publishing the CP SI-HU 2014-2020 in Hungarian and the Environmental Report in English that contained non-technical summary in Hungarian.

No comments from general public were received during public consultation.

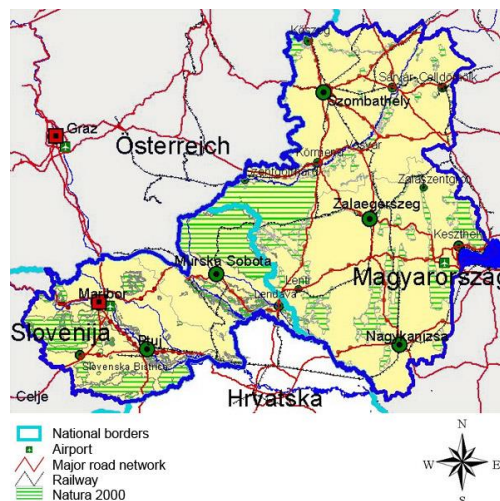
#### **k) The impact of recommendations on planning the Programme**

The environmental considerations were presented during the planning process as the baseline analysis was prepared during the decision on eligible activities. The CP and the SEA were in the final stages at the same time and the programming team and SEA team cooperated regularly. Especially the planning of sustainable tourism activities and decisions on transport infrastructure could be influenced by the SEA Findings. The mitigation measures were presented to the programming team and at the TF meetings and the decision was taken to integrate them into the relevant chapters of the CP.

## 2. Short presentation of the Cooperation Programme

The programme area includes the Pomurje and Podravje regions in Slovenia and counties Zala and Vas in Hungary. The territory of the Slovenia-Hungary border region covers 10,658 km<sup>2</sup> in total, 2/3rd of the area belongs to the Hungarian, 1/3rd to the Slovenian border region. The length of the Slovenian-Hungarian border is around 100 km (Schengen zone).

The mission of the programme is to **transform the Slovenia-Hungary CBC area into a socially and environmentally sustainable joint “green tourism” region providing a high quality living perspective for its inhabitants** not only in the core zones and their agglomerations, but also in remote and/or rural areas.



### Sustainable utilisation of the region’s natural and cultural values

offers opportunities for **tourism development**, providing **workplaces available locally**, fostering **entrepreneurship** and resulting in **higher** and more **balanced economic performance**. Widespread social, economic and institutional connections ensure the rational and sustainable utilisation of the resources, skills and capacities and create a strong sense of common regional identity based on tolerance and mutual understanding. These measures shall increase the region’s population retention force, especially for young generation, contributing to the limitation of the population decrease particularly in the remote, rural areas.

The overall vision of the Programme is to **become an attractive area for living, working, investing, undertaking** through **better capitalizing on existing natural and cultural assets in tourism** catalyzing the **development of the whole region** on one hand and on the other **jointly addressing those common problems which call for common solutions at CBC level**.

The specific aims are the following:

- Better **usage of under-exploited natural and cultural values** through **cooperation in tourism**, as the region’s key competitive, labor-intensive sector.
- **Create/strengthen local economy** (workplaces available locally, new enterprises, entrepreneurship) in rural areas **through tourism development** by interlinking remote cultural and natural heritage spots with larger tourism destinations
- Further develop **the “green and livable” region brand** of the CBC area through maintaining natural and cultural resources and improving social, economic and institutional connections
- Extending the cross-border cooperation by **strengthening the institutional capacities of public and civil stakeholders** in mutually important fields of public policies and services

CP SI-HU will contribute to Europe 2020 through investing in thematic objectives (TOs) TO 6 (protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency) and TO 11 (enhancing institutional capacity and an efficient public administration). By selecting just 2 TOs, the programme shows a high thematic concentration that necessary also because of the rather small size of the Programme. This is fully in line with the ETC Regulation, according to which at least 80% of the ERDF finances shall be concentrated on a maximum of four thematic objectives. The structure of the programme is shown in the table below.

The cooperation programme addresses the following two priority axes:

Table 5: Basic structure of the Cooperation Programme Slovenia-Hungary 2014-2020, Interreg V-A

Priority	Thematic objective (TO) and investment priority	Specific objective and desired result	Type and examples of actions to be supported under the investment priority
<b>Priority 1 Attractive Region</b>	<p>Thematic Objective 6 Environmental protection &amp; resource efficiency</p> <p>6(c) Protecting, promoting and developing cultural and natural heritage</p>	<p><u>Specific objective:</u> To increase attractiveness through the diversification and cross-border integration of the touristic offer in the programme area, based on the protection and development of natural and cultural heritage.</p> <p><u>Desired result:</u> The programme aims to reach a higher level of development of sustainable forms of tourism in the remote, rural regions of the programme area, while building on the experience and attractiveness of the important tourist centres located here.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trainings and capacity building for the local entrepreneurs and/or employees in developing relevant skills related to tourism (language courses, study visits, trainings, conferences, etc.)</li> <li>• Jointly developed plans and strategies for the sustainable utilization of cultural and natural heritage</li> <li>• Small scale investments regarding sustainable utilization of cultural and natural heritage and promotion of environmental friendly technologies</li> <li>• Small scale renovation / revitalisation and conservation of cultural and natural heritage, as part of jointly developed touristic products, in order to ensure their preservation and for increasing their touristic value</li> <li>• Improving accessibility to cultural and natural heritage sites as part of joint tourism measures</li> <li>• Joint awareness raising for the touristic potential of the local natural and cultural resources (dödölle, pumpkin seeds oil, NATURA2000 sites etc.) on both sides of the border,</li> <li>• Regional cross-border cooperation in tourism destination management, development of regional trademark and quality management systems, common branding and promotion, joint organization and participation in fairs and exhibitions, transfer of know-how, etc.</li> <li>• Support for diversification of quality cross-border tourism services offered in the area – promotion and support for bike tourism and related services (development and posting of cross-border thematic biking routes, biking tourism related services – as bike rentals etc.), for hiking, equestrian and water tourism (designation and promotion of cross-border thematic routes, service development), and complementary services to wine, gastronomy, cultural and health tourism</li> <li>• Joint development of new, innovative touristic products and services (accommodation and catering services, development of joint standards of quality in touristic services, etc.)</li> <li>• Improvement of the usage of modern (communication) tools and promotion activities</li> <li>• Establishment of clusters oriented towards the creation and development of sustainable tourist products and services</li> </ul>

Priority	Thematic objective (TO) and Investment priority	Specific objective and desired result	Type and examples of actions to be supported under the investment priority
<b>Priority 2 Cooperative Region</b>	Thematic Objective 11 Institutional capacity building & efficient public administrations	<p><u>Specific objective:</u> To increase the capacity for cooperation in order to reach a higher level of maturity in cross-border relations</p> <p><u>Desired result:</u> Further deepen and expand the cross-border cooperation between institutions and organizations from the two sides of the border, by increasing the institutional capacity of the stakeholders in delivering better quality public services and exploit the potentials of cross-border relations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exchange of experience, empowerment, advocacy and capacity building for cross-border cooperation in different fields, as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ environmental protection, energy efficiency, renewable energy, accessibility,</li> <li>○ social services (social innovation), healthcare,</li> <li>○ urban management and planning, regional development, accessibility – harmonization of cross-border public transport</li> <li>○ civil protection and common risk prevention and management</li> <li>○ cultural cooperation</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Exchange of know-how and best practices, institutional cooperation in order to improve the cross-border mobility of the work force in the programme area and increase the access to employment and training (e.g.: language courses)</li> <li>• Collaborations on the level of civil society, exchange of best practices and capacity building of NGOs (workshops, seminars etc.), promotion of voluntary activities</li> <li>• Cross-border cooperation in the field of education, exchange of experiences; vocational trainings, vocational orientation, lifelong learning, education for people with special needs etc.</li> </ul>
<b>Priority 3 Technical Assistance</b>		<p><u>Specific objective:</u> Contribution to the efficient implementation of the Cooperation Programme.</p> <p><u>Desired result:</u> The Priority Axis will support the sound and efficient implementation of the Cooperation Programme. In this sense, it will ensure the proper operation of the programme management structures in delivering their specific tasks.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Setting-up and operation of the Joint Secretariat,</li> <li>• Activities related to the operation of the Managing Authority, Certifying Authority, and Audit Authority</li> <li>• Organization of the Monitoring Committee meetings</li> <li>• Preparation of annual reports</li> <li>• Development and maintenance of the e-monitoring system</li> <li>• Monitoring visits related to project implementation</li> <li>• Specific activities of first level control,</li> <li>• Audit activities</li> <li>• Programme level communication events and actions,</li> <li>• Information events for potential applicants;</li> <li>• Support events for project beneficiaries</li> <li>• Elaboration of the Evaluation Plan of the programme – Article 114.1 CPR Regulation,</li> <li>• Elaboration of studies,</li> <li>• Preparation of the future cooperation programme, activities related to the closure of the previous programme (Article 59 of CPR provides this opportunity)</li> </ul>

Source: third draft of the Cooperation Programme Slovenia-Hungary 2014-2020, Interreg V-A, version 3.1 received on 5 February 2015. HitesyBartuczHollai Euroconsulting Kft., February 2015

## l) Financial plan for the programme

Altogether the programme budget consists of 18,641,194.12 EUR, with an ERDF contribution of 14,795,015.00 EUR, which corresponds to 79,37 % of the total financing.

Table 6: Financial table of the Cooperation Programme Slovenia-Hungary 2014-2020, Interreg V-A

Priority axis	Union support (a)	National counterpart (b) = (c) + (d)	Indicative breakdown of the national counterpart		Total funding (e) = (a) + (b)	Co-financing rate (f) = (a)/(e)
			National funding (c)	Public funding (d)		
Priority axis 1	10,000,000.00	1,764,705.88	1,058,823.53	705,882.35	11,764,705.88	85.00%
Priority axis 2	3,295,015.00	581,473.24	348,883.94	232,589.29	3,876,488.24	85.00%
Priority axis 3	1,500,000.00	1,500,000.00	1,500,000.00	0	3,000,000.00	50.00%
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,795,015.00</b>	<b>3,846,179.12</b>	<b>2,907,707.47</b>	<b>938,471.65</b>	<b>18,641,194.12</b>	<b>79.37%</b>

Source: third draft of the Cooperation Programme Slovenia-Hungary 2014-2020, Interreg V-A, version 3.1 received on 5 February 2015. HitesyBartuczHollai Euroconsulting Kft., February 2015

## m) Types of projects supported potentially leading to EIA

The programme lists types and examples of actions to be supported under each investment priority. The actions are broadly defined in order to allow for diversity of projects. Because the fraction of funding that can be spent on physical investment is very small, the projects are unlikely to comprise investment that would require and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). Some of the projects, particularly the ones for tourist infrastructure, might lead in the long term to so called "EIA-type" of projects. These usually have larger impact on the environment, therefore it needs to be assessed whether the investment is acceptable at all, and develop mitigation measures if necessary.

In Slovenia, a new Decree on projects for which Environmental Impact Assessment is necessary (Official Gazette no. 51/14) has just been passed that introduced a pre-assessment of all the investment projects co-financed by EU funding; as a result, also all the projects approved for funding from the CP SI-HU programme that will include physical investments in the Slovene part of the programme area will be screened for their environmental impacts, regardless of the size and type of investments.

The types and examples of actions defined in the programme are shown in the table below; an assessment of project's potential to lead to potential EIA-type of investments is also shown. As only a small fraction of funds can be used for investments in infrastructure, it is highly unlikely that projects will directly lead to EIA-type of investments. The impact of the projects cofinanced from the Interreg V SI-HU is more likely going to be indirect: it is more likely that the projects, especially the ones supporting tourism, will help to set up the context and prepare the documentation for EIA-type of investments, so these might follow after the Interreg V SI-HU-supported projects are already finished.

In the following table only those examples of actions were classified as having the potential for EIA that can lead to EIA-type of projects right on the basis of the co-financed project. An example would be a new road, or a tourist facility such as a visitor centre, or certain type of habitat restoration measures implemented on the basis of the findings of a co-financed project. Activities such as exchange of experience, know-how and best practices, empowerment, advocacy and capacity building, cooperation etc. are going to lead to development of EIA-type of projects only on the medium to long run. Because of that and because of fast pace of changing of trends, it was impossible to assess their potential for EIA-type projects.

Table 7: Types and examples of actions to be supported under each investment priority and their potential for EIA

Investment Priority	Types and examples of actions	Potential for EIA	
<b>6(c) Protecting, promoting and developing cultural and natural heritage</b>	Trainings and capacity building for the local entrepreneurs and/or employees in developing relevant skills related to tourism (language courses, study visits, trainings, conferences, etc.)	/	
	Jointly developed plans and strategies for the sustainable utilization of cultural and natural heritage	/	
	Small scale investments regarding sustainable utilization of cultural and natural heritage and promotion of environmental friendly technologies	+?	
	Small scale renovation / revitalisation and conservation of cultural and natural heritage, as part of jointly developed touristic products, in order to ensure their preservation and for increasing their touristic value	+?	
	Improving accessibility to cultural and natural heritage sites as part of joint tourism measures	+?	
	Joint awareness raising for the touristic potential of the local natural and cultural resources (dödölle, pumpkin seeds oil, NATURA2000 sites etc.) on both sides of the border,	/	
	Regional cross-border cooperation in tourism destination management, development of regional trademark and quality management systems, common branding and promotion, joint organization and participation in fairs and exhibitions, transfer of know-how, etc.	/	
	Support for diversification of quality cross-border tourism services offered in the area – promotion and support for bike tourism and related services (development and posting of cross-border thematic biking routes, biking tourism related services – as bike rentals etc.), for hiking, equestrian and water tourism (designation and promotion of cross-border thematic routes, service development), and complementary services to wine, gastronomy, cultural and health tourism	/	
	Joint development of new, innovative touristic products and services (accommodation and catering services, development of joint standards of quality in touristic services, etc.)	/	
	Improvement of the usage of modern (communication) tools and promotion activities	/	
	Establishment of clusters oriented towards the creation and development of sustainable tourist products and services	/	
	<b>11: Promoting legal and administrative cooperation and cooperation between citizens and institutions</b>	Exchange of experience, empowerment, advocacy and capacity building for cross-border cooperation in different fields, as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ environmental protection, energy efficiency, renewable energy, accessibility,</li> <li>○ social services (social innovation), healthcare,</li> <li>○ urban management and planning, regional development, accessibility – harmonization of cross-border public transport</li> <li>○ civil protection and common risk prevention and management</li> <li>○ cultural cooperation</li> </ul>	/
		Exchange of know-how and best practices, institutional cooperation in order to improve the cross-border mobility of the work force in the programme area and increase the access to employment and training (e.g.: language courses)	/
Collaborations on the level of civil society, exchange of best practices and capacity building of NGOs (workshops, seminars etc.), promotion of voluntary activities		/	
Cross-border cooperation in the field of education, exchange of experiences; vocational trainings, vocational orientation, lifelong learning, education for people with special needs etc.		/	



Table 8: types of activities supported by codes of intervention under each investment priority and their potential for EIA

Code	Intervention field	Investment priority		Potential for EIA
		6(c)	11	
032	Local access roads (new build)	✓		+?
034	Other reconstructed or improved road (motorway, national, regional or local)	✓		+?
090	Cycle tracks and footpaths	✓		/
091	Development and promotion of the tourism potential of natural areas	✓		+?
093	Development and promotion of public tourism services	✓		/
094	Protection, development and promotion of public cultural and heritage assets	✓		/
095	Development and promotion of public cultural and heritage services	✓		/
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		✓	/
120	Capacity building for all stakeholders delivering education, lifelong learning, training and employment and social policies, including through sectoral and territorial pacts to mobilise for reform at the national, regional and local levels		✓	/

#### n) Use of natural resources, potential emissions, waste and waste management

The programme strategy for CP SI-HU does not define in detail the needs for natural resources. Based on the draft programme, we can assess that the following natural resources will be essential for its implementation:

- Land as the natural resource and space for building new objects;
- Water:
  - Drinking water: water supply for co-financed projects;
  - Surface water: for development of different forms of sustainable tourism e.g. canoeing, fishing, etc., supported within the framework of the first priority axis,
  - Thermal water: for development of tourist products and services related based on geothermal energy (spa/wellness),
- Biomass- wood: wood can be used as a natural material for small-scale tourism infrastructure. We can also expect that it will be used for heating of some of the buildings that will be reconstructed or built with the funds of the programme.
- Biodiversity: an important natural resource which is going to be the basis for certain projects within the framework of the first priority axis, especially all the projects dealing with natural heritage, such as small-scale investments, improved accessibility and small-scale renovation/revitalisation for tourist products and services related to natural heritage. Some of the supported projects might strongly focus on nature conservation tourism and education and develop products based on biodiversity and natural heritage.

It is impossible to assess what will be the needs for natural resources of the projects implemented within the framework of the CP SI-HU. In view of the fact that the CP SI-HU predominantly supports “soft” activities, such as preparation of joint strategies for utilization of natural and cultural heritage, development of tourist products and services, exchange of experience and cooperation, direct need for natural resources will be very small. Some activities, e.g. design of tourist products and services related to natural heritage, can lead to a certain exploitation of natural resources, especially biodiversity and water, nevertheless, due to the size of the programme this is going to be small in scope and very likely based on or at least related to the existing activities (e.g. the existing water consumption for tourism purposes, the existing tourist activities in protected areas).

Furthermore, it is impossible to assess to what extent additional emissions into the environment or even arrangements of new sources of emissions will occur as a result of implementation of the CP SI-HU and projects co-financed by this programme. Although some support for road infrastructure has been planned, it is unlikely that it would significantly increase air emissions from transport. The aspect of climate change mitigation and adaptation might be the subject of some projects on environmental protection, energy efficiency, renewable energy, urban management and planning, regional development and civil protection and common risk prevention and management that can be supported from priority axis 2 (IP 11).

The implementation of the CP SI-HU will not contribute to an increased quantity of waste in the programme area, nor is any of the priorities targeting projects in the field of waste management.

### 3. Situation analysis: current environmental baseline and trends

#### o) Environmental baseline

The following baseline information on the programme area is presenting the environmental context of the CP SI-HU.

#### Air quality

##### Slovenia

Atmospherical particles (PM<sub>10</sub>) are, beside air pollution with ozone, one of the pressing problems of air quality in Slovenia. City municipalities of Maribor and Murska Sobota are classified in the class of highest burden due to air pollution with PM<sub>10</sub> (Odredba o določitvi območja in razvrstitvi območij, aglomeracij in podobmočij glede na onesnaženost zraka, Uradni list RS, št. 50/11). On the basis of this they have adopted decrees for better air quality, according to which they needed to adopt action plans for decrease of pollution with PM<sub>10</sub>, mitigation measures, monitoring and responsible subjects for implementation. City municipality of Murska Sobota has adopted Action plan for better air quality (Off. G., 88/13). The emphasis of the plan is on better building thermal insulation, replacement of out-of-date heating devices and promotion of public transport. ([www.murska-sobota.si](http://www.murska-sobota.si))

City municipality of Maribor has adopted plan for better air-quality as well (Of. G., 108/13). In co-operation with the ministry the City municipality need to prepare action plan for sustainable mobility, as long-term measure to decrease PM<sub>10</sub> concentrations.

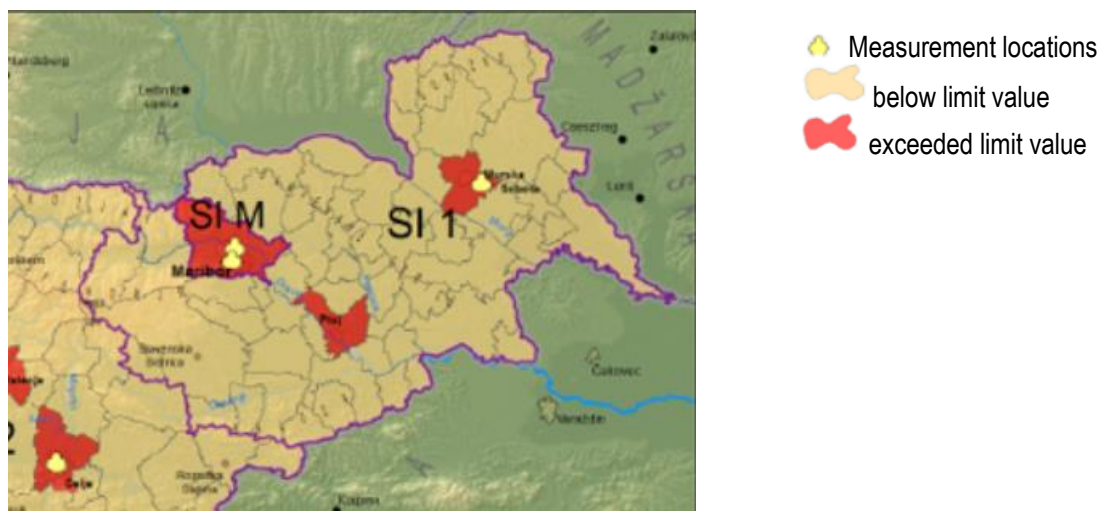


Figure 1: Air pollution with PM<sub>10</sub> (Source: Slovenian Environment Agency<sup>2</sup>)

Pollution with ground level ozone (O<sub>3</sub>) is widespread in the entire Slovenia, but not so strong in the programme area.

The most important sources of air pollution in Slovenia are energy and transport and this goes also for the Slovene part of project area. In addition, there are some industrial centers such as Maribor, Ptuj, Murska Sobota and Lendava with metal, chemical and food processing industry with quite high air emissions. Larger energy use in transport (40% share in 2008) is a result of increase of motorization rate of population, growth of kilometres driven per car, and growth of transit transportation. In addition, public transport has largely declined across the country.

##### Hungary

In Hungary the air pollution reduction efforts between 1980 and 1995 were significant. The highest reduction ratio was archived by the industrial sector, due to structural changes, reorganization and modernization.

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.arso.gov.si/soer/kakovost\\_zraka.html](http://www.arso.gov.si/soer/kakovost_zraka.html)

Air quality can generally be regarded as acceptable in the Hungarian part of programme area, with higher air pollution in the cities and near major roads, traffic being the largest source of pollution. Restructuring of industry and change in fuel structure and fuel sources in the last decades have decreased pollution, but the pollution from increased traffic and new industrial developments is increasing. NO<sub>2</sub> and particulate matter (PM<sub>10</sub>) are now the largest pollutants.

Measurement of air quality is taken by the Hungarian Meteorological Service in 2 cities of Vas County and 5 of Zala County. Air quality is appropriate in most of the settlements in the region except for certain periods in the bigger cities. In the last decade the rapidly rising truck traffic on the main routes caused significant air quality deterioration, but the new highway section of M86 circumventing Szombathely successfully eased the situation.

On the Hungarian side of the programming region the highest PM<sub>10</sub> concentrations can be found in Zala county. In Zalaegerszeg and Keszthely. Air quality is still affected by the traffic to the largest extent, especially the dust (PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub>) causes problems. However, there is no significant industrial pollution due to the lack of heavy industrial facilities. To combat air pollution caused by fine particulate emission further improvements are required.

### **Climate change and associated risks**

#### **Slovenia**

Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in total in Slovenia in 2011 have been 19.509 kt of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent, which is higher than allowed Kyoto baseline year<sup>3</sup> value. More than 58% of surface in Slovenia is covered by forests, which are an important source of reducing GHG emissions. Although rich in forests, the Slovene part of programme area is less forested than other parts of the country. Road transportation has had the biggest share in growth of GHG emissions in Slovenia; emissions have been 190% higher compared to the Kyoto baseline year (1986). This is far the biggest contribution to the growth of GHG emissions. Noticeable decrease in emissions has been traced in use of energy in industry and construction (from 22% in 1986 to 9% in 2011).

In order to reach goals from Kyoto protocol and to reduce its GHG emissions for 20% Slovenia has implemented various measures by passing the Operational Programme for Reducing GHG emissions in the period 2008-2012. Revised version of the Operational Programme 2013-2020 is in the preparation. Besides these documents also the following national ones are important in climate change policy: National Action Plan for Energy Efficiency 2008-2016 and National Action Plan for Renewable Energy Resources 2010-2020.

#### **Hungary**

In 2012, total emissions of greenhouse gases in Hungary were 62000 kt of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent (excluding the LULUCF (Land use, Land Use Change and Forestry) sector which is the lowest value in the whole time series (1985-2012). Taking into account also the mostly carbon absorbing processes in the LULUCF sector, the net emissions of Hungary were 576000 kt of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent. In 2012,<sup>4</sup> being about 6-7 tonnes, the Hungarian per capita emissions are below the European average.

By ratifying the Kyoto Protocol, Hungary committed to reduce its GHG emissions by 6%. Now, our emissions are 45.8% lower than in the base year (average of 1985-87). For the most part, this significant reduction was mainly a consequence of the regime change in Hungary (1989-90) which brought in its train radical decline in the output of the national economy. The production decreased in almost every economic sector including also the GHG relevant sectors like energy, industry and agriculture. Then, between 2005 and 2012, after a period of about 14 years of relatively stagnant emission level (1992-2005), GHG emissions fell again quite significantly by 20.9 per cent. The global financial and economic crises exerted a major impact on the output of the Hungarian economy, consequently on the level of GHG emissions as well. After a quite significant drop of 8.7% between 2008 and 2009, our emissions in the following four years (2009-12) remained the lowest in the entire time series. Although the decline in economic output stopped in the first quarter of 2010, Hungary had not yet reached the GDP level of 2008, moreover, our economy has shrunk again a little in 2012.

The most important greenhouse gas is carbon dioxide accounting for 74.3% of total GHG emissions. The main source of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions is burning of fossil fuels for energy purposes, including transport. CO<sub>2</sub> emissions have

<sup>3</sup> Sum of CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O emissions in 1986 and F-gases emissions in 1995.

<sup>4</sup> National Inventory Report for Hungary 1985-2012, Hungarian Meteorological Service, 2013

decreased by 45.4% since the middle of the 80's. Methane represents 12.9% in the GHG inventory. Methane is generated mainly at waste disposal sites and in animal farms, but the fugitive emissions of natural gas are also important sources. CH<sub>4</sub> emissions are by 36.8% lower than in the base year. Nitrous oxide contributes 10.9% to the total GHG emissions. Its main sources are agricultural soils, and manure management. N<sub>2</sub>O emissions are 60.5% lower compared to base year. The total emissions of fluorinated gases amount to 1.9% but their steadily growing tendency seems to level off since 2008. However, special attention is still needed as their applications in the cooling industry and the use of SF<sub>6</sub> in electrical equipments, first of all in switchgears for insulation and arc quenching are still popular.

The framework programme for the environmental measures in the coming years are set in the National Environmental Programme 2014-2019 for Hungary (under preparation). This document is in harmony with the National Framework Strategy on Sustainable Development adopted by Hungarian Parliament in 2013 and the closely related strategic documents (eg. the National Climate Change Strategy, Coordinate Biodiversity Strategy, Water Management Strategy).

### Water quality and water management, including flood risk

Mura river is the key and most characteristic river of the programme area. It is one of the least regulated rivers both in Slovenia and Hungary and therefore the core of one of the most biodiversity-rich areas in the wider region. Most of the programme area is very rich in geothermal resources that are used for wellness tourism and increasingly in agriculture (e.g. for heating of greenhouses).

#### Slovenia

The key rivers in the Slovene part of the programme area are Mura, Drava, Dravinja and Ledava; all are part of Danube River Basin and thus under the ingerence of the Danube River Basin Management Plan. Their quality is satisfactory and is improving. Drava and Mura also strongly contribute to biodiversity of the region, Mura with numerous tributaries and wetlands along its riverbanks, and Drava with Ptuj and Ormož lake. Both are artificial lakes, and Ptuj lake is the largest surface water body in Slovenia, functioning as an important wintering and resting spot for migratory birds, including numerous species of international importance.

95% of Slovenian population use groundwater for drinking and the groundwater resources are very rich in Slovene part of the programme area, however, these aquifers are also the most polluted in Slovenia; the main pollutants are pesticides and nitrates and pesticides. This causes problems for water supply, especially in area where small local wells are used. On several measurement points the trend of decrease of atrazine and desetil-atrazine concentrations has been established, which is a positive consequence of prohibition of their use. Efficient decrease of nitrate concentrations is not noticeable yet.

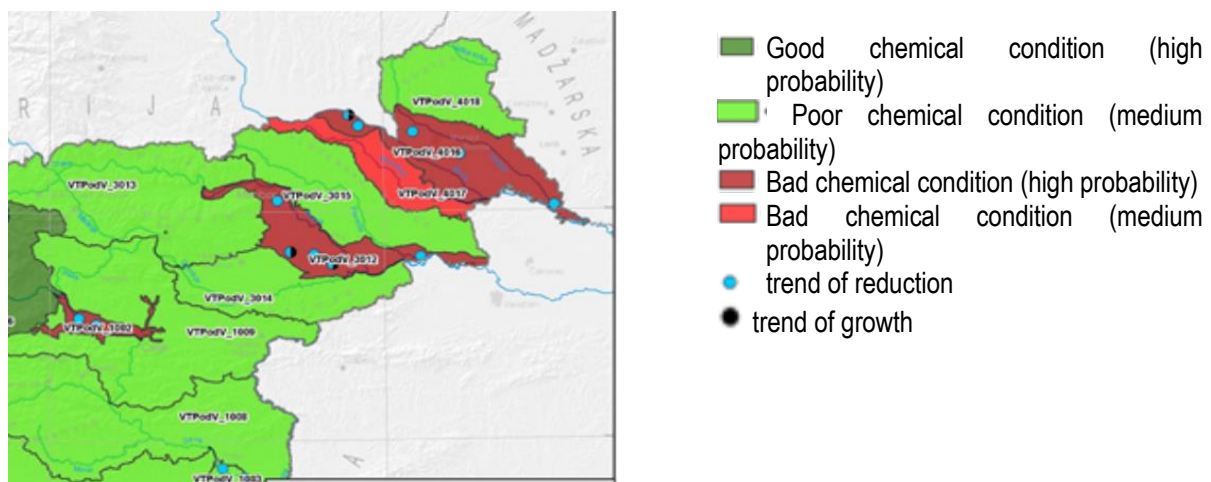


Figure 2: Estimate of chemical condition of underground waters 1996-2008 and trends (Source: Slovenian Environmental Agency)

In Slovenia 7% of population live on flood areas. The most extensive flood areas are in the programme area, i.e. in the northeast plains of Sub Panonic Slovenia, however, the endangered population there is relatively small compared to other regions which host larger cities (e.g. Celje in Savinjska region and Ljubljana in Central Slovenian region).



Figure 3: Warning map of floods, 2012 (Source: Slovenian Environmental Agency)

### Hungary

In Hungarian part of the programme area, Raba is another major river that is also one of the least regulated rivers, forming an important part of the Orseg National Park. However, it is of quite low quality, as it comes fairly polluted from Austria (IV. class of quality). River Zala is an important water resource, as it collects surface water from 50 % of the catchment basin of lake Balaton, and provides most of the lake's water. However, Zala and many smaller rivers and streams in the programme area are polluted with high levels of phosphorus, possibly from agricultural resources. The two important natural lakes are Balaton and Kisbalaton, the later being partially a wetland. They also strongly contribute to biodiversity of the region. Balaton is the largest surface water body in Europe, and Kisbalaton is functioning as an important wintering and resting spot for migrating birds of international importance.

Flood situation in Vas county is closely related to the Austrian catchment areas' events. The annual rainfall in the Austrian territory is 800-1000 mm, and the catchment area is of typically mountainous nature, so that after a few hours of the heavy precipitation the flood wave arrives in the border settlements. The rapidly delivered quantities of water causes problems mainly in the valleys, and furthermore in the improperly maintained river bed sections. Flood control tasks occur in the lower sections of the rivers and streams. Flood defense of three sections of the Raba (Szentgotthárd, Körmend and Sarvar section) is provided regionally. In the other sections of the river Raba, on the creeks Gyöngyös-Sorok-Perint, Pinka, Gyöngyös, Répce and Arany the flood defense is performed the municipalities concerned.<sup>5</sup>

There are a few partially implemented, partly ongoing flood control projects North of Szentgotthárd; the Lapincs spillway was built on the Raab, solving the defence of the city and its industrial park. Dams have been erected for Csörötnek and Vasszentmihály. Csákánydoroszló, Gasztony and Rátót remains in need of protection. On the Hungarian section Pinka, after the 1965 flood the necessary improvements were made. The Gyöngyös creek floods had also threatened more inner areas of settlements, which the construction of Lukácsházi flood peak reduction reservoir (Abért Lakes) satisfactorily solved. Along the Répce river also major flood control improvements occurred after the 1965 flood. Between Górn and Buk the flood peak reduction reservoir was finished and other investments are being developed, providing flood protection for the underlying populated areas. The high water levels of Kerka might cause dangerous situations in Kercaszomor and Bajánsenye. On the bases of the 1998 flood experience, the region's flood protection can be solved by the construction of a reservoir.

The Marcal River Vas County section does not cause flooding. From the point of water damage prevention the county's major rivers flood response may be considered as adequate. However, the small stream beds to drain the rainwater precipitation are inappropriate. The primary reason for the regular siltation and over-vegetation is the lack of maintenance and vegetation. The flood protection investment of the Szentgotthárd section of Rába is in progress.

<sup>5</sup> Vas Megye Területfejlesztési Koncepciója, Vital Pro Kft, 2013

Zala County is one of the country's wettest county: in the southern part the annual rainfall reaches 950 mm. The county's waterways density exceeds the national average, for every km<sup>2</sup> there is 1,5 km watercourse. Flood protection measures are necessary for the County and along the Mura rivers. To protect the county from flood risk, I and II. order main defense lines, defense lines managed by the Regional Water Directorate Nyuvizig and by self governments as well as flood reservoirs were built. Along about 40% of the Mura and County main defense lines there is a lack of deployment altitude compared to the prescribed level, and along about 3.5% of the defense lines there are subsoil sag resistance problems.<sup>6</sup> Further flood prevention investments are necessary along the river Zala to safeguard the area against floods, mainly along the main defense lines, because there are the most significant gaps.

In order to increase the safety of the flood endangered areas along the Mura river flood protection system development plans are in place. The implementation is in progress from KEOP resources. In cooperation with Austrian and Slovenian partners the Mura flood forecasting system model was developed and is already operating in test mode. The Alsószenterzsébet reservoir is finished on the Kerka river, but further defense investments are necessary on the lower section of the river, below Lenti. At Zalaszombatfa the Kebele peak-flood reducing reservoir is finished in Slovenian-Hungarian cooperation controlling many water courses. Along the Principal canal many sections also require further improvements, primarily the Nagykanizsa-Section affecting Kiskanizsa city.

Water conservation priority task involving the County is the improvement and protection the quality of water of lake Balaton. The central investment is the "Kis-Balaton Water Protection System Stage II" currently implemented from KEOP resources. The development of the county's rain reservoirs' system is in progress. A part of lake Balaton, Hungary's largest lake, is in Zala county, and there are smaller ponds throughout the region that are used for fishing and bathing. All of these and Balaton especially are important for maintaining biodiversity, especially for water and wetland species and habitats, as well as development of sustainable forms of tourism.

Groundwater resources are very rich and the groundwater tables are relatively high, less than 5 m deep. Most groundwater resources are polluted, mainly due to lack of sewerage and waste water treatment systems and agriculture (livestock farming, use of fertilisers and pesticides). Healthy drinking water supply was implemented in Zala County and the strategic water bases were established in Vas Counties by 1994. About 94% of the households are supplied by purified and treated tap water. In terms of quality of drinking water supply, the main problem is arsenic content (As) and nitrates, and in some areas also ammonium and iron. In Vas County there are 21 settlements facing water quality problems for high Arsenic content and 11 with high ammonium content. In Zala County, the general problem is the high iron content of the drinking water. Moreover, the arsenic content of drinking water exceeds the limit in 13 settlements in the neighbourhood of Zalaegerszeg. Arsenic removal investments in the water works of these settlements will be finished by 2015.

## Landscape

### **Slovenia**

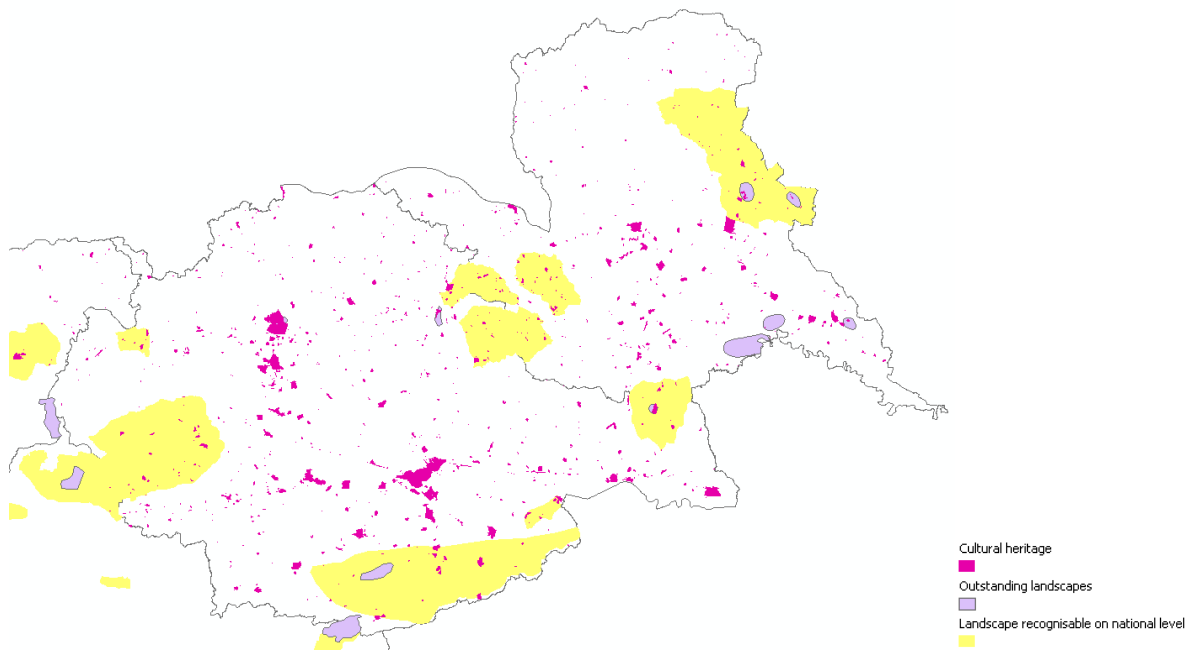
CBC programme area includes the Pannonian landscape region of Slovenia. Landscape regions include landscape with recognisable characteristics on national level. These are the areas which include the recognisable and representative parts of Slovenian landscape with well preserved landscape elements, areas of outstanding landscape with unique or rare patterns of landscape structure, areas of cultural heritage with high symbolic value in combination with outstanding elements of natural value. Characteristics of Panonia region are: vast plains, diversified landscape, vineyard areas on hilly slopes, river streams with extensive river bank vegetation and flood plain forests.

In the CBC programme area some **landscape areas with recognisable characteristics on the national level** are defined: Goričko, Kapelske gorice, Jeruzalemske gorice, Central part of Slovenske Gorice, Negova-Trije kralji, Southern part of Pohorje, Fala, Haloze and Borl. Development in these areas needs to be aligned with the preservation of landscape and its recognisability. Goričko landscape park has been established for this purpose. **Outstanding landscapes** in the CBC region in Slovenia are: Bukovnica, Kobilje, Lendavske gorice, Dolinsko pri

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<sup>6</sup> Zala Megye területfejlesztési koncepciója, I. kötet, Helyzetelemzés. Vital Pro Kft, 2013

Polani, Dolnja Bistrica-Hotiza, Jeruzalemske Gorice, Gradišče, Kalvarija-Piramida and Haloze. These areas, including also the cultural heritage, are schematically shown on the figure below, with emphasis to show the geographical spread.



**Figure 4 Schematic representation of important landscape areas and cultural heritage in CBC region (Source: Ministry of Culture, eVRD\_14\_07\_11\_6)**



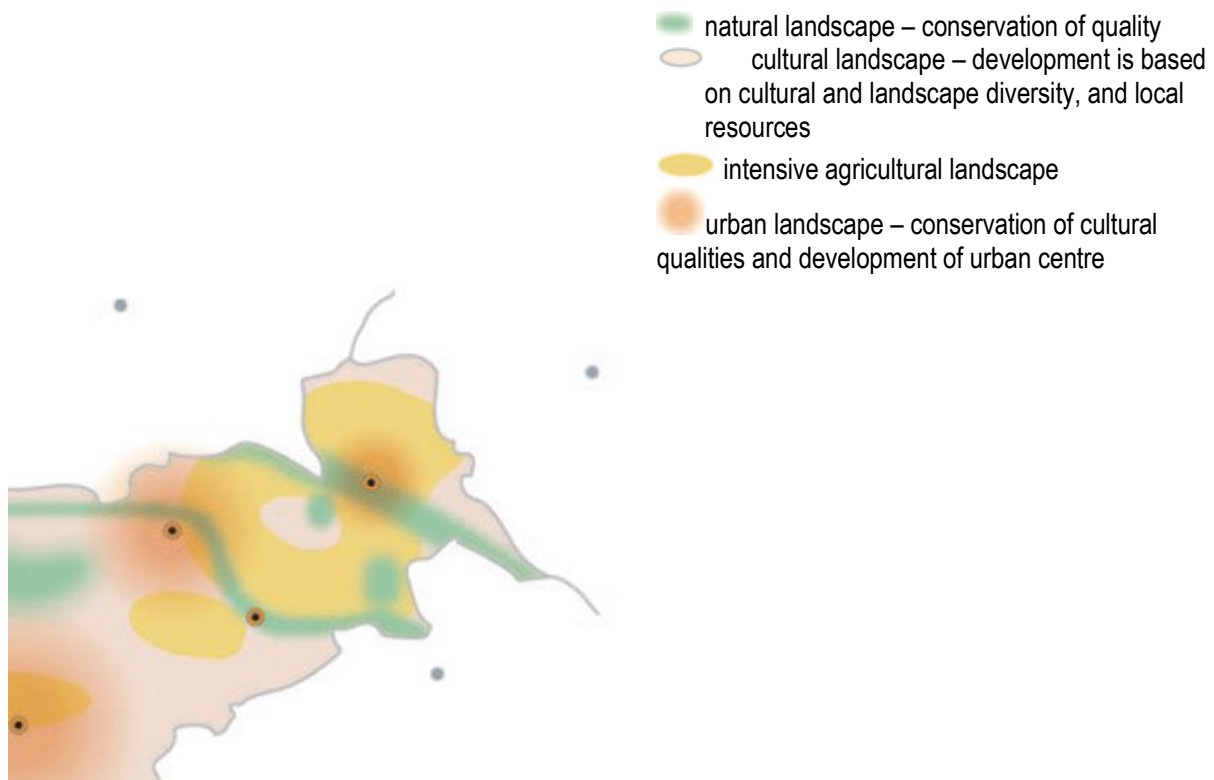
**Figure 5: Landscape macro regions and recognisable landscape areas of Slovenia –No.3: Pannonian landscape (Source: Spatial Development Strategy of Slovenia)**

The whole Pannonia plain area, with exception of natural protection oriented Drava and Mura river, is predominantly and naturally conditioned (accumulated river plains) intensive agricultural area. On those areas activities need to take into consideration underground water quality protection. On the other side, region is characterised with well preserved nature, especially in more distant, demographically abandoned and relief-wised not so favourable areas for agriculture, followed with slower economical development in past decades. Such areas are Goričko and other



close-to-border hilly areas. Goričko, rivers Drava, Dravinja and Mura are defined as national recognised areas with natural quality. Goričko is also protected natural area on the national level (Goričko Landscape Park). Due to its natural and landscape conditions, Drava and Mura river, with Pohorje and Goričko areas are core areas for free-time activities and development of soft (environment friendly) tourism.

Spatial Development Strategy of Slovenia defines types of landscape design. In the area of CBC programme, i.e. Pannonia region, the following needs to be taken into account: typical spatial structures based on the relief and exposition, vulnerability of underground water for pollution, especially from intensive agriculture; vulnerability of autochthonous vegetation and water ecosystems.



**Figure 6:** Landscape design of North-East Slovenia (Source: Spatial Development Strategy of Slovenia)

## Hungary

West-Pannonia's landscape has large woodlands in Zala and pleasing rises of Vas and carefully cultivated agricultural lands combined with cultural relics all over the region give the impression of a well-kept landscape. In geographical terms Zala County belongs to the Western-Hungarian-Rim (Nyugat-Magyarországi Peremvidék), composed of Zala-Hills and Kemeneshát geographical mezo regions, and small parts of Marcal-Pond, Balaton-Valley and Inner-Somogy. The real versatility is manifested in its 18 micro regions.

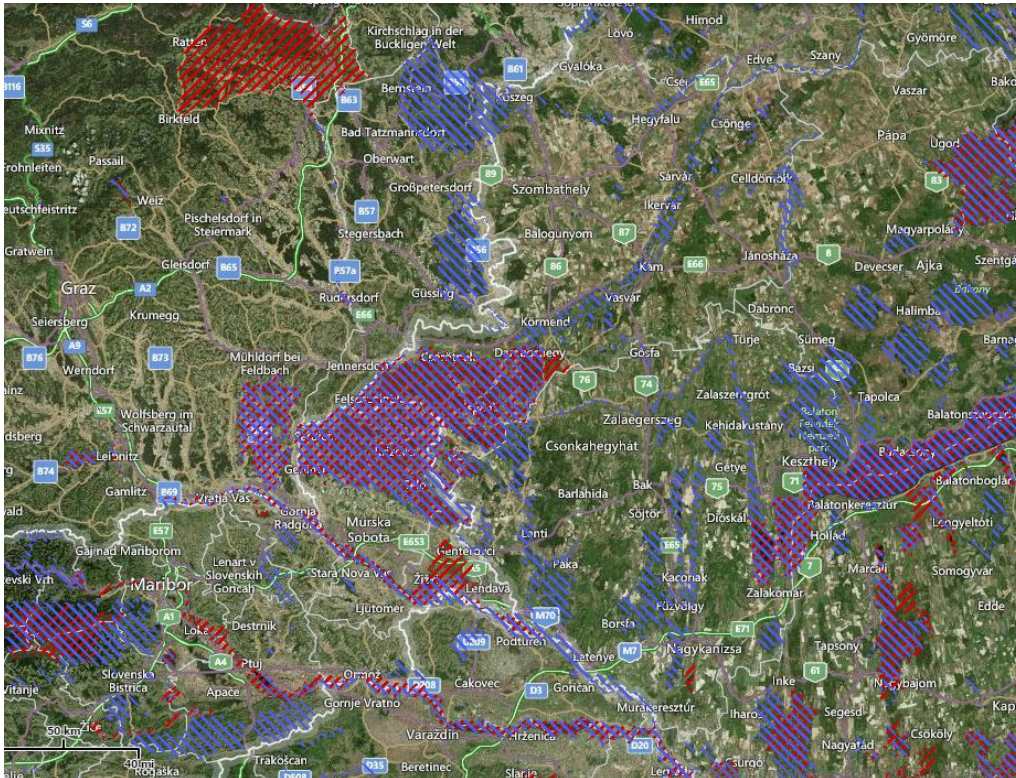
The dense streams network composed of Kerka, Cserta, Lower Válicka, Upper Válicka, Szépvíz, Principal Canal and Gyöngyöspatak and the two lakes Balaton and Kisbalaton are shaping the landscape of the lower parts of the county. In addition, along the valleys and streams a number of artificial fish ponds can be found. Alpokalja ("Feet of the Alps") is a geographic region in Vas County. Its highest point in Hungary is Írott-kő, with 882 metres. Although there are several lower mountains, the majority of the territory is hilly. Fir forests are characteristic to the region. Alpokalja contains two major, but not very extensive mountain range: the Kőszeg Mountains and the Sopron Mountains. The Vas Hills and Balfi Hills are also considered part of the territory. These are subalpine middle mountains like the Kőszegi Middle Mountain (Kőszegi Középheység) and slopply hills. Basalt cones looms of the Marcal-valley and the hills of Kemeneshát loom over their surroundings. Alpokalja is composed of altogether 5 geographical mezo-regions and 16 micro regions. Its contiguous pine forests, mountain beech forests and hays make a fascinating landscape.

The gravel-covered, sub-atlantic Pinka-plain with patches of pine and oak forests is mostly used as plough-land.

Thanks to the high rainfall of the area, the forest density in both Vas and Zala Counties are exceptionally high. The Gyöngyös-Plain (Gyöngyös-sík), Marcal-Valley, Rába-Plain, Felső-Zalavölgy, Kerka-vidék and Kemenesalja are dominated by hays and flood-land groves.

## Biodiversity

The entire programme area is rich in biodiversity, especially with wetland and water habitats. Goričko-Orseg area and Mura River are the two areas where Natura 2000 network is tightly knit across the border. The programme area is also important for biodiversity conservation on international level, as there are numerous areas that serve as resting areas or wintering areas for migratory bird species.



Source: <http://natura2000.eea.europa.eu/>

Figure 7: Natura 2000 areas in the programme area (red: SPA, violet: SCI)

## Slovenia

Slovenia is one of the countries with the greatest biodiversity in Europe as it represents one of the most important crossroads on the migration routes for several floristic elements and animal species. In terms of biodiversity, the Slovene part of the programme area is very specific as it presents the Pannonian flora and fauna which is in the North and the North-West mixed with the Alpine flora and fauna. On the national level this is the area with the highest share of wetlands and water habitats, and protected species bound to these habitats; some protected species can be found only in this part of Slovenia.

Total Natura 2000 area in Slovenia is 7.683 km<sup>2</sup> or 37 % of Slovene territory. 29 % of area is situated in protected areas. Slovenia has 354 Natura 2000 sites, of which 323 are registered as SCI sites according to Habitats directive and 31 SPA sites according to the Birds Directive. Goričko and Pohorje are among the larger areas of Natura 2000 on the national level and Drava and Mura rivers are among the rivers with most important nature conservation role. Mostly the municipalities in Podravje and Pomurje are rather small, and some of them have a large share of Natura 2000 sites: Gornji Petrovci, Grad, Hodoš, Kuzma, Rogašovci, Šalovci and Velika Polana are municipalities that are entirely included in Natura 2000 sites.

The Slovene part of programming area contains the following Natura 2000 sites:

- SPA: Goričko, Mura, Drava, Pohorje, Črete, Dravinjska dolina,
- SCI: Goričko, Mura, Drava, Zgornja Drava s pritoki, Pohorje, Obrež, Libanja, Središče ob Dravi – Hraščica, Radgonsko-Kapelske gorice, Boreci, Stanetinski in Kupetinski potok, Grabonoš, Osrednje Slovenske gorice, Dobrava, Juršinci, Podvinci, Velovlek, Vzhodni Kozjak, Rački ribniki –Požeg, Haloze – Vinorodne, Boč – Haloze – Donačka gora, Pragersko – marsiljka, Dravinja s pritoki, Velenik, Ličenca pri Poljčanah.

## Hungary

The flora and fauna of the region is multi-coloured and rich where the Pannonian and the alpine flora and fauna elements mix. The natural vegetation forms a large contiguous area of in the western border zone of Vas county. The proximity of the mountain mass of Alps and wetter climate has a strong impact. Closed forests still remained in the western, higher terrains, and the eastern alpine flora and fauna elements and associations dominate. The natural vegetation of the cooler and wetter landscape is typically made up of pine, beech, oak and chestnut forests.

In the west, north-west side Zala county characterised by a cooler and wetter climate beech, hornbeam and sessile oaks gained ground. The eastern and south-eastern areas having sub-Mediterranean climate character marks were favorable for the development of oak and hornbeam, as well as oak-ash-elm mixed forests. In Vas County the rivers, streams and creeks (eg. Raba, pink, Kerka) and large scale orchards, the botanic gardens, parks and protected alleys represent a significant value.

Chestnut tree had been the characteristic tree species in the Órség forests, but this natural vegetation can now only be found mostly in patches. The county is characterized by a agriculture and forestry dominated cultural landscape. The forested density of Vas county is 28,6%, well above the national average (20,6). Its avriable and colorful flora provides good life opportunities for wild animals. The region and especially the Zala Valley is a priority bird migration route, part of the national and European "bird highway." Other areas of the region is also a favourable habitat for one of the largest predatory bird of the country, the white-tailed eagle. The fishing lakes, peats, meadows and gravel pits are important waterfowl and wading bird habitats. In Fenékpuszta next to Keszthely (Zala County) there is one of the oldest, permanent bird ringing station.

From hunting aspects deer and wild boar populations, as well as - in smaller numbers - the deer and mouflon are the most important. The county has a variety of fishing lakes, 64 fishing sites located on 4,500 hectares.

On the Hungarian side of the border, there are about 40 Natura 2000 sites, including specific bird protection areas, nature conservation areas and wild waters. Natura 2000 areas in Zala County are specific bird protection areas, nature conservation areas as well as waters of international importance. These are:

- SPA: Mórchelyi-fish lakes, Balaton, Kis-Balaton, Órség;
- SCI: Zalaegerszegi Csácsi forest, Nagykapornaki forest, Remetekert;
- Nature conservation areas of high priority: Marcal-pool, Keszthelyi-mountains, Alsó Zala-valey, Nyugat-Göcsej, Vétyem, Mura-mente, Kerka--side, Szévíz-Principális, Oltárc, Felső Zala-valey, Kebele, Dél-zala hills, Csörnyeberek, Sárvíz-creek side, Balaton, Kis-Balaton, Órség.

In Vas county there are 15 Natura 2000 sites, one of them being a SPA, the others are SCI. Natura 2000 sites are: Pinka, Ostffyasszonyfa-Csöngé grassland, Kemenessömjén bush grassland, Kenyeri airport, Gérce tuff ring and marsh meadow, Rába and Csörnöc-valey, Ablánc-river valey, Gyöngyös-river and kőszegi Alsórét, Köles-hilltop, Kőszegi-hill, Öregcser, Órség priority nature conservation site, Órség specific bird protection site, Ság-hill and Váti exercise area. These sites are part of the Órség National Park.

The Registry of waters of international importance includes the Kis-Balaton Ramsar Site and the Lake Balaton Ramsar Site in Zala and the Raba Valey in Vas County.

## Natural heritage

As it was demonstrated above, the programme area is very rich in high biodiversity and there are several protected areas in the region. There is an already established good cooperation between the protected area managing authorities (Balaton Uplands National Park Directorate, Órség National Park Directorate and Goričko

Landscape Park). The most important protected area in the cooperation area is the trilateral Goričko – Őrség – Raab Nature Park, besides Írottkő Nature Park and Šturmovci Landscape Park.

## Slovenia

In Slovenia, protected areas are mostly overlapping Natura 2000 areas. The Landscape park Goričko is the largest protected area in Slovene part of the programming area, entailing a large share of Pomurska region. Goričko is protected on national level and has its own independent Management Authority and is playing an important role in cross-border development. There are numerous smaller protected areas which are mostly protected on local level and managed by the municipalities. Such protected areas are:

- Landscape parks Ljutomerski ribniki in Jeruzalemske gorice/ Jeruzalemsko - Ormoške gorice, Šturmovci (an important area for migratory birds), Rački ribniki – Požeg, Jareninski dol, Drava, Mariborsko jezero, Boč-Donačka gora,
- Nature reserve Ribniki Podvinci,
- Several nature monuments e.g. Stražun, Pekarska gorca etc. Some of them are part of landscape parks (Požeg).

In addition, there are numerous natural values in the Slovene part of the programme area. These are mostly smaller areas that are not protected by a decree, but have nevertheless high nature conservation status because of specific botanical, dendrological, zoological, ecosystem, hydrological, hydrogeological, geological or landscape characteristics.

Many of protected areas, mainly Goričko and Jeruzalemsko-Ormoške gorice are important tourist areas with developed agri-tourism (gastronomy, wine-tasting,...), cycling, horseriding tourism and nature-based/educational tourism. Pohorje is a large area focusing on skiing and hiking tourism and there are initiatives for its protection as a landscape park.

## Hungary

There are 2 national parks: Őrségi National Park and (a part of) Balaton-Upland National Park. In addition, there are 3 landscape protection areas:

- Mura-menti landscape protection area,
- Kőszegi landscape protection area and
- Sághegyi landscape protection area.

Nature conservation areas are a subset of Natura 200 areas, and are listed under this heading above. National parks and environmental-related authorities carried out extensive activities in the last 20 years in the field of protection, recovery, conservation, often in cooperation with each other. EU support helped these activities greatly, and resulted in a good and improving condition of protected areas. Some abuses were noted in these areas, for example like the large-scale intensive agricultural activities on the territory of Őrségi Nemzeti Park in 2011.

## Cultural heritage

### Slovenia

In the CBC programme area there are many **cultural heritage sites** (as it can be seen on the figure above) and Goričko Landscape Park as the biggest area of cultural heritage. Cultural heritage is of various types (archaeological sites, settlement heritage, sacred and profane objects) and has different regimes of protection, also numerous so called cultural monuments, cultural heritage of national importance. Some of them are:

- Grad (Goričko), Rakičan castle, Bathyani castle (Tišina), Matzenau castle (Prosenjakovci), Castle in Lendava (Graščina partizanska 9), Castle Betnava (Maribor)
- Zaselek Gaj (vineyard settlement; Prosenjakovci ), Uj' Tomazs (settlement, Lendavske gorice),
- City centre of Lendava, City centre of Gornja Radgona, Murska Sobota castle, City centre of Murska Sobota,
- numerous churches, secular settlement heritage and archaeological sites.

### Hungary

In the Hungarian part of the region there are 1083<sup>7</sup> cultural heritage sites (built environment) under national protection, 722 in Vas County and 361 in Zala County. Nationwide, the built heritage-rich Vas county is amongst counties with the richest cultural heritage. About 73% of the settlements of the county have cultural heritage sites, which is 3% higher than the national average. The local architecture is an important factor in shaping local identity of the communities and in some settlements like Koszeg, Szombathely it is a sound basis for tourism development.

The region was continuously inhabited from the stone ages, was an important part of the Pannonia Province of the Roman Empire, and always in the crossroads of different cultures. There was a flourishing baroque culture leaving behind a rich architectural heritage. Roman, gothic, baroque, neogothic churches, chapels, monasteries, castles and palaces, beautiful town halls as well as vine cellars and old land houses landmark the passing times. Szombathely (Savaria in the Roman Empire) is known as a baroque city with high cultural heritage value. The cultural heritage sites in Vas include among others the sites:

Bozsok	stone age archaeological site, Roman times water pipe, Sibric castle, remnants of the Batthyányi palace
Cák	Savaria Museum, row of ancient vine cellars
Bük	Szapáry castle complex dated back to 1696
Szombathely	Savaria founded by Claudius in 50 bc, part of the Amber road, ruins of Iseum, Baroque Temple Place, Bishop's Palace, County Hall
Ják	Roman style Szent György temple and Szent Jacab chapel from the XIII century,
Sárvár	Nádasdi Castle, Hatvany-Deutsch castle, Szent László temple with a school from 1535.
Körmend	Batthyányi Castle, late gothic Árpádházi Szent Erzsébet Chapel, Heiszig lodge
Celldömök	Holy Trinity Place, baroque temple (1747-48)
Vasvár	Baroque Domokos temple and monastery, late-baroque chapel on cemetery hill
Szentgotthárd	Nagyboldogasszony temple and monastery, Baroque garden, Brenner chapel, Mindenszentek temple, scythe factory (industrial heritage)
Hegyhátszentpéter	ancient house with original painted, carved wooden pediment
Órszentpéter	Szent Péter temple from Roman times, reformed church, ancient brickyard. Central site of Órség National Park.
Szalafő	Ethnographic collection and village museum at Pityerszer
Szarvaskend	protected vine cellars
Csepreg	Schöller castle, Rottermann castle, Kálvária temple, Szentkút temple, temple from the XIV century, archaeological site from the Roman times
Jánosháza	Archaeological site with urn tombs from the Bronze Age, Erdődy castle

The following cultural heritage sites are a sample from the rich cultural built heritage of Zala County:

Zalaegerszeg	Hűvös-Erdődy castle, baroque statues, several churches and chapels, town hall, watermill
Nagykanizsa	Batthyányi palace, Franciscan monastery, Grünhut house, Old synagogue, jewish cemetery, temples, archaeological site
Kehidakustány	Deák country house, churches, archaeological site
Keszthely	Festetics castle and mausoleum, Georgikon, Goldmark lodge, Immaculata statue, Prémontré monastery, several churches and temples, archaeological site
Zalalövő	Villa Publica archaeological site, land house, chapel
Egervár	castle, ancient vine cellar, Franciscan temple
Zalaszentgrót	Batthyány castle, Mittelmayer house, roman catholic churches, Holy Trinity statue
Nagykapornak	Benedictine monastery
Letenye	Szapáry-Andrássy castle, roman catholic churches
Vonyarcvashegy	Festetics vine cellar and press house, church and chapel:

## **Population and human health**

### **Hungary**

<sup>7</sup> www.muemlekem.hu

The latest census in Hungary (2011) highlighted the recent demographic trends all over Hungary.<sup>8,9</sup> For the eligible programme area the following conclusion can be drawn from the census:

- Between 2001 and 2011 the population decline continued in both counties, coupled with a higher than average degree of aging.
- The positive net migration over the past decade could not balance the population decrease resulting from difference between the number of births and deaths.

Population numbers and density show that the two counties are among smaller and more sparsely populated counties in Hungary:

- On 1 October 2011, the populations of Vas County and in Zala County were 256,629 and 282,179 respectively, representing 2.6 and 2.8% percent of Hungary's population, making them the third or fourth smallest county population in the country.
- On a national scale Vas County was the seventh, Zala County the sixth most sparsely populated area. The population density of the two counties were 76.9/km<sup>2</sup> and 74.6/km<sup>2</sup>.

Age distribution, number of men and women shows rather unfavourable condition:

- The active age population decreased in both counties between 2011 and 2011: in Vas County from 183.581 to 178.262 (2,9%), in Zala County from 202.606 to 194.132 (4,2%):
- A specific feature of small villages especially in the Trans-Danubian counties is the aging population.
- The age structure is less favorable than the national average in both counties. The number of elderly people per hundred children (called aging index) was 180 in Vas and 192 in Zala County. In regional comparison only in the capital, as well as Békés and Zala the index is higher than its Vas value. In comparison to Zala index value, only the capital (Budapest) has higher aging index.
- For one thousand men there lived 1073 women in Vas and 1099 in Zala County. These numbers are amongst the smallest in the country.
- Decreasing childbearing rate is characterises the region, number of children for 100 women was only 152 in each of the Counties.

#### Health situation

The health situation in the region can be characterised by the life expectancy. The life expectancy in the region rose similar to the life expectancy in the country in the last decade, and does not differ significantly from the country average.

Table 9: The life expectancy in Vas and Zala County in comparison with national average

County	Life expectancy end of 2010		
	men	women	difference
Vas County	70,71	78,51	7,8
Zala County	71,2	78,77	7,57
Hungary	70,93	78,23	7,3

About 4,2-4,4% of the population has some form of disabilities, about half of them were physically disabled. To this respect the share of men and women is approximately the same. Chronical illnesses are also a serious problem in the population, and the share of chronically ill people rises sharply with age. Because of the higher life expectancy of women and the rising frequency of chronical illnesses in the elder age groups, more women live with chronical illnesses than men. In Zala County about 48 thousand, in Vas County about 36 thousand people live with some form of chronical illnesses, representing 17 and 14 % of the relevant population.

Table 10: Statistical data on disabilities and chronical illnesses in Zala and Vas County

<sup>8</sup> 2011. ÉVI NÉPSZÁMLÁLÁS – Területi adatok – 3.18. Vas megye, KSH, 2013

<sup>9</sup> 2011. ÉVI NÉPSZÁMLÁLÁS – Területi adatok – 3.20. Zala megye, KSH, 2013

	Zala County <sup>10</sup>		Vas County <sup>11</sup>	
	number	percent of relevant population	number	percent of relevant population
men living with disabilities	6308	4,7%	5222	4,2%
woman living with disabilities	6789	4,6%	5502	4,1%
total	13097	4,6%	10724	4,2%
men chronically ill	19905	14,8%	15633	12,6%
woman chronically ill	28558	19,3%	20791	15,7%
total	48463	17,2%	36424	14,2%

There is an extensive family doctor scheme in Hungary, that should obligatory be visited before turning to the specialists or hospital departments. A survey in the main type of illnesses in 2010 showed<sup>5,6</sup> that the leading illnesses diagnosed by the family doctors are hypertonia, different type of heart diseases (ischaemia) and diabetes. The results of the survey are summarised below.

Table 11: Most common illnesses in Vas and Zala County

Patients more than 19 years old	Vas County		Zala County	
	occurrence	share	occurrence	share
Hypertonia (I10-I15)	77 375	42,0%	89278	41,3%
Ischaemia (I20-I25)	30 292	16,4%	31263	14,5%
Diabetes mellitus (E10-E14)	24896	13,5%	25870	12,0%
Osteoporosis (M80-M85)	11 716	6,4%	14047	6,5%
Cerebrovascular illnesses (I60-I69)	10 784	5,9%	18426	8,5%
Malignant tumor (C00-C97)	8 399	4,6%	10316	4,8%

### **Cross-border issues**

The CP SI-HU area characterised by quite good environmental conditions. The key issues identified in the scoping phase were again recognised as the most important one in the context of cross-border issues:

The following key aspects with cross-border impact have been identified in the program area CP SI-HU:

- **management of Natura 2000 sites and protected areas:** there are cross-border areas of preserved nature and natural heritage and cooperation for its protection and sustainable management has been established in the past; probably the most known example is Goričko-Orseg protected area, including its cooperation with Raaba in Austria. It is important to keep and further strengthen the coordinated nature conservation; this will help to keep high levels of biodiversity, ensure green corridors for migration of species, provide natural areas for recreation, education and related tourism and will thus also positively affect the quality of life. Some of the supported actions could also have negative impact on these areas and biodiversity in general.
- **preservation of cultural heritage:** the programme area has many historic sites and is historically connected. Moreover, it is known for its cultural richness and diversity. This in turn also contributes to the development of tourism in the area.
- **Water quality and water management:** there are no major rivers flowing across the border, but the area has been affected by increasing occurrence of floods. Moreover, changes in water table can affect agriculture and other economic activities, and further pollution could threaten provision of safe drinking water. Geothermal resources are important for the development of tourism. Streams and rivers have been affected by changing water regime and construction of various types of infrastructure (irrigation, flood protection, transport). Both water quantity and quality are a cross-border issue that might be influenced by the supported activities, with both positive and negative effects.

The programme area is rich in water resources and there are shared surface waters and groundwater tables. As a result it is important to keep these resources abundant and prevent their degradation and deterioration. This

<sup>10</sup> KSH, Területi adatok\_Zala megye, A fogyatékossgal élők és a tartósan betegek, korcsoport és nemek szerint, 2011

<sup>11</sup> KSH, Területi adatok\_Vas megye, A fogyatékossgal élők és a tartósan betegek, korcsoport és nemek szerint, 2011

includes geothermal resources, important for development of tourism (wellness and spa centres) and agriculture (e.g. heating of greenhouses). Communities along surface waters (natural streams, canals) could jointly work on awareness raising and water-related tasks under their jurisdiction. Similar goes for state institutions with jurisdiction over water management; their cooperation is important also for increasing feasibility of activities foreseen in RBMPs on local level.

The programme area is rich in biodiversity and there are cross-border Natura 2000 sites and protected areas, such as Goričko-Orszeg cross-border protected area. To keep biodiversity at such high level, it is essential to establish good management and sustainable use of these areas. There are already good examples of cooperation in the field of nature protection on which it is possible to build further activities. High levels of biodiversity and rich natural heritage are also a factor contributing to quality of life and provide opportunities for local income from sustainable tourism. Similarly, rich cultural heritage of the programme area also contributes to quality of life and provides opportunities for local income from sustainable tourism.

The programme area is not well connected by public transport, thus the mobility and accessibility rely heavily on use of cars. Improved public transport is an important factor of quality of life as well as accessibility of natural and cultural heritage. The latter is important in the view of CP SI-HU ambition to stimulate the development of sustainable tourism that is largely based on heritage of the area.

**p) Areas under various types of protection**

There are numerous areas with special protection regimes, however, we have not shown them on one map due to the large amounts of data. In the program area are some types of such sites:

- Water protection zones (for protection of the quality of water),
- Flood areas,
- Natura 2000 sites,
- Protected Areas,
- Natural values (in Slovenia) and Environmentally Sensitive Areas (in Slovenia),
- Protective forests and forest reserves,
- buildings and areas of cultural heritage.

**q) Trends and likely evolution of the environmental baseline**

Baseline trends without implementation of the programme are presented as the “zero alternative” in the chapter on alternatives.



## 4. Assessment of potential impacts of the programme

### r) Overview on the impacts of the programme on the environment

The likely significant effects on the environment were assessed on different levels:

- on strategic level (consideration of environmental objectives in the development of the Programme)
- by priority axis/specific objectives,
- by potential projects (types of supported activities).

We have reviewed the proposed activities to be supported by the CP SI-HU and have prepared recommendations. The impacts were assessed on the following basis:

- Whether they are positive or negative,
- Whether they are direct or indirect,
- Magnitude and spatial extent,
- reversibility,
- potential cumulative and synergistic effects.

On the strategic level, the CP SI-HU is largely intended to support activities aimed at improving the state of the environment, i.e. directly or indirectly by supporting activities which depend on quality environment (tourism). The priority axis 1/investment priority 6c focuses on this and the largest percentage of funds have been allocated for it. The high concentration of projects aimed at the development of sustainable tourism related to natural and cultural heritage can lead to an increase in visitors which, in the case of inadequate management of visits, can lead to negative effects on the natural heritage (e.g. damage on certain habitats, withdrawal of certain animal species into more quiet areas, etc.). Nevertheless, the tourist activities are going to largely build on existing tourist activities and the natural and cultural heritage, therefore it is expected that the development will be balanced with the natural and cultural characteristics of the area.

Priority axis 2 with its projects for the exchange of experience, best practice, joint management and capacity building (territorial objective 11) can improve the understanding of environmental contents, environmental processes and legal requirements, as well as procedures in the field of the state of the environment. Moreover, it can improve cooperation and exchange of experience and data in the field of environmental protection and jointly improve management of environmental risks. Negative effects on the environment are unlikely, since the envisaged activities do not comprise cooperation in the fields with significant negative effects on the environment.

Priority axis 3 involves technical assistance, which will play an important role in determining to what extent activities within the framework of the first 2 priority axes will contribute to achieving the programme and environmental objectives. The Managing Authority can predominantly contribute to the environmental performance of the programme on two levels: with suitably designed criteria for the selection of projects and timely monitoring of the effects and results of programme implementation. The latter can depend on the annual reporting on progress and ongoing evaluations; however, timely adaptation of the programme to support those aspects of implementation which successfully support the preservation or improve the state of the environment will be important, also in order to avoid potential negative effects on the environment.

According to the legislation, services for heritage protection (protection of cultural heritage, nature conservation) should be included in heritage restoration and investment projects, so all investments in heritage should be aligned with the protection requirements. Services for heritage protection (Institute for Nature Protection and Institute for Cultural Heritage Protection in Slovenia, relevant authorities in Hungary) and inspection services therefore play an important role in licensing procedures and controls. Similar goes for any cooperation in the field of water management, where the Environment Agency of Slovenia and The West-transdanubian Water Directorate are institutions providing guidelines and setting the requirements. An assessment of potential environmental effects by potential projects (on the basis of activities listed in CP) is shown in the table below.

Table 12: Potential environmental effects of potential projects, based on types of supported actions.

Type of action	Environmental effects description	Environmental effects characteristics	Time horizon
<b>TO 6c</b>			
Trainings and capacity building for the local entrepreneurs and/or employees in developing relevant skills related to tourism (language courses, study visits, trainings, conferences, etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• awareness raising - more sustainable action due to improved knowledge,</li> <li>• more sustainable investments,</li> <li>• more sustainable use of heritage</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Indirect effects</li> <li>• Possible positive effects</li> <li>• Cumulative and synergistic effects</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Short-, mid- and long term</li> </ul>
Jointly developed plans and strategies for the sustainable utilization of cultural and natural heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved promotion of heritage, based on its sustainable use</li> <li>• more sustainable investments</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Indirect effects</li> <li>• Possible positive effects</li> <li>• Cumulative and synergistic effects</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• mid- and long term</li> </ul>
Small scale investments regarding sustainable utilization of cultural and natural heritage and promotion of environmental friendly technologies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use of heritage aligned with its conservation objectives</li> <li>• Use of environmental friendly technologies to enhance positive effects on heritage and decrease negative effects</li> <li>• more sustainable investments</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• direct and indirect effects</li> <li>• Possible positive effects</li> <li>• Risk of negative effects in case of exceeding no. of visitors</li> <li>• Cumulative and synergistic effects</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Short-, mid- and long term</li> </ul>
Small scale renovation / revitalisation and conservation of cultural and natural heritage, as part of jointly developed touristic products, in order to ensure their preservation and for increasing their touristic value	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use of heritage aligned with its conservation objectives</li> <li>• Improved presentation and promotion of heritage</li> <li>• more sustainable investments</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• direct and indirect effects</li> <li>• Possible positive effects</li> <li>• Risk of negative effects in case of exceeding no. of visitors</li> <li>• Cumulative and synergistic effects</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Short-, mid- and long term</li> </ul>
Improving accessibility to cultural and natural heritage sites as part of joint tourism measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved accessibility, presentation and promotion of heritage</li> <li>• In case of roads, potential negative impacts on soil, habitats, water, landscape and amenity value of locations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• direct and indirect effects</li> <li>• Possible positive effects in terms of accessibility, promotion</li> <li>• Possible negative effects in terms of build-up and degradation</li> <li>• Cumulative and synergistic effects</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• mid- and long term</li> </ul>

Type of action	Environmental effects description	Environmental effects characteristics	Time horizon
Joint awareness raising for the touristic potential of the local natural and cultural resources (dödölle, pumpkin seeds oil, NATURA2000 sites etc.) on both sides of the border	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>awareness raising - more sustainable action,</li> <li>more sustainable use of heritage</li> <li>increased use of heritage</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Indirect effects</li> <li>Possible negative effects in case of overuse</li> <li>Cumulative and synergistic effects</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Short-, mid- and long term</li> </ul>
Regional cross-border cooperation in tourism destination management, development of regional trademark and quality management systems, common branding and promotion, joint organization and participation in fairs and exhibitions, transfer of know-how, etc.	No impact except positive impact in case of inclusion of heritage (e.g. as added value for branding, promotion,...)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Indirect effects</li> <li>Cumulative and synergistic effects</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>mid- and long term</li> </ul>
Support for diversification of quality cross-border tourism services offered in the area – promotion and support for bike tourism and related services (development and posting of cross-border thematic biking routes, biking tourism related services – as bike rentals etc.), for hiking, equestrian and water tourism (designation and promotion of cross-border thematic routes, service development), and complementary services to wine, gastronomy, cultural and health tourism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>potential positive impact in case of inclusion of heritage (e.g. as added value for branding, promotion,...)</li> <li>potential negative impacts on soil, habitats, water, landscape and amenity value of locations in case of overuse or improper use</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Indirect and direct effects</li> <li>Possible positive effects on heritage</li> <li>Possible negative effects in case of overuse</li> <li>Cumulative and synergistic effects</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>mid- and long term</li> </ul>
Joint development of new, innovative touristic products and services (accommodation and catering services, development of joint standards of quality in touristic services, etc.)	No impact except positive impact in case of inclusion of heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Indirect effects</li> <li>Cumulative and synergistic effects</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>mid- and long term</li> </ul>
Improvement of the usage of modern (communication) tools and promotion activities	No impact except positive impact in case of promotion of heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Indirect effects</li> <li>Cumulative and synergistic effects</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>mid- and long term</li> </ul>
Establishment of clusters oriented towards the creation and development of sustainable tourist products and services	Possibly positive impact on heritage and natural resource use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Indirect effects</li> <li>Cumulative and synergistic effects</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>mid- and long term</li> </ul>

Type of action	Environmental effects description	Environmental effects characteristics	Time horizon
<b>TO 11</b>			
Exchange of experience, empowerment, advocacy and capacity building for cross-border cooperation in different fields, as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>environmental protection, energy efficiency, renewable energy, accessibility,</li> <li>social services (social innovation), healthcare,</li> <li>urban management and planning, regional development, accessibility – harmonization of cross-border public transport</li> <li>civil protection and common risk prevention and management etc.</li> <li>cultural cooperation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Possibly positive impact on heritage</li> <li>Improved natural resource use and its benchmarking</li> <li>more sustainable practices</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Indirect effects</li> <li>Cumulative and synergistic effects</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>mid- and long term</li> </ul>
Exchange of know-how and best practices, institutional cooperation in order to improve the cross-border mobility of the work force in the programme area and increase the access to employment and training (e.g.: language courses)	No impact except indirect impact in case of improved public transport mobility (though this is highly unlikely to be promoted at the same time as the mobility of the workforce)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Indirect effects</li> <li>Cumulative and synergistic effects</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>mid- and long term</li> </ul>
Collaborations on the level of civil society, exchange of best practices and capacity building of NGOs (workshops, seminars etc.), promotion of voluntary activities	No impact except positive impact in case of exchange of experience on efficient use of natural resources and heritage conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Indirect effects</li> <li>Cumulative and synergistic effects</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>mid- and long term</li> </ul>
Cross-border cooperation in the field of education, exchange of experiences; vocational trainings, vocational orientation, lifelong learning, education for people with special needs etc.	No impact except positive impact in case of exchange of experience on education and trainings in the field of sustainable development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Indirect effects</li> <li>Cumulative and synergistic effects</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>mid- and long term</li> </ul>

### s) Overview on the impacts of the environmental objectives/sustainability criteria

The following table presents the assessment of impacts on environmental objectives of individual environmental issues. Overall, the CP SI-HU Programme will have a beneficial effect on the environment, including conservation of biodiversity as a natural resource and natural heritage. However, on the basis of precautionary principle the worst-case approach has to be taken when deciding the overall impact on an environmental objective. As a result, it was assessed that the CP SI-HU Programme will have a significant negative effect on the Natural Heritage, thus mitigation measures are required.

Table 13: Assessment of impacts on key environmental issues and environmental objectives.

Issue	Environment-al Objective	Description of the Effects	TO		Total grade
			6c	11	
Preserved and well managed natural resources	Maintained diversity of species and natural habitats	<p>Biodiversity will be predominantly affected by projects and activities supported by intervention priority 6c. Within the framework of intervention priority 6c, the CP SI-HU supports joint strategic planning of areas with high biodiversity (in the context of natural heritage), small scale investments regarding sustainable utilization of cultural and natural heritage, improving accessibility to cultural and natural heritage sites, awareness raising on sustainable use of natural resources and similar, which can have a positive effect on the preservation of biodiversity.</p> <p>A negative effect of such activities can occur in the case of inappropriate siting of infrastructure for improving accessibility and demonstration/education. The scale of such type of investment is too small to have a significant impact on biodiversity in general. Overuse of an area due to excessive number of visitors or poor visitors' management can also have a negative effect on biodiversity, however, it is highly unlikely that the numbers of visitors will increase to such extent.</p> <p>The potential for negative impact on biodiversity within the investment priority 11 is negligible, since the projects will be mostly focused on the activities of local communities in built environment (villages, urban areas). In the event that any selected project will be focused on exchange of experience, empowerment, advocacy and capacity building for cross-border cooperation in biodiversity protection or collaboration, exchange of best practices and capacity building for biodiversity conservation and management, investment priority 11 could have a positive impact, but probably only visible in the long term.</p>	B	A	B
	favourable condition of Natura 2000 network	<p>Similar conclusions apply as for the biodiversity. In general, the intervention priority 6c will predominantly have a positive effect on the preservation of Natura 2000 sites in favourable condition, however, a negative effect can occur in the case of inappropriate siting of infrastructure or an excessive number of visitors and/or poor visitors' management. Mitigation measures are required to ensure appropriate siting and visitors' management of projects focusing on infrastructure and development of tourism in Natura 2000 sites.</p> <p>The potential for negative impact on biodiversity within the investment priority 11 is negligible, but there could be long-term positive effects in case some of selected projects will focus on Natura 2000 management (see above explanation of impacts on biodiversity).</p>	C	A	C
	Improved water management	<p>The investment priority 6c focuses on sustainable tourism, heritage and sustainable natural resources management, thus supported projects are likely to contribute to an increased care for waters. The projects focusing on transport infrastructure for improved accessibility for tourism may affect the waters (their natural flow, river banks), however, the projects are likely be on a scale that is small enough not to cause significant negative effects.</p>	B	A	B

Issue	Environment -al Objective	Description of the Effects	TO		Total grad e
			6 c	1 1	
		The potential for negative impact of the investment priority 11 on waters is negligible. However, within this investment priority some of the projects might focus on exchange of experience and capacity building for cross-border cooperation in environmental protection, civil protection and common risk prevention and management, and that could have long-term positive effects on water quality and flood management.			
<b>Preserved and enhanced heritage</b>	Favourable condition of natural heritage (Protected Areas, Natural Values etc.)	For the effects of all intervention priorities the same applies as for the environmental objective "favourable condition of Natura 2000 network". The development of sustainable forms of tourism related to natural heritage may contribute to its preservation and raising awareness on its existence and role. Inappropriate siting of infrastructure for improving accessibility and demonstration/education can have a negative effect of such activities. It is possible that the number of visitors would increase, which can lead to negative effects in the case of excessive number of visitors or poor visitors' management, however, this is rather unlikely. Nevertheless, mitigation measures are needed to avoid potential negative impact. Moreover, in Slovenia a permit of the Ministry responsible for nature conservation is needed for any arrangements for viewing and visiting of of natural values. The exception are the Management Authorities of a protected area in which the natural value is located. The potential for negative impact on natural heritage within the investment priority 11 is negligible, but there could be long-term positive effects in case some of selected projects will focus on natural heritage (see above explanation of impacts on biodiversity).	C	A	C
	Favourable condition of cultural heritage (both objects and areas)	The intervention priority 6c comprises activities which will lead to an improved preservation, presentation and promotion of cultural heritage. Moreover, some of the projects supported by investment priority 11 will be in the field of joint cultural heritage. An increased number of visitors is possible, but it is supposed to have insignificant negative impact on cultural heritage. The projects may contribute to the preservation of cultural heritage and raising awareness on its existence.	B	A	B

For cultural heritage, responsible institutions are obliged to provide guidance for projects entailing renovation of cultural heritage and other projects with possible effects on cultural heritage. It is stipulated that these guidance measures, along with inspection services, should ensure suitable implementation of renovation and consequently cultural heritage conservation.

### **Cumulative and synergistic effects**

Cumulative effects may occur within the framework of implementing priority axis 1/investment priority 6c, i.e. when a larger number of projects is implemented in a certain protected area (Natura 2000 sites, protected areas) or on a natural heritage site. On the one hand, effects can be negative if the projects together lead to a substantial increase of visitors and the use of this area, which could cause a worsening of the state of habitats and populations of qualifying or protected plant and animal species. On the other hand, effects can also be positive if, by using financed projects, the management of visitors is improved and infrastructure for visitors is arranged in a manner which decreases the pressure on protected areas and natural heritage, and increases the awareness of the visitors.

We have assessed that synergistic effects will occur during the implementation of the CP SI-HU and other ESI Funds programmes due to certain similarities between their contents. We can expect that beneficiaries within the framework of the CP SI-HU will, for the most part, create joint strategies, management plans, products and services which they will be able to implement in certain cases by using the available funds within the framework of other ESI Funds programmes, especially funds from the ESF for the trainings of certain target groups (SMEs,

minorities, vulnerable groups) , funds of the Cohesion Fund for environmental protection and risk management, funds of the EARDF for for development of non-agricultural activities in rural areas etc. Synergistic effects can especially be expected in combination with activities supported by Community-led Local Development (CLLD).

Correspondingly, synergistic effects will occur during the implementation of the CP SI-HU and other strategies and programmes on the national level, e.g. National Reform Programme of Slovenia and National Reform Programme 2014 of Hungary, River Basin Management Plans in both countries, Natura 2000 Management Programme for Slovenia 2014-2020 and similar.

In all of the cases, the possibility for significant cumulative effects is very small, since the number of financed programmes will also be small. In addition, potential cumulative effects, as well as synergistic effects, will occur over a longer period of time which exceeds the period of programme implementation.

#### t) Assessment of reasonable alternatives

CP SI-HU was prepared on a very strategic level, as it forms a framework to support projects with a very wide range of fields. It is therefore possible to create alternatives at the level of decision on investment priorities and the allocation of resources among them. We discussed two alternatives:

- the so-called zero alternative, ie the situation in the program area, if the CP SI-HU is not performed,
- CP SI-HU focused on the thematic objectives 8 instead of 6, as strengthening support for the SMEs was discussed at the Task Force meetings.

The results of the analysis of alternatives are shown in the next table.

Table 14: Comparison of impact of selected alternatives

Environmental Objective	Alternative	
	Zero Alternative	CP SI-HU with Thematic Objectives 8 and 11
Maintained diversity of species and natural habitats favourable condition of Natura 2000 network	Biodiversity and a favourable state of the network of Natura 2000 sites would be preserved within the framework of the prescribed procedures and with the help of national programmes and resources available within the framework of operational programmes for the ESI Funds and centralised programmes, such as LIFE+. Goričko-Orseg protected area would probably be the most successful in acquiring regional development funding from ERDF and funding from centralised programmes. In comparison with the implementation of the CP SI-HU, in the event of Zero Alternative there would be fewer activities for development of nature-based tourism (educational tourism and similar) and slightly fewer activities for the preservation, promotion and raising awareness on biodiversity, protected and endangered plant species and animal species and the role of Natura 2000 sites and protected areas.	The situation is very similar as with the Zero Alternative, since the programme would not specifically support activities related to the preservation of nature. Projects supported by TO 8 could support the development of SMEs that would be active in the field of nature conservation and nature-based tourism, however, it is likely that there would be very few of them. Some activities supported by TO 11 that would be based on enhancing cooperation and raising awareness in the field of environmental protection could contribute to the environmental objectives in the field of biodiversity. However, the overall direct contribution would be very small and visible in the long term.
Improved water management	The improvement in water management would be based on planning and implementing the River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs). In comparison with the implementation of the CP SI-HU, in the event of Zero Alternative there would be fewer activities for exchange of experience, know-how, capacity building and dissemination and the RBMPs would be implemented in a more separate way, thus risking to be less effective. Similar goes for flood risk management.	The situation is similar as with the implementation of CP SI-HU, except that the effects would be slightly smaller: while CP SI-HU with TO 6 supports development of sustainable tourism which also depends on quality and quantity of waters (thus making the stakeholders interested in ensuring water management), the TO 8 would provide support for a wide range of SMEs that would not necessarily rely on water resources. It is assessed that potential negative impact of SMEs on water

Environmental Objective	Alternative Zero Alternative	CP SI-HU with Thematic Objectives 8 and 11
		resources would be negligible because of the long-term effects of the supported projects and the scope of possibilities which such a programme would offer. The effect of programme implementation on waters would be so small that it would not significantly negatively affect the environmental objective.
Favourable condition of natural heritage (Protected Areas, Natural Values etc.)	Similar as in case of biodiversity and Natura 2000, natural heritage would be preserved within the framework of the prescribed procedures and with the help of national programmes and resources available within the framework of operational programmes for the ESI Funds and international financial resources and donations. In comparison with the implementation of the CP SI-HU, in the event of Zero Alternative there will be slightly fewer activities for the preservation of different forms of natural heritage.	The situation is very similar as with the Zero Alternative, since the programme would not specifically support activities connected with the preservation of natural heritage. Projects supported within the framework of the TO 11 which will, in terms of content, be based on exchange of experience, joint management, exchange of know-how and raising awareness in the field of protection of natural heritage would contribute to the environmental objective. However, their direct contribution would be very small and visible in the long term.
Favourable condition of cultural heritage (both objects and areas)	Cultural heritage is preserved within the framework of the prescribed procedures and with the help of national programmes and resources which are available within the framework of operational programmes for the ESI Funds and international financial resources (e.g. the Norwegian Financial Mechanism in Slovenia). In comparison with the implementation of the CP SI-HU, in the event of Zero Alternative there will be slightly fewer activities for the preservation of different forms of cultural heritage.	The situation is very similar as with the Zero Alternative, since the programme would not specifically support activities connected with preservation of cultural heritage. Projects supported within the framework of the TO 11 which will, in terms of content, be based on exchange of experience, joint management, exchange of know-how and raising awareness in the field of protection of cultural heritage would contribute to the environmental objective. However, their direct contribution would be very small and visible in the long term.

Selected CP SI-HU is from an environmental point of view slightly more suitable than the alternatives analysed as it includes thematic objective 6 Maintaining and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency, which supports the co-financing of projects directly intended to protect heritage (investment priority 6c). However, the difference between the impacts of CP SI-HU and the two alternatives is very small.

#### u) Transboundary impacts

The CP SI-HU will be implemented in a cross-border context and will therefore have transboundary impacts on the environment. However, these are going to be positive as it will stimulate joint management of Natura 2000 and protected areas, exchange of knowledge and experience, cooperation in development of sustainable tourist products and services and cross-border dissemination and awareness raising on various environmental issues. As a result, it is expected that the transboundary impacts will be positive.



## 5. Mitigation measures and timeline for their implementation

Mitigation measures are needed for projects aimed at developing infrastructure and services for promotion and development of tourism in areas with high biodiversity, such as Natura 2000 sites and protected areas. The following two mitigation measures were suggested:

- Justification of infrastructure investments in terms of location and design in cases when they deal with or affect natural heritage and/or areas of cultural heritage. The proposed requirement would ensure that the siting is well considered in terms of important aspects of heritage and landscape. For example, siting of roads, footpaths or visitors' infrastructure should be justified in case it affects natural and/or cultural heritage.
- Description of visitors' management as part of application for projects to be funded from investment priority 6c that are focused on activities that would promote visits to natural heritage and areas of cultural heritage. With strong promotion of heritage, there is a risk of negative impacts of large number of visitors (noise, habitat destruction through uncontrolled behaviour, decreased amenity value). This could be avoided by planning visitors management in advance, when projects are prepared.

Considering the estimated size of projects, the eligible share of infrastructure and current levels of visitors to Natura 2000 sites and Protected Areas, this risk of negative impacts is very low, but should nevertheless be accounted for and avoided by taking the mitigation measures described above.

The Managing Authority and the Joint Technical Secretariat are in charge of the implementation of both mitigation measures in the phase of tender preparation. The Managing Authority and the Joint Technical Secretariat should also monitor the performance of the implementation within the framework of monitoring the effects and results of the supported projects.

## 6. The SEA monitoring and follow-up measures

### v) Environmental indicators

Environmental indicators for following the impacts of CP SI-HU on the environment are shown in the table below. They were selected from the existing systems for environmental monitoring.

Table 15: Environmental indicators for assessment of impacts of CP SI-HU implementation on the environment

Issue	Environmental Objective	Environmental Indicators	Justification
Preserved and well managed natural resources	Maintained diversity of species and natural habitats	The state of habitat types in the area where infrastructure, supported within the framework of intervention priority 6c of the CP SI-HU programme, will be implemented.	<p>We have assumed that the majority of protected species and priority habitat types are protected within the framework of the network of Natura 2000 sites and protected areas.</p> <p>The indicator can be monitored by using the assessment of the state of qualifying species and habitat types (see explanation for the below indicator). In addition, it has been envisaged that, within projects focusing on certain characteristics of Natura 2000 sites or protected sites, monitoring of selected protected species and/or certain habitat types will take place; however, it is likely that there will be very few such projects.</p> <p>The indicator is aimed at the implementation of intervention priority 6c, since within this investment we expect the biggest (presumably positive) effects. The impact of projects financed under TO 11 will be negligibly small; therefore, it would not be sensible to monitor the indicator for projects supported under that TO.</p> <p>It will be difficult to separate the influence of the CP SI-HU projects from the influence of other programmes, especially from rural development programmes (agricultural environmental climate measures) and possible larger national or regional projects. Moreover, the effects on habitats and species usually show with a considerable time lag. Therefore, it will be important to put the indicator into the context within the framework of evaluation.</p>
	favourable condition of Natura 2000 network	The state of qualifying species and habitat types of Natura 2000 sites where projects, supported with the funds of the CP SI-HU, will be implemented.	<p>The indicator can be monitored by using the assessment of the state of listed species and habitat types within the framework of monitoring the implementation of the Birds Conservation Directive and Habitats Directive. The indicator can be monitored every 6 years, when the analysis is performed and a report is prepared for the implementation of both Directives. The last reporting took place in 2013 and the next will take place in 2019. Therefore, it will be possible to use the data within the framework of monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the CP SI-HU. The data for the Natura 2000 sites in which projects financed under TO 6 will be implemented should be analysed (see the explanation above).</p> <p>It will be difficult to separate the influence of the CP SI-HU projects from the influence of other programmes, especially from rural development programmes (agricultural environmental climate measures) and possible larger national or regional projects. Moreover, the effects on habitats and species usually show with a considerable time lag. Therefore, it will be important to put the indicator into the context within the framework of evaluation.</p>

Issue	Environmental Objective	Environmental Indicators	Justification
	Improved water management	The quality of groundwater in aquifers in areas where projects concerning water management, supported within the framework of the CP SI-HU, will take place	The indicator can be monitored within the framework of monitoring the state of waters for reporting on the implementation of the Water Framework Directive. In Slovenia, the indicator is monitored on the national level by the Slovenian Environmental Agency within the framework of the system of indicators of the state of the environment. The indicator is especially important for following the use of geothermal resources and availability of groundwater for drinking water supply.
		The chemical and ecological state of surface waters in areas where projects concerning water management, supported within the framework of the CP SI-HU, will take place	The indicator focuses on aquifers and surface waters in areas where individual projects are implemented in order to cover their effects more easily. Nevertheless, it will be difficult to separate the effects of the CP SI-HU projects on the water quality from the effects of implementation of other projects and programmes (especially River Basin Management Plans and Cohesion Fund, etc.). Therefore, it will be important to put the indicator into the context within the framework of evaluation.
		Number of people affected by floods	The indicator could show the impact of exchange of experience and joint prevention and protection planning for flood protection. However, it will be difficult to separate the effects of the CP SI-HU projects on the water quality from the effects of implementation of other projects and programmes (especially River Basin Management Plans and Cohesion Fund, etc.). Thus the indicator should be followed through project reporting and environmental monitoring only for the areas in which the projects financed by CP SI-HU will be implemented.
Preserved and enhanced heritage	favourable condition of natural heritage (Protected Areas, Natural Values etc.)	The state of natural heritage in the areas of implementation of individual projects, supported with the funds of the CP SI-HU programme.	The indicator can be monitored within the framework of reporting on the implementation of individual projects, i.e. those projects which intervene with the natural heritage or are implemented in areas thereof.
	favourable condition of cultural heritage (both objects and areas)	The number and the state of objects and areas in which projects, supported with the funds of the CP SI-HU, will be implemented.	The indicator can be monitored within the framework of reporting on the implementation of individual projects, i.e. those projects which intervene with the cultural heritage or are implemented in areas thereof.

#### w) Provisions for an environmental monitoring system

The impact of implementation of CP SI-HU on the environment should be monitored using the proposed indicators in the framework of evaluation: it is suggested that it is implemented for the first time in 2017 or at latest in 2019, and then again at the wrap-up of the implementation of the programme. This will also provide feedback whether any adjustments of implementation need to be made and will facilitate the planning for the next programming period.

## 7. Conclusions and Recommendations

Overall, the implementation of CP SI-HU is likely to have very little negative impact on the environment and quite significant positive impact. Among the positive effects worth mentioning is the coordinated management of nature conservation areas and care for heritage. In most cases, the negative effects are likely to be so small that they will be insignificant. Moreover, most of the co-financed projects will have environmental impacts that will be visible only on mid- to long term.

The following recommendations were proposed in order to further reduce the negative impacts and strengthen the positive impact we present the following recommendations:

- Results of monitoring of environmental indicators and achievement of objectives should be publicly available on the website of CP SI-HU,
- Projects that involve natural and cultural heritage should include a dissemination plan that will (among other) target also local population and other similar heritage sites in wider region (Slovenia, Hungary, Austria and Croatia),
- Projects that involve natural and cultural heritage should ensure sustainability of results; this should be checked at the end of the project.

The only exceptions in terms of significant impacts are the effects on the Natura 2000 species and habitat types in the event of inappropriately implemented projects supporting tourism and tourist infrastructure (investment priority 6c); such projects can have negative effects in the area of their implementation. Applying the precautionary principle the impact was assessed as significant where implementation of mitigation measures is necessary (grade C) and two mitigation measures were proposed to be included in the application forms and project selection criteria. As a result, the overall assessment of the impacts of CP SI-HU on the environment was assessed as insignificant if mitigation measures are implemented (grade C).

It should be noted that the potential for negative impacts is very small and more likely on the long term, via indirect effects of the projects implemented with financial support of the programme. The program is financially very small and will support a limited number of projects and these will have very limited direct investment and activities that will have direct impact on environment. Monitoring of the implementation of the CP SI-HU could provide an insight on the potential indirect and cumulative impacts that will only become apparent in the long term.

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